

Annual Conference

Are You Ready? Only 7 Weeks until TLA 2018!

That's right – as of February 14 we are a mere 48 days from the TLA Annual Conference April 3 – 6 in Dallas. Have you registered? Booked your hotel? Checked out pre-conference line ups? Purchased event tickets? Planned your travel route to avoid IH-35 if at all possible?

This year's conference offers 325 valuable education sessions and programs presented by 875 leaders from Texas and beyond. Twenty-six Hands-On Labs, 13 Innovation Labs, and approximately 30 maker table demonstrations put the latest gizmos, gadgets, apps, and useful tech tools in your hands. More than 380 exhibitors fill a 150,000 square- foot Exhibit Hall showcasing the latest products and services. And it's not a TLA conference without a fantastic line up of authors and illustrators; this year more than 200 will share their talents with attendees.

Don't miss this world class professional development opportunity – it's an investment in yourself, and your career.

Register today at (<https://secure.txla.org/secure/forms/mtgLogin.asp>)

More information, registration [rates](#), and the link to [book your hotel](#) are posted on the Annual Conference [webpage](#). (<http://www.txla.org/annual-conference>)

Mobile App is Live

Download the official Texas Library Association app from the Apple App Store or Google Play and start planning your conference experience. Peruse session descriptions, speaker bios, exhibitor listings and customize your schedule. Allow notifications to stay up-to-date with real time alerts.

Search your App Store for “Texas Library Association” and download the app.

- Current TLA members use the same email and password used to login to TLA Members Only to login to the app.
- Non-TLA members use the same email and password you created when registering for conference to login to the app.

You can also access the conference mobile app information from your desktop computer or other devices.

Author Events: Purchase Tickets by March 16

Each year, several special events showcase leading authors who share insights into the creative process and thought-provoking perspectives on a variety of topics. These popular sessions generally sell out so make your plans to attend now. **Tickets for each of the following events must be purchased by Friday, March 16.** Check the program or mobile app for times and locations.

TLACast Newsletter

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Wednesday, April 4

Black Caucus Round Table Author Session - Michael Eric Dyson, an award-winning author, broadly-celebrated professor, noted political analyst, ordained Baptist minister, and dynamic speaker has written 19 books in his nearly 25-year publishing career. His latest book, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* offers his thoughts on race relations in America.

European Travels with Rick Steves - Join guidebook author and travel TV host Rick Steves for an entertaining overview on best tips for travel in Europe. Proceeds benefit the TLA Disaster Relief Fund. **Opening Author Session** - Kick off your TLA conference with an insightful and entertaining discussion about books. This author trio – Dorothea Benton Frank (*Same Beach, Next Year*), Jonathan Evison (*Lawn Boy*), and Wade Rouse (*The Recipe Box*) – will share their writing experiences and read from their latest works.

Thursday, April 5

Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session - The author of this year's winning Texas Bluebonnet Award title will accept the award from students and share insights into his/her writing.

Texas Tea: Meet & Greet with YA Authors - The annual Texas Tea is the premier event for young adult literature enthusiasts. Participants have the opportunity to meet and speak with several YA authors who will rotate to tables around the room.

Evening with the Authors - Join five writers for a majestic night of literary and culinary flavors. Authors Janet Beard (*The Atomic City Girls*), Iris Cohen (*The Little Clan*), Minrose Gwin (*Promise: A Novel*), John Hart (*The Hush*), and Bryan Mealer (*The Kings of Big Spring: God, Oil, and One Family's Search for the American Dream*) provide the readings.

Friday, April 6

Closing Author Session with Kwame Alexander - An educator, poet, New York Times bestselling author, and a dynamic speaker, Alexander believes that poetry can change the world, and he uses it to inspire and empower people. *Rebound* – available April 3 – is the highly anticipated prequel to his Newbery Medal-winning novel in verse, *The Crossover*.

Make Time for Fun and Socializing

TLA is all about making connections and some of the best opportunities to build your professional network happen after the conference has closed for the day. Get out and meet colleagues who share your passion for libraries! **Tickets for the following events must be purchased by Friday, March 16.** Check the program or mobile app for times and locations.

Tuesday, April 3

Exhibitors Round Table Golf Outing
TALL Texans Social

Wednesday, April 4

Black Caucus Round Table Reception
Hetherington XXI Fun Run/Walk

Thursday, April 5

Alumni Receptions & Socials

- Sam Houston State University Dallas by Chocolate Tour
- Texas Woman's University
- University of Houston – Clear Lake
- University of North Texas (*no ticket required*)
- University of Texas at Austin

Small Community Libraries Round Table (SCLRT) Social
Intergalactic Dance Club Party

Tech Camp: A Conference within a Conference

TLA's acclaimed [Tech Camp](#) returns on Tuesday, April 3 with new content to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to maximize social media platforms, web applications, digital content, and tech tools that wow students, teachers and administrators. Learn how to incorporate the latest resources in your library, and what new trends and tools are on the horizon. You'll walk away ready to build learning and collaboration at your school or public library. Space is limited and tickets are going fast! **Purchase tickets by Friday, March 16.** This is a BYOD (bring your own device) pre-conference.

Book Your Hotel: Discounts End March 13

If you have not booked your [hotel](#), you'll find the lowest rates at the most convenient locations available through our official hotel partner, onPeak. Don't waste your time or money searching the internet for the right fit for your April trip, we've made everything available for you right here.



Shop Hotels at (<https://compass.onpeak.com/e/62TLA18/>)

Make sure to secure your exclusive Dallas hotel rate before these discounts expire on March 13. Questions? Visit the Help section on TLA's official [housing site](#), or contact onPeak at (800) 243-1205 or txla@onpeak.com.

TLA NEWS

Tell Your Colleagues and Friends to Join TLA Today!

Here are the TOP 6 reasons to encourage your colleagues to [join TLA today](#):

1. **TLA Members have long benefitted from our leadership training and continuing education services.** TLA's outstanding annual conference is aimed at all sectors of the library profession—featuring library advocacy, transliteracy, instruction, and diversity—which gives library workers access to national-caliber professional development.

2. **FREE webinars**, including the A-Z Series: [Essential Training for Your Library Team](#).
3. **TLA offers its members stipends** which can assist with conference expenses if students meet the criteria ([Black Caucus](#), [Diversity](#), [Public Library](#), [Reference & Information](#), [Supervision/Management](#), and others). These stipends help supplement the costs of attending the TLA Annual Conference, which will be held in Dallas this year (April 3-6, 2018).
4. **Career development**. TLA provides opportunities for members to lead committees, spearhead statewide initiatives, deliver professional research, and curate reading lists.
5. **TLA Network & Membership Directory**. Joining TLA gives all members access to library professional network across the state employed in public, academic, school, and special libraries.
6. **Advocacy matters and the profession needs everyone's support!** With budget cuts in many states, it's also vital—now more than ever—to support your state library association's efforts to advocate for and support libraries, librarians, and library workers within your state.

TLA Invites You to Take Your Leadership to the Next Level

From July 29 to August 2, join TLA at the 2018 Executive Leadership Immersion at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort (Austin area). Successful library leaders know the importance of not only managing teams, but inspiring others, setting purposeful goals, executing strategic visions, and creating cultures of excellence.

The TLA Executive Leadership Immersion program is an intensive learning experience designated to challenge your current perceptions about leadership and the values that shape it, and encourage you to think and lead differently.

Early-bird registration rate of \$1700 is valid through April 15. Space is limited and applications are currently being accepted at www.txla.org/executive-leadership.

New TLA Reading Lists

Reading list committees continue to release outstanding lists for readers of all ages. The latest include:

- 2018 [2x2 Reading List](#) | Age 2 through 2nd grade
- 2018 [Little Maverick](#) Reading List | Graphic novels for grades K- 5
- 2018 [Lariat Reading List](#) | Recommended fiction for adults

Look for the [Tejas Star](#) bilingual reading list for ages 5-12 to come out February 17. Happy reading!

Corporate Members

We thank our [corporate members](#) for their investment in TLA and Texas libraries.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

New for 2018 – all webinars are FREE for TLA members!

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Visit the [TLA Continuing Education](http://www.tsla.org/CE) (<http://www.tsla.org/CE>) web page for more information.

February 21 | 1-2pm | Dealing with Difficult Situations

(Part of the A-Z: Essential Training for Your Library Team series)

This program features advanced training in the art of customer service (both frontline and behind the scenes), including types and levels of service, scripts for consistency and training, coping with difficult situations (conflicts with patrons, coworkers, bosses), and articulated behavioral expectations.

Registration is free for TLA members, \$25 for nonmembers. A group rate is also available. [REGISTER](#)

February 22 | 1-2pm | Money on Our Minds: How to Help Patrons Make Financial Choices

(Hosted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau)

Many Americans are turning to a trusted source in their communities, their local public library, for financial resources. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a federal government agency, recognizes that libraries are a powerful and trusted community resource, and has materials specifically for libraries to use to inform their patrons about financial education. Collaborating with the CFPB makes it easy for libraries to refer patrons to trusted sources so they can make important money decisions. This FREE webinar requires no registration. [Use this link](#) to access the virtual classroom on Feb 22.

February 27 | 2-3pm | Volunteer Management

Volunteers are the most underutilized resource in nonprofits. In this fast paced, content rich webinar, we will review everything you need to know to have a robust and revenue generating volunteer program. Volunteer managers often attend, however executive directors and other staff members are also encouraged to attend since the vitality of your organization's volunteer program really depends on you! Registration is free for TLA members, \$45 for nonmembers. [REGISTER](#)

February 28 | 1-2pm | Basic Supervision

Whether you are just starting out as a supervisor in a new job, taking over as manager when your manager retires, moving up in your organization from a non-supervisory to a supervisory role, or supervising a new department or function in the library - you have your work cut out for you. As you supervise the activities of others - whether they are full or part time, hourly employees or volunteers - you realize you are responsible for identifying work responsibilities, designing new work projects, tracking and assessing work product and performance and providing - by using all appropriate forms of communication - direction and feedback to indicate success and a need for improvement. Registration is free for TLA members, \$45 for nonmembers. [REGISTER](#)

March 7 | 1-2pm | Communication in the Workplace

(Part of the A-Z: Essential Training for Your Library Team series)

Every successful management style includes best communication practices for different cases. No matter the situation, communication in both face-to-face and virtual settings is enhanced by consistent, standardized policies and practices for communicating up, down, and across work groups. Discover the

top ten tips for communicating in your library.

Registration is free for TLA members, \$25 for nonmembers. A group rate is also available. [REGISTER](#)

March 28 | 1-2pm | Keeping Up with Trends

(Part of the A-Z: Essential Training for Your Library Team series)

Every library requires that all of their library employees keep up with the technology in the library - both hardware and software. But libraries are changing and - in fact - they are constantly changing! It is critical that library employees work with their managers to determine WHAT they need to keep up with and how that might happen. This webinar content will offer diverse ways to keep up with their library's changes and their profession so that they can stay current and relevant.

Registration is free for TLA members, \$25 for nonmembers. A group rate is also available. [REGISTER](#)

April 24 | 1-2pm | Collection Development for Library Specialists

(Part of the A-Z: Essential Training for Your Library Team series)

A well-developed collection takes a village! We select, acquire, categorize, and then maintain – whether print, digital media, software, maker kits, recreational equipment, etc. All kinds of collections provide rich opportunities. Join the discussion of the many roles and responsibilities in building a collection to meet the needs of the library's constituents. Registration is free for TLA members, \$25 for nonmembers. A group rate is also available. [REGISTER](#)

April 20 | 1-2pm | TLA Officer Orientation, Part 1

This program will cover the essentials for new officers of the Texas Library Association, including the new officer information form, budget requests, major duties of the different offices, and how to find help on the TLA website or through other officers and staff. [REGISTER](#)

May 9 | 1-2pm | TLA Officer Orientation, Part 2

In the second half of this guide for new TLA officers, experienced leaders will review important issues such as staying within budget, volunteer management, and planning for elections. [REGISTER](#)

May 11 | 1-2 | Children's Services for Library Specialists

(Part of the A-Z: Essential Training for Your Library Team series)

There are a myriad of names and titles for library workers providing services for children. These positions have both core and advanced roles and responsibilities; and specialty and unique competencies (skills sets, attributes, etc.) This training will focus on five categories:

- What's now, what's new and what's next?
- Communicating successfully with patrons, parents, and caregivers
- Dealing with difficult situations
- Legal issues; and
- Local policies and procedures.

Whether or not you work directly with and are primarily responsible for age-level services, or work with these patrons when children's and youth workers are not present, this training will benefit everyone in the library. [REGISTER](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Awards more than \$850,000 in First Round of Grants to School Libraries Devastated by Recent Disasters

Seventeen school libraries damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Harvey received grants totaling more than \$850,000 from [The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#). "Just like we did after Hurricane Katrina, The Laura Bush Foundation is committed to rebuilding school library collections that have been devastated during disasters we witnessed last fall," said Mrs. Laura Bush. "As a former librarian, I know school libraries are important to improving student achievement, and with the first round of grants from the 2017 Disaster Relief Initiative, these schools can start on the path to full recovery."

The schools receiving grants will also benefit with discounts on new books and materials generously offered by Scholastic Inc., Follett School Solutions, and Mackin Educational Resources. In addition to directing approximately \$1 million of its resources to the 2017 Disaster Relief Initiative, the Laura Bush Foundation continues to fund raise for school library rebuilding efforts. [Applications](#) are accepted on a rolling basis, and grants will continue to be awarded all over the nation to help replace book and print collections in America's school libraries.

Mitchell Library in The Woodlands Recognized as Family Place Library

The [George & Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library](#) in The Woodlands, TX joins more than 500 sites across 31 states that earned designation as a Family Place Library™ and have committed to serving as a hub for healthy child and family development within their communities. Library staff worked to earn the designation for the past year and a half. Family Place Libraries™ is a nationwide network dedicated to helping libraries build healthy communities by nourishing healthy families.

Celebrate Día in April

For more than 20 years El día de los niños, El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), commonly known as [Día](#), has emphasized the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Día is a national celebration of children, families, and reading that culminates each year on April 30. The initiative links children and their families to diverse books, languages and cultures. The common goals of all Día programming are to:

- Celebrate children and connect them to the world of learning through books, stories and libraries.
- Nurture cognitive and literacy development in ways that honor and embrace a child's home language and culture.
- Introduce families to community resources that provide opportunities for learning through multiple literacies.
- Recognize and respect culture, heritage and language as powerful tools for strengthening families and communities.

Visit www.txla.org/Texas-Dia-Toolkit for more information.

Chipotle's Reading Rewards Program

Every year Chipotle supports teachers and librarians with free Chipotle Reading Rewards to pass along to encourage and reward reading. These special bookmarks include a coupon for free Chipotle. To get involved, submit an [application](#) for your school or library by February 28. If the application is approved, Reading Rewards will be sent in April. www.chipotle.com/reading

NAMES IN THE NEWS

- **Zinnia Bayardo**, Bernal Middle School; **Norma Gutierrez**, Carnahan Elementary School; **Siobhan Hughes**, Raba Elementary School; **Kristy Massa**, Thornton Elementary School; **Liza Mireles**, McAndrew Elementary School; **Deanna O'Marah**, Aue Elementary School; **Lucy Podmore**, Clark High School; and **Monica Sanchez**, Martin Elementary School were named 2018 Northside ISD Librarian Educators of the Year.
- **Morgan Brickey**, community outreach & programming librarian at the Arlington Public Library received the 2018 Margaret A. Edwards (MAE) Award for Best Literature Program for Teens from the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association.
- **Diane Bruxvoort** has been named Dean of Libraries and Librarians at the University of North Texas, effective April 1.

Deceased

- **Gloria Cox**, former librarian at Dallas Public Library and Arlington public schools passed away.
- **Vera Johnson Guynn**, former librarian at Victoria College, passed away in January.
- **Donald Keeney**, former director of the Seminary of the Southwest Booher Library passed away.
- **Len Radoof**, retired chief of branches at Houston Public Library passed away in January.
- **James Stewart**, former TSLAC commissioner, TLA president and director of the Victoria Public Library passed away in December
- **Marjorie "Mitzie" Stewart**, former serials librarian at Victoria College, active TLA member, and avid writer of more than 30 novels and plays, passed away in January.
- **Ruby Weaver**, retired chief of Central Library, Houston Public Library passed away last fall.