

**American Library Association
Annual Conference
President Report – Loida Garcia-Febo**

Note that my column for American Libraries provides an overview of this year's work:
<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2019/06/03/moving-the-needle/>

This was a very passionate year for ALA members. Together, we achieved many goals, planted seeds to build on current work and moved the needle in key areas that affect our Association, profession, libraries, and the communities we serve. I am forever grateful to the thousands of ALA members who have been there for me these past two years. I started to plan my efforts during my President-Elect term with my Advisory Board and ALA staff members. Seeing our plans come to fruition during my Presidential Year was really amazing. My appreciation also goes to my Advisory Board,* the hundreds of library workers across the nation who generously collaborated on my Presidents efforts, the ALA Executive Board, and the ALA staff members. Each one of them contributed to bring the Libraries Transform message that Libraries=Strong Communities.

Recent highlights from Advocacy

As part of my efforts, we wanted to prioritize new web resources for advocacy and relationship building. New resources on how to use social media to advocate for libraries were created by ALA WO staff members: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/social-media>
During the Midwinter Meeting we launched a video series to help library workers use storytelling to effectively advocate for libraries. The first video on how to share your library story with the media along with a new resource on how to write a letter to the editor of your local news outlet is here: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/media>
The second video about how to, using storytelling strategies, invite elected leaders to visit your library is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2waZRkOdg5M>
The third video is currently being produced by ALA WO and will include interviews to library workers made during the ALA Annual Conference. Expect it soon!
My thanks and appreciation to the ALA Washington Office and to my Advocacy Advisory Board.

Recent highlights from Diversity

Our video series “EDI in our Libraries” to help library workers understand how to incorporate the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion throughout their library services was launched. ALA’s Communications & Marketing Office staff members advised by my Diversity Advisory Board produced beautiful videos featuring an academic, a public and a school library

incorporating EDI in programs and services. I encourage everyone to watch and share the videos available here: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/diversity/edi-our-libraries>

I am thrilled that ALA together with other US library associations released a joint statement affirming their commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. An initial group of associations signed the statement: AALL (the American Association of Law Libraries), CNI (the Coalition for Networked Information), ALISE (the Association for Library and Information Science Education), COSLA (the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies), SLA (the Special Libraries Association), the MLA (Medical Library Association), SAA (the Society of American Archivists), and ARL (Association of Research Libraries). We are encouraging associations that would like to sign to contact ALA.

My efforts in this area include the possible establishment of an EDI Fellows program in which library workers selected each year will support the work done by ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS) by providing trainings and talks about all-things-EDI developed by ALA. The program, which is being explored by ODLOS, was originated within my Diversity Advisory Board as part of my EDI initiatives.

My thanks and appreciation to the ALA's Governance Office, the Communications & Marketing Office, the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services, and my Diversity Advisory Board.

Recent highlights from Wellness

I am very happy to share that the Richland Library of Columbia, South Carolina, will be the first to receive the [Presidential Citation for Wellness in the Workplace!](#) The library was chosen for its accomplishments in creating and sustaining system-wide support for library staff through multiple wellness initiatives and efforts. The library will receive a framed citation from the ALA-APA President at the President's Program on Sunday during the ALA 2019 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. ALA Past President, Dr. Loriene Roy, chaired this citations' jury.

As part of my efforts in the areas of wellness and diversity, ALA-APA hosted a [free webinar](#) entitled 'Strategies for wellness for those experiencing microaggressions plus workplace stress.' This webinar is available on the ALA-APA Emotional Wellness page: <http://ala-apa.org/wellness/home/emotional-wellness/>

The event was moderated by Dr. Nicole A. Cooke, Associate Professor and MS/LIS Program Director at the Graduate School of Library/Information Science at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Speakers were:

Pambanisha Whaley, MLS, Collections, Assessment, and Resource Management Coordinator at Alabama State University

Chippewa Thomas, Associate Professor of Counselor Education and Supervision (Clinical Mental Health Counseling) & Director, Office of Faculty Engagement at Auburn University
Jaena Alabi, Research and Instruction Services Librarian for the areas of English, Psychology, and Africana Studies at Auburn University's Ralph Brown Draughon Library

The first activity coordinated as part of the Task Force on Safety and Workplace Well-being I established will be “A Conversation about Library Safety and Well-being” on Sunday, June 23, 2019, 2:30 – 3:30 pm in the Marriott Marquis Hotel – Chinatown Room. Members of the team will hold a conversation as part of the ALA-APA Committee on the Status of Library Workers discussion.

My thanks and appreciation to the ALA-APA and my Wellness Advisory Board.

Recent highlights from International Relations

As part of my efforts in the international relations area, on May 23, ALA and the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library presented [a joint event](#) at the UN library in New York entitled "Sustainable Development Goals in Libraries Today: the role of libraries in strengthening our communities." This was the first time ALA presented an event jointly with the UN. The event provided an international platform to discuss how libraries around the world are creating and cultivating new relationships to help communities learn, understand and support sustainable professional development. The event was [videotaped](#) by a local TV station. AL published about it here: <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2019/05/ala-president-loida-garcia-febo-shares-insights-sustainable-thinking-during>

As it was done during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, we will have an interactive display of IFLA’s Library Map of the World near the International Lounge to encourage international collaboration.

My thanks and appreciation to the International Relations Office and my International Relations Advisory Board.

Events part of my Presidential efforts at the ALA Annual Conference:

[Climate Change Conversations in Libraries: Stabilizing Ourselves and Our Communities](#)

Saturday, June 22 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Location: Washington Convention Center, 201
With Madeleine Charney, Research Services Librarian, W.E.B. Du Bois Library,
University of Massachusetts Amherst

[ALA president to host Cooking Stage demo during ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition](#)

10 – 10:45 a.m., on Saturday, June 22, at the Cooking Stage on the Exhibits Floor

[Wholehearted Librarianship: Finding Hope, Inspiration, and Balance](#)

Sunday, June 23 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Location: Washington Convention Center, 147B
With Dr. Michael Stephens, Associate Professor, SJSU School of Information

[Libraries = Strong Communities tour to end with rally celebration at ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C.](#)

11 a.m. – noon on Saturday, June 22, at the ALA Park on the exhibits floor

[An International Leaders Forum](#)

Monday, June 24 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Location: Washington Convention Center, 143C
With Dr. Jesus Lau - Professor Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
Dr. Jonathan Hernandez – President, Library Professionals Association of Mexico (CNB);
Researcher, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
Svetlana Gorokhova - Director for International and Educational Activities, All Russia State
Library for Foreign Literature; Coordinator of International Relations Section, Russian Library
Association; Coordinator of US-Russia Library Dialogue
Buhle Mbambo-Thata - Director, Resource Development, African Library & Information
Associations & Institutions (AFLIA)

National Library Tour

The last stop of the National Library Tour took place on May 14-15 at the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). On May 14, library workers and library volunteers from LAPL, and I went to Los Angeles City Hall to present a symbolic check showing that the library saved the city 4 million! LAPL Director, John Zsabo, and I spoke at the Los Angeles City Council meeting about how Libraries=Strong Communities and the work done by library volunteers. On behalf of the Los Angeles City Council, Councilman David E Ryu presented a proclamation supporting that. A recording of our interventions is available via the local government channel. On May 14, I also stopped by a system-wide meeting of the LAPL Teen Librarians. Then, I toured LAPL branches: Silver Lake, Arroyo Seco, and Cahuenga. On May 15, LAPL and REFORMA – LA Chapter hosted an advocacy lunch event at LAPL Central Library which was featured on the [local TV show LA Today](#) with library supporters from community organizations, library users and library leaders from the region. I toured LAPL Central Library that day. My appreciation to REFORMA- LA Chapter for the beautiful event to welcome me to LA on May 13.

My thanks to the LAPL Director and library staff members for their dedication and marvelous collaboration to make the last Tour stop a success.

American Libraries magazine published about it here:

<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/libraries-strong-communities-tour-reaches-seattle/>

The [closing of the National Library Tour Libraries=Strong Communities](#) is scheduled for Saturday, June 22 at 11am in the ALA Park at the Exhibits. Look out for the AL story on that.

Photos and updates are posted on my Facebook Page: ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo Facebook and on ALA's social media including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
Link to the Libraries=Strong Communities Took Kit and resources including media coverage:

<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/libraries-strong-communities>

Media

- Interviewed by Out of Print, a library themed fashion company who will donate a percentage of money earned during National Library Week to the ALA's Disaster Relief Fund in order to support libraries in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands recovering from hurricane damage. April 2019.
- Interviewed by Milwaukee's WTMJ Radio for National Library Week about the changing role of libraries and the unique resources they offer. April 2019.
- Interviewed by the *New York Times* about new libraries around the globe serving as a destination. April 2019.
- Interviewed for the publication of Russia's Library of Foreign Literature. May 2019.
- Interviewed by [Insula Europea](#), a magazine of the University of Perugia, Italy. May 2019.
- Interviewed by *Land Line* regarding libraries as features within new housing and building developments. May 2019.
- Interviewed by Publishers Weekly on various about ALA. May 2019.
- Interviewed by *Los Angeles Times* regarding the need for diverse books. June 2019.
- Interviewed by *Digital Trends* about ALA and libraries' involvement in the 2020 Census. June 2019.

Travel and Speaking Engagements

- April 2-4 Keynote, Colegio Nacional de Bibliotecologos Annual Conference in Chiapas, San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico. Title: Be intrepid in the search of what ignite your soul on fire (Bibliotecarios profesionales para el desarrollo: intrépidos en la búsqueda de lo que enciende su alma en fuego).
- April 5-7 Spring Meeting of the ALA Executive Board, Chicago, IL.
- April 8 Skype visit with the students from the Frederick Elementary School in Illinois who had sent me a letter about their love for libraries and wanting to be an ALA Member.
- April 10-12 ACRL Conference in Cleveland, OH.
- April 15-17 Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Austin, TX.
- April 21-27 Invited by the Russian Library Association (RLA) to conferences in St. Petersburg and Moscow where I presented under the title: "The American Library Association: Flagship Projects Shaping the Future of Libraries." I also gave another presentation at the RLA's ALMAS annual event under the title: "Libraries=Strong Communities: Shaping the Future of Libraries."
- May 1st Visited the A. Philip Randolph Campus High School Library in New York City.
- May 13-16 [National Library Tour in Los Angeles Public Library](#).
- May 16-20 Keynote at the Hawaii Library Association Spring Meeting and library visits. Title: "Libraries = Strong Communities: Empowering ourselves to advocate in challenging times."
- May 22 Keynote at the New York Public Library's Adult Services Unconference. Title: "Libraries = Strong Communities."
- May 23 Panel presentation at the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York. Event presented jointly by ALA and the UN Library. Title: "Sustainable

Development Goals in Libraries Today: the role of libraries in strengthening our communities." Link to AL article: <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2019/05/ala-president-loida-garcia-febo-shares-insights-sustainable-thinking-during>

- May 28-30 Keynote at the International Congress of Best Practices in Education Focused on Competencies 2019. My title: "Best practices in the integration & development of the skills critical thinking, research & information."
- June 3-7 Invited to guest lecture at the Tritonia University Library in Vaasa, Finland: "Libraries=Strong Communities: Libraries Empowering Students, Teachers, Researchers and Citizens." Visited libraries in Vaasa and Helsinki including the American corner at the Helsinki University. Attended event at the Helsinki City Hall with the Finnish Library Association, Nasima Razmayar the Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, and the President of the Helsinki Library Association, Silvia Modig, whom is also a Helsinki City Councilwoman and was just elected as MP Member of the European Union Parliament.
*Heartfelt thanks to my awesome Advisory Board: Mario Ascencio, Diane Chen, Julia Warga, Cindy Robinson, Loriene Roy, Uta Hussing-Christiansen, Lydia Willoughby, Trevor Dawes, Martin Garnar, Cecilia Tovar, Maria McCauley, Carrie Banks, Robin Kear, Ray Pun, Barbara Ford, Andromeda Yelton, John Spears, Michael Stephens.