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# ALACognotes



SAN DIEGO — 2011 MIDWINTER MEETING

MIDWINTER HIGHLIGHTS



Midwinter attendees get Mardi Gras beads from a stilt walker kicking off the Wrap Up–Rev Up Closing Event. Click here for more information on the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans.

## Ted Danson: A Love of Acting and Oceans

By Brad Martin  
LAC Group

**T**ed Danson, in a free-ranging interview January 9 conducted by ALA President Roberta Stevens, spoke on everything from his first experience on the stage in college to his most recent work on HBO's "Bored to Death" TV series, but repeatedly returned to something he has cared about for the past 25 years, which is his love for the world's oceans and his concern for their state and that of the fish that live there.

Danson told of his love of acting and of becoming wildly famous after the television show "Cheers" went into broad syndication. He also shined a light on what this fame has meant to him.

"I am grateful for my career as an actor," Danson said. "One of the great things about being successful is that it has given me access to some amazing people and has provided the ability for me to talk about things I care about."

Danson told of his book *Oceana*, in which he details the crisis the world faces as a result of overfishing the oceans and what needs to be done now

to help solve this environmental problem.

Since the 1950s, according to Danson, about 90 percent of the tuna, swordfish, shark and king mackerel populations have been depleted. Despite improvements in the fishing industry such as more advanced boats and higher tech techniques at finding fish, catches have been declining. In addition, Danson said that impact on the ocean's floors from modern bottom trawlers is damaging the areas – calling them the "nurseries" – that young fish need to grow and thrive. Danson said this attack from the top and bottom is literally "putting the squeeze

on the vitality of the world's oceans."

"At the current rate, the oceans will be fished out in forty or fifty years," he said, adding that there is good news however, "because fish populations are able to rebound quickly, given the chance."

When asked how librarians can help, Danson suggested that librarians are in the position to "point people to information" by suggesting materials they can read on the topic. "In the end, we are all literally in this together," he said. "You have to ask yourself if this is the kind of world you want in the future."



Actor, environmental activist and author Ted Danson is interviewed by ALA President Roberta Stevens during the President's Program.

## An Afternoon with Neil Gaiman and Nancy Pearl

By Stacy L. Voeller,  
Minnesota State  
University Moorhead

**O**n Sunday afternoon January 9, author Neil Gaiman and librarian Nancy Pearl discussed Gaiman's award winning book *The Graveyard Book*, the first-ever book to win both the Newbery and Carnegie Medals. Other books by Gaiman include *Coraline*, *American Gods*, *Stardust*, and *Neverwhere*.

Pearl started the conversation by asking Gaiman, "When you are writing, your books are so wonderfully character driven and I wonder if what comes to you first is the character or the story?"

Gaiman replied, "As an author I tend to be less driven by the story than I feel I ought to be. What I tend to begin plotting by is character and place, and place for me is so huge and important and very often the starting point. In

the case of *The Graveyard Book*, I actually know where it started. It was about 1986, and I lived in a very, very old, very tall, very, very spindly

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Newbery Medal winner and best-selling author Neil Gaiman gives librarian, best-selling author, and literary critic Nancy Pearl a hug backstage.

## ALA Honors Top Youth Authors and Illustrators

**A**LA announced the top books, video and audio-books for children and

young adults – including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery and Printz awards – at the Midwinter Meeting. A list of the 2011 winners follows:

**John Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature

*Moon over Manifest*, written by Clare Vanderpool, is the 2011 Newbery Medal winner. The book is published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

Four Newbery Honor Books also were named: *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm and published by Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.; *Heart of a Samurai* written by Margi Preus and published by Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS; *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night* writ-

ten by Joyce Kilmer, illustrated by Rick Allen and published by Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; and *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia and published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

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

*A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, illustrated by Erin E. Stead, is the 2011 Caldecott Medal winner. The book was

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## Stonewall Book Awards Announced

The 2011 Stonewall Book Awards were announced at the Midwinter Meeting in San Diego by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table (GLBTRT) of the American Library Association. The Stonewall Book Awards are given annually to English-language works of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience. The awards will be presented to the winning authors or editors at the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans in June.

"The list of books we had up for consideration for the 2011 Stonewall Book awards was an embarrassment of riches to say the least," said Committee Chair, Lisa Johnston.

The Children's and Young Adult Literature Award was presented to Almost Perfect written by Brian Katcher.

Four Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Award Honor Books were named: *will grayson, will grayson*, written by John Green and David Levithan; *Love Drugged*, written by James Klise; *Freaks and Revelations*, written by Davida Wills Hurwin; and *The Boy in*

*the Dress*, written by David Walliams and illustrated by Quentin Blake.

The Barbara Gittings Literature Award was given to *More of This World of Maybe Another* by Barb Johnson. Three Barbara Gittings Literature Award Honor Books were named: *Pro-bation* by Tom Mendicino; *The More I Owe You* by Michael Sledge; and *Hold-ing Still for As Long as Possible* by Zoe Whittall.

The Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award was given to *Inseparable: Desire between Women in Literature* by Emma Donoghue. Four Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award Honor Books were named: *A Great Unrecorded History: A New Life of E.M. Forster* by Wendy Moffatt; *Just Kids* by Patti Smith; *The Right To Be Out: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in America's Public Schools* by Stuart Beigel; and *The Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist, and Sexual Renegade* by Justin Spring.

For more information about the Stonewall Book Awards, please visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/stonewall/index.cfm>.



ALA President Roberta Stevens and Chair of the Exhibits Roundtable Gene Shimshock open the Exhibits on Friday, January 7 as the ALA Executive Board looks on.

## Rhodes Presents Librarians with a Reverie on the Effect of Technological Innovations on Words and Thought Processes

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.  
The Library of Congress

Twentieth-century historian Richard Rhodes, the author or editor of 22 books including the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and National Book Critics Circle Award winning *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* (1986); *Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb* (1995); and his latest *The Twilight of the Bombs* (2010), delivered the 12th annual Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture on Saturday, January 8.

Rhodes paid homage to our profession. While going through a difficult childhood in Kansas City, Missouri, during which he often had to live on the street, Rhodes recalled that "the library for me was a refuge – literally, for safety and security" and also a place providing possibilities to reach out to the world. He learned to read at the age of four, instructed by the landlady of a rooming house. Not at all convinced that authorship can be taught in specifically-designed classes, he instead is a self-taught scribe who learned to write from reading. Good libraries, as well as bad ones, have served the purpose of conveying the art of writing to many authors. Although he today taps into online historical sources, according to Rhodes, "there is no substitute for working in libraries."

The author took his audience back to what reading was like and what it had meant in earlier centuries. St. Augustine, when visiting Italy from the provinces of the Roman Empire, was surprised when he observed St. Ambrose reading silently since the custom had always been to read aloud, a more

social rather than a solitary, meditative experience. Students in ancient times recited passages of works they wished to remember near particular buildings and conjured up images of those structures when they sought to remember those passages. Socrates and many of his contemporaries feared that learning to write would foster forgetfulness because, in their opinion, writing was a lazy way to remember. The great philosopher considered writing to be like painting, that is, only an approximation of reality.

The introduction of the printed book created even more turmoil than writing. Some argued that books should still be copied by hand, despite the introduction of printing, allegedly because parchment would last longer than paper but also because "copying by hand involved more diligence and industry."

Rhodes queried why reality writing – "a narrative prose that requires external facts for authentication" is called "non-fiction," a term defined by what it is not. He disclosed (and deplored) that this term was invented by a librarian in 1867 in the annual report of the Boston Public Library. He prefers to call this category of writing "verity," a term taken from the French, which only sounds odd because it is new. Rhodes considers himself primarily to be a verity writer, although he has also written four books of fiction.

With ever newer methods of conveying information, he stated that "the last generation's trash is the next generation's treasure." And so the innovations associated with conveying information continue to develop, from writing, to printed books, to comic books, movies, and even video games.



Richard Rhodes

## AASL Announces Preconference Lineup

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will offer two preconferences in New Orleans during the ALA Annual Conference. The preconferences will be held Friday, June 24.

The full-day interactive preconference, "AASL's Top 25 Websites for Teaching and Learning: Categories, Criteria, and Collaborative Strategies," will offer an in-depth look at the 2010 Best Websites for Teaching and Learning. During this fast-paced, hands-on, collaborative workshop attendees will learn which websites best support the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*, inquiry learning and the curriculum. The presenters will keep attendees actively involved as they Skype, tweet, survey, organize, create, click, video and have fun learning about the Web 2.0 tools. Laptops are essential to get the most out of the session. Be prepared to leave energized with resources to implement these exciting tools in your school. You might

even get a sneak peek at the newest top 25 websites!

Terry Young and Nancy Teger will lead a panel of school librarians in a discussion on disaster preparedness at the preconference, "Disaster Preparedness for School Librarians." Attendees will gain valuable insight to disaster planning as experts share their experiences, successes and lessons learned. Learn the ups and downs of disaster recovery as they apply to the school librarian and the library. Discover the subtle differences of planning and recovery as they apply to public and private schools. Use the knowledge and experience of this panel to devise a plan in the event of a disaster.

AASL's preconferences will not only benefit school library media specialists, but all librarians that work with children and young adults. For more information, including registration fees, visit [www.ala.org/aasl/annual](http://www.ala.org/aasl/annual).

## Cognotes

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ALA Midwinter Meeting attendees observe the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday with "An American Celebration – Libraries Lead the Way" sunrise service.

## Everybody Can Be Great

By Stacy L. Voeller  
Minnesota State  
University Moorhead

This year's theme for the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration on January 10 was "Everybody Can Be Great." This theme was chosen because Dr. King encouraged his congregation to seek greatness, but to do so through service and love. Throughout the morning's moving celebration, ALA members quoted Dr. King's Drum Major Instinct sermon which he delivered on February 4, 1968.

The featured speaker for the celebration was Dr. Michael K. Honey. Honey has authored several books about Dr. King including *Southern Labor and Black Civil Rights: Organizing Memphis Workers*, *Black Workers Remember: An Oral history of Segregation, Unionism, and the Freedom Struggle*, and *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*. His newest book, *All Labor Has Dignity*, contains two types of documents – "speeches transcribed from tape recordings by people associated with King during his life-time or shortly after his death, and typed or partially handwritten text of a speech as King planned to deliver it." The book also includes a CD of two rare speeches delivered by Dr. King.

"There is so much to learn from King," said Honey. "I grew up as a follower of King, in an all-white farming area, and I was somebody who read a

lot and went to the library a lot. Anyone growing up in this period had to be affected by what was happening."

"I've always kept King's teaching in my mind, simple thoughts that I can remember like an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth leaves everyone sightless and blind, and that it's important to help somebody who is in need of help even if it means putting yourself in danger," Honey continued.

Honey said that he really started studying the roots of racism, poverty, and injustice. He went back and traced the roots and became very interested in the labor movement. In collecting the speeches for his latest book, he found the title of King's speech to the sanitation workers in Memphis. "The sanitation workers' strike for union rights threatened the racial pattern of white supremacy as well as a low-wage system based on cheap black labor. It was a classic civil rights strike, bringing together many of the issues King sought to address in the poor People's Campaign. King's ability to merge moral and religious philosophy with labor and human rights issues illustrated once again why people constantly called on him to join their struggles."

King said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

## Save the Date: International Relations Roundtable Pre-Conference

Plan to attend the International Relations Roundtable (IRRT) Pre-Conference to be held Friday June 24, 2011 at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. The theme is "Outreach through New Partnership: Strategies and Successes." The half-day program will feature presentations with practical information useful to a cross-section of international and domestic libraries. The pre-conference is from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. with lunch immediately following.

Join us for this opportunity to learn about creative, practical solutions to outreach services and collaborations. We look forward to seeing you! For more information about IRRT, please visit [www.ala.org/irrt](http://www.ala.org/irrt).

## BCALA Announces 2011 Literary Awards Winners

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. announced the winners of the 2011 BCALA Literary Awards during the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association. The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African American authors published in 2010.

The winner in the Fiction category is *Glorious* by Bernice L. McFadden (Akashic Books).

The winner in the Non-fiction category is *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore (Random House). Honor Books for Non-fiction were also

selected: *In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance* by Wilbert Rideau (Alfred A. Knopf) and *John Oliver Killens: A Life of Black Literary Activism* by Keith Gilyard (University of Georgia Press).

The recipient of the First Novelist Award is Dolen Perkins-Valdez for *Wench* (HarperCollins).

For excellence in scholarship, the BCALA Literary Awards Committee presents the Outstanding Contribution to Publishing Citation to *Unfinished Blues: Memories of a New Orleans Music Man* by Harold Battiste Jr. and Karen Celestan (The Historic New Orleans Collection).

## Share, Talk and Write: Free Online Collaboration Tools

By William Risser

The Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) Web Advisory Committee held a demonstration of free online products designed to enhance communication, management and organization in the workplace on January 9.

Billie Peterson-Lugo, Assistant Director of the Electronic Library at Baylor University discussed the benefits of a free online project management tool called BaseCamp. BaseCamp is a collaborative tools that provides communications services like message boards and a real time chat program called 'camp fire', document management such as file sharing and project details like to-do lists and apps for android, blackberry etc.

A 30-day free trial is offered on all accounts, but is limited to one project and does not offer file sharing. The basic plan is \$24 a month and allows 15 projects, 5 GB storage and unlimited users, while the max program is \$149 a month and has 75 GB of storage and allows for unlimited projects.

Carrie Forbes, the Instruction and Reference Librarian at the University of Denver discussed and demonstrated free online conferencing and meeting programs, which virtually allows for multiple users in different locations to meet face-to-face. A primary drawback of these programs, which are cloud based, can be security. Additionally, it

is good to know that free software companies can be sold or go out of business without notice so be careful about what type of information is being kept there.

Robin Kear the Reference/Instruction Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh talked about the benefits of free social document creation sites like GoogleDocs, which is a web-based program with file storage a single pint of entry. She uses the free program for a number of things including peer review, facilitate collaboration and presentations, but it also can do word processing, spreadsheets, chat and forms.

"GoogleDoc forms are so easy to get their information from because they are right there," said Kear, "I use it for ALA committee work, evaluating and reviewing applications and group projects at work".

ALA Connect is another free online program, which supports live documents, chat and other features. It can be used internally or externally and streamlines collaborative work. Additionally, it's paperless and offers an archives feature up to storage capacity.

While there are pros and cons to the different programs and applications Peterson-Lugo finds the free options are just easier. "Even if your institution has a paid subscription to a service, it can be easier to use the free software because you can do it yourself without having to set anything up or call someone to help you," she said.

### Cognotes Looking for Reporters

Cognotes is looking for dedicated individuals who will be attending Annual Conference to join the Cognotes reporting staff.

If interested please send your name and a writing sample to Managing Editor, Deb Nerud Vernon at [dvernon@esu6.org](mailto:dvernon@esu6.org).

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# AASL Members Encouraged to Apply for Awards and Grants

In 2011, the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) prestigious awards program will offer more than \$40,000 in awards to AASL members.

AASL's awards recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library field in categories that include research, collaboration, leadership and innovation. Applications can

be accessed on the AASL Awards and Grants pages at <http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards>. The deadline to apply is February 7. Winners will be honored at the ALA 2011 Annual Conference.

Applications are being accepted for:

- The ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant, up to \$1,750, sponsored by ABC-CLIO, is given to school library associations that are AASL affiliates

for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional or local levels.

- The Collaborative School Library Award, \$2,500, sponsored by Highsmith Inc., recognizes and encourages collaboration and partnerships between school librarians and teachers in meeting goals outlined in "Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs."

- The Distinguished School Administrator Award, \$2,000, sponsored by ProQuest, is given to 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.

- The Distinguished Service Award, \$3,000, sponsored by Baker & Taylor, recognizes an individual member of the library profession who has, over a significant period of time, made an outstanding national contribution to school librarianship and school library development.

- The Frances Henne Award, \$1,250, sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group, enables a school librarian with five or fewer years in the field to attend an American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference or AASL National Conference for the first time.

- The Information Technology

Pathfinder Award, \$1,000 to the school librarian and \$500 to the library, sponsored by Follett Software Company, recognizes and honors a school librarian who demonstrates vision and leadership through the use of information technology to build lifelong learners. There are two categories: Elementary and Secondary.

- The Innovative Reading Grant, \$2,500, sponsored by Capstone Publishers (Capstone Press, Compass Books, Children's Library Resources, Picture Window Books, Stone Arch Books and Red Brick Learning), is designed to fund literacy projects for grades K-9 that promote the importance of reading and facilitate literacy development by supporting current reading research, practice and policy.

- The Intellectual Freedom Award, \$2,000 to the winner and \$1,000 to the school library of the winner's choice, sponsored by ProQuest, is given for upholding the principles of intellectual freedom as set forth by AASL and the ALA.

- The AASL Research Grant, \$2,500, sponsored by Heinemann-Raintree, is given to up to two school librarians, library educators, library information science, or education professors to conduct innovative research aimed at measuring and evaluating the impact of school library programs on learning and education.



**ALA President Roberta Stevens uses one of the kiosks to register for the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Visit [www.alaannual.org](http://www.alaannual.org) to register today!**





Midwinter Meeting attendees crowd the exhibit floor January 7.

## ALSC Announces Winners of El día de los niños/El día del los Libros Mini-grants

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is pleased to announce the winners of the El día de los niños/El día de los libros mini-grants. Eight libraries serving a population of 75,000 or less have won mini-grants worth \$4,000 each and seven libraries serving a population of more than 75,000 have won mini-grants worth \$6,000 each. The mini-grants are part of ALSC's Everyone Reads @ your library grant, generously funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

Intended as an expansion of El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día), the mini-grants have been awarded to libraries that demonstrated a need to better address the diverse backgrounds within their communities.

"These mini-grants will provide children and families with an opportunity to explore the diverse cultures of their community," said Julie Corsaro, President of ALSC. "Libraries are an ideal family destination, offering parents and children a venue for exploring the world through diverse cultural programs and multicultural book collections."

The libraries winning \$6,000 each are: Bloomington Public Library in Bloomington, Illinois; Brevard County Library System in Cocoa, Florida; Hall County Library System in Gainesville, Georgia; Jefferson Parish Library in Metairie, Louisiana; Longmont Public Library in Longmont, Colorado; Richland County Public Library in Columbia, South Carolina; and Sachem Public

Library in Holbrook, New York.

The libraries winning \$4,000 each are: Forest Hill Public Library in Forest Hill, Texas; Fremont Public Library District in Mundelein, Illinois; Nacogdoches Public Library in Nacogdoches, Texas; Paramus Public Library in Paramus, New Jersey; Paul E. Griffin Library in Camden, Mississippi; Poughkeepsie Public Library District in Poughkeepsie, New York; Rachel Kohl Community Library in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania; and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal Library in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Día is an every day celebration of children, families, and reading that emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Día was founded in 1996 by children's book author Pat Mora, who proposed conceptually linking the existing Children's Day with literacy. Día's primary goals are to honor children and their diverse backgrounds; to encourage reading and literacy; and to promote library collections and programs that reflect our plurality, in a daily basis.

The founding partner of Día is REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Literacy and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking.

The mini-grants are part of the activities leading up to Día's 15th anniversary, culminating on April 30, 2011: Día! Many Children, Many Cultures, Many Books. For more information, visit <http://www.ala.org/dia>.

## Top Technology Trends

By Brad Martin  
LAC Group

ITA's The Top Technology Trends session January 8 featured ideas ranging from data silos to Wikileaks, as panelists noted emerging trends they are seeing and how they are impacting libraries.

Lorcan Dempsey, Vice President and Chief Strategist, OCLC led off the panel by talking about an emerging trend he is seeing concerning the personal archiving of information and how this is beginning to change how the personal papers of individuals are being collected and archived. Dempsey cited the example of Emory University being granted access to Salman Rushdie's hard drives. Whereas in the past, this was usually done by collecting the physical papers, Dempsey said this will increasingly be done in a more digital way and that aiding this is the fact that people are starting to store this information in a much more organized way.

Rachel Frick, Program Director, Digital Library Federation, talked about improving access to library data (stored in various "data silos") in order to promote and improve what she called "data-driven decision making." By investing more in personnel and tools, Frick pointed out that libraries would be in a better position to make compelling cases for the services they provide.

Erik Mitchell, Assistant Director for Technology Services, Wake Forest University, mentioned the Google Books Ngram Viewer (a project Google created by collaborating with the Encyclopedia Britannica and scientists from Harvard and MIT) as another way that technology is enabling new ways to use digital information. Mitchell also spoke about a growing trend where he sees libraries providing space in "the cloud" and that he believes libraries need to take a fresh look at how they allocate their IT resources. One audience member also made a related observa-

tion that libraries need more robust networks to be able to handle some of the projects they become involved in.

Monique Sendze, Associate Director of Information Technology, Douglas County (CO) Libraries, began her remarks by talking about what she termed the "consumerizing of enterprise IT." Sendze explained that the consumer market has resulted in users coming into libraries with various kinds of mobile devices and e-reader devices and that this presents challenges and opportunities. She noted that it will impact public access computing and is also having an impact on the digital literacy knowledge of librarians and even how to think about the design of library spaces.

Dempsey agreed about the impact of the consumer market, saying that the old assumption has been reversed and that "it is the consumer stuff that sets the standard now."

Jeffrey Trzeciak, University Librarian, Manchester University, predicted a "revival in self-publishing" because of advances in technology. Trzeciak told of Canadian novelist Terry Fallis, whose novel *The Best Laid Plans* was rejected by several traditional publisher, but won the Stephen Leacock Medal after being self-published. "Self-publishing tools have become easier to access and use," according to Trzeciak, and with increased collaboration with faculty and their connections to other authors, he foresees the library "essentially becoming a digital press."

Trzeciak then shifted gears and commented on Wikileaks and said that one of its impacts may be that some people in government and business may now be more fearful of future leaks and become more secretive in their communication. He also said that this raises questions about personal privacy. "If the federal government can't protect its information, can we expect that health care providers can protect our private information?" he wondered.

Forensic anthropologist and crime writer Kathy Reichs speaks during the Sunrise Speaker Series January 8.



## Register for National Library Legislative Day

It's that time again! The 2011 National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) is quickly approaching and will be held on Monday, May 9, and Tuesday, May 10, at the Liaison Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The 112th Congress will bring new challenges and opportunities for libraries, making next year a critical and exciting time for us to get our message out to Congress. On the first day of the event, participants will attend briefings to prepare for their meetings with members of Congress and their staffs, taking place on the second day. The ALA also holds a reception on the Hill for NLLD participants and members of Congress and their staff on May 9. For more information, go to [www.ala.org/nlld](http://www.ala.org/nlld).



## ALA to Release "Our Authors, Our Advocates" Advocacy Tools

On January 7, the American Library Association (ALA) unveiled video PSAs produced by ALA's "Our Authors, Our Advocates," a national library advocacy public awareness campaign. Library advocates will be able to download audio and video PSAs from [ilovelibraries.org](http://ilovelibraries.org), from such best-selling authors as Sharon Draper, Brad Meltzer, Sarah Paretsky and Scott Turow. The website will also offer statics, customizable English and Spanish PSA scripts, to assist advocates with making the case for libraries.

Through "Our Authors, Our Advocates," one of ALA President Roberta Stevens' key presidential initiatives, authors will lend their support for libraries through media interviews, podcasts, public service announcements and other marketing materials. The materials will be free and made available to ALA membership for use at the local level to assist with advocacy efforts.

"Authors understand the key roles libraries play and are natural allies in these challenging times," said ALA President Roberta Stevens. "Our Authors, Our Advocates' will highlight well-known and passionate authors that will speak out on the value of and importance of sustaining library service."

Participating authors taped :15, :20 and :30 second video PSAs on such issues as library funding, libraries

support of literacy, value of libraries and much more. Authors also shared personal stories on their love for libraries which also will be available for download.

Dr. Sharon M. Draper is a professional educator as well as an accomplished writer. She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Award, and is a *New York Times* best-selling author.

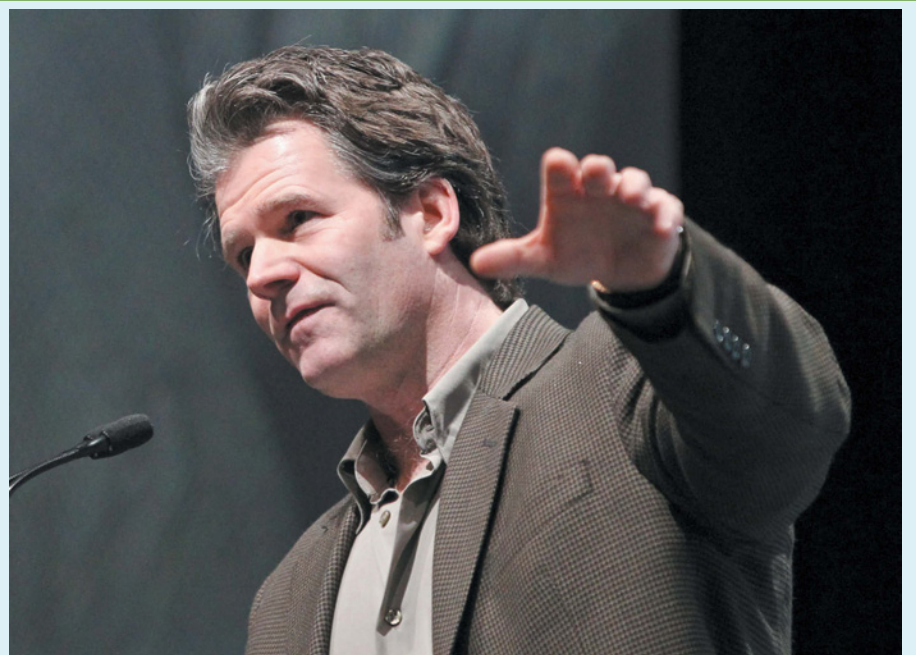
Author Brad Meltzer has topped the *New York Times*' bestseller list on numerous occasions. Meltzer is the host of "Brad Meltzer's Decoded" on the History Channel and his newest thriller, *The Inner Circle*, will be released January 11, 2011.

Mystery author Sara Paretsky is the winner of the Mystery Writers of America's 2011 Grand Master Award and credited with transforming the mystery genre through the creation of her female private eye, V I Warshawski. Paretsky has written 12 best-selling *Warshawski* novels and is an international bestselling author with works appearing in almost thirty languages.

Scott Turow is a writer and attorney. He is the author of nine best-selling works of fiction, including his first novel *Presumed Innocent* (1987) and its sequel, *Innocent* (May 4, 2010). His works of non-fiction include *One L* (1977) about his experience as a law student.



Librarian Kimberly Wells, Denton Public Library, Denton, Texas, picks up some free books at the W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., booth during the Adult Literature Spotlight in the Exhibits.



Novelist and writer of short stories Andre Dubus III delivers his Sunrise Speaker Series presentation January 9.

## Amelia Bloomer Project 2011 – Top 10 Selections

The Amelia Bloomer Project, part of ALA's Feminist Task Force – Social Responsibilities Roundtable, is an annual list that presents well-written and illustrated books with strong feminist messages that are recommended for young people from birth through eighteen years of age. It is a list of quality fiction and nonfiction titles that affirm positive roles for girls and women, published within the last 18 months (July 2009 to December 2010).

This year's "Top Ten" titles:

Ali, Nujood. *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*. (978-0307589676). Gr. 4-8.

Annino, Jan Godown. *She Sang Promise: The Story of Betty Mae Jumper, Seminole Tribal Leader*. Illus. by Lisa Desimini. (978-1426305924). Gr. 4-6.

Brown, Tami Lewis. *Soar, Eleanor!* Illus. by François Roca. (978-

0374371156). K-Gr.3.

Cossi, Olga. *Pemba Sherpa*. Illus. by Gary Bernard. (978-0976865582). PreSchool-Gr.3.

Crysdale, Joy. *Fearless Female Journalists*. (978-1897187715). Gr. 4-10.

Engle, Margarita. *The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba*. (978-0805090826). Gr. 5 and up.

George-Warren, Holly. *The Cowgirl Way: Hats Off To America's Women Of The West*. (978-0618737383). Gr.4-6.

Marck, Bernard. *Women Aviators: From Amelia Earhart to Sally Ride, Making History in Air and Space*. (978-2080301086). Gr. 6 and up.

Martin, Courtney E. and J. Courtney Sullivan, eds. *Click: When We Knew We Were Feminists*. (978-1580052856). Gr. 9-12.

Rosenstock, Barbara. *Fearless: the story of racing legend Louise Smith*. Illus. by Scott Dawson. (978-0525421734). K-Gr.2.

## John Grisham Named Honorary Chair of National Library Week

John Grisham is widely recognized as the world's most popular storyteller, with more than 250 million books in print worldwide. In addition to writing numerous adult bestsellers, John has recently written his first book for young readers, *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* ([www.theodoreboone.com](http://www.theodoreboone.com)).

As Honorary Chair, Grisham will appear in a print announcement promoting National Library Week. The PSA, developed by the American Library Association's Campaign for America's Libraries, will be placed in magazines and online throughout the spring. ALA also offers free customization of the PSA for libraries.

### Customized Tools

Other promotional materials include a proclamation, sample press release and scripts for use in radio ads. All incorporate the 2011 National Library

Week theme, Create your own story @ your library. Tools are available at [www.ala.org/nlw](http://www.ala.org/nlw).

ALA Graphics products supporting National Library Week are also available, including a poster, bookmark, mini poster and web files. All Graphics products can be purchased through the ALA Store at [www.alastore.ala.org/nlw](http://www.alastore.ala.org/nlw).

National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use.

The Campaign for America's Libraries ([www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary)) is ALA's public awareness campaign that promotes the value of libraries and librarians. The Campaign is made possible by ALA's Library Champions.

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THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
IN NEW ORLEANS**  
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## Youth Awards

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written by Philip C. Stead, and is a Neal Porter Book, published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing.

Two Caldecott Honor Books also were named: *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*, illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Laban Carrick Hill and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.; and *Interrupting Chicken*, written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein and published by Candlewick Press.

**Michael L. Printz Award** for excellence in literature written for young adults

*Ship Breaker*, written by Paolo Bacigalupi, is the 2011 Printz Award winner. The book is published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Four Printz Honor Books also were named: *Stolen* by Lucy Christopher and published by Chicken House, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; *Please Ignore Vera Dietz* by A.S. King and published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.; *Revolver* by Marcus Sedgwick and published by Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of the Macmillan Children's Publishing Group; and *Nothing* by Janne Teller and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

**Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award** recognizing an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults.

*One Crazy Summer*, written by Rita Williams-Garcia is the 2011 King Author Book winner. The book is published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. Three King Author Honor Books were selected: *Lockdown* by Walter Dean Myers and published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.; and *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*, written by G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke and published by Lee & Low Books Inc.

**Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award**

*Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*, illustrated by Bryan Collier, is the 2011 King Illustrator Book winner. The book was written by Laban Carrick Hill and published by Little, Brown and

Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc. One King Illustrator Honor Book was selected: *Jimi Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix*, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, written by Gary Golio and published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

**Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent (Author) Award**

*Zora and Me*, written by Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon, is the 2011 Steptoe author winner. The book is published by Candlewick Press.

**Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent (Illustrator) Award**

*Seeds of Change*, illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler, is the 2011 Steptoe illustrator winner. The book is written by Jen Cullerton Johnson and published by Lee & Low Books Inc.

**Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement**

Dr. Henrietta Mays Smith is the winner of the 2011 Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime achievement. The award pays tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton's contributions through her literature and advocacy for children and youth.

**Schneider Family Book Award** for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience. *The Pirate of Kindergarten*, written by George Ella Lyon, illustrated by Lynne Avril and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, wins the award for children ages 0 to 10. *After Ever After*, written by Jordan Sonnenblick and published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., is the winner of the middle-school (ages 11-13) The teen (ages 13-18) award winner is *Five Flavors of Dumb*, written by Antony John and published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

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

*The Reapers Are the Angels: A Novel*, by Alden Bell, published by Holt Paperbacks, a division of Henry Holt and Company, LLC; *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake: A Novel*, by Aimee Bender, published by Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc.; *The House of Tomorrow*, by Peter Bognanni, published by Amy Einhorn Books, an imprint of G.P. Putnam's Sons, a division of the Penguin Group; *Room: A Novel*, by Emma Donoghue, published by Little, Brown and Company a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.; *The Vanishing of Katharina Linden:*



YALSA President Kimberly Patton, from left to right, ALSC President Julie Corsaro, ALA President Roberta Stevens, Coretta Scott King Committee Chair Crystal Carr Jeter, and REFORMA President Lucia Gonzalez at the ALA Youth Media Awards.

*A Novel*, by Helen Grant, published by Delacorte, an imprint of The Random House Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc.; *The Radleys*, by Matt Haig, published by Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Also, *The Lock Artist*, by Steve Hamilton, published by Thomas Dunne Books for Minotaur Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Press; *Girl in Translation*, by Jean Kwok, published by Riverhead Books, an imprint of the Penguin Group; *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard*, by Liz Murray, published by Hyperion; and *The Boy Who Couldn't Sleep and Never Had To*, by DC Pierson, published by Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

**Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video.**

Paul R. Gagne and Melissa Reilly Ellard of Weston Woods, producers of *The Curious Garden*, are the Carnegie Medal winners. The video is based on the book of the same name, written and illustrated by Peter Brown, and is narrated by Katherine Kellgren, with music by David Mansfield.

**Laura Ingalls Wilder Award** honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. The 2011 winner is Tomie dePaola, author and illustrator of over 200 books, including: *26 Fairmont Avenue* (Putnam, 1999), *The Legend of the Poinsettia* (Putnam, 1994), *Oliver Button Is a Sissy* (Harcourt, 1979) and *Strega Nona* (Prentice-Hall, 1975).

**Margaret A. Edwards Award** honors an author, as well as a specific body of his or her work, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature.

Sir Terry Pratchett is the 2011 Edwards Award winner. His books include: *Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents*, *The Wee Free Men*, and *A Hat Full of Sky* published by HarperCollins Children's Books; and *The Color of Magic*, *Guards! Guards!*, *Equal Rites*, *Going Postal*, *Small Gods*, and *Mort* all published by HarperCollins Publishers.

**May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Literature Award** recognizing an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site

Peter Sís will deliver the 2012 lecture. Born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in 1949, Sís attended the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague and the Royal College of Art in London. He has lived in the United States since 1982. Sís was awarded the 2008 Robert F. Sibert Medal and has illustrated three Caldecott Honor books. Peter's work is admired throughout the world, and in 2003 he was named MacArthur Fellow, an honor bestowed by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

**Mildred L. Batchelder Award** for an outstanding children's book translated from a foreign language and subsequently published in the United States

*A Time of Miracles* is the 2011 Batchelder Award winner. Originally published in French in 2009 as *Le Temps des Miracles*, the book was written by Anne-Laure Bondoux, translated by Y. Maudet, and published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

Two Batchelder Honor Books also were selected: *Departure Time* published by Namelos, written by Truus Matti and translated by Nancy Forest-Flier; and *Nothing* published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, written by Janne Teller and translated by Martin Aitken.

**Odyssey Award** for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States

*The True Meaning of Smekday*, produced by Listening Library, an imprint of Random House Audio Publishing Group, is the 2011 Odyssey Award winner. The book is written by Adam Rex and narrated by Bahni Turpin.

Four Odyssey Honor Recordings also were selected: *Alchemy and Meggy Swann*, produced by Listening Library, an imprint of the Random House Audio

## PLA's First-ever Virtual Spring Symposium

PLA will host a Virtual Spring Symposium on March 30, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST. This new online event will offer the premier professional education that PLA's Spring Symposium is known for, but will be more affordable and convenient for attendees.

PLA will present a full day of

rich programming with multiple program tracks, a lunchtime author interview, and keynote speakers. Program tracks will include: Technology, Administration/Leadership, Youth Services, and Adult Services.

Registration for individuals and groups will open in mid-January. [Click here for more information.](#)



# Confronting the Relevance and Applicability of Generalizations of Academic and Other Library Users

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.  
The Library of Congress

Pamela Mann, Saint Mary's College of Maryland, Vice-Chair of the Association of College and Research Libraries, Women's Studies Section (ACRL/WSS), presided over the topic "Digital Natives and the Myth of the Millennial Student" on January 10.

"Digital native," like "millennial student," is a simplified, stereotyped marketing term that discomfited many in the group. Digital natives are presumably those who are intrinsically technologically savvy before they enter today's libraries. The assumption is that most of the younger generation fit into this category, although nearly ubiquitous cell phone use does not necessarily translate into the skilled employment of other electronic equipment. The digital divide is, in fact, still present and those from lower socio-economic strata often do not have the opportunities that others do of growing up with computers at home or even in their schools. The digital generation is assumed to be "connected," but that may actually mean being economically as well as electronically privileged. Librarians need to be aware of the diversity of the needs of their clientele.

With the current unsettled economy, many students in college are "just out of a job rather than just out of high school." Often depending on the type of work that they did, their older demographic status does not necessarily mean that they are less familiar with computerized materials than are their younger classmates. Students who use library resources on campus and off, and rural and urban users, also have different requirements.

Some in the group mentioned that statistics indicate that there probably should be a reasonable expectation that most students know (or think that they know) about technology. With current methods of "teaching to the test," the creativity of K-12 students is often

stifled, for they have been instructed to find the one right answer quickly. Furthermore, they tend not to want to take the time to re-evaluate their findings. Librarians in both academic and public venues have to teach younger students the complexity of the research world—that there is not necessarily one right answer. Critical thinking is the key. There are also different "modalities of information," not all being in digital form.

Students need to be apprised of offline indexes as well as online search engines and learn that library catalogs, some with hot links to textual materials, also offer means to find answers. In a continuity from the past, patrons often want librarians to find them the answers rather than to learn how to uncover the solutions themselves. Some students may think that they do not need to use computer manuals, but that may only be because they think that they should not have to or do not wish to do so.

Many international students arrive from countries where copyright is not an important consideration, presumably just as it was, and for many of the same reasons, of lesser concern in the United States before the twentieth century. The fastest growing group of library users demographically include those from lower-income ethnic groups. Many of them are the first in their families to go to college and they may not have grown up with digitized materials readily at hand. Since terms are important, for these students "introductory" courses in electronic use are necessary, while for the more privileged students, "reminder" rather than "remedial" classes might be more attractive.

The conclusion was that monolithic expressions create problems because they make assumptions that are not always true. The challenge is how to make sense of the generalizations and of the myths that may contain some facet of the truth.



Librarian Cheryl Bryan, Massachusetts Library System, Orleans, MA, takes advantage of the warm weather to snap a photo of San Diego Bay outside the San Diego Convention Center.

## Gaiman

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house, and it was next to a tiny lane and across the lane was the churchyard that I had been terrified of. I had a son that was about two-and-a-half at that point and what he loved the most in the whole world was his tricycle. We would go downstairs every day and he would tricycle around the graveyard. One day I thought how amazing and absolutely at home a two year old looks in a graveyard."

This daily outing for his son soon turned into "little catenations of thought," according to Gaiman. "I thought you could do a book about a kid being raised in a graveyard, like the way Mowgli is raised by wild. I was a 25 year-old journalist who at that point had maybe sold four short stories, and I wrote two pages about a baby running into a graveyard."

At that point, Gaiman stopped working on the idea because he said to himself, "This is a better idea than I am a writer, I need to not write this yet." Over the next twenty years he would go back to it and try to write a couple of pages. "I'd always write just the baby wandering into the graveyard. A few things that were hugely important along the way, watching a documentary about South American death squads and an interview with a woman who as a girl had hidden in a graveyard, and it was the only safe place for her to hide. That was part of my story, that the world outside has to be dangerous, and I have to be honest."

Gaiman revealed that in writing fiction, "You are lying. I'm doing the equivalent of hold my hand, trust me, and then I lie to you. I wanted to be kind of telling true things in the graveyard. One of the rules is that dead things don't hurt you. I would have loved for someone to tell me when I was seven that I didn't have to be afraid walking through that graveyard."

Once *Coraline* had been written, Gaiman knew *The Graveyard Book* had to be the next thing he did. In 2004 he said to himself, "I'm not getting any better. I have to start writing this thing. The real reason I couldn't write that book when I was 25 is that it's written in two perspectives. I actually had to experience that the glorious tragedy of being a parent is that if you do your job right, they go away."

Pearl asked Gaiman why the first chapter of the book is so scary, and Gaiman answered, "I was definitely uncertain if that scene was going to go in. Those first three pages were written before anything else I wrote in *The Graveyard Book*. When the whole chapter was done, I realized that one of the things I'd done was not use the word kill, and not use the word blood. There's a level at which the reader is doing it all by themselves. It's very interesting for an author when you're making the reader collaborate with you."

Gaiman continued, "I think it's one of the glories of prose is that it forces you to use your imagination. A book is nothing, it is a dead thing that comes to life the moment someone picks it up. You want to give people room to create."

Gaiman recalled his first memory of being in a library, "The first library I remember was when I was six. Librarians tell me not to tell this story, but I would get my parents to drop me off on their way to work, I would be there when the library opened. Sometimes they persuaded me to take sandwiches, and I thought they were embarrassing, so I almost never took the sandwiches. The children's library had a subject card index because I could look up ghosts, or history, or giants, or time travel, whatever book I was interested in."

"When I discovered InterLibrary Loan, I was like a mad scientist who discovered a way to end the world. I could get any book in the world. That for me was glorious."



Author Toyomi Igus is all smiles as she signs copies of her book *I See the Rhythm of Gospel* at the HarperCollins Booth. Igus wrote the text while Michele Wood created the paintings for the book.

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## Four Authors of Literary Fiction are Showcased at Author Forum

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.  
The Library of Congress

Brad Hooper, moderator and Adult Books Editor at *Booklist*, at the first such forum formally co-sponsored by both *Booklist* and ALA's Exhibits Roundtable (ERT), introduced fiction writers Susan Vreeland (Random House); David Levithan (Macmillan); Stewart O'Nan (Penguin); and Armistead Maupin (HarperCollins) on January 7. Comfortably seated in sofas on the stage, the wordsmiths were queried by Hooper on the nature and distinctions among types of fiction and on their own experiences in writing.

Vreeland, a retired San Diego schoolteacher who began as an author while she was still a teacher, generally writes about artists. The genre of fiction permits her to paint in the background that history, often lacking the necessary documentary evidence, cannot do. Although she has produced a great many works, Hooper asked her in particular about *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* (about an unknown Vermeer painting); *Life Stories* (a 2005 collection of short historical fiction); and, her latest, *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*. Vreeland based this last work on a collection of recently discovered letters that had survived a fire. Although in his lifetime Louis Comfort Tiffany did not disclose the names of his designers, whether they were male or female, this trove revealed that Clara Driscoll was responsible for the leaded lamp produced by the Tiffany firm. Vreeland maintained that she aims to reveal the good women (and the good men) who are often behind great people. Vreeland posited several reasons in response to Hooper's state-

ment that "most librarians would agree that we are currently in a renaissance of historical fiction." Much historical fiction being written now is not just about "kings and queens," but also concerns regular people, "common foot soldiers," who were often connected to the famous. She further ascribed its popularity to the fact that it "gives voice to the inner soldier or other person." Historical fiction and history have different purposes, however, and she does not uniformly favor one over the other.

Levithan, who has authored mostly young adult novels, such as *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist* (which was made into a movie), addressed in this forum his first adult novel, *The Lover's Dictionary*, in which he describes a relationship entirely through dictionary entries. Selected passages were alternatively beautifully lyrical, such as for "al fresco" – "wine set the tone of our conversation – languid, tipsy, earthy" – or amusingly brief, as for "antsy" – "I told you I would never take you to the opera again." In reply to Hooper's question, Levithan found there to be virtually no difference between writing for young adults and for older readers. He asserted that there have always been younger readers who have gravitated to adult literature. Moreover, he did not care much for the largely artificial distinction made by gatekeepers and editors between literary and popular fiction. In this he found agreement among the other authors present on the stage.

O'Nan, the author of a dozen novels including *A Prayer for the Dying*, *The Night Country*, and *The Good Wife* (about a woman whose husband endured long-term incarceration), has also written non-fiction such as *Faith-*



The ALA/ERT Booklist Author Forum authors, from left to right, Armistead Maupin, Susan Vreeland, David Levithan, and Stewart O'Nan, gather backstage prior to their January 7 presentations.

ful (with Stephen King.) He talked in particular about *The Circus Fire*, describing the 1944 Hartford, Connecticut cataclysm in which 168 persons died. While researching that book through interviews with survivors or relatives of those who did not survive, O'Nan found out that people talked extensively about their lives subsequent to the event. This prepared him to paint a wide contextual portrait of a fictional 70-something woman and her dog in *Emily Alone: A Novel*. He talked as well about the importance of setting and place in his novels, having grown up in Pittsburgh, an evocative location that has too often been overlooked. Definitely not a minimalist, O'Nan has been described as "the king of detail." He admitted that he too often does what he warns his students against, employing the "one-person scene." Regarding the distinction between literary and popular fiction, he opined that things once considered popular, such as Shakespeare, are now deemed literary.

Maupin, a former naval officer and the author of nine novels including *Maybe the Moon*, *The Night Listener*, and *Michael Tolliver Lives*, is probably most famous for his sketches of gay life in San Francisco in the initially newspaper-serialized *Tales of the City*. Maupin said that he took heart when he remembered that many estimable 19th-century authors also had written in serial form. Maupin often puts himself into his fiction, which also includes

some of his female characters. Contrary to what many believe, he does not see himself as only found in the Michael Tolliver character. He disclosed that Anna Madrigal, the "den mother" of Barbary Lane, after all has the same initials as he does. Now many of his avid readers are fearful of "losing" their beloved Anna. Maupin came out to his own family through his fiction and recounted how, during the 1970s, his editors told him that he could not write mostly about gay people. He is now exploring the "taboo topic of gay aging," once again tapping his own experience.

Regarding reviews, the authors paid what they variously viewed as proper attention. Vreeland said that she pays closer heed to professional critiques, and lesser to those posted on Amazon. Levithan appreciates different kinds of reviews since they tend to balance themselves out. O'Nan averred that even the negative reviews, "if smart," are helpful. And Maupin admitted that he often accords them inordinate attention, but that one must consider both the good and the bad reviews. In general, the authors did not like labels such as literary, commercial or popular fiction, but realize that marketers often use these demarcations. The writer must fight not to limit his or her audience. Adaptation of one's work into another format such as movies or plays can be challenging, but also provides methods to reach a larger public.

### AASL Announces Travel Grants for First-time National Conference Attendees

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is offering grants for travel to its 15th National Conference & Exhibition in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 27-30, 2011. The grants for first-time attendees of the conference are sponsored by Bound To Stay Bound Books. Those interested in applying can download the application on the National Conference pages at [www.ala.org/aasl/awards](http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards).

AASL President Nancy Everhart said, "AASL values Bound To Stay Bound Books' leadership in offering school librarians the opportunity to attend their first AASL National Conference. I encourage all school librarians that have never been to an AASL National Conference to take advantage of this incredible opportunity."

The AASL 15th National Conference & Exhibition, "Turning the Page," is the only national confer-

ence dedicated solely to the needs of school librarians and their roles as educational leaders. AASL National Conference will feature twelve pre-conferences, numerous concurrent sessions, more than 200 exhibiting companies, educational and school tours, a storytelling festival and special appearances by award-winning authors. For more information on AASL's 15th National Conference & Exhibition, visit [aasl11.org](http://aasl11.org). Registration is already open.

The American Association of School Librarians, [www.aasl.org](http://www.aasl.org), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), promotes the improvement and extension of library media services in elementary and secondary schools as a means of strengthening the total education program. Its mission is to advocate excellence, facilitate change and develop leaders in the school library media field.

### REFORMA Outreach Project

In February 2010 a major earthquake devastated parts of Chile. Many libraries were affected and REFORMA is collecting donations of new children's books in Spanish to be sent to Chile in order to replenish materials lost in the earthquake.

This campaign will continue through until the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. A donation of even a single book is appreciated and will help to rebuild the libraries of Chile.

Those on the East Coast can mail books to: Miguel García Colón, Byram Shubert Library, 21 Mead Avenue, Greenwich, CT, 06830. West Coast donations should be sent to: Priscila Leni, Dr. Alum Rock Library, 3090 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA, 95127.

Those attending Annual Conference can bring their items to the REFORMA fundraiser or at the International Relations Office Table in the ALA office area.

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## Winners of the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award

**F**ive libraries are winners of the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award, which recognizes and honors outstanding achievement in library public relations.

The honor has been awarded continuously since 1946 and is sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Co., the H.W. Wilson Foundation and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), a division of the American Library Association. It is considered the most prestigious of all library awards in the field of public relations.

The following five libraries were honored:

Loudoun County Public Library, Leesburg, Va., for “Try Poetry” – a year of building community through the borderless conversation of poetry. The program developed a long partnership with the public school system, created a unique relationship with the juvenile detention center and offered a variety of captivating presentations to the community. Extensive media coverage in the *Washington Post* and other outlets, as well as highly respected authors, poets and actors helped to inform and excite all ages of the community.

Anythink Libraries of Adams County, Colo., built a “library of the future,” responding to a voter-approved funding increase. A new customer service philosophy and branding increased population awareness and use in all areas, including a 42 percent increase in cardholders and 66 percent increase in visitors. The district Anythink name and orange swirl has become a nationally

recognized signature for the library.

The University of California Santa Cruz Library for its hugely successful campaign surrounding its acquisition of the Grateful Dead archives. In addition to coverage in many national newspapers and magazines from the *Wall Street Journal* to *Rolling Stone*, the library’s Facebook page for this archive has more than 48,000 friends - second only to the Grateful Dead’s own Web page - and they have received \$1.5 million in donations.

The Edmonton Public Library, Edmonton, Alberta, for “Rebranding the Edmonton Public Library,” a masterful blending of the work of professional designers and library staff that let each do what they do best. The simple, stylish logo and the slogan “Spread the words” were taken by library staff and customers and used in a guerilla marketing strategy that was impossible to ignore and hard to resist. The success of this campaign was built on a strong foundation of shared values, clear assessment, strategic marketing and a committed and enthusiastic library staff.

Worthington Libraries, Worthington, Ohio for the “Find Yourself Here” rebranding campaign, a unique, informative and fun way to position the library as an information source and inviting destination. Beginning with staff communications guidelines and expanding to service provision, the library was positioned as a place where everyone belongs and is accepted. The net result was a 35 percent increase in online homework usage and a 36 increase in the circulation of downloadable books.



Rosemary Harris, left, asks author Joanne Fluke a question on the PopTop Stage during the Brown Bag Lunchtime Interview.

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GRASS ROOTS PROGRAM.**

## YALSA Launches Books for Teens Initiative

**T**he Young Adult Library Service Association’s (YALSA’s) newest initiative, Books for Teens, aims to get books into the hands of needy teens by raising funds from the general public.

Books for Teens’ mission is to empower the nation’s at-risk teens to achieve more by providing them with free high quality, new, age-appropriate books. Research shows that the biggest factor in determining the level of education a young person attains is the number of books in the home. However, multiple studies also have shown that thousands of families in poverty-stricken parts of the country have few or no books in the home.

As an age-group, teens receive the least financial support from government, philanthropic and non-profit agencies. Books for Teens seeks to reverse this trend by raising funds to help teens have a brighter future. Funds raised through Books for Teens will be distributed to libraries in communities with a high level of poverty, where teen services librarians

will purchase and distribute new books, encourage teens to get library cards and provide teens with reading-focused events and activities.

Learn more at [www.facebook.com/booksforteens](http://www.facebook.com/booksforteens). YALSA is currently raising funds through the Facebook Causes application and Jumo. Librarians can help get the word out and raise funds by:

- “Liking” Books for Teens on Facebook
- Using the Support Books for Teens Twibbon
- Telling friends and family about it
- Adding Books for Teens on your Wish List for the holidays or your birthday, so friends and family can make a donation to the project in your honor.
- Telling library patrons about it
- Holding a fundraiser with your Teen Advisory Board or Library Friends Group and donate proceeds to the project.
- Linking to it from blogs, web-pages, etc.

## History Librarians Address Electronic Books and Sources

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.  
The Library of Congress

**T**he History Librarians Discussion Group, a unit of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), opened on January 9 with general announcements before moving on to a consideration of electronic sources. It was noted that the section has a new Facebook page and that the search continues for a webmaster. Careful thought was given to conducting future virtual gatherings using GoToMeeting software, which has an electronic chat component.

There is a dispute among many historians whether “traditional cultural expressions” or TCEs, such as performances, belong by law to the people from whom they emanate. If they do, perhaps field notes and other information captures of them would need personal releases before they can be properly used. Members were advised to look for and study online arguments pro and con addressing this subject before possible further discourse. Electronic books such as Kindle, although

commendable in accessing open source information in the public domain and purchasing propriety material, appear not to have been designed to work in venues such as libraries where people share information.

The source Google Books is beneficial for accessing quotations. E books can be difficult to navigate, often being designed for one format and transferred to another. They are helpful for finding discrete items, less useful for studying lengthy monographs, and often better for reading novels than annotated historical works. The Google News Archive is good for overcoming what for many libraries is a gap in mid-20th century newspapers, especially from different geographical areas. The Internet Archive which features the Wayback Machine also can tap into newspapers. For genealogical materials, members cited several electronic sources: Heritage Quest, Ancestry.com (which contains many yearbooks); Latter-Day Saints’ Family History Centers; and Footnote.com (good for images and providing much free, as well as fee-based, material).

## 52nd Annual RBMS Preconference

**I**n the last several years special collections and archives have assumed a new and more prominent role within academic institutions as well as in the wider library community. Once perceived as peripheral to core library services, special collections are now viewed as central. Despite, or perhaps because of, this centrality, special collections face a perfect storm of increasing needs in a time of decreasing support.

Join the ACRL Rare Books &

Manuscripts Section from June 21-24, 2011, in Baton Rouge LA for the 52nd Annual RBMS Preconference, “In the Hurricane’s Eye: Challenges of Collecting in the 21st Century.” The preconference will explore ways to continue building and providing effective access to collections that will remain central in the future in the current economic climate. Registration opens in February 2011.

Complete details will be available at [www.rbms.info](http://www.rbms.info).



## Youth Awards

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Publishing Group, written by Karen Cushman and narrated by Katherine Kellgren; *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, produced by Candlewick on Brilliance Audio, an imprint of Brilliance Audio, written by Patrick Ness and narrated by Nick Podehl; *Revolution*, produced by Listening Library, an imprint of the Random House Audio Publishing Group, written by Jennifer Donnelly and narrated by Emily Janice Card and Emma Bering; and *will grayson, will grayson*, produced by Brilliance Audio, written by John Green and David Levithan, and narrated by MacLeod Andrews and Nick Podehl.

**Pura Belpré (Author) Award** honoring a Latino writer whose children's books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience

*The Dreamer*, written by Pam Muñoz Ryan, is the 2011 Belpré Author Award winner. The book is illustrated by Peter Sís and published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.

Three Belpré Author Honor Books were named: *¡Olé! Flamenco* written and illustrated by George Ancona and published by Lee & Low Books Inc.; *The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba*, written by Margarita Engle and published by Henry Holt and Company, LLC; and *90 Miles to Havana*, written by Enrique Flores-Galbis and published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing.

**Pura Belpré (Illustrator) Award** honoring a Latino illustrator whose children's books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience

*Grandma's Gift*, illustrated and written by Eric Velasquez, is the 2011 Belpré Illustrator Award winner. The book is published by Walker Publishing Company, Inc., a division of Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc.

Three Belpré Illustrator Honor Books for illustration were selected: *Fiesta Babies*, illustrated by Amy Córdova, written by Carmen Tafolla and published by Tricycle Press, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc.; *Me, Frida*, illustrated by David Diaz, written by Amy Novesky and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS; *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*, illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an

imprint of ABRAMS.

**Robert F. Sibert Medal** for most distinguished informational book for children

*Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot*, written by Sy Montgomery, is the 2011 Sibert Award winner. The book features photographs by Nic Bishop and is published by Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

Two Sibert Honor Book were named: *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring*, written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Brian Floca, a Neal Porter Book, published by Flash Point, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing; Lafayette and the American Revolution written by Russell Freedman and published by Holiday House.

**Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award**

*Almost Perfect*, written by Brian Katcher, is the winner of the 2011 Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award. The award is given annually to English-language children's and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience.

Four honor books were selected: *will grayson, will grayson*, written by John Green and David Levithan and published by Dutton Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.; *Love Drugged*, written by James Klise and published by Flux, an imprint of Llewellyn Worldwide Ltd.; *Freaks and Revelations*, written by Davida Willis Hurwin and published by Little, Brown and company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.; and *The Boy in the Dress*, written by David Walliams, illustrated by Quentin Blake and published by Penguin Young Readers Group.

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

*Bink and Gollie*, written by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee and illustrated by Tony Fucile is the 2011 Seuss Award winner. The book is published by Candlewick Press.

Two Geisel Honor Books were named: *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!* written and illustrated by Grace Lin and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.; and *We Are in a Book!* written and illustrated by Mo Willems

and published by Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of Disney Book Group.

**William C. Morris Award** for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens

*The Freak Observer*, written by Blythe Woolston is the 2011 Morris Award winner. The book is published by Carolrhoda Lab, an imprint of Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group.

Four other books were finalists for the award: *Hush* by Eishes Chayil and published by Walker Publishing Company, a division of Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc.; *Guardian of the Dead* by Karen Healey and published by Little, Brown and Company/Hachette Book Group; *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer* by Lish McBride and published by Henry Holt; and *Crossing the Tracks* by Barbara Stuber and published by Margaret McElderry Books, an im-

print of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

**YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults**

*Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing*, written by Ann Angel, is the 2011 Excellence winner. The book is published by Amulet/Abrams.

Four other books were finalists for the award: *They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; *Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement* by Rick Bowers and published by National Geographic Society; *The Dark Game: True Spy Stories* by Paul Janeczko and published by Candlewick Press; and *Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates* by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw and published by Charlesbridge.



Michael Mok, AWE, Inc., center, presents AWE's first-ever Literacy Success Award to Elizabeth Dailey, executive director of the Onondaga County Public Library System, accepting for the Beauchamp Branch Library, Syracuse, NY. Their winning program, called "Cooking Up Literacy," helps children ages five through 12 improve their reading, writing, math and healthy eating skills.

## AASL Launches Video Contest for Students

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL), collaborating with SchoolTube and Cisco, has announced the launch of the "Learning4Life in My School Library" Student Video Contest. Video submissions will be accepted detailing how school libraries and the technology used within the school library program empower students to be Learners4Life. More information can be found at [www.ala.org/aasl/l4lvideocontest](http://www.ala.org/aasl/l4lvideocontest).

Submissions for the video contest will be accepted until March 18, after which online voters will help choose the best student video. Winners will be announced as the kick-off to School Library Month on April 1.

The contest will choose one student winner from an elementary, middle, and high school. Winners will receive a Flip™ video camera, donated by Cisco, and a prize for their school library. Additionally, winning entries will be featured on the AASL, SchoolTube, and Cisco websites and social networking platforms, and will be featured at the AASL 15th National Conference

& Exhibition.

Macklin, also a sponsoring, will be providing \$500 in books to the school libraries of the winners.

School librarians are encouraged to share this contest with students in their school community. Although educator support is encouraged, school librarians are asked to limit their help in the production of videos. Student collaboration is also encouraged, however winning entries are limited to a prize of only one Flip™ video camera.

The "Learning4Life in My School Library" Student Video Contest is a part of AASL's national campaign, Learning4Life. The Learning4Life, [www.ala.org/aasl/learning4life](http://www.ala.org/aasl/learning4life), national implementation plan supports states, school systems, and individual schools preparing to implement the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* and "Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs." The plan will also increase awareness and understanding of the essential role school librarians play in a student's education.

## Exhibitor News

These listings are paid advertisements.

**e-ImageData Corp.:** Learn about ScanPro 2000. ScanPro 2000 is considered the fastest, most easy to use microfilm equipment available, chosen by prestigious libraries worldwide. See video and testimonials at <http://www.e-imagedata.com>.

**Library Automation Technologies, Inc.:** San Diego Public Library processes millions of transaction through 50 of LAT's self checkouts,

the MAX and MAXine. Now see LAT-Stena, our newest LOW COST solution for behind-the-circ-desk disc security. Zero theft and increased productivity makes happy libraries. <http://www.latcorp.com>

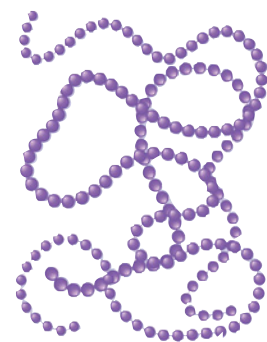
**Project MUSE:** Project MUSE e-Book Collections, is a new initiative to incorporate frontlist humanities and social science monographs from university presses into our platform, fully integrated with our successful scholarly journal collections. <http://muse.jhu.edu>.





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2011 ALA Annual Conference  
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