

Letter from the Chair

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It is with great pleasure that I assume my term as EMIERT chair. Through the hard work and creativity of Plummer Alston "Al" Jones Jr., our outgoing chair, the energy of our Executive Board and standing committees, and the dedication of every EMIERT member, our Round Table continues to grow in visibility. I look forward to representing EMIERT and to working with you over the next two years as we continue to build enthusiasm and a stronger leadership role through the programs we offer at our ALA conferences, our publications, our web presence, and our *Bulletin*. In the next issue of the *EMIE Bulletin* I will share with you my goals for the next two years and discuss the ideas I have for making EMIERT more visible within ALA and to other professional associations.

"Sunday is EMIERT Day!" was a resounding success at Annual in Washington, D.C., this past June. The EMIERT General Membership Program, scheduled from 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon, attracted more than 70 attendees to hear four panelists speaking to the significance of "Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience." I want to thank each of the presenters—Ladan Boroumand, Plummer Alston "Al" Jones Jr., Sylva Manoogian, and Rosalind Reisner—for sharing with us their personal stories and their view of how libraries have served peoples who are underrepresented, unheard, and often unseen. Through teaching, publication, and outreach, each speaker has made substantial and unique contributions to giving the underserved a voice and self-efficacy. Their heartfelt and thought-provoking words affirmed the importance of the power of libraries in disseminating a message of inclusiveness and tolerance. I regret that ALA's plans for audiotaping conference presentations were not feasible; an audio record of the speakers' inspiring presentations would have made a special addition to our archives. "Libraries, Immigrants, and the American Experience" was a joint effort in programming among the Jewish Information Committee, the Armenian Librarians and Libraries Committee, Homa Naficy, our Chair-Elect, and other Executive Board members. Planners also deserve a special expression of appreciation for the coordination and cooperation that led to such an outstanding program.

Following in this issue of the *EMIE Bulletin* are articles describing the resounding response to other EMIERT committee programs and events held at Annual. Congratulations to the Children's Services Committee and the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee for the success of their programs! While I did not have the opportunity to attend any of the events, I heard many good comments from members who did.

To continue building on the momentum generated by the excellent programs offered at Annual, EMIERT will hold our first-ever fund-raising event at Midwinter in Philadelphia. While I have been counseled not to offer any details at this time, I can say that planners Lisa Chianese, Roberto Delgadillo, and Lyn Miller-Lachmann are organizing an evening social that possibly will include culturally diverse food, music, and books, three of our favorite things in life. Don't forget to check the next issue of the *EMIE Bulletin* for details, and make your Midwinter reservations early!

Respectfully Submitted,
Myra Appel, Chair, 2007–2009

**EMIERT:
CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 24, 2007
CONFERENCE REPORT**

More than 60 people attended "The Cultural Context for Storytelling," a program sponsored by the Children's Services Committee of EMIERT on Sunday afternoon at the ALA annual conference in Washington, D.C. Margaret Read MacDonald, author of the book *Traditional Storytelling Today: An International Sourcebook*, gave the opening remarks and introduced panelists, including Michael Taft, Head of the Archive of Folk Culture at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, who discussed his work collecting traditional stories in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. Mr. Taft also spoke of the important work of the center in preserving traditional folklore. Tim Tingle, author of the award-winning *Crossing Bok Chitto* and *Walking the Choctaw Road*, spoke about his experiences and those who mentored him as a storyteller as well as about historical tales passed



down through generations. Won-Ldy Paye, author of *The Talking Vegetables* and *Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile*, shared his experiences as heir to the role of storyteller in his family and told several lively tales of the Dan people of Liberia.

A tour on Monday afternoon of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress was sponsored by the Children's Services Committee of EMIERT. Despite long security lines, 30 people, led by Michael Taft, attended the tour, which included the reading room and the processing area. The processing team had materials on display and was there to explain their work. The work includes all aspects of archival processing of manuscripts, photographs, and sound and moving image recordings, as well as artifacts, printed materials, and databases. The team also uploads and reviews our born-digital materials and the results of the center's ongoing digital preservation program. Items from the International Storytelling Foundation Collection were featured. The tour included a visit to the Great Hall.

Doris J. Gebel
Children's Services Committee Chair, 2007

**CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD
COMMITTEE CELEBRATES THE
39TH ANNUAL AWARDS BREAKFAST**

The popular Coretta Scott King Awards Breakfast was a sell-out event at ALA Annual this year. Some 700-plus attendees paid homage to the 2006 Coretta Scott King Book Award winners and honorees. The award, created to encourage the artistic expression of the African-American experience via literature and the graphic arts, showcases a growing body of quality literature by and about African Americans written and illustrated for young readers. The 2006 winners are listed below.

The breakfast proudly celebrated new talent with the John Steptoe Award given to new authors or illustrators. Also announced at the breakfast were the winners of the Coretta Scott King Award Book Grant. A grant of books received for review by the award jury is given through a competitive grant process to small libraries and nontraditional institutions that serve youth.

A final highlight is the *Jump at the Sun* competition held each year in the ALA convention city for local children. The children are challenged to illustrate a preselected (by Hyperion Publishing Company) picture book or review a book of fiction. The winner and the school they represent receive a cash prize of \$500.

2006 Coretta Scott King Book Award Recipients

Author: Sharon Draper. *Copper Sun*. Simon & Schuster/
Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Illustrator: Kadir Nelson. *Moses: When Harriet Tubman
Led Her People to Freedom*.

Written by Carole Boston Weatherford. *Jump at the
Sun*/Hyperion Books for Children

John Steptoe New Talent Award

Author: Traci L. Jones. *Standing Against the Wind*. Farrar,
Straus and Giroux

Honor Books

Author: Nikki Grimes. *The Road to Paris*. G.P. Putnum's Sons,
a division of Penguin Young Readers Group

Illustrator: Christopher Myers. *Jazz*. Written by Walter Dean
Myers. Holiday House, Inc.

Illustrator: Benny Andrews. *Poetry for Young People: Langston
Hughes*. David Roessel and Arnold Rampersad, editors. Ster-
ling Publishing Co., Inc.

Carole J. McCollough, PhD
Coretta Scott King Book Award Chair, 2007

MULTICULTURALISM AND U.S. LIBRARIES 1876-2007

By Plummer Alston "Al" Jones

This chronology is the second installment (1943–1980); later ones will appear in subsequent issues of the EMIE Bulletin.

1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on Chinese immigration lifted. • Library of Congress establishes the Cooperative Acquisitions Project for Wartime Publications to set up mechanisms for the acquisition of foreign publications.
1945	War Brides Act provides for admission of foreign-born wives of U.S. servicemen.
1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on Filipino and East Asian Indian immigration lifted. • Adult Education Section is established within the ALA Public Library Division as influence of the ALA Committee on Work with the Foreign Born begins to wane.
1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaced Persons Act provides for the immigration of people displaced during World War II and its aftermath. • Farmington Plan, established by the Library of Congress, is the largest acquisitions program ever implemented, for European and (later) Latin American publications. • ALA Committee on Work with the Foreign Born is succeeded by the ALA Committee on Intercultural Action, which disbanded in 1957.
1949	Mexican Bracero and Western Hemisphere labor programs are established by the Agricultural Act.
1952	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration and Naturalization Act, also known as the McCarran-Walter Act, introduces a system of selected immigration based on occupational and family unification needs by fixing quota preferences to skilled immigrants, whose services are urgently needed in the United States, and relatives of U.S. citizens and residents. • Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. commonwealth. • Louisville Free Public Library is first public library in the South to open its doors to African Americans.
1953	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korean War ends. • Refugee Relief Act gives relief to refugees from war-torn areas of the globe.
1954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellis Island closes. • Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas decision declares segregation of the races illegal and opens the door for similar lawsuits by other minority groups. Following this U.S. Supreme Court decision, the nascent civil rights movement obtains some improvements in library services for African Americans.
1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hungarian Revolution and entry of Hungarian parolees, a special classification of immigrants, fleeing the aftermath of the revolution and the takeover of a Communist government. • Library Services Act (LSA) establishes federal funding for the extension and improvement of rural public library services in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Samoa. • ALA Conference at Miami Beach is considered to be the first completely desegregated association meeting to be held in the South. • State Library of New Mexico uses LSA funds to begin service to the Navajo and Pueblo Indian reservations. • Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) is established in Florida under the initial support of the Organization of American States (OAS).
1958	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado River Tribal Council of Parker, Arizona, establishes a library on its reservation, a national first for Native Americans. • National Defense Education Act provides funds to state and local school systems for strengthening instruction in science, mathematics, and modern foreign languages. • Alaska and Hawaii become the 49th and 50th states of the United States.
1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Fidel Castro's Communist dictatorship in Cuba begins, thousands of supporters of the former Batista government immigrate as refugees to the United States. • Latin American Cooperative Acquisitions Project (LACAP), a program of the Library of Congress, some forty U.S. research libraries, and the Stechert-Hafner commercial library firm developed in cooperation with SALALM, functions until 1973.
1961	U.S. Congress passes Public Law 480, an outgrowth of the Farmington Plan established earlier in 1948 by the Library of Congress to authorize the acquisition of foreign-language materials. It will be succeeded in 1974 by the Special Foreign Currencies Program (SFCP).
1962	Mexican Bracero Program ends.
1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) continues the Library Services Act (1956–64). LSCA grants are used to build collections of books and other media for minorities, including library materials for classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and other adult literacy efforts, and to support job training and career counseling services. • U.S. Congress passes the Civil Rights and the Economic Opportunity Acts to provide funds for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), Community Action, Operation Head Start projects, and other community-based programs to benefit minorities and the economically disadvantaged.
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 ends the national origins quota system for immigration. • U.S. Congress passes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Higher Education Act (HEA) to improve public school education by direct federal intervention, provide compensatory education and counseling for at-risk students, and develop and improve school libraries.