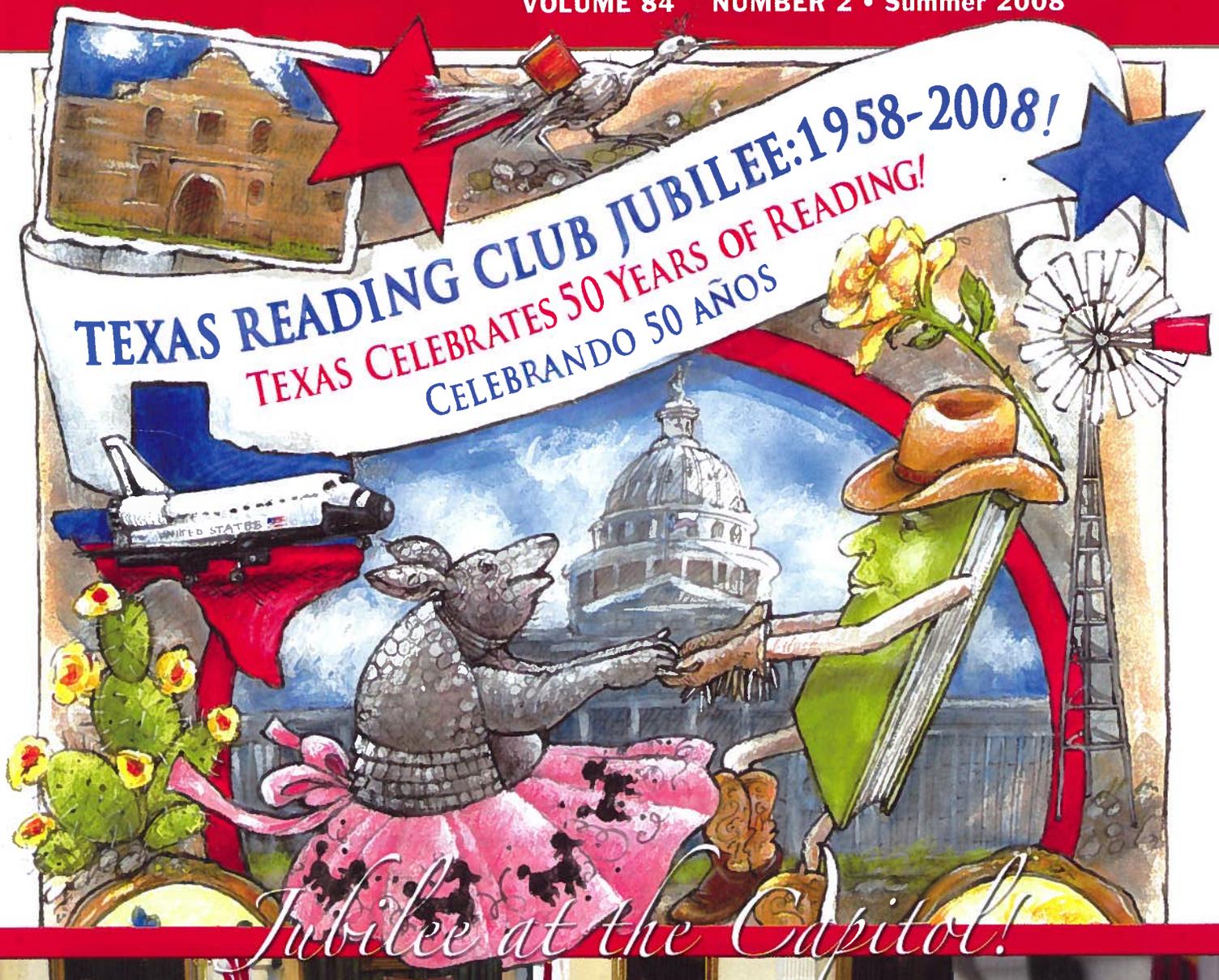


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Jubilee at the Capitol!



Also in this issue: Learning Instruction, Community Service Websites, Adult Programming, Tech Trends, Transforming Texas Libraries, Conference, and the TLA Branding Iron Awards

Texas Reading Club Turns 50!



Texas libraries are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Texas Reading Club this year. That's 50 summers of helping children improve reading skills and have fun. In honor of the golden anniversary, this year's theme is "Texas Reading Club Jubilee: 1958-2008!"

To celebrate the Jubilee, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission sponsored a very special event in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol on June 10, from 10:00 AM to noon. Library champions Sen. Judith Zaffirini and Rep. Lois Kolkhorst and State Librarian Peggy Rudd led the festivities that included the participation of children and their families and librarians. The event highlighted the important role of libraries and the Texas Reading Club in promoting literacy and the joy of reading and included the reading of a certificate from Governor Perry recognizing the 50th anniversary.

Singer/songwriter Sara Hickman entertained children and their families. The parents and children created a time capsule that will be opened on the 75th anniversary of the Texas Reading Club in 2033. Attendees also enjoyed refreshments in the Lieutenant Governor's reception room and viewed an exhibit of Texas Reading Club artwork in the Capitol Rotunda.

In total, more than 13 million Texas children have participated in the Texas Reading Club in the past 50 years. Participation has grown rapidly throughout the years. In 1959, approximately 5,000 children participated at libraries in 29 counties. Now, approximately 500,000 children participate annually at more than 800 public and school libraries. Additional information about the Texas Reading Club may be found at www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/trc/.

Senator Judith Zaffirini presents a Senate proclamation honoring the Texas Reading Club's 50th anniversary to Sandy Pickett, Commission chair.



Annual Assembly

The 2008 Annual Assembly will be held in Austin, July 8 – 10, at the Hyatt Regency Town Lake. The meeting provides an opportunity for association officers to plan for the upcoming year. There is no registration fee, and the event is open to any TLA member wishing to attend. A tentative schedule of events is available at www.tsla.org/conference/assembly/AAinfo.html.

Major Assembly Events

- *Leaders in Libraries: Discover the Leader Within.* Enjoy a free leadership workshop on Monday, July 7, presented by David Bendekovic from Polaris Library System. (CPE: 4.0)
- *Chairs Training.* All TLA unit chairs are encouraged to attend a training session on Monday, July 7, from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
- *Transforming Texas Libraries: Ideas for Transforming Your Own Community.* This "training the trainer" session will be held early Tuesday evening.
- *Legislative Update.* Get prepared for the upcoming Legislative Season!

National Library Legislative Day

A team of Texas library advocates traveled to Washington D.C., May 12-14, to visit with Texas Congressional and Senate offices. The team visited all 34 offices to make the case for increased federal library funding, support of certified school librarians and school library programs, maintaining network neutrality, and continuation of the E-rate program. A full list of issues can be accessed at www.ala.org.

The Texas team included Carol Brey-Casiano, Steve Brown, Joe Dahlstrom, Ruth Dahlstrom, Maribel Garza-Castro, Cindy Buchanan, Jennifer LaBoon, Susan Mann, Peggy Rudd, Molly Dahlstrom, Bob Gillette, Steve Aten, Greg Simpson, and Gloria Meraz, TLA thanks all the participants, as well as Rhoda Goldberg who coordinated the Washington legislative visits.