

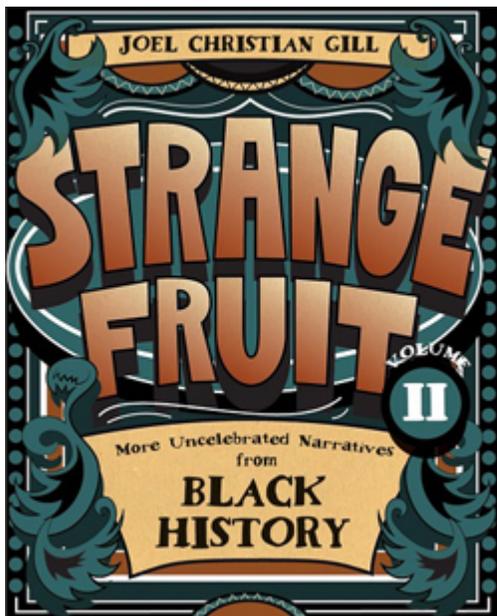


GNCRT Newsletter, February 2021

Welcome!

Welcome again to the monthly newsletter for members of ALA's Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table, featuring updates on various round table projects, highlights from board meetings, and much more. Check out our [online archive](#) for previous editions.

Want to contribute? Just [answer a few questions](#), and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.



Check It Out: *Strange Fruit*

This Black History Month, if you haven't already, take a moment to check out Joel Christian Gill's graphic novel series [Strange Fruit](#). The first volume came out in 2014, the second in 2018, and both highlight lesser-known narratives from black history. The concept began as a series of paintings by Gill, who has an MFA in painting, entitled "Strange Fruit Harvested: He Cut the Rope," later becoming comics focused on stories of people throughout history who were able to "cut the rope." As historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr. puts it in the foreword to the first volume, these stories are "less to teach [young people] than to excite them to be curious and teach themselves," and they have the same effect on adults. Young Adult Non-Fiction (but appropriate for adults as well), recommended for 12+.

-Laura Indick

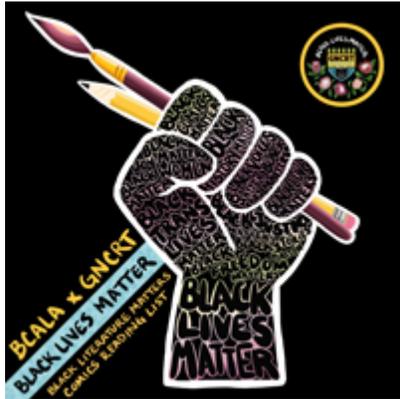


GNCRT's Best Adult Graphic Novels 2020

"ALA's Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table (GNCRT) is thrilled to announce the [2020 Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading List](#). The best Graphic Novels for Adults reading list highlights the best graphic novels for adults published in late 2019 and throughout 2020 and it aims to

increase awareness of the graphic novel medium, raise voices of diverse comics creators, and aid library staff in the development of graphic novel collections.”

[Read the full press release...](#)



BCALA-GNCRT superhero list and Jerry Craft webinar

For the next iteration of the ongoing collaboration between the BCALA and GNCRT, the team is presenting mini-lists focusing on specific genres and themes that support the overall Black Comics Matter mission. First up: [Superheroes!](#)

Also, the BCALA-GNCRT team (embodied by Sandra Farag and Tatanisha Love) team recently had a deep and nerdy conversation with Jerry Craft, creator of *New Kid* and *Class Act*, and Ariell Johnson, owner of Amalgam Comics & Coffeehouse. [Watch it here!](#)

SLJ's Good Comics For Kids on "Graphic Novels With Black Protagonists"

School Library Journal has published a [list of comics for kids and teens](#) selected by Martha Cornog. See more of Cornog's [recommendations and reviews](#).

Graphic Novels and Nonfiction sweep the 2021 ALA Youth Media Awards!

- **Asian Pacific American Librarians Association:** *Displacement* by Kiki Hughes
- **Sidney Taylor Book Award:** *Dancing at the Pity Party* by Tyler Feder
- **Schneider Family Book Award:** *When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson, Omar Mohamed, and Iman Geddy
- **Stonewall Book Awards – Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Award Honor Book:** *Beetle & The Hollowbones* by Aliza Layne
- **Alex Awards:** *Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio* by Derf Backderf and *Solutions and Other Problems* by Allie Brosh
- **Odyssey Award:** *When Stars Are Scattered* audiobook by Victoria Jaimeson and Omar Mohamed, produced by Kelly Gildea & Julie Wilson, and narrated by Faysal Ahmed, Barkhad Abdi and a full cast
- **Michael L. Printz Award:** *Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang and Lark Pien
- **Pura Belpré Awards:** *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat* by Raúl Gonzalez
- **Mildred L. Batchelder Award:** *Catherine's War* by Julia Billet and Claire Fauvel, translated from by Ivanka Hahnenberger

Many thanks to Torsten Adair for breaking out the graphic novel winners on the [GNCRT Facebook page!](#)

[See the full Youth Media Awards list...](#)

YALSA announces its 2021 Great Graphic Novels for Teens

The Young Adult Library Services Association has released a massive list of comics it recommends for teen readers! The top ten (in alphabetical order) are:

- *Almost American Girl* by Robin Ha
- *Blue Flag* by Kaito
- *Fights: One Boy's Triumph Over Violence* by Joel Christian Gill
- *Go With the Flow* by Karen Schneemann and Lily Williams
- *Guantánamo Voices: True Accounts from the World's Most Infamous Prison* by Sarah Mirk et al
- *The Low, Low Woods* by Carmen Maria Machado and DaNi
- *The Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen
- *Snapdragon* by Kat Leyh
- *Superman Smashes the Klan* by Gene Luen Yang and Gurihiru
- *Wonder Twins* by Mark Russell and Stephen Byrne

[Check out the full list of 126 titles...](#)



Seeking Nominations of Best Children's Graphic Novels

"[GNCRT] is pleased to announce the new Best Graphic Novels for Children Reading List. The inaugural year of the reading list will seek to highlight the best graphic novels for children ages 5-11 published in late 2020 and throughout 2021, increase awareness of the graphic novel medium, raise voices of diverse comics creators, and aid library staff in the development of graphic novel collections. The first list will be announced in January 2022. List selection will be determined by a committee of GNCRT members with a background in selection or use of graphic novels for children."

Read the [full press release](#) and [nominate titles now!](#)

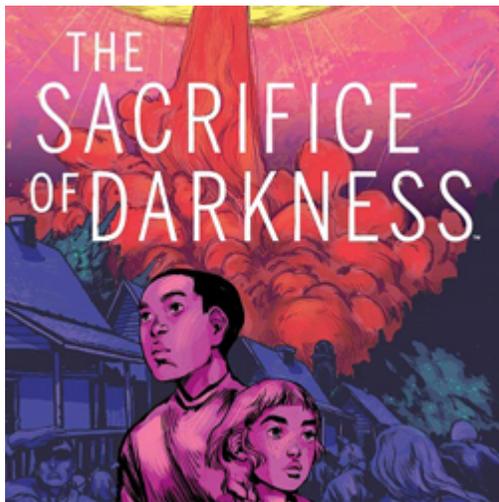
Current Round Table Projects

Here's what your fellow GNCRT-ers are up to these days. **Have a project to propose or share?** Just [answer a few questions](#) and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

#LibcomixOnline: Sacrifice of Darkness creators panel

"Join moderator Crystal Chen and creators Roxane Gay, Tracy Lynne Oliver, and Rebecca Kirby for a conversation about their recent graphic novel adaptation of Gay's New York Times bestselling short story, *The Sacrifice of Darkness*.' The graphic novel expands on the original short story about a world where the sun no longer shines."

[Watch the panel discussion...](#)



GNCRT Officers, July 2020 - June 2021

Alea Perez, President

Matthew Noe, President-Elect

Eva Volin, Treasurer

Marcela Peres, Member-at-Large

Moni Barrette, Member-at-Large

Emily Drew, GNCRT ALA Councilor

Tina Coleman, ALA Staff Liaison

Board Meeting Schedule

Note: Due to scheduling difficulties, the Board has shifted to a quarterly meeting schedule. Meetings outside of the quarterly meetings may be scheduled on an as-needed basis and will be announced at least 10 days in advance on Connect.

- *Sun Mar 14, 2021 11am-12pm CT
- *Sun June 13, 2021 11am-12pm CT

Dates marked with an asterisk require the attendance of all officers.



About GNCRT

The Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table is a collaborative organization dedicated to supporting library staff in all aspects of engaging with graphic novels and comics, including collection development, programming, and advocacy. GNCRT offers support to all types of libraries serving all types of users, whether the library is just beginning to build a collection, growing it, or finding new ways to promote the collection's use and improve its visibility.

Want your very own GNCRT t-shirt?

Support the Round Table and look great doing it with our lovely [GNCRT t-shirts](#)! Available in three colors and two styles. Also available: ["I Read Banned Comics" tech tattoos](#).



The Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table is a round table of the American Library Association. Find out more about ALA including how to join at ala.org/membership.



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