Auditorium Speaker Series To Light Up Conference

The ALA Auditorium Speaker Series welcomes 12 distinguished speakers who double as authors, activists and national newsmakers. Speakers include novelist Sir Salman Rushdie, best-selling author John Grisham and more. The series is part of the ALA Annual Conference, held June 24–29 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

On Saturday, June 26, novelist Sir Salman Rushdie will appear from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Rushdie is the author of ten previous novels including: *Grimus*, *Midnight’s Children* (for which he won the Booker Prize and recently, the Booker Prize for fiction and was named the best novel of the past 25 years by the *New York Times* Book Review), *Shame*, *The Satanic Verses*, *The Enchantress of Florence* and one collection of short stories, *East, West.* He has also published five works of non-fiction including: *The Jaguar Smile* and *Imaginary Homelands*. Rushdie is the former president of PEN American Center, and his newest work of fiction, *Luka and the Fire of Life* will be published by Random House in November 2010.

On Sunday, June 27, Marlo Thomas will appear from 8:00–9:00 a.m. She is the author of five bestselling books, including *The Right Words at the Right Time* and *Free to Be...You and Me*. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including four Emmys, a Goldem Globe, a Grammy, and a Peabody, and is an inductee into the Broadcasting Hall of Fame. She lives in New York with her husband, Phil Donahue. Thomas replaces Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, whose presentation was cancelled.

On Monday, June 28, best-selling author John Grisham will appear from 1:30–2:30 p.m. John Grisham is the author of 21 novels, one work of nonfiction and one collection of stories including A

Toni Morrison to Keynote Opening Session

Nobel Prize winning author Toni Morrison will be the keynote speaker at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference Opening Session, from 5:30–7:00 p.m., Saturday, June 26, in Washington, D.C. Morrison, who is a professor, novelist, editor, critic and lecturer, will discuss her life as a champion of the arts.


While working as a professor at Princeton University, she continued to produce award-winning works. In recognition of her contributions to her field, she received the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature, making her the first African-American to be selected for the award.

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Ex Libris Seminars
at the ALA 2010 Annual Conference
Washington DC

Saturday, June 26, 2010

Ex Libris Rosetta: Goodbye Digital Preservation, Hello Permanent Access
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Convention Center, Capital A/B
Speaker: Mike Thurman, Ex Libris

Explore the challenge of providing access to digital content in the coming decades. Intended for institutions which understand the fragile nature of digital content and want to take steps today to authenticate and prepare all types of file formats for both long term preservation and access. A discussion and demonstration of Ex Libris Rosetta will be included to show how workflows for different sources and objects can be created and how advanced preservation planning capabilities can be employed to provide ongoing stewardship and file format migration of large collections.

Ex Libris Primo/Primo Central: The Ultimate in Next-Gen Discovery
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Convention Center, Capital C
Speakers: Stu Baker, Northwestern University; Alison Hitchens, University of Waterloo; Corey Harper, New York University; Tamar Sadeh and Jorgen Madsen, Ex Libris

Learn how to take discovery and delivery of local and remote resources to the next level at your institution! This session will explore how three institutions are extending Primo to a mobile environment, integrating the system with the Blackboard course management system, using third-party Open Source software to provide improved user experiences, and redesigning the user interface with the Primo custom tiles functionality to provide a more seamless and unified user experience.

Sunday, June 27, 2010

Cut it Out: Reducing Costs and Improving Efficiency with Next-Generation Library Services
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Convention Center, Capital A
Speaker: Susan Stearns, Ex Libris

“EFFICIENCY CUTS ARE NO LONGER ENOUGH AND SOME SERIOUS THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE SHAPE OF SERVICES AND PROVISION IS NEEDED.” As libraries look to the future, they face the challenge of reducing costs at the same time as they improve — and add new — services. This presentation will discuss how the Ex Libris next generation of library services addresses these critical requirements. Susan Stearns, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships, will review ways in which the URM (Unified Resource Management) framework addresses reducing the total cost of ownership of back-office library systems and services, citing examples from work with Ex Libris customers around the world. We will review the ways in which URM streamlines back-office operations, with a focus on minimizing staff resources and leveraging collaborative opportunities.

Recommended for Libraries Like You: Scholarly Evaluation, Social Networking Metrics, and a New World for Usage Data
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Convention Center, Capital A
Speakers: Johan Bollen, School of Informatics and Computing, Center for Complex Networks and System Research, Indiana University; Nettie Lagace, Ex Libris

Libraries have now moved into an almost completely online world. The exciting study of usage metrics — as they apply to the evaluation of scholarly communications — offers many opportunities for exploitation of this new environment, including new services to users and collection development activities. This session will introduce you to the possibilities and energize you with new potential applications as well as already-realized applications, such as the bX recommender service from Ex Libris.

Visit www.exlibrisgroup.com/category/ALA2010Annual to register for these seminars as space is limited. Refreshments will be served.

Visit us at Booth #1315 to learn how Ex Libris can be your bridge to the future!
Something for Everyone in “The Stacks”
Friday Hours 5:30–7:30 p.m.

By Deb Nerud Vernon
One of the highlights of any Annual Conference is the chance to stroll the exhibit floor and see what the exhibitors have to offer. This year is no exception as “The Stacks,” ALA’s Library Exposition, will showcase the latest in innovative products and services designed to help you make your library the center of attention. With more than 1,500 booths there is definitely something for everyone.

Special attractions include: Authors and illustrators of your favorite books on hand to sign autographs; poster sessions allowing the opportunity to converse with your peers on research, program ideas, and problem-solving; the PopTop Stage featuring authors and presenters from mystery, romance, science fiction, and fantasy; the PopTop Stage featuring authors and presenters from mystery, romance, science fiction, and fantasy; and presenters from mystery, romance, science fiction, and fantasy; and many more.

New Service Being Offered at ALA Post Office

The Washington Convention Center Business Center will be providing a box sitting service at this year’s Annual Conference. This service will allow ALA attendees to rent a box and store books, posters and other goodies collected on the exhibit floor while they continue to enjoy their visit in the exhibit hall. The fee for the service is FREE to ALA attendees. After your box is full, the WCC Business Center will seal your box and ship it back to you via UPS or FedEx at an additional charge. This great deal has been extended to ALA Attendees by the Washington Convention Center Business Center who will be providing shipping services in the ALA Post Office.

The WCC Business Center graciously stepped up to provide service to ALA after the United States Postal Service declined the offer to participate in this year’s Annual Conference. Because of the USPS refusal to participate, Priority and Media mail service will not be offered. The WCC Business Center will provide a full range of UPS and FedEx services and as in past years, ALA will provide attendees with one mailing tube or envelope as they enter the Post Office. The ALA Post Office will be located at the back of the 4200 aisle in Hall A of the ALA Exhibits.

Text to Donate $10 to Help Rebuild Haiti Libraries

The Petit Goave Public Library is shown after the earthquake. It has now been demolished and needs to be rebuilt.

ALA has raised close to $20,000 so far, including a donation of $7,500 from Sirsi/Dynix, but much more is needed.

You can also double up on your donation at the Lexis Nexis Booth (#1834), where they will make a donation for each attendee participating in a demonstration.

A one-time donation of $10 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. Messaging and data rates may apply. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider. Service is available on most carriers. Donations are collected for the benefit of the ALA by the Mobile Giving Foundation and subject to the terms found at www.hmgf.org/t. You can unsubscribe at any time by replying “Stop” to short code “Enter Shortcode”; Reply Help to “Enter Shortcode” for help.

ALa has set up an easy way for you to help rebuild libraries in Haiti. Just take two minutes to text “alahaiti” to “20222” and donate $10. ALA is raising funds to rebuild three libraries in Haiti destroyed during the earthquake in January. They are the Petit Goave Public Library, the Centre Culturel Pyepoudre Community Library, and the Bibliothèque hattienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit which was founded in 1873 and holds resources documenting the history of Haiti, French colonization, slavery and emancipation.

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Meet Chef Jennifer Schaertl
12:00pm - 2:00pm
“A terrific compilation of doable dishes that should resonate with cooks, whether they’ve got space issues or just want to streamline their process.”
—Publishers Weekly, *Starred Review*

Meet teen author and fellow librarian Chelsey Shannon
3:00pm - 5:00pm
“This isn’t a sad tale but one of recovery on beating the odds. I recommend [this book] for those who want to read real issues by teens.”
—Young Adult Books Central

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Intellectual Freedom 2010 in DC: Something for Everyone

Whether you are new to ALA or an experienced attendee, you’re sure to find something to energize your inner intellectual freedom fighter at this year’s Annual Conference! ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom is offering a number of fantastic programs on intellectual freedom for attendees.

If you are new to ALA or looking for a refresher on intellectual freedom (IF) issues, please join us for “IF 101,” a program designed to introduce those new to Annual Conference, librarianship, or ALA itself to our various intellectual freedom arms and activities. This session will include a sneak preview of the nifty IF programs taking place at the 2010 Annual Conference and beyond! “IF 101” takes place today from 4:00–5:00 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 147 B.

Attendees interested in library values, ethics, and labor issues won’t want to miss the ALA-APA program, “Professional Integrity and Library Workers: What’s the Connection?” on Saturday, June 26. Panelists at this program will examine the role that professional integrity plays in the lives of library workers. The program takes place 1:30–3:30 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 205.

Can you imagine living in a city where censorship does not exist? The Intellectual Freedom Round Table invites you to learn about just such a place — a community known as Burning Man. Larry Harvey, Executive Director of the Burning Man Project, will discuss this unique social experiment. Join us for a lively conversation on Saturday, June 26 from 1:30–3:30 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 143 B.

Social networks like Facebook present librarians with tremendous opportunities as well as challenges. Join us for “Ethics in a Digital World: Using Policies to Guide Professional and Personal Presence in Social Networking Spaces,” where attendees will learn about best practices and social software guidelines. This program from the Committee on Professional Ethics will take place Sunday, June 27 from 1:30–3:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Washington Auditorium.

To learn what intellectual freedom hot topics are being discussed, possibly acted upon, by the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Freedom to Read Foundation, please attend our informative and interactive “IFC/FRF Issues Briefing Session” on Sunday, June 27 from 4:00–5:30 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 204 B. Speakers will include Theresa Chmara, FRF General Counsel, who will discuss current legislative issues; and Dee Venuto, Rancocas Valley (NJ) Regional High School Media Center Coordinator, who will share her experience facing politically-motivated challenges to YA materials in the school library.

At our panel on “Privacy, Libraries, and the Law,” three leading voices on privacy will discuss this core professional value and questions that arise around it. Speakers include: Lillie Cooney, Associate Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center; Leslie Harris, President & CEO of the Center for Democracy and Technology; and Anne Klinefelter, Director of the Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Join us on Monday, June 28 from 10:30 a.m.–noon in the Washington Convention Center, Room 146 B.

Finally, freedom of religion is a source of passionate debate in American society. Recent controversies over the Danish Muhammad cartoons and the U.N. anti-blasphemy resolution, “Combating Defamations of Religions,” are having significant repercussions in the U.S. How do we balance intellectual freedom principles with cultural and religious differences? The program, “Blasphemy! When Religious Values Clash with Intellectual Freedom Values,” will present these important issues from multiple perspectives. This program takes place Monday, June 28 from 1:30–3:30 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 206 and speakers include Irshad Manji, filmmaker and Director of the Moral Courage Project at New York University; and Paul Sturges, former chair of IFLA/FAIFE. Manji will be signing copies of her book, The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim’s Call for Reform in Her Faith, promptly after the program.

Auditorium Speakers

* from page 1

Time to Kill, The Firm and The Pelican Brief. His works are translated into 38 languages. Grisham, a number one international best-selling author, will be writing his first-ever children’s book series for Penguin Young Readers Group. The two novels in this series will be aimed at readers ages 8-12. The first book in the series, Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer, is scheduled for publication in May 2010 and will follow the adventures of a 13-year-old, amateur attorney who unwittingly becomes involved in a high-profile murder trial. The second book in the series, also featuring Theo, is due to be published in 2011.

Other speakers include: Pulitzer Prize winning author Junot Diaz; New York Times best-selling author Dennis Lehane; New York Times best-selling author Sue Monk Kidd and her daughter, author Ann Kidd Taylor; StoryCorps founder and best-selling author Dave Isay; Emmy Award winning filmmaker and author Mary McDonagh Murphy with librarian action figure model Nancy Pearl; best-selling author Audrey Niffenegger; enigmatologist-New York Times puzzle master Will Shortz; and award-winning illustrator David Small.

Morrison

* from page 1

Morrison’s many novels include Sula, Song of Solomon, Jazz, Paradise, Love, A Mercy and Tar Baby. More recently, Morrison has branched out into nonfiction and children’s literature. Her newest books for children are Peeny Butter Fudge and Little Cloud and Lady Wind.

In October 2009, Morrison spoke out about censorship after one of her books was banned in a Michigan high school. She also served as editor for Burn This Book, a collection of essays on censorship and the power of the written word, which was published that same year.
SATURDAY JUNE 26

SUE MONK KIDD & ANN KIDD TAYLOR
Author of TRAVELING WITH POMEGRANATES
A Mother-Daughter Story
10:30–11:30 am  ALA Speaker Series
Ballroom C, Convention Center, signing to follow

PETER BOGNANNI
Author of THE HOUSE OF TOMORROW
10:30 –11:30 am  Penguin booth #2506

MADILENE HUNTER
Author of RAVISHING IN RED
10:30 am–Noon  ALTAFF panel:
Isn’t It Romantic
1:00–2:00 pm  Penguin booth #2506

MAGGIE SEFTON
Author of SKEIN OF THE CRIME
11:30–12:30 pm  Penguin booth #2506

VICKI MYRON
Author of DEWEY’S NINE LIVES
The Legacy of the Small-Town Library Cat Who Inspired Millions
1:30–2:00 pm  LIVE! @ your library Reading Stage**
2:00–3:00 pm  Penguin booth #2506

SARAH BLAKE
Author of THE POSTMISTRESS
2:30–3:00 pm  LIVE! @ your library
Reading Stage**
3:00–4:00 pm  Penguin booth #2506

SUNDAY JUNE 27

R. DWAYNE BETTS
Author of A QUESTION OF FREEDOM
A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison
10:00–11:00 am  Penguin booth #2506
1:30–3:30 pm  ALTAFF panel:
Authors Come in All Colors*

JUNOT DIAZ
Author of THE BRIEF WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO
3:00–4:00 pm  ALA Speaker Series
Ballroom C, Convention Center, signing to follow

ANN B. ROSS
Author of MISS JULIA RENEWS HER VOWS
Noon–1:00 pm  Penguin booth #2506
2:00–4:00 pm  ALTAFF Author Tea*

JANETTE PAYNE
Author of A MEMORABLE KINDNESS
10:00–11:00 am  ALTAFF panel:
First Author, First Book
1:00–1:30 pm  LIVE! @ your library Reading Stage**
1:30–2:30 pm  Penguin booth #2506

JENNIFER ROSS WEXLER
Author of THE LIMBO KIDS
10:30–11:30 am  ALTAFF panel:
Isn’t It Romantic
1:00–2:00 pm  Penguin booth #2506

JULIE KLAUSNER
Author of I DON’T CARE ABOUT YOUR BAND
3:30–4:30 pm  Penguin booth #2506
5:30–7:30 pm  ALTAFF Humor Panel:
The Laugh’s on Us*

PETER BOGNANNI
Author of THE HOUSE OF TOMORROW
10:30 –11:30 am  Penguin booth #2506

MAGGIE SEFTON
Author of SKEIN OF THE CRIME
11:30–12:30 pm  Penguin booth #2506

VICKI MYRON
Author of DEWEY’S NINE LIVES
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SARAH BLAKE
Author of THE POSTMISTRESS
2:30–3:00 pm  LIVE! @ your library
Reading Stage**
3:00–4:00 pm  Penguin booth #2506

* For location and information on tickets for this event please visit the Penguin or ALTAFF booths, or see the ALA program
**LIVE! @ your library Reading Stage can be found in aisle 2600 in the exhibit hall
*** For tickets visit http://rusa.ala.org/blog/2010/05/06/littastes2010-authors/
Get Prepped for Library Advocacy Day during Informational Sessions Held Throughout ALA Annual Conference

Looking for a true “D.C.” experience to top off your trip to the nation’s capital? This year’s conference will culminate with Library Advocacy Day featuring a rally at 11:00 a.m. June 29, on the U.S. Capitol grounds in Washington, D.C.

This one-time opportunity during ALA Annual Conference is a chance for library supporters to join together to demonstrate support for libraries and for first-time advocates to get involved.

Kristin Murphy, government relations specialist for the ALA Washington and coordinator of the event, said pre-conference registration numbers were strong but hopes more conference-goers will make their way to the rally.

“We know there is strength in numbers, and we want to have the largest crowd possible in order to gain the attention our issues deserve,” Murphy said.

“We want to show Congress that librarians are not afraid to speak up—and that the public wants to ensure these fundamental community institutions are adequately supported and included into federal policies that will impact the day-to-day lives of their constituents who depend on library services every day.”

After the rally, which is free and open to the public, ALA members will meet with their members of Congress and their staffs to talk about the needs and concerns of the libraries in their communities.

Throughout conference, there will be many opportunities to learn more about the rally and how to get involved.

On Saturday, participants should attend the training session, “What to Know Before You Go” from 10:30 a.m.–noon in WCC-103B or swing by the Membership Pavilion from noon –1:00 p.m., where volunteers will be available to answer questions and register individuals for the event.

Sunday will offer more Q&A time at the Membership Pavilion from noon–1:00 p.m. and again from 2:30–3:30 p.m. On Monday, volunteers and staff will be available to answer questions at the Membership Pavilion from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and again from 2:30–3:30 p.m.

The Advocacy Hour will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday at the Membership Pavilion. Please come and learn about all the ways you can get involved in library advocacy, as well as ask questions about Library Advocacy Day.

Carolyn Forsman Jewelry: Just What the Economy Ordered

Looking for something upbeat, upscale, and affordable to take home from Annual Conference? Then be sure to visit booth 2535 in the exhibit area to check out the designs of Carolyn Forsman—the New York-based jeweler who donates proceeds from her ALA booth to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Carolyn, the 2009 Museum Store Association Service Award winner, always has a terrific assortment of affordable gifts (top retail price of $50) that will make you smile. Are you “perfect”, “quirky”, a “blogger”, or a “drama queen”? If so, then she has the rubber band bracelet for you. Only $1!! She also will be featuring her standard assortment of flashing “spike” rings (perfect for fireworks), glowing necklaces, newspaper headline pins (including “Obama Makes History, and 1969 Peace March”), original “I Read Banned Books” bracelets, and brand new Banned Books Pins and Necklaces! Credit cards accepted.

Carolyn’s jewelry is currently in MOMA, Library of Congress, National Archives, Guggenheim Berlin, and hundreds of other museums and book/gift/library shops worldwide.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has been the First Amendment legal defense arm of the American Library Association since 1969. Carolyn, a former librarian and ALA Councilor, has raised over $150,000 through the years for FTRF, and was named to the Foundation’s Roll of Honor in 2001. We encourage you to visit her at booth 2535, browse for some summer gifts, and support the critical First Amendment work of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has been the First Amendment legal defense arm of the American Library Association since 1969. Carolyn, a former librarian and ALA Councilor, has raised over $150,000 through the years for FTRF, and was named to the Foundation’s Roll of Honor in 2001. We encourage you to visit her at booth 2535, browse for some summer gifts, and support the critical First Amendment work of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Stop by the booth for a free, full-color reproduction birds-eye view image of the U.S. Capitol and downtown Washington in 1869.

BOOTH #3751

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Back-to-School with PLA

PLA is dedicated to providing public librarians with the resources they need to be effective leaders in their libraries. This fall, five Public Library Management Courses offer in-depth education and interactive opportunities to help you succeed in a dynamic and challenging library environment.

Fundraising
With libraries facing their toughest budget challenges ever, the pressure to develop creative and resourceful funding ideas is great. Don’t let this opportunity to enrich your knowledge (and your library) pass you by.
Location: Cincinnati, Ohio
Date: September 22-23

Budget and Finance
Determining and managing budgets can be a daunting part of the job. Get practical, expert education and tackle your library’s finances in a whole new way.
Location: Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
Date: September 29-30

Planning and Management of Buildings
Whether you’re building a new library or simply want to ensure that your current library is as safe, sound, and efficient as it can be, this workshop will provide you with the right foundation.
Location: Tumwater, Wash.
Date: September 30-October 1

Serving Diverse Populations
Ensure that your “melting pot” doesn’t boil over. Gain the skills and knowledge necessary to serve and honor the multiple cultures within your community.
Location: Kansas City, Mo.
Date: October 19-20, 2010

Marketing
So you’ve created an amazing lineup of library services. Now what? Learn effective techniques to market your library and raise your community’s awareness and usage.
Location: Decatur, Ga.
Date: October 28-29, 2010

ACRL 101
Attending your first ALA Annual this summer? The ACRL 101 program, held Saturday, June 26 from 8:00–10:00 a.m. in the Mayflower Renaissance State Ballroom, provides a wealth of information on ways academic and research librarians can navigate the conference. Come meet ACRL leaders, learn about the wide variety of ACRL-conference activities, and connect with other first-time attendees. Coffee will be served.
Can’t make it to ACRL 101? Check out the mini-ACRL 101 sessions in the ALA Pavilion (#2424) from 10:00–10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 26, and 9:30–10:00 a.m. and 11:00–11:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 27.

ALA Presents “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women” Library Outreach Programs

The ALA Public Programs Office and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are offering a new cultural programming grant opportunity for libraries. Public, academic, and special libraries may apply to receive a $2,500 grant to support five reading, viewing, and discussion programs featuring the documentary “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women” and the companion biography of the same name. Online applications will be accepted at www.grants.gov through July 30.

The library outreach program for “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women” is a collaboration among NEH, the ALA Public Programs Office and Nancy Porter and Harriet Reisen for Filmmakers Collaborative and has been designated as part of NEH’s We the People initiative, exploring significant events and themes in our nation’s history and culture and advancing knowledge of the principles that define America. Funding was provided by a major grant from NEH to the ALA Public Programs Office.

Libraries applying for a “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women” library outreach grant must register their institution at Grants.gov. Prospective applicants are advised to register with Grants.gov as soon as possible, since the process can take up to two weeks to complete.

Resources to help begin the application process for “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women” may be found at www.alap.org/louisa.mayalcockt. Online applications must be completed by July 30.

Louisa May Alcott is recognized around the world for her novel Little Women, but Alcott is scarcely known as the bold, compelling woman who secretly wrote sensational thrillers, lived at the center of the Transcendentalist and Abolitionist movements and served as a Civil War army nurse.

The film, biography, and library programs will re-introduce audiences to Alcott by presenting a story full of fresh insights, startling discoveries about the author and a new understanding of American culture during her lifetime. The 30 selected libraries will present five reading, viewing and discussion programs focused on Louisa May Alcott, her body of work and her era. Libraries will be asked to enlist a lead project scholar with expertise in 19th-century American history or literature to help present and plan programs.

For more information, visit www.alap.org/louisa.mayalcockt.

Learn to Present Library Programs Featuring “Soul of a People” and “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women” Documentaries

All conference attendees are invited to join producers of the documentary films “Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women,” and “Soul of a People” in a discussion of the potential for library programs surrounding the televised documentaries. Sponsored by the ALA Public Programs Office, the program will be held Saturday, June 26, 10:30 a.m.–noon in the Grand Hyatt Washington, Constitution Ballroom C/D.

Program speakers will lead attendees through the documentary websites, and introduce a wide variety of education resources available to libraries free of charge.
Simplicity Champion Wanda Urbanska Joins atyourlibrary.org Contributor Roster


“I’m really excited about writing for the American Library Association and helping to raise public awareness about the wealth of information available to the public in our nation’s libraries,” said Urbanska, who has been a champion of greening and sustainability for over 20 years. “Libraries are the original eco-friendly institution,” she added. “You borrow, you learn, you return, and the recycling benefits the entire community.”

“The @yourlibrary website is developing a cadre of writers in some of the top do-it-yourself areas of interest to the public in order to foster an understanding of how to use a library or how to use it better,” added Leonard Kniffel, publisher of the ALA website, which is part of the Association’s Campaign for America’s Libraries, highlighting the value of libraries and librarians and connecting people to the free resources at their local public, school or university library. Prepared by librarians and other experts, new articles are uploaded regularly with how-tos and tips for parents, job seekers, teenagers and kids. Recommended resources are linked to the WorldCat database, which provides a list of the nearest libraries where the recommended item can be accessed.

“We encourage librarians to browse the site, not only to learn about all sorts of interesting topics, but most importantly to use the articles on their own library websites to help their patrons find out how they can benefit from the expertise of librarians and the abundant resources available in or through a good library,” Mark R. Gould, director of the American Library Association’s Public Information Office said. “But the site is not about libraries; it’s about the wealth of knowledge available in them and through them.”

Visitors to the site can sign up for a regular e-newsletter for updates on new content. Visitors can also follow developments on the site on Twitter, through Facebook and on the @ your library blog.

The site is underwritten by Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Disney Book Group. Wanda Urbanska was American Libraries magazine’s featured speaker at the American Library Association’s 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago. She joins author, editor, and arts educator Emma Walton Lefkowitz, who signed on in May as a regular contributor to @yourlibrary in the areas of parenting and reading.

Simplicity Champion Wanda Urbanska Joins atyourlibrary.org Contributor Roster


“I’m really excited about writing for the American Library Association and helping to raise public awareness about the wealth of information available to the public in our nation’s libraries,” said Urbanska, who has been a champion of greening and sustainability for over 20 years. “Libraries are the original eco-friendly institution,” she added. “You borrow, you learn, you return, and the recycling benefits the entire community.”

“The @yourlibrary website is developing a cadre of writers in some of the top do-it-yourself areas of interest to the public in order to foster an understanding of how to use a library or how to use it better,” added Leonard Kniffel, publisher of the ALA website, which is part of the Association’s Campaign for America’s Libraries, highlighting the value of libraries and librarians and connecting people to the free resources at their local public, school or university library. Prepared by librarians and other experts, new articles are uploaded regularly with how-tos and tips for parents, job seekers, teenagers and kids. Recommended resources are linked to the WorldCat database, which provides a list of the nearest libraries where the recommended item can be accessed.

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Four States Selected for National Expansion of PRIME TIME Family Reading Program

PRIME TIME Inc., an affiliate of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH), in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office, selected public libraries in Arizona, Florida, Georgia and Michigan to participate in the national expansion of the LEH’s award-winning family reading and discussion program, PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME®. National expansion of PRIME TIME is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which also supported earlier grants for implementation in Louisiana and initial national expansion.

In Arizona, the Arizona Humanities Council will direct the partnership with the Pima County Public Library system. In Georgia, the Georgia Public Library Service will direct the partnership with the public libraries. In Florida and Michigan, the Florida Humanities Council and the Michigan Humanities Council, respectively, will direct the partnership with the public libraries. A total of four states—representing 16 community libraries—were chosen to participate.

The four states selected (4 libraries each) are:
- Arizona — Valencia Branch Library, Quincey Branch Library, Southwest Branch Library, and Mission Branch Library. All sites are located in Tucson.
- Florida — North Lauderdale Library, North Lauderdale; Selby Library, Sarasota; Blake Library, Stuart; and Seminole Tribe-Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library, Immokalee.
- Georgia — Dogwood Branch, Atlanta; Chamblee Branch, Decatur; Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library, Fitzgerald; and Libburn Branch, Lawrenceville.
- Michigan — Hackley Public Library, Muskegon; Peter White Public Library, Marquette; Highland Twp. Public Library, Highland; and Hamtramck Public Library, Hamtramck.

Based on illustrated children's books, PRIME TIME—now in its 19th year—is designed to help low-income, low-literacy families bond and become active public library users. PRIME TIME received the 2003 Advancement of Literacy Award from the Public Library Association (PLA), a division of the ALA, and the Coming Up Taller Award from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in 2000. Nearly 1,000 PRIME TIME programs in 38 states have been completed, graduating more than 36,000 children and their parents/guardians.

Selected states will receive grant funding and materials to work with library staff to present the PRIME TIME series at participating library sites. Each series will meet once a week for six weeks at participating libraries. Common Ground, PRIME TIME’s newest syllabus, offers a proven vehicle for libraries to engage a multicultural audience including non-English speakers. Through a discussion leader and a storyteller, children ages 6 to 10 years and their parents or guardians will hear classic children's stories; watch reading aloud demonstrations; discuss humanities themes in each book; and learn about library resources and services. Translators will be available where bilingual or multilingual audiences will be recruited. Younger siblings, ages 3 to 5 years, will participate in separate pre-reading activities.

PRIME TIME is based on a successful series of the same name that was created by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in 1991 at the East Baton Rouge (La.) Parish Library and has spread nationally with funding from NEH.

The ALA Public Programs Office promotes cultural and community programming as an essential part of library service in all types and sizes of libraries. Successful library programming initiatives have included “Let’s Talk About It” reading and discussion series, traveling exhibitions, film discussion programs, the Great Stories CLUB, Live! @ your library and more. Recently, the ALA Public Programs Office developed www.programminglibrarian.org, an online resource center bringing librarians timely and valuable information to support them in the creation of high-quality cultural programs for their communities.

For more information on the ALA Public Programs Office, visit www.ala.org/publicprograms.
Poetry Possibilities @ 2010 ALA Annual Conference

Attendees of the 2010 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference will find a variety of poetry-themed programming to delight and inspire the lyrical librarian. These events include opportunities to meet the poets, live readings, and a discussion of poetry and library programming. The ALA Public Programs Office is pleased to present poetry programming at the ALA Annual Conference through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

• On Saturday, June 26, 8:00–10:00 a.m., the ALA Public Programs Office with support NEA will offer “Poetry as a Community Builder: Expanding Community Outreach through Poetry” in Washington Convention Center Room 102A. This presentation will include real world strategies from libraries for making poetry accessible to their community. Poet Kwame Alexander and the program director of the Poetry Foundation, Steven Young, will share the podium with Mary Davis Fournier, deputy director of the ALA Public Programs Office, and Linda Holtzlander assistant director of the Loudoun County (Va.) Public Library.

• Also presented by the ALA Public Programs Office with support from the NEA is the LIVE! @ your library reading stage. This year, the lineup features readings by both renowned poets and new talents. Featured poets include Kwame Alexander, Sarah Blake, Nickole Brown, Henri Cole, Benjamin Alire Sáenz and Gwendolyn Zepeda. The LIVE! Stage, located at the end of the 2680 aisle in the exhibit hall, will feature live readings on Saturday, June 26 from noon–4:00 p.m., Sunday, June 27 from 10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m., and Monday, June 28 from 10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Poet Benjamin Alire Sáenz is also one of the featured writers at the Young Adult Library Services Association’s (YALSA) Author Coffee Klatch on Sunday, June 27 from 9:00–10:00 a.m. in Washington Convention Center Room 207/A/B. This informal program allows attendees to meet with their favorite writers for coffee and a short break from the hustle and bustle of the conference. YA librarians are invited to take a seat while award-winning authors and poets take turns visiting the table to discuss their work.

• The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) will present “Celebrating the Spoken Word with Poetry for Young People” on Sunday June 27, 10:30 a.m.–noon in Washington Convention Center Room 103A. The children’s poet laureate Mary Ann Hoberman will lead a discussion on how to make poetry an interactive experience for young adults. The presentation will end with a performance by the teenage finalists of the 2010 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, a competition dedicated to fostering public speaking ability in young adults by encouraging them to memorize and perform pieces of poetry.

• The 7th Annual Poetry Blast, also organized by ALSC, will take place Monday June 28 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. in Washington Convention Center Room 144A. Designed with children and young adults in mind, the event presents poetry at its best—as an aural performative experience. Ten poets, including Marilyn Singer (co-host of the Poetry Blast), Calef Brown, and Tony Medina, will present their work.

• On Sunday, June 27, 1:30–3:30 p.m., in Washington Convention Center Room 147A, the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) will host a viewing of Judith Schaefer’s documentary “So Long Are You Young: Samuel Ullman’s Poetry and Passion” as part of the program “One Poem Enriching Lives Across the Globe: Samuel Ullman, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and Youth.” Historian Margaret Armbrester will lead a discussion about the relationship of poetry and history after the screening.

This Year’s Statistical Must-Have is Now Available!

The 2010 Public Library Data Service (PLDS) Statistical Report is now available at the ALA Conference Store. The PLDS Statistical Report provides timely and relevant library-specific data on finances, library resources, annual use figures and technology data on finances, library resources, annual use figures and technology from more than 800 public libraries across the United States and Canada. In addition, this year, the PLDS report contains a special survey highlighting statistics children’s services.

PLA offers both a print and an online version. Both have the same content, but the online database enables users to search, filter, and customize their dataset.

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Burning Man @ IFRT

By Lauren Christos, IFRT/Chair

“The First Amendment runs riot out there” Larry Harvey, Executive Director and Founder of Burning Man once said in an interview discussing the temporary city built and erased within a month, the elaborate civic society that is created and re-created for one week each year before Labor Day in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada. It is a temporary autonomous zone, a place of radical expression, a community, Black Rock City, or BRC, is home to an incredible diversity among people. Says Harvey, “We’re all over the demographic map. It’s remarkable that the only thing these people seem to have in common is a spirit of adventure because the timid don’t go and live on an unforgiving barren ancient lakebed of a desert without shade and water and together choose to live and create art, culture, and community. No, the timid also don’t typically struggle to protect freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights in order to promote the exercise of freedom.

Burning Man first began in 1986 in San Francisco with a small group of people on a beach surrounding a wooden figure of a man. Since then it has moved to its present location in Nevada and is attended by upwards of 50,000 people gathered from around the globe. Participants gather to create an extraordinary temporary metropolis complete with a semi-circular grid of streets that stretch over a mile from end to end. There are distinct neighborhoods of camps and villages, peace keepers known as Black Rock Rangers, a professional medical services, a daily newspaper, dozens of radio stations, a recycling center, Earth Guardians—Burning Man is a “Leave No Trace” event, a municipal airport, and a large central café. And at the heart of all of it is a 50 foot structure of neon, wood, and pyrotechnics that serves as the axis mundi of the city’s design and which is set aflame at the event’s culmination. Trying to explain what Burning Man is to someone who has never been to the event is a bit like trying to explain what a particular color looks like to someone who is blind. I’ve been going out every year save two since 1997 and nothing I can say could describe the place and I think that’s because it is something you experience. I can tell you, there is no other place like it, and in my opinion, the only place to be in the world that time of year. Yes, the years seem to have rolled into each other, but each year brings new and astonishing sights and sounds. I sometimes find myself dreaming of those plays days and nights weeks before and after the event. Each sojourn out there is different, in part because each year, I too, am different. All the same it is fantastic. I can tell you I have seen, felt, heard, experienced things there that I have never seen before and have not witnessed since. The most amazing art is created, the most amazing people attend, and I find that I readily call this place my home. As do many others. “Citizenship is not a spectator sport,” says Roger Putnam. Here, in Washington, D.C at our conference, we have the confluence of fervent intellectual freedom advocates and Burning Man – a uniquely interactive non-spectator social phenomena. Indeed, participation is the heart and soul of living in this community where free expression, free speech, and in sum, unabashed freedom is celebrated with spontaneous joy and piercing delight. Like the citizenry of Black Rock City, librarians across the country also volunteer and ardently participate in civic engagement discourse and intellectual freedom policy decision-making. Like librarians, Black Rock City’s inhabitants participate in their city “bringing it alive with human effort, and all of it...

* see page 26
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