

COGNOTES

MIDWINTER MEETING & EXHIBITS
JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 3, 2015

2015
MIDWINTER
HIGHLIGHTS
Edition

CHICAGO, IL

USE THE TAG #alamw15

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Ebeling Finds the “Possible” in “Impossible”

by Brad Martin, LAC Group

When Mick Ebeling set out to help Tony “Tempt One” Quan, a Los Angeles graffiti artist paralyzed by ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease), he set off on an amazing journey of discovery and learned the keys to unlock possibilities where none seemed to exist. The experience is told in his new book, *Not Impossible: The Art and Joy of Doing What Couldn’t Be Done*.

“For me, the book and everything I’m doing is really about this; it’s about the power of story,” he said.

Ebeling is the founder and CEO of

» see page 2

Senate Minority Whip Richard Durbin (D-III.)

outlined issues of special interest and encouraged librarians to get

organized in their advocacy efforts at a Washington Office update.

» see story page 9



Youth Media Award Winners Announced

The American Library Association announced the top books, video, and audio books for children and young adults at its Midwinter Meeting in Chicago.

The 2015 award winners include: **John Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children’s literature:

The Crossover, written by Kwame Alexander, is the 2015 Newbery Medal winner. The book is published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Two Newbery Honor Books also were named:

El Deafo by Cece Bell, illustrated by Cece Bell and published by Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS.

Brown Girl Dreaming, written by Jacqueline Woodson and published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.) LLC.

Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children:

The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend, illustrated by Dan Santat, is the 2015 Caldecott Medal winner. The book was written by Dan Santat and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Six Caldecott Honor Books also were named:

Nana in the City, illustrated by Lauren Castillo, written by Lauren Castillo and published

by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky’s Abstract Art, illustrated by Mary GrandPré, written by Barb Rosenstock, and published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York.

Sam & Dave Dig a Hole, illustrated by Jon Klassen, written by Mac Barnett and published by Candlewick Press.

Viva Frida, illustrated by Yuyi Morales, written by Yuyi Morales, and published by

Roaring Brook Press, a Neal Porter Book.

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus, illustrated by Melissa Sweet, written by Jen Bryant, and published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

This One Summer, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki, written by Mariko Tamaki, and published by First Second.

Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award recognizing an African-American

» see page 6



(from left) Coretta Scott King Chair Jonda McNair; REFORMA President Sylvia Cisneros; ALSC President Ellen Riordan; ALA President Courtney Young; and YALSA President Chris Shoemaker during the ALA Youth Media Awards announcements.

2015 MIDWINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Cornel West greets attendees of the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration on February 2, part of the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits.

Looking Forward to Seeing You in San Francisco in June

What a great infusion of energy and inspiration from the recent 2015 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Chicago! The spirit and determination of the ten thousand-plus librarians, exhibitors, and library supporters triumphed, delivering their own blizzard – of ideas, innovations, solutions, new approaches to community

engagement, important conversations about diversity and inclusion, policy updates, thought-provoking speakers, and so much more. From the exhibit hall to the Youth Media Awards and other events, vitality was in the air.

Special warmth was provided by the chance to spend time with old friends and colleagues while making exciting new connections, always a highlight. Our shared work is productive in different ways from our individual contributions, and the face-to-face time is irreplaceable. Every conference provides a perfect space and opportunity for us to continue exploring together how we can transform our libraries to best meet the needs of our communities and users at the same time as working on our personal professional development and building our networks (and having a good time, of course).

I'm looking forward to keeping these important conversations and connections going in other venues until when we can pick them up again together at ALA Annual Conference in June. In addition to the 500-plus sessions and programs, the pre-conferences, and all the socializing you're up for, the exhibit floor will have more than 900 exhibitors and dozens of events and activities. A diverse group of speakers and authors is already confirmed (with many more to be announced), including Haifaa al-Mansour, danah boyd, Edwidge Danticat, Joshua Davis,



ALA President Courtney Young

Roberta Kaplan, Nick Offerman, Sarah Vowell, and Maryanne Wolf.

I hope you will join us in San Francisco, where you'll have plenty to enjoy both at the conference and in the city. General information about 2015 Annual Conference & Exhibition, social media links, and details about how to register and book housing are at <http://alaannual.org>. I look forward to seeing you in June, when perhaps we'll occasionally need an umbrella but definitely no snow boots!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

» read more about the 2015 Annual Conference on page 5.

RUSA Announces 2015 "Best of" Lists for Adult Readers

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) announced the winners of its adult reading and reference awards at the Book and Media Awards Ceremony and Reception on February 1. Included in the ceremony was the Dartmouth Medal for outstanding reference publication; the Sophie Brody Medal for achievement in Jewish literature; the Listen List, recognizing outstanding audiobook narration; the Reading List for genre fiction; and the eagerly awaited Notable Books List, recognizing the year's best in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, a list that will in part determine the longlist for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in fiction and nonfiction along with *Booklist's* Editors' Choice.

Visit <http://www.literarytastes.com> for a comprehensive list of winners and more information about these awards and other literary events. Learn more about the division at <http://www.ala.org/rusa>.

Ebeling

» from page 1

The challenge of seeking accessible solutions to real-world problems.

At first, Ebeling thought that helping Quan would involve merely writing a check so the family could afford to buy a device that enables the user to talk through a computer (like Stephen Hawking has). At the time, the only way Quan could communicate was by blinking when shown letters on a page, which is a cumbersome and time-consuming process.

But then Ebeling decided to "double down" and promised to not just help him communicate through speech, but also find a way to enable him to do his art again so he could participate in local events and fundraisers. Ebeling said he walked out and thought, "Holy crap. What did I just commit to?"

"I had never used the words 'ocular recognition technology' consecutively in a sentence before, and now I am committing to this guy to do it and that's our process. That's my process. You commit, and then you figure out how the hell you are going to pull it off, and there is something incredibly

The Ebeling Group and founder of Not Impossible Labs, which takes on the

"I had never used the words 'ocular recognition technology' consecutively in a sentence before, and now I am committing to this guy to do it and that's our process. That's my process. You commit, and then you figure out how the hell you are going to pull it off, and there is something incredibly powerful about that."

powerful about that," he added.

Ebeling said he likes to surround himself with brilliant people (he advised everyone to do the same), so he assembled a team of programmers, hackers, and other experts and, after many failures, they finally succeeded. He said the formula is "fail, fail, succeed. Repeat as necessary." With the use of eyeglasses called

the EyeWriter, Quan was able to draw again and he wrote in an email that, "I feel like I had been held underwater and someone finally reached down and pulled my head up so I could take a breath."

The reaction to Quan's story in the press was overwhelming, and Ebeling thought, "Holy cow. What did we just do?" This started the concept of Not Impossible, and he began wondering about what it meant and how else it could be of service.

He then told a story about creating prosthetics for Daniel, a boy in war-torn Sudan who had lost both of his hands in a bombing. Conventional solutions were unaffordable to Daniel, so Ebeling assembled another team and they managed to use 3D printers and open-source software to come up with prosthetic hands. Once again, the power of story was demonstrated.

In the beginning, Ebeling considered



Optomist, film and television producer Mick Ebeling, on the cutting edge of the new "maker movement," shows DIY technologies that offer people greater access to medical devices during the ALA President's Program.

starting a non-profit organization, but said, "You can get carpal tunnel by shaking a tin cup." In this regard, he quoted Buckminster Fuller, who said, "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. If you want to change something, you build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." Not Impossible receives generous support of corporations, and he advises them that, "You can do good and make money."

Ebeling noted that there are three im-

portant rules of how he works. The first is singularity of focus, which is concentrating on an individual and then watching the success replicate. The second rule is to give away. In addition to using open-source software, others have been encouraged to experiment with it and improve it. The third is to have a "beautiful, limitless naiveté."

"In the end, it comes down to the power of story," Ebeling concluded. "All the technology we make is not as powerful as the stories we are telling."



Ayaan Hirsi Ali Calls for Questioning, Enlightenment

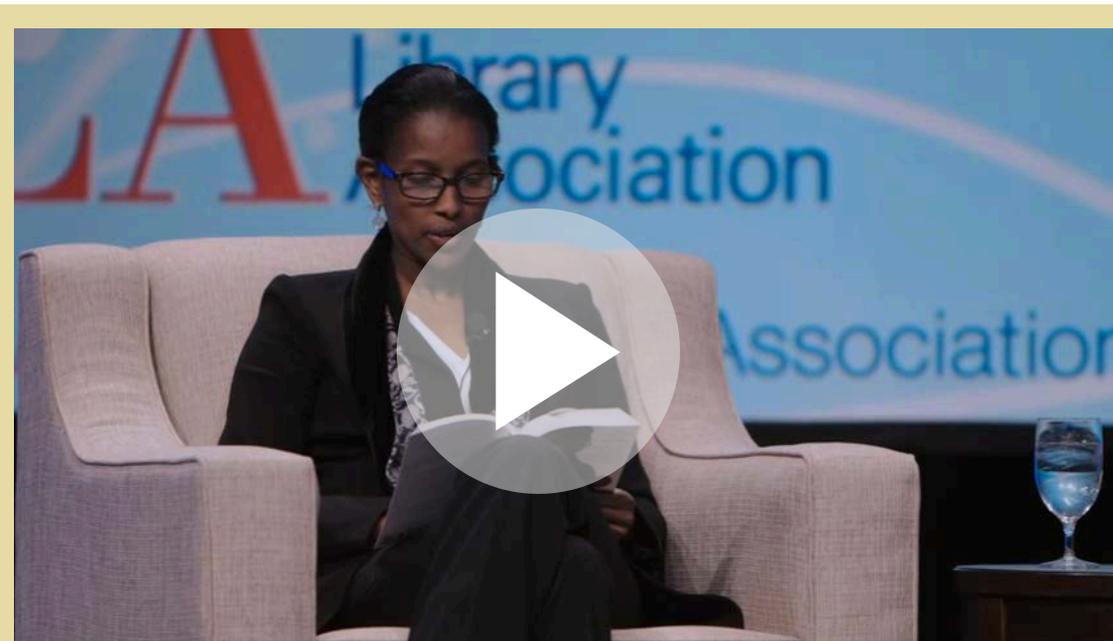
By Kacee Anderson, Harmony Science Academy

The Arthur Curley Lecture Series featured Ayaan Hirsi Ali on January 31, focusing on the universal need for individual freedom and questioning. As a well-known politician, activist, and advocate for women's rights, Hirsi Ali opened by reading from her novel *Infidel*, in which she recalled her reaction to 9/11 as she watched on CNN in Holland (see video at right). "I remember praying in Somali, 'Oh, Allah, please, please let it not be Muslims who did this. I knew this could ignite a major conflict.'"

After talking about the attacks with others, Hirsi Ali described her intellectual awakening. She began to question herself: "Which side was I on? Was this really Islam? Did Islam permit, even call for, this kind of slaughter? Did I as a Muslim approve of

this attack? And if I did not, where did I stand on Islam?" Such difficult questions were not easily answered.

Hirsi Ali noted that the need for this type of questioning started early with her first experiences in libraries. She talked about going to libraries in Somalia, reading whatever books were available. Books were rare. Libraries were rare. Good schools were rare. Ethical and moral training on some level came from those books. "Had I not had that seeding of my intellectual life, I don't know if I would have been capable of questioning that day."



Hirsi Ali called for people to begin addressing moral dilemmas from a non-religious standpoint, stating that all people need to consciously start to promote the ideas of the enlightenment important to Western civilization.

After receiving a wide range of responses to *Infidel*, Hirsi Ali learned that the "collective" inhibits individuals and individual expression by varying degrees. She discussed her experiences with the "collective" growing up and her own evolution as an individual. In her own writing, she cares about the message and expressing herself in the

best way possible in her fourth language [English]. "I should be able to express myself without fear that I am going to be punished for it."

Hirsi Ali believes that everything begins with open discussion. Through the exchange of ideas we can make this world a better place without resorting to the military.

In Hirsi Ali's forthcoming book *Heretic* (March 2015), she calls for a Muslim Reformation, identifying five key amendments to Islamic doctrine that must be made in order to break from seventh-century traditions and fully engage with the 21st century.



Jason Segel, left, and Kim Gangwish of Bellevue, Neb., take a selfie as Segel signs his children's book *Nightmares!* after his Auditorium Speakers Series presentation January 31.

Segel: Nightmares Simply Gatekeepers to Dreams

By Brad Martin, LAC Group

How does someone who suffered from night terrors as a child overcome his fears and grow up to be well-known as an actor, comedian, and screenwriter?

The answer has informed Jason Segel for much of his life and served as the inspiration for his 2014 book *Nightmares!* The first in a trilogy, *Nightmares!* helps young readers understand that what frightens them can also be seen as the key to overcoming. "Nightmares are the gatekeepers to our dreams," he said.

Segel's mother enrolled him in an acting class, and that helped him face his fears of being shy and feeling different. This class exposed Segel to a group of kids who were like him, and it wasn't long before his nightmares subsided. "Nightmares are telling us that we are afraid of something and we need to face it," he said.

Segel, the first to appear in the Auditorium Speaker Series January 31, chatted onstage with Angela Carstensen, head librarian and an upper school librarian

at Convent of the Sacred Heart in New York City. He revealed his early influences, which include Roald Dahl and Tim Burton. They addressed "a part of the human condition I really relate to: that there's been a mistake and we are meant for much more."

Drawing distinction between reading books and watching television and movies, Segel said that reading books forces the reader to be creative and to use the imagination, whereas watching TV and movies encourages a much more passive response, and to believe that "what you are really good at is to sit and watch. We are meant for more than just sitting and receiving. Kids are smart."

Segel was asked to talk a little about *Nightmares! The Sleepwalker Tonic*, the forthcoming book in the trilogy. It was inspired by the way people are encouraged to deal with their problems through things like drugs and entertainment. "There are a lot of influences out there telling you to numb your nightmares, but what happens is that it also numbs your dreams," he said.

Our Product Story is Getting Better!

Gale brings responsive design and more to its leading resources. In **EARLY APRIL, 2015**, a number of enhancements will be released to GVRL and all resources within the *InfoTrac* and *In Context* families, including the *PowerSearch* platform.



1

ACCESSIBILITY
Improvements make content more available to people with disabilities like low vision or blindness.



2

USABILITY
Streamlined navigation and responsive design improve usability and optimize content for any screen size and on any device.



3

UNITY
Similar experience for GVRL, *InfoTrac* and *In Context* so users spend more time with content and less learning navigation and tools.

Visit gale.com/enhancements2015 for more details.

“Soon to be Famous,” Thanks to Libraries

By Brad Martin, LAC Group

At the 2013 ALA Annual Conference, brand expert and New York University professor David Vinjamuri spoke about the importance of libraries in the era of ebooks and marketing, and challenged librarians to play a greater role in helping change the dynamic between them and the big publishers. The Soon to be Famous Illinois Author Project was born, and four members of the committee presented an overview on February 2 of how they have put together a writing contest since for self-published authors and offered their help to others who would like to replicate the project in other states.

Denise Raleigh, division chief of public relations and development at the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin, Ill., described the rise in self-publishing and said that more than 450,000 books were self-published in 2013. She also said that 25 percent of *New York Times* bestsellers and 32 percent of Amazon books sold were self-published in the same year.

Donna E. Fletcher, president of Library Survey Consultants, worked to coordinate with Illinois authors who were interested in entering the writing contest. Authors were

required to be Illinois residents and to submit their adult fiction entries through the local library. Thanks to publicity generated from a *Chicago Tribune* article, a total of more than 100 entries were received.

Julie Stam, marketing specialist for the Eisenhower Public Library District in Harwood Heights, Ill., was responsible for arranging judges, and she recruited reader services librarians from around the state to judge the entries.

Lucy Tarabour, marketing/programming coordinator at the Clarendon Hills (Ill.) Public Library, described herself as the “new kid on the block” on the committee and she worked on getting the word out when Joanne Zienty from Wheaton, Ill., was chosen as the 2014 winner for her book *The Things We Save*. She pointed out that 88 percent of the sales of her book came after the award was given.

The committee hopes the ongoing project helps foster a new dynamic, wherein publishers see libraries less as competitors and more as partners and marketing forces. The committee members said they hoped other states and locales would want to create similar self-publishing competitions, because there are literary gems out there that are just not being found. Visit <http://soontobefamous.info> to learn more.



Denise Raleigh, Elgin, Ill., talks about the increase of price-per-book for libraries during the Soon to be Famous discussion.



Donna Fletcher, Highland Park, Ill., talks about how the Soon to be Famous project grew with help from the media.

Comics Spark Author Imaginations

By Brad Martin, LAC Group

At some point in youth, each of the participants in the January 30 ERT/*Booklist* Author Forum felt the spark of comics ignite a fire for the power and possibilities the art form represented, and each would go on to make a mark in the field.

Cece Bell, author and illustrator of numerous children’s books (most recently *El Deafo*) told of being exposed to comics around the age of seven. She said that one of her friends had a collection of *The Beano* and some of the older boys had copies of *National Lampoon*, “which I read, although I was probably not supposed to.” Noting the power of words and pictures together to tell a story, Bell said that this combination helped her describe in *El Deafo* what it feels like to be hard of hearing and to find it hard to communicate.

Jeff Smith described himself as being “hooked on comics” at an early age and praised *Peanuts* by Charles M. Schulz. Other favorites included *Mad Magazine*

and *National Lampoon*. Smith, best known as the creator of the comic book series *Bone*, said, “there is something magic about hand drawing,” adding that readers can feel as if the author is speaking directly to them. “Comics can be as intricate and communicative as a painting or literature.”

Françoise Mouly, longtime art director at *The New Yorker*, grew up in France and had parents who weren’t interested in comics. She said that she was “groomed to be a surgeon,” but as a teenager she read them anyway and developed a passion for them and the force that they could demonstrate in telling a story. She also described growing up with *Charlie Hebdo* and commented on the recent massacre at the Paris office of the satirical magazine



bearing his name. Mouly said the reaction to this horrible event has been a “recommitment of faith in the power of cartoons and cartoonists.”

Gene Luen Yang, author of *American Born Chinese* and other books, echoed the panel’s thoughts about how words and pictures together can communicate so effec-

tively. Yang said, “There is a visceral power of the simplified image” and that there is “an emotional power behind images that is difficult to achieve through pure text.”

All agreed that although comics have been condemned and banned over the years, they have demonstrated great staying power. This forum was a testament to that.

BISG and ALA Announce Research Partnership

The Book Industry Study Group (BISG) and the American Library Association announced a partnership to produce a major survey of public library patrons’ use of digital content. This is the first time both organizations have engaged in a joint research survey. The project, Digital Content in Public Libraries, was announced at the 2015 Midwinter Meeting. “We are delighted to partner with ALA on this study,” said BISG Executive Di-

rector Len Vlahos. “With BISG’s research expertise and ALA’s reach into the library community, this survey will provide the publishing industry and library administrators alike with invaluable insight into how readers interact with ebooks in a library environment.”

Keith Michael Fiels, executive director of ALA, said, “ALA is particularly pleased to work with BISG on this project. This will be the first study to establish a benchmark – and usage trends – related to the digital

reading experience of library patrons.”

The survey seeks to understand the behavior of library patrons, including their use of digital resources and other services offered by public libraries. It will examine the impact of digital consumption behaviors, including the adoption of new business models, on library usage across America. In a comprehensive survey, library patrons will be asked about preferred device usage, preferences for print or digital formats, collection assessment, and other issues that affect the

use and distribution of published content in public libraries.

The questions are being developed jointly by BISG and ALA. The survey will be fielded by the research firm Nielsen, with editorial and analysis provided by Jim Milliot of *Publishers Weekly*. Results from the survey will be announced at ALA’s Annual Conference in San Francisco, June 25-30, 2015, and a printed report will be published in September.



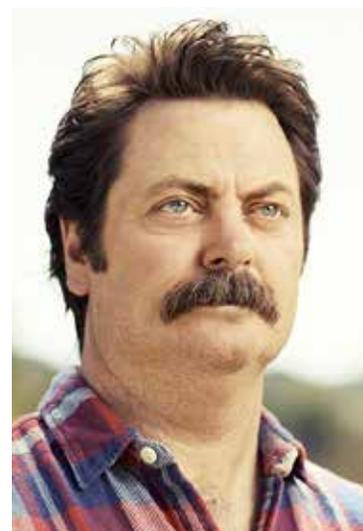
Edwidge Danticat



Roberta A. Kaplan



Haifaa al-Mansour



Nick Offerman



Sarah Vowell

Outstanding Auditorium Speakers Set for San Francisco

The excitement is already building for the Auditorium Speakers Series at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. The series, noted for hosting thought-provoking speakers who are experts from adult and youth fiction, technology, popular culture, and other areas, will be held on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, June 27–29, at various times.

Speakers include Edwidge Danticat, Roberta A. Kaplan, Haifaa al-Mansour, Nick Offerman, and Sarah Vowell.

Danticat was born in Haiti and came to the United States when she was 12 years old. Her debut novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, was an Oprah Book Club selection. She was named “one of 20 people in their twenties who will make a difference” in *Harper’s Bazaar*, and was featured in the *New York Times Magazine* as one of “30 under 30”

people to watch.

When Edie Windsor called Roberta Kaplan to take on the case that would bring down the Defense of Marriage Act, Kaplan did not hesitate. What they did together – with the help of a band of supporters – would extend equal rights and make America a more democratic nation. The nation’s highest court ruled that a key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) violated the U.S. Constitution by barring legally married same-sex couples from enjoying the wide-ranging benefits of marriage conferred under federal law. In *Then Comes Marriage: United States v. Windsor and the Fight for Gay Marriage* (W. W. Norton &

Company Fall 2015), Kaplan tells the story how DOMA was defeated, how laws get overturned, and how change is made legally.

Kaplan, selected as one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers,” was ranked as number five in this year’s “Politico 50.”

Haifaa al-Mansour is a Saudi Arabian film director and screenwriter, and the winner of an EDA Female Focus Award. Her first feature-length film, “Wadjda,” won the Best International Feature Audience Award at the Los Angeles Film Festival. Her next film, “A Storm in the Stars” starring Elle Fanning, is set to release in 2016. *Wadjda* is her debut novel.

Nick Offerman is an actor best known for his role as Ron Swanson on NBC’s “Parks and Recreation.” He is also a humorist, woodworker, and the author of both the

New York Times bestseller *Paddle Your Own Canoe* and *Gumption: Relighting the Torch of Freedom with America’s Quietest Troublemakers* (May 2015).

Vowell is the *New York Times* bestselling author of nonfiction books on American history and culture, including *Unfamiliar Fishes*, *Assassination Vacation*, and *The Partly Cloudy Patriot*. She has been a columnist for *Salon*, *Time*, and *San Francisco Weekly* and continues to write occasional essays for the opinion page of the *New York Times*.

You won’t want to miss this exhilarating line up. Make plans to attend Annual Conference now and put these sessions on your radar.



BCALA Announces the 2015 Literary Awards Winners

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) announced the winners of the 2015 BCALA Literary Awards during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African-American authors published in 2014, including an award for Best Poetry and a citation for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing. The recipients will receive the awards during the 2015 Annual Conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco.

The winner of the 1st Novelist Award is *Forty Acres: A Thriller* by Dwayne Alexander Smith (Atria Books).

The Fiction category winner is *Citizens Creek: A Novel* by Lalita Tademy (Atria Books).

The Honor Books for Fiction are *Saint Monkey: A Novel* by Jacinda Townsend (W. W. Norton & Company); *Til the Well Runs Dry: A Novel* by Lauren Francis-Sharma (Henry Holt & Company); and *Ruby* by Cynthia Bond (Crown Publishing Group).

The winner in the Nonfiction category is *Visible Man: The Life of Henry Dumas* by Jeffrey B. Leak (University of Georgia Press).

Honor Books for Nonfiction are *Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina* by Misty Copeland (Touchstone); *Dorothy Porter Wesley at Howard University: Building a Legacy of Black History* by Janet Sims-Wood (The History Press); and *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology* edited by Anthony B. Pinn and Katie G. Cannon (Oxford University Press).

The winner for BCALA’s Best Poetry Award is *Books of Hours: Poems* by Kevin Young (Knopf).

The BCALA Literary Awards Committee awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Publishing Citation to *Regina Anderson Andrews, Harlem Renaissance Librarian* by Ethelene Whitmire (University of Illinois Press) and gave a special citation for publishing to Virginia Stanley, director of library marketing, HarperCollins Publishers.

Research Information



The essential link between publishers, information professionals, researchers and authors

Subscribe here

or visit www.researchinformation.info/subscribe

website • magazine • email



Awards

» from page 1

author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults:

Brown Girl Dreaming, written by Jacqueline Woodson, is the King Author Book winner. The book is published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.) LLC.

Three King Author Honor Books were selected:

Kwame Alexander for *The Crossover*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing.

Marilyn Nelson for *How I Discovered Poetry*, illustrated by Hadley Hooper and published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Books (U.S.A.) LLC.

Kekla Magoon for *How It Went Down*, published by Henry Holt and Company LLC.

Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award:

Firebird, illustrated by Christopher Myers, is the King Illustrator Book winner. The book was written by Misty Copeland and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.) LLC.

Two King Illustrator Honor Book were selected:

Christian Robinson for *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* by Patricia Hruby Powell and published by Chronicle Books LLC.

Frank Morrison for *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone* by Katheryn Russell-Brown and published by Lee and Low Books, Inc.

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award:

When I Was the Greatest, written and illustrated by Jason Reynolds, is the Steptoe winner. The book is published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement:

Deborah D. Taylor is the winner of the Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award pays tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton.

Taylor's career in public service began more than 40 years ago with the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, where she is currently

coordinator of school and student services. Her career has been spent as mentor, educator, and literacy advocate for young adults. As an inspiring young adult librarian, leader in national associations, and university instructor, she has been distinctly effective in introducing young people and her professional colleagues to the outstanding work of African-American authors.

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults:

I'll Give You the Sun, written by Jandy

House Company.

This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki, and published by First Second.

Schneider Family Book Award for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience:

A Boy and a Jaguar, written by Alan Rabinowitz, illustrated by Catia Chien, and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, wins the award for children ages 0 to 10.



Naphtali Faris, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Mo., reacts as the Youth Media Awards are announced honoring the top youth authors and illustrators.

Nelson, is the 2015 Printz Award winner. The book is published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Group U.S.A., a Penguin Random House Company.

Four Printz Honor Books also were named: *And We Stay* by Jenny Hubbard and published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc., a Penguin Random House Company.

The Carnival at Bray: A Novel by Jessie Ann Foley and published by Elephant Rock Books.

Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith and published by Dutton Books, an imprint of Penguin Group U.S.A., a Penguin Random

Rain Reign, written by Ann M. Martin and published by Feiwel and Friends, is the winner of the middle-school category (ages 11-13).

The teen (ages 13-18) award winner is *Girls Like Us*, written by Gail Giles and published by Candlewick Press.

Alex Awards for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences:

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, published by Scribner, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Bellweather Rhapsody by Kate Racculia, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

Bingo's Run by James A. Levine, published by Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of the Random House Publishing Group, a division of Random House LLC, a Penguin Random House Company.

Confessions by Kanae Minato, translated by Stephen Snyder, published by Mulholland Books, an imprint of Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng, published by The Penguin Press, a member of Penguin Group LLC, a Penguin Random House Company.

Lock In by John Scalzi, a Tor Book published by Tom Doherty Associates, LLC.

The Martian by Andy Weir, published by Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House LLC, a Penguin Random House Company.

The Terrorist's Son: A Story of Choice by Zak Ebrahim with Jeff Giles, published by TED

Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Those Who Wish Me Dead by Michael Koryta, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Wolf in White Van by John Darnielle, published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video:

Paul R. Gagne and Melissa Reilly Ellard, Weston Woods Studios, Inc., producers of *Me...Jane*, are the Carnegie Medal winners. This transcendent adaptation of Patrick McDonnell's 2012 Caldecott Honor draws viewers into the childhood of a young Jane Goodall.

Laura Ingalls Wilder Award honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.

The 2015 winner is Donald Crews, whose award-winning works include *Freight Train*, which was a Caldecott Honor Book in 1979, and *Truck*, a Caldecott Honor Book in 1981. He has been consistently excellent with a wide range of titles, such as *Harbor*, *Parade*, *Shortcut* and *Bigmama's*, all published by Greenwillow Books.

Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults:

The 2015 winner is Sharon M. Draper, author of more than 20 books, including: *Tears of a Tiger* (1994), *Forged by Fire* (1997), *Darkness Before Dawn* (2001), *Battle of Jericho* (2004), *Copper Sun* (2006), and *November Blues* (2007), all published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

2016 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award recognizing an author, critic, librarian, historian, or teacher of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site.

The 2016 Arbuthnot Lecture will be delivered by Pat Mora. Pioneering author and literacy advocate Pat Mora has written more than three dozen books for young people that represent the Mexican-American experience.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award for an outstanding children's book translated from a foreign language and subsequently published in the United States:

Mikis and the Donkey is the 2015 Batchelder Award winner. The book was written by Bibi Dumon Tak, illustrated by Philip Hopman, translated by Laura Watkinson, and published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Two Batchelder Honor Books also were selected:

Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust, published by First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership, written by Loic Dauvillier, illustrated by Marc Lizano, color by Greg Salsedo, translated by Alexis Siegel.

Nine Open Arms, published by Enchanted Lion Books, written by Benny Lindelauf, illustrated by Dasha Tolstikova, translated by John Nieuwenhuizen.

COGNOTES

ISSN: 0738-4319 ■ Volume 2015 Issue III

Senior Reporter
Brad Martin
LAC Group
New York, NY

Reporter
Kacee Anderson
Harmony Science
Academy
Fort Worth, TX

Publisher/Managing
Editor
Deb Nerud Vernon

Photography
Curtis Compton
Nick de la Torre
Michael Buxbaum

Production
Tim Mercer
CustomNews, Inc.

Media Manager
Fiona Soltes

Video Editors
Olaf Anderson
Guido Ronge

ALA Liaison
Paul Graller



Awards

» from page 6

Odyssey Award for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the

United States:

H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination, produced by Live Oak Media, is the 2015 Odyssey Award winner. The book is written by Christopher Myers and narrated by Dion Graham and Christopher Myers.

Three Odyssey Honor Recordings also were selected:

Five, Six, Seven, Nate! produced by AudioWorks (Children's) an imprint of Simon & Schuster Audio Division, Simon & Schuster, Inc., written by Tim Federle, and narrated by Tim Federle.

The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place, produced by Listening Library, an imprint of the Penguin Random House Audio Publishing Group, written by Julie Berry, and narrated by Jayne Entwistle.

A Snicker of Magic, produced by Scholastic Audiobooks, written by Natalie Lloyd, and narrated by Cassandra Morris.

Pura Belpré (Illustrator) Award honoring a Latino writer and illustrator whose children's books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience:

Viva Frida, illustrated by Yuyi Morales is the Belpré Illustrator Award winner. The book was written by Yuyi Morales and published by Roaring Brook Press, a Neal Porter Book.

Three Belpré Illustrator Honor Books were named:

Little Roja Riding Hood, illustrated by Susan Guevara, written by Susan Middleton Elya, and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.) LLC.

Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors, illustrated by John Parra, written by Roseanne Greenfield Thong, and published by Chronicle Books LLC.

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation, illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.

Pura Belpré (Author) Award honoring Latino authors whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience:

I Lived on Butterfly Hill is the 2015 Pura Belpré Author Award winner. The book is written by Marjorie Agosín, illustrated by Lee White, and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

One Belpré Author Honor Book was named:

Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes, written by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Raúl Colón, and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.) LLC.

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award for most distinguished informational book for children:

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus, written by Jen Bryant is the Sibert Award winner. The book is published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Five Sibert Honor Books were named: *Brown Girl Dreaming*, written by Jacqueline Woodson and published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.) LLC.

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, & the Fall of Imperial Russia, written by Candace Fleming and published by Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House LLC, a Penguin Random House Company.

Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker, written by Patricia Hruby Powell, illustrated by Christian Robinson, and published by Chronicle Books LLC.

Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands, written and illustrated by Katherine Roy and published by David Macaulay Studio, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press.

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.

Stonewall Book Award – Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award given annually to English-language children's and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience:

This Day in June, written by Gayle E. Pitman, Ph.D., illustrated by Kristyna Litten and published by Magination Press, an imprint of the American Psychological Association, is the winner of the 2015 Stonewall Children's & Young Adult Literature Award.

Three Honor Books were selected:

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out by Susan Kuklin, photographed by Susan Kuklin, and published by Candlewick Press.

I'll Give You the Sun, written by Jandy Nelson, published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Group (U.S.A.) LLC.

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress, written by Christine Baldacchino, pictures by Isabelle Malenfant, published by Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the most distinguished beginning reader book:

You Are (Not) Small, written by Anna Kang and illustrated by Christopher Weyant, is the Geisel Award winner. The book is published by Two Lions, New York.

Two Geisel Honor Books were named:

Mr. Putter & Tabby Turn the Page, written by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Arthur Howard, and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

Waiting Is Not Easy! written by Mo Willems, illustrated by Mo Willems, and published by Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of Disney Book Group.

William C. Morris Award for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens:

Gabi, a Girl in Pieces,



ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits attendees react as the Youth Media Awards are announced honoring the top youth authors and illustrators.

written by Isabel Quintero, is the 2015 Morris Award winner. The book is published by Cinco Puntos Press.

Four other books were finalists for the award:

The Carnival at Bray: A Novel, written by Jessie Ann Foley and published by Elephant Rock Books.

The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim, written by E.K. Johnston and published by Carolrhoda Lab™, an imprint of Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group.

The Scar Boys, written by Len Vlahos and published by Egmont Publishing.

The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender, written by Leslye Walton and published by Candlewick Press.

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults:

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek, written by Maya Van Wagenen, is the 2015 Excellence winner. The book is published by Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group.

Four other books were finalists for the award:

Laughing at My Nightmare, written by Shane Burcaw and published by Roaring

Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan's Children's Publishing Group.

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia, written by Candace Fleming and published by Schwartz & Wade, an imprint of Random House Children's Books.

Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business – and Won! written by Emily Arnold McCully and published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights, written by Steve Sheinkin and published by Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For more information on the ALA Youth Media Awards and notables, please visit <http://www.ala.org/yma>.

VISITING THE MIDWINTER EXHIBITS





Maria Rodriguez (center), Edina, Minn., and Kristina Hart (right), Anamosa, Iowa, are among the first to hit the floor for the Exhibits Opening Reception.



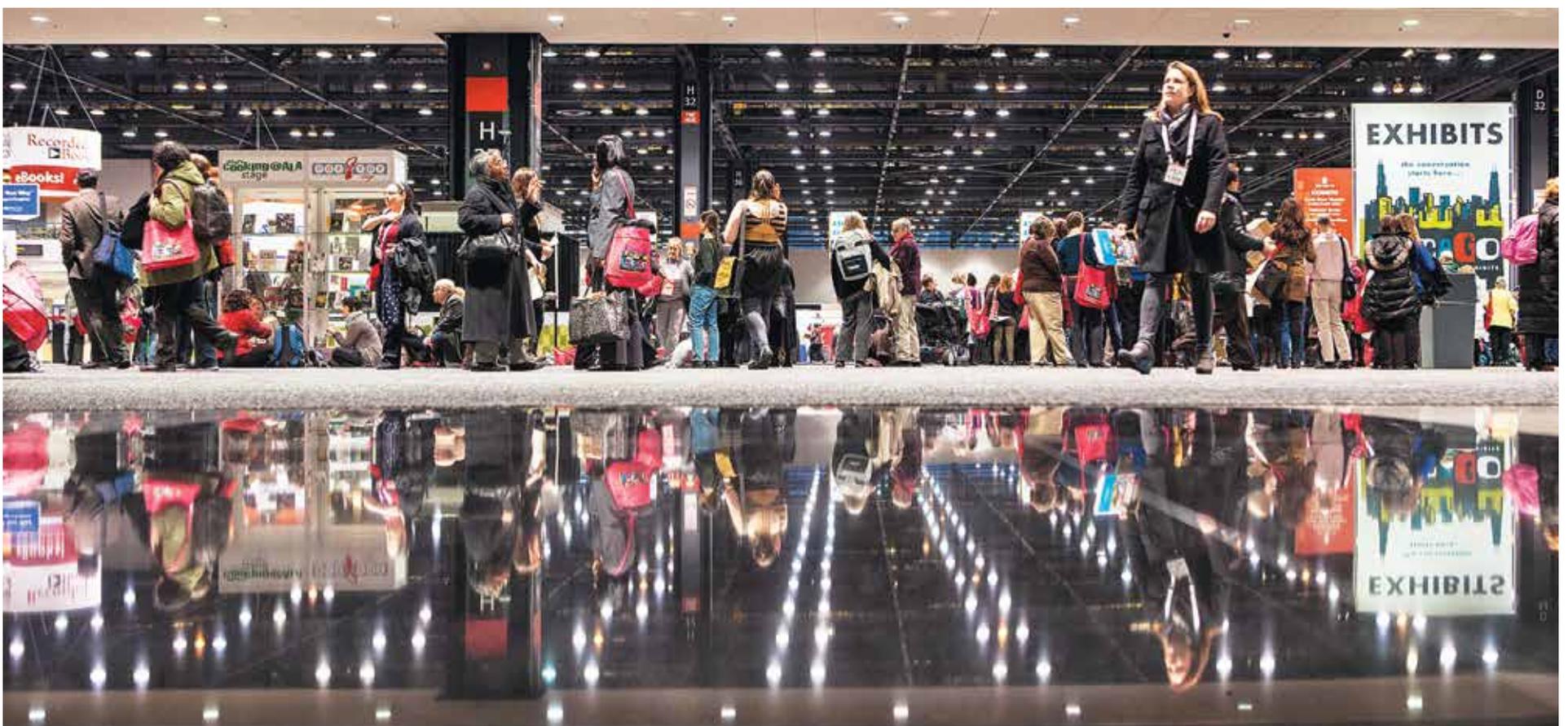
Chicago weather puts the "winter" in the ALA Midwinter Meeting as a worker cleans off snow from the sidewalk outside McCormick Place.



Janet Lee, University of Denver, and hundreds of other ALA attendees patiently wait to have books signed by LeVar Burton after his Auditorium Speakers Series presentation February 1. Burton signed his book *The Rhino Who Swallowed A Storm*.



Auden Johnson, left, author of the novel *The Sciell*, listens to Fonda Lee, author of the book *Zeroboxer* during a discussion about dark fantasy.



The Exhibits Opening Reception draws a crowd, reflected on the floor of McCormick Place.



Durbin Provides Washington Update

By Brad Martin, LAC Group

Sen. Richard Durbin (Ill.) told of the origins of his obsession with books at the Washington Office Update session “Whither Washington: The 2014 Election and What It Means for Libraries” on January 31, recalling two key events that were responsible. As a child, Durbin’s mother, who had no formal education of her own, would take him to the art museum and to the Saint Louis Public Library. At the museum, she introduced him to paintings and other works of art, and at the library, he was allowed to check out as many books as he could carry. Later, as a student at Georgetown University, Durbin found a job as a clerk at Discount Books and Records, where he said the books were arranged by publisher. This taught him the importance of having someone help find the books.

Now, as a Democratic senator about to celebrate his 20th year in Congress, Durbin knows well the importance of libraries and librarians and can easily answer those who question their need in the age of the internet. “First of all, not everyone has a computer,” he said, stressing that the digital

divide is real and after all, “librarians are the original search engines.” Durbin also pointed out that anyone can walk through the door and get a library card, which he called the “passport to opportunity.”

Durbin outlined issues of special interest to librarians and encouraged everyone to get organized in their advocacy efforts. He said that he is very aware of the Patriot Act expiring at the end of May and that federal funding for library services – a “great bargain” in his words – faces challenges, with many in Congress against spending money on just about anything.

Advocacy also was discussed in presentations by University of Chicago professor J. Mark Hansen and the American Bar Association’s Thomas Sussman.

Hansen gave his view of the electoral landscape and demonstrated political party differences and their change over time. “The divisions are as wide and deep as ever,”

Hansen said, noting that increased polarization has made it harder to pass legislation and has made advocacy far more challenging.

Hansen offered a couple of pointers » [see page 10](#)



Presidential Candidates Share Individual Vision, Goals

By Brad Martin, LAC Group

Four candidates vying for ALA president presented their cases at a forum on January 31, urging everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

In their opening and closing statements, JP Porcaro, Julie Todaro, Joseph Janes, and James (Jamie) LaRue used the opportunity to highlight their backgrounds and outline the vision they hope to bring to the office of president. In between, they fielded questions from the audience.

Porcaro, librarian for acquisitions and technological discovery at New Jersey City University Guarini Library, presented himself as a candidate of change in his opening statement, and emphasized that while ALA has done a good job of promoting libraries as institutions, he would concentrate more on the people who make up the libraries.

“If elected, I’d initiate a large-scale public relations campaign within the ALA supporting and promoting us, librarians. A library without a librarian is just a building, and our users know this,” he said. Porcaro’s accomplishments include being an ALA Emerging Leader in 2010 and being named as a *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker in 2012. He also founded the ALA Games and Gaming Round Table and runs the online space called ALA Think Tank. Porcaro expressed his concern that the makeup of ALA does not match that of the nation as a whole, and this needs to change. More listening to all the divisions, roundtables, and caucuses is needed.

Todaro, dean of library services at Austin (Texas) Community College, described her career-long commitment to institutional and association service at the local, state, and national levels, including service in ACRL, ALSC, and as part of a number of roundtables and committees. Experienced as both a school and children’s librarian, she noted that “some of the most fun I have had was working on presidential initiatives to help

In their opening and closing statements, JP Porcaro, Julie Todaro, Joseph Janes, and James (Jamie) LaRue used the opportunity to highlight their backgrounds and outline the vision they hope to bring to the office of president. In between, they fielded questions from the audience.

those people in leadership positions in ALA make their dreams come true, their vision realized, and it literally is a vision and a dream when you step up to this position.” Todaro went on to speak about how “you can have the most beautiful library and the best access services, but unless you have those people who are the experts come together to connect people with diverse target populations, and help our constituents meet their needs and realize their vision and their dreams, it isn’t what I would call library service in the community.”

Janes, associate professor and chair of the MLIS program at the University of Washington Information School, opened his remarks by thanking several people who have helped and supported him in his run for ALA president. “I have made people into librarians for 25 years, so even though my dean likes to say he has the best job in the world, I have the best job in the world, because I get to help people live out their dreams and do a better job of serving their communities.”

Janes went on to reflect on a comment he heard from a newspaper reporter from the *Oneida Daily Dispatch* in his hometown of Oneida, N.Y. “Where would we be without the library? People don’t think about that.”

After citing a few examples of the importance of libraries, Janes said, “I want to tell that story. I am tired of people thinking we



ALA presidential candidates met January 31 to discuss their platforms. Left to right; J.P. Porcaro of Jersey City N.J., James LaRue of Castle Rock, Colo., Joseph Janes of Seattle, Wash., and Julie Todaro of Austin, Texas.

are a luxury. I’m tired of people thinking we are a good idea. I’m tired of people think we are nice. We are vital. We are critical. We are absolutely the most important part of any community. We are the most important profession in the world, because we make every human activity better, every day.”

LaRue, CEO of LaRue & Associates in Castle Rock, Colo., opened by saying, “I think that, like all of us up here, I am in it for love, people.” He went on to tell where his love of libraries began, which was in a bookmobile of the Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library, where the warm greeting and encouragement of the librarian, Mrs. Johnson, made a lasting impression on him. LaRue was five years old and curious about the concept of the speed of light. After asking the librarian about this, her reply was, “What a fascinating question. Let’s find out.”

“For the next 30 years, I was working at trying to fulfill this promise that I felt Mrs. Johnson had given me,” LaRue said. He talked about creating a library club in the seventh grade, volunteering in libraries, and working in public libraries and with OCLC. He said some of this work was involved with standards and “how to move average or below-average organizations into extraordinary organizations.”

“Over the past several years, I have realized that librarians know how to talk to librarians. What we need to learn is how to talk to people who are not librarians.” LaRue then highlighted his experience writing a newspaper column for 25 years, doing an internet radio show, and running a local cable TV station as being beneficial in this effort.

The candidates also fielded questions from the audience.

[Click here to see the video of the January 31 forum in its entirety.](#)

LeVar Burton Highlights Personal Heroes, Mentors

By Brad Martin, LAC Group

LeVar Burton paid homage to four great storytelling mentors in his life on February 1 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting, and talked about one of them as being especially influential in the creation of his first children's book, *The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm*, which was co-written by Susan Schaefer Bernardo and illustrated by Courtenay Fletcher.

"The world we live in today is one where we all face tough times, from the death of a goldfish to school shootings. My friend Fred Rogers was the adult in the world who used to address in an age-appropriate manner the subject of living in the world that is dominated by the actions of adults to an audience of children. And, absent Fred, I thought it was necessary for someone to address it, and that's why I took it upon myself."

In *The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm*, Mica Mouse is frightened by thunder crashing outside her cozy home. To comfort her, Papa Mouse tells a story about a rhino who finds himself feeling terrible after swallowing a storm. The rhino is helped on his journey to wellness by a succession of other animals. Burton said that the message is clear: "If a rhino

can be brought down by the circumstances of life, then all of us are vulnerable."

Burton's mother, Erma Jean, was his "first storytelling mentor" and much more. "My mother not only read to me; she read in front of me, which is an incredibly important message to send," he said. Burton also credited his mother with preparing him to grow up in a world where he would be judged because of the color of his skin. "I am the man I am, because she is the woman she is," he said.

Burton is well-known as the host of the original "Reading Rainbow" PBS series (he credits Fred Rogers for showing him the power of television to be "part of a larger ministry") and as Chief Engineer Geordi La Forge in the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" TV series. But it was his earlier portrayal of Kunta



Kunta in the groundbreaking TV mini-series "Roots" that resulted in meeting another of his great storytelling mentors, Alex Haley.

Burton's experience on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" brought him into contact with Gene Roddenberry, who he said taught

everyone the value of remembering that our heroes are human. The experience was also quite an inspiration for Burton. "When I saw Nichelle Nichols [Uhura] on the bridge of the Enterprise, it inspired me not to just believe, but that I belonged."

2015 Amelia Bloomer List Highlights Feminist Books for Young Readers

The Amelia Bloomer Project, a product of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table's (SRRT) Feminist Taskforce, announced the 2015 Amelia Bloomer List at ALA's Midwinter Meeting.

The bibliography consists of well-written and illustrated books with significant feminist content, intended for young readers

from birth to 18 years old. This year's list includes titles published between July 1, 2013, and December 31, 2014.

The top 10 titles of the 2015 Amelia Bloomer List include:

Cooper, Ilene. *A Woman in the House (and Senate): How Women Came to the United States Congress, Broke Down Barriers, and*

Changed the Country.

Hile, Lori. *Rachel Carson: Environmental Pioneer.*

Manning, Kate. *My Notorious Life.*

McCarney, Rosemary with Jen Albaugh and Plan International. *Because I Am a Girl: I can change the world.*

McCarney Rosemary with Plan International. *Every Day is Malala Day.*

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Hidden.*

Prince, Liz. *Tomboy.*

Sherr, Lynn. *Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space.*

Wilson, G. Willow. *Ms. Marvel Volume 1: No Normal.*

To view the complete annotated list, please visit the Amelia Bloomer Project blog, <http://www.ameliabloomer.wordpress.com>.

AASL Holds Digital Storytelling Contest

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) invites students to participate in a digital storytelling contest held as part of the 2015 celebration of School Library Month in April. The contest asks students to reflect on the 2015 theme, "Your School Library: Where Learning Never Ends" and create a story using a website recognized as an AASL Best Website for Teaching & Learning.

Special author guest judges – Susan Verde, Amy Ignatow, Trevor Pryce, and Lauren Myracle – will review entries and determine contest winners. Winners will receive a set of books signed and personalized by the judging author. Prizes and author judges are graciously provided by ABRAMS.

Submissions for the storytelling contest

will be accepted until midnight on March 6.

"This contest will be so fun," said AASL President Terri Grief. "We're so excited to have these great judges that have volunteered their time. This is a super way to show off your school library."

Student collaboration with educator support is encouraged; however, school librarians are asked to limit their help in the production of digital stories. Contest rules and eligibility can be found at <http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm/2015/storytelling>.

School Library Month is the AASL's annual celebration of school librarians and their programs. Julianne Moore, award-winning actress and bestselling author, is the national spokesperson for the 2015 observance.

Durbin

» from page 9

that can help with advocacy efforts. The first is to find a common theme – income inequality, for example – something that both parties agree on, even though they differ on their approaches. He concluded by adding that librarians should use the assets they already have as members of a helping profession and mobilize support as much as possible. "When the game is partisan, you have to play a different game."

Sussman, formerly a consultant to ALA, said, "The jury is still out on the current

Congress," and agreed with Hansen about the level of partisanship in Washington. He described the new Congress as richer, younger, and having increasing numbers of women. He also pointed out that it was the first election in a long time without a Bush or Clinton on the ticket – a symptom of what he called "dynasty fatigue."

Like Hansen, Sussman sees a "not particularly hopeful picture" on the funding front and concerning advocacy, he agrees with the wisdom that says "the best way to predict the future is to create it."



Presenters and others involved in the first Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF)/ALA Library Conference in November 2014 reunited at the SIBF booth in the Exhibits January 30. From left, Lynn Silipigni Connaway; ALA Marketing Director Mary Mackay; ALA President Courtney L. Young; ALA International Relations Office Director Michael Dowling; Michael Levine-Clark; Sharjah Book Authority Chairman Ahmed Al Ameri; the Combined Book Exhibit (CBE) President Jon Malinowski; ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels; Magda el-Sherbini; Rick Anderson; and American Collective Stand President Janet Fritsch. Following the successful 2014 event, when more than 600 librarians from the UAE and the region made the most of two full days of professional development programs, planning is underway for the 2015 SIBF/ALA Library Conference in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, November 10 – 12. Those interested in learning more about that event can visit <http://ala.org/offices/sharjah-international-book-fairala-library-conference>.



Mita Williams talks about Mechanic Institutes, Hackerspaces, and other modern forms of business and how libraries will fit, during her ALA Masters Series session February 1.

Discovering the Role of Libraries in the Makerspace and Hackerspace World

By Kacee Anderson, Harmony Science Academy

The role of the library within a community is constantly evolving. Mita Williams, University of Windsor, Windsor (Ontario, Canada) took audience members through a historical journey from the first Mechanics Institutes to present-day Makerspaces, Hackerspaces, and TechShops during the ALA Masters Series on February 1.

Business startups such as incubators and accelerators are everywhere. Where do library Makerspaces fit in? Hackerspaces and Makerspaces can be successfully implemented in libraries. Hackerspaces, like Makerspaces, allow users to come together to collectively create new products.

C-base, one of the very first Hackerspaces in the world, was built from a reconstructed space station that fell to earth. As Europe's largest Hackerspace, C-base has been around for 30 years. Numerous activities have been hosted at C-base such the establishment of the German Pirate Party and a meeting place for German Wikipedia. There are currently around 1,000 Hackerspaces.

TechShops, which first appeared in 2006, are privately-owned places for members to work to build prototypes for their Kickstarter campaigns. There are currently only eight TechShops in the United States. They are slow to open as they require access to space

that includes half a million dollars in equipment and at least 800 people to pay \$100/month to be viable.

FabLab first started in 1998 with one professor's course at MIT on how to make almost anything. Launched in 2001 as educational outreach, there is now an ambitious network of labs around the world. Each FabLab provides a core set of tools to anyone so they can make almost anything. Each FabLab has to be made regularly available to the public at little or no cost.

The first library Makerspace actually began as a FabLab in New York. One of the major differences between Makerspaces and FabLabs today is that all Makerspaces are completely different from each other and they are generally open to everyone.

Mechanics Institutes, largely geared toward working-class men to keep them busy, were short-lived. Although most did not survive, the book collections of failed Mechanics Institutes became the core collections of the first public libraries.

One of the admirable things about libraries is that they have embraced Makerspaces and keep people as the focus of the space and not the technology. Williams also noted how proud she was that libraries have opted to be much more accessible in their materials and Makerspaces. Libraries tend to host activities which encourage personal expression. Williams stated, "As long as libraries focus on the people, libraries will continue to be a space where the future can be built."

CSLP Partners with Award-winning Author Kate DiCamillo

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) has announced its partnership with award-winning children's book author Kate DiCamillo as its first-ever National Summer Reading Champion.

DiCamillo, who received a 2014 Newbery Medal for her latest novel, *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*, will appear in a series of public service announcements, participate in a national media campaign, and appear at events coast to coast.

"I am hopeful that in my role as National Summer Reading Champion with CSLP I can encourage young readers to go and find themselves at the library," DiCamillo said. "To find books that capture their imaginations and to spend time with others who love good stories."

"We are overjoyed to have Kate join us as our first-ever National Summer Reading Champion," said Karen Yother, CSLP president. "Her dedication to lifelong learning through literacy from childhood to adulthood represents everything our organization stands for."

To learn more about CSLP and the summer reading program materials that it develops for children, teens, and adults please visit <http://www.cslpreads.org>.



ALA attendees join in a roundtable discussion during an informal sharing session at the Unconference, January 30.

Outside Marketing Adds Value to Libraries

By Kacee Anderson, Harmony Science Academy

Ben Bizzle, director of technology at Craighead County Jonesboro (Ark.) Public Library, spoke January 31 about the importance of marketing in the library. In May 2008, Bizzle quickly discovered the perceived war taking place between libraries and what he called the "trinity of evil." According to his colleagues, Google, Wikipedia, and Amazon were attacking libraries and they had to fight back.

How can a library battle such opponents when its only weapon is an outdated website? It all starts with good leaders. Libraries must have leaders who work with people, not managers who focus on processes. Let the people that have talent in your library do the things they are good at.

In his book *Start a Revolution: Stop Acting Like a Library*, Bizzle

"Reach out to people where they are and don't expect them to come to you all the time."

addresses the aggressive marketing approach Jonesboro took to add value to the library. Bizzle notes that librarians should "reach out to people where they are and don't expect them to come to you all the time."

Throughout the session, Bizzle stressed the importance of digital presence. "Your website is basically another branch of your library," he said, "and it is just as valuable as the other branches." Jonesboro now has a fully responsive web design created by a development company. In addition, it has a mobile app

which allows users to easily access the features they need most.

Quality promotion is key. Bizzle noted that it's better to market an entertaining program and show patrons other useful programs once

they're in the library. "Sell them on the sweet stuff, and deliver the meat once they get there," he said. Jonesboro held zombie prom, adult sci-fi parties, and bingo nights at the library. Bizzle used Facebook ads

and placed posters throughout the community to promote the events.

"You have to try things that are a little bit risky," he said. "Not every idea is a good idea. Don't go too far, but don't be afraid to stretch."

