***ALSC Matters***
August 2021, Vol. 19, no. 3

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**Officially Speaking**

**It's the Year of Engagement**

This month, with so many of our eyes glued to the recent summer Olympic Games, I am reminded of how one of the noblest and most joyful moments of every Olympics is the Parade of Nations that takes place during the Opening Ceremony. Athletes from all the nations, from the most minute to the largest, march into the open field waving their country’s flag as they gather to become one world. The athletes in the Opening Ceremony remind me of the members of award selection committees as they march into the ALA Youth Media Award announcements proudly representing the diversity of titles selected by each of their committees.

During the past year, much like the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, ALSC and all its committees continued to work against all odds, adapting and transforming amidst the changes and tribulations that came with the year of the Pandemic. It is said that “necessity is the mother of invention.”  And indeed, out of necessity we learned new ways to conduct the business of ALSC, and now find ourselves with a renewed impetus for innovation to make member engagement more inclusive and accessible.

This year, 2021-22, will be “the year of member engagement.” Why? Because virtual meetings have made participation in committee work accessible to all. It’s a dream come true!  Children’s librarians and library workers without the needed financial backing for travel to conferences are now able to join in the national dialog, to participate in committees, attend seminars, and much more.  For example, professional award and process committees now operate in a hybrid manner, meaning committees conduct their work and meetings virtually throughout the service year with conference attendance being optional.

I would like to highlight two opportunities for those interested in learning more about the business of ALSC. One is to attend the monthly ALSC Board Meetings and the other is to participate in the quarterly Community Forums.

Each month the ALSC Board of Directors meets to discuss and make important decisions for the association. The v[irtual meetings are open, and observers are welcomed to attend](https://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc/governance/board-work/schedules). When time allows, guests also have the opportunity to have the floor. Significant decisions are made during these meetings, and more so now as we prepare for [LibLearnX 2022](https://alaliblearnx.org/%22%20%5Co%20%22open%20LibLearnX%20page%20in%20new%20window%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) (LLX).

The [Community Forum](https://www.ala.org/alsc/member-center/community-forums) takes place quarterly to discuss pressing topics or a trending issue.   These forums are held on Zoom. During the forum, participants can chat live with members of the ALSC Board, ALSC President, fellow ALSC members, and presenters. Members who cannot participate in the live chat can submit questions via email to Elizabeth Serrano or Twitter (use the hashtag #alscforum).

For other opportunities to get involved, visit [ALSC Committee Appointments & Volunteer Form](http://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc/coms/volunteer), [ALSC eLearning: Professional Development Opportunities](https://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning), [ALSC Initiatives and Special Projects](http://www.ala.org/alsc/initiatives),  [ALSC Mentoring Program](http://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/mentoring), and [Engage with ALSC](http://www.ala.org/alsc/member-center/engage).

I am honored to serve as your 2021-22 ALSC President during this year and look forward to hearing everyone’s voices. I invite you to visit my [President’s Page](https://www.ala.org/alsc/alsc-presidents-page) and find out a little about my [vision and work](https://www.ala.org/alsc/about-lucia-m-gonzalez-2021-2022-alsc-president).

In the words of John Lennon, sung so beautifully by a chorus of children and international artists at this year’s Opening Ceremony, “you may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one.” I know that I am not the only one with big dreams for the children and communities we serve, and I hope that you will join me in making this the greatest year for member engagement, so we can work together to make those dreams a reality.—*Lucia M. Gonzalez, 2021-2022 President, ALSC: Association for Library Service to Children, she/her/hers*

**ALSC Councilor's Annual Conference Report**

Hello, ALSC Peeps! -- Well, we celebrated our second virtual ALA Annual in June, and while there are many things to miss about meeting in person (mainly seeing our friends and colleagues IN PERSON), there is something to be said about conferencing online in comfortable clothes on the deck with a long, tall glass of your favorite adult beverage.

I feel like I am getting the hang of meeting online better. I was able to space out my Council commitments and take advantage of visiting the exhibits and attending sessions much better this time around. It also helped that I actually took conference time off work this year instead of trying to cram everything in around my work schedule. Not quite sure why I did not think of that before…I guess it just feels decadent to take time off work and not actually go anywhere, but there you have it.

January is right around the corner and as we wait for the final, FINAL word on an in-person LibLearnX next year in San Antonio, I am happy to share with you some of the highlights of Council news for ALA Annual.

**ALA Executive Director’s Report**

As ALA continues to focus on needed changes ahead, ALA membership and growing our organization continues to be important. The Executive Director’s report laid out several updates to be aware of:

•    Pivot Strategy Update: A Necessary Focus on Membership

•    Financial Update: Navigating Financial Recovery and Business Opportunity

•    Contributed Revenue Performance Update and Association Campaign Exploration

•    Staffing Update: New Leaders for New Opportunities

•    Challenges to Anti-racist Books and Diversity Trainings in Libraries

•    Summary of ALA Carbon Offset Current Conference Practices

•    ALA Https Update

•    Looking Ahead to LibLearnX

•    ALA Annual Conference 2021 Highlights and Governance Meetings

•    Upcoming Division Conferences

ALA Executive Director [Traci Hall’s Executive Report is available online](https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=1564b643-f186-b8e1-0ed2-f9a42316c5f9&forceDialog=0).

**Important Council Discussions and Business**

[CD 12 2021-2022 Council Committee on Committees Election & the 2021-2023 Planning and Budget Assembly Election](https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=575563c4-e6ec-c275-fd3d-e6b4b08dda00&forceDialog=0)

Newly elected Council Committee on Committees members:
K.C. Boyd
Oscar Baeza
Binh P. Le
Regina Beard

2021-2023 Planning and Budget Assembly
Edward Sanchez
Alanna Aiko Moore
Vivian Bordeaux

**Implementation Action Items and Resolutions**

[CD 37.1 Forward Together Fiscal Analysis Working Group](https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=af84ba09-bcdc-efb7-eb05-2b8692593fc7&forceDialog=0)
[CD 46.1 Forward Together Resolutions Working Group](https://connect.ala.org/viewdocument/2021-annual-conference-virtual-coun?CommunityKey=c235def7-8884-4b09-96f6-9c7a2e516789&tab=librarydocuments#:~:text=ALA%20CD%2046.1%20FTRWG%20Resolutions%20to%20Council_FINAL.docx) (FTRWG)
These two documents are tied together as ALA works toward reorganization. The working groups have put in countless hours as they work out future plans, but more time is needed to make thoughtful and meaningful decisions. Since more time is needed to gather input from ALA committees, governing bodies, and finance entities, the committee chairs moved that, with the exceptions of Items #1 (ALA Core Values) and #2 (Round Tables), all remaining items in the FTRWG report ([ALA CD 46.1](http://connect.ala.org/viewdocument/2021-annual-conference-virtual-coun?CommunityKey=c235def7-8884-4b09-96f6-9c7a2e516789&tab=librarydocuments#:~:text=ALA%20CD%2046.1%20FTRWG%20Resolutions%20to%20Council_FINAL.docx)) be referred to a task force. After discussion the resolution passed, which means that for the immediate future, there will be no changes to Council.

[ALA CD 46.1](http://connect.ala.org/viewdocument/2021-annual-conference-virtual-coun?CommunityKey=c235def7-8884-4b09-96f6-9c7a2e516789&tab=librarydocuments#:~:text=ALA%20CD%2046.1%20FTRWG%20Resolutions%20to%20Council_FINAL.docx) - Item #1 Core Values - In order to clear up confusion over the content and purpose of the ALA Core Values of Librarianship (ALA Policy Manual 8 1.1), the FTRWG moved that ALA establish a task force to review the ALA Core Values; and make recommendations at Annual 2022 for revisions to include, but not be limited to, establishing a regular review process and streamline and reduce the places and documents where the ALA Core Values are listed. After discussion, the motion passed.

[CD #40.1 - EBD #10.15 Operating Agreement Work Group Update](https://connect.ala.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=5b160606-8446-596a-3161-f467aa84b61a&forceDialog=0). This document lays out the relationship between ALA and the divisions. The discussions we are having about reorganization (Pivot Plan, Forward Together, etc.) will have a lasting impact on our operating agreement as well as on our finances. Therefore, this process is also taking time to work out.

**Memorial Resolutions**

Dr. Vartan Gregorian
Kathie Coblentz
Dr. Henrietta M. Smith
Dr. Cheryl Ann McCarthy
Eleanor (Penny) Brome
Latanya N. Jenkins
Anita Schiller
Xiaoqiu Li
Bernadette Storck
Dr. William C. Robinson
Margaret R. Myers
Michele Leber
Leonard Kniffel
William G. Asp
Regina U. Minudri
Rita Joyce Williams Jones
John T. Ma

**Honor and Tribute Resolutions**

Mary Ellen K. Davis
Gwendolyn Prellwitz
Carrie Russell

[Find copies of Memorial, Honor, and Tribute Resolutions and all Annual Conference Virtual Council Documents on ALA Connect](https://connect.ala.org/viewdocument/2021-annual-conference-virtual-coun?CommunityKey=c235def7-8884-4b09-96f6-9c7a2e516789&tab=librarydocuments).—*Respectively Submitted, Kimberly A. Patton, ALSC Division Councilor*

**Strittmatter Departs ALSC; Rivers Steps in as Interim Director**

Aimee Strittmatter, executive director of ALSC, [recently announced her decision to embark upon a new professional path](https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2021/08/aimee-strittmatter-departing-alsc-executive-director-alena-rivers-steps) and will be leaving ALA, effective Aug. 31, 2021.

Strittmatter joined ALSC as deputy executive director in April 2005, bringing to the division extensive experience as a children’s librarian and children’s services supervisor. In 2009, she was named executive director.

In her 16 years, Strittmatter has provided leadership, strategic direction, and management oversight across a wide spectrum of the ALSC’s programs, initiatives, and operations and effectively managed and grown ALSC’s resources and capacity by increasing ALSC’s operational fund balance fourfold.

Among her accomplishments:

Securing critical funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the Disney Citizenship Team;
Designing and executive the first Bill Morris Book Evaluation Seminar in 2008, which is now one of ALSC’s most highly rated programs;
Building and maintaining relationships with other national organizations, such as the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), New America, the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE), the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), and the United States Board on Books for Youth (USBBY)

Alena Rivers, ALSC deputy director, will serve as association interim executive director. Rivers joined ALA in 2017 as ALSC deputy director. In this role, she works with ALSC staff, board, committees, and partners to support ALSC’s continued growth in member relations, communications, publications, continuing education, projects and grants, and implementation and monitoring of ALSC’s strategic plan.

Prior to joining ALA, Rivers had more than 10 years of experience in non-profit management, serving as the director of operations for the Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention, a non-profit, statewide, membership-based organization that strengthened prevention systems, policies, and programs in underserved communities. She has also worked as associate director of enrollment management for IES Abroad, a non-profit study-abroad program provider, and as corporate communications and foundation assistant for the Montgomery Ward Foundation.

**Thank You to Our Friends**

Many thanks to the following generous contributors to Friends of ALSC. To learn how you can support ALSC, [visit our website](http://www.ala.org/alsc/donate).

**President’s Circle - $1000 and above**

Ellen Fader

**Gold Circle - $500 - $999**

Laura Jenkins

**Silver Circle - $250 to $499**

Susan Faust
Andrew Medlar

**Notables Circle - $100 to $249**

Barbara Genco
Adrienne Gillespie
Amy Kellman
Barbara Klipper
Susan Lempke
April Mazza
Mary Voors
Beatriz Wallace
Teresa Walls

**Friends Circle - up to $99**

Kimberly Alberts
Ramona Caponegro
Jenny Choy
Rosemary DeRocher
Joanna Fabicon
Sujei Lugo
Gail Nordstrom
Aimee Strittmatter
Audrey Sumser
Bobbie Xuereb

**ALSC Voices**

**ALSC Profile**

*Celebrating colleagues with 25 years or more years of ALSC membership*

**Karen Lemmons
Teacher/Library Media Specialist
Detroit School of Arts, a public high school in the Detroit Public Schools Community District
Detroit, Michigan**

**ALSC Membership: 26 years**

**Where did you attend library school?**

Wayne State University School of Library and Information Sciences

**What was your very first library position?**

My first teaching/library position was at Hutchinson Elementary School, on the east side of Detroit. Library was a prep release class. Teachers who had a library prep would bring their classes down to the library. I would support/supplement the English Language Arts curriculum by reading stories that were aligned with the curriculum themes. We would also do a variety of activities. I also taught some "research" type activities: teaching students how to use encyclopedias and other reference resources.  At that time, our school was not wired for the internet, nor did the library have computers for students to use. Eventually, we were wired for the internet and we did get a few computers.

**What do you love most about your current job?**

I love our school community! The students, parents, and staff! We are a family. We support one other and we all care about our students, socially, emotionally, mentally, artistically, and academically. Before the pandemic, it was normal to see students dancing in the hallway, video-recording for a radio/broadcast show, practicing their lines for a play, singing in harmony, and other artistic acts. Some days during lunchtime, students would come into the library. Some would sing, dance, and/or play an instrument. As talented as these students are in their art, some of them needed academic support. Most of the students were reluctant readers. My biggest joy came when I connected the right book to a reluctant reader. They were reading and I loved it!

**What's your favorite season?**

My favorite season is summer. I love the sun, heat, and humidity. I also do not work in the summer. When I retire, and am no longer working, summer will still be my favorite season.

**Do you have any pets?**

I have a beautiful black/white cat named Miracle. I found him in our cluttered back porch during the pandemic. He was abandoned by his mother, and had an eye infection. I named him Miracle because he survived abandonment, eye infection, and had no other infections/diseases. Caring for him helped me mentally.  To say I have spoiled him is an understatement.

**Who is the last person you said "Thank You" to?**

The last person I said "thank you" to was my sister. She and I live together. She brought a box of books to me that was left on the porch by UPS.

**What is your favorite term people use to describe you?**

Students love my last name--Lemmons! So I have been called Lemonade, Lemon-squeeze, Lem-beezy, and some others I can't remember. The most recent name I have been called is Mama Citrus. Love it!

**What was the single-most influential event in your lifetime?**

I actually have two influential events. The first one was when a branch librarian suggested to me that I become a librarian. At the time, I was teaching court-ordered parenting classes, and we would hold the classes in the library. He convinced me that I would be a good librarian, and it would only take two and a half years to earn the degree. I took his advice. After I graduated, I was immediately hired by Detroit Public Schools, who had a critical shortage of school librarians in their district. Whenever I share this story, without apology, I tell people it was God that made this happen.

My second most influential event was going to Ghana. That trip grounded and centered my African soul. When I saw those castles, the door of no return, and other tourist sites, I became more in tuned with my African spirit. From that point forward, I began to embrace my African identity. I began to dress in African clothes and I studied more African history.

**Bright Ideas**

**Special Olympics, Young Athletes, and an Award-Winning Library**

*New Brunswick Free Public Library is the recipient of the*[*2021 ALSC/Baker & Taylor Summer Reading Program Grant*](https://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2021/02/new-brunswick-free-public-library-awarded-2021-alscbaker-taylor-summer-reading)*.*

I first heard about the Young Athletes program at the New Jersey Library Association Conference in the spring of 2016. The program appealed to me for a number of reasons. First, while it is open to children of all abilities, it is specifically geared toward the special needs population. This program is a way to bring families of special needs children into the library. Second, I like that it is an athletic program, both because physical activity is important for people of all ages and because athletic programs are not usually associated with libraries. Finally, there is no cost to the library to provide this program since the equipment is provided free by Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ).

After learning about the program, I ran it for the first time at my library in the fall of 2016, and then continued the program twice a year until March of 2020. In the past, we always held it in the library’s community room. We set up 5-6 different stations, with two children at each station. Each week we may replace one activity with another to focus on a new skill. Stations may include: dribbling and shooting a basketball, kicking and trapping a soccer ball, an obstacle course, a beanbag toss, a golf putting activity, swinging at a wiffle ball, floor hockey, and bowling, among other activities. The program runs once a week for five to eight weeks. In each 45-minute session the children and parents all begin by sitting in a circle and doing simple warm-up and stretching activities. Then the children, with their parents assisting, start at different stations and rotate about every six minutes until all children have had the opportunity to participate at all the stations. Everyone then returns to the circle for some final group activities, such as parachute play, scarf movement activities, or dance songs.

This summer, we are offering Young Athletes for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic. We also are holding the program outdoors for the first time ever. Families are required to wear masks and have their temperature taken prior to each session. We have extra masks, hand sanitizer, and wipes on hand. Another precaution is making sure that children have their own set of equipment for the activities. For example, if we use the basketball station and we have ten participants, then we will have 10 basketballs, each with a different colored spot painted on it. The child with the “red” ball, for example, can only use that ball; once they move to the next station, the “red” ball will be put away and not used again until the following week after it has been cleaned. As with many activities in the past year, the logistics will be a challenge, but the reward of being able to provide an outdoor, in-person program makes it a worthwhile endeavor.

I recommend Young Athletes as a great program for other libraries to run, both because the equipment is provided free and because it brings new families to the library. In addition, SONJ is very helpful and supportive. They provide free training, workshops, and webinars for the program administrators and they are also very responsive to questions and concerns.

Being part of the Young Athletes program is a rewarding experience. It is enjoyable to see the children learn new skills and improve each week. It is also great to see parents enjoying the activities with their children. Overall, the Young Athletes program provides a very positive environment where, as SONJ notes on its flyers, we are all celebrating what the children CAN do.

For more information on starting a program at your library, [visit the Special Olympics “Young Athletes in Libraries" website.](https://resources.specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/young-athletes/young-athletes-in-libraries?locale=en)--*Karen Stuppi, Children’s Librarian, New Brunswick Free Public Library, New Jersey*

**Bringing NASA Astro Camps to the Library**

We at the Alma Reaves Woods Watts Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library are one of only two libraries that are official summer NASA Astro Camps (the other is Grand Forks [North Dakota] Public Library.) As a former Jet Propulsion Laboratory archivist, and current children's librarian, I was excited the day I received a notice in my inbox that all I had to do was attend a day-long training and I could get support from Stennis Space Center for programs all summer. This was 2019, the 50th anniversary of Apollo, and I really wanted to do something NASA related anyway.

I sent a hesitant email message, confessing I wasn't really a summer camp site; I only put on a weekly children's program, was I still eligible? I was so excited to hear that, as long as I could create ten programs during the summer, I was fine. The training was a demonstration of how to run all the programs, one at a time, along with a compilation binder containing all the lessons. That first year they also sent me goodies, beautiful certificates of completion, glossy pictures of the universe, etc. The best part was that I could take the one-page program descriptions and just plug and play, or I was able to customize the program to my collection or something I thought was cool. I had so much fun that first year that I continued last summer even though it was all online. I put up Instagram TV videos (check them out here: <https://www.instagram.com/wattslibrary/channel/>) and had Zoom live sessions. I even had international attendees in 2020.

To make things easier last summer, Stennis started hosting monthly meetings that offered news on the latest grant opportunities and gave Astro Camp sites the chance to check in and network. For any science super fans out there, this is a great program! Find out more at [NASA's Astro Camp website](https://www.nasa.gov/centers/stennis/education/students/astrocamp.html) or email Rebekah E. Blair.--*Charlene Nichols, children’s librarian, Alma Reaves Woods Watts Branch, Los Angeles Public Library*

**NYC Public Libraries and Reach Out and Read of Greater New York Collaborate during Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the past year challenging for everyone, including libraries and early literacy organizations. However, the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, the Queens Public Library were still able to provide children with books and literacy resources to families – even when their doors were closed – by partnering with Reach Out and Read of Greater New York (ROR GNY).

Knowing that families did not have access to libraries and were not always visiting their pediatricians for their well-child visits, but were going in for COVID tests, ROR GNY expanded their existing relationship with [NYC Health + Hospitals](https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/) by working with the COVID-19 Test and Trace Corps, and looked to the three NYC library systems for help. They provided the hospitals with books to give to families and provided the NYC Health + Hospital’s Resource Navigators a 45-minute training about how they can advise parents to build early literacy skills with their young children.

Their training included children’s librarian basics, like how to encourage parents and caregivers to read, talk, sing, write, and play with their children every day, and the importance of building early literacy skills from birth.

The Resource Navigators at the sites praised the efforts, saying families “really resonated with the positive messages the books were trying to convey” and “being presented with the option of books was a good surprise.”

In addition to a book distribution at COVID testing sites, the Resource Navigators wanted to provide families who were quarantining with literacy activities. ROR GNY and the libraries provided books, crayons, art supplies, and activity sheets in their Take Care Kits, collections of resources that go out to families required to quarantine, with the help of [City’s First Readers](https://citysfirstreaders.com/) (CFR) – a collaboration of nonprofits and public libraries united to develop and deliver effective early childhood literacy programs.--*Kristen Rocha Aldrich, Program Director, Reach Out and Read of Greater New York*

**Storytime, Philosophy, and Cookies?**

Philosophy Storytime is a specialized storytime that uses picture books to spur philosophizing. It fulfills a need for critical thinking programs in the community and brings together two of my favorite things: storytime and philosophy! I began with an afterschool program called Philosophy and Cookies offered to grade school children. We would play a simple warm-up game to get the children vocal and then we would read a picture book. We would follow the book with a philosophical discussion fueled by cookies. When the pandemic shut down in-person programs, online Philosophy Storytime was born, and I was pleasantly surprised to have children attend without the allure of cookies.

Using picture books for philosophy was not my idea. A college professor named Thomas Wartenberg wrote an excellent book called, Big Ideas for Little Kids. The book explains how to teach philosophy with picture books. He includes examples and book modules, but there are many free book modules available on the Prindle Institute for Ethics website that use Professor Wartenberg’s outline. The book modules provide guidelines for the philosophy discussion along with questions to use. This wonderful, free resource makes the philosophy discussion far less intimidating while you get a feel for facilitated discussions.

Storytime practitioners are in a great position to offer excellent philosophy storytimes. We have the experience to pick out entertaining and age-appropriate books with which to maximize attention. We also have experience in delivering storytime while interacting with kids. The philosophy is just one benefit of this program. The skills children can practice during this program can translate to many aspects of life. The chance for children to practice transferring thoughts into words that others can comprehend is an empowering tool. It gives children the ability to use their voice and work their way through complex ideas. You’ll be amazed at the ideas children can both understand and ask questions about.—*David Marsh, Youth Services Librarian, Rio Vista (CA) Library*

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

**Member News**

**Martha Simpson**(far left), Stratford (Conn.) Library, is the 2021 recipient of the the Connecticut Library Association's Faith Hektoen Award, which is presented annually to a librarian who has developed an outstanding program or project that has made a significant impact on library service for children in Connecticut. Simpson was nominated for her work in bringing the Healing Library Kit program to life in Stratford and also for her agility in creating an online version of the program to address the needs of children and families during the pandemic. Congratulations, Martha!

**Barbara Klipper** (Mass.) and **Carrie Scott Banks** (NY) are the co-authors of [*Library Programming for Adults with Developmental Disabilities*](https://www.alastore.ala.org/DDprograms), published this year by ALA Editions. The handbook delivers a combination of research-based theory and an introduction to best practices with details on how to replicate field-tested programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Kudos, Barbara and Carrie!

**Exclusive Newbery Merchandise Available**

Celebrate the anniversary of the Newbery Award with exclusive Newbery 100 merchandise! T-shirts, mugs, tote bags, and more are available and feature the commemorative Newbery 100 logo.

Also, check out anniversary mementos that feature limited edition designs from Newbery-winning illustrators **Cece Bell, Jerry Craft, Kevin Henkes, Victoria Jamieson, and Grace Lin**! [Visit the ALA Graphics Gift Shop](https://shop.spreadshirt.com/ALAGraphics-Gift-Shop/newbery100) to check out all the Newbery 100 products.

**Check Out the 2021 Graphic Novels Reading Lists**

Bold, bright, and filled with engaging reads, ALSC's Graphic Novels Reading Lists are a great give-away for your library or school. Released in June, these three new lists cover age ranges from kindergarten to eighth grade and include classics as well as new titles that have been widely recommended and well-reviewed, plus books that have popular appeal as well as critical acclaim. Titles were selected and annotated by members of the Quicklists Consulting Committee. The [lists are available to download from the ALSC website](https://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists/graphicnovels2021).

**Newbery 100 Seminar**

Join children's literature experts and former Newbery committee members on Friday, November 5, 2021, for "The Newbery Medal at 100," a full-day seminar sponsored by The Center for Children's Books (CCB), ALSC, and the University of Illinois School of Information Sciences. Held via Zoom, this event includes:

**Experience from the Trenches** - a panel discussion featuring University of Illinois alumni who have served on the Newbery Committee;
**The Newbery in the Archives: 100 Years of Letters, Photographs, and Stories**(Cara Bertram, ALA Archives, University of Illinois)
**Striving to Do Better: A Nuts-and-Bolts History of the Newbery Medal**(KT Horning, Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison
**Prizes, Canons, and Classics** (Kenneth Kidd, University of Florida)
**Intersecting with a Fraught History: From Child Reader to Parent to Children's Lit Scholar**(Jocelyn Van Tuyl, New College of Florida)
**The Shadow Book: Reading Slavery, Fugitivity, and Freedom in the Newbery Canon** (Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, University of Michigan)
**Mocktail Hour on Mock Newbery Discussions** (CCB and the Newbery 100th Anniversary Celebration Task Force/ALSC)

To register for this free online seminar, please visit [go.illinois.edu/newbery](http://go.illinois.edu/newbery).

**Pokémon Launches After School Club with ALA**

ALA has partnered with Pokémon to present the [After School Pokémon Club](https://www.ala.org/aasl/about/pokemon) where students can enjoy the camaraderie and educational opportunities in-person on their school campus.

After School Pokémon Clubs will meet once per week for an hour. Participating students have access to tools to learn how to play the Pokémon Trading Card Game, episodes of Pokémon the Series to watch, and other fun activities and resources.

Any school that is a chapter member of the American Library Association can sign up to participate. Librarians and school coordinators, to form an After School Pokémon Club at your school and obtain more information about the program, [visit the American Association of School Librarians website](https://www.ala.org/aasl/about/pokemon).

**Nominations Open for I Love My Librarian Award**

ALA invites library users to submit [I Love My Librarian Award](http://www.ilovelibraries.org/lovemylibrarian) nominations through September 27—ten amazing librarians will receive $5,000 and the honor of a lifetime, including being celebrated on the stage at ALA’s new event [LibLearnX in San Antonio](https://alaliblearnx.org/%22%20%5Co%20%22open%20event%20site%20in%20new%20window%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), Texas, in January 2022. Winners also receive complimentary LibLearnX registration as part of the award package as well as a $750 travel stipend. Librarians have been doing incredible work during the pandemic, so please spread the word in your community about this life-changing opportunity! [Promotional tools, including graphics, social media copy, and a sample press release, are all available on the award website](http://www.ilovelibraries.org/lovemylibrarian/promotional-tools). Questions?  Email the Campaign staff.

**"New Kid" Poster and Bookmark on Sale Now**

The fall ALA Graphics catalog delivers a host of posters and bookmarks encouraging and inspiring readers of all ages. Actor, producer, and director Channing Tatum stars on the cover in a new celebrity READ® poster. Most recently, Channing added author to his list of accomplishments with a New York Times #1 bestselling picture book, “The One and Only Sparkella,” a charming ode to self-esteem and the love between a father and daughter.

Other catalog highlights include:

**New Kid** poster and bookmark by award-winning author and illustrator Jerry Craft. “New Kid” received the 2020 Newbery Medal, as well as the Coretta Scott King Author Award.
**Hats Off to Reading** poster and bookmark illustrated by Geisel Honor and Caldecott Medal-winning author and illustrator Jon Klassen.
**Cat Ninja** poster and bookmark from the hilarious graphic novel series about a lovable family cat named Claude, with a heroic alter-ego—Cat Ninja.

ALA Graphics supports the mission of the American Library Association through the development of quality products celebrating libraries, literacy, and reading.

**Resources to Help Families Talk about Racism**

Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street, has released new bilingual videos and resources as part of an ongoing initiative to help families have open and honest conversations with young children around race, provide strategies to cope with racial trauma, and engage allies and advocates to become upstanders against racism. The new “ABCs of Racial Literacy” resources, which are free and available in English and Spanish, can be found at [SesameWorkshop.org/ComingTogether](https://www.sesameworkshop.org/what-we-do/racial-justice).

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