

# READING MATTERS

A Newsletter For The Improvement  
Of Reading Instruction



Our Mission: . . . to promote the development of literacy among all segments of the population in the State of Tennessee in order to foster an informed, productive citizenry.

## From the President. . .

The Tennessee Reading Association ended the 2011 year with a bang! We were chosen to be the council of interest in the online IRA publication Reading Today. It was exciting for this humble President to share with IRA members the progress and changes the TRA Council are accomplishing this year. Secondly, we had a successful conference held at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in December. Kathy Brashears and Jana Crosby, Conference Co-Chairs planned and implemented an outstanding Literacy professional development opportunity for educators across the state of Tennessee. I thank them and all of their volunteers for a job well done. Kathy and Jana will have a report for us in this newsletter and at the February board meeting.

At the beginning of my term as President I challenged each council President to choose one new teacher to mentor and provide local and state membership fees. I would love to have some of you share any experiences on this matter and other successful activities that you have had during our board meeting to be held in Nashville, Tennessee Saturday, February 11, 2012. During this time of extreme changes in your classrooms and schools we need to take time to reflect on our successes we have had as well! Remember that YOU are the one who can make a difference in your students' lives.

Yours in Literacy,

Deborah Setliff, 2012 TRA  
President

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# 2011 TRA CONFERENCE NEWS

You did it! Along with our Publicity Advisor, William Kincaid, you, members and friends of the Tennessee Reading Association, passed along information regarding registration information for the 37th Annual Tennessee Reading Association Conference! In fact, as a result of your efforts, over 625 people were in attendance! As we're certain you noticed,



Melissa Brock and Cathy Moran

the exhibit hall was full thanks to Cathy Moran and Kim Wright. In addition, Nancy Kolodziej designed a schedule to accommodate over 100 presenters who shared information from early childhood practices all the way to using word play with 12th graders, and Sophia Smith, hospitality chair, made certain they were provided with refreshments to keep them energized! Finally, we are happy to announce that you helped raise over 300 books which have been donated to schools across the state to pass along the love of literacy!

## Feedback

The feedback from participants regarding the conference is positive as well. We are thrilled that conference participants shared that they easily located topics of interest to them both personally and professionally. In fact, one participant said that the biggest problem with the conference was trying to decide on which sessions to attend! Another participant e-mailed "...great conference. I learned a lot in a lot of different areas." Still another said, "I enjoyed all the authors" and "the sessions were



Dinah Zike's Foldables® workshop

Several TRA members took the opportunity to get a photo with author Richard Peck. Clockwise from top: Wendy Hicks, Jill Barnett, Judy Matheny, and Benita Bruster.



wonderful!" Of course, our favorite comment has been along the lines of "Can't wait for next year!"

## Volunteers

We so appreciate all the volunteers who worked in the conference – in preparation, during the conference, and in clean up! We could have never pulled it off without all of you. We especially thank those of you who worked in the registration area packing bags, registering conferencing participants, and serving as Student Ambassadors. We hope you'll volunteer again next year.

Furthermore, we would like to say a special thank you to you—our conference participants! Without you, there would be no need for a conference!

We also want to thank our state coordinator, Randy Kincaid, who drove long distances and gave



Student ambassadors Jody Harris, Mollie Johnson, and Trudy Anderson



TRA President, Deborah Setliff, with members of the Benton County council

an extraordinary amount of time and effort to ensure that this conference would offer both quality speakers and space. We are very sad that he is leaving the position of TRA State Coordinator, but are reassured to

know that he will continue to be an active member of TRA as he has for so many years!

**Support for Upcoming Chair**

Finally, please join us in welcoming Angel Viera, our Vice President, to the role of TRA Conference Chair 2012 and make your plans now to support her as she plans for the 2012 TRA Conference. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 3rd – Tuesday, December 5th, 2012 and pass along the conference dates to friends and colleagues. She is making arrangements for speakers and sessions that you will not want to miss!

Thank you for helping us pass along the love of literacy!

Kathy Brashears and Jana Crosby  
TRA Conference Co-Chairs 2011



Two Tennessee authors: Mary Phillips and Shirley Hollady

# Sevier County Reading Association News

The Sevier County Reading Association worked with Dr. Timothy Rasinski in bringing to our system outstanding workshops two (2) days in December. The focus was divided among the K-5 teachers, and the next day focused on 6-12 Reading and Language Arts teachers. The expertise and time Dr. Rasinski devoted to our teachers was fantastic. This is just the beginning of our work with the Title 1 Department to ensure our teachers are reading for the new Common Core Initiative. Over 200 teachers attended the two day trainings.

Our goal was to bring a cooperative spirit between our organization and our school system. Sevier County Reading has always had the support of the system, but now we are working as a team to bring the best and brightest to Sevier County.

As President of SCRA, just a side note to all of the SCRA members and to the state membership. This is my last year as TRA State Coordinator. This July I will give up my duties to a new person to which I know will be a great leader for TRA. I will have more to say at the board meeting, and a final letter later on. Thanks for the memories and the time I served with all of you.

-- Randall Kincaid

# Thanks to all of our conference vendors!



Thanks to Jill Barnett for all the great conference pictures!

# Tennessee Reading Association Understands and Supports You

by Shirley Holladay

With the possibility of our legislature removing so many rights of teachers, educators have yet another reason to be discouraged. Fortunately educators have a lot of stamina. Educating students is very challenging even in the best of situations. When anyone does not express the confidence and respect that motivates teachers to do their best, it's a sad day for Tennesseans. Sure there are some incompetent teachers. There are also incompetent doctors, butchers, salespersons, and maybe even some incompetent politicians. Fortunately most people in these and other professions in Tennessee are honorable, incredible citizens that go the extra mile to make the world a better place.

There are still individuals and organizations that endorse educators and are committed to the task of assisting these necessary professionals. One such organization is our own Tennessee Reading Association. The board of directors meets regularly to plan supportive activities and programs. Members that take advantage of these programs have many supportive opportunities. It is unfortunate that so many members do not take advantage of what is available. The fall conference offers prestigious speakers and authors. Attendees have choices of sessions that present the newest and most effective methods of teaching and working with students. Educators leave motivated to give students more with a renewed enthusiasm. The beautiful atmosphere and food of the convention center gives educators the elegance that they could have received had they chosen a different profession than education. Since Tennessee Reading Association is an affiliate of the International Reading Association, members also have an opportunity to attend national conventions. There are even convention scholarships available.

There are thirty-two committees that are a part of the Board of Directors. Each offers an opportunity for teacher growth and support. There are seventeen councils across the state that have local relevant meetings and local programs. Not only will members gain information from the meeting itself, they will become aware of local activities. Professional literature is available on several levels and venues. Emails with updates and helpful information are another way TRA members have support if they take advantage of it.

Grants are given each year to give members the funds and motivation to do those special projects and events that make a distinctive influence on students. Applications are short and easy to fill out. Receiving a grant helps teachers more than just the money received. Putting a plan into words makes the project more real. Then when the grant is funded, the educator knows that professionals endorse the idea enough to provide the money needed to make the idea a reality. There have been years when there were more grants than applications.

Celebrate Literacy awards students for outstanding books they have written. It gives teachers the motivation, skills, and support to allow students to do this impressive writing. Volunteers will even show teachers how to write the books.

Support Storytelling shows teachers the value of storytelling in the classroom. Web site suggestions, ideas, and awards make storytelling something any teacher can do. A quick email to [holladays@tds.net](mailto:holladays@tds.net) will get you the information on how easy it is to participate.

The quickest way for members to find out how to benefit from all these and other opportunities is to check out the TRA web site at [www.tnreads.org](http://www.tnreads.org)

So many members do not take full advantage of support that is offered. Teaching takes so much energy and time. Educators have to make choices of what they are physically and mentally able to do. How to spend what little time educators have is not an easy decision; but Tennessee Reading Association believes you have chosen a valuable profession. It will give you the support and respect that you deserve if you will take advantage of what is available.

Bold Films  
Odd Lot Entertainment  
Marc Platt Productions  
Motel Movies

# Movie Review: Drive

Directed by Nicolas  
Winding Refn



The Driver is a guy with a few hang-ups, but he never lets us know what they are. He drives for cash; nothing else matters. Names certainly don't. Here is a film that pushes existentialism to its breaking point.

In the opening scene, we are dropped into a high-speed pursuit wherein Driver maneuvers through the authorities using a sharp intellect and his trademark "icy" demeanor. At this point, we would be right in assuming this is just another mindless, testosterone-fueled ode to boys and their cars. Sort of a "Fast and the Furious" film with more credible actors. As the movie unfolds, however, we'll discover we are wrong: "Drive" is a film that defies generalization.

Ryan Gosling plays Driver. He is joined by Carey Mulligan as a sweet but hapless wife and mother who gets a tad too close to our anti-hero. Comedian Albert Brooks is also on hand, but he's far from the shelter of his customary satires.

"If I drive for you, you give me a time and a place. I give you a five-minute window, anything happens in that five minutes and I'm yours no matter what. I don't sit in while you're running it down; I don't carry a gun... I drive."

To spoil too much would be a crime. "Drive" is worth seeing for the same reasons Oscar has snubbed it. It's dark, violent, scary, and completely enthralling.



William Kincaid  
Sevier County Reading Association  
TRA Conference Publicity 2011  
Teacher

TRA has a Facebook page! Click [here](#) to check it out. If you have anything posted to the page or any questions about TRA publicity, contact Leah Sparrow:  
[lcsparrow31@students.tntech.edu](mailto:lcsparrow31@students.tntech.edu)

## Lakeway Council book drive provides 3,000 books to kids in Hamblen County

The Lakeway Reading Council of Hamblen County conducted a book drive as our service project this year. All schools in Hamblen County were encouraged to participate by collecting new or gently used books. We were able to deliver over 3,000 books to the Boys and Girls Club and Girls, Inc., both of Hamblen County. After all of the books were delivered, Council members were able to read favorite books to students of all ages at both clubs.

Jenny Wyatt  
Lakeway Reading Council President



Have a news item you'd like to share in an upcoming issue of Reading Matters??? Send it to Brooke Brown: [bbrown@tntech.edu](mailto:bbrown@tntech.edu)



# Check out the new TRA website

If you haven't visited our new TRA website, you may be missing out! We're excited to offer up-to-date information and posts regarding any TRA event or news. We're currently featuring our new Facebook page and our exciting new Adolescent Literacy page. And don't forget to look at the pictures from our annual conference in December! On the website, we've created links to local councils featuring any local news or meeting opportunities. We also have membership information, and important forms, including the [TRA Handbook](#). I encourage you to e-mail me with any committee information, upcoming events, or other exciting TRA announcements! Enjoy the website: [tnreads.org](http://tnreads.org)

Julie Baker, TRA Home Page Co-Editor  
[jcbaker@tntech.edu](mailto:jcbaker@tntech.edu)

## Important Dates and Deadlines

January 31	Reading Improvement Grant Deadline
February 1	TRA Membership Grant Deadline
February 18 9:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting -- Granny White Church of Christ
March 1	Honor Council submission due online to IRA
March 1	Newspaper in Education Week begins
March 10	Community Service Grant Deadline
March 15	Celebrate Literacy entries must be postmarked
April 1	Support Storytelling Grant Deadline
April 14 9:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting -- Granny White Church of Christ
April 29 - May 3	57th Annual IRA Convention -- Chicago, IL
June 1	TRA Awards Deadline
June 1	Academic Scholarship Application Deadline
September 15	Conference Scholarship Application Deadline

# Shirley Holladay's Latest Book: Mrs. Jane's Paper Dolls



Computers and hand-held electronic gadgets are a fundamental part of our extremely busy lives. But eventually each of us needs to recapture some of the relaxed atmosphere and less complicated activities of past less hectic times. **MRS. JANE'S PAPER DOLLS: For Little Girls (and Boys) from Two to One Hundred Two** is a recently published book by Shirley Holladay. It is a true story of Jane Cooper and the unique paper dolls that her grandmother from the Blue Ridge Mountain Valley taught her how to make about eighty years ago. The paper

dolls and clothes are made out of recycled paper (greeting cards, shirt boxes, magazines, seed catalogs, and wrapping paper.) Those same children, young and old, that love their electronic games also love Mrs. Jane's paper dolls. She's made thousands of them to give away. She sends them to hospitals like St. Jude Children's Hospital and Vanderbilt where the children play contentedly with them. She recently got a letter and Christmas card from Marlo Thomas thanking her for boxes of paper dolls and clothes that she made for children at St. Jude. Directions for making the paper dolls and unique clothes that don't fall off are a part of the book. A preview can be seen on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

Shirley Holladay has been a member of TRA's Executive Board for many years beginning as president of the Benton County Council and now as chairman of Support Storytelling. For more information, contact [holladays@tds.net](mailto:holladays@tds.net) or view her website at [s.holladay.tripod.com](http://s.holladay.tripod.com).

## ALA Youth Media Awards Announced

The American Library Association (ALA) announced the top books, video, and audiobooks for children and young adults—including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery, and Printz awards—at its Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. Highlights included *Where Things Come Back* written by John Corey Whaley, winner of both the Michael L. Printz award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature and the William C. Morris award for a debut book. For a full list of youth media awards and winners, see the [press release](#) or visit [ala.org](http://ala.org) for more information on each award.



# SEVIER COUNTY READING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SUMMER WORKSHOP JUNE 12-13, 2012

Randall B. Kincaid, President

SCRA and the Sevier County Schools proudly presents Dr. Gibson and Dr. Hasbrouck on Tuesday and Wednesday. These workshops are directly related to our system's test scores validated for school improvement through our TCSPP and system wide test data collected by the individual grade level supervisors. The focus will be on differentiating instruction for the new evaluation system, as the Common Core.



Vicki Gibson, Ph.D. (left), is the owner and director of Longmire Learning Center (LLC). She has been teaching kindergarten, training staff, writing, curriculum, and directing instruction for 27 years. Prior to opening LLC, Gibson worked for 10 years in public school environments as a kindergarten teacher, special education resource teacher, adaptive behavioral specialist, and consultant for classroom teachers as a learning disability specialist.



Jan Hasbrouck, Ph.D. (right) provides training workshops and consultation across the United States and internationally. Dr. Hasbrouck worked as a reading specialist for 15 years and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses as a university professor. Her research in reading fluency, academic assessment and interventions, and consultation has been widely used.

These two ladies are two of the authors of our new McMillan McGraw-Hill Reading Series. They will be presenting strategies and activities for reading as well as Differentiated Instruction, Tier Model, and Inclusion Strategies. This will be your chance to ask those all important questions you want to ask.