

# TLA 2020 : POWERING LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES

## HONORS & AWARDS

### **Daniel Taylor Memorial Award: Jenny Claiborne**

Jenny Claiborne was one of four librarians across Tennessee selected to serve as a trainer for the Supercharged Storytime training in 2018. She completed six weeks of training, spent another eight weeks building her own curriculum, and then taught two 6-week classes of her own in the Obion and Hatchie River regions. Jenny also participated in a pre-conference at the 2019 TLA conference that served to complement the Supercharged Storytime program. In 2017, Jenny developed and ran a Growing Readers Grant. Through an 8-week series of classes at the Martin Housing Authority, she taught more than 275 students in grades K-5 during STEM Story Hour. Jenny included families in the programs so that parents would become more comfortable reading to and with their children. More than 65 adults participated in the program. Jenny also built a great relationship with the staff and administration at the Housing Authority through her commitment and enthusiasm for the program. This outreach to a group of children who don't normally get to come to the library has built enthusiasm for future projects.



### **Frances Neel Cheney Award: Missy Dillingham**

Missy Dillingham has worked at the John P. Holt Brentwood Library for over 35 years. Throughout her tenure, her passion has always been to serve the young patrons and their parents of the Brentwood community. Whether she was collecting the summer reading lists from area schools to make sure that the titles were available or creating the genre reading list notebook that helps students find just the right title for their assignment, Missy tries to make sure that the collection has something for everyone. After seeing a presentation at PLA, Missy reorganized the easy reader section so that the titles could be identified by reading levels, allowing the section to be used more efficiently by parents looking for the right book for their child. Through it all, Missy has always done her best to put the right book in each child's hand. After all, what could bring more joy to someone than that?



### **Friend of the Year Award: eBay Team, Blount County Friends of the Library**

The eBay Team began in 2014 with 5 people and has grown to over 20 people, of which about half contribute weekly. Some people consistently volunteer 15-20 hours a week and others may help for an hour a month. Because it is a volunteer group, the time that is spent and hours logged vary widely. However, everyone works as a team. If a major contributor is going to be absent, the others will help pick up the slack so the team's results remain consistent. Team members come from all kinds of backgrounds—teachers (from elementary to college), engineers, a used book store owner, librarians, accountants, nurses, records, military, college students and IT. Everyone adds their own experience and area of expertise to the mix, but the one element everyone has in common is a love of books and a love for their library.



### **Friend of the Year Award: Friends of the Spring Hill Library**

Through the years the Friends of the Spring Hill Library has supported the library with time, talent, and financial resources. When the Spring Hill Library moved into its current location in 2002, the Friends of the Library commissioned a mural for the children's section and furnished the conference room. Since 2000, with over \$200,000 from book sales, the Friends has purchased computers, software, furniture, art supplies, blinds, rolling carts and bins, and audio visual equipment, in addition to funding hundreds of programs for both children and adults. More recently the Friends launched a major fundraising drive in support of the planned renovation of the library. The Friends committed to furnish and equip a state-of-the-art Maker's Space and to create a paved and furnished courtyard for reading and relaxing. Long-time FOL member and former FOL President, Beth Cottrell, donated a statue that presently sits in the foyer of the library but will grace the courtyard when the new facility is completed. The current membership of 83 men, women, and children is led by a core group of Board members with long-standing commitment to the library.



### **TLA Honorary Membership Award: Annelle Huggins**

**Annelle Huggins** began her Library career at an early age—she learned to shelve books for her aunt! Those early introductions to the library world led her down a path of devotion to libraries everywhere. Annelle received her BS from University of Central Oklahoma, her MLS from Peabody, and MEd from Texas A & M, where she had her first paying library job as the Assistant Acquisitions Librarian. She then worked at the University of Oklahoma on her way to the University of Memphis. Upon accepting a position at U of M as the Coordinator of Technical Services, she promptly joined the Tennessee Library Association in 1981. In her 39 years (so far!) at TLA, Annelle has served on just about every committee you can name. She served as TLA's president for the 1997-1998 term and then as TLA's ALA Councilor for seven years. She was selected as TLA's first

Executive Director in 2001 and served for 18 years in that capacity until her retirement in December 2019. Annelle's steady presence and quiet strength carried this Association through many struggles throughout the years. If Past Presidents were given an opportunity to testify, the one constant thread uniting the experiences from that diverse group would be Annelle's love for this Association and its members. Her wisdom and knowledge of this Association are legendary, as is she herself.



### **Gleaves Scholarship: Katelyn Boggs**

**Katelyn Boggs** is a library assistant at Dandridge Memorial Library, and she is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Information Sciences from UT Knoxville. She loves reading and spending time with her family, friends, and fur babies. She can most often be found gushing about her favorite books to unsuspecting patrons or singing and acting goofy for the kids at story time.



### **James E. Ward Instruction Award: Karen Dearing**

**Karen Dearing** graduated with an MLIS from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. She has worked in both public and academic libraries for over 25 years. Karen has been a full-time Reference & Instruction Librarian at MTSU since 2014. She enjoys finding creative ways to engage students and promote library usage and services.



### **Louise Meredith School Library Media Award: Karen Callis**

**Karen Callis** is a 22-year educator, having taught 4th grade for 15 years and having been a librarian for 7 years. She is passionate about igniting a sense of wonder and curiosity in her students as she strives to give them a global perspective. Mrs. Callis brings the world to her students through her connections as a National Geographic Certified Educator and as a Nearpod Certified Educator. She presents her students to the world as a TED-Ed Club leader. As a result of Mrs. Callis's influence, her students are curious researchers and responsible, global-minded citizens who are empowered to take action in their communities. Mrs. Callis has inspired her students to help hurricane victims, plant trees in the schoolyard, and rescue overworked circus elephants. There is no telling where curiosity will lead Mrs. Callis and her students next!



### TLA President's Award: Sharon Kay Edwards

**Sharon Kay Edwards** is a tireless advocate for Tennessee libraries and the communities they serve. Over the years, she has developed her skills through the ALA's Policy Corps, and as was recently the case, volatile legislative events in real time. When the Parental Oversight of Public Libraries Act was filed in the Tennessee Legislature, Sharon, as Legislative Monitor, sprang into action. Over the ensuing weeks she worked endlessly to assist TLA leadership in fighting the bill's progression, including preparing testimony for hearings, rallying supporters, and arranging numerous meetings with legislators and their staff. Her constant vigilance and endless guidance went far beyond the role of Legislative Monitor. In appreciation for her incredible efforts and dedication, it is a great honor to bestow the prestigious Tennessee Library Association President's Award to an incredible librarian with an unflinching fighting spirit and the passion to move mountains.



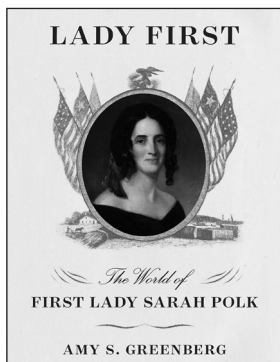
### TLA Intellectual Freedom Award: Julia Watts

**Julia Watts** is the author of thirteen novels for adults and young adults, most of which explore the lives of LGBT people in rural and smalltown Appalachia. Her most recent novel, *QUIVER*, was a Fall "Okra" Pick by the Southern Independent Booksellers Association and received a Perfect-10 Rating in the Voice of Youth Advocates magazine for librarians. Her novel *Finding H.F.* won the 2002 Lambda Literary Award in the Children's/Young Adult category. A novel for adults, *The Kind of Girl I Am*, was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award in the Women's Fiction category, and her 2013 young adult novel *Secret City* was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award and a winner of a Golden Crown Literary Award. Julia holds an MFA in Writing from Spalding University and has spoken at various national and regional conferences. She teaches at South College and in Murray State University's low-residency MFA in Writing program. Julia was recently inducted into the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame. She currently resides in Knoxville, Tennessee.



### TLA Making a Difference Award: Dwight Hunter

**Dwight Hunter** holds a MSIS degree from UTK and is an assistant librarian at Chattanooga State Community College. As the library's policy writer and a lead in accessibility, Dwight sits on the TBR Libraries Accessibility Task Force and leads the library's Social Media Team. He is the 2019-2020 President of the college's Professional Staff Association and serves on the Campus Policy Review Board and the Paralegal Advisory Council. A lifelong volunteer, Dwight was awarded the Corporation for National and Community Service President's Volunteer Service Award. As a member of the Tennessee Library Association, Dwight serves as the co-chair of the Bylaws & Procedures Committee, the chair of the Membership Committee, and the lead for the New Members Roundtable. Dwight is also a passionate volunteer for the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association, advocating for children and youth on the topics of education, safety, and health. He is the 2019-2021 President-Elect for the Tennessee PTA and will begin his two-year presidency in July 2021.



### Tennessee History Book Award: *Lady First: The World of First Lady Sarah Polk*, by Amy S. Greenberg

While the Women's Rights convention was taking place at Seneca Falls in 1848, First Lady Sarah Childress Polk was wielding influence unprecedented for a woman in Washington, D.C. Yet, while history remembers the women of the convention, it has all but forgotten Sarah Polk. Now, in her riveting biography, **Amy S. Greenberg** brings Sarah's story into vivid focus. Amy is the George Winfree Professor of History and Women's Studies at Penn State University. A leading scholar of the history of nineteenth-century America, she has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Philosophical Society, among others. Her previous books include *A Wicked War* and *Manifest Manhood*.



### **TLA Honor Award: Meredith Goins**

Through her work, volunteer activities, and gift of connecting people, **Meredith Goins** has made significant contributions to the furtherance of librarianship at the state and national level. She has served on the Blount County Public Library Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries (TACL) for the State Library and Archives of Tennessee, where she participated in grants to all types of libraries, revised the Standards for Public Libraries in the Regional System, and made decisions that impacted libraries across the state. Since 2000, Meredith has mentored more than 25 librarians and assisted over 150 individuals through TLA's Career Services. In addition to serving as the editor of the TLA newsletter, Meredith has served on the TLA Leadership Roundtable, the TLA Career Services Committee, the TLA Development Committee, and the TLA Membership Committee. While serving on these committees, she has dedicated herself to pre-conference and conference sessions, reaching potential leaders at all levels through her knowledge and experience. A member of TLA and ETLA, Meredith is currently working on her PhD in Information Science, focusing on Scholarly Communication and peer review. A lifelong learner, Meredith hopes to contribute to our next generation of librarian leaders by teaching them in the classroom.



### **Tennsco Scholarship: Lori N. Forrest**

**Lori N. Forrest** has been the Director of the Tiptonville Public Library for almost three years. Lori says, "My husband and I have two children. Our daughter is, in every sense of the word, a 'Library Kid' and our son is living with autism. Rick Riordan is my current favorite author, and I am a proud member of Ravenclaw House. Being a librarian is a dream come true for me. Sometimes I still can't believe this is my job."



### **Trustee of the Year Award: Michie Daniel**

A retired teacher from Dickson and Clarksville, **Michie Daniel** has enjoyed deepening her ties with her Dickson family and community since moving back to the county in 2014. Michie draws from her thirty years' teaching experience as she serves as a Big Sister, Secretary for Friends of Montgomery Bell State Park, and Board member for Women Are Safe, a local organization serving survivors of domestic violence. She especially appreciates her roles as Secretary for both the Board and Friends group for the Dickson County Public Library as this was the library where she taught her children to love reading. She enjoys hiking and traveling with her adult children and husband.

