

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION JUNE 20–25, 2019

COGNOTES

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
HIGHLIGHTS

WASHINGTON D.C.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Storytelling Provides Deep Understanding of Universal Themes

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

Thunderous applause and multiple standing ovations greeted YA author Jason Reynolds, hometown poet and writer of many bestselling and award-winning novels for students in the middle grades. “I know that librarians have the capability to think critically and have open

minds,” Reynolds stated in his presentation at the Opening General Session on June 21. “And I also know that you help us to preserve and exchange our narratives,” he explained, indicating that sharing stories of individual lives and of our history helps to encourage true community.

A compelling storyteller himself, both in print and in person, Reynolds structured his keynote as a five-part set of stories simultaneously about his mother, friends, family, death, religion, and brilliantly, patterns from ancient times. He shared personal connections from his own life which parallel a universal set of human experiences but which each have a very personal aspect and relevance. “All stories deserve to exist side by side,” he stated, especially since everyone needs

» see page 18



Author Jason Reynolds delivers his Opening General Session presentation.



Emmy winner and correspondent for “CBS Sunday Morning” Mo Rocca discusses his podcast *Mobituaries* as well as his forthcoming book at the Closing General Session on June 25.

Journalist and Entertainer Mo Rocca Resurrects Forgotten Lives

By Terra Dankowski, American Libraries

Mo Rocca prefers a little bit of everything, he said at the Closing Session of the American Library Association’s 2019 Annual Conference & Exposition on June 25.

Which is why it’s no surprise that the “CBS Sunday Morning” correspondent’s forthcoming book, *Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving*, and podcast of the same name, commemorates people and things – from the station wagon to Neanderthals to Thomas Paine’s legacy – where the common thread is that they’re overlooked and no longer with us. Rocca’s personal mission is to highlight those who might not have gotten a proper obituary in the first place. “I’m the type of person kept awake at night by things like Audrey Hepburn dying on the day Bill Clinton was inaugurated and her [death] not making the first page.”

Rocca is also fascinated by “the presidents you can’t remember: the guys between Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.” He was particularly struck by a story about Chester Alan Arthur, who as a young lawyer defended an African American woman named Elizabeth Jennings who had been kicked off a streetcar in New York City in 1854. He won his civil suit, which led to the integration of transportation authority. “It happened almost 100 years before Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott,” Rocca remarked.

“I do think right now, every time you hear ‘unprecedented, this has never happened before,’ it makes an unsettling situation even more unsettling,” Rocca said. “I think there’s value in people reading history.... There are always opportunities to say there’s an antecedent here, and I think that’s reassuring, especially to kids: ‘Don’t worry, something like this happened, and here’s how it resolved.’”

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Thank You!

Thank you for attending the 2019 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition! It doesn't go unnoticed that your attendance and participation throughout is what makes our conference a success – and we were overjoyed to see the excitement that you communicated – whether in person or on social media.

We took advantage of being hosted in the city of politics and created what turned out to be a very successful “advocacy for libraries” campaign. Through your support at the Opening General Session, over 4,000 messages were sent to the Senate, and in just five minutes! And the numbers are still climbing. Thank you for your advocacy!

As always, we try to create the type of conference that will allow you to be the best that you can be personally, as well as professionally. Our featured speakers told personal and motivating stories from which we can all benefit. The JobLIST Placement Center hosted over 200 people at their Orientation and many of the educational sessions were overflowing with attendance.

I want us all to succeed beyond measure. My focus over the next year is built on four principles for our members and our profession: 1) we must take responsibility for our role in **education** and defining what teaching looks like; 2) we will truly welcome and value all of the voices at the table, **inclusion** should be overtly seen, broadly encompassing multiple characteristics from different perspectives; 3) **intellectual freedom and information literacy** means that we should fight to eliminate the producers of fake news and exhibit a strong ethical approach to providing our stakeholders with useful and accurate information; and 4) we must encourage an investment toward personal growth and **professional development**, with a strong collaborative approach as we work with our patrons, our community, and each other.

We will faithfully keep a collective eye on present-day objectives while also paying special focus on where we're headed, and we'll tend to legislative policies that may affect our libraries and our communities. The conversation continues at the [January 24 – 28, 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Philadelphia](#), which includes top-tier speakers, award winning authors, topical discussions, book award announcements, a dynamic Exhibit Hall with events and more than 400 exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies, titles, services, and products. You'll also benefit from the always popular Symposium on the Future of Libraries, sponsored by ALA's Center for the Future of Libraries. So, book early to get the best rates – registration and housing opens September 11, 2019.

We also look forward to seeing you at the 2020 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition in Chicago, June 25 – 30, which believe it or not, we've already begun planning!

I thank you for your participation in this year's Annual Conference – and for all that you do.

Wanda Kay Brown



ALA President Wanda Kay Brown

Librarians Learn to be Themselves

By Sara Zettervall, Hennepin County Library

Mariana Atencio arrived on a one-way ticket to the United States from Venezuela at age 24. She had a student visa to study journalism but brought far more than the typical aspiring young writer. With insight into the importance of personal stories and a vision for human connection, she eventually found success as a reporter at MSNBC. On June 24, early risers started their day by basking in her joyous glow while absorbing the lessons of her new book, *Perfectly You: Embracing the Power of Being Real*.

Atencio's main point was, “you don't have to be perfect – just perfectly you.” This is the distillation of what she's learned through life experience and reporting, where she found her own voice but also saw the power of other people finding theirs. The stories she shared demonstrated how seeing, embracing, and sharing our own imperfections gives each of us the ability to connect to and help other people with their own struggles.

From a young age, Atencio explored the world because her father believed she should look beyond the borders of her own country. He sent her to summer camp in Minnesota when she spoke no English. There, she learned the seemingly ignorant questions people ask – such as “Do you go to school on a donkey?” – are simply their way of trying to build connection to life as they understand it. She carried that lesson into high school, when she



Journalist Mariana Atencio signs a copy of her new book Perfectly You for Angela Monk during her book signing session after the Auditorium Speaker Series.

returned to the U.S. as an exchange student. Like many young people, she didn't always have empathy for her peers, but she made the connection to her earlier experience of feeling “othered” and turned it into the beginning of a passion for authentic self-expression.

As an adult, Atencio knew she wanted to share her gifts for storytelling and human connection by being a reporter, but she real-

ized this just as her home country began to fall apart. This drove her to come to the U.S. permanently, and it gave her a multilingual, multicultural, empathetic perspective. She believes “we are all storytellers” and that stories can build “bridges of culture, language, political views, and understanding.”

Despite the harrowing news she's covered – from devastating hurricanes to mass

shootings – she emphasized that she always finds people who “put kindness first.” For example, when she and her TV crew were trapped on an island while covering Hurricane Florence, they learned all the bridges were closed, and hotels were full. Half-joking, Atencio asked her last interviewee of the day if he'd be willing to host a group of visitors. Not only did he say yes, he helped them navigate the storm-racked island while housing and feeding them for five nights. Not only did her host write a glowing review of her book, but his sister greeted Atencio on her book tour like she was a member of their family.

The stories she heard during her book tour have helped build other connections as well. One reader shared that the book's chapter on Atencio's loss of her father helped her grieve the loss of her son. By speaking up about it, that reader in turn attracted the attention of another grieving parent in the audience, who found solace in the connection they subsequently built through shared losses.

Atencio closed with an example of story-sharing that made use of the audience. She asked participants to write down: “What makes you perfectly you?” After a few minutes, she called for five “brave volunteers,” and there were several people who shared very personal stories of depression and loss, but added that those things made them into the librarians they are today. She parted with the thought that this was no longer only her book: “It's a win for all of us.”

Hoda Kotb Shares Her Inspiring Story

By Elizabeth Uchimura, Florida State University

As Hoda Kotb took the stage for the Auditorium Speaker Series June 22 she exclaimed, “Look at all you beautiful librarians!” The “NBC News Today” co-anchor and *New York Times* bestselling author easily connected with the eager crowd, regaling her journey in television journalism, surviving breast cancer, and adopting her two daughters. Inviting and engaging, Kotb’s talk felt more like sitting down with a friend at coffee than addressing hundreds of librarians. Her story serves as a reminder to pay attention what is important in life and how there are always blessings waiting on the other side of adversity.

Kotb opened her talk by thanking librarians saying, “I can’t tell you how much you matter to your communities, your states, and to this country.” Kotb, whose mother worked at the Library of Congress for 32 years, fondly remembers the awe and grati-

tude she felt for the libraries and librarians that she grew up with. She stressed the importance of books in her life and in her children’s lives, noting her daughter’s craving for books even as a two-year-old.

Witty and light-hearted, she described her journey, beginning with her 10-day trek across Southeast America to interview for television positions after graduating college. After 27 rejections, she got lost on her way back home and was resigned to give up her dream of television journalism until happening upon one last station in Greenville, Miss. It was there that she met Stan Sandroni, who offered her a job that would eventually launch her illustrious career. Kotb noted, “It only takes one person to love you” in order to receive opportunities.

Several years later, while working on “Dateline,” Kotb got the call that she had breast cancer. The TV personality quietly recalled her reluctance to talk about her experiences after her mastectomy until a chance meeting with a stranger on a plane soon after her surgery. Again, it only took one person

to change her perspective and to change her mindset. After pressing her for details, the man told her, “Don’t hog your journey. It’s not just for you...you can help someone.” From then on, Kotb began to demand more from the life she was living.

She decided to focus on what she wanted instead of spending time on the things that didn’t matter to her. She began to ask for what she wanted instead of hoping someone would see her need and hand it to her. And above all, she started talking about her dreams in an effort to make them real.

One of those dreams was having children and a few months after voicing this dream, Kotb would adopt her oldest daughter Haley. Since then she feels that her priorities have become crystal clear, with her family as her “north star,” and her children as her inspiration for her latest writing. She warned the audience to be careful about writing in journals, quipping that scribbles in a journal might just become a book, just as they did for *I’ve Loved You Since Forever*, which was inspired by words she had written while she was still dreaming about Haley.



Hoda Kotb



Hoda Kotb on the ‘Wow’ of Books and Libraries

Got a Dirty Database?

Get it Cleaned Up this Summer!

MARCIVE’s catalog cleanup experts can help you declutter your catalog with:

- Authorities Processing
- MARC Record Enrichment
- Brief Record Upgrade
- Custom Cleanup

Keep your catalog tidy on a regular basis with our Comprehensive Notification Service.



800.531.7678

www.marcive.com

Research information

Subscribe for free*

Researcher?
Publisher?
Librarian?

Research Information is the essential link between publishers, librarians and researchers



*Registration required

Register for your free subscription now!
researchinformation.info/subscribe

Sonia Sotomayor Embraces Librarians – Literally

**Justice and Author Talks
Law, Libraries, and Lord of
the Flies**

By Amy Carlton, *American Libraries*

“I am in a room with people whom I love,” said Sonia Sotomayor, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, at the American Library Association Annual Conference & Exhibition June 22. “Among my most favorite people in the world are librarians. You open the world to kids. I love you, so thank you for inviting me here today.”

Her talk was moderated by her longtime editor Jill Santopolo, associate publisher of Philomel Books. Sotomayor noted that as a child she could never sit still and was soon walking the aisles of the auditorium – followed closely by her security detail – telling her story, hugging attendees, and being serenaded with birthday wishes.

Sotomayor said she started writing books to stay grounded after she was appointed to the Supreme Court. She went from having an important but relatively anonymous job in New York to a very public role in Washington that occasionally involved having dinner with the president or throwing out the first pitch at



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor speaks to ALA attendees.

Yankee Stadium. She began to think seriously and deeply about her life, who she was, and how she got there, which eventually became her autobiography *My Beloved World*.

Her cousin, a bilingual education teacher, pressed her to write a version of the book for middle-grade readers in English and Span-

ish (*The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor/El mundo adorado de Sonia Sotomayor*), which inspired her to write another book for younger children (*Turning Pages/Pasando páginas*).

Her new book, *Just Ask!/Solo pregunta!*, is one she said wanted to write since a fellow patron in a restaurant many years ago accused

her of being a drug addict after seeing her injecting insulin in the restroom. It is a book of stories and messages on behalf of children who live with challenges. She said she hopes readers will learn not to assume the worst in people when you see them doing something you don't understand.

When Sotomayor was a child, the Parkchester branch of New York Public Library was her refuge after her father's death. “If I went to the library,” she said, “I could escape the sadness in my house” for a few hours. The books there also set her on her current path to studying the law.

Lord of the Flies especially made an impact. She could relate to the children on deserted island whose first instinct is to follow rules adults taught them, which ends in tragedy. “It struck me with an understanding that I have carried with me ever since,” Sotomayor noted. “We need laws. We need them to live together, to survive as a community.” Morality is not natural; community is a learned response.

Sotomayor said she never considered another career path. “I have loved everything I have done in the law. I am a living example of someone who has lived her life further than she ever dreamed.”

Takei Asks Librarians to Keep History and Hope Alive

By Sara Zettervall, *Hennepin County Library*

George Takei may be most famous for playing Hikaru Sulu on the original “Star Trek” television series, but he’s also a survivor of the Japanese American internment camps of World War II. In his recent musical, *Allegiance*, he brought a story in that setting to Broadway. Now, he has captured a more personal version in the form of a graphic novel, *They Called Us Enemy*, which draws on his own memories and the stories his father and mother shared with him.

Takei was only five years old, with a younger brother and infant sister, when soldiers came to escort his family out of their house. “I can still remember the terror of that horrible morning,” he said, as he clearly recalled the bayonets on the soldiers’ guns and the sound of their fists pounding at the front door. This happened, he noted, as a result of irrational fear, “simply because we happened to look like the people who bombed Pearl Harbor.” Young Japanese American men who were born, raised, and educated as Americans tried to volunteer for the U.S. Armed Forces but were declined and called “enemy aids.” Insults and harassment led to curfews and then frozen bank accounts,



George Takei on Japanese American internment

where many Japanese American families lost their life savings. Finally, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in 1942, Takei’s family faced the soldiers at their door and were led away at gunpoint, just a few faces in the mass of over 120,000 Americans who would be interred for the rest of the war.

Takei’s family ended up at a camp in Arkansas, which was hastily constructed on swampland. Other camps were in harsh

conditions on blistering deserts or freezing plains. But children are adaptable, Takei said, and since he was so young, “What could have been a grotesque experience became my normality.” The book uses those qualities of innocence and fun to draw the reader into what eventually becomes a much more complicated and serious story. When Takei became a teenager, he started to wonder about his experiences, and began reading all he could at the local library and found no mention of the camps. Instead, he said, “I learned the noble ideals of our democracy, and I couldn’t reconcile them with my experience.”

His parents play an important role in the book and in the meaning he eventually made of what happened to them. When he couldn’t find answers in books, he learned about the reality of the camps from talking to his father. Despite everything, Takei’s father still believed in democracy and brought him to participate in campaigning

for Adlai Stevenson. From their talks and involvement, Takei learned that a people’s democracy can sometimes fail because human beings are fallible, but the flip side is that well-meaning people have the power to use the system to create hope.

That sense of hope, along with education for young Japanese Americans who may not know this part of their history, were Takei’s motivations to share his story in a format that’s accessible to all ages. He acknowledged he couldn’t have completed a graphic novel without the help of artists and writers he brought up on stage: Harmony Becker was the primary illustrator, Steven Scott made the project happen through his connections to the Archie comic book series, and Justin Eisinger helped edit the text down

to the few essential elements that appear among the images. Takei lavishly praised all of them but saved a special compliment for Becker, who is herself half Japanese. He confessed he’s a manga fan and appreciated that she brought some elements of manga into the visuals while also conveying all the very real feelings involved in the story. “My parents really came alive,” he said. In turn, she admitted she based the childhood version of Takei on her little brother. She was honored to be part of a project that could help educate members of her generation.

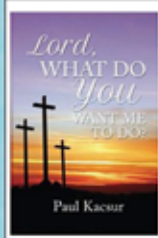
The entire artistic team was excited to engage the help of librarians in sharing this important piece of history. “This is an American story,” Takei said, one that many young people today don’t know. This includes both young Japanese Americans, whose parents and grandparents may have been too traumatized to talk about it, and people from other backgrounds who can see contemporary events reflected in the book.

“This is an American story,” Takei said, one that many young people today don’t know. This includes both young Japanese Americans, whose parents and grandparents may have been too traumatized to talk about it, and people from other backgrounds who can see contemporary events reflected in the book.

SEE THESE FEATURED TITLES AT

 **THE COMBINED BOOK EXHIBIT**

BOOTH # 1437



LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
Paul D. Kacsur

A manual for Christian growth in a simple form based on interesting Bible verses.

ISBN: 978-1469905846 | Price: 12.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

832 Park Avenue, Meadville, Pennsylvania - 16335

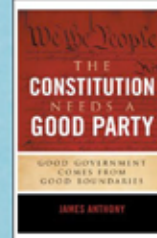


THE MIRACLE OF BUBBA
Joe Flynn

This is a remarkable dog story of a highly intelligent, athletic dog challenged against insurmountable odds in an attempt to regain his health back.

ISBN: 9781642149944 | Price: 13.95 USD
www.themiracleofbubba.com
www.pagepublishing.com

101 Tyrellan Avenue Suite 330, Staten Island, New York - 10309



THE CONSTITUTION NEEDS A GOOD PARTY
James Anthony

America's freedom changed the world. Now, though, our government's out of control. We can control it; the Constitution provides all the powers we need. To get these powers used, we need a good party. Here's what to build, and how. This changes everything.

ISBN: 9781948177009 | Price: 16.99 USD

28 Ellington Oaks Ct. 28 Ellington Oaks Ct., St. Peters, Missouri - 63376

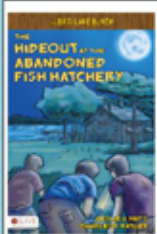


AWAKENING
Jacqueline Goldman

A Brooklyn mother, who escapes insecurity by secretly penning adventure comic books featuring a glamorous alter-ego, must decide what to do when real life and fantasy converge.

ISBN: 9781727054620

JackieGoldmanWrites4U.com



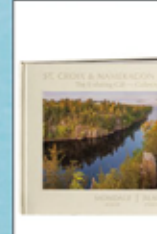
BASS LAKE BUNCH 1

Leslie J. May and Charles R. Ratliff

Bass Lake, where children have fun, get into and out of humorous situations, and solve mysteries, five loyal friends take center stage. Together, they teach a community about family and friendship.

ISBN: 9781607991762 | Price: 13.99 USD
www.lostlakecottagepublishing.com

Lost Lake Cottage Publishing 5730 S. County Road 210, Knox, IN - 46534



ST. CROIX & NAMEKAGON RIVERS
Eric Vollen & Illustrator Craig Blacklock

Celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protecting the St. Croix & Namekagon Rivers. Sumptuously presented in an oversized leather and linen binding.

Independent Publisher Awards: Gold "coffee table books"
Gold "cover design non-fiction oversized individual images have also previously won awards."

ISBN: 9781892472304 | Price: 15.00
stcroixphotography.com

Blacklock Photography Galleries P.O. Box 570, Moose Lake, MN - 55767USA



DIRTY SCIENCE
Bob Gebelein

Exposes corruption in accredited American academia: Denial of the psychic and the spiritual by establishment scientists using social manipulation in the name of science accepted as fundamental truth.

ISBN: 9780961461140 | Price: 16.00 USD
dirtyscience.net

18 Hawthorne Drive, Durham, NC - 27712



DOMINIC THE ITALIAN DONKEY
Emil Milone

This is the wonderful story of the power of love within a house - whether you are family, friends, or a cute donkey. All ends with a powerful conclusion that will be enjoyed by all readers.

ISBN: 9781644165973 | Price: 12.95 USD
www.christianfaithpublishing.com

Christian Faith Publishing Meadville, Pennsylvania



DREAMS THE MISSING TEXT
Ari Stone

In Dreams Ari: Shapeshifts, Time Travels, Foresees Future Events and more. Ari has documented over a thousand dreams and explains the phenomena of how they funnel into 3D for the layman and adept.

ISBN: 9780996960830 | Price: 18.95 USD
www.AriStoneArt.com

Ari Stone Art LLC 2536 Rimrock Ave Suite 400-117, Grand Junction, Colorado - 81505



ELEPHANTS LOVE COWBOYS TOO!
Carole N. Sondrup, Richard L. Marks

Who can care for a two hundred pound infant who won't stay little for long? A cowboy can and he did. With in these charming pages is the unique true story of the cowboy and the elephant he loved.

ISBN: 9780999209103 | Price: 19.95 USD

34310 COUNTY ROAD 13, WINDSOR, Colorado - 80550



FAREWELL MY LIFE
Cynthia Sally Haggard

A Cinderella-ish story with not-so-charming princes who inhabit the edgy setting of 1920s Berlin, "Farewell My Life" spins a tale of dangerous love, that revolves around 17-year-old Grace, whose fabulous talent for the violin promises a shimmering career.

ISBN: 9781092730754 | Price: 23.99 USD
www.spunstories.com

1330 New Hampshire Avenue NW Apt 915, Washington, District Of Columbia - 20036 USA

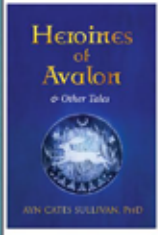


GEROME STICKS HIS NECK OUT
L.S.V. Baker, M.E.B. Stottmann

"He no longer stuck out, his height no longer laughable. But with his head hanging low, he felt most ungiraffeable." He embraces his height when his concern for another is greater than for himself.

ISBN: 9781938647130 | Price: 18.63 USD
https://www.baxterscorner.com/

Baxter's Corner P.O. Box 223, Harrods Creek, Kentucky - 40027 USA

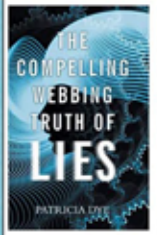


HEROINES OF AVALON AND OTHER TALES
Ayn Cates Sullivan

Are you ready for an adventure to the Otherworlds? These are tales of Celtic Goddesses and Heroines who have inspired women throughout the ages to seek and take sustenance from the Divine Feminine.

ISBN: 9781947925045 | Price: 26.95 USD
www.ayncatesullivan.com/books

Infinite Light Publishing 5142 Hollister Ave. No 115, Santa Barbara, California - 93111



THE COMPELLING WEBBING TRUTH OF LIES
Patricia Dye

"The Compelling Webbing Truth Of Lies" is a collection of engrossing stories, offering thrilling Mysteries, Murder and Science Fiction, pulling at the imagination taking the reader into the unknown.

ISBN: 9781643507224 | Price: 37.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

101 Tyrellan Avenue Suite 330, Staten Island, New York - 10309

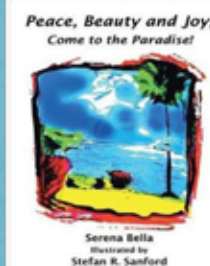


LOVE@WORK
Olivia Parr-Rud

A guide for anyone who yearns to heal, be heard, share your talents, and make a positive difference in the world. Business success comes when we show up fully and in deep connection with our hearts.

ISBN: 9781732435209 | Price: 19.99 USD
www.oliviapr.com

Quantum Love Press 3015 Maiden Lane, Altadena - 91001



Peace, Beauty and Joy, Come to the Paradise!
Stefan R. Sanford

Peace, Beauty and Joy, Come to the Paradise! is a colorful, magnificent journey with an extraordinary, supernatural God. A collection of stories that share dreams, visions, lessons and images of grace combined with faith, hope and love. The stories are complemented by vibrant images created by Stefan R. Sanford that delight, captivate and bring the stories to life.

ISBN-13: 9781644366338
www.christianfaithpublishing.com
peacebeautyandjoy4all@gmail.com



ROOTS AND WINGS - CHILDHOOD NEEDS A REVOLUTION
Alex Koster

"Roots and Wings" equips parents and educators with valuable information, activities and resources to promote positive change based on the principles of mindfulness in everyday life and education.

ISBN: 9781788460347 | Price: 19.95 USD
www.rootsandwings.pub

Roots and Wings Publishing Jossestown, Lisronagh, Clonmel Tipperary - E91RH67

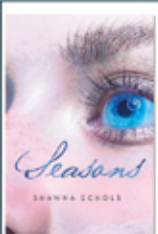


SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE
Mary Evans Seeley

More than photos of Presidential Christmas cards and gifts, this highly researched volume documents Christmas at the White House, through personal anecdotes, national events and holiday speeches.

ISBN: 9780990956129 | Price: 45.00 USD
https://www.whitehouseholidays.com

A Presidential Christmas Corporation 16612 Milan de Avila, Tampa - 33613-1043 USA



SEASONS
Shawna Echols

Candice just got her own apartment and is trying to start the next phase of her life. She finds out that adulthood isn't easy and holds some unusual surprises that will change her life forever.

ISBN: 9781642148596 | Price: 11.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

101 Tyrellan Avenue Suite 330, Staten Island, New York - 10309



THE BIBLE BUCKET LIST
Paul D. Kacsur

Biblical alternatives containing Scriptural suggestions for the common practice of bucket lists.

ISBN: 978644583036 | Price: 12.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

832 Park Avenue, Meadville, Pennsylvania - 16335



TIMOTHY AND THE TARTAR TROLLS
J.G. Renato

A fun filled family adventure emphasizing the importance of brushing teeth, even if kids may be resistant and the potential consequences if they don't!

ISBN: 9781644621905 | Price: 13.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

101 Tyrellan Avenue Suite 330, Staten Island, New York - 10309



WINNING THE WAR ON CANCER
Sylvie Beljanski

This book is a "story within a story" as through its pages, Sylvie Beljanski outlines a personal journey of discovery of a new, and promising, natural, non-toxic treatment for cancer.

ISBN: 9781683507246 | Price: 19.95 USD
https://www.morgan-james-publishing.com/

Morgan James 5 Penn Plaza, 23rd Floor, New York, NY - 10001



HUMONGOUS (& COOL) WORDS FOR KIDS
SB Hilarion, author of I AM Manifesto

Young siblings Hao and Sabine Lee love learning humongous and cool words. Name the subject, they're sharing: science and math (big, uncomplicated check!), different languages ("oui, si, shi" check!), environmental awareness (layered-atmosphere check!), etiquette (thank you, check!), music (treble clef check!), international cuisine (lots of yummy checks!), and many more. All shared with wit.

ISBN: 9781543969801 | Price: 34.99
www.sbhilarion.com

175 East Main Street, #407, Ramsey, New Jersey - 07446



LEAVES IN A HOLOCAUST WIND
Robert Dawson

A story based on the little known Romani Holocaust (Porrajmos) of WW2 where horror and fear become freedom, hope and healing. All major happenings based on real events of camps and Einsatzgruppen.

ISBN: 9781786937179 | Price: 8.95 GBP
www.austinnmacauley.com

CGC-33-01, 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, UK, E14 5LQ

Frank Miller and Tom Wheeler Share New Take on a Classic Myth



Graphic novelist Frank Miller (left) and screenwriter, producer, and comic book artist Tom Wheeler discuss their work during the auditorium speaker series June 23.

By Marley Kalt, University of Michigan

For screenwriter Tom Wheeler, working with graphic novelist Frank Miller is like a dream come true. “Frank has been a huge influence on me,” said Wheeler at the Auditorium Speakers Series session June 23. “I remember his comics vividly growing up and he was kind of an unknown mentor to me.” Their new collaboration, *Cursed*, is a prequel to the Arthurian legend featuring Nimue, the “Lady of the Lake.”

Miller and Wheeler grew up as fans of the King Arthur tales, sharing stories about several of the different tellings of the myth, from Disney’s *The Sword in the Stone* to *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

For Miller, it was the elasticity of the Arthurian mythology that drew him toward illustrating Wheeler’s story. “[The story] could be done for children or for adults. It can be terrifying. It can be romantic. It can be all of these things at once,” Miller said.

One feature that sets Miller and Wheeler’s approach to this legend apart from other versions of the Arthurian tale is the focus on a female character. Wheeler shared that his daughter inspired him to choose Nimue as their story’s hero. “We all kind of find Arthurian moments, you know,

‘seize the sword,’ [but] women had to step into that story on their own,” Wheeler said. “Who is the hero that my daughter, who is 12, looks to in this mythology that I love so much?”

Miller added that Wheeler’s writing “took a surprisingly feminist slant that the legend had never showcased before. That’s a whole different wrinkle, and adds another dimension to such a masculine canvas,” Miller said.

Despite their excitement about exploring Arthurian characters in new ways, developing this story presented challenges for its

» see page 10

Tomi Adeyemi Shares Inspiration of Culture and Heritage



Tomi Adeyemi on Fantasy Genre as Conduit

By Regina Carter, 2019 ALA Emerging Leader

Tomi Adeyemi, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Children of Blood and Bone*, engaged in a witty, thought-provoking conversation with Rose Brock, PhD, professor of children’s and young adult literature and library science and cofounder of the North Texas Teen Book Fest, on June 24. This work received the 2018 Waterstone’s Children’s Book Prize and was recognized as a 2019 YALSA Morris Award Finalist.

Adeyemi’s novel is situated in a fantasy world that incorporates themes of racism, oppression, and the abuse of power. *Children of Blood and Bone* was inspired by Adeyemi’s adoration of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, and a visit to a gift shop in Brazil. It was while she was in that gift shop that she encountered a black work of art and arrived at the realization that there could indeed be black gods and goddesses.

Adeyemi began to stir up the gifts and imagination within her. She began to understand that true inspiration – her inspiration – came from her culture and heritage.

This revelation was pivotal to the writing of *Children of Blood and Bone*.

After that chance encounter, Adeyemi began to stir up the gifts and imagination within her. She began to understand that true inspiration – her inspiration – came from her culture and heritage. Adeyemi realized that seedlings of an idea around police brutality and black fantasy need not be disparate but could

» see page 10

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBITS



All conference recordings will be available four to six weeks after conference. Details to follow!

SEE THESE FEATURED TITLES AT



BOOTH # 1437

YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS
John Harwood

The story of a young woman who learns to overcome barriers that she will face during her life with her grandfather's help. A tale of two lonely people who find love in a surprising place.

ISBN: 9781643503004 | Price: 18.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

101 Tyrellan Avenue Suite 330, Concord, New Hampshire - 03301

CALI GIRL HOW DID YOU MAKE IT IN THE TREACHEROUS STREETS OF DETROIT
Tianna Jones

She took a chance and wore her heart on her sleeve. This stories unique twist involves a young woman who crosses the country as a "Cali Girl" and then steps in the treacherous streets of Detroit. There she finds herself living different life styles that are similar to millions of reader's stories.

ISBN: 9781640824744 | Price: 16.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

101 Tyrellan Avenue Suite 330, San Marco's, Texas - 78666

EVERYDAY CREATIVITY AND THE HEALTHY MIND
Ruth Richards

Our "originality of everyday life" offers joy, vision, presence, and new life meaning, in a dynamic interconnected worldview. Focus is on process and how this lifestyle can benefit creator and culture.

ISBN: 9781137557650 | Price: 109.99 USD
www.palgrave.com

Palgrave Macmillan The Campus 4 Crinan Street, London England - N19XW

FINDING FRANKENSTEIN
Liz Bockelman

American Holiday Series. Last year Frankenstein frightened everyone so the kids are too SCARED to trick-or-treat. Will Suzy find Frankenstein and save Halloween? Bullying, courage, holiday history.

ISBN: 9781946924032 | Price: 19.99 USD
www.graphocity.com

Graphocity 1087 Pomona Ct, Naperville, IL - 60540

GIRL STUFF ESSENTIALS OF THE UNGLAMOROUS
Diana Kraus-Anderson

A simple treatise about female's bodily experience, from womb to tomb, with special health considerations and strategies to learn lifelong health practices that enhance the body's functions in Life.

ISBN: 9781684095000 | Price: 14.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

101 Tyrellan Avenue Suite 330, Staten Island, New York - 10309

GLIMPSES OF MEMORIES
Ratnakar Bhattacharyya

Glimpses of Memories is a verbatim account of one woman's life in the India of the early twentieth century as it struggles to cast off both its own oppressive practices, and also the unwelcome and draconian rule of the British masters.

ISBN: 9781786936684 | Price: 13.95 USD
www.austinmacauley.com/author/bhattacharyya-Ratnakar

CHC-33-01, 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, Select - E14 5LQ

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MUSIC
Babette Becker

My memoir covers four years spent in four mental hospitals from 1957 to 1960. Little was known about mental illness, except the shame horror of it, nothing was known about early childhood trauma.

ISBN: 9781640821699 | Price: 18.95 USD
www.pagepublishing.com

Staten Island, New York - 10309 USA Phone: 866-315-2708

ONLY IN INDIA
Jas Singh

True stories related to the last 7 decades of Indian life.

ISBN: 9781786930903 | Price: 15.95 USD
https://www.austinmacauley.com/author/singh-jas

CHC-33-01, 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Kailua - 96743

PAVING A POSITIVE PATH TO THE FUTURE: LESSONS IN ANGER MANAGEMENT
Debbie A Heaton

Anger is a powerful emotion, but you can control your anger by creating a positive path to a positive future. The author's expertise will allow you to become more self-aware and dramatically alter the way you perceive life and challenges.

ISBN: 9781785549632 | Price: 4.95 USD
www.austinmacauley.com

CGC-33-01, 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London O - E14 5LQ

SKINNY HOUSE
Julie L. Seely

This is a granddaughter's story about the grandfather she never met and the famous ten-foot-wide, three story house he built in Mamaroneck, NY during the Great Depression. Foreword Clarion Review 5/5.

ISBN: 9780996877718 | Price: 4.99 USD
www.skinnyhouse.org

Skinny House Productions LLC 20599 Holyoke Dr, Ashburn - 20147

THREE BROTHERS - THREE DESTINIES
Amlodd Meyrick

A happy, stable, normal childhood and family life should have been mapped out for the three brothers.

ISBN: 9876458348555 | Price: 16.95 USD
www.austinmacauley.com/author/meyrick-amlodd

CHC-33-01, 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, London - E14 5LQ

THE AWARD-WINNING BESTSELLER
Answering Why:
Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations
MARK C. PERNA

If you've ever struggled to motivate the young people in your sphere of influence, *Answering Why* is the game-changer you've been looking for.

ISBN: 9781626345119 | \$24.95
Sept. 2018, Greenleaf Book Group Press

MarkCPerna.com

BuyGhostSquad.com

GHOST SQUAD

April, 7th 2020

SCHOLASTIC

LISTEN TO

The Write or Die Podcast

Interviews with Holly Black, Samira Ahmed, Helen Hoang and more!

WRITEORDIEPODCAST.COM

SPANISH PUBLISHERS
U.S. BESTSELLERS IN SPANISH

VISIT
WWW.SPANISHPUBLISHERS.NET

- 6000+ Spanish titles
- 100+ New Monthly Released
- Trending U.S. Bestsellers
- Authentic Spanish Authors
- 12 Different Publishers
- Books in all categories

Booth 1538

8871 SW 129 Terrace Miami, FL 33176 Tel. 305 233 3365, Fax: 305 251 1310

THE SPANISH MARKET MADE EASY WITH
USAPavilion

At the Guadalajara International Book Fair
Trade Days: December 2-4, 2019

Turn Key Displays • Shipping, Customs Clearance • Show Directory Listing
Prime Location • 5 Star Hotel Block minutes from Venue • and more...

Stop by Booth 1532 for more information
Email Jon@combinedbook.com; Janet@americacollectivestand.com

GUADALAJARA

Enriching the Narrative Journey of Science Fiction and Fantasy

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

A fan of Star Wars, Nnedi Okorafor enjoys the narrative tangent. She has incorporated into her novels and comics a variety of sidebar stories about interesting characters and unique activities of others beyond the story protagonists. These tangents, she explained during the June 23 ALA President's Program, provide an opportunity for fiction writers to explore individual personalities and interesting action in depth. In fact, readers find these subplots to be enjoyable parts of Okorafor's stories, which leads them to read her books multiple times.

Many of her characters and plots have found inspiration in her real-life experiences, whether mundane (in being stopped by airport security because of her hair), or adventurous (traveling to some of the Nigerian cities featured in her books), or serious (immigration, gender inequality, and corruption). Her sharp wit, humor, and deeply political themes resonate with a wide variety of readers, and include works published by Dark Horse and Marvel. The author's Akata books, along with The Binti Trilogy, and the series LaGuardia, showcase her wide range of interests and talents.

"Don't be afraid to tell your story," Okorafor advised young writers. "Tell the story the way you want to write it, and someone will always want to read it." When asked for her advice to librarians,

she explained, "Writers are beacons. Bring them to your community and look beyond the mainstream for additional authors." In doing so, librarians bring readers a wide variety of materials from among what is available. And just as Okorafor provides details to illustrators about every corner of a panel, librarians can provide opportunities to read deeply, widely, and repeatedly in order to thoroughly enjoy the journey.

A favorite of both young people and adults, Okorafor's novels include *Lagoon*, *Who Fears Death*, *Shuri*, and *Wakanda Forever*, many of which have been published internationally and periodically have been renamed due to cultural differences. She is no stranger to conflict, utilizing in her books many traditional stereotypes and emotional language, which adds additional layers of complexity to her themes. Nevertheless, many of her works have won top awards in the science fiction and fantasy genre categories.

"I've been able to do different types of writing when working for different publishers," she explained. In writing for Marvel, she was able to go on new journeys with characters she knew well, such as Black Panther and Spider-Man. And in writing



Nnedi Okorafor on Inspiration, Discovery, Libraries

for Dark Horse, she was able to wander into different directions and see the funny aspects underneath more complex issues which anger and confuse the world today. Yet precisely when she is being difficult or

causing friction, Okorafor is at her best, providing a provocative look at modern issues and developing new work. She promises that additional news about her new projects is forthcoming.

How to Prepare for Controversy in Your Library

By Marley Kalt, University of Michigan

On June 24, a panel of library directors, authors, and a communications specialist spoke to hundreds of librarians about controversial speakers and events happening in libraries.

Peter Coyl, director of the Montclair Public Library, said the session came about as a response to an increasing number of libraries asking what they should do when a program or invited speaker raises controversy. He was firm in his belief that libraries should not cancel events in the face of complaints from the community. "Everyone needs to be represented in the library, and we can't let one group that disagrees with another group get in the way of doing your job. When we talk about intellectual freedom and censorship, not having a program because people complain is a form of censorship," Coyl said.

Coyl recommended libraries create a program selection policy to go along with their materials selection policies, or even combine both into a single "resource selection policy" to guide decision-making about programs and materials.

Macey Morales, deputy director of the ALA Communications & Marketing Office, was also on the panel to offer guidance for librarians who may deal with controversial events. She recommended libraries create a crisis communications plan and a media protocol, so that all employees can be informed of the library's policies when they face complaints from patrons or questions from the media.

"One key word of advice: prepare, prepare, prepare," Morales said. She recommended libraries be prepared for journalists' questions by learning everything they can about invited speakers, knowing who selected each speaker or planned each program, and being able to explain how the event will

benefit the community or further the library's mission. She suggested libraries create ready-made responses to prepare for worst-case scenarios, so they can quickly respond with a message when controversy arises.

Sukrit Goswami, director of the Haverford Township Free Library, and authors Ellen Hopkins and Gayle Pitman were present to talk about how they have dealt with controversy in libraries or at speaking engagements. At Goswami's library, a drag queen storytime event earlier this month created controversy and garnered widespread media attention. This was the second year the library hosted a drag queen storytime, but it was the first to receive so many complaints. Goswami said that in the time leading up to the event, the library was receiving 200 to 500 phone calls every day.

The library did hold the event, which turned out to be very successful, with 540 parents and children in attendance. Goswami said it helped that the library's Board of Trustees supported the library's decision to hold the event. Board members were able to work with local government and explain the importance of hosting this particular event. Goswami said it was also important to give both sides time to speak at board meetings.

Hopkins and Pitman shared their experiences of having schools and communities protest their visits or cancel their events. Both authors, who write books for young audiences, praised librarians for doing what they can to present a variety of viewpoints to their students and patrons. "I am there to open windows, I am not there to be controversial," Hopkins said of her speaking goals. "It's so important for these young people to have someone to support them. It's important that you [librarians] be gate openers, instead of gatekeepers."

Transform Your Library's Early Learning Programs

Raising the Bar: Integrating Early Childhood Education into Librarian Professional Development is a new **FREE** online training series developed by The New York Public Library.

Designed with a "train the trainer" model, which allows a librarian to learn and then teach others, this series builds on traditional early literacy programs and outreach by integrating cutting-edge child development practices.

START LEARNING AND TEACHING TODAY AT
nypl.teachable.com



New York
Public
Library





FACULTY MENTORS
TOP-RANKED
AFFORDABLE
ALA ACCREDITED

**Kashif
Graham**

UT SIS Alum
& Outreach
Librarian



ONLINE CLASSES. ON-CAMPUS FEEL.

“ I really appreciated that my professors were not just about teaching in our online classes, it was about forming relationships. I didn’t think that we could do that through a digital medium. But we did, and —

**I know that these relationships
will carry on with me
throughout my career.”**

EXPLORE OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES

Hayden and Klinenberg Address Social Infrastructure

By Chris Heckman, Student to ALA

The Auditorium Speakers Series continued June 22 with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and Eric Klinenberg, professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. Klinenberg spoke about his new book, *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*.

Klinenberg's book argues for the importance of "radically inclusive" social spaces that encourage people from all walks of life to visit, leading to communal activities and individual interactions between people who otherwise would not cross paths. These interactions are important for the functioning of a civil society and a healthy democracy, as they help us to connect and empathize with other members of our community. In addition, these places can provide life-saving services as well as social and material support for people on the margins of society. Klinenberg dubs this "social infrastructure," the physical and interpersonal resources that keep society running and highlights several sites of social

infrastructure including childcare centers, churches, synagogues, bookstores, parks, and libraries. Libraries are really the star of this book. Klinenberg explained that he was inspired to write the book because of libraries and later expanded the scope of his study to include other social spaces.

Hayden and Klinenberg touched on number of topics relating to the importance of libraries over the course of their discussion. Klinenberg said his work helped communities to recover after Hurricane Sandy and pointed to the importance of social infrastructure in that recovery. He told the audience that city officials, attempting to construct what they called a community resilience center, essentially came up with the idea for a library.

Hayden and Klinenberg discussed some of the challenges of advocating for libraries. Specifically, Klinenberg cited his frustration with public officials who seem to take advan-



Hayden, Klinenberg on Libraries, Radical Inclusiveness

tage of librarians' willingness to do more with less by continually cutting budgets, while Hayden expressed frustration with finding herself the lone advocate for libraries in some government meetings.

They opened the floor for questions ad-

ressing how library science programs can better prepare students to do the work of radical inclusiveness and empowerment, the emerging focus on the value of libraries as a topic in sociological research, and the benefits of librarians running for political office.



Christian Robinson signs his book, *Another*, for Tiffany Alston and other attendees at the book signing station in the Exhibit Hall.

Adeyemi

» from page 6

be thoughtfully interwoven into the fabric of her own fantasy.

While conversing with Brock, Adeyemi noted that "all stories of fantasy...dystopia are about oppression, but without people who go through it." Adeyemi writes to tell stories that matter. She wants her readers to see characters they can identify with in her

stories. Moreover, she writes so that "readers can fall in love with characters" or people that do not look like them.

Children of Blood and Bone allowed Adeyemi to create a story and setting where she was "the god of her own universe," which was deeply empowering.

Adeyemi continues to write stories about black people out of self-love and so that everyone can love black people. A directed by Rick Famuyiwa is in the works.

Miller & Wheeler

» from page 6

creators. For Miller, *Cursed* is his first major work aimed at a young audience. "This was a way for me to stretch and try new things. It's taken me back to school, and that's always a good thing," said Miller.

Still, the young adult audience did not mean that they lightened much about the original myth.

"I think the worst thing you can do is talk down to your audience. If it's kids, you change some of the graphic focus, but this story has to

be tough. I wanted [Nimue] to be an absolute warrior. It's a 'dark fairy tale meets an all-ages Game of Thrones,'" Wheeler said.

Cursed is also being released as a Netflix Original series, expected in 2020, with Miller and Wheeler at the helm as executive producers.

"The show and the book have different story demands, but we are deeply involved in both of them," Wheeler said, adding that the book and the Netflix series will have significant differences but that they will both be deeply gratifying for audiences. The *Cursed* book will be available in Fall 2019.

Charlemae Rollins Program Highlights Issues of Social Change

By Chris Heckman, Student to ALA

The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) Charlemae Rollins President's Program featured three engaging, thoughtful, and inspiring speakers on June 24. During "Subversive Activism: Creating Social Change through Libraries, Children's Literature, and Art," speakers touched on ways their work helps to enact positive change.

ALSC President Jamie Campbell Naidoo introduced Nicole Cooke, PhD, associate professor of information science University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign. Cooke discussed her efforts to recover and compile a bibliography of every issue of the *Interracial Books for Children Bulletin (IBCB)*. This publication, 1966-1989, highlighted issues related to representation of racial and ethnic minorities in children's literature as well as others. Cooke noted *IBCB* was a hard-hitting news bulletin that "didn't pull any punches," and the authors didn't hesitate to call out racism, sexism, or other issues. While the topics it addresses are still relevant today, issues of *IBCB* can be difficult to find. Cooke's project will help make *IBCB* easier for this generation to discover.

Janina Fariñas, PhD, discussed work she does as pediatric neuropsychologist. Fariñas studies the effects of trauma on children's brains. She shared her experience coming to the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant from El Salvador, remembering the strain that put on her family. She said children's literature has value in helping children and young adults to cope with and process trauma. Fariñas explained that children's literature is an important tool that she uses in her work. Specifically, she cited a great need in the current political climate for children's

literature written from a Latina perspective that focuses on family separation.

Yuyi Morales, author and illustrator of many children's books including *Dreamers*, discussed the impact of her own experience as an immigrant. She explained how gathering items and taking pictures of places important to her helps her to create the look and feel of her art. For example, she used the color and texture of the brick she uncovered while renovating her home as the skin tone for some of the characters in *Dreamers*.

Morales told how her mother used to make paper skirts for her as a child, because

Specifically, Fariñas cited a great need in the current political climate for children's literature written from a Latina perspective that focuses on family separation.

they couldn't afford traditional fabric. At the time, she was embarrassed to wear them, but in adulthood she has embraced this experience by depicting the mother in *Dreamers* in a paper skirt. Morales explained that this is also a reference to Mexican folklore as there are powerful supernatural figures that are said to have "a skirt of stars" and "a skirt of snakes." She gave her character a skirt of paper, in part to honor her roots and in part because paper is the source of her power as an artist.

Morales ended by encouraging the audience to learn along with her what they can do to help immigrant children currently being separated from their families at our southern border.

Finding Joy in Every Search

By Sara Zettervall, Hennepin County Library

Daniel M. Russell, PhD, shared his insights into internet searching and research behavior on Saturday morning. He highlighted findings from his forthcoming book, *The Joy of Search: A Google Insider's Guide to Going Beyond the Basics* (MIT Press, September 2019), which includes stories from his many years of research on search quality and user happiness at Google.

Russell's goal for the session was simple: to help librarians "learn to teach patrons and users to be better searchers." He started by defining the problem, which is that most people learn how to search from their friends, rather than from experts. So, if their friend has a "dysfunctional search behavior," they pick up on it.

When he visits classrooms or businesses, he asks people to draw and write a brief explanation of how they think Google works. Of his respondents, 33% used the word "magic" in their answer. "This is an utter and abject failure on our part as educators," he said. But the good news is the second most important place for people to learn search behavior is in a classroom. His own massive open online course (MOOC) on search strategies, available at www.PowerSearchingWithGoogle.com, has reached over 4 million users. He laughed, and so did the audience, that all those views meant "I've been on someone's video screen for over 300 years," but all those hours of instruction produced significant, measurable improvements. Something as simple as knowing to use control-F to find a name buried in a page correlates with 12% faster searching.

One theme Russell highlighted throughout his presentation was the world of information continues to grow and change by leaps and bounds, but few users know all the great resources available to them. This is something most librarians know well about their own digital resources, but they may not realize Google is also far more than just a search engine. In one of his test cases, 250 software engineers failed to find a photograph because it involved using Google Earth and not just the usual Google search. When an audience member called out to ask whether he did the same test on his local librarians in Palo Alto, he said he did, and none of them found it, either. People are "functionally fixated" on the traditional Google search, and in response, he said, "We need to teach all information systems." He encouraged fostering a culture of asking questions and doing "just one more search" to move past the first answer that presents itself.

His presentation also covered that, as he said, "we live in an age of information triage," where we have to learn to filter out false results. He included some examples of "spoof sites," and touched on doctored videos. "You can and must know how to search deeply, effectively, and precisely," he said, providing a personal example that involved the internet, in-person archival searches, and interpersonal interaction. Through this example, where he ultimately found his answer by having a conversation with the archivist, he highlighted that human connections remain a crucial information source to teach and use alongside technology. Librar-

ians who are experts on all of these various forms of information, including what they hold within their own minds, are invaluable resources for patrons.

Ultimately, participants walked away with many new ideas to consider, and Russell made them laugh while navigating these complicated topics. A few lucky participants walked away with an advance reading copy of his book, but everyone left with examples they could use in their own libraries, such as Google's new public data search (www.google.com/publicdata), and the MOOC mentioned before.

Daniel M. Russell talks about the joy of searching, discussing adventures in teaching people how to search.



HELP READERS SUCCEED WITH LARGE PRINT

Large print is a proven solution for literacy success. It increases comprehension and confidence in young readers—and students of all abilities.

LEARN MORE ➞ gale.com/thorndikeala19

THORNDIKE PRESS®

GALE
A Cengage Company



Building an Organizational Culture

By Chris Heckman, Student to ALA

The Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) hosted a panel of leaders from a wide array of libraries who spoke about issues of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) on June 22. Specifically, the panel members discussed how to build an organizational culture where inclusion is emphasized and valued, as well as how to address EDI-related conflicts when they arise.

Throughout the discussion, the panel members emphasized that culture cannot be built from the top down – all employees must be engaged. Collaborative culture-building emerged as the dominant theme for the discussion. As the panelists explained, EDI is a complex area and there is not a quick fix.

The panel was introduced by Jon E. Cawthorne, PhD, dean of Wayne State University's Library System and School of Information Sciences. Cawthorne discussed his experience as a leader, allowing employees from throughout the library system to develop innovative ideas and bring them to fruition.

Nicole A. Cooke, PhD, associate professor and program director for the MLIS program of the School of Information

Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, said library science programs are working to instill the values of EDI in a new generation of librarians.

Skye Patrick, director of the Los Angeles County Library, brought the focus of the discussion to proactive culture-building rather than reactionary crisis management.

Derrick Jefferson, associate librarian at American University of Washington DC, made it clear from his experience that someone without a formal leadership position can be a leader and a force for positive change in an organization.

Jason Kucsma, acting director and fiscal officer at Toledo Lucas County Library, emphasized the value of an effective and proactive HR team to the construction of an inclusive library culture.

Other speakers included Deb Sica, deputy county librarian at Alameda County Public Library, Cyndee Landrum, a PhD candidate at Simmons University and former CEO/director of Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library; and moderator Don Crankshaw, equity and well-being officer at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library.

Social Workers in Public Libraries: Lessons Learned

By Sara Zettervall, Hennepin County Library

San Francisco Public Library hired Leah Esguerra to be the first-ever library social worker 10 years ago. On June 23, she offered lessons learned from her unique journey as part of a PLA-sponsored panel. She was joined by her co-chairs from the new PLA Social Work Task Force, Jean Badalamenti, DC Public Library; Elissa Hardy, Denver Public Library; and Nick Higgins, Brooklyn Public Library.

The panelists chose to focus on conversation and forego a formal presentation. They began by taking turns to outline what each of them considered important lessons learned in their cumulative 23 years of experience. They then encouraged the audience to bring forward their own questions about this rapidly-expanding, but still young and sometimes unfamiliar trend in public library services.

Esguerra's top recommendation for libraries with new social workers was good communication, which her colleagues reinforced throughout the discussion. Her situation, which has served as a model for many other programs, began with twice-monthly meetings between her and her supervisors. That level of communication was crucial because her work crossed from the library into the city's department of public health. She also attended all the library staff meetings she could in order to be visible as a resource. She counseled patience, noting that SFPL began discussions to create her position six years before she was hired, but she also encouraged librarians to see this as an opportunity for them and their social workers to learn together. She said collaborators should be open to possibilities and expect great things, saying, "You're going to see lives being transformed and changed."

Agreeing, Badalamenti said, "There are many opportunities and ways social workers can serve your system." She noted that while she was brought on board to work with patrons experiencing homelessness, she quickly took on other roles, a development that her fellow panelists echoed. She described the evolution of her role over time to encompass the establishment of a library in a local correctional facility, work as a liaison to the district's department of disability services, and supervision of a growing staff. As a result, she said libraries that bring social workers to staff should "think broadly about what some of the possibilities might be," such as her own hopes for a future where public health services like HIV testing and childhood vaccines can be offered in a library setting.

Badalamenti pointed out that "one social worker cannot do the job alone." Higgins said that his experience with one social worker and two part-time peer navigators backed up this assertion. "The risk is they're going to shoulder all sorts of responsibilities," he said, and "burnout is a real thing." These lessons have informed recent contract renegotiations, which included adding more peer navigators, a case manager, and a policymaking-level supervisor. He also agreed with Esguerra's recommendation

of patience, saying he worked for several years before getting approval for his initial contract, and "it's still an unusual concept to merge two professions, especially in a public library."

Higgins also introduced the idea that libraries need to engage in a cultural shift. He emphasized, "We always like to tell ourselves we're one of the last remaining democratic spaces, but we need to be a little more courageous in backing that up." He recommended working alongside community members to dismantle unjust systems of power, which he recognized challenges the traditional notion of a "neutral" library. This is something Hardy wholeheartedly supports as well, and she began by pointing out that the presence of social workers in libraries reflects the policy failure of our country as a whole. She pointed out that social workers can't solve the problems library patrons experience daily, but "what we can do is come in and talk about inclusiveness and how we make everyone feel welcome." She, too, was hired to work with patrons experiencing homelessness, but she sees library social workers taking on a much larger role.

One recommendation Hardy added was to work with grant writers if possible. She was able to expand from her lone position into supervising three other social workers and six peer navigators by bringing in grant funding, then using outcomes to demonstrate the need for permanent positions. She also recommended that library managers take a lesson from social workers and incorporate "supervision" for all staff. Librarians may not be familiar with "supervision" in this context, which for social workers is time for reflection with a colleague in which they discuss, dissect, and release challenging workplace experiences. At the very least, Hardy said, libraries should be prepared to build in time for this type of supervision with a partner for any social services staff members.

All of the panelists emphasized the importance of their relationships with partnering organizations. Some use those partners as employers for social workers embedded in the library, while others use them for support and referrals. Esguerra described the importance of a "warm hand-off," where a librarian uses their personal relationship to connect her with patrons. Hardy reinforced this by pointing out the library is a place of safety, and the warm hand-off helps extend that safety to organizations that might otherwise feel intimidating to the patron. Badalamenti added that social workers have access to systems library staff do not, so they can learn more about a patron's situation once that warm hand-off takes place. The hand-off also serves as an important boundary between library and social worker responsibilities.

Although the panel didn't have time to delve into the work libraries without social workers on staff can do, they did offer examples of their own community relationships as models librarians can follow. Also, the new Social Work Interest Group sponsored by PLA is open to any ALA member to join.

Matt de la Peña on Life and the Importance of Literacy

By Marley Kalt, University of Michigan

Award-winning author Matt de la Peña headlined the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President's Program on June 22. de la Peña shared personal stories about growing up in a working-class community in San Diego, his journey from struggling in school to being the first in his family to attend college, and how his experiences influenced his writing.

Though de la Peña struggled in school early on, he found both passion and success in playing basketball. He knew his family could not afford college, but found sports to be a potential pathway to higher education.

"Having a goal can change everything for a kid," said de la Peña, explaining how his goal of attending college helped him focus on basketball, improved his grades, and stopped him from becoming "sidetracked."

While in college, he also fell in love with literature, calling books his "secret place to feel." He wrote poems about what it was like to be mixed race, and his experience of being poor in comparison to his peers in San Diego – while at the same time seen as rich by his family in Mexico.

de la Peña also spoke about his father and his uncle, sharing the examples they set for him about masculinity and what it

"Having a goal can change everything for a kid," said de la Peña, explaining how his goal of attending college helped him focus on basketball, improved his grades, and stopped him from becoming "sidetracked."

means to be a man. Over time, his father helped him understand the importance of literacy. de la Peña shared his father's story, from dropping out of school when de la Peña was born, to reading all of the same books de la Peña read in graduate school, and ultimately completing a college degree and becoming a teacher.

At the end of the program, de la Peña read from his picture book, *Love*, which depicts the journey to understanding love, starting with the love given to a child and showing how one must find and define love for oneself in times of adversity. He wrote the book to be "as inclusive as possible" – racially, ideologically, and emotionally.

"When you give someone a book, you're not just giving them a book, [but] a new way to navigate the world," de la Peña said.



Semilla Cultural, a nonprofit organization that is raising cultural awareness by teaching and performing the Puerto Rican musical genre of Bomba, performs at the ALA President's Program.



ALA President Loida A. Garcia-Febo hands the ceremonial gavel to incoming ALA President Wanda K. Brown as she begins her presidency.



Attendees line up as Illustrator Laura Freeman autographs copies of her book Hidden Figures at the HarperCollins booth.



George Takei is greeted by a standing room only audience.

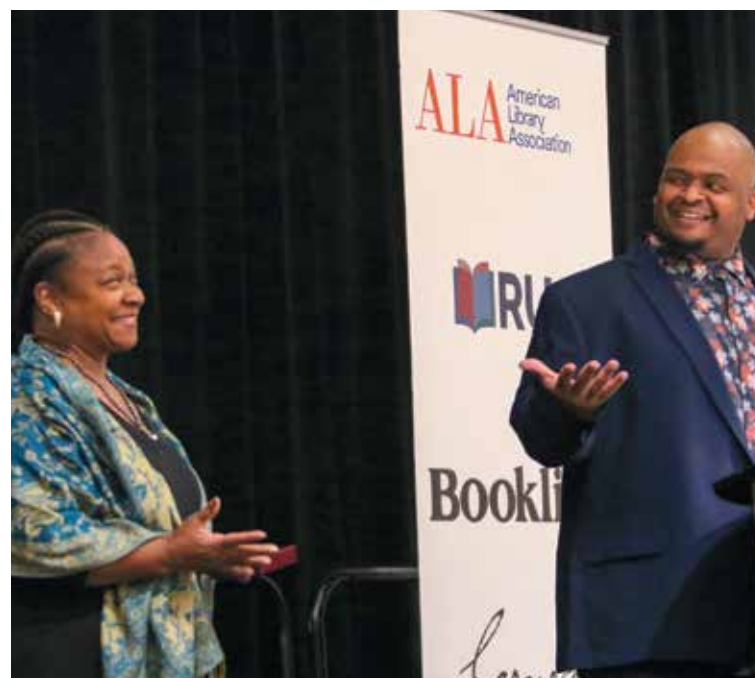


Jill Friedmann takes a break to read Cognotes after a session.

Lila Spitz talks with Joann Yao at the Diversity in Publishing booth in the Exhibit Hall.

(left photo) Rebecca Makkai receives the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction for *The Great Believers*, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House. “The written and spoken word are our greatest weapon,” she said in her acceptance speech.

(right photo) Kiese Laymon, winner of the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction for *Heavy: An American Memoir*, published by Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, accepted his medal Saturday night, which he then presented to his mother; “This is the person who deserves it.”



Attendees show their support during the Libraries = Strong Communities National Library Tour Rally & Celebration in The Park @ ALA in the Exhibit Hall on June 22.

Meredith Broussard on Why Technology Isn't Always the Answer

By Elizabeth Uchimura, Florida State University

Meredith Broussard, associate professor at New York University and author of *Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World*, spoke at the Library Information Technology Association (LITA) President's Program June 23. In *Artificial Unintelligence*, Broussard confronts the idea that technology is inherently better, and argues for a mindset that opts for the most inclusive tool for the situation, whether or not that is a new piece of technology. She used machine learning as the lens through which to understand this concept, explaining how humans perpetuate their own biases through the technology that they create.

Machine learning, put simply, takes an input of data, uses a computer to construct a model, or functional rule to be applied to the data, and gives an output of a result on the other side. Then, the model can be used to answer similar questions or perform similar functions on other types of data. While

this process can seem objective, Broussard stresses that “people embed their own biases in technology.” She displayed pictures of the core group of people largely responsible for the way technology is viewed today, pointing out their commonalities: white, male, Ivy League-educated mathematicians. When there is no diversity in the creation

In Artificial Unintelligence, Broussard confronts the idea that technology is inherently better, and argues for a mindset that opts for the most inclusive tool for the situation, whether or not that is a new piece of technology.

of technology, the same unconscious biases continue and compound.

Hollywood depictions of the Terminator and intelligent robots give machine learning a reputation as a mysterious monolith that cannot be understood. This leads to a phenomenon Broussard calls “tech chauvinism” or “the idea that computers are better than people.” In reality, Broussard said, machine learning is “just math,” which makes it much more manageable. It also means that it is less capable because “math can't do some things, and that's okay.” It is more important to use the right tool for the situation than to push new technology that might not be as helpful. Broussard noted, “Sometimes when we think we're being liberating, we're actually being oppressive.”

By confronting the assumptions behind technology creation and use, a more diverse and complex picture emerges that promotes solutions that work for more diverse people. Broussard closed with a charge to the audience: “When using machine learning models, we're creating a world as it is. But I want us to think about models where we can create a world as it should be.”

Broussard is researching how we will “read today's news on tomorrow's computers” and is looking into the necessity of human intervention in the digital archival process.



The ALA Council gathers for a group photo..

American Libraries Blog

Resolutions 101: Getting Things Done

Did you know that the Library Bill of Rights exists because of an ALA Council Resolution? If you read this document closely, you'll see "Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996" included at the bottom. These dates indicate the instances that this document has been reviewed, revised, and re-approved by the ALA Council, our organization's governing body.

Resolutions and committee action items are what direct many of ALA's policy, legislation, and advocacy activities. They are the mechanism by which we create, endorse, and codify ideals like the Library Bill of Rights, the

Freedom to Read Statement, or the Resolution on the USA Patriot Act and Related Measures That Infringe on the Rights of Library Users. Although a resolution is typically originated by ALA Council members and Committees, any ALA member can initiate one.

The ALA Policy Manual (section A.4.2.3) defines a resolution as: "a main motion, phrased formally, with (a) whereas clauses, (stating the background and reasons for a proposed policy, advocacy position, or action), followed by (b) Resolved clauses in numbered order (stating the proposed policy, advocacy position, or action)."

In practice, this means that a succinct,

structured document is created following the guidelines available on the ALA website. In the resolution, you may include a few short background statements (whereas clauses) followed by what outcomes you hope to accomplish (resolved clauses). If you are not a council member, you can bring your resolution to the next virtual or face-to-face membership meeting by filling out an eform. If the resolution is passed at a membership meeting, it then goes to ALA Council for deliberation.

The Resolutions Committee has created a short video to help you navigate the writing process and has compiled examples and resources to help you draft your resolution.

These tools can be found under Resolution guidelines. If you are interested in writing a resolution, we also encourage you to collaborate with relevant ALA units, including committees such as the Committee on Diversity (CoD) or divisions like the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). You can find information about committees, divisions, offices, and roundtables on the About ALA section of the ALA website.

Whether you are a seasoned councilor or new to ALA, the Resolutions Committee is here to help you navigate the resolutions process. Feel free to email us with questions, drafts, or feedback at alaresolutions@ala.org.

Improve Your Financial Resources for Patrons with Ready, Set, BankSM

Interested in using a ready-created financial well-being program to teach your patrons online banking skills? PLA and ALA are working with Capital One Financial Corporation to bring innovative financial well-being resources to public libraries across the U.S. Through this project, PLA and ALA will help public libraries nationwide learn about Capital One's Ready, Set, BankSM program, which teaches consumers basic mobile banking skills. This program has been piloted at Houston and Queens Public Libraries, with 80% of survey respondents saying they felt more comfortable using online banking as a result of the class.

Ready, Set, BankSM is designed specifically for older adults, and offers numerous, unbranded videos to guide learners through every step of the process, with overviews and step-by-step tutorials to help them manage their finances online – regardless of where they bank. The curriculum is also available in Spanish, through Listos, Clic, Avance.SM

"Public libraries provide their patrons with the tools and information to make informed decisions about a wide range of critical issues such as health, employment and personal finance," said PLA President Monique le Conge Ziesenhenné, PhD. "By collaborating with Capital One, PLA supports libraries efforts to help people reach financial goals like saving for retirement, sending a child to college, or buying a first home."

The financial well-being resources on Ready, Set, BankSM will supplement the existing courses on PLA's DigitalLearn.org with helpful videos on online banking matters. ALA has also recognized Capital One for its financial support by naming the company as a Library Champion at the \$25,000 (Sustainer) level.



ALA American Library Association

ALA MIDWINTER MEETING & EXHIBITS

PHILADELPHIA | JANUARY 24-28, 2020

SAVE
the
DATE!

- **Innovation-spurring** preconferences and institutes
- Books, media, and 100s of **authors**
- In-depth **learning** and educational sessions
- **Award** announcements and celebrations
- Three days of exploring the many futures for academic, public, school, and special libraries at the **Symposium on the Future of Libraries**
- "**News You Can Use**", updates, policy priorities, strategies for engaging decision-makers, and influencers
- New publications, technologies, and services from expert organizations in the **exhibits**
- Unlimited **connections** with colleagues from all types of libraries, doing all kinds of library jobs, at all levels
- All the **socializing** you can handle



REGISTER AT ALAMIDWINTER.ORG • #ALAMW20
Registration and Housing opens September 11, 2019 Noon (Central).

AASL Honors Award and Grant Recipients

The 2019 AASL Awards Ceremony were presented June 23. The recipients are:

- **National School Library of the Year Award**

Awarded to: High School District 214, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Sponsored by Follett, the award annually honors a single school or district-wide school library that exemplifies implementation of AASL's "National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries." High School District 214 will receive a crystal obelisk – the symbol of school library excellence – and \$10,000 toward its school libraries.

- **Distinguished Service Award**

Awarded to: Joyce Valenza, assistant teaching professor of library and information science, Rutgers University

Sponsored by The Rosen Publishing Group, the \$3,000 award recognizes an individual member of the library profession who has, over a significant period, made an outstanding national contribution to school librarianship and school library development.

- **ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant**

Awarded to: South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL)

Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the up to \$1,750 grant is awarded to school library associations that are AASL affiliates for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional, or local levels.

- **Affiliate of the Year Award**

Awarded to: Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA)

Sponsored by AASL, the \$1,000 stipend recognizes the AASL Affiliate most active and dynamic in achieving the goals of AASL at the state and local level. AASL established the Affiliate of the Year Award to acknowledge the important contributions Affiliates make to the national organization and to the profession.

- **Collaborative School Library Award**

Awarded to: Carolyn Foote, school librarian, and Melinda Darrow, teacher, Westlake High School

Sponsored by Upstart, the \$2,500 award recognizes school librarian and teacher collaboration during the development and implementation of a curriculum-supporting program using school library resources.

- **Distinguished School Administrator Award**

Awarded to: Shirley Simmons, assistant superintendent of educational services, Norman (Okla.) Public Schools

Sponsored by ProQuest, the \$2,000 award recognizes and honors a school administrator who has made worthy contributions to the operations of an exemplary school library and to advancing the role of the school library in the educational program.

- **Frances Henne Award**

Awarded to: Holly Schwarzmans, school librarian, Largo Middle School

Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the \$1,250 award recognizes a school librarian with five years or less experience who demonstrates leadership qualities with students, teachers, and administrators. The award will enable

Schwarzmans to attend an AASL National Conference for the first time.

- **Innovative Reading Grant**

Awarded to: Susan Gauthier, director of library services, East Baton Rouge Parish Schools

Sponsored by Capstone, the \$2,500 award supports the planning and implementation of a unique and innovative program for children that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers.

- **Inspire Collection Development Grant**

Awarded to: Sean Casey, Northeast Middle School; Melissa Iamónico, Sprain Brook Academy; Lauren Mabry, Andrew Lewis Middle School; Holly Schwarzmans, Largo Middle School; Ness Shortley, Horton Middle School; Mae-Lynn Smith, Great Oaks Charter School Wilmington

Sponsored by Marina "Marney" Welmers, the grant assists an existing public middle or high school to extend, update, and diversify the book, online, subscription and/or software collections in their library in order to realize sustainable improvement in student achievement at their school. \$20,000 in funding is available annually. The direct assistance grant is capped at \$5,000.

- **Inspire Disaster Recovery Grant**

Awarded to: Jones County Schools, North Carolina

Sponsored by Marina "Marney" Welmers, the grant program supports public middle or high school libraries that incurred damage or hardship due to a natural disaster, fire, or an act recognized by the federal government as terrorism. \$30,000 in funding is available annually.

- **Inspire Special Event Grants**

Awarded to: Wendy Carrington, Northeast Bradford Jr./Sr. High School; Melissa Cortese, Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School; Amanda Jones, Live Oaks Middle School; Lori Quintana, Griffin Middle School; Anne Reis, Homewood Center

Sponsored by Marina "Marney" Welmers, the grant supports a special event so that an existing public middle or high school library can create new or enhance its extracurricular activities in order to increase student academic achievement at their school. \$10,000 in funding is available annually. The direct assistance grant is capped at \$2,000.

- **Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards**

Awarded to: Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) is the recipient of the grant awarded in the honor of E. Blanche Woolls and sponsored by Roger and Susan D. Ballard; the Virginia Association of School Librarians (VASL) is the recipient of the grant in honor of David Loertscher and sponsored by Roger and Susan D. Ballard; and the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) is the recipient of the planning grant awarded in the honor of Helen R. Adams and sponsored by Cassandra Barnett

Sponsored by Cassandra Barnett and Roger and Susan D. Ballard, the three grants in the amount of \$2,500 each is awarded to AASL Affiliate organizations for the planning

and execution of an event, initiative, or activity focused on the implementation of the new AASL "National School Library Standards."

- **Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award**

Awarded to: Joquetta Johnson, school librarian, Randallstown High School

Sponsored by Penguin Random House, the award recognizes and encourages collaboration and partnerships between school librarians and teachers in teaching social justice through joint planning of a program, unit or event in support of social justice using school library resources. The award includes \$2,000 to the librarian, up to \$1,000 in reimbursement towards travel and housing to attend the AASL awards presentation at the ALA Annual Conference, and a \$5,000 book

donation by Penguin Random House.

- **The Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries**

Awarded to: Jennifer Sturge, specialist for school libraries and digital learning, Calvert County Public Schools

Sponsored by Jay Toor in honor of Ruth Toor, the award provides funding support on a competitive basis to public school libraries for the creation and implementation of a local public awareness/marketing campaign that promotes and positions their school library as a necessary resource in the community. The grant includes \$3,000 to create and implement a project, and \$2,000 for both the school librarian and school official to attend the AASL National Conference or the ALA Annual Conference.

Coretta Scott King Book Award Brings People Together

By Chris Heckman, Student to ALA

On June 23, the Conrad Hotel in Washington DC played host to the first-ever Coretta Scott King Book Award Social. The award, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, honors outstanding works of children's and young adult fiction by African American authors and illustrators. The 2019 ALA Annual Conference & Exposition featured many events celebrating this landmark year for

the award. The social was an open event during which attendees could meet and mingle to discuss the award.

After attendees filled their plates and gathered free books, they got to know their tablemates with a rousing game of CSK Book Award trivia. Each table formed a team with colorful nicknames – The Fabulous Five and The CSK Dream Team – and when the host revealed that the winning team would receive tickets to the CSK breakfast at next year's conference, the competition became fierce.



Lisa Uhrig (far right) leads a talk in the Discussion Den in the Exhibit Hall.

Controversy

» from page 8

Pitman thanked librarians for supporting her in times when her books and speaking engagements have been challenged, and echoed Morales' advice to be prepared for any type of situation. Pitman said she has tracked patterns of backlash against her books and found similarities in many of these events. "Often it's not just one person who is disgruntled. They usually have a larger organization behind them," Pitman cautioned. From her perspective, backlash against her events usually has less to do with her books or herself as an individual, and more to do with "censorship being used...

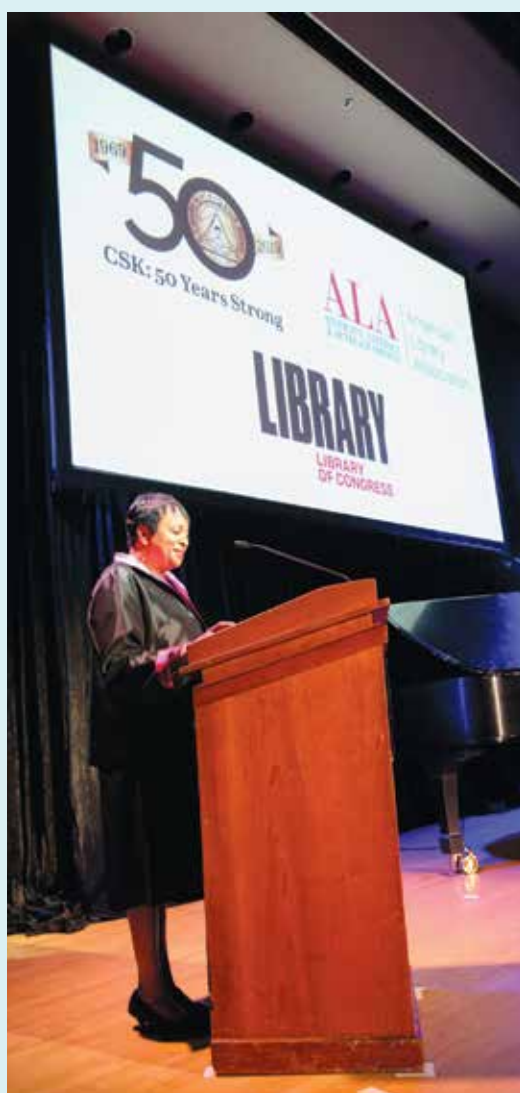
against a marginalized group. I represent the LGBTQ+ community, and that's really the only reason why my books get challenged. Naming that can be helpful," Pitman said.

Hopkins also had advice for librarians planning an event that might be controversial. "Understand who I am and what my books are. Understand what kind of controversies might arise. We can talk beforehand, and I'm happy to do that," Hopkins said.

The consensus in the room seemed to be that libraries have a responsibility to support their communities and listen to all sides of a controversial event. "We have to be willing to make those hard choices," Coyl said. "We live in a country where we have free speech, and we can't be the arbiters of who can have that free speech."



Pauletta Bracy (center) receives a standing ovation as she accepts the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement during the Coretta Scott King Book Awards 50th Anniversary Breakfast.



Carla Hayden welcomes everyone to the Library of Congress to celebrate Coretta Scott King.



Interpretive dancers honor Coretta Scott King at the Library of Congress.



Kurtis Darden and his children (from left) Viktoria, 10, Brooklyn, 12, Jada, 16, and Kurtis Jr., 5, enjoy the Coretta Scott King Book Awards 50th Anniversary Breakfast.



The audience enjoys performers at the Coretta Scott King Gala.



Children's librarian Eboni Njoku gives her son Anthony Jr., 1, a kiss as they arrive for the Coretta Scott King Book Awards 50th Anniversary Breakfast.



Jason Reynolds on Libraries Within Us

Reynolds

» from page 1

to be encouraged to share their personal and unique reactions to sometimes common human experiences. By design, the sections of Reynold's keynote resembled the storytelling structure of his newest book, *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* (Simon and Schuster, 2018).

"We need to keep sharing and appre-

ciating narratives that are not our own," Reynolds emphasized. "This is how people become safe spaces, and remain walking, talking references for each other," he said. With song and story, Reynolds showed the audience how stories – and, by extension, the libraries which provide them – are truly sacred. He encouraged librarians to continue their work as architects who build human libraries into living stores of information, which transcend physical places, to ensure

ALA Executive Director Opportunity

Libraries are an iconic feature of American life. In study after study, libraries are ranked among the public's most trusted sources of information. They have introduced users to the joy of learning and the magic of books; have offered a safe and productive haven for study, research and reflection; and have transformed users' lives through educational programs and community resources. Not only have America's libraries changed the lives of many of their users, they themselves have transformed as societal needs, technology, and other forces in the economy have dramatically reshaped their role and nature. Libraries of all types have adapted to the digital age and are committed to meeting the evolving needs of their communities.

In July 2017, Executive Director Keith

Michael Fiels retired after serving the American Library Association (ALA) for 15 years. His tenure was marked by important developments in the field and the association. Mary Ghikas, formerly senior associate executive director, is now serving as the executive director. Ghikas will serve as the executive director through ALA's midwinter meeting, in January 2020. Upon the start of a new executive director, Ghikas will become the deputy executive director and she will work to support the orientation and transition of the new executive director through ALA's annual conference in June 2020.

ALA seeks a dynamic, innovative, entrepreneurial, and experienced leader as its next executive director. Founded in 1876, ALA is the world's oldest and largest library association and promotes the work of libraries and

the value of professional library and information science education. It advocates for issues and values that are important to the field and to a free and open information society. ALA achieves these goals through its programs, publications, conferences, professional development, and outreach work. The Association, headquartered in Chicago, Ill. represents over 58,000 members, has a staff of 260, and an annual budget of \$52 million. The ALA also has an office in Washington, DC.

The position of executive director of the American Library Association offers an extraordinary and exciting opportunity to champion, represent, and support one of the most trusted and valuable institutions in American society. The next executive director will be able to leverage the organization's strong reputation and the passion and dedi-

cation of the Association's members, staff, and elected leaders to build even stronger support for libraries, those who work in them, and the millions of users who benefit from them.

ALA will offer a competitive salary based on experience. ALA offers a comprehensive and valuable benefits package that includes generous paid vacation and retirement annuity.

ALA has engaged Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important search. To contact them, please email Marc St. Hilaire (msthilaire@IMSearch.com) or Pamela Pezzoli (ppezzoli@IMSearch.com). For additional information about this opportunity, please visit <https://www.imsearch.com/search-detail/S6-883>.

Librarians Watch Podcasts in Exhibits



A main feature of the Sound Garden was the Live from the 25 Podcast Booth. Throughout the event, attendees watched podcasts being recorded live. Topics ranged from country music and children's books, to tree dreams, to the art of enchantment, and much more.

How to Hug a Porcupine? Tell Them a Story

By Elizabeth Uchimura, Florida State University

The United for Libraries President's Program invited Bradford Fitch, president and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF), to speak on June 23 about effective advocacy strategies at local, state, and federal levels. Fitch emphasized the impactful role of storytelling and personal identification when communicating with representatives at any level of government. Drawing from his extensive experience on Capitol Hill, Fitch outlined preferred methods of advocacy at the national level that easily transfer in most other situations.

Fitch described the environment on Capitol Hill as an emergency room – a lot of people working long hours and making big decisions that affect other people's lives. On average, congress members can work up to 70 hours per week during the legislative session, taking on an average of 13 meet-

ings each day. The goal of advocacy, then, is "to build a relationship so that when the meeting's done, they think about you and your issue."

Here are some of the ways that Fitch and the CMF have found to be the most effective when contacting any representative:

Identify yourself and your activity in the community that they serve.

Mass emails, phone calls, or letters without some type of personalized reference to your role in the community garner significantly less response from representatives because they are less able to make a connection with you. Fitch stressed that librarians and library staff operate within a unique sphere of influence called "grasstops" that includes organization leaders, business owners, and elected officials within a community. Since these leaders represent bigger swaths of their area, they also carry more clout to leverage with their representatives.

Tell a personal story

Effective advocacy means wooing with facts and getting others to back the cause, Fitch explained, which is best done through storytelling. Representatives, at their core, are serving people, and the more that you can humanize their work and their ability to work for you, the better. Fitch's tips for bringing the most effective story to the table are:

- Begin with the end in mind – know what you're specifically asking of your representative
- Set the stage and paint a picture of what's at stake – be as descriptive as possible
- Explain the struggle or fight that you're facing
- Include a surprise that makes the story memorable
- Introduce the potential for success and joy
- Finish with a hook
- Connect in person and online

Representatives still value in-person meetings the most, which can be achieved through office meetings, town hall attendance, or invitations for the representative to attend events at the library or business. Social media also continues to gain traction with representatives if you still identify yourself and your activity in the community.

Remain civil and respectful

While the topic may be contentious, representatives are human too, and respond better to respectful discourse over anger. Being able to articulate both sides of an issue and remind your representative that you understand their position can go a long way to creating and maintaining an impactful connection with your representative.

Fitch closed with a perfect quote from Thomas Jefferson: "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

Challenges and Solutions for Library Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives



ACRL President Lauren Pressley (left) and speaker Angela Spranger.

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

Organizational change theories from business disciplines may be able to help librarians identify problems and offer solutions when well-intentioned initiatives falter and fail. Angela Spranger, PhD, featured speaker at the ACRL President's Program on June 22, addressed a capacity crowd to explain ways to prevent and rescue failed diversity initiatives.

"Make sure leadership is getting challenged regularly," Spranger explained, "and if you are the leader, challenge others about the individual behaviors they are displaying that are problematic." Specifically, she urged supervisors to provide more direction on the types of inclusive behaviors they expect employees to display.

Librarians learned how to identify implicit and unconscious bias in hiring and retaining staff, as well as how to counter unproductive "groupthink," and were encouraged to influence others to eliminate specific terms which make their libraries an uncomfortable place to learn and work. Spranger encouraged attendees to point out and request elimination of bias in

seeking to maintain the status quo, since the tendency to just "go along" with previous decisions creates a cycle or structure of implicit bias.

Spranger suggested that a reliable solution is to consistently "use your power and influence for good," especially since many workplace behaviors are driven by managers. When pointing out uncomfortable behaviors, "Be merciful with ourselves and with each other," she stated, since faux pas will occur, but people need to know why. If employees evolve our problem solving and apply the useful lessons heard from stories and news to our own workplace, many new ideas can grow from improvements to our shared experiences.

As a former HR professional and current college of business faculty member at Christopher Newport University, Spranger studies workplace equity, diversity, and inclusion issues which affect everyone, including those who stay in a job where antisocial behaviors or negative organizational symptoms persist. Her talk was followed by a signing of her book *Why People Stay: Helping Your Employees Feel Seen, Safe, and Valued* (Routledge, 2018).

Incorporating Mindfulness into Instruction

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

Librarians from all types of libraries received guidance in mindful meditation and then shared ideas for how to incorporate these practices into instruction during the LIRT Division program on June 22.

"Phase out the distractions in your mind that are not meditation targets," explained Ven. Sagaranda Tien from the U.S. Zen Institute in Germantown, Md., as he talked librarians through their experience of a 15-minute focused mindfulness session. He provided directions to novices and experienced meditators

alike, helping them to take and count long breaths to refocus energy on relaxation, and to acknowledge distracting thoughts by just observing them and not judging themselves or rushing through the calming exercise. He used a chi bell to signal the relative start and ending of the training.

Librarian Amy Laughlin of the Ferguson Library (Stamford, Conn.) described her mindfulness initiatives with young patrons at her public library's children's room. Her use of familiar songs to redirect attention, and Hoberman spheres to help pace deep breathing, help students to acknowledge their emotions and relax even in stimulating environments. "Practice naturally means that there

will sometimes be failure," Laughlin explained. "But offering opportunities to students to meditate are useful ways to help them get their minds back to the learning activity at hand."

Hand-drawn labyrinths, gratitude practices and journaling, and purposeful, mindful physical movement were noted as effective activities by librarian Zaiga Alksnitis of Middlesex School Library (Concord, Mass.) Even in a setting where mindfulness is incorporated into the curriculum and student services, the library doesn't have to provide additional or competing programs. "I constantly try to think of ways in which my library can manifest mindfulness, or how I can personally model these values," said Alksnitis.

The essence of a yoga class is similar – a one-time library instruction session, explained librarian Jill Luedke from the Art & Architecture Library at Temple University (Philadelphia, Penn.) "You have about an hour to communicate important content, give feedback on performance, and build new skills," she stated. The speakers recommended inviting students to partake in calming activities, but not requiring them, and using breathing exercises to help reduce anxiety and improve working memory. "Since students will not learn as much if they are inflexible, restless, or distracted," Luedke suggested, "why not help them learn?"

THANK YOU!

ALA WISHES TO THANK
THE COUNTLESS
MEMBERS THROUGHOUT
THE LOCAL WASHINGTON,
DC AREA WHO WORKED
IN SUPPORT OF CREATING
THE MANY ACTIVITIES
AT THE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE.



ALA American Library Association

DC Public Library

Linnea Hegarty, Director of Strategic Partnerships
Gabriela Schneider, Director of Communications

District of Columbia Library Association

Nicholas Alexander Brown, Director of
Special Productions & Initiatives, Washington
Performing Arts, President DCLA

Delaware Library Association

Sarah Katz, President

Federation of Friends of DC Public Library

Susan B. Haight, President

Library of Congress

Jarrod MacNeil, Director, Signature Programs
Michelle Spezzacatena, Special Assistant

Maryland Library Association

Margaret Carty, Executive Director

Nation of Makers

Dorothy Jones-Davis, Executive Director

Smithsonian Institution

Erin Rushing, Outreach Manager

Virginia Library Association

Lisa R. Varga, Executive Director

Congressman Ben Ray Luján Named REFORMA Legislator of the Year

On June 21, REFORMA – The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking – named Congressman Ben Ray Luján (D-NM-3) Legislator of the Year for his ongoing commitment to improving library services at the national and local levels.

Luján gained the attention of the REFORMA Legislative Committee when he introduced U.S. House Bill H.R. 3496 (Public Library Innovation Space Act) to promote the development of maker-spaces in public libraries. Although the bill did not become law, REFORMA and the library community acknowledged the work that Congressman Luján has done to improve library services for all, including the Latino and Spanish-Speaking communities in his area.

Luján also helped to secure and ship 1,500 titles from the Library of Congress after the La Farge Branch of the Santa Fe Public Library lost 2,000 children's and Spanish books due to floods. In addition, he was a co-sponsor of the American Dream and Promise Act to keep the doors of opportunity open for DREAMers and to keep our families together; bringing stability to the 17,000 individuals across New Mexico and hundreds of thousands of people across the country.

"Libraries are the cornerstone of where learning should be taking place," said Luján. "My advocacy comes from librarians who made a difference in my life when I was young. Libraries, in my opinion, are the answer."

Mariana Atencio on Libraries as Havens



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

ALA IS PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

PLATINUM SPONSOR



DIAMOND SPONSOR



RUBY SPONSORS

ABRAMS
Yoga & Meditation Room

BiblioCommons
Wi-Fi

Candlewick Press
Hotel Room Keys

DK
Yoga & Meditation Room

E-Image Data
Lanyards

Innovative
Lanyards

Library Ideas
The Park @ ALA

My Book Tote mobile app
powered by Combined Book Exhibit

Random House Children's Books
Lanyards

DIVERSITY IN PUBLISHING PAVILION



SPEAKER SPONSORS

Dark Horse Comics
HarperCollins Children's Books
HarperCollins Christian Publishing

Library of Congress
Macmillan Children's Publishing Group
Penguin Random House

Simon & Schuster
Top Shelf Productions

Upcoming YALSA Programs, Reads

Join YALSA, Win 2020 Symposium Registration!

Have you registered for YALSA's 2019 YA Services Symposium yet? This year, it takes place November 1-3 in Memphis, Tenn., with the theme: Show Up and Advocate: Supporting Teens in the Face of Adversity. Now through September 15, those who join YALSA/ALA and register for the symposium will be entered for a chance to win registration for our 2020 symposium in Reno, Nev. The cost of joining and then registering is equal to the non-YALSA/ALA registration rate. Book your hotel early to ensure availability as they have sold out in previous years. Learn more and view the preliminary schedule at http://bit.ly/YALSA_Symposium19.

YALSA Webinars Now Open to Everyone

Not a YALSA member, but want to attend our webinars live? Now you can via these new opportunities:

- \$29/webinar
- \$59/annual subscription (individual)
- \$129/annual subscription (group)

Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/yalsa-webinars>. For information on pricing for state library agencies or questions, contact Linda W. Braun, YALSA CE Consultant at lbraun@leonline.com.

Summer Reads for Teens: YALSA's 2019 Teens' Top Ten Nominees

Need recommended reading for teens? Encourage teens to read the 25 nominees from YALSA's 2019 Teens' Top Ten over the summer so they are ready for the national Teens' Top Ten vote, which will take place August 15 – October 13. The 10 nominees that receive the most votes will be named the official 2019 Teens' Top Ten. The Teens' Top Ten is a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of teen book groups in over 20 school and public libraries around the country selected by YALSA to participate. Learn more at www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS