

2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting

WHAT'S HAPPENING: A PRE-MIDWINTER UPDATE

January 4, 2008

KEY NUMBERS

Registration: 2008 Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference

- **As of January 4, 2008, advance registration for the 2008 Midwinter Meeting was 7,668** – compared to 7,699 at the same point for the 2007 Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. This included 371 first-time Midwinter Meeting attendees, compared to 804 first-time attendees at the 2007 Midwinter Meeting. (Note: In 2006-2007, ALA began asking conference participants to self-identify as first-time attendees.)
- As of December 26, there were 100 international attendees pre-registered for the 2008 Midwinter Meeting. The International Relations Round Table will be holding its first-ever Midwinter Orientation for International Attendees, Friday, 5:00-6:00pm.
- As of January 4, 2008, there were **589 registrants in 17 separately-ticketed events**, including pre-Midwinter Institutes, compared to 903 registrants in 15 separately-ticketed events at the 2007 Midwinter Meeting.
- In 2006-2007, ALA began offering a combined Midwinter Meeting/Annual Conference registration, recognizing that many active members attend both events. As of January 4, 2008, there are 2,275 special-package registrations for the 2008 Annual Conference.

ALA Membership

As of November 2007, the membership of ALA was 65,748, compared to 65,522 in November 2006. The total membership of 65,748 was made up of 62,046 personal members, 3,440 organizational members and 262 corporate members.

○ Division memberships	11/2007	11/2006
▪ AASL	9,544	9,661
▪ ACRL	13,273	13,236
▪ ALCTS	5,055	4,988
▪ ALSC	4,231	4,135
▪ ALTA	1,198	1,177
▪ ASCLA	992	964

▪ LAMA	5,331	5,188
▪ LITA	4,251	4,166
▪ PLA	11,355	11,674
▪ RUSA	5,358	5,379
▪ YALSA	5,685	5,440
○ Round Table memberships	11/2007	11/2006
▪ CLENERT	490	460
▪ EMIERT	672	665
▪ ERT	438	432
▪ FAFLRT	385	359
▪ GLBTRT	991	878
▪ GODORT	1,114	1,056
▪ IFRT	1,887	1,883
▪ IRRT	1,851	1,689
▪ LHRT	608	606
▪ LIRT	1,764	1,736
▪ LRRT	1,587	1,380
▪ LSSIRT	752	846
▪ MAGERT	411	402
▪ NMRT	2,405	2,113
▪ SRRT	2,456	2,282
▪ S[T]ORT	225	237
▪ VRT	314	298

HOT TOPICS

- **Appropriations**

After failing to pass fiscal year (FY) 2008 Appropriations bills as stand-alone bills, Congress passed an 11-bill omnibus before adjourning for the end of the year. President Bush signed the bill at the end of December. ALA was pleased with several pieces of the omnibus bill. The bill includes language instructing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reopen the closed EPA libraries (see below) and mandates that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) adopt a policy requiring agency-funded scientists to post their published research on the agency's publicly-accessible digital archive within 12 months of appearing in peer-reviewed journals. We are disappointed that to pay for the over \$10 billion in earmarks contained in the omnibus bill, the bill didn't reflect the previously agreed upon House and Senate appropriations bills that met the 2003 formula for the LSTA state grant program.

- **EPA Libraries**

In late December, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was ordered by Congress to reopen many of its libraries that had been closed over the course of the past year, as written into the fiscal year 2008 omnibus appropriations bill, which President Bush signed. EPA administrators have repeatedly alleged that these closings do not affect access to the important environmental and scientific collections and data sets since many

online functions meet the needs of the EPA staff, researchers, and the public. However, many scientists, EPA staff and librarians have loudly disputed this contention, and this turn of events can be attributed to that outcry.

- **President Signs Improving Head Start Act**

In a victory for libraries and the cause of literacy, President Bush signed the Improving Head Start Act. Head Start is a comprehensive child development program with the aim of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. ALA advocated for language to be included in the bill that provides opportunities for libraries to play a greater role in Head Start programs. By recognizing the important role that public libraries play in improving literacy and school readiness in the Head Start reauthorization bill, libraries across the country can now continue to develop new, innovative programs to provide young children with the tools they need to succeed in school and life.

- **SKILLS Act**

The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor are still considering reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). A major goal for ALA is to ensure the inclusion of the principles of the Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act in the reauthorization of the NCLB. In order for the SKILLS Act to be included in NCLB – that is, to place a state-certified school library media specialist in every school – each member of the House and Senate must hear from school library supporters to explain how important school libraries are to academic achievement. *There is still time to call your Members of Congress!*

- **DTV Transition**

On February 17, 2009, free over-the-air analog television broadcast as we know it will end, as the country transitions to an all-digital signal. As with all consumer and government issues, many patrons will be coming into the library looking for information and assistance with the DTV transition. As part of the DTV Transition effort, ALA has joined the DTV Transition Coalition, a group of nearly 180 business, trade, and industry groups, as well as grass roots and membership organizations that share an interest in a smooth transition. The core mission of the DTV Transition Coalition is to ensure that no consumer is left without broadcast television due to a lack of information about the transition.

- **School Library Funding Cuts**

The Office for Library Advocacy (OLA) is working with AASL and PIO to assist a grassroots effort in Spokane, Washington to restore funding and library school media specialists to library school media centers.

Founded by three mothers fed up with the state of school libraries in Washington, The Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology (WCSLIT) has launched the Fund our Future Washington campaign. WCSLIT first launched a petition

drive, which gained over 3,000 signatures in just over six weeks and continues to create media attention nationwide. WCSLIT has partnered with the Washington Library Media Association (WLMA) and is now working with state legislators to help craft bills for both the House and Senate to be introduced into the legislature in February 2008.

ALA and AASL are partnering with the Coalition, along with WLMA, the Washington Library Association and Washington State PTA. Founding members of the Coalition also include Jan Walsh (Washington State Librarian) and Dr. Mike Eisenberg (Information School, University of Washington). There is an active Research Advisory Council.

The coalition is holding a summit in Olympia, Washington on February 1, 2008, where members of the coalition will be joined by ALA President Lorienne Roy, AASL President Sara Kelly Johns, AASL Executive Director Julie Walker, OLA Interim Director Marci Merola, and ALA Press Manager, Macey Morales.

- **Higher Education Act**

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) was not completed in 2007. The Senate approved its version (S. 1642) in July and the House Education and Labor Committee has a House version (H.R. 4137) ready for consideration by the full House in the new year.

- **Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Reform**

FISA reform has seen some significant activity in recent months. Most notably, the Protect America Act (S. 1927) was signed into law, while the Responsible Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective (RESTORE) Act of 2007 (H.R. 3773) has been placed on the Senate's legislative calendar. ALA sent letters to Congress about each bill, expressing serious concern for the Protect America Act and, while somewhat reassured by the changes therein, concerns about the RESTORE Act and the possible access it could provide to library records. More information is available at <http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/?p=15>

- **Library of Congress Changes / LC Working Group**

The draft report of the LC Working Group was available for review on November 30, with responses due back by December 15. The Final Report is due out on January 8.

- The ALCTS Board will consider the next steps for ALCTS in regard to the LC Working Group Final Report. The Board will be considering establishment of a group to analyze the final report for possible ALCTS participation in implementation of recommendations. ALCTS Board of Directors, Saturday, January 12, 1:30-5:30pm, PCC 106A/B.
- ALCTS CCS is sponsoring an LC Working Group Forum, featuring Working Group members Bob Woven and Diane Dates Casey, among others, discussing the implications of the LC

Working Group's Final Report. The Forum is on Sunday, January 13, 4:00-6:00pm, PCC 204C.

- **Library Education**

Library education continues to be a focus for discussion by and between educators and practitioners. The 2008 Midwinter Meeting offers several opportunities to participate in the discussion on future directions in library education and the ALA accreditation.

- The Task Force on Library Education, appointed by 2006-07 ALA president Leslie Burger, will have a working meeting 8:00am-12:30pm, Saturday, MAR 307. Participation is welcome.
- The Committee on Accreditation will present proposed changes to the 1992 *Standards for Accreditation* at Council II. Join COA on Sunday, 4:00-5:00pm, Loews, Washington C, for a chance to ask questions and present your views.

- **Deliberative Dialogue on considering and articulating ALA positions.**

On December 12, the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) and the Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP) Advisory Committee hosted a “deliberative dialogue” at the Washington Office, successfully meeting a goal to initiate discussion on how ALA can develop an ongoing process for the consideration and articulation of policy positions. The dialogue will continue, beginning with the Committee on Legislation/Legislation Assembly joint meeting on Friday, January 11, PCC 108B, and continuing with structured dialogue by units across the Association. A draft *Protocol for Responding to a Formal Request for an Official ALA Position* is available at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceofficeb/executiveboard/eboardmeetingagendas/fall2007/sessionII.htm>. The document is intended to help clarify how units within ALA – guided by the Association’s policies – can most effectively work together to interpret these policies when we develop formal ALA positions on specific issues. Comment is invited by the end of January.

- **Proposed Changes to ALA Code of Ethics**

Over the past three years, the ALA Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) has been exploring possible changes to the ALA Code of Ethics, in light of new ALA policies and issues facing the profession. Based on these meetings, the committee has proposed some language revisions and expansion of Article IV to reflect the importance of balance between rights of individual property owners and rights of information users. The proposed changes will be presented to the ALA Council for consideration and possible adoption at Council II.

- The Committee on Professional Ethics will hold an open hearing on the proposed changes, Sunday, January 13, 4:00-6:00pm, Ritz Carlton, Petite Ballroom.
- The COPE is requesting comments prior to its final meeting at the 2008 Midwinter Meeting, Monday, January 14, 8:00-10:00am, MAR 307. Written comments may be left at the OIF table (#22) in the ALA Office Area until noon on Sunday, January 13.

- **ALTA - FOLUSA Partnership for possible new division**

During the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, ALTA and FOLUSA will continue discussions about the possibility of combining the two organizations to form a new division of ALA. This division would focus on the recruitment and retention of members who are trustees, lay supporters and advocates of libraries.

There will be an opportunity for ALTA and FOLUSA members as well as all ALA members to discuss this possibility and air concerns and questions at the ALTA "Town Hall Meeting" which will be held on Sunday, January 13, from 1:30-3:00 pm MAR Salon C/D.

- **Graduated Dues Study**

At the 2006 Midwinter Meeting, ALA Council:

VOTED, That consideration of ALA CD#38, A Resolution for A Graduated Dues Structure Study, be postponed until the 2006 ALA Annual Conference and that in the meantime it be referred to BARC. The resolution read: "That the Membership Committee be instructed to prepare, in coordination with ALA staff, a study of graduated dues structure based on salary, and other alternatives, including the specific dues necessary to produce, at a minimum, the level of dues revenue projected by 2005-2006 CD#4; taking into account deficiencies caused by possible understatement of salary; that the Membership Committee present a report on the detailed plan for conducting this study to the Executive Board and to BARC not later than the 2006 Annual Conference; and that the Membership Committee present its final report on this study to Council at the 2007 Annual Conference."

As a result of this resolution, a joint Task Force of the ALA Membership Committee and BARC was formed to determine what would need to be done in order to determine the feasibility of a graduated dues structure and what the costs would be. The Task Force identified information that would need to be gathered, surveys that would be needed in order to develop, test, and understand the impact of any proposed new structure. The total cost of the work so identified was projected to be \$600,000.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/FinalReport.pdf>.

At their Fall meeting, BARC reviewed the Task Force report and recommended that the Association not proceed with the full study at this time, but that the Association proceed with the member demographic survey (the first step in the study) and hold any further action pending the results of a major IMLS-funded study currently underway.

<http://libraryworkforce.org/tiki-index.php>

At the Fall meeting, the ALA Executive Board reviewed the recommendations of both the Task Force and BARC. Management committed to identifying the unbudgeted sum (about \$45,000) necessary for the demographic study in FY08. Management is also exploring funding options for a study to determine the projected impact of retirements on the Association. Both BARC and the Executive Board agreed that a change in the dues structure without careful planning and study would not be in the best interests of the Association and its members. They further agreed that the Task Force report realistically identified the costs of the necessary planning and study and that the expenditure of these

funds at this time is not possible without major cuts in the current-year programs and services.

Both BARC and the Task Force will be reporting at the ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session, Sunday, January 13, 9:00-10:00am.

- **SRRT/Task Force on the Environment “Cup by Cup” Campaign**

Building on data -- from Starbucks, International Paper and other sources – showing the impact of disposable cups on the environment, members of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), Task Force on the Environment are asking those attending the ALA Midwinter Meeting (...and keep the rules on hand for Annual Conference, too) to do the following:

- Bring a reusable cup to Midwinter;
- Fill it with a favorite beverage;
- Raise your cup and tell colleagues how you are helping the planet;
- Drink, repeat & support TFOE-SRRT efforts toward a sustainable ALA.

- **ALA Website Redesign**

A draft version of a graphic redesign for the ALA website will be presented for review and comment at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Computer kiosks will be available in the Grand Hall of the Pennsylvania Convention Center to view mock-ups of the site’s graphical makeover and to take a brief survey about the redesign. Feedback received will be used to improve the graphic design before it is implemented in the spring of 2008. The graphic design is one part of a larger effort to improve the users’ experience with the ALA website. ALA has worked with UserWorks, Inc., a Silver Spring [MD] usability consulting firm to conduct the usability assessment and redesign, as well as to establish a culture of user-centered web design at ALA. ALA is currently in the process of hiring a Senior Usability Officer, who will carry on the work of institutionalizing usability review and user-centered design throughout ALA.

What is being reviewed at the Philadelphia meeting is not a “draft” of the actual website, but a concept for the graphical design only. There is no functionality to the images that will be shown. Information architecture and functionality will come in future phases of the redesign process.

The design team is doing what it can to make the images to be presented in Philadelphia “live” for people with visual difficulties, but we are seeking feedback on the graphic design. The redesigned website will be as accessible as we can make it.

The language used in ALA’s contract includes compliance with W3Cs Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, Level II. (<http://www.w3.org/WAI>)

For those not at Midwinter, a URL for viewing the redesign and making comments will also be available.

- The usability design information will be posted at http://wikis.ala.org/webplanning/index.php/Main_Page , among other places.

ALSO ON THE ALA BOARD OR COUNCIL DOCKET

****All ALA Executive Board sessions are in the Philadelphia Marriott, Independence BR****

- **Executive Board I, Friday, 8:30am-noon**
 - Nann Blaine Hilyard, Chair, 2008 Election Committee, will report on the Committee's investigation into preparing videos of presidential candidates.
 - President-elect Jim Rettig will lead a discussion on ways to increase member participation in the Association.
 - Sherri Vanyek, Director, ALA ITTS, will present demonstrations of the ALA website redesign and social networking software.
 - Marty Smith, an ethnographer who studied the ALA exhibit space at the 2007 Annual Conference, will present an overview of his findings related to exhibits and the ALA member pavilion.
 - Kim Olsen-Clark, Assistant Director, ALA Development Office, will provide an update on fundraising initiatives.

- **Executive Board II , Monday, 1:30-4:10pm**
 - Kenneth R. Herlin (Ernst & Young) will present the results of the FY2007 audit of ALA's consolidated financial statements.
 - Robert Newlen, Chair, ALA Endowment Trustees, will update the Board and will present a proposed revision to the investment policy.
 - Emily Sheketoff, Associate Executive Director, Washington Office, and Alan Inouye, Director, OITP, will lead a discussion on legislative and regulatory issues.
 - Carla Hayden, Chair, Task Force on Library Education, will present a preliminary report.
 - Executive Director Keith Fiels will provide an overview of FY2008 ALA Ahead to 2010 initiatives.

- **Executive Board III , Wednesday, 1:30*-5:00pm**

(*The start time is tentative, depending on the time that Council III ends.)

- Deidre Ross, Director, Conference Services, will provide a preliminary report on the 2008 Midwinter Meeting and request a change in the site for the 2013 Annual Conference.
- Marilyn Hinshaw, Chair, Budget Analysis & Review Committee, will report.
- Rod Hersberger, ALA Treasurer, will report on the actions of the Finance & Audit Committee and request approval of the FY2009 President's budget.
- Members of the ALA Executive Board will present liaison reports.

ALA-APA Board of Directors, Wednesday, 2:45-3:30on

- Rod Hersberger, ALA-APA Treasurer, will report from the BARC/F&A joint committee meeting.

****All Council sessions are in the Philadelphia Convention Center, Ballroom B.****

- **ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session, Sunday, January 13, 9:00-10:00am**
 - Reports will be heard from the following individuals:
 - Marilyn Hinshaw, Chair, Budget Analysis & Review Committee
 - Marcia Boosinger, Graduated Dues Structure Task Force
 - Robert R. Newlen, ALA Endowment Trustees
 - Lorlene Roy, ALA President
 - Jim Rettig, ALA President-Elect
- **ALA Council I, Sunday, January 13, 10:45am-12:15pm**
 - Jim Rettig, Chair, Committee on Committees, will present the nominations for the Council Executive Board election.
 - ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels will report on implementation of the 2007 ALA Annual Conference Council actions and will review Executive Board actions since the 2007 Annual Conference.
- **ALA Council II, Tuesday, January 15, 9:15am-12:45pm**
 - Several committees will report, including Policy Monitoring (Janet Swan Hill, Chair), Council Orientation (Joseph Eagan, Chair), Graduated Dues Structure Task Force (Marcia Boosinger, Co-Chair), Committee on Accreditation (Richard E. Rubin, Chair) and Website Advisory (Billie Peterson-Lugo, Chair).
 - Rod Hersberger, ALA Treasurer, will present a report on ALA finances and present the FY2009 Programmatic Priorities for Council's consideration.
 - Judith Platt, Freedom to Read Foundation President, will report.
 - Immediate Past President Leslie Burger will present nominations for ALA Honorary Membership for Council consideration.
- **ALA Council III**
 - Committees scheduled to report include Constitution and Bylaws (Thaddeus Bejnar, Chair), Intellectual Freedom (Kenton L. Oliver, Chair), Legislation (Camila Alire, Chair), International Relations (Blanche Woolls, Chair) and Organization (Melora Ranney Norman, Chair).
 - Note to new Council watchers: The Council III agenda will build during the course of the Midwinter Meeting as Councilors present resolutions on behalf of various member groups or in response to specific issues.

- **ALA-APA Information Session, Sunday, January 13, 10:00-10:30am**
 - ALA-APA President Loriene Roy will report on various ALA-APA programs, including certification.
 - ALA-APA Treasurer Rod Hersberger will provide an FY2008 budget update and discuss the status of donations to ALA-APA.
- **ALA-APA Council, Monday, January 14, 10:15-11:15**
 - Committee reports will be presented by:
 - ALA-APA Committee on Organization (Melora Ranney Norman, Chair)
 - ALA-APA Certified Public Library Administrator Program Certification Review Committee (Denise Zielinski, Chair)
 - ALA-APA Committee on Salaries and Status of Library Workers (Tom Galante, Chair)

DIVISION BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

- **ALCTS** Board of Directors will be discussing results of a survey of ALCTS leadership on applications of the book *7 Measures of Success: What Remarkable Associations Do That Others Don't* to ACLTS, Saturday, January 12, 4:00-5:00pm, PCC 106A/B.
- **ALCTS** Board of Directors will be continuing a discussion on how to adapt ALCTS structure to meet the needs of members. The ALCTS Organization & Bylaws Committee will report. One item up for action will be the move from discussion groups to interest groups across ALCTS.
- **PLA** Board of Directors will be discussing proposed changes to the PLA Bylaws, Saturday, January 12, 8:00 a.m.-12:30pm, PCC 203B.

ELSEWHERE AT THE MIDWINTER MEETING

This is the “cheat sheet.” For more complete information see the official *Meeting Guide* or go to the 2008 Midwinter Wiki (<http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2008/>) Turn to the last page of this document (easy to tear off!) for a list of phone numbers you may want at hand.

- **Midwinter Meeting Registration – OR, Checking in and Picking Up Materials**

Registration is in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Grand Hall West. If you're picking up registration materials, don't forget your photo ID!

Registration Counter Hours:

Friday, January 11, 8:00am-7:30pm
Saturday-Sunday, January 12-13, 7:30am-5:00pm
Monday, January 14, 7:30am-2:00pm

...and while in registration, visit the ALA Gaming, Learning, and Libraries Spotlight Area

- Join in open gaming in the registration hall Saturday-Monday, 9:00am-5:00pm. Test your skills with Guitar Hero, Wii Sports and more.
- Are you a blogger or a gamer? Pick up your ribbons here!
- **Exhibits:**
 - **Exhibits Location** –Exhibits are in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Exhibit Halls A, B, C.

Exhibit Hours --

Friday, January 11 - 5:30 - 7:30pm
 Saturday-Sunday, January 12-13 - 9:00am - 5:00pm
 Monday, January 14 - 9:00am - 2:00pm

Special Events in/near the Exhibit Hall

- Start with the **ALA/ERT Author Forum**, featuring Arthur C. Clarke Award winner Mary Doria Russell (*The Sparrow* and other books) and 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks (*March*). After the exhibits open, Russell will be signing books at the Random House booth and Brooks will be at the Penguin Group booth, PCC 204 A/B.
- Immediately following the Author Forum will be the **Exhibits Opening Ceremony** at 5:15 on Friday night, followed by the **ALA/ERT All Conference Reception**, with food, music and gift-basket raffles.
- The **Technology Showcase** returns, Monday, January 14, 10:00am-1:10pm. Presentations will take place in the Franklin Theater and Liberty Theater simultaneously – next to aisle 2000 on the exhibit floor. See the official *Meeting Guide* for presentation descriptions and times.
- Monday, January 14, 2:00-4:00pm, the **Spotlight on Adult Literature**, sponsored by FOLUSA and ALA, will feature book signings and giveaways. Pick up a list of participating publishers as you enter the exhibit hall.
- **ALA Store: See the latest at the ALA Store, beside Exhibits on Level 200 in the Pennsylvania Convention Center.**

ALA Store Hours--

Friday, 10:00am-6:00pm
 Saturday-Sunday, 8:00am-5:00pm
 Monday, 8:00am-2:00pm

What's New?

- Among its many titles, ALA Editions will have *Strategic Planning for Results*, by Sandra Nelson (the latest in PLA's *Results* series); *FRBR: A Guide for the Perplexed*, by Robert Maxwell; and, *Helping Homeschoolers in the Library*, by Adrienne Furness.
- From ALA Graphics, get your new materials for National Library Week and Teen Tech Week; celebrate El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros (Children's Day/Book Day) with posters and bookmarks featuring Dora the Explorer; get new READ posters featuring Common, Tim Gunn, and Abigail Breslin – official

spokesperson for the 2008 School Library Media Month, as well as new character posters and bookmarks featuring Wonder Woman, The Spiderwick Chronicles, Babymouse, and Duck for President; prepare to celebrate Black History Month with moving artwork by Jerry Pinkney on posters and bookmarks; and, thank your staff with new National Library Workers Day buttons.

- **ALA Placement Center**

Placement Services are provided by the ALA Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment (HRDR). The Placement Service will be located in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Hall C.

ALA Placement Center Hours--

Friday, January 11: 12:00 - 5:00pm

Saturday, January 12- Sunday, January 13: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Monday, January 14: 9:00am - 1:00pm.

Job seekers should register and search for jobs on the JobLIST website at <http://www.joblist.ala.org/> All services are free to job seekers. Registration is not required but is recommended; registration will give employers access to your resume information and will allow for direct communication between job seekers and employers. There is an orientation for job seekers on Friday, January 11, 11:30am-noon, in the Placement Center. For additional information, for both job seekers and employers, see the *Meeting Guide*.

- **Checking email?**

- **Wireless Access** is available in many areas of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Open the browser on your wifi-enabled devices and you should automatically be directed to the Center's home page. If it doesn't open right away, you can "view available wireless networks" from your computer and select "PCCA" to connect. If you need to enter an SSID into your wifi device, use "PCCA". Free wireless access is not available in the Exhibit Hall or ALA Office.
- **The Internet Café**, sponsored by Elsevier, will be open 6:00am-10:00pm Friday through Monday.
- **The Internet Room**, managed by ALA's Internet Room Steering Committee and staffed by volunteers, in Exhibit Hall B at the back of Aisle 2000, will be open during exhibit hours, starting at 5:30pm on Friday.

- **The ALA Office** is located in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Level 2, in Hall C.

The Office will be available beginning 10:00am on Friday, and until 10:00pm on Friday night. Thereafter, the normal hours are from 6:00am-10:00pm, Saturday through Tuesday. Several computers and printers will be available for use by members; you must sign up in advance. A reprographics center is also located in the ALA Office area.

- **That Other Important Office – The Post Office!**

Postal Services will be provided in Exhibit Hall A, behind Aisle 200 (at the back of the hall). The post office will be open Saturday and Sunday, 9:00am-4:15pm, and Monday, 9:00am-1:15pm. Attendees will receive one mailing envelope or tube compliments of ALA. Additional mailing materials cost \$1 each.

- **Getting Around**

The Shuttle Buses (sponsored by Gale Cengage Learning) will begin running on Friday, January 11, 7:30am-8:00pm. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday, they will run 7:00am to 6:00pm. See the Meeting Guide for participating hotels and routes. The *Meeting Guide* also includes information on public transportation in Philadelphia (or see the Midwinter wiki at <http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2008/>)

SOME SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS –

Don't see it here? Want more? See the Final Meeting Guide and the 2008 Midwinter Wiki (<http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2008/>)

- **Arriving on Friday – or earlier?**

- There are a number of Pre-Midwinter Institutes. (Check with the sponsoring group for space availability.)
 - **User Centered Design: Design and Usability (LITA)** is being offered on Thursday and Friday, January 10-11. Space is available on site for day one, day two or both. Go to: <http://www.lita.org/ala/lita/litaevents/midwinter2008/midwinter08philly.cfm>
 - Some space is available in **Taking Teen Services to the Next Level (YALSA)**. Go to the website or call the YALSA office in advance of the institute to register. Registration will not be available on site.
 - **Mission Impossible: Practical Project Management (LAMA)** on Friday, January 11, will teach participants how to identify and address the basic causes of project failures involving management of personnel and resources, and correct underlying problems in existing project management.
- With the **ALISE Annual Conference** beginning in Tuesday, January 8, at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center, ALISE and the ALA Office for Technology Policy have invited participants to a meeting on **“Participatory Librarianship and Web 2.0 in the Curriculum.”** The meeting is Wednesday, January 9, at the Free Library of Philadelphia. For more information on the project undertaken by ALA OITP and Syracuse University’s Information Institute, go to <http://ptbed.org> Those interested in attending should contact R. David Lankes at rdlankes@iis.syr.edu
- The **ALISE Annual Conference**, scheduled just before the ALA Midwinter Meeting at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Centre, provides an opportunity to explore current issues in library education and to hear the educators (and practitioners) of the future as they present their work in posters sessions and

papers. For more information, go to www.alise.org/conferences/2008 Daily registration is \$80 for ALISE members and \$125 for non-members.

- The **Advocacy Institute** (Friday, 8:30am-3:30pm, Marriott Philadelphia Salon G) will focus on message development and coalition building, with afternoon breakout sessions on budget development, crisis communication, and passing bond issues and referenda. Onsite registration is available (\$75) and includes lunch. The Advocacy Institute is sponsored by the ALA Office for Library Advocacy, the ALA Public Awareness Committee's Advocacy Institute Task Force, the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA), the ALA Chapter Relations Office, the ALA Committee on Legislation, and Friends of Libraries USA.
- Continuing the dialog on issues in library and information science education, the **Forum on Library Education**, sponsored by the ALA Committee on Education and hosted by ALA President Loriene Roy, takes place from 1:30-4:30pm, PCC 201B/C. This forum will focus on the doctoral student experience, including a *researchplooza* where doctoral students will present their research to the audience in a mere 90 seconds! Immediately following the presentations, a 30-minute poster session will take place, followed by facilitated group discussions about the gaps and links between research and practice. Facilitated discussion topics will include the current status of LIS Ph.D programs, gaps between research and practice, overlaps between practice and research, and connections between ALA and LIS student work. To register for the 4th ALA Forum on Education – The Ph.D Experience: Research into Practice, visit <http://www.evite.com/app/publicUrl/VLBBMSUZSPBLBVTBTJLD/midwinterforum>
- **AASL/ISTE Open Forum on NETS for Teachers**, will be 2:30-4:00pm, Doubletree, Symphony. Research and Information Fluency were among the major headings in the revised *National Educational Technology Standards for Students* recently released by the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE). During this joint forum, school library media specialists will have the opportunity to contribute their voice as ISTE revises the *National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers*.
- This year, the **ALA/ERT Author Forum**, Friday, January 11, 4:00-5:15pm, will feature Mary Doria Russell, author of *The Sparrow* and *Children of God* (sponsored by Random House) and Geraldine Brooks, 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner for *March* and 2001 Notable Books of the Year winner for *A Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague* (sponsored by Penguin Group USA Inc).
- Join ALTA President Don Roalkvam at the **ALTA President's Reception**, 7:30-10:00pm, at the Philadelphia's historic City Tavern, 138 S. 2nd Street at Walnut St., 215-413-1443. Tickets are \$55. Contact Dollester Thorn Hawkins (dthorn@ala.org) for reservations. For more information on the City Tavern see <http://www.citytavern.com>
- **YALSA's Gaming Extravaganza** will be held from 8:00-10:00pm in Millennium Hall at the Loews Hote. Whether you're an experienced gamer or a beginner – or somewhere in between, you're sure to find something new. YALSA will also be announcing the winner of its "Create Your Own Avatar" contest. Tickets are \$40. If haven't purchased a ticket yet, they'll be available on site.
- **The Feminists Night Out**, co-sponsored by SRRT/FTF and ACRL/WSS, is 7:00-9:00pm, at Giovanni's Room (<http://www.giovanisroom.com>), 345 South

- 12th Street (12th and Pine Sts), 215-923-2960, with snacks, drinks and books to buy.
- Other Friday night networking opportunities include the **LITA Happy Hour**, 5:00-7:00pm, at Cebu Restaurant and Bar (123 Chestnut Street, Old City, Philadelphia) where the LITA Membership Development Committee and LITA members from around the country are gathering for networking. Newcomers are welcome!
- **Special Events Saturday-Monday**
 - **ALA Presidential Candidates Forum**, Saturday, 11:00am, will provide an opportunity to hear and ask questions of candidates Camila Alire and J. Linda Williams.
 - **ALA President's Program:** Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, basketball great and author of numerous books, most recently *On the Shoulders of Giants: My Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance*, will focus on the impact of the Harlem Renaissance on his life during the ALA President's Program, Sunday, January 13, 3:30-5:30pm, PCC, Ballroom A.
 - **Sunrise Speaker Series**, sponsored by H.W. Wilson:
 - "Celebrate Your Dreams at America's Most Famous Steps," with *Philadelphia Inquirer* writer Michael Vitez and editor/photographer Tom Gralish, Saturday, January 12, 8:00-9:00am.
 - Spend "A Morning with Aaron Lansky," Sunday, January 13, 8:00-9:00am, and learn about the National Yiddish Book Center and the rescue of almost 1.5 million Yiddish books.
 - Authors Shireen Dodson, Elizabeth Noble, Victoria Lustbader and Carol Fitzgerald will explore books, reading groups, and the relationships that are formed through reading in a session moderated by Jennifer Hart, vice-president/associate publisher at Perennial, Ecco, on Monday, January 14, 8:00-9:00am.
 - **Eighth Annual Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture:** Jazz violinist Regina Carter, winner of a 2006 MacArthur Fellowship, will be featured on Saturday, January 12, 1:30pm, PCC, Lecture Hall. Her most recent album was issued in June 2006: *I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey*.
 - The 2008 winners of the **John Cotton Dana Awards** will be announced at 4:00pm, PCC, Room 103C. The John Cotton Dana Award, sponsored by H.W. Wilson, honors outstanding library public relations and is one of the most coveted and prestigious awards given by ALA. The award was established in 1946.
 - Also on Saturday, 6:00-7:30pm, a reception to honor the **2007 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award** winner Barbara Jones will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Liberty C Ballroom. The Downs Award, given by the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, recognizes individuals or groups who have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom, particularly as it affects libraries and information centers and the dissemination of ideas. Barbara Jones is currently

serving her second term on the board of IFLA/FAIFE, spent two terms as chair of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table, and has written extensively on intellectual and academic freedom.

- Celebrate as **YALSA joins the @your library** campaign, Sunday, January 13, 10:30-noon, Loews, Regency Ballroom A.
- ALA, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies invite you to a special advance screening of the new film adaptation of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, Sunday, January 13, 7:30pm, Ritz Five Theater, 214 Walnut Street. The screening is free and open to the first 400 attendees to arrive.
- Start your Monday at the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Sunrise Observance**, January 14, 6:30-7:30am, PCC Room 113. Ganga Dakshinamurti (Albert Cohen Management Library, Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba) will share her perspective on the connections between Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi in "A Challenging Inspiration Lighting Our Way: From Gandhi to King Jr. to Us." The annual observance is sponsored by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force, and the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table.
- Monday, January 14, is the most exciting day in youth literature as ALA announces the annual **Youth Media Awards**, 8-9:15am, PCC, Ballroom B. Be there to hear the announcement of the winners of youth media awards, including: the 9th annual Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature, the 20th Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing books of enduring popularity for teenagers, the 1st annual Odyssey Award for excellence in audiobook production, the Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished picture book, the John Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature, the Pura Belpré Awards for outstanding contributions to children's literature that portray the Latino experience in the U.S., the Mildred L. Batchelder Award for excellence in translation of a children's book, the May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture selection, the Carnegie Medal for an outstanding video production for children, the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the best book for beginning readers, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards for outstanding and inspirational contributions to literature for young people by African American authors and illustrators, the John Steptoe Award the new talent, the Schneider Family Book Award for a book that embodies the disability experience in literature for children and adolescents, the Robert F. Sibert Medal for the most distinguished informational book for children, and the Alex Awards.

The event will also be webcast from <http://unikron.com/clients/ala-webcast>

Celebrate the day at the **Joint Youth Division Member Reception**, Marriott Courtyard Grand Ballroom, 6:00-8:00pm. All members, and non-members interested in learning more about these associations, are invited to attend. Then end the day with opportunities for live storytelling and listening – with the **ALSC Storytelling Discussion Group**, 8:00-10:00pm Marriott, Room 307.

- The **FOLUSA Author Tea**, Monday, January 14, 2:00-4:00pm, features authors Barbara Taylor Bradford (*The Heir*), Russell Banks (*The Reserve*), Ann Hood (*Comfort: A Journey Through Grief*), Sue Miller (*The Senator's Wife*), and Meg Rosoff (*What I Was*). Tea and presentations will be followed by author signings. Tickets are \$45 onsite (while they last) at booth 611 in the Exhibit Hall or, if available, at the door just before the event at the Doubletree Hotel, Symphony Room.
- Also on Monday, January 14, the **Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF)** will present “**An Evening with Anthony Lewis.**” Lewis, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author, will discuss his new book, *Freedom for the Thought We Hate*, with Chris Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and FTRF trustee. The event will begin at 6:30pm, at the National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street, in Philadelphia’s historic Independence Mall. Tickets are \$12 for Freedom to Read Foundation members and Constitution Center members and \$15 for nonmembers (\$6 for K-12 students and teachers). Advance tickets are required; please call 215-409-6700 to reserve your seat. Lewis and Finan will be signing books after the event. Prior to the program, there will be a special reception for FTRF members to meet Lewis, starting at 5:30pm at the Constitution Center. FTRF members should email frtf@ala.org or RSVP for this reception. For more on the program and reception, visit www.ftrf.org

THE MIDWINTER INFORMATION EXCHANGE

(This is a sample of the numerous midwinter discussions. Looking for more information exchange and networking opportunities? – Check the ALA Midwinter Wiki at: http://wikis.ala.org/midwinter2008/index.php/Discussion_Groups and the final Meeting Guide.)

*A number of new discussion groups or member initiative groups are holding their first face-to-face meeting at this Midwinter Meeting. They are marked with an * below.*

SATURDAY, January 12

8:00-10:00am

- ALA’s **Washington Office Update Session**, PCC 108A, will feature Bassem Youssef, the highest ranking Arab-American agent employed by the FBI, speaking about his experience with the bureau’s counter-terrorism surveillance activities, including National Security Letters. Tom Susman (partner, Ropes and Gray LLP) will discuss the effect of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act on libraries.
- Everyone is welcome to participate in the **Diversity Officers Discussion Group** (LAMA) to share strategies for the development of programs for a culturally-diverse workforce, including such topics as recruitment and retention, and residency programs. The group will meet at the Marriott Philadelphia, Room 405.

10:30am-noon

- The **Washington Office Update breakout sessions** will cover three key topics:
 - ALA OITP Director Alan Inouye will lead a discussion on “All (Telecom) Politics is Local: What the FCC is up to and what it has to do with your library,” including discussion of the February 17, 2009, Digital Television Transition, in which libraries are set to play a big role. (PCC 108A)
 - The ALA Government Documents Round Table will feature representatives of the Library of Congress, the Federal Depository Library Program, and Indiana University, who will discuss a wide range of topics from digitization to an intergovernmental search engine. (PCC 107B)
 - The third breakout discussion will be an exploration of how crucial libraries are to E-government. The discussion will be led by Nancy Weiss (General Counsel, IMLS) and John Bertot (Information Use Management Policy Institute, Florida State University). (PCC 105B)
- Nicole Pelsinsky (Serials Solutions), Peter Fletcher (UCLA) and Timothy Savage (OCLC) will lead a discussion on bibliographic records to make e-resources more manageable, at the Loews Hotel, Washington Room, organized by the **Electronic Resources Interest Group** (ALCTS).
- The **Hot Topics Discussion Group** (RUSA) will focus on social tagging technology and ways libraries are using it to encourage patron interaction with the catalog, user aids and with the library in general. The discussion will take place at the PCC, Room 201B/C.
- Interested in applying for a **Let’s Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness** reading and discussion series grant? The ALA Public Programs Office is hosting an informational session in the PCC, room 307B, including an overview of the programs and tips for submitting successful applications.
- ***Balancing Baby and Book** (ACRL), Marriott Philadelphia, Salon I.
- Delegates from AASL’s affiliates will meet to share ideas on a variety of topics at the **Affiliate Assembly Discussion Group** (AASL), PCC 202B.
- **IFRT’s National Conversation on Privacy Task Force** is continuing work on framing this conversation, in conjunction with the member initiative group Libraries Foster Civic Engagement. Join in the process at the task force meeting (MAR 411-412) – and, even if you can’t make the meeting, follow their progress at <http://privacyframing.wetpaint.com>

1:30-3:30pm

- The **University Libraries Section Current Topics Discussion Group** (ACRL) will focus on emerging technologies with Aaron Swartz, co-author of RSS, co-creator of the Open Library project and co-founder of Reddit, as he shares his strategies on how to analyze competing technologies. Join in the discussion, PCC Room 108A.
- Discuss the challenges of growing interactions between cataloging and digital initiatives and changing norms with Rebecca Lubas (MIT Libraries), Charlene Chou (Columbia University Libraries) and Patricia Dragon (East Carolina University), sponsored by the **Cataloging Norms Discussion Group** (ALCTS CCS), PCC Room 109B.
- The **Digital Media Discussion Group** (VRT) will look at the impact of digital media in libraries of all types. On the list of topics to cover are digital streaming and content providers, multimedia production in libraries, market technologies (e.g. high

definition formats), video gaming and collections, and podcasting, vodcasting and audio books. Sheraton Philadelphia City Center, Logans 2.

- The **Diversity Discussion Group** (ALA Committee on Diversity) will have a discussion focused on white privilege. Loews Philadelphia, Lescaze Room.

4:00-6:00pm

- *The **Senior Administrators Discussion Group** (ACRL) will discuss organizing to support a 21st century academic institution – including succession planning and recruiting for leadership, Marriott Philadelphia, Salon C/D.
- *Second Life – and more.... Join the newly-formed ALA Member Interest Group on **Virtual Communities and Libraries** in their initial face-to-face discussion, at the Marriott Philadelphia, Franklin 10 room.
- The **Scholarly Communication Discussion Group** (ACRL) will focus on “Working with the FaceBook Generation: Engaging Student Views on Access to Scholarship,” PCC Room 204A/B. Discussion leaders include Andre Brown (doctoral student at University of Pennsylvania and co-blogger for Biocurious), Kimberly Douglas (University Librarian, California Institute of Technology), Nelson Pavlosky (law student at George Mason University and co-founder of Students for Freeculture), and Stephanie Wang (graduate student at Princeton University and former National Coordinating Committee member of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines).
- *The **Continuing Education/Professional Development Discussion Group** (ACRL) will focus on local training issues, PCC203A.
- ***Copyright Discussion Group** (ACRL) will address issues related to copyright and video/media in higher education, PCC 110 A/B.

SUNDAY, January 13

8:00-10:00am

- *The **Physical Delivery Discussion Group** (ASCLA) will hold its first meeting, Philadelphia Marriott, Room 305. Explore best practices related to the physical delivery of materials between libraries and directly to patrons – and help chart the course of a new community of practice.
- The **Networked Resources and Metadata Interest Group** (ALCTS) will feature a discussion, led by Maureen Walsh (Ohio State University Libraries) on institutional repository metadata, including metadata schemes, crosswalking, data normalization, metadata displays and user interfaces, and more, at the Four Seasons Philadelphia, Ballroom South.
- ***Librarianship in For-Profit Educational Institutions Discussion Group** (ACRL) will examine reciprocal agreements, resource sharing, partnering with for-profits and non-profits, and information literacy outcomes, at the Loews Philadelphia, Anthony.

10:30am-12:30pm

- Join the **Women Administrators Discussion Group** (LAMA) for a discussion of leadership vs. management, MAR, Room 502.
- The **RDA Update Forum** (ALCTS) will provide the most recent information on the development of RDA, Sunday, PCC Lecture Hall.

- The 2008 **Committee on Literacy, Research-to-Practice Discussion Group** will examine the implications, lessons learned, and promising practices of adding games and gaming to library services. Discussion leaders include Scott Nicholson (Syracuse University, School of Information Studies), Julie Scordato (Teen Services Specialist at Columbus Metropolitan Library) and Jenny Levine (ALA's Internet Development Specialist and Strategy Guide). (PCC Room 308)

Noon – 1:30pm

- The **LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund and Intellectual Freedom Round Table** will host a conversation about how to promote the Merritt Fund and other resources available to librarians and library workers facing workplace concerns. The conversation will take place at the Philadelphia Marriott, Franklin 13.

1:30-3:30pm

- The ALA Member Initiative Group **Libraries Foster Civic Engagement** will be discussing strategies for supporting and encouraging civic engagement by youth, with discussion leader Kenny Holdsmen of the Academy for Educational Development, PCC 305.
- The **Interlibrary Cooperation Discussion Group** (ASLCA) will look at future trends in ILL, including peer-to-peer networks, federated searching, e-materials – and more. Interested participants are invited to join the group at the Marriott Philadelphia, Franklin 5.

4:00-6:00pm

- The **Children's Collection Management in Public Libraries Discussion Group** (ALSC) will discuss new trends in collections management, including reading blogs, video games in your collection and e-books for children. The discussion will take place at the Sheraton Philadelphia, Ballroom A.
- The **PARS Preservation Forum** (ALCTS) will feature a discussion of the IMLS/Heritage Preservation "Connecting to Collections" initiative, with Nancy Rogers (IMLS) and Kristen Laise (Heritage Preservation) talking about the program and the Heritage Health Index study. Tom Claerson (PALINET) will moderate. PCC 103C.
- Looking for research support? Visit the **Diversity Research Tea** (ALA Committee on Diversity). The Diversity Research Grant program, sponsored by the ALA Office for Diversity, addresses critical gaps in the knowledge of diversity issues within library and information science. Topics for applications for 2008 Diversity Research Grants will be announced at the tea and attendees will have the chance to review research by past recipients. Four Seasons, Adams Room.
- Participate in a **focus group on the new ACRL environmental scan**, Loews Philadelphia, Congress C. The 2007 environmental scan explores the current atmosphere in the world of academic libraries, along with trends that will define the future of academic librarianship and the research environment. The document is available in the white papers section of the ACRL website at www.acrl.org
- The **LAMA Name Change Task Force** will hold an open forum on the possibility of LAMA changing its name. Loews, Washington A Room.

...and Bloggers, the **OCLC Blog Salon** is 5:30-8:00pm, Loews, Commonwealth, A1.

MONDAY, January 14

8:00-10:00am

- The **BRASS Publisher's Forum** (RUSA Business Reference Sources Committee), "Buenos Negocios! Hispanic Market Information Sources," will be a discussion of marketing to the Hispanic population, with representatives from Simmons, Simply Map, and the Census Bureau. (PCC 108A)

10:30-noon

- **The ALCTS Forum: Moving Library Services to the Network Level** will focus on the challenges of presenting collections and services to users where those users live and work – and the potential of presenting collections and services on the Open Web to change the face of library technical services. Diana Brooking (University of Washington) and Karen Calhoun, Matt Goldner and Glenn Patton (OCLC) will lead a discussion of the issues from the perspective of cataloging, catalog management and discovery. PCC 108A.

1:30-3:00pm

- **ALCTS Acquisitions Section Forum: New Roles for Acquisitions – Selecting and Harvesting for Institutional Repositories.** Karl Debus-López (National Agriculture Library) and Trisha Davis (Ohio State University) will lead a discussion on this transformational development in research libraries, using examples from the restructuring of their acquisitions operations to manage the selection and harvesting of content for their institutions' digital repositories. PCC 204C

MARK YOUR CALENDARS -- EVENTS IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

- January 28-February 16, 2008, **ACRL e-learning: Introduction to Website Usability and Virtual Reference Competencies II: Practice and Expand Communication Skills and Knowledge.** For these and later e-courses, see www.acrl.org (click "Events").
- March 2-8, 2008 – **Teen Tech Week™: "Tune In @ your library"**
- March 14, 2008 – **Freedom of Information Day, James Madison Awards presentation** Washington [DC] See: <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/freedomofinfo/freedominformation.cfm>.
- March 25-29, 2008 – **12th PLA National Conference**, Minneapolis [MN]. See www.placonference.org
- March 26-29, 2008 – **ACRL/Harvard Advanced Leadership Institute for Senior Academic Librarians** (<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~ppe/highered/>)
- April 13-19, 2008 – **National Library Week** (www.ala.org/pio/nlw/)
- April 17, 2008 – **Support Teen Literature Day**
- April 29-30, **ACRL/LAMA Joint Spring Virtual Institute: "Leading from the Middle: Managing in All Directions."**

- April 30, 2008 – **El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros** (Day of the Child/Day of the Book)
- May 13-14, 2008 – **National Library Legislative Day**, Washington [DC]. See <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nlld2008.cfm>
- June 26-July 2, 2008 – **ALA Annual Conference**, Anaheim [CA]. See www.ala.org/annual or go to <http://wikis.ala.org/annual2008> for both official and unofficial information and networking.
 - 35 preconferences (see the January/February 2008 issue of *American Libraries* or go to www.ala.org/annual)
 - The 2008 **Empowerment Conference: Riding the Wave to Empowerment**, June 28-29, sponsored by the ALA Library Support Staff Interests Round Table and the ALA Office for Human Resource Development & Recruitment.
- August, 3-8, 2008, **ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians**, Cambridge (MA), <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~ppe/highered/>
- September 18-20, 2008 – **ALSC National Institute**, Salt Lake City [UT]
- September 27-October 4, 2008 – **Banned Books Week, Celebrate Your Freedom to Read**. See www.ala.org/bbooks.
- October 12-18, 2008 – **Teen Read Week™ : Books with Bite @ your library**
- October 16-19, 2008 -- **LITA National Forum**, Cincinnati [OH]
- October 17-29, 2008 – **AASL Fall Forum: Assessment, Part II: Constructing and Interpreting Viable Tools for Effective Student Learning in the Library Media Center**, Oak Brook [IL] (Chicago-area)
- November 7-9, 2008 – YALSA’s first biennial **Young Adult Literature Symposium**, Nashville [TN]

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD?

- January 23-28, 2009 – **ALA Midwinter Meeting, Denver** [CO]
- April 2-4, 2009 -- **PLA Spring Symposium**, Nashville [TN]
- March 12-15, 2009, **14th ACRL National Conference**: “Pushing the Edge: Explore, Engage, Extend,” Seattle [WA], www.acrl.org/seattle
- March 16, 2009, Freedom of Information Day, James Madison Awards presentation, Washington [DC] (<http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/freedomofinfo/freedominformation.cfm>)
- **July** 9-15, 2009 **ALA Annual Conference**, Chicago [IL]
- October 1-4, 2009 – **LITA National Forum**, Salt Lake City [UT]
- November 4-8, 2009, **14th AASL National Conference and Exhibition**, Charlotte [NC]

OTHER ALA NEWS

• **ALA in Second Life**

In November, 2007, a group of graduate students from the San José State University School of Library and Information Science took on the task of building the “campus” for ALA’s presence in Second Life. Working with Donovan Vicha/Oberon Octagon (the name after the / is his avatar’s name in SL), Web Program Officer for ASCLA and RUSA, the SJSU team consists of Jeremy Kemp/Jeremy Kabumpo (an instructional designer at SJSU), architectural team leader; Robin Williams/Greylin Fairweather,

project manager; Bernard Becker/Mace Slunce, lead builder; Susie Quinn/Susie Schridde, builder; and, Daniel Brunk/Mejik Oh, builder. The team worked with the following vision statement: *ALA will develop and maintain a dynamic virtual space to support the goals and objectives of the organization and to facilitate the collaborative and informational needs of its diverse global membership.* See what the group has accomplished as they present their update at the **Virtual Communities and Libraries, Member Initiative Group** on Saturday, January 12, 4:00-6:00pm, MAR Franklin 10 Room. For more information about the new offerings, visit http://wikis.ala.org/readwriteconnect/index.php/ALA_in_virtual_worlds.

- **OITP's New Director**

On August 13, 2007, Dr. Alan Inouye began his tenure as Director of ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy. From 2004 to 2007, Alan served as Coordinator of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee in the Executive Office of the President. Alan completed his Ph.D in library and information studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

- **ALA Editions' New Editorial Director**

J. Michael Jeffers has been appointed Editorial Director for ALA Editions, effective January 7, 2008. Michael began his publishing career as a Senior Editor at Dow Jones/Irwin, after a career in education. He subsequently co-founded and served as president of Probus, a professional/reference/trade publishing company based in Chicago. When the company was acquired by McGraw-Hill, Michael became General Manager of Glenlake-Edgewater Editorial, including responsibilities as Editorial Director for Socrates Media.

- **Reader Forum Online**

American Libraries announces the launch of Reader Forum Online, a companion to the "Letters and Comments" section of the print magazine. This new forum is designed to engage readers in discussion of hot topics covered in *AL* (such as Spanish-language collections, RDA, local referenda, and ALA Conferences) and to suggest new topics. Postings will also contribute to future content development. The forum is located at <http://al.ala.org/forum/>.

- **Opportunities through the ALA Public Programs Office**

In 2007, a record number of new grants were awarded to more than 3,700 public, academic and school libraries. Grants awarded totaled more than \$350,000, with an additional \$650,000 in collection materials. There are new opportunities in 2008, including the following:

- **Let's Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness** (funded by The John E. Fetzer Institute, Inc.) The application will be available in January at www.ala.org/publicprograms
- The **Great Stories Club** (funded by a grant from Oprah's Angel Network) is a national reading and discussion program that targets troubled teens. Public,

school, academic or special libraries located within or working with facilities serving troubled teens are invited to apply by February 1 at www.ala.org/greatstories

- The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), in cooperation with PPO, has announced a new round of Picturing America grants to public libraries and schools. Online applications will be accepted through April 15 at <http://publicprograms.ala.org/picturingamerica>

- **Mark Bard (Washington Office staff member)**

On October 1, 2007, the ALA Washington Office's Mark Bard was seriously injured when struck by a drunk driver near his home. Mark remains unconscious but stable. He is out of the hospital and currently at the Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Alexandria [VA] for long term care. We know that many of you have met Mark through his attendance at ALA Conferences and his participation in the Second Life working group. Mark is the Information Technology Specialist in ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP).

AND ALA-RELATED NEWS: ALA-Allied Professional Association

- The **Library Support Staff Certification Program Advisory Council** meets Thursday, January 10, 8:00am-4:00pm, PCC304. Observers are welcome. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.ala-apa.org/certification/supportstaff.html>
- In response to communication from ALA members about how and when ALA-APA should respond to requests for assistance from library employees or managers, members of the **Salaries and Status of Library Workers Committee** have been working on possible draft policies. Those drafts will be discussed when the committee meets on Sunday, January 13, 4:00-6:00pm, PCC 301. The committee hopes to complete its drafts in the spring, for consideration by governing bodies at Annual Conference. Interested individuals are welcome at the meeting – and also welcome to send comments to the committee c/o jgrady@ala.org by February 15.

SOME KEY PHONE NUMBERS TO KEEP AT HAND

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Convention Center Security Command Center 4911 from any house phone

Ambulance, Fire, Police 911

Police Department (non-emergency) 911

Fire Department (non-emergency) 911

Hospital

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, 111 S. 11th Street

Emergency Room: 215-955-6000

Philadelphia Health Care Center #1, 1400 Lombard Street 215-685-6570

Pharmacy (Open 24 Hours)

Rite-Aid #3950, 2301 Walnut Street

Dental Referral Service: 1-800-336-8478

Doctor Referral Service: 1-800-362-8611

HOTEL NUMBERS (see also *Meeting Guide*, p.63)

Pennsylvania Convention Center (PCC) 215-418-4700

Headquarters Hotel: Philadelphia Marriott (MAR) 215-625-2900

Co-Headquarters Hotel: Loews Philadelphia (LOEWS) 215-627-1200

Crowne Plaza Hotel (CROW) 215-561-7500

Doubletree Hotel (DOUB) 215-893-1679

Embassy Suites (EMB) 215-561-1776

Four Seasons Philadelphia (FOUR) 215-963-1500

Hampton Inn (HAMP) 215-665-9100

Hilton Garden Inn (HIL) 215-923-0100

Holiday Inn Express MidTown (HOL) 215-735-9300

Marriott Courtyard (COURT) 215-496-3200

Radisson Plaza (RAD) 215-735-6000

Ritz-Carlton (RITZ) 215-523-8000

Sheraton City Center (SHER) 215-448-2000

Sofitel Philadelphia (SOFT) 215-569-8300

Westin Philadelphia (WEST) 215-563-1600

Hotels in the ALA Hotel Block , but not used for meetings (hence, no meeting schedule code):

Holiday Inn Philadelphia Historic District 215-923-8660

Inn at Union League 215-587-5570

Residence Inn Center City 215-557-0005

Other Conference numbers (also in the flyer mailed with your badge).

All area codes: 215.

Cognotes 418-2410 Conference Services 418-2400

Division Offices 418-2414 Governance 418-2413

Exhibits Office 418-2416 Exhibitor Registration 418-2426

Housing 418-2441 Registration 418-2424

Reprographics Center 418-2414 Restaurant Reservations 418-2444

Message Center/ALA Information 418-2449