Poet, educator, and Newbery Medal winner Kwame Alexander wasn’t quite sure what to say or how to confront the current political climate in the President’s Program speech he was scheduled to deliver at the American Library Association’s 2017 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Atlanta, so he called up a librarian friend for advice.

“He said, ‘One, we need you more than ever. Two, what would Martin Luther King Jr. do? Three, I need to know we’re not going backward. Four, I need someone to tell me what to do,’” said Alexander. And like that, Alexander’s thoughtful, rhapsodic verse set to accomplishing these objectives, and then some. Introduced by ALA President Julie Todaro on January 22 as the “cool, calm, and cuddly Kwame Alexander” – a nod to the wildlife creatures featured in his latest book, Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures (with Joel Sartore, National Geographic Children’s Books, February 2017).

Alexander gave the audience some much-needed humor, historical perspective, and a sense of healing. “This is not our country, I think, and yet it is,” Alexander said. “Excuse the metaphor, but remember we are the army. We overthrow ignorance with imagination, inspiration.”

Quoting Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, and a traditional Negro spiritual “that Martin Luther King Jr. liked,” Alexander urged attendees to “remember, recognize, and resist” and stand up against the injustices of racism, sexism, and xenophobia. He recounted the impact of his dad, a school principal, taking him across the Brooklyn Bridge to march against police brutality when he was a kid, and...

New Symposium on the Future of Libraries a Big Draw

The Symposium on the Future of Libraries reaffirmed a sense that our world is getting closer. That message was especially clear through the January 22 plenary sessions with civic innovators. Marian Liou, founder of We Love BuHi, shared insights from her journey helping to transform a “big ugly scar of a road from Atlanta to Buford” into a place that residents truly love. Liou’s presentation was a perfect follow-up to the city-wide vision of the Atlanta Beltline described by Ryan Gravel during the Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture (see video on page 10) showing how small investments in the assets neighborhoods already have can make a big difference.

Liou’s vision for Buford Highway builds on a fundamental belief that the area is special because of its people and their stories. Liou spoke alongside Kyle Kessler, Community Program Manager for Atlanta’s Center for Civic Innovation, a vocal advocate for making good trouble. Kessler framed the center’s work around five Ps – purpose, place, programs, and partnerships – with a clear message of civic engagement as key to a city’s success.

“These issues dividing us are all social issues,” Kessler said, referring to the current political climate, and talked about the growing importance of citizens’ access to information.
Looking Forward to Seeing You in Chicago in June!

It was invigorating to be in Atlanta with thousands of librarians, library workers, exhibitors, and supporters applying their energy and expertise to the ongoing work of transforming and positioning libraries and library professionals for a strong future. Our values, innovation, collaboration, learning, and conversation were at the core of our shared work. Commitment and expertise were in evidence throughout, as we discussed what was important to us, learned from one another, enjoyed thought-provoking speakers, explored the best of what's new in the exhibits, and made personal connections.

The success of the new Symposium on the Future of Libraries organized by ALA's Center for the Future of Libraries was thrilling, as was the ongoing visibility of the Libraries Transform campaign. I was very pleased that the vote to add Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as a fourth distinct area to ALA's three current strategic directions – advocacy, information policy, and professional and leadership development – passed unanimously. And the frank sharing of concerns and concrete ideas at the facilitated town hall, "Advocacy and Core Values in Uncertain Times," provided important input for not only ALA's work, but our work back at home. The wonderful author and poet Kwame Alexander made us laugh, cry, and – most importantly – think, during his entertaining talk as featured speaker at my President's Program.

The town hall dialogue, "Competencies, Careers, and Successful Practice," was rescheduled to Saturday during the Annual Conference, and I am eager for this discussion on the future of library professionals as experts, and what skills, knowledge, traits, and expectations will best support all libraries and constituents going forward. Also of special importance to me will be the Annual Conference launch of Book Club Central (BCC), a hub of resources from many venues, created in collaboration with Booklist, United for Libraries, and RUSA as well as other divisions and units as a presidential initiative. Be on the lookout for more news about it! Colson Whitehead and Matthew Desmond, winning authors of the 2017 Carnegie Medals, will both join us in Chicago. Other confirmed speakers include the opening speaker, founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, Reshma Saujani, and authors Sandra Uwiringiyimana and Kameron Hurley.

Let's continue our conversations in June and keep learning so we can make a difference for libraries and their constituents everywhere. You'll find general information, registration and housing, and social media links at alaannual.org. See you in Chicago!

» See the 2017 Annual Conference and Exhibition ads on pages 7 and 11.


On January 22, Annette Gordon-Reed, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and law professor at Harvard University, discussed her recently published book, "Most Blessed of the Patriarchs: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination." Gordon-Reed and her co-author, Peter Onuf, University of Virginia, each focused on different aspects of Jefferson’s life. Gordon-Reed focused on slavery at Monticello and politics, while Onuf focused on social aspects. "We tried to blend together so that we had one voice for this particular book," she said.

Gordon-Reed said even though Jefferson continues to be a contentious figure today, the choice to include "Empire of the Imagination" in the title of their book is a nod to what a visionary Jefferson was. The phrase describes his vision of what American society would be. Gordon-Reed said that the "most important event in Jefferson's life" was the American Revolution. It was his participation in the event that was the galvanizing thing in his life. It was then that Virginians saw the individuals that they had enslaved as a threat and recognized their capacity to affect their own lives. Black men could act as soldiers, and even Jefferson’s own slaves became a threat to him in a way that they had not been before.

The concept of freedom for African Americans was not a simple one for Jefferson. He believed in emancipation, but also believed that expatriation must happen. Jefferson “did not believe that blacks and whites could live together in harmony,” said Gordon-Reed. She continued, “It has been a struggle to be a truly multiracial society where people have mutual respect for one another.” She cited the fairly recent introduction of commercials that represent other races and asked how we can expect things to have been any different in Jefferson’s time if it’s taken us this long.

"Advocacy and Core Values in Uncertain Times," provided important input for not only ALA's work, but our work back at home. The wonderful author and poet Kwame Alexander made us laugh, cry, and – most importantly – think, during his entertaining talk as featured speaker at my President’s Program.

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Our core efforts providing quality content to communities and the world, promoting access and connectivity, and teaching the public to leverage technology for their personal fulfillment help build a collaborative digital future rooted in digital equity. NYPL’s efforts to make digital content more accessible includes the IMLS-funded SimplyE app, designed to continually improve the e-book browsing, borrowing, and reading experience across ebook platforms with recommendations curated by librarians.

In “School Libraries as Global Educators,” Andy Plemmons, David C. Barrow Elementary, shared several examples of how he and his students use technology to bring themselves closer together with experts and peers around the world. From Skypeing with Rube Goldberg’s granddaughter to video conferencing with a professor from Cornell University’s Lab of Ornithology and a budding middle-school ornithology expert, Plemmons showed new ways to open the classroom learning experience to conversations with established and emerging experts. Sustainability expert Rebekkah Smith Ardich, Mid-Hudson Library System, brought together big ideas for how disruptive factors in the environment, politics, society, and technology make it imperative that librarians explore the values they hold. Using a “triple bottom line” test – Is this environmentally sound? Is this economically feasible? Is this socially equitable? – librarians can ensure that the most important bases are covered as they make decisions.

Virtual reality has become a major tool for news, information, and education. Matthew Boyer, Clemson University, and Stephen Moysey, Clemson University, shared insights from a National Science Foundation project in their session, “Immersive and Interactive: Virtual Reality in a Contextually-rich Learning Environment.” From Google Cardboard viewers that offer VR on mobile phones to more immersive experiences that require the audience to participate in local elections, and involvement in local decisions. The center’s efforts bring together residents from across Atlanta – to revitalize abandoned neighborhood food providers, to help barbershops transform into commercial kitchens for neighborhoods, or bringing people together to discuss shared goals in assisting those who are oppressed. Bell offered the audience encouragement to use their own individual strengths, or bringing people together to discuss what they need in a new central library.

The New York Public Library’s Dr. Antho- ny Marx joined in a conversation moderated by Brian Bannor, Chicago Public Library, on libraries’ important role as civic spaces and involvement in local decisions.
Darlene Gillard Jones speaks on social innovation at the Symposium on the Future of Libraries.

Ann Mallard, center, and fellow librarians join the March for Social Justice and Women along Atlanta’s streets January 21.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal committee shows off their matching “Let The Wilder Rumpus Start” socks, just before the ALA Youth Media Awards announcement January 23.

The Exhibits floor was a busy place during the Atlanta Midwinter event.


Brooke Savoie (left) and Katie Cheramie, Thibodaux, La., drop by the photo booth in the ALA Lounge.
“Freedom Ain’t Never Been Free!”

By George Eberhardt, American Libraries

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration has been a staple each Monday at the ALA Midwinter Meeting for the past 17 years. Sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the celebration’s theme in Atlanta was “Freedom Ain’t Never Been Free!” and featured short readings from King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and other sermons, speeches, and writings. Some 200 turned out at 6:30 a.m. on January 23 for the observance.

The keynote speaker was Daina Ramey Berry, associate professor of history and African and African diaspora studies at the University of Texas at Austin and author of The Prize for Their Pound of Flesh (2017), a history of the economic value of slaves from birth to death.

“Slavery does not stop people from fighting for freedom,” Berry said. In her book she wanted to explore the “faith and hope of those held captive. What can we learn from them?” One of her sources of inspiration was a slave named Mingo, who was thrown into prison prior to being sold and separated from his family. He wrote a moving poem on a beam on the walls of his prison. It began:

My reason mounts above the sky.
Which goad my bleeding limbs; though high
My reason mounts above the sky.

But I forget these chains so cold,
'Tis mockery to say I'm sold!

Which good my bleeding limbs; though high
My reason mounts above the sky.

Good God! And must I leave them now,
My wife, my children, in their woe?

'Tis mockery to say I'm sold!

My reason mounts above the sky.

Which goad my bleeding limbs; though high
My reason mounts above the sky.

‘Good God! And must I leave them now,
My wife, my children, in their woe?

'Tis mockery to say I'm sold!

Which good my bleeding limbs; though high
My reason mounts above the sky.”

(The full poem can be found at http://bit.ly/2jT rQ2N).

Berry explained that Mingo escaped the night after he wrote those words, but was torn to pieces by bloodhounds. His wife helped preserve this and other poems that Mingo had written. She said that the “creative optimism that strengthened Martin Luther King’ and others in the civil rights movement was founded on the faith of the enslaved to ‘ignite the spirit of hope for a better day. King reminded me of these connections to slavery, and for this I thank him.”

Patty Wong, county librarian and chief archivist of the Yolo County (Calif.) Library System, was the call-to-action speaker at the celebration. Her message to librarians was to focus on the work in the face of the most difficult and unexpected change in our history. “When people seemingly have ‘permission to say anything, without regard to facts or feelings or impact, we cannot accept this as the new normal.’”

Wong recounted two instances in her life when she encountered burning crosses in California in the 1970s and 1980s, adding that today “we see many metaphorical crosses disseminated across our media. It comes as a continual shock that what we have built together through tears and blood and legislation seems to be disappearing before our eyes.”

“Don’t let burning crosses deter you from your work,” Wong said. “Create safety in your communities. Library work is community work, and they need you more than ever. Have faith to know that there is good in this world – just take a look around this room.”

The celebration closed with the audience joining hands and singing “We Shall Overcome.”

New Novels Address Common Childhood Emotions

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

A panel of popular elementary, middle-grade, and young adult authors and illustrators offered their analysis of new genres during the Auditorium Speakers Series on January 21, sponsored by Macmillan Children’s Group. Moderator and author Daniel Kraus received several compliments from the panel on his intriguing questions about the writing process.

The panel analyzed the differences in authoring processes between text-only and graphic novels, as well as the synergies of story pacing between authors and illustrators which can result from close collaboration.

New author Susan Tan commented on the challenges of working in teams “to bring to life other people’s memories, much like choreography.” Her new novel, Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire, speaks to childhood issues of dealing with a new sibling and negotiating differences in a mixed-race family.

Tan’s main character is also a biracial Asian American, but the author insists that Asian American, but the author insists that
Google Asks Librarians to Help Kids Learn to Code

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

Computer programming is not as mysterious as librarians might think, according to two Google trainers who presented on January 20 as part of ALA’s Libraries Ready to Code partnership with Google, Inc. “You don’t even have to know how to code yourself, but you can have significant influence on young people who might want to learn,” explained Hai Hong and Tina Ornduff, program managers at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

The project, jointly sponsored by Google and ALA’s Office of Information Technology Policy, provides “out-of-the-box” solutions for librarians to implement as they help students form interest groups around game design, art, sports, and music, all of which can help teach computer programming skills.

Eight online modules developed by Google, using Scratch programming created at MIT, can be operated entirely by students without instruction by adults. Librarians, teachers, or even parents just need to gather interested young people together, and the younger the better. “When something is familiar to you as a child, it is no longer scary and does not seem difficult,” Hong said.

ALA’s partnership aligns with the national “CS for All” initiative, aimed at increasing the number of college-level computer science graduates, especially among girls and underrepresented minority groups. A new Google initiative calls for LIS faculty to help develop courses which empower librarians to take simple steps to hold coding events for K-12 students and fund librarian professional development.

For more information, visit https://www.cs-first.com/create and www.computationalthinkingcourse.withgoogle.com/course.

BCALA Announces the 2017 Literary Awards Winners

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) announced the winners of the 2017 BCALA Literary Awards during the Midwinter Meeting. The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African American authors published in 2015, including an award for Best Poetry and a citation for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing. The recipients will receive the awards during BCALA’s 10th National Conference of African American Librarians, August 9 – August 13, 2017, in Atlanta, Ga.

The winner of the 1st Novelist Award is Grace by Natashia Deon (Counterpoint Press).

The Fiction category winner is Another Brooklyn by Jacqueline Woodson (Amistad).

The Honor Books for Fiction are Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead (Doubleday) and The Mothers by Brit Bennett (Penguin Random House).

The winner in the Nonfiction category is Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (William Morrow).

The Honor Book for Nonfiction is Pushout by Monique Morris (New Press).

The winner for BCALA’s Best Poetry Award is Counting Descent by Clint Smith (Write Bloody).

The Honor Book for Best Poetry Award is Attraversiamo by Monique Ferrell (NYQ Books).

The BCALA Literary Awards Committee presents the Outstanding Contribution to Publishing Citation to Olio by Tyehimba Jess (Wave).

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Midwinter full conference registrants: Be on the lookout in the coming week for an email that will allow you to register for the 2017 Annual Conference in Chicago at a discount. The email will be sent to you from CompuSystems and will include a link that allows you to register for Annual Conference one day early (on February 1, 2017) and get your special discount for attending. The discount will be available for two weeks.

See you at the 2017 Annual Conference in Chicago!
Town Hall Evokes Emotion and Opinion Amid Uncertainty

By Sara Zettervall, Hennepin County Library, Minn.

The ALA Executive Board invited ALA Council and all ALA members to attend a special town hall meeting on January 22 to discuss “Library Advocacy and Core Values in Uncertain Times.” The genesis of the conversation was a press release from the ALA Washington Office last fall that explained how some of ALA’s current projects can support the Trump Administration. The press release was redacted after an online outcry from librarians, although the text can still be found online, and ALA members have continued to raise questions about the Association’s political stance. Those questions remain unanswered, but progress was made to put all perspectives on record.

Members filled the Thomas Murphy Ballroom and kept up a steady flow to the microphones. Speakers included past presidents, current and past Council members, as well as members who came to speak for themselves. They held to the three-minute time limit per person, and most received applause from the audience regardless of their perspective. That civility and respect for boundaries contained forceful opinions, delivered with passion and forethought.

A primary concern was that ALA would be willing to give up its core values in order to court federal funding sources. “Funding matters, but so do our values, and so do our people,” said LITA President Andromeda Yelton. Some speakers raised concerns that taking a hard-line position against the Trump administration could hurt libraries, while others focused on finding commonalities. There was a great deal of concern from all sides about who might be offended by the way ALA states its values. One speaker mentioned coastal elitism and a fear of further alienating Trump voters. A member of REFORMA shared her personal sense of alienation from ALA by asking where the Association was during all the racial and cultural turmoil of the past few years, highlighting the absence of statements or action. “We do not have a playbook,” she said.

Sarah Houghton, commonly known as the Librarian in Black, shared her concerns that the response from ALA leadership seemed to be shaping into a narrative of dismissal, where the offended are portrayed as Millennials who are too young to separate their feelings from their professional roles. Indeed, the meeting began with a reminder of the ALA Code of Ethics VII: “We distinguish between our professional roles and our personal beliefs and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.” Many of the contrasting opinions called for “pragmatism” to work with any administration on behalf of the organization at the national level or on behalf of our own libraries at the state and local level. Later speakers worked to dismantle the notion that they were calling for a full boycott of the Trump Administration. One speaker who did identify herself as a Millennial said, “We’re not arguing against dialogue. We want you to understand that for some of us, our personal and professional lives cannot be separated.”

Speakers also offered a number of possible means of action. Martin Garnar and Melissa Cardenas-Dow, co-chairs of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Implementation Working Group, encouraged members to volunteer to assist with their efforts to infuse inclusion into all aspects of ALA. Other suggestions included promoting use of the Committee on Legislation’s toolkits to train librarians to be political advocates for their libraries; sharpening strategic plans at the state and local level; as well as within ALA; sharing ALA’s three core documents with the public at programs and outreach in order to educate them about library priorities; replacing ALA Connect and opening up Council conversations; and using the Kitchen Table conversations at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference as forums for continued dialogue about these issues.

Some speakers raised concerns that taking a hard-line position against the Trump administration could hurt libraries, while others focused on finding commonalities. There was a great deal of concern from all sides about who might be offended by the way ALA states its values.
American Library Association Announces 2017 Youth Media Award Winners

The American Library Association announced the top books, video, and audio books for children and young adults on Monday, January 23 during the Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Atlanta.

**Alex Awards** for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences

*The Queen of Blood* by Sarah Beth Durst (Harper Voyager).

*In the Country We Love: My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero and Michelle Burford (Henry Holt).

*The Regional Office is Under Attack!* by Manuel Gonzales (Riverhead).

*The Ballad of a Broken Nose* by Arne Svingen (Margaret K. McElderry Books).

**Pura Belpre Awards** honoring a Latino writer and illustrator whose children’s books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience


*Every Heart a Doorway* by Seanan McGuire (Margaret K. McElderry Books).

**Caldecott Honor Books** for children


**Caldecott Medal** for the most distinguished American picture book for children

*The Ballad of a Broken Nose* by Arne Svingen (Margaret K. McElderry Books).

**Belpré Honor Book for Illustration**

*Space Age Sound Artist* illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Susan Wood, Charlesbridge).

**Mildred L. Batchelder Award** for an outstanding children’s book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States, and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States


**Coretta Scott King Book Award** recognizing an African American author and/or illustrator whose children’s books most distinguished American picture book

*Die Young with Me: A Memoir* by Gregory Christie, written by Candle Boston Weatherford (Little Bee Books).

**Margaret A. Edwards Award** for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults

Sarah Dessen, for *Dreamland, Keeping the Moon, Just Listen, The Truth About Forever, Along for the Ride, What Happened to Goodbye*, and *This Lullaby*, all published by Viking Children’s Books.

**Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children’s Video**


**Geisel Honor Books**

*Good Night Owl*, illustrated and written by Lane Smith (Viking).

*They All Saw a Cat*, illustrated and written by Angola Y. Davis (Viking).

*The Infamous Ratsos*, written and illustrated by Mike Twohy (Balzer + Bray).

*Go, Otto Go!*, written and illustrated by David Milgrim (Candlewick Press).

**Geisel Honor Books**

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**Theodor Seuss Geisel Award** for the most distinguished beginning reader book

*We Are Growing*, illustrated and written by Jo Witek and Laurie Keller (Disney Hyperion).

**Coretta Scott King Book Award** recognizing an African American author and
Youth Media Awards

For a complete listing of awards and information, visit iLoveLibraries.org/yma

John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature
The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill (Algonquin Young Readers).

Newbery Honor Books
Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dream Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan (Atheneum Books for Young Readers).

Odyssey Award for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States
Listening Library, producer of audiobook Anna and the Swallow Man by Gaëtan Savit, narrated by Allan Corduner.

Odyssey Award Honor Audiobook
Simon and Schuster Audio, producer of Ghost by Jason Reynolds, narrated by Guy Lockard.

Stonewall Book Award
Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s & Young Adult Literature Award given annually to English-language children's and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience
Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard: The Hammer of Thor by Rick Riordan (Disney Hyperion).

2017 ALA YOUTH MEDIA AWARDS

Winner
The Serpent King by Jeff Zentner (Crown Books for Young Readers).

Finalists
Girl Mans Up by M.E. Girard (HarperTeen).

Schneider Family Book Award for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience
Birth—grade school (age 0–8)
Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille by Jen Bryant and illustrated by Boris Kulikov (Alfred A. Knopf).

Middle grades (age 9–13)
Unbecoming by Jenny Downham (Scholastic Inc.).

Winners
Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults
March: Book Three, created by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell (Top Shelf Productions).

Robert F. Sibert Medal
John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell, authors and illustrator of March: Book Three (Top Shelf Productions).

Stibbert Honor Books
Giant Squid by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Roaring Brook Press).

SYDOL Award
Hyperion.

UNU Award
Hyperion.

Unbecoming by Jenny Downham (Scholastic Inc.).

YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults
Winner
March: Book Three, created by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell (Top Shelf Productions).

Finalists
Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History by Karen Blumenthal (Feiwel and Friends).

In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives by Kenneth C. Davis (Henry Holt).

Samarusi Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune by Pamela S. Turner, illustrated by Gareth Hinds (Charlesbridge).

This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration by Linda Barrett Osborne (Abrams Books for Young Readers).
March: Book Three Wins 2017 Printz Award

The Printz award, first given in 2000, is named for the late Michael L. Printz, a Topeka, Kan., school librarian known for discovering and promoting quality books for young adults. The award is administered annually by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and is sponsored by Booklist magazine.

March: Book Three, created by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell (Top Shelf Productions) has won the 2017 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature. This graphic novel is the conclusion of the March trilogy, a gripping autobiographical account of Congressman John Lewis’s experiences during the Civil Rights Movement. It follows Lewis’s involvement with the Mississippi Freedom Summer and the Selma Montgomery march, concluding with a call to action for today’s youth. “Powell’s cinematic use of black-and-white images provide depth and perspective to a critical time in the life of Civil Rights icon John Lewis,” said Printz Award Committee chair Melanie Koss.

Four Printz Honor Books also were named: Asking for It by Louise O’Neill (Quercus). After a party, Emma Donavan is found dumped outside her house with no recollection of the previous night. Pictures go viral showing her being raped. Lacking support from her small Irish town, Emma becomes a shell of her previous self, struggling with the question of whether she asked for it.

The Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry (Viking Books). This beautiful historical epic tells the tale of Dolssa, an accused heretic on the run, and the three sisters who find and help her during the time of the Inquisition. Through recollections and testimonies, Dolssa’s layered story unfolds across time periods with rich language and historical detail. Scythe by Neal Shusterman (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers).

In Magnus’s second adventure, Riordan introduces readers to Alex Fierro, a gender fluid teen who has “startling eyes, an impressive sweater-vest, and a tendency to hit people.” Alex is a hero and represents the expansive possibilities of gender for future generations.

If I Was Your Girl by Meredith Russo and published by Flatiron Books, are the 2017 recipients of the Stonewall Book Awards – Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s & Young Adult Literature Award, respectively. The awards were announced today by the American Library Association’s Stonewall Book Awards Committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table.

The Stonewall Book Awards are given annually to English-language works of exceptional merit for children or teens relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience. The award will be presented to the winning authors or editors at the American Library Association Annual Conference & Exhibition in Chicago in June.

“The Youth Subcommittee selected the two titles that not only showcased exceptional merit relating to the queer youth experience, but also represented the stories we need in our libraries and in the hands of our children and teens,” said chair Casey McCoy.

In Magnus’s second adventure, Riordan introduces readers to Alex Fierro, a gender fluid teen who has “startling eyes, an impressive sweater-vest, and a tendency to hit people.” Alex is a hero and represents the expansive possibilities of gender for future generations.

Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community by Robin Stevenson (Orca Book Publishers).

For information on the Stonewall Book Awards – Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children’s & Young Adult Literature Award and other ALA Youth Media Awards, please visit www.ala.org/yma.

Symposium

From page 3

more powerful computing hardware such as Oculus Rift, Boyer and Moysey see positive futures for VR in education, including a VR-powered visit to the Grand Canyon that serves as a Virtual Reality Field Trip.

Civic engagement was a hot topic throughout the symposium, including the session “Building Civic Engagement with a Civic Lab,” based on the experiences of Amira Loniai and Amy Koester with the CIVIC LAB at Skokie Public Library. Skokie Public Library converted their boutique space to highlight six areas of civic engagement with micro-collections, resource lists, and interactive activities such as a passive voting wall and postcard writing station. As patron interest grew, the library expanded the lab to include Together at The Table (an invitation to community members to break bread with neighbors and spark conversations) and Dear Electe Official (a resource-based conversa- tion about reaching out to local, state, and federal representatives).

In their call to arms and call for allies, four reading ecosystem revolutionaries – Verona Pitchford, Reached Across Illinois Library System; Mitchell Davis, BiblioLab; Paula Mackinnon, Calif.; and Steve Spohn, Massachusetts Library System – showed how they are applying print solutions to digital problems for econtent in libraries. Working with and through ebook platform vendors, libraries, authors, publishers, and distributors, the four are trying new models that support libraries in delivering econtent to the public.

The symposium built connections across colleagues from academic, public, school, and special libraries ready to build the libraries of the future.
Gold medalist and World Cup champion Julie Foudy will help shine a spotlight on the value of all types of libraries as the 2017 National Library Week Honorary Chair.

To celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries and library workers, thousands will commemorate National Library Week, April 9 – 15, 2017. Libraries Transform is the theme for this year’s National Library Week, reminding the public that libraries are expanding beyond their traditional roles and providing opportunities for community engagement and services that connect closely with patrons’ needs.

“We are very excited to have Julie Foudy as the honorary chair of 2017 National Library Week,” said American Library Association President Julie Todaro. “She is not just an expert on the soccer field. She is also a leader in her community, empowering young women through her leadership foundation, helping them transform their lives just as librarians and library professionals do the same for their communities.”

Julie Foudy is a retired American professional soccer midfielder who played for the United States women's national soccer team from 1987 through 2004. Foudy participated in four Women’s World Cups and three Olympics for the U.S.A. Team.

Foudy is the director and founder of the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy, a unique residential camp experience that uses sports as a vehicle to teach leadership skills for life. She also founded the Julie Foudy Leadership Foundation, which has a mission of building on a foundation of sports and fitness to empower young women from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

“I am thrilled to be the Honorary Chair of National Library Week and to share my love of reading, learning, and growing,” said Foudy. “Today’s libraries are vibrant community centers, technology hubs, and places where people can access life-changing resources to transform their lives. And for that we should always be grateful.”

Foudy also will add author to her credits with the release of her first book, Choose to Matter, in the spring of 2017. Along with sharing stories from her playing days and personal experiences, Foudy taps into the wisdom of other incredible female leaders, including “Good Morning America” anchor Robin Roberts, soccer stars Mia Hamm and Alex Morgan, and Facebook superwoman and Lean In founder Sheryl Sandberg. Complete with fun exercises and activities, Choose to Matter will guide readers in all aspects of their lives.

Those celebrating National Library Week will have free access to publicity tools featuring Foudy, including social media artwork and print PSAs. All items will be available for download at ala.org/nlw.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is an annual observance by the American Library Association and libraries across the county each April. For more information on National Library Week, please visit ILoveLibraries.org.
2017 Amelia Bloomer List Highlights Feminist Books for Young Readers

The Amelia Bloomer Project, a product of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Feminist Taskforce, announced the 2017 Amelia Bloomer List at ALA’s Midwinter Meeting and Exhibits in Atlanta.

The bibliography consists of well-written and illustrated books with significant feminist content, intended for young readers from birth to 18 years old. This year’s list includes 10 titles published between July 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016.

Named for Amelia Bloomer, a pioneering 19th-century newspaper editor, feminist thinker, public speaker, and suffragist, the list features books about girls and women that spur the imagination while confronting traditional female stereotypes.

The bibliography is intended to aid children and teens in selecting high-quality books released over the past 18 months and may be used for a recommended reading list for youth and those who interact with them and as a collection development or reader’s advisory tool for interested librarians. The top 10 titles of the 2017 Amelia Bloomer List include:

- Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer by Diane Stanley, illustrated by Jessie Hartland (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman).
- Baloney on the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine by Ibtsam Barakat (Farrar Straus Giroux/Margaret Ferguson).
- Becoming Unbecoming by Una (Arsenal Pulp).
- Burn Baby Burn by Meg Medina ( Candlewick).
- I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers).
- The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge (Abrams/Amulet).
- Take It as a Compliment by Maria Stoian (Disney-Hyperion).
- Trainwreck: The Women We Love to Hate, Mock, and Fear… and Why by Sady Doyle (Melville House).
- We Believe You: Survivors of Campus Sexual Assault Speak Out by Annie E. Clark and Andrea L. Pino (Macmillan/Holt).

To view the complete annotated list, as well as lists from previous years, please visit the Amelia Bloomer Project blog, http://amelibloomer.wordpress.com/.

SRRT is a unit within the American Library Association. Learn more at http://library.org/SRRT.

2016-2017 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Winners Selected

The Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), an affiliate of the American Library Association, has selected the winners of the 2016 Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature (AAPAL). The awards promote Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and are awarded to titles published between October 2015 and September 2016 based on their literary and artistic merit.

APALA was founded in 1980 by librarians of diverse Asian/Pacific ancestries committed to working together toward a common goal: to create an organization that would address the needs of Asian/Pacific American librarians and those who serve Asian/Pacific American communities.

There are five categories for the awards. Each committee selected a winning title for the category. The winners of the 2016 awards include:

**Adult Fiction**
- Winner: Occult and Other Possibilities by Vanessa Hua (Willow Publishing).
  - Honor: The Fortunes by Peter Ho Davies (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

**Adult Nonfiction**
- Winner: Picture Bride Stories by Barbara Kawakami (University of Hawaii Press).
  - Honor: Changing Season: A Father, A Daughter, A Family Farm, by David Mas Masumoto and Nikko Masumoto (Heyday).

**Young Adult**
- Winner: Ourrun the Moon by Stacey Lee (G.P. Putnam).

Each winner will receive an award plaque and seal on their book at the APALA Award Ceremony on Saturday, June 24, during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Harris

> from page 1

Catherine Murray-Rust delivers her ALA Masters Series presentation about reimaging the research library for the 21st century.

Harris share that world of ideas with his children, six-year-olds Harper and Gideon, leading to the creation of The Magic Misfits. Each of the characters in the books has a real-life magical skill that they have mastered. “Both reading and practical magic are skills that improve as you practice,” Harris said, sharing his hope to inspire dedication and perseverance in his young readers. The books will also include codes, puzzles, and tricks for readers to decipher.

Harris left a significant amount of time for questions and answers with the audience. Topics ranged across the span of his popular career, from a deck of cards Harris designed to decipher. The session ended with Harris performing a simple magic trick involving a few books from the exhibit hall. He brought an audience member up to the stage and asked her to choose a card at random from a book, then burned the page that word came from and used the ash to make the word appear on his arm. It was a lighthearted end to the program, but it demonstrated just how much Harris enjoys his work and his love of libraries. He ended his talk with a quote from the character Robin from his book: “The magic is in the cards, the trick is in the legerdemain.”
Public Libraries Invited to Apply for NASA@ My Library STEM Initiative

Public libraries are invited to apply for NASA@ My Library, a STEM education initiative that will increase and enhance STEM learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation, including geographic areas and populations currently underserved in STEM education.

The project is offered by the National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) at the Space Science Institute (SSI) in partnership with ALA’s Public Programs Office, the Pacific Science Center, Cornerstones of Science, and the Education Development Center.

Through a competitive application process, 75 U.S. public libraries will be selected to become NASA Partner Libraries and participate in the 18-month project (Phase One), with the opportunity to extend for an additional two-year period (Phase Two).

Applications will be accepted from February 1 to March 22, 2017. To view the project guidelines and apply online, visit https://applyala.org/nasalibraries after February 1. ALA members and nonmembers are encouraged to apply.

Alexander

from page 1

how a day before his talk he had taken his daughter to one of the women’s marches. Yet he also reminded us not to judge a book by its jacket – or in this case, people by their politics. “Perhaps we disagree about a fundamental thought or action, but that does not mean we have to disengage,” Alexander said. “Books themselves don’t discriminate – we do.”

Reluctant reader to renowned writer

Alexander described himself as a disinclined reader growing up. When tasked with books for the next reader – he surprised the school by showing up with 150 copies. His career has also enabled him to do literacy advocacy in a small village in Ghana, where no girl has been to high school in 10 years. “I believe books have a job to do, and in this village in Ghana, the words planted the seeds,” Alexander wanted attendees to see books’ power to connect us. “All the books for all the kids,” he said, maintaining that students are mostly the same everywhere when it comes to their interests and what they can relate to. “If you can’t travel, read,” he suggested. He ended his Q&A session with another plug for his favorite form of literature. “Poetry is the answer, whether you’re in Ghana, Pennsylvania, or the barber shop.”

“Perhaps we disagree about a fundamental thought or action, but that does not mean we have to disengage. Books themselves don’t discriminate – we do.”

Novelists

from page 5

this is not an example of a childhood “issue” that must be addressed in young adult literature. She hoped that librarians promoted books that told good stories and tackled universal childhood emotions, rather than recommending works solely based on the heritage of the protagonist.

Illustrator LeUyen Pham spoke at length about the conversations she has with her husband, Alexandre Puvillard, also an illustrator of children’s and YA books. “Conversations between the author and artist certainly become part of the revising and interpretation process when they happen,” she said. Pham has illustrated Shannon and Dean Hale’s chapter books in The Princess in Black series, as well as several other picture books helping children think about problem-solving and identity.

Puvillard is also illustrating Scott Westerfeld’s newest graphic novel series, Spill Zone, which chronicles a teenager’s life after escaping a catastrophic disaster in her town. Addison, the adventuress 19-year-old main character of Spill Zone, deals with trying to parent her 10-year-old sister after the town tragedy killed their parents. Westerfeld is the author of the widely-known Uglies series, and is a previous winner of ALA’s Best Books for Young Adults award.

“Graphic novels have some affordances of a traditional novel and some of a film,” he explained. “They really have the ability to convey the world-crushing emotions of childhood in ways that are relatable.” Westerfeld’s science-fiction contexts encourage young readers to experience and learn about literary point of view in different ways (see video on page 12).
Leadership and Development Important at All Levels

By Sara Zetterval, Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis, Minn.

The ACRL Presidential Forum, “Leadership Development for New Library Roles,” brought together data and personal expertise to shape a vision for invested management. Three panelists were hosted by Kathlin Ray, University of Nevada Reno. Together, they presented a compelling case for developing library staff members beyond their current roles using care and practicality.

Kathleen DeLong, University of Alberta Libraries, laid a foundation for the recommendations to follow by sharing data from a series of two surveys measuring staffing priorities in Canadian academic libraries. Conducted in 2003 and 2013, they showed a significant shift toward specialization in librarian roles. The top three skills that managers identified for their librarians in 2013 were technology skills, specialized skills, and research skills. Specialized skills were ranked as important by 77 percent of respondents in 2013, up from only 33 percent in 2003. They were also marked as the most difficult positions to fill. Speaking from the perspective of a manager, DeLong asked, “How can leaders position themselves for positive role change?” She invited managers to support risk-taking and failure, and to promote individual as well as organizational success.

The second part of the session was presented by Dane Ward, Illinois State University. His background is in education, with a more recent focus on organizational change in libraries. He pointed out that “new library roles will emerge to the degree that they contribute to core institutional goals” and encouraged interdisciplinary team-building. Ward also emphasized the connective nature of librarianship and suggested that libraries look for gaps that other disciplines aren’t filling and offer to fill them. He asserted that library managers should work alongside staff members to solve problems together: “Innovation is a group process, not decision-making from the top.” This community-focused approach emphasized organizational culture and developing staff capacity to learn together.

Amy Kautzman, California State University Sacramento, brought the information from prior presenters to the next level. She shared information from the Oxford Martin study on the future of employment predicting that 99 percent of library clerical and technical positions are in jeopardy due to advancing technologies. This figure gives more urgency to the recommendations made by DeLong and Ward that managers nurture leadership in their staff members. Kautzman proclaimed, “If we aren’t talking to our 40-and-under staff members about their life plans, we’re doing them a disservice.” Referring to the concept of Transformational Leadership, she recommended a non-hierarchical system in which managers and staff work in tandem. This approach not only develops the skills of gifted employees who will move forward with the library; it also helps staff members whose positions are becoming obsolete by equipping them with skills to move on to other work. That kind of turnover in turn provides opportunities to create and staff the new roles libraries need.

The thread running through the presentations was to nurture. They stressed the importance of individual development, leadership at all levels, mentorship, and a caring culture. Kautzman acknowledged the reality that most managerial decisions are made based on profit rather than humanitarian concerns but also stressed that at the end of the day, she wanted to be able to look into the eyes of her employees and say she had done all she could for them.

VISITING THE INNOVATION PAVILION IN THE EXHIBITS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 MIDWINTER EXHIBITS

Future Meeting Dates

2017
Annual Conference & Exhibition
Chicago, Ill.
June 22-27, 2017
Registration opens noon (Central)
February 2, 2017

Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits
Denver, Colo.
February 9-13, 2018

2018
Annual Conference & Exhibition
New Orleans, La.
June 21-26, 2018

Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits
Seattle, Wash.
January 25-29, 2019