

# ALACognotes



BOSTON — 2010 MIDWINTER MEETING

Sunday, January 17, 2010

## Highlights

### Sunday

Sunrise Speaker Series  
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
Boston Convention and  
Exhibition Center, Grand  
Ballroom

Exhibits Open  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

ALA President's Program  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Boston Convention and  
Exhibition Center, Grand  
Ballroom

### Monday

Youth Media Awards  
Press Conference  
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Boston Convention and  
Exhibition Center, Grand  
Ballroom

Sunrise Speaker Series  
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Boston Convention and  
Exhibition Center, Room 253  
A-C

Technology Showcase  
10:00 – 1:10 p.m.  
Boston Convention and  
Exhibition Center Exhibit Floor

### Exhibit Hours

Sunday  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## Al Gore Delivers Solutions to Climate Change

By Brad Martin  
ABC News

Al Gore began the Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture Saturday by joking that he was “formerly the next President of the United States,” but then set a serious tone as he gave the audience a tour of his latest book *Our Choice*, which he later signed.

Gore, whose audience included children and grandchildren of Arthur Curley, acknowledged the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Haiti as a result of the recent earthquake, and said, “one of the secrets of the human condition is that suffering binds us together.”

Moving to the topic of climate change and its global effects, Gore said, “one of the things the current crisis does is to cause us to consider those who will come after us,” adding that “the scientific community has reached a consensus that is as strong as any you will find.”

Gore then discussed the ideas he presents in *Our Choice*, which he described as an effort to focus on the solutions to the climate crisis, unlike *An Inconvenient Truth*, which was mostly an exploration about the problem. He said that three years of research for the book gave him some hopeful signs, but one big obstacle. “The good and hopeful news is that we have enough solutions to solve three or four crises like this. But we have everything except the will to act.”

Gore spoke briefly about how our distant ancestors affect how we respond to threats and that this is part of the problem. “The kinds of threats our ancestors experienced—things like attacks from spiders, big cats and other humans—demanded an immediate, visceral response.” He added that when a much more serious threat like global climate change comes along, it requires more use of our reasoning capacity.

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## Sunrise Speaker Series Shines with Elizabeth Gilbert

By Stacy L. Voeller  
Minnesota State University  
Moorhead

Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love*, opened the Sunrise Speaker Series on Saturday morning. *Eat, Pray, Love* was number one on the *New York Times* best seller list for over a year and was also named to the American Booksellers Association Acclaimed Best Seller list. In 2008, Gilbert was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people.

Gilbert began by thanking the audience for what they do. “I learned to read in a library. I had my first kiss in a library, and hopefully my last will be, too.” She went on to say that she wrote her first two books in the New York Public Library. “I felt that everyone there was in a silent communion together even though no one

knew what the others were doing. I admire librarians very much and am honored to be here,” she said.

She relayed a story about missing a flight to Santa Barbara for a speaking engagement because she was in heavy contemplation about purchasing Nerf Guns for her nephews and wondering if “gun action” would be acceptable in their Quaker household. Upon missing her flight, she called her contact, made alternate arrangements, and barely made the event. Arriving late at the venue, Gilbert was “adrenalized and shamed because I had put someone out. I was shoved out of the car and thrown up on stage with nothing prepared. Here I was giving a speech to a large group of people who had paid a lot of money to hear about how I got my life together. *Eat, Pray, Love* is

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## Follow the ALA Youth Media Awards Live on Monday

### Monday's Cognotes Issue to Feature Covers of Award-winning Publications

Join thousands as ALA, ALSC and YALSA unveil the best of the best in children's and young adult literature and media on Monday at 7:45 a.m.

ALA will provide a free live Webcast of its Youth Media Awards, a national announcement of the top books and media for children and young adults.

Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, the ALA Youth Media Awards guide parents, educators, librarians and others in selecting the best materials for chil-

dren and young adults. This year's announcement includes 18 awards including the the Coretta Scott King Book Awards; John Newbery Medal; Michael L. Printz Award; Schneider Family Book Award; and the Randolph Caldecott Medal.

Unikron, a streaming content provider, will host the ALA Youth Media Awards Webcast. The number of available connections for the Webcast is limited and the broadcast is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Online visitors can view the live web cast the morning of the announcements by going to <http://alawe-broadcast.unikron.com>. Those interested in following the action live should bookmark the URL.

The ALA will instantly announce presentation results using Twitter. Members can view live updates on the ALA Youth Media Awards press kit and via tweets at <http://twitter.com/ALAYma>. Members can also follow live updates via the Youth Media Awards RSS and the ALA Youth Media Awards Facebook page.

Monday's issue of *Cognotes* will also be distributed immediately after the conclusion of the awards event and will include photos of the award-winning books.

The press release announcing all ALA Youth Media Award recipients will be posted in the Youth Media Awards Press Kit at <http://www.ala.org/yma> prior to 9:30 a.m. EST.

## Cancellations, Location Changes, Time Changes

### Today

**FTRF/GLBTRT Author Event & Social—SUN., JAN. 17** MOVED to Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, 10 Shattuck St. (T: Green Line E, Brigham Circle stop)

**LLAMA-SASS/RUSA-STARS—SUN., JAN. 17** 10:30 a.m. to Noon, WEST Paine CANCELLED.

**RUSA-RSS Marketing and Public Relations Committee II—SUN., JAN. 17** 10:30 to Noon, INTER Rose Kennedy II CANCELLED.

### Monday

**ALA Governance—MON., JAN. 18** 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., BCEC Romm 160C CANCELLED.

### Booth Change

TDNet Inc. moved to Booth 1344.

## Dr. King's Legacy to be Honored at Celebration during ALA

Maurice J. (Mitch) Freedman, Publisher, *U\*N\*A\*B\*A\*S\*H\*E\*D Librarian*, and ALA Past President (2002-2003), will be the keynote speaker at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sunrise celebration on Monday from 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom A/B of the Westin Boston Waterfront.

This year's program will feature a theme of "A Testament of Hope: Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!" and bring together leaders from across the association,

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration**  
**Monday, 6:30 – 7:30 a.m.**  
**Grand Ballroom A/B**  
**Westin Boston Waterfront**

including ALA President Camila Alire and ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels. Readings will include selections from the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. E.J.

Josey, founder of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and Past President of the American Library Association (1984-1985).

The program is sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), and supported by ALA Office of Literacy and Outreach Services. Pastries, coffee and juice will be served, thanks to support from World Book, Inc.



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Librarians pick up giveaways at the Penguin booth 1323 at the conclusion of the "Spotlight on Adult Literature" event in the exhibit hall on Saturday.



ALA presidential candidates Molly Raphael, left, and Sara Kelly Johns, right, come together for a campaign debate on Saturday.



A Midwinter attendee is dwarfed by the giant support columns supporting the roof over the entrance to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.



A barbershop quartet, Boston Accent, perform to kick off the opening of the Exhibits Friday afternoon.



The Exhibits floor draws a crowd during the All Conference Reception Friday.



Dawn Rennert, with She is Too Fond of Books, Concord, Mass., left, meets author Lee Smith at the Workman booth during "Spotlight on Adult Literature."



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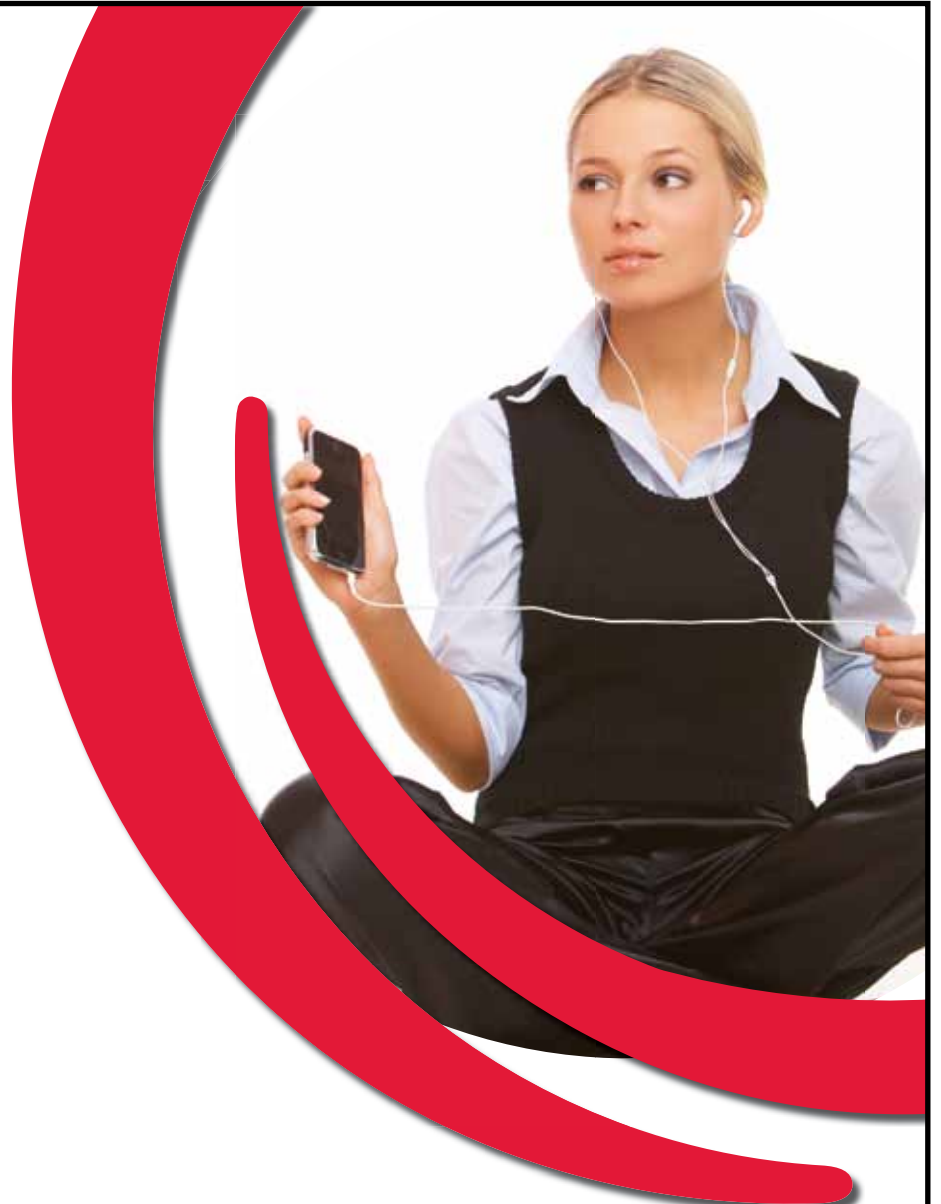
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# Advocacy and Openness in Government Highlighted at Washington Office Update

By Brad Martin  
ABC News

ALA Washington Office's Executive Director Emily Sheketoff announced on Saturday that National Library Advocacy Day will be a Capitol Hill rally for libraries taking place on June 29, 2010, during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Sheketoff stressed that there is a crucial need for ongoing advocacy, amid increasing library usage and declining budgets. She said that unless more is done to convince government officials of the need to increase funding, the feeling will probably be that libraries "will just do more with less." Lynne Bradley, Director of the Washington Office's Office of Government Relations (OGR), also called for much more advocacy in her opening remarks, pointing out the need to "hold our elected officials accountable."

A recent report called "Service Trends in U.S. Public Libraries," produced by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), supports what individual libraries have been reporting with regard to rising library usage and falling library budgets.

Mami Bitner, IMLS Deputy Director, pointed out that these recent spikes in usage during the economic downturn come on top of steadily increasing usage. Bitner added that reports will be released in the near future detailing state library trends and usage of public access computers in libraries.

## Money for Jobs

"Jobs for Libraries" is another initiative the ALA Washington Office is taking to fight for libraries. Sheketoff described how "Jobs for Main Street," was quickly passed by the House without any amendments, and that ALA wants the Senate leadership to add a section asking for \$650 million to create 13,000 library jobs throughout the country. She added that she is hopeful something can be done on this front, but added again that "we need libraries to support this idea."

Open access to government information was also discussed at the update session, and attendees were briefed about efforts to make federal agencies implement new guidelines and also about the creation of a new office to improve the handling of

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# YALSA and Games, Gadgets, and Gurus

By Adrienne Chamberlin  
Simmons College

As Friday's opening of the ALA Midwinter Meeting got officially underway with the exhibit's ribbon cutting ceremony, librarians and library students wandered up and down the newly opened exhibit aisles. By 7:00 p.m., great waves of people were leaving the conference center, chatting and laden down with their goodies.

At 8:00 p.m., however, another group had formed for a new session, YALSA's "Games, Gadgets, and Gurus." Here, for two hours, people moved from table to table, checking out board games, such as 10 Days in Europe, Word on the Street, Letterflip, and Go. Lining the sides of the room were the tech gurus, where LIS students Kim Kinder gave Facebook lessons and Lisabeth Pardi demonstrated Second Life—both designed to help librarians and their libraries have more of an interactive presence on the Internet. Lindsay Serrano from the New York Public Library demonstrated making a

podcast and Susan Harari showed how a Wikispace could be used, especially in school libraries, to help students do research and find the information they need for their schoolwork. John Goodwin of Galaxy Press demonstrated how readers' theater could be used using examples in different genres with the works of L. Ron Hubbard.

The Wii was in full swing when the "Rock Band" game started about halfway through the program. The noise level went up and people lost any inhibitions they might have had as they belted out songs and played their instruments. There were prize drawings and a gift for all attendees.

These demos and games showed the variety of ways librarians can attract the YA population into their libraries and increase usage. Social networking sites such as Facebook and twitter are useful (and free) tools to market all that one's particular library has to offer, and a great way advertise and increase its exposure on the web. A fun way to end the day, as well!

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## Cognotes

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# Authors Discuss the Transition of Their Books From Print to Film

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.  
The Library of Congress

Preceding the ribbon-cutting and opening of the Midwinter exhibits on Friday, the Exhibits Roundtable showcased authors Eric Van Lustbader, Chuck Hogan, Tracy Chevalier, and Julie Powell comfortably arranged on sofas and interviewed by Brad Hooper. Hooper gladly assumed the role of talk show host while admitting that it was not a very happy time for some television masters of ceremonies.

Robert Ludlum's estate selected Lustbader, author of many bestselling thrillers of his own including *The Testament* and *The Ninja*, to continue the Bourne series whose transition to film was the major topic of his discussion. Asked what it was like taking over a character from a popular author, Ludlum explained that he felt that he knew Bourne and, unlike many others, he also got along with Ludlum. Lustbader noted that "you take what you see in everyday life and extrapolate" when writing fiction. He does what is natural for him by reading newspapers and novels, which influence his stories, but not contemporary thriller fiction. He writes constantly, disclosing that "I do it because I love it....I am a bear when I am not working." Lustbader likes the Bourne movies; favored the



Chuck Hogan (second from left) makes a point during the ALA/ERT Author Forum. (left to right) Eric Van Lustbader, Brad Hooper, Tracy Chevalier, and Julie Powell also participate.

final selection of Matt Damon over Brad Pitt as the main character; and sees the success of the filmed series as affecting the portrayal of other screened characters. A revamping of James Bond's filmic treatment as a grittier figure like Bourne attests to this.

Chuck Hogan, author of several novels including *The Standoff* and *Prince of Thieves* and co-author of *The Strain*, jocularly admitted that there have been no drawbacks, so far, to having his books optioned as

films. Like Lustbader, news stories also influence Hogan's works. Hogan, for example, wrote a crime novel after learning that Charlestown in Boston was a virtual epicenter for armed car robberies although he also underlined the traumatizing effect such an event had on a bank teller. Among the writers whom he admires and reads are Dashiell Hammett and Richard Price.

Tracy Chevalier, the author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, which became a film starring Scarlett Johanson, stated that she has to research the

particulars of everyday life in her historical novels. Among these were what people ate and common household tools. She admitted that "she loved books so much when growing up that she often said that she wanted to be either a writer or a librarian." Chevalier appreciated the movie version of her book. But she had decided not to be involved in its screenplay, which she believes was written, perhaps by necessity to fulfill different purposes, by a committee, unlike most books, which are authored by individuals. She likened the filmed version of her book to "a liquid Vermeer painting...a Vermeer that moves." She found it ironic that "it appears to consolidate a writer's reputation when a film is made from a book." We apparently are in an historical fiction renaissance fueled by the renewed interest in everyday people similar to current populist social history also being interested in the same.

Julie Powell is the author of two memoirs—*Julie & Julia*, recently transformed into a movie by Nora Ephron and starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams and *Cleaving*. She liked the film although she disclosed that she had little to do with it. Powell asserted that Amy Adams who played her character did not resemble her but

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## Gilbert

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about this idea that one can get their life together.”

Another precursor to writing *Eat, Pray, Love* was when a woman approached her at a book signing wearing a “crazy face,” and said “I only have 30 seconds and I don’t want to waste your time, but should I leave my husband?” Gilbert grabbed her hands and said, “If you think about this for even one minute, you will know why I can’t answer that question.”

“This woman,” said Gilbert, “so dearly wanted to encounter someone who would give her the answer, and hoped I was the person. I told her to circle a date two years from now on her calendar, and she would see her pain will have eased by then. That was all I could say.”

With *Eat, Pray, Love*, Gilbert had to decide to let it go. She said, “So early on, *Eat, Pray, Love* stopped having anything to do with me. The book has its own life. It took directions I would have never imagined.” Gilbert remembers thinking, “Oh, you want to be a mega best seller? You want to be a movie? Go ahead, you’re old enough. I was willing to cut it loose

and let it become whatever it’s going to become. *Eat, Pray, Love* is no longer my baby. It has its own trajectory.”

Gilbert is excited the book has been made into a movie, “It’s nice to imagine my life being portrayed by someone with perfect skin. I’m excited to see the movie, and I took the money. The money was a godsend and is taking care of me. I also believe movies bring people to read the books and can have a positive effect.”

Gilbert also discussed her difficulty

**“It’s nice to imagine my life being portrayed by someone with perfect skin. I’m excited to see the movie, and I took the money. The money was a godsend and is taking care of me. I also believe movies bring people to read the books and can have a positive effect.”**

**—Elizabeth Gilbert**

with writing a book after the huge success of *Eat, Pray, Love*. “It was a very daunting. I put a lot of work into my next book, and did a couple of years of research. It was a 500 page first draft, and when I went to the copy shop to have it printed out, I opened it up and realized it was all wrong. The voice was so flawed. It was so clearly, awfully wrong.”

As the days went on and the due date was closer, she got sicker and sicker. Gilbert said, “My body is a fabulous barometer of my emotional being. When you can’t speak out your body will act it out for you. One night I had a terrible nightmare, a dream so bad it wouldn’t let me sleep. I was in my publisher’s office begging and pleading with them not to take this book. At that point I knew I couldn’t turn the book in. I didn’t know how to cope with this. I thought that maybe my whole purpose was to write *Eat, Pray, Love* and now I could just do something else with her life.”

After this realization, Gilbert spent six months with her hands in the dirt every day gardening. She was out in the cold wind, and all of a sudden the first sentence of her new book, *Committed*, came to her. During the writing process, according to Gilbert, you need to “ask the first sentence what the second one should be. If I had succumbed to my failure in the first draft after *Eat, Pray, Love*, *Committed* would not have happened.”

“I feel like I just finished the biggest homework assignment of my life. I have gotten past writing that first book after *Eat, Pray, Love*,” she said.

## Advocacy

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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

Corey Williams, Associate Director of the Washington Office, provided an update on the Google book search settlement (new ALA task force meeting at Midwinter and ALA encouraging department of Justice to “vigorously oversee” the agreement), and then introduced the topic of open access to government-funded research.

Jessica McGilvary, Assistant Director of the OGR, said that the impetus behind increasing public access to government information began with a memo President Barack Obama signed on his first day in office, which called for all federal agencies to comply with making the process easier. It called for agencies to use new technologies to make information accessible to the public online and also to solicit feedback from the public about what information they find most useful.

On the FOIA front, Miriam Nisbet, Director of the newly established Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) talked about this new office and how it will provide “mediation between requestors and the agencies involved.” She added that it will also review compliance with FOIA requests and make recommendations of ways to improve the process, with the goal being the creation of “a spirit of cooperation.”



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Monday, January 18, 2010



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Other speakers will be talking about the Copyright Office and FLICC/FEDLINK. You can also enjoy selected webcasts from recent Library of Congress programs each day and during the Grand Opening reception on Friday evening.

To savor the rich connection the Library of Congress has with Boston, be sure to attend the presentation offered by the Massachusetts Center for the Book on Sunday, January 17.

Library of Congress staff will also be available throughout the day to answer questions.

For the complete daily schedule of booth presentations and other news about and services offered by the Library of Congress, visit our website [www.loc.gov/ala/](http://www.loc.gov/ala/).

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### Presentation schedule:

Topics	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
<b>SwetsWise eBooks Service</b>	5:45 pm	10:00 am, 11:00 am	10:00 am, 11:00 am	9:30 am
<b>Assessing Your Collection with SwetsWise Selection Support</b>	6:45 pm	1:00 pm, 2:00 pm	1:00 pm, 2:00 pm	10:30 am, 11:30 am
<b>ERM as a Service</b>	7:15 pm	3:00 pm	3:00 pm	1:00 pm



## Curley Lecture

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"We have the capacity. We have to awaken it, and we have to respond."

Gore praised librarians by calling them "the stewards of that great institution that was created during the Enlightenment, a time when the printing press helped spawn what he called a democratization of information, a "new information ecosystem."

Unfortunately, according to Gore, the rise of broadcasting has ushered in period that has seen a "refeudalization" of the information ecosystem. He

**Gore pointed out that the climate crisis, the economic crisis and the national security crisis are all intertwined. He said this was because we have "an absurd, dangerous, ridiculous overdependence on fossil fuels."**

cited the example of big tobacco's public relations offensives having delayed action against the harmful effects of smoking, and said that similar forces are at work in the climate change debate "to oppose anything that might call for government response and to sow confusion."

While describing many of the solutions (solar, wind, geothermal, biofuels), Gore also pointed out that the climate crisis, the economic crisis and the national security crisis are all intertwined. He said



*Members of Arthur Curley's family including grandsons Matt Clancy, from left to right, Tim Clancy, and daughters Ellen Curley, and Susan Curley Clancy applaud Vice President Al Gore as he presents the Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture.*

this was because we have "an absurd, dangerous, ridiculous overdependence on fossil fuels." Gore even cited this as tipping the balance in the decision to invade Iraq in 2003 and for causing a distraction at a time when Osama bin Laden was trapped in Afghanistan. "As long as we remain dependent on carbon-based fuels, we are going to be vulnerable to taking our eye off the ball," he said.

Gore praised individual efforts at reducing carbon emissions, but said government action is needed more. "It is important to change light bulbs and windows, but it is far more important to change laws and policies."

Citing an African proverb that says "if you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go together," Gore stressed that "we have to go far and quickly."

Gore closed by recalling President Kennedy's goal of putting a man on the moon and how he had inspired a young generation to do just that.

"The day will come when, depending on what we do, people will ask one of two questions. Either, what were you thinking — were you watching Danc-ing with the Stars? Or, how did you find the moral courage to rise and solve a crisis that so many said was impossible?"

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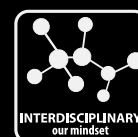
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