

# Footnotes

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians

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## Storytelling Pays off for Wartburg School Librarian

A trip to the "Smoky Mountain Storytelling Festival" in Pigeon Forge for Wartburg Central High School Librarian Donna Jerden and a group of students resulted in an award-winning entry in a subsequent competition and monetary awards for Jerden and one of her students.

During the "Smoky Mountain Storytelling Festival" in February, Jerden learned about a video storytelling competition that promotes American History and storytelling. A few months later, she and one of her students performed their award winning stories in the "Telling America's Story" showcase at the *Celebrate Freedom* event. Each received \$500 and an all expense-paid trip to Pigeon Forge for themselves and their families. In addition, Central High School Storytellers were awarded \$200.

*Celebrate Freedom* is an annual event that began four years ago, but this was the inaugural year for the "Telling America's Story" component. Encouraging families to share stories about relatives who died or lived through periods of American history is the concept underlying the newly added segment of the festival.

Stories also may be based on research and should be factual if not actual. Jerden told about her great-great-great-great grandpa who escaped from the Trail of Tears during the Cherokee removal to Indian Territory. Trey Daugherty, a Wartburg Central sophomore, told of his grandfather who helped to train bloodhounds at Brushy Mountain Prison in Petros. Those bloodhounds later apprehended James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Storytelling is an excellent means of making history come to life for students.  
(Continued on Page 2)

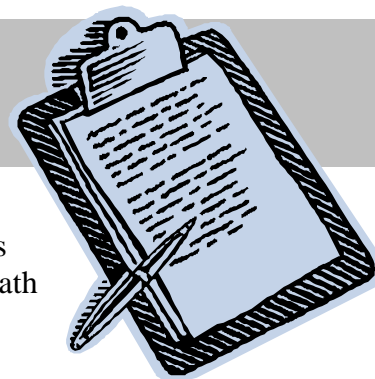
### Storyteller Joseph Bruchac Conference Keynoter

Author Joseph Bruchac, a Native American who is actively involved in preserving the Abenaki culture of his ancestry, will be the Keynote speaker on Friday at the TASL Annual Conference in November.

Bruchac has authored more than 70 books for adults and children, and his poems and other writings have appeared in more than 500 publications. He and members of his family often engage in projects centering on Abenaki language and traditional skills, including traditional and contemporary music. Bruchac plays the flute and drum, and sings as well.

He has received numerous awards and honors, including the Hope S. Dean Award for Notable Achievement in Children's Literature and both the 1998 Writer of the Year Award and the 1998 Storyteller of the Year Award from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, a Rockefeller Humanities fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Writing Fellowship for Poetry.

## President's Note ...



It sounds so trite, but I can't believe my year as President of TASL is almost over! I have to confess that back in January, when I was scared to death and feeling totally inadequate for the job, it seemed like this year would last forever!

I'm so excited about our upcoming conference and hope that everyone will be sure to attend the business meeting, which will feature a keynote address by Joseph Bruchac. Also, the executive board has some exciting news to share during the meeting, and you don't want to miss it. We are working hard to recruit members for our profession and to advocate for our profession, and we have some projects in the works on both counts.

One project that I can tell you about now is a cover letter and article by Gary Hartzell entitled "Why Should Principals Support School Libraries?" that we plan to mail to every principal in the state. We are having an envelope stuffing "party" at the conference, and we hope to have lots of help from everyone. We'll let you know the details at the conference. If you would like to read this article before your principal does, it's on the web at <http://www.ericit.org/fulltext/IR058606.pdf>.

We will be selling new Volunteer State Book Award labels at the conference. Patty Williams has orchestrated the design of two labels, a gold, embossed sticker to be placed on the front of the award winners and a spine label that can be placed on the nominees. We will also again be selling TASL polo shirts so you will have a chance to buy one if you missed getting yours last year. There will be no mail orders for these items, so be sure to come to the conference to purchase yours!

I wish I could thank all of the people who are working so hard to make this conference a success, but there are so many that I am sure I would forget someone, and that would be terrible. I will never again go to a conference and fail to appreciate the team effort behind it! I also have huge respect for those of you who did this before the advent of email and cell phones! I can't imagine how you did it!

I can't wait to see all of you in Franklin November 20-22. If you still haven't registered, do so soon. You don't want to miss a thing! The registration form is on our website at <http://www.kornet.org/tasl/>. See you soon!

*--Nancy Dickinson, president TASL*

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## **Story Telling** (continued from page 1)

Jerden established a storytelling group at her school, and the school's website contains information about its activities. Links to other storytelling sites are provided as well. The URL for Wartburg Central High School is: [wchs.k12tn.net](http://wchs.k12tn.net).

The city of Pigeon Forge plans on keeping "Telling America's Story" as part of its annual event. Information can be found at [http://mypigeonforge.com/celebrate\\_freedom.asp](http://mypigeonforge.com/celebrate_freedom.asp).

# Conference Sessions

Friday, Nov. 21, 2003

**8:00-9:00 Breakout Session 1**

**Helen Lester:** Haunted by My Second Graders

**Nancy Crews:** The Wonderful Worlds of Reading

**Maggie Vaughn,** Tennessee's Poet Laureate

**Doylene Farley and Leslie Pullins:** Library Programs for Teens and Adults

**Judy Bivens, Prilla Speer, Ruth Kinnersley, Jamen McGranahan:** TELing Your Students About Research (Middle and High)

**9:30-11:00 Business Meeting and Keynote Address:** Joseph Bruchac: Seeing Through the Eyes of Others

**11:30-12:30 Breakout Session 2**

**Vivian Vande Velde:** Judging Books by Their Covers

**Judy Bivens, Prilla Speer, Ruth Kinnersley, Jamen McGranahan:** TELing Your Students About Research (Elementary)

**Annette Boreing:** Making a Path to the Teen Reader

**Hilda Weisburg and Ruth Toor:** From Data to Wisdom in Four Steps with Side Journeys

**Cheryl Sheridan:** Worlds Meet With Web Quests (Middle and High)

**2:15-3:15 Breakout Session 3**

**Joseph Bruchac:** The Stories I Tell

**Tracy Barrett:** Creative Research

**Maggie Vaughn,** Tennessee's Poet Laureate

**Nancy Crews:** The Wonderful Worlds of Reading

**Ed Sullivan:** Turning Reluctant Readers onto Reading

**Cheryl Sheridan:** Worlds Meet With Web Quests (Elementary School)

**Penny Frere:** TENN SHARE Marketing TEL to your school community: students, teachers, administrators, parents, and friends.

**3:13-4:15 Breakout Session 4**

**Laurie Halse Anderson:** Joy and Hard Work: An Author's Secrets about Writing

**Esther Swink:** Habits of Effective Librarians

**Patty Williams, Kathy Patten:** Volunteer State Book Program Promotions and Ideas

**Hilda Weisburg and Ruth Toor:** Loose and Tight: Matching Unit Design to Teacher Styles

**Sherry Ball, Nancy Carden, Beth Eades, Lexa Hooten:** Information Literacy Curriculum

Saturday Nov. 22, 2003

**8:00-9:00 Keynote Judy Freeman: Raising Readers: 10 Reasons to Befriend a Great Book**

**9:15-10:15 Breakout Session 5**

**Mike Shoulders:** The Magic of Reading and Writing

**Teri Kirk:** Information Power in the Real World

**Calvin Dickinson:** Tennessee Tales in the Classroom

**Judy Freeman:** Unforgettable Multicultural Books for Children

**11:00-12:30 Breakout Session 5**

**Mike Shoulders:** A is for Awesome Read-Alouds

**Teri Kirk:** Campaign for America's School Libraries

**Calvin Dickinson:** Tennessee Tales in the Classroom

**Judy Freeman:** Literature and Library Skills an Integrated Approach

# Keynoter Freeman to Explore Developing Coherent, Comprehensive Library Program

Judy Freeman, an author and speaker who leads seminars on various aspects of children's literature, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday for the Annual TASL Conference in November.

Freeman, a school librarian for 25 years in New Jersey, is a proponent of reading aloud, storytelling, and giving book talks. She is a national presenter for the Bureau of Education and Research (BER) and authored *Books Kids Will Sit Still For: the Complete Read-Aloud Guide* and *Hi Ho Librario!: Songs, Chants, and Stories to Keep Kids Humming*.

A visiting lecturer for Rutgers University, graduate instructor at Pratt Institute, columnist for Instructor magazine, she also served on the Newbery Committee in 2000.

Because her appeal extends to teachers as well, conference planners hope elementary school librarians will invite teachers to attend and benefit from Freeman's talk on Saturday.

## ***Keynote Speech: Raising Readers: 10 Reasons to Befriend a Great Book***

How can we help make children wild for books? In her book-filled presentation, writer and children's literature consultant Judy Freeman will involve you in some of her favorite recent read-aloud language-rich children's books, along with plenty of practical strategies for bringing kids and books together.

## ***Literature and Library Skills: An Integrated Approach***

In this workshop we'll explore creative ways librarians, grades K-6, can stimulate both the intellect and the imagination using exemplary children's books as the catalyst to developing a coherent and comprehensive library curriculum. We'll look at ways to expose children to literature genres, styles, and authors through booktalks, browsing sessions, and integrated library skills that tie in with the books in the library, and guide them in learning new reference and research techniques. We'll explore read aloud skills, creative drama and Reader's Theater, writing and across-the-curriculum activities, and look at creative ways to investigate every nook and corner of your library collection.

## ***Unforgettable Multicultural Books for Children, Grades K-6***

Judy Freeman will highlight her latest favorite multicultural titles – books that introduce multi-ethnic characters with dignity and child-appeal. Judy will also demonstrate innovative, motivating, and practical ways to integrate these books into every aspect of the classroom and school library curriculum, through curricular and literature appreciation tie-in activities that include reading aloud, booktalking, storytelling, creative drama, Reader's Theater, poetry, music, writing, illustrating, and other book-based activities designed to bring books and children together.

## ***Borders to Give Discount***

***Borders Books will be giving all conference attendees a 20% discount on all purchases made at the conference bookstore, as well as purchases made at the Cool Springs store on Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22. Just show them your conference badge.***

# AASL National Conference Set for End of October

**Information Matters** is the theme for the 11th National Conference and Exhibition of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), October 22-26, 2003 in Kansas City, Missouri.

All AASL programs, exhibits and events will take place at the Kansas City Convention Center, 301 West 13th Street in downtown Kansas City, Mo., unless otherwise noted

.Not only will you want to take advantage of the educational programming that has been developed along three thematic strands--**Information Access, Learning and Teaching**, and **Program Administration**--but you'll also want to visit the exhibit hall where vendors will "show you their wares." Also, opportunities to get away from the convention center and experience the city through school and continuing education tours will be available.

No visit to the "Heart of America" would be complete without trying the world famous cuisine, so we're going to give you a Taste of Kansas City. All registered attendees are invited to join us the night of Saturday, October 25 as we kick-off the new @ your library campaign for schools amidst an array of great food and music at the historic Union Station.

These are just a few highlights to pique your curiosity. Want to know more? **Go to AASL's website at <http://www.ala.org/aasl>**. The Kansas City Conference Planning Committee has taken time and great care to meet all of your needs and make the AASL 11th National Conference a memorable one. We look forward to seeing you soon at the AASL 11th National Conference and Exhibition in Kansas City, Missouri.

## *2004 TASL EXECUTIVE BOARD TO BE ELECTED AT NOVEMBER CONFERENCE*

**TASL's** nominating committee has submitted the following list of nominees for the 2004 Executive Board. The election will take place during the annual business meeting at the TASL conference in November.

President	Diane Chen
Vice-President/President-Elect	Allison Roberts
Secretary	Judy McCready
Treasurer	Vicki Randolph

**Diane Chen** is the current Vice-President/President-Elect of TASL. She also is chair of the Legislative Committee. Diane is the library/media specialist at Hickman Elementary School in Metro Nashville.

**Allison Roberts** has served on the executive board of TASL for the last two years as an East Tennessee representative. She is the library/media specialist at Barger Academy of Fine Arts in Chattanooga.

**Judy McCready** currently serves on the Hamilton County Elementary Steering Committee and is the library/media specialist at McConnell Elementary in Chattanooga.

**Vicki Randolph** is the current Treasurer of TASL and is the library/media specialist at Springfield Middle School in Robertson County.

Contact **Jeanette Lambert**, Nominating Committee Chair and TASL Past President, for questions or concerns.

## TASL Executive Committee Recommends Affiliation with TLA

The executive committee of TASL has agreed unanimously that it would be advantageous to our organization and to our profession for our association to affiliate with the Tennessee Library Association. We believe that this move will increase our visibility in the greater library community, giving us more opportunities to unite and work with librarians from all types of libraries from across the state.

This affiliation will not directly affect our members, but it will give TASL a voice in TLA matters and a seat on the TLA executive committee. Members of TASL will not be required to join TLA, and the affiliation will not impact TASL financially. All we must do is ask TLA for affiliate status.

However, before we can affiliate with TLA, we must vote at our annual conference business meeting to change the TASL constitution under “Article II Affiliations.” The proposed change is below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancy Dickinson at [fsufan23@charter.net](mailto:fsufan23@charter.net) or any of the members of the TASL executive board.

TASL is also an affiliate member of TENN-SHARE, a consortium of multi-type libraries from across the state that seeks to provide leadership in all areas of resource sharing, but the affiliation is not in TASL’s constitution. This affiliation also is included in the proposed change.

### Proposed Change to TASL Constitution

#### Article II Affiliations

**Current:**

This organization shall maintain its affiliation with both the Tennessee Education Association and the American Association of School Librarians.

**Proposed:**

This organization shall maintain its affiliation with the Tennessee Education Association, the American Association of School Librarians, TENN-SHARE, and the Tennessee Library Association.

## Store Matches Funds for Tornado-Ravaged Libraries

We all heard about the devastating tornadoes in Jackson back in May, but what you may not have realized is that two schools were destroyed by the tornadoes. Denmark Elementary School and Jackson Middle School are in temporary quarters, and librarians Deborah Morris and Trina Edwards are coping.

TASL wanted to let them know that we are thinking of them and what they must be going through, so the executive board decided to give them \$100.00 each for supplies. **The Library Store** has generously agreed to match those funds so that each librarian will have \$200.00 to replace some of the materials they lost in the storms. Many thanks to the wonderful people at **The Library Store!**

# ***TASL Legislative Committee Urges Members To Contact Legislators***

In the last newsletter we invited everyone in TASL to help our organization and our profession by becoming more active legislatively. Here are some tips on dealing with legislators. If you are interested in helping on the TASL legislative committee, please email [DianeRChen@aol.com](mailto:DianeRChen@aol.com).

## **How to contact your legislator:**

- Make short personal visits in Nashville with legislators.
- Visit your local legislator in the home district.
- Invite your legislator to visit your local library.
- Phone your legislator in Nashville at 1-800-449-8366.
- Send email. You can locate their email addresses at <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us>
- Send faxes. Many legislators prefer faxes to email.
- Send letters addressed as following:

To your Senator:  
Honorable John Doe  
Tennessee State Senate  
Nashville, TN 37243

To your state representative:  
Honorable Jane Doe  
Tennessee House of Representatives  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Senator Doe,

Dear Representative Doe,

Here are some tips for dealing with legislators adapted from the ALA Library Advocate's Handbook available online:

- **Start with legislators you know support libraries.**
- **Recognize public officials can't be experts on everything.** Be prepared to provide them with information or referral sources.
- **Stick to ONE issue.** No "laundry lists" of issues or whining.
- **Do your homework.** Find out what you can about an official and link the library message to their special interest or cause.
- **Develop relationships with federal as well as local and state lawmakers.**
- **Get to know STAFF.** Legislative staff members can be very powerful allies. Always provide a duplicate set of papers for the staff to maintain.
- **Don't give misinformation.** If you don't know the answer or have the information at your fingertips, promise to get back to the lawmaker as soon as possible. Then, do so.
- **Be personal.** Don't be afraid to use charm to impress the legislator.
- **Seal the deal.** Be direct about what you want and try to get a commitment. Keep the door open for future communication if you can't get the commitment you want.
- **Take pictures** of people using your library, brochures, bookmarks or one page documents about your school highlighting your successes.
- **Tell the library story.** The most effective stories are about the people who use and benefit from our school libraries. While a few carefully chosen stats are important, the stories bring the message to life.

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