New 2x2 and Lariat Reading Lists
TLA is delighted to share the 2024 2x2 list and the 2024 Lariat list. The 2x2 list is comprised of the best of recent books meant for children 2 years old to grade two, while the goal of the Lariat Adult Fiction Reading List is to highlight outstanding fiction that is “simply a pleasure to read.” Enjoy!

Time for Membership Renewal
If you have not already done so, it's time to renew your membership and register for TLA 2024! Renew today. Benefits include attending the TLA 2024 Annual Conference at the member rate, engagement in the vibrant TLA Engage online community, complimentary registration for our enlightening TLA Talks monthly webinars and more. Renew

General Session II: Doris Kearns Goodwin
Doris Kearns Goodwin’s first book was Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream. She followed up with the Pulitzer Prize–winning No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Homefront in World War II. Her upcoming book, An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s, will be published in April 2024. General Session II is Thursday, April 18, 4:00 – 5:00 PM. General Sessions do not require a separate ticket.

Opening Award and Author Session
We are delighted that authors Loren Long (the Otis picture books), Meg Medina (Merci Suárez Changes Gears) and Lisa Wingate (Before We Were Yours) will be our featured speakers at the Opening Awards and Author Session, 12:15-1:45 PM on Wednesday, April 17 at #txla24. The TLA Benefactor, Outstanding Services to Libraries, and Libraries Change Communities Awards will be presented. This event is hosted by TLA’s Library Friends, Advocates and Trustees Round Table (LiFTA). Tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 5. Learn more.

New: YART Annual Conference Stipend
The Young Adult Round Table is excited to offer five stipends to cover full conference registration and five travel reimbursement awards (up to $300 each) for the 2024 TLA Annual Conference. The purpose of this stipend is to encourage participation in the Annual Conference and the Young Adult Round Table (YART). Deadline: February 25. Learn more and apply.

Submit a Poster Session Proposal for TLA 2024
TLA 2024 invites poster session submissions. Present your research, program or project at a dedicated conference session in San Antonio on Wednesday, April 17 from 11am-1pm in the TLA 2024 Exhibit Hall, during the TLA 2024 Annual Conference. **Deadline for submission is February 12.** [Learn more and submit your proposal](#). [Video directions on how to submit](#).

**April 5 is the deadline to purchase ticketed events!**
If you’re planning to attend Texas Bluebonnet Award Speed Dating, the Texas Bluebonnet Award Author Session, the BCRT Author Session, Texas Tea Meet & Greet, Leadership Symposium or any other of our [ticketed author sessions](#), the deadline to purchase is April 5. [How to add a ticketed event to your conference registration](#).

**Important Reminder**
onPeak is the only hotel provider endorsed by TLA. If you are contacted by other third-party companies offering hotel assistance, please be aware they are not endorsed by our event. [March 25 is the deadline to book hotel rooms](#). Book your conference hotel room [here](#).

**TLA 2024 Conference Website**
Check out the [TLA Annual Conference microsite](#) where you can explore our conference program, view maps of the convention center, see maps of our exhibit hall and host hotel, browse the list of exhibitors and so much more. We are continually adding to and updating the site, so please check back regularly to see what’s new.

**Texas Bluebonnet Award Voting Deadline Feb. 10**
Voting for the Texas Bluebonnet Award is nearly over! Here is the [current list](#) and a [guide to voting](#). Voting closes on February 10. Don't forget to submit your votes!

**TLA Awards and Scholarships - Deadline Feb. 12**
Calling all librarians! It’s time to honor brilliance in our community. Nominate exceptional librarians and library programs for the coveted TLA Awards. Learn about the TLA Awards [here](#). TLA scholarship applications are open too. More information about scholarships can be found [here](#). Share this information with the library students you know!

**Branding Iron Award Deadline - Feb. 15**
TLA’s Branding Iron Awards honor the inspiring and creative marketing efforts of all types of libraries with awards presented in several categories, and one overall Best of Show winner. [Share your best work with us](#).

**Texas Book Festival Library Grant Applications Open**
2024 Library Grant Applications are now open! Texas libraries are invited to apply for a $2,500 grant to enhance their digital or physical collections. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 26. [Apply](#).

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**Names in the News**

**Ramiro S. Salazar**, Director of the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL), is retiring.

**Kelly Skovbjerg**, longtime director of the Patrick Heath Public Library in Boerne, is retiring.

**Sarah Ann Widener**, founding librarian at Westlake High School and executive board member of TLA from 1984-1987, passed away on January 15.

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**Upcoming Events**

**TLA Talks: Removing Austin's City Limits - Enhanced Library Cards**
Feb. 13, 2024 3:00-4:00pm
Free for members, $25 non-members
Register
Join Austin Public Library (APL) librarians and learn how APL piloted the launch of Enhanced Library Cards which provide community members an alternative form of photo identification, while also providing all of the traditional library services. Explore possible community and city partnerships to broaden library access and services to historically underserved communities.

The New Mandatory Collection Development Standards: What You Need to Know
Feb. 20, 4:00-5:00pm
Register
This webinar is free and open to TLA members only. It will not be recorded.
The mandatory collection development standards for school libraries required by HB 900 became effective January 3, 2024. What do these new rules mean for school libraries and librarians? How will your local district policies need to change? The presenters for this session, Joy Baskin from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) and Vanessa Ashcraft from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), will share how their organizations will support implementation of these new rules. Bring your questions and join us for this interactive session.

TLA Learns: New Year, New Skills: Surviving Difficult Conversations
February 27, 2024, 4:00-5:30pm
$20 members, $30 non-members
Register
As a librarian you are often called to have a frank conversation with a colleague or patron to discuss a delicate or sensitive matter.
Emma McDonald, the Director of Library Systems for Mesquite ISD, will demonstrate the best way to have these frank conversations in a simple and effective way that reduces stress. Add this leadership tool to your toolkit in this innovative TLA Learns session. Watch Emma’s video inviting you to participate. This session will not be recorded.
CE: 1.5 SBEC, 1.5 TSLAC
Speaker: Emma McDonald, Director of Library Services for Mesquite ISD

Staff openings at TLA
Come work with us at the Texas Library Association! We have openings for a Communications Coordinator and a Member Services Coordinator.

Donate to TLA
Make an impact where it matters! As a non-profit association, your donations help fuel the leadership programs, advocacy and resources which keep our association thriving. Your TLA donation big or small, fuels our library community forward. Donate today
Thank You 2024 Sponsors!

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