TLA Opposes HISD Elimination of Libraries
In early June, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) took over Houston ISD, installing state-appointed managers in place of the elected school board and appointing Mike Miles as superintendent. Superintendent Miles recently announced plans to eliminate librarian positions at 28 campuses which are part of his New Education System (NES) plans. Library spaces at those campuses will primarily be used as discipline centers for disruptive students. The Texas Library Association, and Texas Association of School Librarians issued a statement opposing this action. Retaining librarians and library programming is a solid, research-based strategy for improving outcomes for students at underperforming schools. [Full statement]

TSLAC Releases Draft Collection Development Standards Required by HB 900
On August 4, the Commission provided initial approval for draft standards on collection development. This is the first step in the approval process; the draft standards now go to the State Board of Education (SBOE) for consideration. At this time, anyone wishing to provide informal comments on the draft standards may do so by emailing rules@tsl.texas.gov.

Ashley Bryan Award nominations open
The Ashley Bryan Award, established in 2023 by the TLA Black Caucus Round Table (BCRT), honors a Black author for their contributions to highlighting and promoting humanity, diversity, culture, and community in children’s literature. The award will be given for an author’s body of work on an odd year and a new talent Black author debut work on an even year. Winners will receive $1,000 and a plaque. [Nominate here]

Vote for TLA’s SXSW 2024 Panel Picker Proposal
Community voting is open for sessions submitted to the SXSW 2024 Panel Picker. Please vote for TLA’s session, Right to Read: Libraries, Freedom & Your Community. If selected, this session will be a “Meet Up” for people to connect and discuss how to fight this fight in their communities. Deadline is August 20. [Vote today!]

Apply to serve on a Texas Bluebonnet Award committee!
If you have always wanted to be a member of one of the Texas Bluebonnet Award committees (Selection or Program) now is the time to apply! Application and letters of recommendation should be sent to Kelly Mantay. Questions should be directed to TBA Coordinator Terri Harkey. Click here for the application. Deadline is October 1.

Registration for 2023-2024 Texas Bluebonnet Award Voting is Open!
School is starting soon, don’t forget to register your school or public library for TBA voting. Register your school or public library here. For a wealth of resources, including tracking charts for student readers, go to the Resources page. You can find the current TBA list here; and this is the guide to voting.

Texas Great Read for 2023
The Texas Center for the Book is thrilled to announce the Texas Great Read titles for 2023! The Center has chosen Nell Plants a Tree by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Daniel Miyares, as the 2023 Texas Great Read Youth Selection and West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge as the 2023 Texas Great Read Adult Selection. The Texas Center for the Book
invites Texas to take part in a statewide book club by using the hashtag #TXGreatRead on social media. **2023 Texas Great Read Program**

**Americans and the Holocaust Traveling Exhibition**
The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office present Americans and the Holocaust, a traveling exhibition that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. Following a highly successful tour, the exhibition will now be available to 50 additional public and academic (i.e., college and university) libraries from 2024 to 2026. Read the [project guidelines](#) and apply online by October 14, 2023.

**Submit a nomination for Texas Library Champions!**
We're looking for champions of the Texas library community - individuals and organizations whose influence has changed the landscape of Texas libraries. The individuals and organizations selected will be added to the list of Texas Library Champions that was compiled in 2002 in commemoration of TLA's 100th anniversary celebration. Learn more and submit a nomination here. Deadline to submit has been extended to August 15.

**New Members Only online portal**
TLA's new online member portal launched at the end of June. If you have not already done so, you will need to create a new password to enter this area as well as TLA Engage (you will use the same username and password for both areas.) Directions and instructional video on this page.

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**Names in the News**

**Larry Joel Ringer**, the former mayor of College Station who helped establish the Larry J. Ringer Public Library in College Station, passed away on June 28.

**John Thomas Ringhauser**, of DeSoto, a longtime school administrator and supporter of school libraries, passed away on June 16.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**
If you have not already done so, you will need to create a new password for the Members-Only area and TLA Engage in order to register for an event. Directions and instructional video here.

**TLA Talks: Books Under Fire - Libraries and the Right to Read in 2023**
*When:* August 15; 3 PM- 4PM  
*Presenters:* Deborah Caldwell-Stone and Eric Stroshane  
*Cost:* Free for TLA members, $25 for non-members  
The number of challenges reported to ALA increased by 60% in 2021 and censorship activity is not slowing down. In fact, Texas banned more books from school libraries than any other state; more than 800 books banned across 22 Texas school districts. Learn how to prepare for challenges, and how ALA is supporting librarians facing challenges. Deborah Caldwell-Stone is the Director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom. Eric Stroshane is a consultant assisting the Office for Intellectual Freedom. [Register.](#)

**TCAL 2023 Annual Conference**
Register today for the Texas Council of Academic Libraries (TCAL) annual conference! The TCAL 2023 Annual Conference will be held September 18-19 at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center in College Station. Learn more and register. The keynote speaker is Dr. Michelle Cantu-Wilson, member of the Board of Trustees of San Jacinto College. Her keynote session is "Hope is a Discipline: Finding a Renewed Purpose through Self-Awareness." You can view the [full schedule here.](#)

**TLA Self-Paced Learning**
[TLA Self-Paced Learning](#) is a chance for you to earn CE credit from the comfort and
convenience of your home or office. These on-demand learning sessions cover topics including management, user services, librarianship, literature, and technology. **How it works:** You select the sessions you would like to view. You make the purchase and view the sessions. You can purchase sessions one at a time, or bundled. More information and prices [here](www.txla.org).