Librarians Rally on Capitol Hill

By Karen E. Brown, University of Hawaii

Camila Alire, ALA President 2009-2010 was the enthusiastic Master of Ceremonies for a rally on Capitol Hill June 29, leading the activities for Library Advocacy Day. More than 1,600 ALA members and advocates of all ages braved the 90-degree heat to take part in the largest federal advocacy event in ALA history, with chants of “We’re gonna tell ‘em” and “What do we want? Money! When do we want it? Now!”

Holding up signs designating their state, the crowd with red shirts bearing the slogan “Vote for Libraries” didn’t just include librarians and information specialists, but also LIS students, members of YALSA and ALISE, friends of libraries and even folks from as far away as Hawaii, Alaska and Qatar. Speakers included Lauren Myracle, author of beloved contemporary poets for the Exhibits from the works of classic and

Sleep, a two-CD set of songs adapted Acclaimed songwriter and performer

to her newly-released Leave Your

Vern Ehlers, Michigan.

Exhibitors Add International Flair

By Deb Nerud Vernon

The ALA Annual Conference is a great place to gather all the items you need for your library. The vendors and exhibitors offer everything one could want or need that is library related, including items to meet the needs of cultural awareness or a diverse patron population.

I spoke with three exhibitors at this year’s conference, that represented Germany, Spain and Asia who explained the symbiotic relationships they hope to form with American librarians.

Looking for German books and periodicals? The Association of Publishers and Booksellers in Baden-Württemberg, Germany exhibited for the 25th time this year at ALA. Johannes M. Scherer, Executive Director, said that the publishers have the option to send a representative to be in the booth and meet attendees personally, or send only their books. “We do not sell books at ALA, we are here to make contacts between librarians and publishers.” Scherer said that his association helps American librarians obtain German books easier...so librarians can order directly from U.S. companies, call a toll free number and have an easier time with the payment.” He continued, “It’s a benefit to the librarian that has a foreign language section. For the librarian looking to find a certain book we have German Books in Print to find that specific book or publisher.”

“America Reads Spanish” is a promotional campaign launched to promote books in Spanish and Spanish language. Organizational representative Francisco Vives and Alina San Juan, Trade Officer of the Embassy of Spain were at the conference to facilitate a way for librarians to buy books in Spanish, said San Juan. “The ALA Annual Conference is important as this is the main library show and we plan to come for many years.”

Amy Sedaris Regales Audience At ALA Annual 2010 Closer

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.


Sedaris joked that she assumed that this was one of the quietest conventions around. The rapid interchange with the audience that soon followed proved her wrong, a result that she undoubtedly expected, reserving most of her time for it. She said she enjoys using the library near her home in New York City. The building used to be a women’s prison, where she claims that she sometimes hears the voices of “screaming dead women.” Sedaris asserted that “libraries are so great because they are free.” While Sedaris was answering fan mail (“all of seven letters”) one day, a friend of hers told her that she loves working in a library because “she gets big hugs.” She hoped that many of those present...
Junot Diaz: His Life a Canvas

By Kathryn Shields
High Point University (NC)

Junot Diaz exploded onto the literary scene in 1996 with Drowned, a collection of short stories and one of the first books to illuminate the lives of Dominican-Americans. His first novel, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. Diaz grew up in New Jersey and received a BA from Rutgers and an MFA from Cornell. He currently teaches creative writing at MIT. Diaz was interviewed by Miguel Figueroa of the ALA Diversi ty Office as part of the Auditorium Speakers Series sponsored by Penguin on Monday June 28.

Diaz said that of the institutions that shaped his life, “I would say the military, one [because his father and much of his family are in the military] and the library, two.” His first love was reading, and “I think my greatest love would still be reading.” When he first saw the library at his grammar school, he said he felt what is often described as “a hunger that you wouldn’t be caught dead reading a book.” When he first saw the library at his grammar school, he said he felt what is often described as “an electric thrill of destiny.”

Figueroa asked Diaz how his own youth and childhood influenced his writing. Diaz responded that the great thing about youth is that youth feels “strangely eternal—when you are a young person, an adolescent, time feels astonishingly slow.” He said “We could be your life.”

Diaz spoke about the fact that he works with young writers and that he was interested in writing about, such as gender, race, and sexuality. Through this organization, Diaz created the Voices Writers’ Workshop, a summer program that serves “as a place where young writers of color can come together and for two weeks talk about their writing, and if they want to discuss these issues, they can.”

Of the footnotes in his novel, Diaz said that, in large part, they had to do with “my own love of the footnote.” Before he became a writer, he said that he wanted to be a historian. He did a lot of research for the footnotes, spending time in the archives, the stacks, interviewing and waiting for people to say something he could use.

Diaz said that many people think it is incongruous for an artist to be teaching creative writing at MIT. Diaz said that “promoting the arts in a culture, in a society when the artist is the first person they think about throwing off the Titanic is a struggle.”

John Grisham Thanks Libraries

By Kathryn Shields
High Point University (NC)

“I have a long, wonderful history with libraries and librarians. From a purely selfish view I want to say thanks,” said John Grisham as he began his talk in front of a large crowd of librarians who gathered to hear him as part of the Auditorium Speaker Series sponsored by Penguin, on Monday, June 28. Grisham, who will serve as the Honorary Chair of 2011 National Library Week, is an internationally best-selling author. He recently introduced his first-ever series of children’s books for 8-12 year olds, the first of which is entitled Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer and follows the adventures of a 13-year-old boy who is an amateur lawyer and unwittingly becomes involved in a high-profile murder trial.

As a child, Grisham’s family moved a lot for his father’s job, and he lived in various small towns in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. “When we moved we did two things immediately—joined the local Baptist church and went to the local library. The crucial point, he said “was always how many books you could check out in a week.” Their house was always filled with the stacks of books that he and his three siblings checked out from the library, and he remembers grabbing a book and going to hide to “get lost” for a few hours in a story. He also said “you wouldn’t be caught dead reading Nancy Drew [because it was a girls’ series], so you just didn’t get caught.”

Grisham thanked libraries for “creating a place where little boys can go to discover books and a love of reading.”

Grisham said he also owes much of his early success as an author to libraries and librarians. He was inspired to write his first book, A Time to Kill, by something he saw in a courtroom. The book took three years to write, and his wife read each chapter as he finished it. It was rejected by numerous agents and publishers and was eventually picked up in 1989 by Windwood Press. They published 5000 copies, and he bought 1000 of them. So, he went to the local library and asked if he could have a book party there. His librarian called other libraries around Mississippi, and he took his show on the road, selling books from the trunk of his car for the rest of the summer of 1989. When he published his second book, The Firm, in 1991 “most of the encouragement came from independent booksellers and librarians.”
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Advocacy Day

A community’s consistent reliance on the library to learn about tools to help enter the work force and to access the Internet, which is critical in all communities, especially rural areas where costs are high and bandwidth low. He said libraries are “essential to our civic life and progress as a nation” and encouraged the audience to be vocal about the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries (ILTSL) program from the U.S. Department of Education. Sen. Reed cautioned that every member of Congress is “looking at the cost of everything, but the cost of libraries shouldn’t be an afterthought,” and he has been a vocal supporter of both LSTA and ILTSL.

Surrounded by Books

Rep. Ehlers told a touching story about his extensive use of the library as a young boy because severe asthma made it impossible for him to attend school. He learned from home, surrounded by library books. Ehlers, who has a PhD in nuclear physics, said, “I do everything I can for you but it’s amazing how little support there is for libraries,” and suggested that librarians be more involved in their communities, become politically astute and get to know one’s local and state government in order for the money to roll in. Ehlers said, “in retirement I want to build my own airplane and fly it and read every book in the local library. I hope I achieve both.”

“No Child Left Behind should be called Every Child Left Behind, because it’s been terrible for school libraries,” exclaimed Fiels. Before leaving the rally to go speak with representatives and Senators on The Hill, Fiels reminded the crowd that that they were there not on behalf of themselves, but on behalf of the communities and thousands of people who use the library every day that we, like our Congress, represent.

At the end of the rally, Alire said, “Now that we’re warmed up, the real work can begin.” With that, many of the supporters took the time to visit their congressional representatives in their offices to remind them of the importance of libraries, not just during the good times, but especially the bad.

Video of the rally will be made available on the ALA Washington Office blog, District Dispatch at www.woala.org/districtdispatch/.
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Authors Recognized for Contributions to Children’s Literature at Newbery Caldecott Awards Banquet

By Megan Hodge
University of North Texas

Jerry Pinkney and Rebecca Stead were presented with the Caldecott and Newbery Medals, respectively, at Sunday night’s Newbery Caldecott Awards Banquet. ALSBC President Thom Barthelme, who presided over the evening gala, said in his opening remarks that librarians, and the award committee members in particular, “do what we do for the inestimable value of providing children with good books.” Over 1,400 guests, including ALA President Camila Alire, were in attendance at the event.

In his acceptance speech, Pinkney—who won for his nearly wordless interpretation of Aesop’s fable The Lion and the Mouse, related that Mo Willems (author of Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus) suggested that since Pinkney’s book was wordless, so should his speech be. Pinkney did not take this advice, however, and related a story told to him of a child who had read The Lion and the Mouse twice—each time with a different interpretation. “This was exactly what I was going for: a child taking ownership... Here is the heart of the book: what the reader discovers outside the vision of the artist.”

Stead confided that When You Reach Me, the book for which she won the Newbery, developed out of her own insecurities as a child. She said, “when I read books, I wasn’t alone in the room of my own mind... the people in books told me things that the people in my life wouldn’t admit.” She wanted to provide the same sort of light bulb moment to other children, but, “like many people who secretly want to write, [I] became a lawyer.” The book took shape over several years, suffering a setback at one point when Stead wondered if she “really wanted to put all of [my] weirdness into this book.” She persevered, however, and thanked the committee for providing her with “knee-locking happiness; a lightning bolt of joy.”

NBA Star Dwyane Wade Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month

This September, Olympic gold medalist and 2008-2009 NBA top scoring player Dwyane Wade wants Americans to know that a library card is the “smartest card” in every wallet.

As Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month, Wade has donated his time and image to the creation of a print public service announcement (PSA) Library Card Sign-up Month PSA. Wade’s fund-raising efforts will help libraries around the country to provide children with good books.

In addition to the PSA Library Card Sign-up sample media tools are now available to remind the public of all the resources available for free with a library card. Tools include a sample press release, newsletter article, proclamation and public service announcement.

To download free promotional materials visit www.ala.org/librarycardsignup.

Library Card Sign-up Month was launched in 1987. Library Card Sign-up Month is a time to remind parents that a library card is the most important supply of all. Since then, thousands of public and school libraries join each fall in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card.
WASHINGTON, D.C. • 2010 Annual Conference Highlights


Skinny Bitch author Kim Barnouin autographs copies of her book Ultimate Everyday Cookbook after cooking up some treats for librarians at the Cooking Pavilion.

ALA Ambassador David Dowell, right, Morro Bay, Calif., answers a question for James Kennedy, left, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa, at the ALA Membership Pavilion in The Stacks.

Nancy Pearl, left, interviews Mary McDonagh Murphy, right, on the 50th anniversary of To Kill a Mockingbird.

ALA President Camila A. Alire and Exhibits Secretary John Ison cut the ribbon to open The Stacks on June 25 as the ALA Executive Board watches.

Jerry Pinkney is all smiles signing copies of his book The Lion & The Mouse at Little, Brown and Company booth.

International Flair

is the main library show and we plan to come for many years,” she remarked.

The Essential Guide to Spanish Reading for Children and Young Adults (a free give-away book at conference) is also available on their web page and is updated monthly (www.americareadsspanish.org). Vives said that there are many resources available on the web site that librarians would find useful including an online TV channel featuring Spanish authors and events and many useful links.

Asia for Kids provides multicultural and bilingual resources for a variety of languages including, but not limited to, Albanian, Chinese, Arabic, Greek, Hindi, Japanese and Korean. "Librarians can travel the world at our booth,” said Selina Yoon, Master of Communication.

"We provide cultural and language materials that are difficult to find or are not readily available."

"Any time there is unrest in a country or some new group moves to the U.S., that group wants to learn English," continued Yoon. "We have 100-plus languages that we publish and distribute." Products are demonstrated and catalogs are provided from which to order.

The company located in Cincinnati, has been in business for 15 years to help schools or libraries supplement curriculum, help people learn a foreign language or just provide enjoyable viewing and reading. Yoon said that Chinese language materials are "hot" right now. "We have a DVD about Cuba coming out soon as well as one about families of Afghanistan. When we exhibit, many librarians stop by and tell us what language they need in their collection and we listen. We are here to address their needs."

APALA Celebrates Its History, Accomplishments, Current Programs, and Members at 30th Anniversary Gala

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

The Asian Pacific American Library Association (APALA, searchable at www.apalaweb.org) marked its third decade with a retrospective on its history and future plans at a fund raising dinner the evening of June 27 at the China Garden Restaurant in Roslyn, Va. Featured among the festivities, hosted by Master of Ceremonies and past president (2006-2007) Ben Wakashige, were recognition of the evening’s sponsors (with DECMCO, the platinum sponsor, providing souvenir tote bags; Patty Wong, the silver sponsor; ALA President Camilla Alire, the gold sponsor; and Lee & Low, Betty Tsai, and REFORMA as bronze sponsors); a welcome by Buevandaevarta “Ven” Basco, anniversary organizing chair; Bollywood singing by Surbodh Sen; a keynote address by Dr. Franklin Odo; cultural dances by the locally-based American Association, APALA Literature Awards; and the honoring of past presidents and the current executive director Gary Colmenar by current president Sherise Kimura.

APALA’s first president (1982) Shantar Karkhanis shared with those in attendance the organization’s pioneer days including how he contacted and invited former U.S. Senator and linguist S. I. Hayakawa to the first APALA assembly, held in conjunction with ALA’s annual meeting. When the ALA President heard about his initiative, Karkhanis wound up introducing Dr. Hayakawa at ALA’s opening session in New York, thereby advertising APALA’s role as a catalyst in its first year. Past president (1996-1997) and unofficial organization historian Ken Yamashita recounted additional tales of the early days as well as APALA’s more recent partnering activities such as helping to organize the first Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in 2006.

ALA President Alire appeared in a videotaped welcome in which she praised APALA’s past and current ventures, most recently its partnering with the American Indian Library Association on “Talk Story: Sharing Culture, Sharing History” as part of her family literacy focus project. President-elect Florante Peter Ibanez introduced Dr. Odo, Hawaii-born Japanese-American author, scholar, teacher, activist, historian, and recently retired director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian. Odo provided perspective and context for the current situation of Asian Pacific Americans, now spread throughout the nation rather than contained in isolated segments.

Odo said that we need to help lead the way to critical thinking. According to Odo, when the U.S. Census first recognized this ethnic category in 1970, Japanese were the most numerous among them. Because of changes and diversification within the Asian American community, that ethnicity is now only the sixth largest. Odo mentioned the completion of his most recent project, a book on Japanese immigrant folksongs from Hawaiian sugar plantations, which relate to gender as well as labor history, since many of these anonymous compositions are the work of women. He also told of his own personal journey, preceded by the Hawaiian-vacationing FDR granting permission for a boat carrying Japanese-Americans (including Odo’s mother) to land. Odo went on to studies at Princeton and Harvard, interspersed by an undergraduate “experiment in international living” in Italy.

Dora Ho, Chair of APALA’s Literature Awards Committee, followed with presentations for honorable mentions and winners in the categories of: picture books, adult fiction and non-fiction, and youth literature.
Librarians Can Change Society

By Amy Pace
High Point University (NC)

How can librarians become more engaged in social movements? On Sunday morning, June 27, activists, historians, librarians and other creative thinkers discussed their research and work to promote civic engagements to help provoke this question.

Cheryl Knott Malone, Associate Professor at the School of Information Resources and Library Science at the University of Arizona, spoke first, suggesting librarians today consider the history of the desegregation of southern public libraries, and the roles librarians played therein. “Both segregation and desegregation were processes that moved back and forth,” she said. “Most southern cities and towns that built public libraries... restricted their use to whites.” Exceptions to this were rare, she stated. However, Malone then described a number of articles and books that began to pop up before the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She told the stories of two librarians: Ruth Brown and Juliette Morgan, whose careers ended in dismissal and suicide, respectively.

Malone reminded attendees that social change is not always a big dramatic change, but sometimes a series of slow and incremental changes. Speaking on the subject of libraries and the art of Balkan Identity was Jon Feffer, the co-director of Foreign Policy in Focus project Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. He described a series of presentations given by artists and activists in Germany in 2006 and 2007 on the subject of war to create the Dictionary of War. This idea led to the creation of the Balkans Project, “a collection of material, an organization of material and a presentation of material from several trips to the region.” It is an “attempt to break down the barriers between art, activism, and academia.” The Balkans Project consisted of a series of 70 interviews in the Balkans; transcripts of the interviews are available at balkansproject.jps-dc.org. Feffer hoped to discover where the Balkans Project was headed in terms of identity, shared stories of various artists of the Balkans, including the story of Violetta, the first gypsy TV anchor.

Kathleen de la Peña McCoork urged attendees to consider the stories of some courageous librarians over the years. McCook is a Distinguished University Professor at the School of Library and Information Science for the University of South Florida. She told about Agnes Ingles in 1924, Stanley Kunitz in 1938 and 1939 who inspired the Library Bill of Rights, standing up for The Grapes of Wrath when it was banned. Jacqueline Greed visited Japanese children in internment camps who could not have library services during World War II. McCook quipped of the redeeming quality of libraries, saying “Every President of the United States... spends the rest of their career building their library.” McCook warns “You always have to be on the watch as librarians; you never know who is going to be the censor in your community.” The question occurs: what would this world be like without the stands these librarians have taken for what they believe in.

DEMCO/AILA 2010 Scholarship Awards

The American Indian Library Association is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 DEMCO/AILA scholarship awards. Thanks to the generosity of DEMCO, AILA was able to fund the DEMCO/AILA Library School Scholarship in the amount of $2000, and three DEMCO/AILA Travel Grants of $500 each.

The 2010 DEMCO/AILA Library School Scholarship recipient is Mary Gibson. Mary is an enrolled member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, and she will be pursuing her Master of Science in Library and Information Science at the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

The 2010 DEMCO/AILA Travel Scholarship recipients are Teresa Mares, Librarian at Noli Indian School; Sandra Thrapp, Tribal Librarian for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma; and Melanie Toledo, Library Manager at Ak-Chin Indian Community Library. Thanks to this opportunity, these tribal librarians will be able to take what they learned at the AILA conference back to their communities.

The American Indian Library Association would like to extend its congratulations to all four awardees, and to thank DEMCO for its generous support of native librarianship.

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Dave Isay and StoryCorps: Preserving the Voices of Everyday People

By Brad Martin
LAC Group

About seven years ago, a booth was set up in Grand Central Terminal in New York to record interviews that would later be preserved for future generations to hear. Studs Terkel cut the ribbon and made a remark about people knowing who designed the famous railroad terminal, but that we didn’t know that much about the everyday people who built it.

Dave Isay, founder of StoryCorps, spoke to ALA attendees about this ongoing project and shared many examples of the recordings. According to Isay, these recordings, which are being preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, “exemplify eloquence and grace and wisdom in the voices of everyday people.”

Isay explained that “part of the power of listening to these recordings is that you are walking in their footsteps and you learn that there is more that unites us than divides us.”

“Do you know what it’s like to hear people who built it? To hear what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was thinking? To hear what the people who built it were thinking?”

Isay also played a recording of an interview between Olly Neal and his daughter Karama. Neal, a retired worker, died of cancer, and the original StoryCorps booth was renamed by his mother Sarah.

“This is about the real America,” Isay said, “not the celebrities, the Lady Gagas, the sludge that comes into the mainstream media.”

Isay also played a recording of an interview between Olly Neal and his daughter Karama. Neal, a retired judge, told of being a teenager and stealing a book by Frank Yerby from a library because he didn’t want others to know for fear it might hurt his reputation as a tough guy. Years later, he recalled how he learned that the librarians actually had known he was doing this, and had encouraged his reading by going to great lengths to buy more books by the same author. He said he could not understand why every time he returned a book, there was a different title by the same author magically on the shelf for him.

Isay played several other excerpts, including a couple of sаnитаrу workers recalling being in Memphis at the time Martin Luther Jr. was killed and a retired librarian telling her husband about how she originally prepared for her career by cataloging her comic books as a little girl.

StoryCorps will be coming to television this summer with animated cartoons accompanying the recordings, and Isay played one example of a young boy named Joshua Littman interviewing and being interviewed by his mother Sarah.

He closed by saying, “these are the people we should be building statues of in this country... at its core, every life matters equally.”

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Kidd and Taylor: On Memoirs, Relationships

By Amy Pace
High Point University (NC)

Sue Monk Kidd, author of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Mermaid Chair* and her daughter, Ann Kidd Taylor, who together have recently published a new book, *Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother-Daughter Story*, spoke June 26 about their memoir. Family photographs—vacations, celebrations, and candid pictures—flashed on the screens before the two took the stage.

Kidd described the photographs that were shown as a visual collage of their book: a memoir of their changing relationship and travel experiences together. Kidd said that “writing this book together has deepened our relationship.” In the book, Kidd wrote about the demands of motherhood saying “the mother-daughter relationship is one of the most emotionally intense... bonds on earth.” The period written about in the book, between 1998 and 2001, was from both mother and daughter’s point of view.

Taylor had the idea to write the book with her mother in 2003. She had been writing it by herself for a long time, but came to feel that her mother should be included in the story. This was her first major publication and she stated that it can be terrifying to put yourself out there due to the revelatory nature of memoirs. Taylor described it as daunting to write about her depression and other difficult periods of her life.

It took about three years to complete the memoir of their travels. The book is told in chapters alternating between Kidd and Taylor’s voices, carefully edited and collaborated to make the story seamless. They kept journals, recorded notes, and kept in touch via email during their 40 days of travel. Taylor said the biggest difference they had during the writing process was that of writing styles.

Taylor read a passage from the book about the transitions the pair were facing, she into womanhood and her mother into older womanhood, and the difficulty she had in sharing her depression with her mother. Kidd then read a passage from her part of the book dealing with her difficulty adjusting to the aging process and watching the young woman leave. She said, “aging is about the process of letting go of what is leaving anyway and saying a proper goodbye to this, which is gracious and appropriate, and at the same time, letting something new be born in us.”
also get the same in thanks for the work that they do. But she also knows some people who do not like libraries because: they hate reading; “libraries smell like bad hair”; the lines there are too long; and they do not care for overdue notices.

Sedaris unabashedly queried how much librarians make an hour. When someone responded $26 an hour, she retorted “Oh, you must be an adminis-trator.” For the rest of her program she addressed craft making; admonishing the audience not to confuse scissors meant for paper with those intended for fabric; showing how one can decorate a cloth napkin with markers rather than by the more laborious method of using a needle and thread; and demon-strating how to craft a bookmark from plastic tape. She has a whole section in her new book on making things for rabbits in reference to her own animal companion. She discovered that she had a flair for humor while growing up in a large family with six siblings who all had to scramble to get a word in. But she also averred that she is not in competition with her brother David, since her humor is primarily visual while his is more verbal and textual.

Ever an enterpriser, she observed that shells from dead turtles when painted can make excellent masks. She stated that her book on arti-sanship is really good for people with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)—“they are the best” because they like to keep doing things over and over again. And she recommended stretching before engaging in certain activities in order to forestall craft-induced injuries.

As to any plans for fun, Sedaris of-fered that she was going to rehabilitate her apartment after having almost trashed it while working on the craft book and then visit as many libraries as she could. In her new book, she was inspired by some older craft books that were pertinent, but claimed that many of them are “visually disappointing.” Regarding her previous frequent comedy collaborator and co-star Stephen Col-bert, she said “[he] is the smartest per-son I know—a real reference person.”

Revised Intellectual Freedom Manual Introduced

Making its debut at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference was the newly revised and updated eighth edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual, published by the Office for Intellec-tual Freedom. In press since 1974, the manual serves as a convenient reference guide for librarians and li-brary trustees addressing intellectual freedom and privacy issues in their libraries, including book challenges, policy development, privacy issues, and professional ethics. Included in the eighth edition is up-to-date legal information on censorship, minors’ rights, and the USA PATRIOT Act.

New to this edition are three new interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights: “Importance of Education to Intellectual Freedom,” “Minors and Internet Interactivity,” and “Ser-vices to Persons with Disabilities.” In addition, the updated Intellectual Freedom Manual includes revisions to ten existing Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights and major policy documents addressing privacy and professional ethics. These in-clude “Resolution on the Retention of Library Usage Records,” “RFID in Libraries: Privacy and Confidentiality Guidelines,” “Resolution on Workplace Speech” and two statements on the Code of Ethics: “Enforcement of the Code of Ethics, Questions and An-swers” and “Questions and Answers on Speech in the Workplace.”

A revamped and revised website to supplement and update the print edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual also debuted during ALA Annual. Online at www.ifmanual.org, the new site provides access to new policies and policy revisions as well as expanded online resources for academic and school librarians. The eighth edition is available online at www.alastore.ala.org.

**September Savings**

**Bundled Registration for the 2011 Midwinter Meeting and 2011 Annual Conference**

Once again ALA is offering a special bundled price on the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference if you register for BOTH during the month of September. You may also register for housing at this time if you take advantage of this great offer. You can save 20% over the advance registration price you would pay if you bought each event separately!

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Sir Salman Rushdie
Putting Messages in a Bottle

By Brad Martin
LAC Group

During the writing of The Satanic Verses, Sir Salman Rushdie’s son asked, “why don’t you write books I can read?” Rushdie made him a promise – his next book would be just that, and the result was Haroun and the Sea of Stories. With Luka and the Fire of Life, Rushdie’s forthcoming book, Rushdie again returns to the same genre—this time responding to his other son’s challenge of “where’s MY book?”

Rushdie, spoke on Saturday, June 25 at ALA Conference about the writing of both books.

He told how both his books involve fathers and sons, but that “beyond that, they are very different.” They differ as a result of what he described as the shifting perspectives we experience in life. In Haroun and the Sea of Stories, he explained how it was about storytelling being threatened, and that Luka and the Fire of Life was a response to a different kind of danger—the mortality of the storyteller.

For a long time, Rushdie said he wanted to “demolish the boundary between adult and children’s literature,” and that movies such as Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Avatar and many others have done this. He describes this kind of book as a kind of message in a bottle—a book that can be read as a child and then re-read as an adult, with the reader discovering different meanings as they grow up.

Rushdie also gave credit to his son who challenged him to write his lat-
est work, calling him “the best editor I ever had.” He said that after his son read an early draft he said he liked the story, but “some people might find it boring.” Rushdie went back to work, and with some changes Luka and the Fire of Life was completed to the son’s satisfaction.

The question and answer period that followed prompted Rushdie to speak about a range of topics, from his depiction of historical events like the Bangladesh War in Midnight’s Children, to whether the fatwa calling for his death still affects his life.

With regard to the former, Rushdie quoted author Milan Kundera, who once said that “the struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.” On the threats to his life, Rushdie said that for about the past 11 years, it has not affected him that much, adding that “the Ayatollah is dead, and I am still here.”

Toni Morrison and Libraries: An Intimate Relationship

By Jeanna Vahling
University of Kentucky

Nobel Prize winning author, Pulitzer Prize winner, charming and witty are all words to describe Toni Morrison, this year’s Opening Session Keynote Speaker at ALA Annual Conference. More importantly she is a library advocate with a genuine love for our profession. “I suspect that every single author that speaks to librarians can tell you about his or her intimate, steady, and vital relationships to libraries” she said in her opening remarks.

Morrison recalled stories of her youth and her first glimpse of the power of words. “I don’t even remember my life, my sentient life, before I was able to read.”

Morrison spoke about her intimate relationship with libraries. She served as a librarian after her sister became secretary to the head librarian in the town where they grew up. As Morrison puts it, she was a “very slow page”, taking time to read or at least peruse the books she shelved in the stacks.

“What led me to writing was my hunger for reading” she told the audience as she began to talk about herself as an author. She was hungry for a certain kind of story. One she couldn’t find, “so I wrote it.” she humbly stated. It was only by accident that she began to write children’s books. She explained that her son provokes the questions while she “pumps them up and develops them” with her words. “He’s the one who gives me the laughter and joy that I think I can move along with this, with his help.”

She has recently written Peeny Butter Fudge, a story for her grandchildren and their way of passing down a third generation peanut butter fudge recipe. Rushdie is pleased with the outcome of this book. “Language is magic for them [grandchildren]. They like rhyme and they like repetition. They invent words. They invent people. It’s very creative for them.”

Morrison stressed that every library has its purpose—from the community centered libraries of giving people the laughter and joy of the written word, the public libraries of helping people grow in and explore their life. In his opening remarks, he explained how it was about fun. “We’ve done an incredible job in libraries of not having fun. We’ve done an incredible job in libraries of not having fun. The library is a second hand business model. Going to the library to use it. In the digital era there is no second hand. Going to the library to ask a question will be outdated.” He continued by saying, “In libraries we don’t talk about the most popular things. Most librarians are text-based learners. In this time there is so much video coming to your eyes, and your brains like it more. Text is so much video coming to your eyes, and your brains like it more. Text is difficult, and that’s why there are so many illiterate people. If you have to choose between reading a book and watching television, your brain will choose watching television.”

He suggested getting partners into the library. “Do things that are born digital. When it comes to things of local importance, no one is faster or more important than the library. You have to make a place where people want to come; where gaming is normal.”

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Technology Titans Reach Out to Libraries in ALA Technology Pavilion

By Deb Nerud Vernon

Bill Gates once said, “Never before in history has innovation offered promise of so much to so many in so short a time.” The same can be said about the Technology Pavilion that was in the ALA Exhibits at this year’s Annual Conference. Booths that couldn’t be missed included the Eastman Kodak booth. Long known as the industry’s leader of innovative document capture products, software and services, Kodak has developed a photo scanning system which allows auto batch feeding. “It’s the only one on the market,” said Barry Symonds, Business Development Manager of Photo Scanning.

Symonds said that the new photo scanning system is extremely relevant to libraries. “First, libraries are able to scan their own archived photos and share them with the community in a digitized format. And libraries can offer that same service to their communities. People can bring in photos or libraries can offer workshops on the process and do some fund raising.” He added that it is a way for the library to offer services to businesses and that there is no ongoing supply cost.

Another booth that got a lot of attention was the HP BookPrep booth. BookPrep is a web service that makes it possible to provide readers with access to any book ever published. “BookPrep is a tool to take scanned books, clean them up, perform color correction, and get them ready for print on demand,” said Shawn Collins, Manager IPG Research Alliance. “This provides an excellent alternative for storage and archiving those old books,” added Collins. “If you have an old out-of-print or rare book, you can still get a physical copy out for circulation.” Collins had many examples of books done with the BookPrep system in his booth and added that if a copy of the book sells the library shares in the revenue from the sale of that book.

Over six million hours of film and video from the 1920’s to current events will help engage your students and develop 21st century learning skills. That is what NBCLearn was showing off in their booth S05. They have developed an educational resource that never goes out-of-date and is aligned with K-12 learning standards in all 50 states and tackles over 28 subject areas in higher education and is integrated with Blackboard.

“People can build classroom material you have and add real world context and relevance,” said Michael Levin, Director of Technology. “The student can watch, see, hear, and feel what it is like to be there.” The patented cue card media player displays full-text transcripts and primary source documents on the ‘back’ of the media card as well as providing bibliographic citation information and links. The robust search feature allows one to perform Boolean, date or collection searches. “You can even search by state standards to find all the videos that help support them,” said Levin.

At the Bing booth attendees discovered how searching is not the just the same old thing any more. Microsoft designed Bing as a decision engine to help support them,” said Levin. The Bing search engine has upgraded its

Archivists and Librarians Working with Legislative Records Display Synergy at GODORT Session

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

ALA’s Government Documents Roundtable, Collections Management & Technical Services, on June 28 featured a panel suggesting how librarians and archivists can benefit each other for they bring distinctive strengths to their tasks. Presenters included: Robin Reeder, Archivist, Office of History and Preservation, Office of the Clerk, House of Representatives; Cass Hartnett, U.S. Government Documents Librarian, University of Washington Libraries; and Linda Whitaker, Librarian, Arizona Historical Foundation.

Reeder detailed how the Clerk oversees the records of the House, which primarily come from committees, as well as presiding over the House floor. House records are closed to the public for 30 years after their creation, for 50 years if they contain sensitive information.

The National Archives and Records Administration’s Center for Legislative Records at Archives I in Washington D.C. houses these materials although, unlike executive branch records, they remain the property of the issuing body. Reeder’s office also advises House Members how to prepare for the archiving of their personal records.

The various forms of electronic records have presented one of the biggest challenges to archivists working with legislative materials and there are streaming video websites of some committee records. NARA began harvesting websites in 2002 (www.webharvest.gov/collections) which it continues to do for legislative records although no longer for those issued by the executive branch. The Library of Congress web harvest project often relates to Members as well on such topics as campaign literature.

Hartnett suggested two recent archivist-produced publications for librarians who work with government documents: Managing Congressional Collections by Cynthia Pease Miller (SAA, 2008) and An American Political Archives Reader (SAA, 2009). More people, even those who work with government documents, know about the location of presidential libraries than of Congressional collections. She regretted that in the early 1980s, many libraries withdrew their printed congressional materials when the same arrived on microforms. Many are again searching for paper copies for the easier teaching possibilities that they provide. Even with digitization, congressional committees still issue their documents in paper form. Hartnett noted that Members’ own copies of hearings and other documents are different in color and have marbled edges. Within Congressional papers, constituent correspondence often reveals the passions of the day and offer opportunities for popular cultural research. Librarians and archivists can also gain by the insight that cultural heritage experts can provide.

Whitaker, who maintained that a course in government documents should be mandatory in all library science programs, asserted that government documents librarians and archivists share similar “high-end” users such as graduate students and tenure-seeking professors.

Upcoming Dates for Midwinter & Annual

2011 Midwinter Meeting
January 7–11, 2011
San Diego, CA

2011 Annual Conference
June 23–28, 2011
New Orleans, LA

2012 Midwinter Meeting
January 20–24, 2012
Dallas, TX
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