

Contact: Liz Markel  
Marketing Specialist, RUSA/ASCLA  
(312) 280-4398  
[lmarkel@ala.org](mailto:lmarkel@ala.org)

## NEWS

For Midwinter On-Site Distribution Only  
January 25, 2009

### Winner of Inaugural Zora Neale Hurston Award Announced

DENVER—The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selection for the 2009 Zora Neale Hurston Award.

Miriam Rodriguez, Assistant Director, Public Services/Community Integration of the Dallas Public Library, was selected for her role in Tulisoma, a successful and growing community-based literary festival that features African American authors and artists and promotes literacy and the arts. The festival provides library card sign-ups, panel discussions, book signings, book selling, art displays and music. Quoting the letter that nominated her, "Miriam has been instrumental in the success of this program."

Founded in 2008, the Zora Neale Hurston Award recognizes an individual RUSA member who has demonstrated leadership in promoting African American literature. To further the professional development in building multicultural collections and serve diverse populations, the winner receives funds to attend the ALA Annual Conference, tickets to the Literary Tastes breakfast and the FOLUSA Author tea, and a set of the Zora Neale Hurston books published by Harper Perennial.

Miriam Rodriguez was selected by the Zora Neale Hurston Award Committee, whose members include Deborah Costa from UCLA, Jules Bergis from Indiana University, John Lawrence from East Carolina University, Lucy Lockley from St. Charles City-County Library District and Charlene Rue from the Brooklyn Public Library.

The Reference and User Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. For more information, visit [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).