

reading options has both benefits and drawbacks. We learned that there are still parents, grandparents, teachers, and other adults who don't think graphic novels and comics count as reading. We were reminded of how generous local collectors can be in loaning us irreplaceable items to be a part of a library exhibit.

One essential thing we learned, however, was simple—kids and the comic format make a fantastic combination. Throughout the bulk of the summer, our hardcover graphic novels for kids maintained a 70 percent circulation rate. An already-popular

format was made more visible through our reading program, and the exhibit piqued kids' interest in both the process and the product.

We also learned that pushing ourselves to exceed our expectations pays off and that there are always new partnerships waiting to happen. ☺

A note to readers: Look only at the first letter of each subhead above, and read those letters vertically. That's what it's all about.

MY YEAR WITH GEISEL, continued from page 36

last several months and collaborate on our understandings. It enriched and expanded my perspectives on what makes a terrific early reader book for children pre-K to second grade.

Another wonderful part of serving on Geisel was visiting a local second-grade classroom over a span of several weeks and reading with the children possible contenders for the award.

Our manual suggested doing this as one possible way to gather more information on both how children learn to read and how to gauge their honest reactions to different books. We staged our own Mock Geisel Award and celebration party. The candid and open viewpoints of these twenty-seven second-graders, as I observed them reading and sharing over thirty different books, opened up new ways of looking at the world of early reader titles and what often makes one book more enticing in the child's eyes.

An important part of being on Geisel is the nomination process. Twice during 2007 we each nominated three strong contenders, justifying in writing why we chose them and sending those nominations to our chair, who then compiled our nominations and put them into a list along with our justification statements so that we had a chance to read over and reflect on each member's thoughts.

The nominated books are important because they become the main subject on the Midwinter discussion list; though books published as late in the year as December can still feasibly get on it. However, no books may be added to this list once the Midwinter Meeting selection meeting has started.

In a nutshell, voting for the award winner involves each committee member listing first, second, and third place votes on a ballot. Then a teller on the committee assigns four points to each first place vote, three points to each second place vote, and two points to each third place vote. To win the award, a book must receive at least five first place votes at four points per vote for a total of twenty points. Plus, that book needs a five-point lead over the book receiving the next highest number of points.

The committee has the option of selecting honor books, by considering titles with the highest number of points or electing to ballot one more time. When I was on the committee, we opted to choose honor books: *First the Egg* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger; *Hello, Bumblebee Bat* by Darrin Lund, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne; *Jazz Baby* by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie; and *Vulture View* by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins.

Early Sunday evening is the most exciting—the award and honor book notification phone calling session. When I was on Geisel, Mo Willems won the Geisel Award for his hilarious *There Is a Bird on Your Head*. As we were chatting with this charming author and illustrator, he mentioned that his young daughter was peeking at him over a partition by his computer and telephone, evidently in glee that her dad was hearing some pretty good news!

My year with Geisel was a thrill, and a local newspaper reporter interviewed me to ask how I became a children's librarian, how I share my love of leading kids to books, and once again, how did I get on the Geisel Committee. ☺

ALSC News

Board Major Actions

The following actions were recently taken by the ALSC Board of Directors.

Electronic Actions

APPROVED, a letter of support from ALSC for KQED Public Media's application for a National Science Foundation (NSF) Pathways Grant. The KQED project is a library toolkit, The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library for Science. (December 2010)

APPROVED, the definition of the "New to ALSC" Director position as "a candidate who will normally have been an ALSC member for 2–7 years." If the motion is approved by the membership, this information will be incorporated into the Slate Development Memo sent to the ALSC Nominating Committee. In addition, two candidates for the "New to ALSC" Director slot will appear on the spring 2012 ballot. (November 2010)

Midwinter Meeting 2011 Actions

Board documents are posted on ALA Connect (<http://connect.ala.org/>) and provide complete details about the issues listed below. Go to the ALSC section of ALA Connect and click on "Online Docs." Board documents are usually posted about two weeks prior to conference.

APPROVED, the move of the Draft Strategic Plan to the beginning of the agenda for discussion.

APPROVED, the amended Board Agenda for Midwinter 2011.

RESCINDED, the Scope of Attention Motion to change the words "the eighth grade of junior high school age" to the words "through and including age 13" in Bylaws Article II.

APPROVED, a resolution honoring Carolyn Wicker Field.

ADOPTED, the recommendations of the SPA Subcommittee with the following change: In Recommendation #6, "After successful conversion of the first year's committees, be replaced with the phrase, "After a two-year conversion of the first committees."

ACCEPTED, the Tier 1 suggestions from the Friends of ALSC Task Force: a calendar-based membership year and an expanded annual membership drive letter.

CHARGED, the Quicklist Consulting Committee with creating a core collection development list of graphic novels for children, and, moving forward, a best of the best list.

APPROVED, the sunset of the Great Interactive Software for Kids Committee.

APPROVED, a change to the Terms of the Notable Children's Recordings to align the producers' submission deadline with that of the current Odyssey Committee.

APPROVED, a change to the function statement of the Notable Children's Recordings Committee to remove the words "in disc or tape form" in the first sentence.

RESCINDED, a 2004 Annual Conference Board vote to "provide complimentary registration and \$250 to ALSC members who speak at the ALSC National Institute."

APPROVED, recommendations 2, 3, 4, and 5 from the Banquet Pricing Task Force Report.

APPROVED, the consent agenda for 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting.

APPROVED, co-sponsorship in name only of ALA President Roberta Stevens' "Why I Need My Library" video contest.

APPROVED, support of Project VIEWS 2 IMLS National Leadership grant initiative, by providing a letter of support and designating an ALSC member or Board member to serve on the strategic advisory board.

APPROVED, support of ALA Council Document #39, "Resolution in Support of the Dream Act," in principle.

APPROVED, the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2012.

Carlson Honored with Distinguished Service Award

Dudley Carlson is the 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, honoring an individual who has made significant contributions to library service to children and to ALSC.

Carlson has been instrumental over several decades in supporting, nurturing, and participating in the evaluation of books, one of the prime and longest-standing services that ALSC provides for libraries, librarians, parents, and the community. As a member, chair and advisor to numerous book award and evaluation committees, including Newbery (chair 1985), Caldecott, Batchelder, and Notable Children's Books, she has provided guidance through reasoned thought and deep expertise. Her work also extends to other ALSC committees, including the Instrumental Budget and Finance Committee. Carlson also has served on the Boston-Globe Horn Book Award Committee and the New York Times Best Illustrated Books for Children Committee.

Carlson has been described as having impeccable judgment and sound rational advice. Because of this she has been called upon at several critical moments to help work through controversial or tough