2024 TNLA Conference

Conference Information:
Tuesday, April 2 – Thursday, April 4, Cool Springs Marriott, Franklin, TN

Early Bird Registration Now Open!

Register now for the Tennessee Library Association 2024 Annual Conference! Early bird rates are available until March 11th! Join us for a packed schedule of programming on librarianship (full schedule coming soon), including keynote speaker Jill Conner Browne. Register at https://www.tnla.org/page/2024Conference

Please note: Preconference Registration is in a separate link from regular conference registration. If you plan to attend both the conference and preconference, you will need to register for pre-conference separately.

Reservations at the Cool Springs Marriott at the conference rate of $164 a night are also available until March 11th. Reservation link: https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1684871081490&key=GRP&app=resv

Jill Conner Browne is the bestselling author of the *Sweet Potato Queens* series. She has been featured in *USA Today, Newsweek, The Washington Post, People, NPR’s All Things Considered*, and many more. Jill’s *Sweet Potato Queens* have inspired a musical by the same name and 6,400 registered *Sweet Potato Queen Wannabe™* chapter groups in 37 countries worldwide.

Jill has also been honored for her numerous charitable and volunteer works. She is a founding member of the Women’s Fund of The Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and serves on the Volunteer Board of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and on the Executive Board of Trustees for Extra Table, a not-for-profit that provides healthy food in bulk to food pantries and soup kitchens in Mississippi. The Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women awarded Jill Woman of the Year 2013 for her outstanding contributions in the Performing Arts & Entertainment Field, and she received the Governor’s Initiative for Volunteer Excellence 2017 GIVE Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Building Initiatives.

For more information, visit Jill’s website at https://www.sweetpotatoqueens.com/meet-jill/
President’s Corner

Winter has sides and by that, I mean you probably either love winter or loathe it. The winter lover’s dream of snow and sipping hot drinks by fire pits, enjoying the slower pace that comes to the world when the quiet early dark nights set in. Those that aren’t a fan of winter dread the cold, the snow, the cold rain, and mostly, probably, leaving work in the dark and it feeling like bedtime. Those folks need the sun, bright and shiny, when they head home to feel like they have some ‘day’ at the end of their day. I don’t know which camp you fall into, maybe neither, maybe you just go along with winter until she’s done, moving on to spring. Or should I say springing forward to spring? It’s almost time to do just that. Spring brings the joy of new life, trees budding, flowers bursting out of the ground to bloom in glorious riots of color, birds chirping. The sun has its best and shining moments in spring, warming up everything and everyone just enough to know we made it through another winter and there’s fun to be had outside. If you feel like you’re just “making it through” these days, you aren’t alone.

And TNLA has the most fantastical wonderful way planned for you to find your library tribe, connect with colleagues from all over the state, and make new library friends that you can share with and learn from. It’s time for our annual conference!!! I used three exclamation points because it’s that good. I have always enjoyed our library association conference because it’s filled with opportunities, to learn, to grow, to network, to rest, to laugh, to find new products your library can’t live without, and to feel renewed as you go back to the work you do in your libraries, hopefully with tons of new tips and tricks and ideas for doing all that you do even better, easier, more effectively, and more efficiently.

And, with the knowledge that you aren’t alone. You are surrounded by fellow librarians that are here for you. I hope you plan to connect with us all at the conference during the first week of April in beautiful Franklin. There’s no better place to be when you’re a librarian in Tennessee!

—Rhonda Tippitt
TNLA President

2024 Library Instruction Together Conference

Save the date for the 2024 Library Instruction Together Conference!

The 2024 Library Instruction Together Conference will take place in-person on Friday, May 10 at the Retreat, Nashville Public Library, Tennessee; and virtually on Zoom, Wednesday, May 22.

The theme for LIT this year is “Bridging the Gaps.” One goal of Library Instruction Together is to bring together librarians from across various corners of the profession—from academic and special libraries to those serving K-12 schools and the public. But it’s not always easy to make these connections outside of our own professional specialties, which led us to wonder...How do you “bridge the gaps” in your own work?

Learn more about Library Instruction Together at libraryinstructiontogether.org.

—Steering Committee:
Jenny Harris, Austin Peay State University;
Andrea Kincaid, Chattanooga State Community College;
Ashley Roach-Freiman, University of Memphis;
Sarah Smith, St. Louis Community College;
Lyndy Wibking, Roane State Community College;
Laura Sheets, Bowling Green State University;
and Aaron Wimer, The Citadel
March for Libraries Planned for April 13, 2024

The TNLA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is thrilled to provide an update on the upcoming March for Libraries event, scheduled to take place from 8 AM to 12 PM on April 13, 2024, in downtown Nashville at the Walk of Fame Park, coinciding with the last day of National Libraries Week. This event offers a platform for all members of our community to come together in a nonpartisan demonstration of support for libraries.

The committee is seeking additional volunteers to assist with various tasks, including managing resource tables for organizations such as TNLA, TASL, SELA, and Friends of Tennessee Libraries. We invite those who are interested in contributing to reach out to us at marchforlibrariestn@gmail.com or follow us on Instagram @marchforlibraries.

March for Libraries Event Agenda

Date: April 13, 2024 from 8 am to Noon
Location: Walk of Fame Park, Downtown Nashville

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Event Setup
Volunteers will assemble at Walk of Fame Park to set up event infrastructure, including tents, folding tables, and activity stations.

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM: Participant Arrival
Attendees will begin arriving at Walk of Fame Park and volunteers will assist with check-in and provide event materials.

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM: Welcome Address
Event organizers will deliver a brief welcome address.

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Information Tables, Guest Speaker, and Children’s Activities
Participants will have the opportunity to visit information tables hosted by organizations.

10:30 AM: Breakdown Before Parade
Event organizers and volunteers will dismantle tables and secure belongings in preparation for the parade.

11:00 AM: March for Libraries Parade
The parade will commence from Walk of Fame Park and follow the designated route, proceeding along 4th Avenue towards Broadway, then turning left onto Rep. John Lewis Way, before returning to Walk of Fame Park for the closing ceremony.

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Parade Ends and Closing Ceremony
A closing ceremony will feature final remarks, acknowledgments, and celebratory activities, marking the successful conclusion of the event.

If you are interested in supporting March for Libraries, you may make donations through the Tennessee Library Association by accessing their donation portal. All donations should be made to the General Fund with “March for Libraries 2024” listed in the donor comments. Your generosity and support will ensure we have a successful event by providing resources, marketing materials, and refreshments to all eventgoers.

Let us come together on April 13th to celebrate the invaluable role that libraries play in our lives and reaffirm our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion within our communities. Together, we can make a difference and demonstrate the enduring importance of libraries for all. Join us for a day of celebration and community engagement as we March for Libraries.

—Cassandra Taylor
TNLA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair
In partnership with a number of publishers, Unite Against Book Bans has announced its launch of Book Résumés. This free resource is available to support librarians, educators, parents, students, and other community advocates in their efforts to defend intellectual freedom and keep challenged books in circulation.

Each book résumé summarizes the book's significance and educational value, including a synopsis, reviews from professional journals, awards, accolades, and more. Book résumés are formatted to allow for easy printing and electronic sharing.

For more information, visit https://bookresumes.uniteagainstbookbans.org/