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Volume 98, Number 1, Spring 2022

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#RightToReadTX RightToReadTexas.com

Join Us

Spread Your Professional Wings

Are We Prepared for Patrons in Crisis?

Happy 120th Birthday TLA

BROWN BOOKS PUBLISHING GROUP — TLA CONFERENCE 2022 —



SWAG DROPS AND AUTHOR (IN-BOOTH) SIGNING SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

- 10:00 AM: SWAG DROP—Standing Up to China legal pads
- 10:00 AM-11:00 AM: Ashley Yablon will sign *Standing Up to China* hardcover books
- 1:00 PM: SWAG DROP—Ashur's Tears magnets
- 2:00 PM-3:00 PM: Mark Huffman will sign galleys of Bubbles
- 2:15 PM: SWAG DROP—Armadillo Antics/Brown Books Kids Tote Bag
- 3:30 PM: SWAG DROP—*Bubbles* bookmark

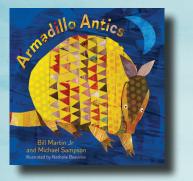
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022

- 10:00 AM: SWAG DROP—Hurricamp! umbrella pens
- 10:00 AM-11:00 AM: Steph Katzovi will sign galleys of Hurricamp!
- 11:00 AM-12:00 PM: Bill Riley will sign galleys of Ashur's Tears
- 11:30 AM: SWAG DROP—Armadillo Antics/Brown Books Kids Tote Bag
- 12:30 PM: SWAG DROP-9 Down is Dead crossword puzzle
- 1:00 PM-2:00 PM: Walter Peddy will sign Lift for Principals hardcover books
- 2:00 PM: SWAG DROP—Bottles of bubbles

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

- 10:00 AM-11:00AM: Kenneth Toppell will sign *9 Down is Dead* paperback books
- 10:15 AM: SWAG DROP—Armadillo Antics/Brown Books Kids Tote Bag
- 11:00 AM-12:00PM: Dr. Dorette Noorhasan will sign hardcover books of Miracle Baby

BROWN BOOKS KIDS PRESENTS MICHAEL SAMPSON EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE FOR ARMADILLO ANTICS





— EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE — April 26, 2022 • 10:00-10:50 AM • ROOM #2

Come join *New York Times* bestselling author Michael Sampson for the launch of his new book co-authored by the late Bill Martin Jr, *Armadillo Antics*!

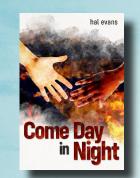
PHOTO OP WITH LIVE ARMADILLO + AUTHOR SIGNING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE



*This showcase event is ticketed; first come first served. Tickets can be found at Brown Books Publishing booth #2137 at time of show opening Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Attendees must have a ticket to be guaranteed a photo-op in the author signing area after the showcase.

COME DAY IN NIGHT: HOW READING SHAKESPEARE TURNED A TEXAS FARM BOY INTO AN

AWARD-NOMINATED AUTHOR





- EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE -April 27, 2022 · 10:00-10:50 AM · ROOM #2

With his pioneering EnterActive© approach, hal evans shares a deep dive into his debut novel, *Come Day in Night*. Passages from the book combine with excerpts from other literature and from participants' own personal narratives to reveal a fresh approach to literary analysis— one that connects reading to everyday life for students and educators alike. Enjoy discovering the madness (or madcappedness) of evans' method—as Puck would say, a merrier hour was never wasted here!

*Author signing immediately following exhibitor showcase in the author signing area.







TEXAS LIBRARY JOURNAL

Published by the TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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RECOVER, REBALANCE, RECONNECT TLA 2022 * FORT WORTH *

APRIL 25 - 28

Registration closes April 21

txla.org/annual-conference

THERE WILL BE NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

By Daniel Burgard

Stand Up!

Wow! What a year ... While it looks like we may finally be emerging from a pandemic that upended every bit of our personal and professional lives (stay vigilant, by the way!), we also need to recognize that we are under attack by very visible and very powerful individuals and groups who are questioning our work and worth with a ferocity rarely seen. The Texas library community's response has been strong and righteous and becomes more so each day as librarians stand up to those who want to silence us and make our libraries less useful to our communities.

When I open a book, I open my mind. If you take them away, we get left behind.

When I started my term as TLA President about a year ago, I was steadfastly focused on marshaling association resources and services to help library staff as they recovered, rebalanced, and reconnected with their colleagues and communities. Little did I know that we were going to need to stand up in response to individuals who want to undo our work in making Texas libraries representative of all members of our communities. Thanks to the hard work of TLA staff and the hundreds of librarians who volunteer their time to support our organization each year, we have maintained a focus on offering an awesome in-person conference in late April while also creating a new coalition, Texans for the Right to Read. We hope the coalition can be a focal point for all of our efforts to positively engage with members of our communities and let them know our principles and motivations in building our collections and offering our services.

The 2022 Annual Conference is promising to be a wonderful get-together that will offer many health-themed sessions. It will feature outstanding keynote speakers who represent perhaps the three hottest issues currently facing TLA and who are happy to stand before you and with you as we navigate our way through tricky times. TLA is committed to an intentional approach to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion which makes us very excited to host Dr. Ibram X. Kendi as he discusses his forthcoming book, *How to Raise an Antiracist*. A second great general session will feature Nadine Strossen who served as President of the ACLU for 17 years. She will be guiding us through a discussion of why free speech and open dialogue are the best responses to hate. Quite timely!

Last and certainly not least, while giving a nod to all of us

needing to center our lives and affirm ourselves as strong people and professionals, writer and actress Melissa Gilbert will be discussing her latest book, *Back to the Prairie: A Home Remade, A Life Rediscovered.* I expect that we will all identify with her journey of personal discovery over the past few years and hope that she will help us validate our own experiences as we focus on what is truly important and put our lives and careers on a path that makes sense for our times.



We have an all-star lineup of thoughtful and powerful general session speakers who are very much

on topic for the personal and professional concerns that are consuming much of our time and brainpower. I can't wait to hear them.

I want to specifically highlight the fact that Nadine Strossen's talk directly connects with TLA's recent activities to support librarians and libraries across the state as they stand against forces that would degrade and destruct libraries' intentional efforts to build representative collections and services. I mentioned the new TLA-sponsored coalition, Texans for the Right to Read, and I encourage you to check out **RightToReadTexas.com**. I think it can very much serve as a clearinghouse of information that can help you and your colleagues when standing up and speaking out against censorship and challenges to intellectual freedom across the state.

In a good library, on all of the shelves, we have books that reflect all of our selves.

I hope that you are with me in having a sense of dogged determination coupled with optimism for overcoming our current challenges. We are reconnecting with each other and our communities and reenergizing our important role as defenders of free speech and intellectual freedom. I know we will triumph. We are strong when we stand together, and our passion and ideas ensure that the future is bright for Texas libraries.

Daniel Burgar

Daniel Burgard 2021-2022 TLA President

Inserted poetic lines by **Tammy Gomez**, Senior Library Assistant, Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library, University of North Texas Health Science Center



The American Library Association invites you to the premier library event of the year!

Catch the speakers!

Bestselling authors, thought leaders, and innovators confirmed, with more to be come.



John Cho Actor and author of "Troublemaker."



Maria Hinojosa

Journalist and author of "Once I Was You – A Memoir."

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Enjoy remote access to sessions in real time! Hear from a selection of main stage speakers, and specially curated education and News You Can Use sessions live-streamed from Washington, D.C.

Registration to the Digital Experience includes on-demand access to a total of 60 sessions through August 31, 2022. Learn more on our website.

<u>Register at alaannual.org</u> | <u>#ALAAC22</u>

Book bans are about winning elections, not protecting children

This op-ed was first published in the Austin American Statesman on March 27, 2022.

By Shirley Robinson

YOUR SAY OVER YOUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE IS UNDER

ATTACK in Texas by politicians and other groups that want to ban books from libraries based on their own subjective opinions. The Texas Library Association believes that parents know what is best for their children and are capable of engaging in meaningful discussions with them about critical thinking and the books they are reading

If you read between the lines, you can see what's going on. This issue has been concocted to find a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. Those in favor of banning books are less concerned about your children's journey of knowledge and discovery and more worried about winning political votes.

Your children are not being subjected to objectional material in Texas' school libraries despite the protestations of those who have their own agenda.

The right to an education is a cornerstone of our country and our democracy. Education helps children read and write, add and subtract, and learn about the world around them. Education helps children become productive adults who contribute to society. Books are critical vehicles for helping people learn to think for ourselves and explore the world around us.

No book is right for everyone, but one book can make a difference in a child's life. Children, in concert with their parents, should be able to read any books that are appropriate for them — not just books selected by politicians or people outside their family.

School libraries are beacons of learning, yet students aren't forced to read books from those libraries. Parents have the right to decide what their children read. But no one — not the governor or anyone else — has the right to make blanket decisions for all children about proper reading material. And in case you were wondering, processes are already in place to ensure no pornographic material makes it to library shelves around the state, from Del Rio to Dallas. This push to ban certain books is villainizing librarians and educators for simply doing their jobs. Threats of prosecution and being banned from working in schools have librarians and educators terrified not just for their jobs, but for their safety as this issue has been sensationalized.

It also is negatively impacting under-represented and marginalized students. These students are being told, essentially, that their experiences are not acceptable, and others need to be protected from them. What message does that send to kids and society that you must act, be and love a certain way to be accepted? It has the potential to be incredibly damaging to mental health and a society that, at its core, wants to be good and kind to one another.

The Texas Library Association won't be silent while the rights of parents and students are chipped away under the guise of protecting kids. We refuse to go about our jobs as professional educators and librarians — dedicated to the advancement of knowledge —are targeted for criminal punishment just for doing their work.

Do those wishing to ban books really want to protect kids or are they trying to "protect" us from learning about diverse views and life experiences? From learning about people who are different from us? From fully accepting others and not judging a book by its cover?

On March 8, we launched Texans for the Right to Read to combat this ill-conceived movement to ban books. We urge parents, librarians, teachers, students, or anyone else who cares about reining in censorship to visit <u>texansfortherighttoread</u>. <u>com</u> and join us in fighting a one-size-fits-all, government-dictated approach to education and parenting in our state. Our children's future hangs in the balance.

Shirley Robinson, CAE, is the executive director of the Texas Library Association

Spread Your **Professional Wings**

By Maggie Hernandez

Over the past three years, I began volunteering outside of my workplace and this was quite a breakthrough for me. Having discovered the rewards of actively getting involved in librarian circles, I wish I had stepped out sooner in my professional journey. But I'm here to share with you how rewarding my volunteer journey has been, and to encourage you to become more involved in the Texas Library Association and other library organizations.

I began spreading my professional wings in 2019 when I accepted the invitation to serve on the Planning Committee for the Education Service Center Region 20 Annual Library Resources Roundup, a one-day library conference. With fear and nervousness, I volunteered to lead the speaker subcommittee. I still remember the satisfying thrill at the end of the conference day when I realized, "We did it!!" and "I have spread my wings and reached a new horizon!" I was amazed at how hundreds of puzzle pieces came together at the right moment as a result of teamwork and was fascinated at the

fullness of the conference experience. While I had enjoyed the conference as an attendee for years, for the first time, I also experienced it as a planner, leader, presenter and facilitator. I gained skills and insights from on-the-job training and wisdom from my mentor and other volunteer librarians I worked with through the planning process.

During my second year on that event's planning committee, I stepped up to lead the Exhibitor Subcommittee and be a co-presenter in the two-day Learning and Libraries Virtual Conference (formerly the Annual Library Resource Roundup). After this experience, I understood more clearly what goes into organizing a conference, whether it takes place in person or virtually. I also learned how the speaker and exhibitor subcommittees have different roles and responsibilities.

I was inspired to mentor other librarians and emboldened to be more active in librarian circles. Since then, I've taken on the following roles:

- Coordinator of the Private School Librarians of San Antonio Network
- Regular participant in TLA unit social and business meetings
- Tech moderator at the 2021 San Antonio Book Festival
- Presenter and facilitator at the 2021 ESC 20 Digital Learning Virtual Summit

- 2021-2022 Chair of TLA New Members Round Table (NMRT), and chair of the NMRT Monthly Newsletter Committee
- Contributor to the CCMUS Challenger Magazine
- Presenter at the 2021 Catholic Library Association Fall Virtual Conference
- Co-presenter at 2021 TLA District 10 Fall Virtual Conference
- Presenter and co-facilitator at the ESC 20 Learning and Libraries Virtual Conference
- Graduate of TLA TALL Texans Class of 2021 with full scholarship
- · Contributor to the Spring 2022 Texas Library Journal
- Planner and co-presenter of four NMRT sessions and one ESC20 session at the 2022 TLA Annual Conference

This journey, especially with the Texas Library Association, has broadened my knowledge base, deepened my insight, improved my leadership and professional skills, enlarged my realm of influence, granted me the courage to advocate for librarianship, and given me enthusiasm to promote the benefits of the TLA membership experience. Furthermore, I am connected to a large and meaningful professional network and have become more confident, creative and effective in my workplace. I have learned these valuable lessons:

- **Embrace the opportunities that are presented to you.** While weighing the pros and cons, don't hesitate to take a leap of faith to fly into the unknown.
- See yourself from the growth mindset perspective. "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." (Chinese proverb).
- **Don't hesitate to ask for help.** You will discover mentors and peer support along the way.
- With an open mind and empathy, learn from your mentors and collaborators while giving your best.
- Everyone has a unique gift and can make a difference.
- More opportunities will be presented to you because

people around you will recognize your work ethic and contributions.

- **Dare to take the responsibility to lead**: in return, you may learn a great deal from interacting with professionals of all levels.
- **Be a servant leader** who empowers your team members to thrive and grants them opportunities to grow, while encouraging and guiding the team towards the common goals effectively.
- Keep a balance with your professional and personal life.
- **Make the best of each opportunity** to maximize your learning, growth and influence.

Don't be afraid and have faith. If I can do it, so can you. Get involved!

Maggie Hernandez is the librarian at Antonian College Preparatory High School in San Antonio; and the chair of the Texas Library Association's New Member Round Table.



An Unexpected Career Path

Not everyone with a master's degree in library and information science ends up working as a librarian in a traditional library setting. The *Texas Library Journal* interviewed Olivia Cannon Chiumento, taxonomy manager at Indeed.com, to learn more about her career path.

Chiumento received her Master of Science in Information Studies, Information Ethics and Archival Enterprise from the University of Texas at Austin.

TERMS TO KNOW: *Taxonomy* is the hierarchical classification of entities of interest of an enterprise, organization or administration, used to classify documents, digital assets and other information. *Metadata* is data that provides information about other data, for example descriptive information about a resource (for example, title, abstract, author and keywords.)

TLJ: Tell me about your career path. Was taxonomy something you had in mind when you studied information science?

OCC: Not at all. I was dead set on going into libraries. I earned my MA degree in book history before MSIS. (Olivia has a Master of Arts degree in Medieval and Early Modern Information History from Durham University). I really wanted to go into reference work in special collections. I really loved reference services. Somebody at the library where I worked was head of book cataloguing - she left to go work in taxonomy at Indeed. When I got her departure email, I thought, oh I have never heard of that before but clearly it must be connected. So, I met with her to learn more about it. After graduation, I was having a hard time finding library jobs that I wanted to apply for or thought I was qualified for. After a few conversations with her I applied as a taxonomy analyst, and I started in May 2018. Since then, I've been promoted to taxonomy team lead and am now a taxonomy manager.

TLJ: What does your job as a taxonomy manager at Indeed.com entail? Describe a typical week at your job.

OCC: My core responsibilities are highlevel team metadata strategy as well as people management. I have shared responsibility for overseeing one of our flagship taxonomy projects. I do a lot of coaching of our taxonomy team leads and our taxonomy analysts and I do change management work for the team at large. A typical week – frankly consists of a lot of meetings and they are really interesting meetings. I meet one-on-one with all my direct reports for 30 minutes each week. I attend project meetings with cross functional collaborators; I also meet with folks who want to use our metadata for front-end experiences for job seekers.

TLJ: How does your Master's in Information Science degree apply in your job? What library skills do you use in your position?

OCC: I started as taxonomy analyst and so much of what I had done in my MLIS studies was transferrable. Archival enterprise. Archival strategy. The idea of having to make sense of and to find a way to organize and structure a big box of uncategorized material, and having a consistent, uniform process to do that which was replicable and would reinforce the use of a shared vocabulary. Understanding standards. There's the same emphasis on findability, the ease of search; of creating and then enforcing using shared vocabulary to search and discover.

One skill I found that really translated for me is more intangible. People who go into library science are typically humanfocused; they want to work with people. It's very much a service position. You're trying to improve someone's life, help them do something. And taxonomy does that too - indirectly. It allows people to search and discover more easily. You don't necessarily have the same face-toface interaction with end users. On an emotional level for work, I feel like that translates really nicely.

A course I took in MLIS that I credit



as the most useful in my current work was not about databases or archival processing or conservation. It was called Managing Information Organizations. That course was essentially founded on different topics, including how to deliver an effective presentation, how to give and receive candid and actional feedback, how to communicate and how to know your personality type. It also included a section on salary negotiation and that was really valuable. People might look at courses like that and think that's a soft skills course. But soft skills are transferrable skills. It's really served my continued career growth.

TLJ: What aspect of your job do you like the best?

OCC: I'm never bored! One of the things about working in a corporate environment it does tend to be very fast paced. I'm never bored but I am often productively challenged which gives me an opportunity to improve, grow and further my skill sets. I'm learning more about change management. I used to tell myself that I am bad at math, I am a

humanities person. This job has really forced me to reckon with the fact that that's not true. I've had the opportunity to learn about data science, software engineering, and about technology and applications for metadata. I'm glad I have had those opportunities for growth.

TLJ: What part of your job do you find the most challenging?

OCC: To be totally honest, the thing I struggle with most – it's very specific to having left the library space. Not getting the satisfaction of seeing people face-to-face, the direct interaction. I work for Indeed which has a very human-focused mission, we help people get jobs. They do a good job of connecting the mission to the individual impact that we have in people's lives. Sometimes you must look deeper. At this job – mission is really important.

TLJ: How many people work for Indeed? What is the culture of your workplace?

OCC: Indeed has about 12,000 employees globally. It's big, a lot bigger than most people think. On the taxonomy team we have about 70 people including taxonomy analysts, ontologists, semantic architects, and taxonomy managers. We are a fully remote team now. During the pandemic Indeed did a big reevaluation of their remote work strategy and taxonomy is a job profile where folks are eligible to do the job remotely, and now we have the option to go into the office. Increasingly, we have a lot of geographic diversity, I enjoy it a lot. In terms of the culture, I'd describe it as very intentionally inclusive, very growth-oriented, very employee-first. I think that the senior leadership team does a good job of embodying servant leadership. Those things are reflected on a team level. My favorite word to describe the taxonomy team - our common shared characteristic - is curiosity.

TLJ: What advice would you give to other library or information science students who might be interested in a taxonomy career path?

OCC: Get on LinkedIn and find people doing work similar to what you are interested in and honestly just write to them. Start looking for opportunities to talk to folks who do the work. I, for one, have always been happy to set up time to chat with people about what this is, what the day to day looks like. That's how I got here. Basically, don't be afraid to network. Schedule informational interviews. Buy someone a coffee in exchange for their time and thoughts. Use the career services at your school. It's so crucial to take advantage of this. They can connect you with alumni and that is a great way to make connections.

TLJ: What else would you like to add for our *Texas Library Journal* readers?

OCC: You don't have soft skills you have transferrable skills. I think that the idea of moving into the tech sphere can seem very intimidating. You have to learn so much as a librarian and an archivist, and it's very much what you do in taxonomy as well. I love what I'm doing.

Our World is Officially Rocked Are We Prepared for Patrons in Crisis?

By Amy Lanier

The pandemic persists, and society is worn out. Optimists claim we're on the mend, but restoration still eludes a depleted and depressed public who are trying desperately to put their lives back together. Now, more than ever, librarians are asked to step in to provide support. But are we prepared?



I teach a reference course each semester in which library science students use case studies as opportunities to develop and hone their reference skills. In one of these practice scenarios, a tearful fifteen-year-old girl comes into the library and asks for help finding a book on suicide entitled *Final Exit*. The librarian knows a copy is on the cart for reshelving and must decide whether to check the book out to this distraught young patron (Wong & Saunders, 2020).

The case study certainly presents a challenging ethical dilemma, and each semester I see my students struggling over what to do. They deliberate, debate, and grow frustrated as they try to reconcile their passion for access and the right to privacy with their compassion.

"But how can we hand her the book and just let her walk away, they ask? Isn't that cold-hearted? Aren't we supposed to care? She's a minor – a child, really. She's in pain!"

And then, as others in the class remind us, "...her rights 'should not be denied ... because of ... age....' (American Library Association, 1996). And we can't possibly know why she's crying. It's none of our business! We're here to provide access to the information she requests."

The American Library Association's **Library Bill of Rights** states that "a person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views" (1996). Taking this to heart, we know that the patron referenced in the case study should not be denied access. But should librarians or library staff call in help for patrons in such cases?

School librarians have less guesswork to do than other librarians, as K-12 public school educators are mandated reporters and often have school counselors to rely upon, as well as parental contact information to use as needed. In other types of libraries, the situation can be far more complicated because to make such a call for help would be an infringement upon the patron's right to privacy.

But an overwhelming majority of the

members of our profession would find it difficult to let a patron in crisis walk away without making some sort of effort to reach out or show compassion, and a few of us might even call the authorities out of sheer panic because we wouldn't know what else to do.

While this case study is one clear example of a patron in crisis, there are certainly other types of stressful situations occurring in libraries every day. Perhaps a patron is suffering a mental outburst in the library, shouting insults at the staff, and causing a disruption. Suppose a patron has been lingering at the front desk, harassing a front-facing employee. Or maybe someone has called in to make an actual threat to the staff of the library.

On occasion, librarians must face these ethical dilemmas that can cause our stomachs to fall, and not even an MLS degree or decades spent at the reference desk can prepare us for the gut-wrenching judgment calls we're sometimes asked to make when dealing with the public.

STEPS TO TAKE

1. PREPARE FOR A CRISIS

How an individual librarian chooses to respond to a patron in crisis is not nearly as important as how well prepared an institution is for handling that patron. Now more than ever, it's crucial that we prepare ourselves for these challenges by having a policy developed, in place, and accessible well before a concerning situation presents itself. The most important action to take now is to ensure that all librarians and library staff are trained to know exactly what to say, what to do, whom to call, and how to respond when these crisis situations arise. Train employees to recognize signs that patrons are in distress. It can be especially difficult when we don't see every patron daily, but it is possible to pick up on signs of anxiety, worry, paranoia, etc.

2. CHECK FOR AN EXISTING POLICY

Public school employees are mandated reporters, so school librarians don't have to wonder





how to respond to a patron in crisis. Academic libraries may or may not have their own policy that would apply here, but the university might. Public libraries may or may not have a policy developed, but does the city? Think more broadly than the building you work in and see what policies might already be in place. It's possible that your institution might not have to start from scratch.

3. LOOK AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS' POLICIES

If you find out no policy exists, be thankful to have learned this before something terrible happens, then get busy creating one. Seek help from other institutions–especially those that are similar to yours. Ask around to find out what's working and what's not working.

4. NO POLICY? FORM A COMMITTEE

If you determine that a policy is indeed needed, form a committee, and write it together. The great thing about a policy is that it is typically developed by a group of persons coming together with shared professional knowledge to decide what is and what is not appropriate for a given situation. This takes the pressure off any one person who would otherwise have been forced to bear the burden of some difficult decisions. When forming your committee, consider soliciting members who have expertise in a variety of fields in addition to librarianship, such as mental health, law, criminal justice, etc.

5. KEEP THE POLICY ACCESSIBLE

Keep the policy short and simple. Brevity is key so that staff can follow the policy without having to refer to a manual. A librarian who helped write a policy for the <u>New York</u> <u>Public Library</u> was instructed to make sure it would fit on one side of an index card (Boylan, 2015).

6. TRAIN ALL LIBRARY EMPLOYEES

Now that your institution has a well written, accessible policy, make sure that every employee in the building is trained and has it memorized. Time is of the essence during catastrophic situations, so be sure to answer as many of the hard questions as possible beforehand for all front-facing library staff.

Our world is certainly in better shape than it was a year ago, but as is the way of life, another disaster will surely come along to once again directly affect the patrons we serve. We must remain vigilant. A good policy is the key to ensuring library staff know exactly what steps to follow so that they don't have to wonder what to do when faced with a patron in crisis. We can't predict the future, but we can certainly prepare as best we know how.

Amy Lanier is an instructor in the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University.

REFERENCES

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Take a Chance on Art!



Enter for a chance to win a signed Don Tate illustration from *Swish!: The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters* by Susanne Slade. Proceeds benefit the TLA Disaster Relief Fund which provides grants to assist Texas libraries impacted by natural disasters.

\$5/1 ticket • \$20/5 tickets

Tickets will be sold on-site at TLA 2022 in Fort Worth, or you can <u>purchase in advance</u>. The winning ticket will be drawn at General Session III on Thursday, April 28 at 11am. Winner does not have to be present to win.



Reading is not one-size fits all, READsquared offers an online system configurable for your community Offer participants fun activities, literacy games, random drawings, raffles, events, themed badges and more!

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24 HOUR Outdoor Library Kiosk Makes Books Available Anytime

By Michele Chan Santos

Harlingen Public Library card holders can now select, check out, return, or pick up reserved materials any time of day at a 24-hour outdoor library kiosk located next to the accessible playground in Lon C. Hill Park, just a short distance from the Boys and Girls Club of Harlingen.

The location and 24-hour access are designed to appeal to families and individuals with busy schedules. "We have a natural audience of kids at this location; we knew it would appeal to families and people who are unable to come to the library during regular hours," said Dauna Campbell, Harlingen Public Library Director.

The kiosk, which was purchased from Envisionware, can hold 340 items, and is first of its kind in Texas and one of only 40 nationwide, according to Campbell. The kiosk is stocked with popular fiction and nonfiction titles for readers of all ages. People also have the option of placing library materials on reserve through their library account for pickup at the kiosk, Campbell said.

Here's how it works: Library card holders select from the books in the kiosk by scanning their library card and entering a password (usually their phone number). After clicking "Check out," they key in the book number from the list, and a drawer dispenses the book. Returns are just as simple: After scanning the library card and entering a password, library patrons select "Return," and the machine prompts them to place the item in the designated drawer. Eventually patrons will be able to pay their library fines at the kiosk as well, Campbell said.

The 24-hour library kiosk was funded through a \$400,000 Library Services for Border Cities grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to expand access to library services to people in underserved areas. TSLAC received funding for the grant through the Texas State Legislature thanks to Texas Representative Oscar Longoria.

For additional information on the kiosk, and how it has been received by the Harlingen community, check out Campbell's <u>interview</u> with Henry Stokes, TSLAC library technology consultant, and chair of TLA's Innovation and Technology Round Table. Learn more at the <u>Harlingen Public Library website</u> or in this <u>TV</u> <u>news story</u> from KRGV.

Michele Chan Santos is the Texas Library Association Marketing Specialist.

YOUR LIBRARY WITHOUT LIMITS

Four partners have teamed up to create a powerful platform that promotes library advocacy with bundled services that make your library the central hub of the learning experience. Our "Limitless Library Bundle" is a cloud-based solution that increases staff, student, and patron engagement. It delivers equitable access to all curriculum and reading resources, improves collection discoverability, including one-click access to digital content, and the ability to assign materials to any Learning Management Software (LMS), all through a single platform.

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See us at TLA - Booth #1611

LIBRARY SERVICES

Discoverability

through unlimited metadata enhancement with our exclusive integration with Mitinet's BestMARC

See us at TLA - Booth #1612



Engagement

from Gumdrop Books' endless collection of hardcover, eBooks, and digital resources

See us at TLA - Booth #2118



Connectivity

with GG4L's seamless integration with your SIS (Student Information System) and single sign-on solutions

See us at TLA - Booth #1611

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SWITCHING GEARS Changing Library Careers

By Kendra Harrell and Michele Chan Santos

What would make you want to leave your job for a different one? When we first sought out stories of librarians who had changed career tracks – going from a school library to a public library, for example, or from a public to academic library – we were gratified that so many Texas Library Association members reached out with stories to share.

We featured six of these narratives in a special two-part episode of TLA's #LibrariesTransformTexas podcast. Here some highlights of these interviews; as these librarians demonstrate, making career pivots can be challenging but also rewarding.



Morgan Brickey-Jones

Current position: K-12 Librarian, Experiential Learning and Outreach, University of Texas at Arlington

Former position: Children's Librarian, City of Arlington

What led her to switch: In her role as a children's librarian, Morgan started a field trip program with Arlington ISD to bring kids to the public library and introduce them to the resources and programming available to them. She wasn't looking for a new position but saw that the University of Texas at Arlington had a K-12 position open. And as it turns out, UTA wanted to start a field trip program to bring young people to the UTA campus so they can see themselves in a college environment.

What's different and what's the same: While she may be serving a different age demographic with different levels of technology skills, Morgan notes, "The idea of service is the same, we want to help people get their information. We want the students to succeed – the same way I wanted our patrons at the public library to succeed, to have information and access."

Advice: "In your current role figure out what you like about what you're doing, what you are excited about pursuing. I was not unhappy; I was just ready to go deeper in certain areas of my field and that wasn't possible in the role I was in. I applied for a job that spoke to what I really enjoy doing. It really must be a job that fits your interests."

Lisa Zinkie

Current position: Children's Librarian, Lakewood Branch Library, Dallas Public Library

Former position: School Librarian, Fort Worth ISD

What led her to switch: As a sixth-grade school librarian, Lisa worked through the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and the stress of that was a contributing factor in her decision to make a change. She also was eligible for retirement and decided to try something new. "When I interviewed at Dallas Public Library, I clicked with them really well. It's been great," she said.

What's different and what's the same: "As a school librarian you are often the only one on campus which can be very isolating. Now I work with six other people: it's not all on my shoulders. I can ask people for help, which is great. The biggest culture shock for me is getting to have an hour for lunch! At the school it's only a half hour."



Kelly Hoppe

Current position: Head of Outreach and Instruction at Cornette Library, West Texas A&M University in Canyon (near Amarillo)

Former position: High school librarian

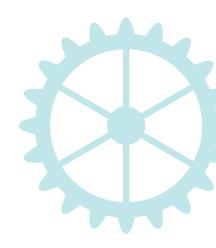
What led her to switch: Kelly is currently her 30th year of education and in her fifth year as an academic librarian. She started her career as a classroom teacher and then decided to become a school librarian, receiving her MLIS in 2003.

"For me, the best part of being a school librarian was encouraging students to read recreationally, whether through book fairs, book talks or other activities. The other thing that was very rewarding for me was making sure the high school library was a safe environment for students who don't have a group to hang out with or a place to go," Kelly said.

About five years ago, Kelly became concerned that she was getting stagnant in her school library position. "I didn't want to become the person who was going to pull out her October file and do what I did last October." She applied for the position at West Texas A&M University and the change was easier than she anticipated since she was already doing outreach and instruction as a high school librarian.

"One thing I noticed right off the bat is that I was instantly considered to be an expert in my field. As a school librarian I constantly had to prove I was the expert in my field. Librarians are a mystery to many school administrators. It felt like that was always a challenge. In the academic setting it wasn't like that at all, the acceptance was there immediately."







Priscilla Delgado

Current position: Resource Classification Specialist, TeachingBooks.net

Former position: Librarian, San Marcos ISD

Going back to school: Four years ago, Priscilla left her school librarian position to work at TeachingBooks.net. She also began a doctoral program at that time, and recently earned her PhD in Literacy from St. John's University.

"I loved being a school librarian. I loved working with the kids more than anything and I was always grateful to the community in San Marcos for their support not just for my school library but all the school libraries," Priscilla said.

Despite her love for her job, Priscilla had always wanted to go back to school to get a PhD in education and literacy. She researched graduate programs and after considering the demands of a PhD program, ultimately decided to leave her job to focus on her PhD. After submitting her resignation, she attended the ALA Annual Conference and learned that an exhibitor, TeachingBooks, had a job opening. Priscilla applied and interviewed for the job at the conference.

What skills transferred from your old position to your new one?: "Cataloging. In my position at TeachingBooks I catalog new books that come out and add resources: book readings, book trailers, a lot of original content and a lot of content from publishers and authors. Those cataloging skills really came in handy in this position."

Advice: "If you have a little voice that's telling you to go do something else, listen to it. If there's something new you'd like to try, go for it."

Martha López Coleman

Current position: Director of Library Services at Wylie College in Marshall

Former position: Principal at St. Patrick School in Lufkin

How her career unfolded: Martha has experience in school, public and now, academic libraries. She began as a high school librarian and then, when her family relocated, she worked at a public library. However, the public library was not a great fit for her, so she left to work on a PhD in Educational Leadership and Administration.

After completing her degree, she worked as a principal at a private school, where she wore many different hats, including being the school librarian. Martha wanted to return to libraries and made the change to her current position as director of library services at Wylie College.

"We have a lot of first-generation students. My job involves a lot of relationship building, and helping students, it's wonderful to really be able to do that. Helping students with their research papers and to help them narrow their focus or find something that interests them is rewarding. To every book their user, and to every user their book."

Advice if you're considering changing library type: "It's worth stepping out of your comfort zone because you get exposed to so many other things, you grow as a librarian and as a professional."







Jackie Kruzie

Current position: Publishing Editor, Blue Whale Press

Former position: Children's Librarian, Library Director

How she made the switch: Jackie, who is also a published author, was friends with an editor at Blue Whale Press who was retiring, and recommended Jackie replace her. As an experienced school librarian, Jackie is uniquely qualified to evaluate manuscripts and help authors improve them. "I know what makes a book get checked out and not just sit on a shelf," she said.



Kendra Harrell is director of the Atlanta Public Library (Texas). Michele Chan Santos is the Texas Library Association marketing specialist.

Texans for the Right to Read

Texas Library Association Unveils Texans for the Right to Read, a Statewide Coalition Opposed to Book Banning

Author and humorist Garrison Keillor succinctly describes the power of reading: "A book is a gift you can open again and again."

LIBRARIANS IN TEXAS FERVENTLY BELIEVE IN THE GIFT OF READING.

Unfortunately, there is a dangerous movement rising in the Lone Star State that aims to put restrictions on this gift, and our First Amendment rights. To combat the book-banning campaign being waged across the state, the Texas Library Association (TLA) recently launched Texans for the Right to Read. Members of this grassroots coalition — librarians, educators, parents, students, authors, and others — oppose widespread, coordinated efforts to apply subjective criteria to ban books across the state.

In recent months, calls to ban books in Texas have escalated as book-banning

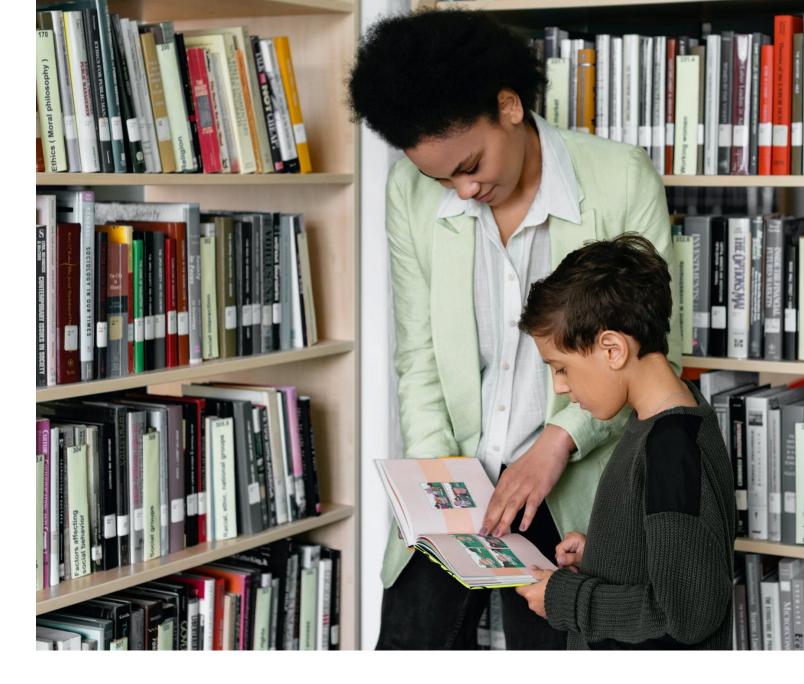
proponents attempt to remove books from libraries under the guise of shielding children from inappropriate materials.

Of course, censorship is nothing new. However, the volume of attempted censorship efforts we are seeing now is unprecedented. Other than trying to score political points in an election year, we believe proponents of removing books from library shelves seek to create a wedge issue and further divide our state and country by making this a linchpin of the culture war.

Many of the targeted books are written by or about people from marginalized groups. Via the censorship battle, these groups are being told that their experiences are not acceptable and that others need to be protected from them.

Yet what book-banning cheerleaders completely ignore, is that processes already are in place in every Texas school district and every public library to settle disputes over books.

Additionally, this is an all-out attack on librarians and our profession. Librarians have extensive education and training that enables them to meticulously select books and resources that meet the needs of their diverse communities and schools. The government should not be allowed to make sweeping decisions that steal this process from the experts.



Freedom in choosing materials is a much-needed safeguard to the freedom to read and must be protected against irresponsible attempts by selfappointed censors to violate it. TLA believes that every person enjoys the right to free inquiry and the equally important right to form their own opinions.

Members of Texans for the Right to Read seek to inform and organize other Texans who oppose current and future censorship initiatives.

"The right to receive an education is something that is foundational to America," TLA President Daniel Burgard said. "Possibly the most important skill students learn is how to develop a curious mind and think critically about a broad spectrum of subjects. Removing books based on the subjective opinions of elected officials has no place in our state or our democratic republic.

Burgard and other supporters of Texans for the Right to Read believe that the one-size-fits-all approach being advocated by book-banning proponents does not work. No one book is right for everyone, but one book can make a significant difference in one life.

TLA President-Elect Mary Woodard emphasizes the vital role professional librarians play in a student's life.

"Librarians have master's degrees and receive ongoing training that qualifies them to develop collections to meet the broad and varied interests and needs of students and communities," Woodward said. "The implication by government officials that librarians would intentionally select books that are harmful to students undermines their best efforts and erodes public trust. When librarians are constrained in their ability to choose books, it is students who suffer."

Leaders of Texans for the Right to Read believe that not just students but all Texans suffer when librarians are constrained in their ability to select books — and in their desire to share the gift of reading.

To learn more about Texans for the Right to Read, visit texansfortherighttoread.com.



TEXAS BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Texas Broadband Development Office Seeks Input

WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN DEVELOPING TEXAS' NEW STATEWIDE BROADBAND

PLAN? The new Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) wants to hear from Texans as it develops the state broadband plan. The plan must be final and submitted to the Texas Legislature by June 15, 2022.

To guide development of this plan, the BDO has scheduled a Listening Tour with Comptroller Glenn Hegar visiting 12 locations around the state to hear from residents.

Listening Tour Registration

UPCOMING LISTENING TOUR STOPS

- April 11 | El Paso | 1:30 p.m. (local time)
- April 26 | Edinburg | 2:00 p.m.
- April 28 | San Angelo | 1:30 p.m.

Additionally, the BDO is holding virtual roundtables in each of the 12 comptroller **regions** of the state to connect with stakeholders to understand the challenges, needs and idea related to broadband access, digital literacy etc. The day is divided into one-hour sessions on 5 topics: Education, Public Sector, Public Health & Safety, Business & Industry, and Community Organizations.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES

- April 8 | Northwest Region | <u>Schedule and registration</u>
- April 12 | Upper Rio Grande Region | Schedule and registration
- April 13 | South Region | Schedule and registration
- April 14 | West Region | Schedule and registration

These are great opportunities to share the important role that libraries play as community anchor institutions offering technology access, and digital literacy skills training and support to help bridge the digital divide. Visit the <u>Texas Broadband</u> <u>Development Office</u> for more information on their work.

Thank you, Texas libraries!TEXAS STATE LIBRARYTEXAS STATE LIBRARYARCHIVES COMMISSIONVisit us in booth #1525and online atwww.tsl.texas.gov/tla

Our mission for over 100 years has been to partner with the library community to serve the people of Texas.

Join TSLAC's TLA 2022 Programs

Monday, April 25, 2022

TexShare and TexQuest Updates, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Using Data to Evaluate and Promote the School Library Program, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Texas Public Libraries and Statewide Interlibrary Loan, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Get Their Attention! Presenting Texas Public Library Data to Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 Getting the Most out of E-Read Texas, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 27, 2022 (cont.) Innovative Approaches to Improving Refugee Integration, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Celebrate Books with Letters About Literature Winners and Katherine Applegate, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Creating a Safe and Nurturing Environment in Your School Library, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Using the Texas School Library Standards to Expand your Leadership, 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

HAPPY 120TH BIRTHDAY TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

By Michele Chan Santos

The Texas Library Association was founded on June 9, 1902. From carrying books on horseback, to creating statewide systems for accessing electronic databases and eBooks, to championing broadband so that communities across Texas can have equitable access to information and resources, TLA has been there every step of the way to support Texas libraries and librarians.

1902 -1920s

TLA is founded in 1902 and adopts a new constitution in 1922. During these first years, TLA developed a detailed study of library facilities in the state and pursued needed legislation to give libraries an independent standing in Texas. *News Notes* (which eventually becomes the *Texas Library Journal*) is first published in 1924.



1930s -1940s

TLA weathers the Great Depression and libraries remain some of the few places that provided recreational material, at a time when families could afford very little. TLA worked hard to make sure libraries were able to stay open during the Depression years. The association invested heavily in the development of school libraries during this time. In 1947, TLA developed districts to connect libraries in geographic areas of the state.

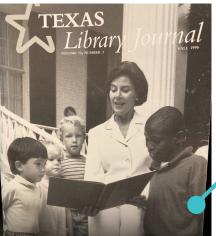
1950 -1960 -1960 S

In the 1950s, TLA contracted for three major surveys to give the association information to define state library needs. The 1960s was a significant period when it came to legislation. The Texas Library Systems Act was signed into law on March 20, 1969. TLA and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) worked for many years on designing a statewide system of interconnected resources and networks.



Students at the University of North Texas library in 1970. (Photo courtesy UNT Libraries Special Collections.)

In the 1940s, public libraries or schools were two of the few places students could access books. (Photo courtesy Museum of the Gulf Coast.)



Laura Bush, then First Lady of Texas, on the cover of the Texas Library Journal in 1996.

1980s -1990s

Resource-sharing programs and electronic networks initiatives continued to expand. In 1999, TLA successfully lobbied for the firstever state funding for school library materials. TLA's reach encompassed a broad range of legislative initiatives and educational campaigns. The Texas Book Festival, which raises money to benefit public libraries in Texas, was founded in 1995 and has partnered with TLA since its inception.

1970_S

Progressive governors and federal support brought the growth of library services throughout the state as TLA continued to thrive. The expansion of higher education and the coming of major industries, including electronics, ensured the steady development of research and specialized libraries. The 1970s also saw the beginning of TLA's public relations campaigns.



2000s -2022

In 2017, longtime TLA Executive Director Pat Smith retired after more than 30 years with TLA. Current Executive Director Shirley Robinson joined TLA in 2020. In spring 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TLA canceled its in-person conference and premiered its first-ever virtual conference. The association is leading the battle against censorship and continues to grow and adapt to serve and support members across the state as the library landscape evolves to meet the needs of our communities.

Michele Chan Santos is the Texas Library Association marketing specialist.

2022 Texas Bluebonnet Award Winner

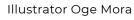
Thousands of elementary students across Texas voted and the results are in! The winner of the 2022 Texas Bluebonnet Award is *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*, written by Rita Lorraine Hubbard and illustrated by Oge Mora.

The Oldest Student shares the true story of the remarkable life of Mary Walker who was born into slavery and learned to read at the age of 116.

Students representing 10 Texas school districts will present the award to Hubbard at the Texas Bluebonnet Award Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27, at 11:45 AM, during the TLA 2022 Annual Conference in Fort Worth.



Athor Rita Lorraine Hubbard



ANNUAL

ASSEMBLY

TLA 2022 Annual Assembly

This year, Annual Assembly will be in-person, July 6 - 8 at the Hyatt Regency Austin. This interactive and informative event will help you take your involvement with TLA and the library profession to the next level.

In addition to TLA 2023 conference planning, Annual Assembly will include an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training session for TLA officers. Attendees will have the opportunity to attend training sessions on leveraging TLA Engage to drive member engagement, budgeting for your Unit, using TLA Google Shared Drives for Unit business, updating txla.org, and more.

Information on hotel, and the full schedule will be shared in May.



TLA 2022–2025 STRATEGIC PLAN PREVIEW

April 7 and April 8 | 3–4pm

Join TLA President Dan Burgard, President-Elect Mary Woodard and Executive Director Shirley Robinson for an overview of the **2022 – 2025 TLA Strategic Plan**. The first session is April 7 at 3pm and it will be repeated on April 8 at 3pm. Both sessions will be presented via Zoom.

We look forward to sharing the outcomes of the last year of intensive work by the Executive Board, TLA volunteer leaders and staff to help craft goals and priorities for the organization for the next 3 years and beyond. Learn more.

TALL TEXANS 2022 ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS UNTIL MAY 15

The TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute (TALL Texans) is a transformational program that helps participants learn and embrace their potential to take new initiatives for their institutions, profession, and stakeholders. TALL Texans 2022 will be held in person, November 13-17, 2022, at Montserrat Retreat Center, Lake Dallas.

Applicants must be current TLA members and have at least five (5) years of experience working in libraries (experience need not be continuous). An MLS is not required. The deadline to **register** is May 15.



LAUNCH

LAUNCH: LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS WITH LESS THAN FIVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Registration is open for Launch 2022 which will be held July 24 - 25 at The Westin Austin at the Domain, in Austin. Participants will learn and expand leadership skills which will serve them throughout their careers through group work, self-directed learning, and internal reflection. Each session will be taught by a dynamic leader in the field



TLA* SUMMIT

TLA SUMMIT: PERSPECTIVE, VISION, REACH

TLA Summit is a one-day virtual conference designed to bring together experts from around the country to discuss new developments, complex challenges, and best practices of librarianship. The program, which will include over 50 professional development sessions, aims to nurture, energize, and strengthen you and your library team. The full-day virtual conference will be June 2 and sessions will be available for viewing for 30 days after the event.

In memoriam: Cyd Sheffy

Cyd Sheffy, dedicated TLA member, longtime Fort Worth ISD librarian and library advocate, passed away in March 2022. She received her MLS from the University of North Texas in 1977 and was known for her years of library advocacy and teaching students a love of libraries. Cyd was a past chair of the Texas Association of School Librarians and won the Siddie Joe Johnson Award for children's librarians in 1999 and the 2013 S. Joe McCord Library Hero Award. Cyd was one of the original founders of the TALL Texans program. After retirement, she stayed active tutoring elementary school students and assisting with the Texas Library PAC. She will be deeply missed.

REGISTER

Lone Star Día April 30

This year is the 26th annual celebration of national Children's Day, Book Day (Día de los Niños, de los Libros) founded in 1996 by Texas author and literacy advocate Pat Mora. Lone Star Día is Texas's statewide celebration of the day.

The Texas Center for the Book announced that this year's **Lone Star**. **Día** will be April 30, but activities celebrating and encouraging a love of reading can take place at any time.

A national registry listing events is available at <u>dia.ala.org</u>, which covers events such as story times, family celebrations and cultural meals. The site includes a Free Program Downloads section to access booklists, event posters and sample activities available to all



Lone Star Día

Celebrate Children's Day, Book Day

Read with your children and discover **Bookjoy** every day!

libraries, schools, and participating organizations. The website aims to provide easy-to-use materials to make events manageable. Users are encouraged to register their event at the **National Día Program Registry** to attract more participants.

RECOVER, REBALANCE, RECONNECT TLA 2022 * FORT WORTH *

APRIL 25 - 28

Registration Deadline APRIL 21 CLOSES AT MIDNIGHT*

txla.org/annual-conference

*ON-SITE REGISTRATION NOT AVAILABLE FOR TLA 2022

2022 Keynote Speakers







GENERAL SESSION I

Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Tuesday, April 26, 8:15–9:45 AM

Dr. Ibram X. Kendi is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University and the founding director of the BU Center for Antiracist Research. He is a contributing writer at *The Atlantic* and a CBS News racial justice contributor. He is the host of the new action podcast Be Antiracist. Dr. Kendi is the author of many highly acclaimed books including *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction, making him the youngest-ever winner of that award.

Dr. Kendi has also produced five straight #1 New York Times bestsellers, including *How to Be an Antiracist, Antiracist Baby*, and *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, co-authored by Jason Reynolds. In 2020, *Time* magazine named Dr. Kendi one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

GENERAL SESSION II Nadine Strossen

Wednesday, April 27, 4:15 – 5:30 PM

New York Law School Professor Emerita Nadine Strossen, past national President of the American Civil Liberties Union (1991-2008), is a leading expert and frequent speaker/media commentator on constitutional law and civil liberties. She serves on the advisory boards of the ACLU, Academic Freedom Alliance, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), Heterodox Academy, and National Coalition Against Censorship. Her 2018 book *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship* was selected by Washington University as its 2019 "Common Read."

Dr. Strossen will review the history and aims of censorship, current efforts at banning materials in libraries, and how libraries, communities, and friends of libraries can unite their efforts to expand access to free speech as a counter to these efforts.

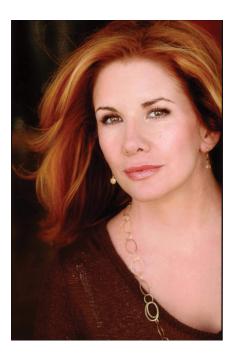
TLA AFTER HOURS KEYNOTE

Alyssa Edwards (Justin Johnson)

Monday, April 25, 6:15 – 7:00 PM

Justin Dwayne Lee Johnson, known by his stage name Alyssa Edwards, is an entertainer, choreographer, drag performer and television personality. Johnson was a gifted dance instructor and accomplished performer in the drag pageantry scene before rising to international prominence on the fifth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, where he quickly became a fan favorite: Alyssa Edwards has 1.9 million Instagram followers. Johnson and his award-winning dance company are the centerpieces of the Netflix Original docuseries *Dancing Queen*.

2022 Keynote Speakers



GENERAL SESSION III Melissa Gilbert

Thursday, April 28, 11 AM-Noon

Melissa Gilbert starred as Laura Ingalls Wilder on the hit NBC television show Little House on the Prairie. She has starred in numerous movies and plays and served two terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild. She is the author of *Prairie Tale*, *Daisy and Josephine*, *My Prairie Cookbook*, and *Back to the Prairie*.

At TLA 2022, Melissa will discuss her new book, *Back to the Prairie: A Home Remade, A Life Rediscovered*, a hilarious and heartfelt memoir chronicling her journey from Hollywood to a ramshackle house in the Catskills during the COVID-19 pandemic. When her husband introduces her to the wilds of rural Michigan, Melissa begins to fall back in love with nature. And when work takes them to New York, they find a rustic cottage in the Catskill Mountains to call home. But "rustic" is a generous description for the state of the house, requiring a lot of blood, sweat, and tears for the newlyweds to make habitable.





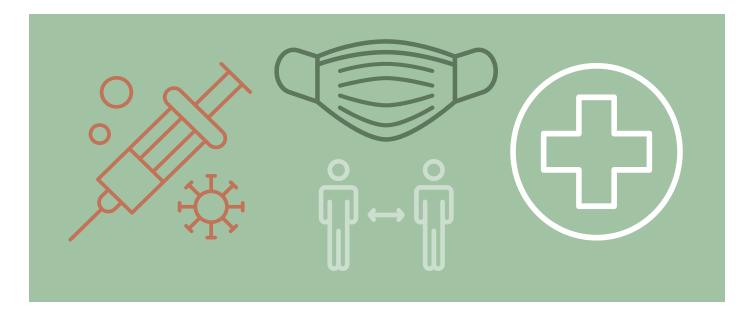
OPENING AWARDS AND AUTHOR SESSION Sonia Manzano and Neal Spelce Tuesday April 26, 12:15-1:45 PM

Two authors, Sonia Manzano and Neal Spelce, who have both lived distinct lives in history, will take stage at the Opening Awards and Author Session on the afternoon of April 26.

Sonia Manzano (best known as Maria on *Sesame Street*) is a trailblazer in the field of children's entertainment, writing and acting for episodes as a part of the original Sesame Street team. She has written multiple award-winning books, and her upcoming title, *Coming Up Cuban*, is her most ambitious yet—five different points of view, incredible research with the help of librarians, and a compelling story line set in 1959 in Cuba right as Fidel Castro came into power.

Neal Speice's six-decade reporting career has been distinguished by successes in radio, television, journalism, marketing, advertising, public relations, broadcast program syndication, public speaking, and consulting. He has been present for many Texas, national, and international events covered in his new book, *With the Bark Off: A Journalist's Memories of LBJ and a Life in the News Media*.

Health & Safety Protocol



Your safety and health are our top priority for our inperson TLA 2022 conference. We expect over 3000 people from across the country to participate in the conference. Everyone attending the conference will have different comfort levels when it comes to attending a large event during a global pandemic. TLA is working closely with the convention center and vendors involved in producing the conference to ensure a safe environment for all.

TLA will require proof of full* vaccination OR a negative COVID-19 test from a third-party provider (administered within 72 hours of attendance; over the counter, at home test results will not be accepted) from all registered attendees; sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, speakers, guests and TLA staff. TLA contracted with CrowdPass, a free, simple, secure, and HIPAA-compliant third-party vendor, to clear all participants in advance of the conference. You will not be able to pick up your conference badge without completing this process first.

Visit <u>txla.org/crowdpass-verify</u> to learn more and submit your COVID-19 information.

*A person is considered fully vaccinated greater than or equal to 2 weeks after completion of a two-dose mRNA series (Pfizer, Moderna) or single dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine.

Code of Conduct

The Texas Library Association (TLA) is dedicated to providing a harassmentfree environment for everyone engaged with the association at events and on social media channels, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, ethnicity, military status, race, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment in any form at any TLA events or activities, or on any TLA social media channels, including those managed by TLA units.

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MONDAY, APRIL 25 3:45 - 6:00 PM Exhibit Hall Grand Opening TUESDAY, APRIL 26 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Exhibits Open WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Last Day for Exhibits

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BE Boucher, author.....2040

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Merriam-Webster Kids 2140 See Publisher Spotlight

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Dreamscape Media

Millb	rook F	Press .				 	1533
See	Lerner	Publish	ing (Group	С		
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Miller, Lucas, Singing Zoologist1501 See Lucas Miller, Singing Zoologist

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MSI Information Services See Junior Library Guild	.2025
Muzo	1819
See Library Interiors of Texas	

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National Museum of the Pacific War

Education Outreach programs offered by the museum. These programs can be found onsite, off-site or virtual

Once upon a time, there was a city called Abilene, Texas, that dedicated itself to showcasing the wonders of children's literature. The city built a museum that was the first of its kind in the nation called the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature. Then came Storybook Sculptures of characters from children's books populating downtown Abilene. The city started an annual event called the Children's Art & Literacy Festival that grows each year. In 2015, the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas designated Abilene as the official Storybook Capital of Texas for its efforts to celebrate literary works for children. Since then, the Storybook Capital's draw has expanded across America. The CALF brings people from multiple states each year, and NCCIL exhibits tour across the nation. To recognize the growing appeal of the Storybook Capital, the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council in partnership with the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau decided in 2018 to trademark the term "Storybook Capital of America" with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The NCCIL exhibits, tours, collects, preserves and promotes original art from the finest children's literature. Our vision is to inspire and empower children to read and be creative. Through our programming and outreach, the NCCIL actively promotes children's literacy, both art and reading, in the Abilene community and beyond.

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Nienkämper Library......1819

See Library Interiors of Texas

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Office for Intellectual Freedom 1308 See ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom

OneStop TM Self Service Circulation Software and Systems......1513 See EnvisionWare

OPALS - CERF - Media Flex...... 1025 See Media Flex - OPALS - CERF

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RiverStream1431 See The Creative Company

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Library Education

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Starstek......1413 See Stars Information Solutions

State Bar of Texas Law-Related Education 1121 www.texaslre.org

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thgaac.texas.gov

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission525

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TexQuest1415 See TexQuest Support Center at ESC-20

TexQuest Support Center at ESC-20

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TLA Black Caucus Round Table 1218 txla.org/blackcaucus-roundtable

Promotes library services to African-Americans and promotes the participation of African-American librarians and paraprofessional at all levels of the profession and the Association.

TLA CULD & TCAL 1118 txla.org/CULD

Promoting the interests of university and community college libraries and librarians across Texas.

TLA District 4...... 1119 txla.org/district4

Welcome to District 4! Our district's membership includes librarians, staff, trustees, full-time library students, and other interested individuals representing school, public, academic, and special libraries. We are located in South Texas.

SCLRT addresses the needs of directors, staff, and Board Members of libraries serving small communities across the state of Texas.

TLA Texas Authors & Illustrators RT

txla.org/tx-authors-roundtable Created in July 2012, the Texas Authors and Illustrators Round Table's (formerly TAIIG) purpose is to foster a relationship between Texas Authors and Illustrators and Texas librarians.

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The University of Texas Press publishes scholarly, trade and regional books.

UNT College of Information 2019 informationscience.unt.edu

The Department of Information Science at the University of North Texas prepares information professionals to meet the needs of the global information society. The department offers nationally recognized programs at the bachelors, masters and doctoral levels in Library Science, Information Science and Data Science. We also offer School Library Certification and Graduate Academic Certificates. The ALA-accredited Master of Science with majors in Library Science or

Information Science program is also offered completely online.

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services......1409 uscis.gov

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States.

The Van Show......2239 library.austintexas.gov/youth/literature-live/ van

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World Book, Inc2400 www.worldbook.com

World Book Online, Children's Nonfiction, Encyclopedias

Writer's League of Texas 1617 www.writersleague.org

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