notes



2008 Midwinter Highlights Issue

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January 2008

ALA Announces 2008 Youth Media Award Winners

he American Library Association (ALA) announced the top books, video and audiobooks for children and young adults - including the Caldecott, King, Newbery, Schneider Family and Printz awards - during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

The following is a list of all ALA Youth Media Awards for 2008:

The John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature was awarded to Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village, written by Laura Amy Schlitz. The book is published by Candlewick.

Three Newbery Honor Books were named: Elijah of Buxton, by Christopher Paul Curtis, published by Scholastic; The Wednesday Wars, by Gary D. Schmidt, published by Clarion and Feathers, by Jacqueline Woodson, published by Putnam.

Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children went to *The* Invention of Hugo Cabret, illustrated by Brian Selznick, published by Scholastic.

Four Caldecott Honor Books were named: Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Ellen Levine, and published by Scholastic; First the Egg, illustrated and written by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, and published by Roaring

Brook/Neal Porter; The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain, illustrated and written by Peter Sís, and published by Farrar/Frances Foster; and Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity, illustrated and written by Mo Willems, and published by Hyperion.

The Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults was awarded to The White Darkness, written by Geraldine McCaughrean and published by HarperTempest.

Four Printz Honor Books were named: Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet, by Elizabeth Knox, published by Farrar/Frances Foster; One Whole and Perfect Day, by Judith Clarke, published by Boyds Mills/Front Street; Repossessed, by A. M. Jenkins, published by HarperTeen; and Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath, by Stephanie Hemphill, published by Random House/Knopf.

The Coretta Scott King The Randolph Caldecott Book Award recognizes an African American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults. Elijah of Buxton, written by Christopher Paul Curtis, is the King Author Book winner. The book is published by Scholastic. Two King Author Honor Books were selected: November Blues, by Sharon M. Draper, published by Atheneum, and Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali, written by

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YALSA President Paula Brehm-Heeger, left, Coretta Scott King Book Committee Chair Deborah Taylor, ALA President Loriene Roy, and ALSC President Jane Marino with Youth Media award winners.

ALA President's Program Keynoted by Dr. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

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

BA all-time leading scorer Dr. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the keynote speaker for the President's Program January 13. President Loriene Roy introduced him as someone who brings "his convictions to education, history, and, yes, to basketball." He highlighted basketball's importance to Native Americans in his book A Season on the Reservation: My Sojourn with the White Mountain Apache which was informed by his volunteer work on an Indian reservation.

"I am not standing here as a basketball player but as an author, an historian, and a book lover, all because of a library and librarians like you," he began. He asserted that he is an "old school" researcher who never works from the Internet. His father, a police officer and a

jazz musician, was a voracious reader who bought books by the pound.

Born in Harlem, Abdul-Jabbar's family moved away physically from his cultural roots before he actually realized what they were. In 1964, the 17-year-old Abdul-Jabbar joined the Harlem Youth Action Program which first introduced him to the historical riches of the Harlem Renaissance. After the

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Sunrise Celebration Emphasizes Continuity Between Gandhi and King

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

The connection made between the non-violent resistance methods of both Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. found an appropriate setting in Philadelphia, a city founded by William Penn and the Society of Friends. Sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round

Featured Speaker Ganga B. Dakshinamurti, right, University of Manitoba, Canada, and Constance Purcell, left, Public Library of Charmeck, Charlotte, N.C., embrace at the conclusion of the ALA's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Sunrise Observance.

Table (SSRT) and the Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA) and supported by World Book, Inc., the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, the Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration was held on January 14.

ALA President Loriene Roy introduced Keith Fiels, ALA Executive Director, who noted that, like Gandhi and King, "librarians are spiritually aggressive....Libraries are places where people come to be inspired....We are an

important force for creating a better world." Myra Appel of SSRT read some of Dr. King's reflections on Gandhi with reference to everyone's "inner voice" to which he or she must respond. Constance Purcell introduced Dr. Ganga B. Dakshinamurti, whose past activities include serving as president of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) and as a Steering Committee member for the 2006 Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC.)

Dakshinamurti stated that she is honored to appear as "the first brown person to address this sunrise service [as keynote]" and that she feels "kindred in spirit and action." She reminded those assembled that King

inherited the mantel of Gandhi and of "the power of love in solving social problems." Gandhi's words—"through our pain we will make them see injustice"—resonated deeply with King. She then conjectured what both men might say about the wrongs of today. She said that they would oppose "the doctored

doctrine of disinformation....The time has come for the Silent Majority to speak loud and clear."

Speaking on behalf of librarians, she said, "we do not want just information—we want truth in information and justice for all."

Inside the FBI: A Whistleblower Speaks Out

By Brad Martin ABC News

FBI Special Agent Bassem Youssef, despite displeasure by the FBI about the proposed content of his presentation, bravely spoke on his own behalf January 12 about his experiences, mostly by answering questions asked of him by ALA's Tom Sussman and by audience members.

Youssef, the highest ranking Arab-American agent and fluent Arab speaking agent employed by the FBI, saw his career take an unexpected turn for the worse after 9/11 when he told director Robert Mueller about discriminatory practices within the bureau and that he thought the organization could do a better job pursuing al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations if it made better use of their knowledge of Arab language and culture.

This resulted in Youssef, who is the

recipient of the prestigious Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) award for his work on the first World Trade Center bombing, being reassigned to a different area, the Communications Analysis Unit.

Within a few months, he realized the FBI was using what are called "exigent circumstances" to perform surveillance of private citizens and that he didn't know this to be legal.

Stephen M. Kohn, president of the National Whistleblower Center and Youssef's attorney, has written seven books on whistleblowing, and said that the agency was doing this in hundreds of situations, even though getting National Security Letters (NSLs) was easy. Kohn moderated what he felt his client was allowed to discuss during his appearance and was described by Sussman as someone who has "been on the front lines of protecting those individuals who have had the courage to step forward."

Kohn pointed out Youssef is actually now prohibited from using his Arab language skills and that there was an extreme amount of ignorance of Arab language and culture at high levels of the FBI. He told the story of a top FBI manager not knowing the difference between a Sunni and a Shiite Muslim. Youssef gave a brief overview of the differences between these two groups, and questioned how much was known by those who advised the Bush administration about Iraq.

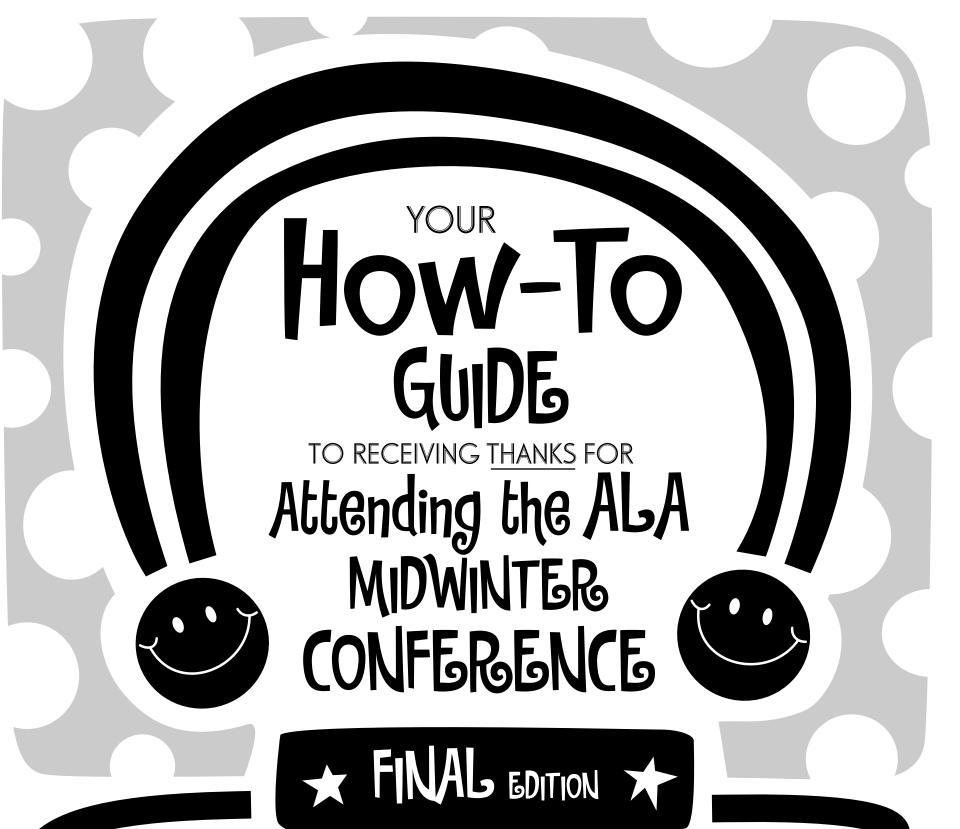
Kohn also spoke out forcefully in his own right about Youssef's story, praising passionately his client's courage in speaking up and persevering against all odds.

"The FBI has tremendous control. For him to come here and talk to you is extraordinary, but it's an example of how critical it is," Kohn said, adding that, "he absolutely needs your help. Period. The system does not work."

Youssef stressed that "all I have wanted to do was work for the FBI. I never thought my career would take the turn it did." He also said that he has heard word of several hostile reactions to his whistleblowing, and these include comments like "as a whistleblower, he should be hanged." Youseff believes that "national security and civil liberties are not at odds with each other," and said "I need everyone looking at this for change to succeed," he said.

Anyone wishing to learn more was encouraged to contact the National Whistleblower Center at http://whistle blowers.org, where they can also find out how to become involved.







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Youth Awards

Continued from page 1

Charles R. Smith Jr., illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Candlewick.

Let it Shine, illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan, is the King Illustrator Book winner. The book is published by Atheneum. Two King Illustrator Honor Books were selected: The Secret Olivia Told Me, illustrated by Nancy Devard and written by N. Joy, published by Just Us Books, and Jazz On A Saturday Night, by Leo and Diane Dillon, published by Scholastic/Blue Sky.

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award went to Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It, written by Sundee T. Frazier and published by Delacorte.

The Schneider Family Book Award is awarded for books that embody the artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences. Kami and the Yaks, written by Andrea Stenn Stryer, illustrated by Bert Dodson and published by Bay Otter Press wins the award for young children (age 0 to 10). Reaching for Sun, by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, published by Bloomsbury is the winner in the middle grades category (age 11-13). Hurt Go Happy, written by Ginny Rorby, a Starscape Book, published by Tom Doherty, is the winner in the teen category (age 13-18).

The **Theodor Seuss Geisel Award** for the most distinguished book for beginning readers went to *There Is a Bird on Your Head!*, written and illustrated by Mo Willems and published by Hyperion.

Four Geisel Honor Books were named: First the Egg, written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger and published by Roaring Brook/Neal Porter; Hello, Bumblebee Bat, written by Darrin Lunde, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne and published by Charlesbridge; Jazz Baby, written by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and published by Harcourt; and Vulture View, written by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins and published by Holt.

The Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults was awarded to Orson Scott Card, honoring his outstanding lifetime contribution to writing for teens for his novels *Ender's Game* and *Ender's Shadow*.

The **Pura Belpré Award** honors Latino authors and illustrators whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in children's books. Yuyi Morales, illustrator of *Los Gatos Black on Halloween*, written by Marisa Montes and published by Holt is the winner of the Belpré Illustrator Award. Margarita Engle, author of *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*, illustrated by Sean Qualls

and published by Holt, is the Belpré Author Award recipient.

Two Belpré Honor Books for illustration were announced: My Name Is Gabito: The Life of Gabriel García Márquez/Me llamo gabito: La vida de Gabriel García Márquez, illustrated by Raúl Colón, written by Monica Brown and published by Luna Rising and My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo, written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez and published by Children's Book Press.

Three Belpré Author Honor Books were named: Frida: ¡Viva la vida! Long Live Life! by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand and published by Marshall Cavendish; Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale, retold by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Michael Austin and published by Peachtree; and Los Gatos Black on Halloween, written by Marisa Montes, illustrated by Yuyi Morales and published by Holt.

The Robert F. Sibert Medal is awarded for the most distinguished informational book for children, and this year went to *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*, written and illustrated by Peter Sís, and published by Farrar/Frances Foster.

Two Sibert Honor Books were named: *Lightship*, written and illustrated by Brian Floca, published by Simon & Schuster/ Richard Jackson and *NicBishop Spiders*, written and illustrated by Nic Bishop, published by

Scholastic/Scholastic Nonfiction.

The Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video was awarded to Producer Kevin Lafferty along with executive producer John Davis, and co-producers, Amy Palmer Robertson and Danielle Sterling, for the production of *Jump In!* Freestyle Edition.

The Mildred L. Batchelder Award for the most outstanding children's book translated from a foreign language and subsequently published in the United States went toVIZ Media for *Brave Story*. Originally published in Japanese in 2003 as Bureibu Sutori, the book was written by Miyuki Miyabe and translated by Alexander O. Smith.

Two Batchelder Honor Books also were selected: *The Cat: Or, How I Lost Eternity*, published by Milkweed Editions, originally published in German as *Die Katze*; and *Nicholas and the Gang*, published by Phaidon Press, originally published in French as *Le petit Nicolas et les copains*.

The first-ever **Odyssey Award** for Excellence in Audiobook Production was awarded to Live Oak Media for *Jazz*.

Five honor titles were named: Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary 'Jacky' Faber, Ship's Boy, produced by Listen & Live Audio; Dooby Dooby Moo, produced by Scholastic/Weston Woods; Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, produced by Listening Library; Skulduggery Pleasant, produced by HarperChildren's Audio; and Treasure Island, produced by Listening Library.

Alex Awards for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences are: American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China, by Matthew Polly, published by Penguin/Gotham Books; Bad Monkeys, by Matt Ruff, published by HarperCollins; Essex County Volume 1: Tales from the Farm, by Jeff Lemire, published by Top Shelf Publications; Genghis: Birth of an Empire, by Conn Iggulden, published by Delacorte; The God of Animals, by Aryn Kyle, published by Scribner; A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, by Ishmael Beah, published by Farrar/ Sarah Crichton Books; Mister Pip, by Lloyd Jones, published by Random/Dial Press; Name of the Wind, by Patrick Rothfuss, published by DAW; The Night Birds, by Thomas Maltman, published by Soho; and The Spellman Files, by Lisa Lutz, published by Simon & Schuster.

The May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture recognizes an individual of distinction in the field of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site. Walter Dean Myers, widely acclaimed author of picture books, novels, poetry and non-fiction for children and young adults, will deliver the 2009 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture.

For more information on the ALA youth media awards and notables, please visit the ALA Web site at www. ala.org.



BCALA Announces the 2008 Literary Awards Winners

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) has announced the winners of the 2008 BCALA Literary Awards. The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African American authors published in 2007, including the work of a first novelist and a citation for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing.

The winner in the fiction category is New England White, by Stephen L. Carter (Knopf). New England White is an intricately detailed literary thriller that sheds light on the lifestyles of the ultimate power couple. The author reveals all the rich complexities of their lives while giving readers an in-depth view of the social life, politics, power and traditions of these "old money" families, against a backdrop of murder and intrigue.

The fiction Honor Book winner is Cold Running Creek by Zelda Lockhart (LaVenson Press).

The winner in nonfiction is *Ralph* Ellison: A Biography, by Arnold Rampersad (Knopf). Ralph Ellison: A Biography must be characterized as the definitive biography of Ellison. It is both compelling and thought provoking as it provides different insights into the life of one of America's most elusive yet acclaimed writers. Rampersad had free access to Ellison's papers and his close acquaintances.

Two nonfiction Honor Books were also selected: Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas, by Kevin Merida and Michael A. Fletcher (Doubleday) and Silent Gesture: The Autobiography of Tommie Smith, by Tommie Smith with David Steele (Temple University Press).

The recipient of the First Novelist Award is Chantal Ellen for The Rise: Where Neighbors Are Sometimes More (Lion's Den Publishing). This debut novel skillfully portrays the lives of neighbors in a high rise apartment complex offering a spirited depiction

of urban living and a dynamic portrait of Washington, D.C.

The Outstanding Contribution to Publishing Citation is presented to Deborah Willis for Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits, (Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture). One hundred and fifty years of well-known African American lives are preserved through remarkable and stunning photographs that evoke a wide range of emotions. The photographs are accompanied by a scholarly text.

Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History Chosen for 2008 Dartmouth Medal

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History has been chosen as the 2008 Dartmouth Medal recipient. The medal, donated by Dartmouth College and presented by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is given for creating current reference works of outstanding quality and significance.

Of all the titles the Dartmouth Medal Committee considered for this year's award, one left the others in

its wake. The Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History is the first Englishlanguage scholarly reference log of its kind. Its four volumes hold a cargo of nearly one thousand signed entries and four hundred illustrations. It contains all the seafaring topics you may expect, and many you may not. Not only did the international crew of naval, academic, and independent authors admirably achieve their goal of creating an interdisciplinary resource, they also made it fun.

Ann Chambers Theis Awarded 2008 Louis Shores-Greenwood Publishing Group Award

The Louis Shores/Greenwood Publishing Group Award is presented annually to an individual reviewer, group, editor, review medium or organization to recognize excellence in reviewing books or other media for libraries. The award recipient is selected for significant achievement related to a reviewing process that helps librarians make selection decisions. The award consists of a citation and a \$3,000 cash prize.

This year the Louis Shores/Greenwood Publishing Group Award is presented to Ann Chambers Theis for the creation and ongoing development of her site Overbooked.org. Overbooked. org specializes in providing timely information about fiction and select nonfiction titles to readers and librarians. The site highlights well-reviewed titles, provides lists of forthcoming books, and offers original content related to collection development. Overbooked.org offers invaluable assistance to the profession, from new library school students, to solo librarians working with limited budgets, to large metropolitan collection development departments needing a quick way to double check an acquisition decision.



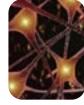
































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Privacy Issues Dominate Intellectual Freedom Discussion

By Stacy L. Voeller Minnesota State University Moorhead

The National Conversation on Privacy is an ALA project established by resolution adopted by Council June 28, 2006.

The resolution states: That the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT), and ALA Fostering Civic Engagement Member Interest Group collaborate with other ALA units toward a national conversation about privacy as an American value.

Nancy Kranich and Taylor Willingham, co-founders of the ALA Civic Engagement MIG and Carolyn Caywood, a member of IFRT are exploring the application of NIF-style framing for a national deliberation on privacy.

ALA passed a resolution authorizing a National Conversation on Privacy and the IFRT is working on framing the issue. The goal is to create a guide, somewhat like the National Issues Forum, that will be available to libraries nationally to hold deliberations on public policy in the area of privacy.

IFRT is looking at the national conversation as a means of determining what is on the minds of real people. According to IFRT, "librarians often have one idea, but the general public has another, and that is what the IFRT is investigating." The categories of people they are hoping to receive responses from include immigrants, seniors and retirees, businesses, parents, law en-

forcement, people in shelters, medical and financial professions and others who hold confidential records, educators, military and non-library users.

Members of the IFRT are beginning discussions with organized groups. While they have not yet set a specific number of groups to meet with, they do want to feel confident they have spoken with all categories of people. Once they begin hearing the same responses over and over, they will

stop gathering new information. They hope to have enough results to begin discussing how to proceed in Anaheim and to organize a conference session for a later date.

Results will be assessed to determine what the real question is regarding privacy for the general public. Based on the National Issues Forum model, IFRT also envisions writing a short guide for libraries to use for them to open up discussions in their

own communities.

While the IFRT values the results they receive meeting directly with people, and particularly with groups, they do encourage the ALA membership to visit their Privacy Framing Wetpaint Website at http://www.privacyframing.wetpaint.com where visitors can respond. The Website addresses privacy and asks "What's at stake? What are the issues? What does it mean to me?"

Conversation Caps the ALA Sunrise Series

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

The last of three ALA Sunrise Speaker Series took place on Monday, January 14 and showcased a conversation sponsored by HarperCollins about books, reading groups, and the relationships that are thereby formed and re-inforced, particularly within single gender groups. Harper's own Book Club Girl Jennifer Hart moderated the forum, followed by questions and answers, featuring authors Shireen Dodson, Elizabeth Noble, and Victoria Lustbader and book review and information site (BookReporter. com) founder Carol Fitzgerald. Free fabric tote bags filled with gifts such as coasters bearing memorable lines from famous works of fiction; facts and resources about reading groups; tips about forming them; and a paperback edition of The Mother-Daughter Book Club by Dodson greeted attendees.

There are 6,500 book clubs registered with Harper which makes their members eligible for prizes, although at least a million or more clubs exist within the U.S. The authors agreed that their and similar books work for women in clubs because discussion of them leads to a sharing of common experiences, which women, more often in touch with their feelings than men, are more inclined to do.

Fitzgerald observed that "by one's forties, one's life is not a 'work in progress'—this is the work." Dodson (whose second book is *One Hundred Books for Girls to Grow On*) noted that women's novels reveal commonalities such as that one is not the only daughter with an apparently crazy mother.

Lustbader (a former editor and whose first novel is titled *Hidden*) stated that through fiction we learn about the complexity and multiple layers of human nature. One is the fact that ostensibly moral people have

affairs. Noble (author of *The Reading Group*, *The Friendship Test*, and *Things I Want My Daughter to Know*) derided the "curse of cleverness" and asserted that a club can have really good discussions initiated by lighter and fun-filled books. Most people can find the time to read one book a month, especially "less daunting" ones if they forgo some other recreational activities. Attending a reading group also prompts one to read books that might not be selected otherwise.

A later interaction between the panelists and the audience affirmed that listening to audio-books is not "cheating," but too often material appearing in this format is drastically abridged. Frequently the choices of books for reading groups do not appeal to men who do read. The presence of men in discussion groups can change the dynamics since some might tend to dominate or alter the conversation.



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- Libraries Build Communities Volunteer Day
- A variety of preconferences
- The Inaugural Banquet
- Awards Ceremonies

For up-to-date information, check out www.ala.org/annual, or visit the Annual Conference Wiki at http://wikis.ala.org/annual2008 to network or learn about official and unofficial events happening during the Annual Conference.

Avery, Doty Win 2008 Stonewall Book Awards

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table (GLB-TRT) of the American Library Association (ALA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Stonewall Book Awards. Ellis Avery, author of *The Tea House Fire*, published by The Penguin Group, is the winner of the Barbara Gittings Book Award in Literature, and Mark Doty, author of *Dog Years: A Memoir*, published by HarperCollins Publishers, is the winner of the Israel Fishman Book Award for Nonfiction.

This year marks the 37th anniversary of the Stonewall Book Awards. The awards will be presented to the winners at the 2008 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA on June 30.

Set against the background during the opening of Japan to the West, *The Tea House Fire* draws the reader into the world of Aurelia Bernard, an American orphan who finds refuge in the household of a Japanese tea master

Dog Years: A Memoir is, on its surface, the story of the day-to-day life of Doty, his partner and their two dogs. In spare and unsentimental prose, Doty reflects on love and loss and takes the reader through his process of grieving for his human and canine companions.

The 2008 Stonewall honor books in literature are:

- Bow Grip written by Ivan E. Coyote and published by Arsenal Pulp Press
- Dark Reflections written by Samuel R. Delaney and published by Avalon publishing Group, Incorporated
- *The IHOP Papers* written by Ali Liebegott and published by Avalon Publishing Group, Inc.
- *The Indian Clerk*, a Novel written by David Leavitt and published by Bloomsbury US

The 2008 Stonewall honor books in non-fiction are:

- Grand Surprise: The Journals of Leo Lerman written by Leo Lerman and Stephen Pascal and published by Knopf Publishing Group
- *Mississippi Sissy* written by Kevin Sessums and published by St. Martins Press
- Transparent: Love, Family, and Living the T with Transgender Teenagers written by Cris Beam and published by Harcourt
- Two Lives: Gertrude and Alice written by Janet Malcolm and published by Yale University Press

For additional information on the Stonewall Book Awards, please visit: http://www.ala.org/ala/glbtrt/stonewall/stonewallbook.htm.

AILA Announces American Indian Youth Literature Award

The American Indian Library Association (AILA), an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), is pleased to announce the recipients of its American Indian Youth Literature Award. This new literary award was created as a way to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. Books selected to receive the award present Native Americans in the fullness of their humanity in the present and past contexts.

The award is presented in each of three categories-picture book, middle school, and young adult. Each winner receives \$500 and a custom-made beaded medallion, which will be presented at a ticketed event during the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA.

Winner of the award in the Picture Book category is *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom* by Tim Tingle, illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridge, and published by Cinco Puntos Press, 2006. This is a beautifully inspired story of a friendship between Martha Tom, a Choctaw girl and Li' Mo, a slave boy and how their re-

lationship brought wholeness and freedom to Mo's family and also to many slaves.

In the Middle School category, the award goes to Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond, by Joseph Medicine Crow, published by National Geographic, 2006. In this appealing autobiography, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow (Absarokee) recounts his adventures and training as a traditional Crow warrior and his service as a decorated World War II veteran.

The winner in the Young Adult category was *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, published by Little Brown Publishers, 2007. A realistic, bitter-sweet yet, humorous look at the life of Arnold, a Spokane Indian teenager making his way in life on the reservation while attending an all white high school.

In the near future an American Indian Youth Literature Award free downloadable bookmark and brochure will be made available on the AILA Web site at www.native-culturelinks.com/aila.html



ALA Midwinter Meeting
Attendees:

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Attendees Enjoy Storytelling and Yiddish at Sunrise Series

By Ericka Patillo **Radford University**

Introduced as the "Yiddish Indiana Jones," Aaron Lansky displayed his storytelling skills January 13 at the second Philadelphia Sunrise Speaker



Aaron Lansky

Series event. Lansky, a 1989 recipient of a genius grant from the MacArthur Foundation, is the founder of the National Yiddish Book Center, which has recovered almost 1.5 million volumes

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Innovative Interfaces, Inc.: Encore - Now Making Noise in the Library. Encore is the new discovery services platform that blends content, community and discovery. To see how Encore transforms the library user's experience, go to www.encoreforlibraries.com for features, podcast, and key implementations.

and has 30,000 members. The entire collection is digitized, with plans to make it accessible via the Open Content Alliance (OCA).

"Yiddish is the language in which Jews first encountered the modern world," said Lansky, and it began to be widely used in original works and translations in the 1890s. The literature was controversial because some Jews dismissed it as a radical departure from tradition. In one story Lansky told of a yeshiva (Jewish school or institution) that threw 18,000 books into the cellar.

Lansky was eager to rescue the world that was sadly fading before our eyes."

At age 23, with a rental truck and people," he said that for them, books a one-day, mid-Atlantic itinerary, Lansky set out on what he thought would be a two-year hiatus from graduate school to collect Yiddish books from older Jews. The first stop was the small apartment of a man of meager means who had a wealth of 500 books. Lansky was compelled to hear the story of each one. Four hours later, he realized he would not make his one-day timeline, and that he was in a 12-story building full of older Jews with Yiddish books like the first gentleman.

"Everybody I was going to meet was going to have a story," Lansky opined. Calling Jews "intensely bookish

are "the portable homeland." Through his collection travels, Lansky not only rescued the literature, he learned the stories of the owners and now he is sharing them as he did during his presentation as well as in his new book, Outwitting History.

Lansky talked about the future of the Yiddish Book Center, which will add a new building soon, with plans to establish the first Yiddish University. And, through participation with OCA, about 20,000 discrete titles will become "instantly available and searchable. From the brink of destruction, [Yiddish] will become the first universally accessible literature."

President's Program

Continued from page 1

searing experience of witnessing riots that summer in Harlem, Abdul-Jabbar left for school at UCLA in the fall of 1965. But he noted, "Harlem never left me." That is one reason why he returned to studying it in his book On the Shoulders of Giants: My Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance.

Through his years of reading, research, and publishing primarily in the area of history, Abdul-Jabbar learned many truths, "It is not just enough to read history, we must understand it and learn thereby to improve our lives." He came to understand the value of educating himself both within and outside the classroom and emphasized that librarians and educators must develop a sense of curiosity and skepticism among young learners and promote financial literacy as well as reading literacy.

Abdul-Jabbar imparted four principles: study your own people's history to know what you are capable of; educate yourself to think critically; dedicate yourself to your community; and "sing, dance, laugh, and generally be joyful and steadfast." He concluded his presentation with this summation: "passing along the weight of words...we are part of a larger community that extends beyond neighborhoods, beyond borders, and, thanks to librarians and libraries, beyond time."



ALA President Loriene Roy presents Keynote Speaker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar with a plaque at the President's Program.

The National Endowment for the Humanities presents



America's History Through Our Nation's Art

Picturing AmericasM is a project of the *We the People* program of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office.

Picturing America offers grants to schools (K-12) and public libraries that consist of a collection of large-scale laminated reproductions depicting works of American art, as well as other educational resources on American art and history.

The goal of **Picturing America** is to promote the teaching, study, and understanding of American art and history. **Picturing America** will provide schools and public libraries with a collection of 20 double-sided, laminated posters (24 x 36 inches) depicting works of American art, related reading lists, and a 125-page resource book with

The Picturing America program is part of the NEH's We the People program, which supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding

of American history and culture.

25,000 new grants available for schools and public libraries— Apply by April 15th!

information about the paintings, sculpture, architecture, and crafts reproduced.

A single application may be submitted on behalf of multiple libraries within a library system, school district, or community. Individual branch libraries, school libraries and schools are also encouraged to apply.

Applications will be accepted online at http://publicprograms.ala.org/picturingamerica from January 7 through April 15, 2008.

For complete information, including a list of images, eligibility, and guidelines, visit the **Picturing America** Web site (http://publicprograms.ala.org/picturingamerica) or contact publicprograms@ala.org.







www.neh.gov www.ala.org www.imls.gov

2008 John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award Winners Announced

Five libraries are winners of the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award, which recognizes and honors outstanding achievement in library public relations. The John Cotton Dana honor has been awarded continuously since 1946 and is sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, and the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). This year H.W. Wilson Company increased the cash prize that comes with the award — libraries receiving the award this year will enjoy a \$5,000 development grant.

"The John Cotton Dana Award is the most prestigious of all library awards in the public relations field and is important not only to the winning library, but also to the communities so positively impacted by these thoughtful and imaginative campaigns," said award committee chair Sherrill

The 2008 awards will be presented to:

· Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, Illinois, for "Space: Dare to Dream," a dynamic interactive exhibit that was also an innovative approach to marketing traditional summer reading programs. The program made exemplary use of partnerships, and the library leveraged the exhibit to rocket its way to record numbers for summer reading participation, library card registration, materials circulation and program attendance.

- · Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton, Ontario, for "One Book, One City: Tackling Poverty Through the Arts." This multi-faceted "one book" campaign, featuring the book *Looking for* X by Deborah Ellis, championed art as a common language and mobilized the community to raise public awareness about the issue of poverty.
- Metropolitan Library Service Agency of St. Paul, Minnesota, for its "Museum Adventure Pass" program presented by Macy's. The Pass trans-

forms the library card into up to four free tickets to any of the community's participating cultural organizations. The well-planned campaign was implemented using a broad range of public relations tactics.

- Richmond Public Library in Richmond, British Columbia for creating a unique campaign that promoted the library to school age children from kindergarten to grade seven. The highlight of the promotion was the round Ralphy library card for kids.
- · University of California Santa Barbara for "UCSB Reads for Earth Day 2007." The UCSB library led a campus-wide initiative to read, dis-

cuss, and even recycle (for other readers) the book Field Notes from a Catastrophe. Held in collaboration with local libraries, the program reached a wide range of community members beyond the university, from high school students to users of recordings for the blind and dyslexic.

Winning entries will be displayed at the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award booth in the exhibit area during the 2008 ALA Annual Conference Conference participants may also view the winners at the "Best of Show/Swap and Shop" program presented by the Public Relations and Marketing Section of LAMA.

RUSA Announces the 2008 List of Outstanding Reference Sources

The 2008 list of Outstanding Reference Sources for small and mediumsized libraries has been announced by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association. The titles, selected by RUSA's Reference Sources Committee, represent high-quality reference works that are suitable for small to medium-sized libraries.

The annotated list will appear in the May 2008 issue of American Libraries and also is available on RUSA's Web page at www.ala.org/rusa/bestref. html. The selected titles are:

APA Dictionary of Psychology, ed.

by Gary R. VandenBos, published by American Psychological Association

Encyclopaedia Judaica, ed. by Staff, Macmillan Reference U.S.A. published in 22 vols. as a Rev. ed. by Gale

Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, ed. by George Ritzer, published in 11 vols. by Blackwell

Encyclopedia of Body Adornment, by Margo Demello, published by Greenwood

Encyclopedia of Race & Racism, ed. by John Hartwell Moore, published in 4 vols. by Gale

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History, ed by John B. Hattendorf, published in 4 vols. by Oxford

Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film, ed. by Barry Keith Grant, published in 4 vols. by Gale

Encyclopedia of Asian Theatre ed. by Samuel L. Leiter, published in 2 vols. by Greenwood, 2007

Brave New Words: the Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction, ed. by Jeff Prucher, published by Oxford

Postwar America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural and Economic History, by James Ciment, published in 4 vols. by ME Sharpe

Oxford Companion to World Exploration, ed. by David Buisseret, published in 2 vols by Oxford.

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Nathan Englander Receives 2008 Sophie Brody Medal

Nathan Englander is the recipient of the 2008 Sophie Brody Medal. The award, which consists of a medal for the winner and citations for honor books, is funded by Arthur Brody and the Brodart Foundation, and is given to encourage, recognize and commend outstanding achievement in Jewish literature. The Brody Medal is administered by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of ALA.

Englander is receiving the award for his book *The Ministry of Special* Classes published by Knopf. "Set in Buenos Aires, during the Dirty War, Englander's Kafkaesque novel uses dark humor to make a chilling statement about the elimination of cultures and peoples who do not conform to the new regime," said Barbara Bibel, award committee.

Three books received 2008 honorable mentions. Foreskin's Lament: A Memoir, by Shalom Auslander and published by Riverhead Books; The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story, by Diane Ackerman and published by Norton; and You Never Call! You Never Write! A History of the Jewish Mother, by Joyce Antler and published by Oxford University Press.



Grammynominated jazz violinist Regina Carter performs at the 9th Annual **Arthur Curley** Memorial Lecture.



Philadelphia Inquirer photographer Tom Gralish, left, and staff writer Michael Vitez, center, share a laugh with moderator William Stanton, H.W. Wilson, Co., before the Sunrise Speaker Series.



ALA presidential candidates J. Linda Williams, left, and Best-selling authors Mary Doria Russell, left, and Camila Alire, prepare to take questions from the audience Geraldine Brooks, right, discuss their latest works after discussing some of their goals if elected president backstage before the ALA/ERT Author Forum. during the ALA Presidential Candidates Forum.

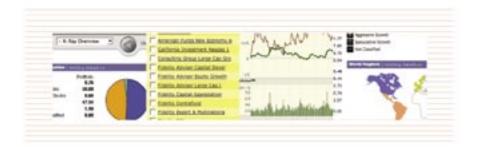






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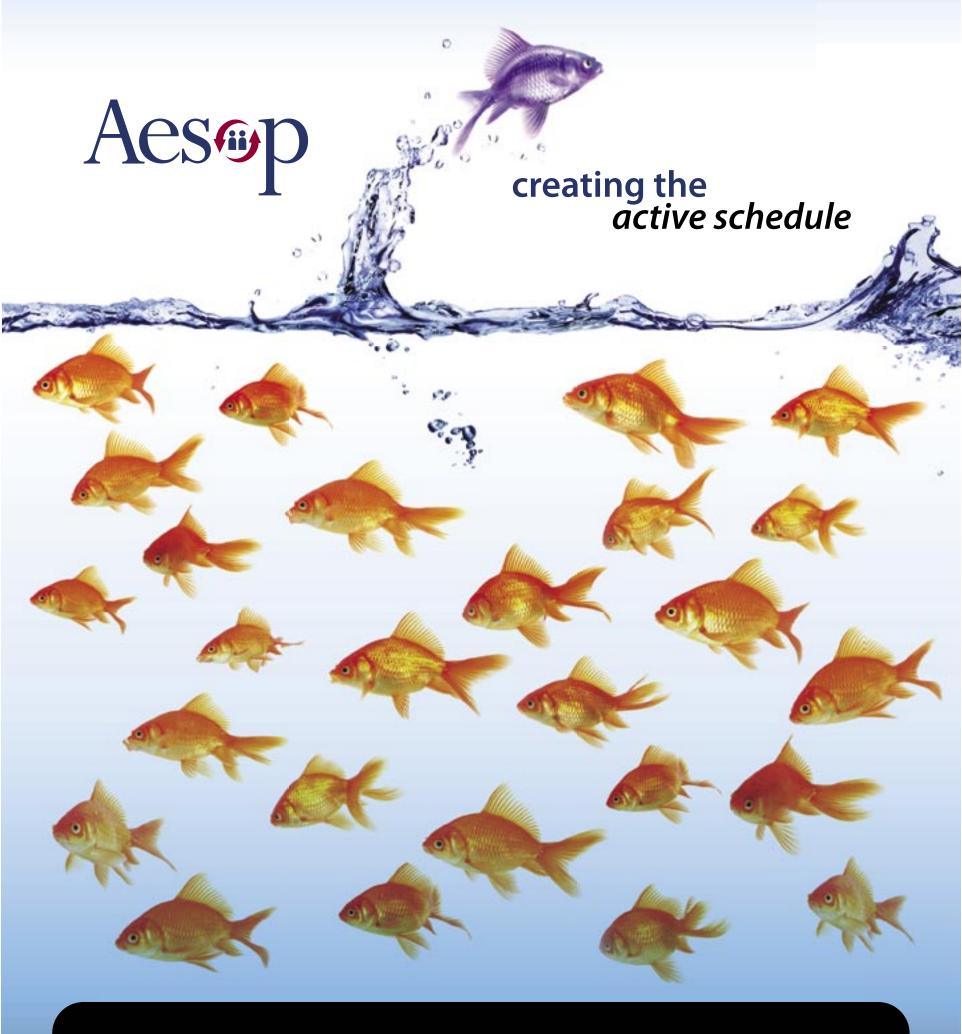
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