Senator Booker Delivers Impassioned Address on Libraries as Sanctuary, Equalizer

Fiona Salves, Cognotes

In 2010, dealing with an $83 million budget gap, then-Mayor of Newark Cory Booker found himself faced with cutting 25 percent of the New Jersey city’s government jobs. Libraries were particularly hard hit, with reductions in services as well as workers.

The man who addressed a standing-room-only crowd at the ALA President’s Program during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston, however, spoke passionately about what libraries had meant in his own life, how a particular high school librarian had been one of the “greatest heroes” of his education, and how libraries were “treasures for all.” It was the state, he said, that forced cut after cut – including those at the libraries.

“I’m standing before people who understand, who are in the trenches every day… that libraries are not something that it’s nice to have, but they are an essential, bedrock element of this democracy,” he said.

Booker, now a U.S. senator, gave a rousing, impassioned speech, often interrupted by applause from the audience. His first book, United, will be released in February, and seeing it on the shelves of that same high school library, he said, will be the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.

ALA President Sari Feldman, in introducing Booker, noted that his call for transformation fit with the librarian perspective on open access, freedom, and democracy.

Booker was educated at Stanford University, Yale Law School, and the University of Oxford. But his parents, among the first African-American executives at IBM in the 1960s, never let him forget the family’s roots. As such, he has championed causes such as internet access for all; individual opportunity; the importance of second chances for the formerly incarcerated; and being personally involved in improving the rights of others.

Some of those lessons have been hard-learned.

Chelsea Clinton Inspires Librarians at Closing Session

Terra Dankowski, American Libraries

You might think Chelsea Clinton’s famous political parentage inspired her sense of action, but truth is, she’s been curious, passionate, and engaged since before her dad and mom got to the White House. Clinton spoke of her inspirations and her new book at the Midwinter Closing session on Monday January 11.

As a child, Clinton read the newspaper with her Cheerios in the morning. She wrote a letter to Ronald Reagan about the Bitburg Cemetery controversy, stamped with rainbow and heart stickers “as a gesture of goodwill,” she said. Her grandmother, Dorothy, was a big influence, particularly when it came to education access issues. And she cites 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save the Earth as the book that empowered her to care for the environment.

These inspirations are evident in Clinton’s latest children’s book, It’s Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired, and Get Going! (Penguin Young Readers, 2015), which she promoted to a packed room at the Closing Session. Penguin distributed complimentary copies of the book, recommended for ages 10-14, which covers topics such as poverty, homelessness, gender equality, and epidemics. The book encourages
Practicing Activism Every Day

By Sanhita SinhaRoy, American Libraries

Civil rights activist Mary Frances Berry keynoted the 16th annual holiday observance and sunrise celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday January 11 at the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Boston.

Since her days at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Berry has been a prominent activist on issues related to civil rights, gender equality, and social justice. She began her talk recalling how both King’s life and death has influenced her activism. She was studying law at the University of Michigan at the time King was assassinated, and in the years following, Berry kept in touch with King’s widow, Coretta Scott King, the two of them asking each other as challenges arose, “What would Martin do?”

“Coretta, for all those years, held up the banner,” Berry said. “In the early years, it was very difficult because the trauma was endless.” But she healed, and “any time there was a cause, Coretta was there.”

King’s 1967 Riverside Church speech, “Beyond Vietnam,” about war and peace, particularly resonated with the young Berry. It was after that speech that she realized she was a community guy.

She said voting is only one step toward achieving justice. “We can use our vote to get what we need,” Berry said. “Politicians want you to vote for them. They don’t want you to hold them accountable. You have to do something. And don’t expect it to stay done.”

Berry asked the audience to commit to doing something every day for the cause of justice – from praying to showing praise for those doing the more active work to feeding the hungry.

“She said she tells students all the time, ‘Somebody has to go through the fire. It’s up to every generation to do that. We have to keep doing [King’s] work.’”

Berry asked the audience to commit to doing something every day for the cause of justice – from praying to showing praise for those doing the more active work to feeding the hungry. “Don’t tell anyone you’re doing it,” she said. “Just do it. And do it every day.”

Carte Diane Guerrero will be the featured speaker on my President’s Program at Annual Conference in June. America’s libraries have advanced the American Dream by providing services and resources that welcome and support all immigrants, and Guerrero’s personal story is a powerful reminder of the library’s essential role in creating individual opportunity and community progress. General information about the 2016 Annual Conference & Exhibition, social media links, and details about registration and housing are at alaannual.org. In addition to the 500-plus sessions and programs, the pre-conferences, and all the socializing you want, the exhibit floor will have more than 900 exhibitors and dozens of events and activities. I look forward to enjoying the updated conference environment and amenities with you in Orlando! Read more about 2016 Annual Conference on page 7.
ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF A NEW, ENHANCED MIT COGNET

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Every seat was filled for Chelsea Clinton’s talk about her book, It’s Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired & Get Going! during the Closing Session on Monday January 11.

Steve Sheinkin signs his book Most Dangerous after receiving the Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults award on Monday January 11.

Audience members at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration enjoyed remarks by Mary Frances Berry.

ALA Midwinter attendees learned fresh ideas during Guerrilla Storytime in the Networking Uncommons.

Attendees collected Libraries Transform™ cards, containing the important “Because” statements of the campaign, which focus on how libraries and librarians are preparing for and leading change that transforms lives in the communities they serve.

The 2016 Midwinter Exhibits opened as attendees filled the aisles Friday January 8 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

Aaron Dobbs, Shippensburg, PA, added a “Because of You” ribbon to his collection at the ALA Lounge.
Lizzie Velásquez Shows How One Person Can Change the World

When she was 17, Lizzie Velásquez found a video of herself on YouTube calling her “the world’s ugliest woman.” Velásquez, who was born with the extremely rare neonatal progeroid syndrome (which prevents her from gaining weight), turned her sorrow into action, becoming an internationally known motivational speaker and anti-bullying activist. Her TEDx Talk, “How Do YOU Define Yourself?” has had more than 10 million views, and a 2015 documentary, “A Brave Heart: The Lizzie Velásquez Story,” won the 2015 SXSW Film Audience Award.

During an interview with American Libraries before giving the Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture on Saturday January 9 at Midwinter, she discussed her upcoming projects and how she feels now about social media.

Her new memoir – her fourth book (Spring 2017) which she calls “my dream book” – is more personal than the inspirational tomes she’s written so far. “A lot of my life is out there for the public, but a lot of it is not,” Velásquez said, adding that the struggles she has faced have taught her how to be vulnerable, and the book will include the lessons she’s learned.

Velásquez also spoke of her dedication to getting the Safe Schools Improvement Act passed. The anti-bullying legislation is sponsored by Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.). Velásquez has visited Washington, D.C., to meet with representatives and enlisted support from her followers to get the bill passed.

During her presentation, Velásquez said the biggest lesson she’s learned is that we each have a purpose, and she now believes one person can change the world. She spoke about the many people who have changed her life.

Her parents were the first people who helped her. Velásquez was born prematurely, the first child of an elementary school teacher and a stay-at-home mother. Her parents were told their daughter would never be able to care for herself, but they were determined to give her a normal life which, for her mother, meant regular trips to the library with her siblings and friends. Velásquez says she loved storytime and being around other kids, but definitely had trouble being quiet.

“It was really cool. It wasn’t a doctor’s office! I remember getting my first library card – and my first fine. I’m so ashamed to be telling you this,” she laughed.

It wasn’t until she went to school that she learned she wasn’t like the other kids. She was confused and had trouble being quiet.

She realized she needed to take control of her carefully constructed confidence, and created a truth for herself. She even tried out for, and made, the cheerleading team and said she felt like a superhero wearing the uniform.

“Almost immediately, she applied for her first job, as a bookseller at Borders. Although her illness prevented her from even doing chores as a kid, she wanted to prove she could hold a job.

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“Almost immediately, she applied for her first job, as a bookseller at Borders. Although her illness prevented her from even doing chores as a kid, she wanted to prove she could hold a job.

The assistant principal at her school encouraged her to try public speaking, which she fell in love with. Velásquez has now spoken around the U.S. and the world, calling it one of the biggest blessings of her life.

Velásquez has experienced both extremes of social media – a viral video that destroyed her carefully constructed confidence, and another that made her a sought-after motivational speaker and bestselling author. Despite its capacity for malice, social media has allowed her to make friends around the world and gives her a platform to help others. She has active Twitter and Instagram accounts with tens of thousands of followers.

And she noted during her talk that if she ever met the still-anonymous person who posted the YouTube video, she would give them flowers and thank them for changing her life.

To learn more about Velásquez and her endeavors, visit www.imwithlizzie.com.
Promoting Culture and Heritage: 2015-2016 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Winners Selected

The Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), an affiliate of the American Library Association, has selected the winners of the 2015 Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature (APAAL). The awards promote Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and are awarded to titles published from October 2014 to September 2015 based on their literary and artistic merit.

Adult Fiction
Winner
The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen (Grove Press)

Viet Thanh Nguyen weaves a compelling story of a Vietnamese double agent in his debut novel "The Sympathizer." The novel brings humor and a critical eye to the Vietnam War and narratives of Vietnamese refugees.

Honor
Don’t Let Him Know: A Novel in Stories by Sandip Roy (Bloomsbury USA)

Adult Non-Fiction
Winner
The Making of Asian America: A History by Erika Lee (Simon and Schuster)

Dr. Erika Lee, University of Minnesota history faculty and Immigration History Research Center director, compiled an astounding 17-chapter single volume of research which falls on the 50th anniversary of the commemoration of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. Lee’s significant centennial-plus documentation includes and describes some of the most important annals of Asian-American history in the areas of immigration, assimilation, civil rights as well as noteworthy contributions and strides made to the American landscape attributed to Americans of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Sikh, Hindu, and other Asian ancestry and heritage.

Honor
From Canton Restaurant to Panda Express: A History of Chinese Food in the United States by Haining Liu (Rutgers University Press)

The Good Immigrant: How the Yellow Peril Became the Model Minority by Madeline Y. Hsu (Princeton University Press)

Young Adult
Winner
P.S. I Still Love You by Jenny Han (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

P.S. I Still Love You is a contemporary and relatable story to many teens. Han is able to depict Lara Jean, the protagonist, in a very positive and relatable light not only for other Asians but for people in general. Lara Jean is able to be both Korean and "normal," and avoids being type-cast into certain tropes.

Honor
Ink and Ashes by Valynne E. Maetani (Tu Books, imprint of Lee & Low Books)

Children's
Winner
Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton (Dial Books/Penguin Random House)

Hilton’s engaging examination of racial, biracial, gender, and social issues, as well as the powerful verse, is elegantly told. The remarkable Mimi is a strong protagonist whose memorable journey is both strikingly and gracefully developed.

Honor
Blackbird Fly by Erin Entrada Kelly

REFORMA and IBBY Tackle Child Refugee Challenge

Oralia Garza de Cortés, former president of REFORMA, and Patsy Aldana, president of the IBBY Foundation, called for the library and broader community to recognize the rights of the thousands of Central American refugees, over 50,000 of whom arrived in the U.S. seeking refugee status in 18 months. In doing so she echoed a New York Times editorial of January 7 that stated, “The administration needs to recognize that this problem cannot be solved in backward fashion. The answer lies not in sitting idly until refugees arrive and greeting them with family prisons and prosecution.”

In August 2015 a delegation from IBBY and REFORMA went to the Rio Grande Valley in order to understand what was happening with these children. The group met with Catholic Charities, the Border Patrol, and Southwest Key – a not-for-profit that houses the refugee children and places them with families throughout the United States.

Following that meeting, and in discussions at ALA Midwinter, a conclusion was reached that the best way for the library community to support these children was to connect them to the Public Library system. Refugee children and those whose societies are destroyed by conflict and post-conflict situations have almost no chance to thrive and grow. Libraries can change this situation by:

- Supporting these children by providing them a library card
- Getting them access to information, including legal, social, and community services
- Designing programs of bibliotherapy to assist traumatized children to deal with their experiences

REFORMA is creating a toolkit which will help libraries respond to these children in their communities.

Publishers are encouraged to donate books in Spanish or bilingual Spanish/English for these children. For more information please contact Oralia Garza de Cortés at 512-779-6585.
Midwinter is over, and we’re already gearing up for the Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando, June 23-28. As always, attendees will have the best access to unparalleled connections for ongoing inspiration, learning that keeps on going, fun stuff that sparks innovation, expert exhibitors, and memorable speakers. Among those, here are two to look forward to.

**Diane Guerrero**

**ALA President’s Program**

**Sunday, June 26**

Well known as an actress on the hit shows “Orange is the New Black” and “Jane the Virgin,” Diane Guerrero also volunteers with the nonprofit Immigrant Legal Resource Center and was named an advocate by the White House. An advocate for immigration reform, Guerrero was taken in by other Colombian families in Boston after the rest of her family was deported without warning to Colombia when she was 14.

ALA President Sari Feldman looks forward to welcoming Guerrero to her program. “America’s libraries have advanced the American Dream by providing services and resources that welcome and support all immigrants,” she said. “Diane Guerrero’s personal story is a powerful reminder of the library’s essential role in creating individual opportunity and community progress.”

Sponsored by Henry Holt & Co. / Macmillan

**Maya Penn**

**Auditorium Speaker**

Maya Penn creates eco-friendly clothing and accessories and is already an award-winning philanthropist, environmental activist, entrepreneur, filmmaker, eco-designer, keynote speaker, artist, animator, coder, illustrator, and writer. She is the CEO of Maya’s Ideas, a company she started in 2008 when she was eight years old. Ten to 20 percent of her profits go to local and global charities and environmental organizations, and her nonprofit organization — Maya’s Ideas 4 The Planet — spreads environmental awareness and contributes to girls in developing countries.

Penn, whose TEDWomen Talk has had more than one million views, has been featured in Forbes, Time, NPR, CNN, O Magazine, Essence, “The View,” “The Steve Harvey Show,” Huffington Post, the NRDC, Entrepreneur Magazine, Wired, Black Enterprise, Cosmopolitan, Ebony, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, and many other publications. Her forthcoming book is called You Got This! (April 2016, North Star Way).

Sponsored by Simon & Schuster

Start planning now! See the ad above, and read more on page 2. Starting January 19, register and book housing at www.alaannual.org.

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**Quality and Scope of Programs, Topics, and Formats**
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**Exposure to Leaders in the Field**
Get inspired to be bold and innovative by dozens of unforgettable speakers and presenters, including thought leaders and bestselling authors from a range of disciplines.

**Libraries Transform™**
Find the context that will help you participate and stay connected with ALA’s public awareness campaign, Libraries Transform™. Libraries transform as they integrate multiple perspectives on the future of communities, education, technology and more. Take advantage of the many opportunities and events that address transformation and change — as well as have some fun with it.

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January 19, 2016 at ALAANNUAL.ORG

**ALAAANNUAL.ORG**
American Library Association Announces 2016 Youth Media Award Winners

The American Library Association announced the top books, video, and audio books for children and young adults on Sunday January 10 during the Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Boston.

John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children’s literature

**Winner:** *Last Stop on Market Street* written by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson

**Honor Books:** *The War that Saved My Life* written by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, *Roller Girl* written and illustrated by Victoria Jamieson, *Bone Gap* written by Laura Ruby

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

**Winner:** *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World’s Most Famous Bear* illustrated by Sophie Blackall, written by Lindsey Mattick

**Honor Books:** *Trombone Shorty* illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, written by Christopher Myers, *Humans of New York: Stories* written by Brandon Stanton

Coretta Scott King Book Award, recognizing an African-American author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults

**Winner:** *Gone Crazy in Alabama* written by Rita Williams-Garcia

**Honor Books:** *Speech & Harlem’s Greatest Bookstore* written by Ronald L. Smith, *Someone Like You* written by Keija Parssinen

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award

**Author Winner:** *Hoodoo* written by Ronald L. Smith

**Illustrator Winner:** *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* illustrated by Ekua Holmes, written by Carole Boston Weatherford

**Winner:** *Out of Darkness* written by Ashley Hope Pérez, *The Ghosts of Heaven* written by Marcus Sedgwick

Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for lifetime achievement, paying tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children’s author Virginia Hamilton

**Winner:** *Ofosu Yeboah* written by Laurie Ann Thompson

**Illustrator Winner:** *Last Stop on Market Street* illustrated by Christian Robinson, written by Matt de la Peña

**Winner:** *Trick* written by Trent Swanson, *Echoes in Harlem* written by Chadwick Boseman

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

**Winner (Children ages 0 – 10):** *Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah* written by Laurie Ann Thompson, illustrated by Sean Qualls

**Winner (Middle School):** *Fish in a Tree* written by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

**Winner (Teen):** *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B* written by Torey Hayden

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


YALSA’s Awards committee members stand as one prior to the ALA Youth Media Awards.
Youth Media Awards

Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children’s video

Winner: Weston Woods Studios, Inc., producer of That Is NOT A Good Idea

Laura Ingalls Wilder Award honoring 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

Winner: Jerry Pinkney, whose award-winning works include The Lion and the Mouse, recipient of the Caldecott Award in 2010. In addition, Pinkney has received five Caldecott Honor Awards, five Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards, and four Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honors.

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

Winner: David Levinthal. His books include: The Realm of Possibility; Boy Meets Boy; Love is the Higher Law; How They Met, and Other Stories; Wide Awake; and Nick and Norah’s Infinite Playlist.

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

Winner: Jacqueline Woodson will deliver the 2017 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. Woodson is the 2014 National Book Award winner for her New York Times bestselling memoir, Brown Girl Dreaming. She is a four-time Newbery Honor winner, a recipient of the NAACP Image Award, a two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner, and was recently named the Young People’s Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation.

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

Winner: The Wonderful Fluffy Little Princess written and illustrated by Henrietta Bancroft, translated by Lynne Coldiron, illustrated by Aharon Appelfeld, illustrated by Philippe Danowski, and translated by Rebecca Soler

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

Winner: The War that Saved My Life by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Fiona Smyth, narrated by Mark Bramhall, David de Vries, MacLeod Andrews, and Rebecca Soler

Pura Belpre Award honoring a Latino writer and illustrator whose children’s books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience

Young Adult Winner: The Purpura of Truth written by Bill Konigsberg

Honor Books: Wonders of the Invisible World written by Christopher Barzak; Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU written by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth, illustrated by Fiona Smyth

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the most distinguished beginning reader book

Winner: Don’t Throw It to Mo! written by David A. Adler and illustrated by Sam Ricks

Honor Books: A Pig, a Fox, and a Box written and illustrated by Jonathan Fenske; Supertruck written and illustrated by Stephen Savage

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

Winner: Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda written by Becky Albertalli

Finalists: Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir written by Margarita Engle; This Strange Wilderness: The Life and Art of John James Audubon written by Nancy Pearl

For more information on the ALA youth media awards and notables, please visit www.ialowellibraries.org/yma.
learned. While living in the Newark housing projects to help fight for tenant rights, Booker took on the task of mentoring young men. But one in particular, Hassan Washington, escaped his grasp and was shot in the street.

In telling the tale, he encouraged the librarians in attendance to carefully consider each person who walked through their doors — and to avoid seeing anyone as a charity case to be pitied.

"Do you see yourself in their eyes?" he asked.

While mayor, Booker said, one of the greatest frustrations he experienced was the attack on libraries.

"What I see and hear every day, even in the Senate, are the stories of people who say, 'I had nowhere else to go but my public library," said Booker, who became the first African-American senator from New Jersey in 2013. "It was, for me, a sanctuary…. I will jump on letters. I will jump on bills. I push technology. And I will continue to advocate for libraries into the future…. This is our collective treasure; we need to make collective investments."

The program was held in partnership with the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

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Civic and Social Innovators Help Libraries Transform

On January 11, the second day of the "Libraries Transform TM: Civic and Social Innovation" presentation series, Director of the Center for the Future of Libraries Miguel Figueroa observed, "Social innovators are really nice, helpful, collaborative people." He opened the session by encouraging librarians in the audience to make contact with local social innovators to create change in our communities.

Speaker Tiziana Dearing, Boston College associate professor and co-director for the Center for Social Innovation, was joined by social innovators Chrismaldi Vasquez of the Family Independence Initiative (www.fi.org/leadership/chrismaldi-vasquez) and Vento Casado of Small Can Be Big (www.smallcanbebig.org).

Dearing focused her talk on defining the differences between social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and social enterprise — illustrating cases of social innovation and the work of libraries. She invited audience members to participate in the session by providing descriptions of their communities and social issues. The presentation was designed to provoke concept innovation by revealing cases of successful social innovation for the audience to translate and apply into library contexts. The three experts also gave ideas, suggestions, and posed questions to audience members.

According to Dearing, social innovators are people who are responding to social problems, old problems that have been tough to solve, with a new service, organization, product, structure, paradigm, or approach to resource development. In order for this to be considered social innovation, it should have the potential to transform the problem, the possibility of being sustainable, and the promise of enhancing social justice.

Dearing identified a key characteristic which makes libraries ideal institutional partners for social innovators: libraries offer unbiased access to resources. Libraries have information, physical space, and professional resources which social innovators need when looking to solve problems. Casado chimed in to say, "Social innovators should never, ever work in silos." By their nature, they are working in new areas, tackling difficult problems, and they are happy to have collaborators.

Citing Bob Johansen’s book, Leaders Make the Future: Ten New Leadership Skills for an Uncertain World, Dearing identified five skills libraries can help leaders develop: maker instinct, immersive learning, rapid prototyping, smart-mob organizing, and commons creating. In addition, libraries, provide social innovators the opportunity of "deep, personal engagement with the target community" — one common element of social innovation.
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Libraries Transform: ALA@BEA programming on the Library Insight Track will include:

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• Visit ALA, Booklist, and United for Libraries in the exhibits.
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Check for details and register at bookexpoamerica.com. Use the special promotional code LTBEA to receive a $20 discount off the Early Bird rate for a 3-Day BEA Pass.

Libraries Transform: ALA@BEA programming is sponsored by Libraries Transform™, the American Library Association’s national public awareness campaign, and Overdrive, Inc.

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Clinton

"from page 1

Kids to engage with something they are passionate about and make a positive difference in their communities — no matter how big or small.

As an introduction to her book, Clinton told the stories of three inspiring kids: Haile, who took over preparing healthy family meals after her father was diagnosed with diabetes, which led to an online cookbook and an opportunity to reshape the kids meals at Hyatt hotels across the country; Alex, who started his BrickShare program to collect and donate LEGO®️️ to kids who didn’t have access to toys; and Celia, who recruited basketball star Yao Ming to help with an anti-ivory poaching awareness campaign in China and Hong Kong. Clinton stressed that in each of these stories, these kids were not afraid to try.

“Even if we can’t always solve the big challenges that we feel called to, it doesn’t mean we still can’t make a real difference in whatever way we can,” she said. “I often think we don’t know where we’re going to wind up. We just have to begin.”

Clinton was then joined on stage by Jill Santopolo, her editor at Penguin Young Reader’s who interviewed her about her book, experiences, travels, and love of reading. Santopolo revealed that during Clinton’s freshman year at Stanford University, she helped saved books at the Meyer Library when El Niño conditions flooded the building. Today, Clinton’s experiences with books usually involve taking a hard copy or Kindle on-the-go, or her and husband Marc Mezvinsky reading books with “wonderfully fun sounds” to their young daughter Charlotte.

Carpentry, writing processes, and boxing — three seemingly unconnected topics — were brought together during the Saturday January 9 Auditorium presentation featuring bestselling author Andre Dubus III.

Acting as the interviewer, Bill Kelly, former chair of the ALA Notable Books Council, jumped right in by asking Dubus what writers, living and dead, he’d want to meet. “I would rather drink with librarians than writers,” said Dubus. “I have some lovely friends who are writers, but writers tend to be research intensive and I need all the help I can get.”

Dubus compared the book writing process to pregnancy. “I feel when a writer is writing a book, you’re pregnant with that book — your job is to get nutrients, which is the place.”

Dubus discovered writing creates ‘higher state of awareness’.
‘Disrupt Aging,’ A Demographic Revolution in the U.S.

By Sanhita SinhaRoy, American Libraries

In the U.S., 10,000 people a day are turning 65. And that’s going to happen every day for the next 15 years, according to Jo Ann Jenkins, CEO of AARP, who spoke Sunday January 10 as part of the Auditorium Speaker’s Series.

A demographic revolution has disrupted the way we age, she said. In fact, the nation’s fastest-growing age segment is people over the age of 85. The second: those over 100.

She wants to encourage people to look at aging as something to look forward to, not fear. “It’s not really about aging; it’s about how we choose to live,” Jenkins said. “We often view it as a problem, not as an accomplishment.”

She quoted Andy Rooney, who said, “The idea of living a long life appeals to everyone. But the idea of getting old doesn’t appeal to anyone.”

And how we view aging is apparent in the terminology we use. She cited comedian Larry Miller’s riff on aging and language: “He’s going to be 88; become 21; turn 30; push 40; reach 50; make it to 60; hit 70. ‘Change the conversation and we change the reality of aging,’” said Jenkins, whose book Disrupt Aging, comes out in April.

To start, she said, change is needed in several areas:

- Health: preventing disease and improving our well-being; becoming an active participant in our health care instead of merely dependent on it
- Wealth: having the financial resources to not outlive our money; contributing to economic growth
- Self: developing a sense of purpose and positive self-image; viewing selves as integral parts of society, not isolated from society

To “disrupt aging,” we can’t do this alone, she said. “There needs to be a public, private, and personal role in making these changes. There also needs to be innovation, and all generations must get involved.

As a call to action similar to President Franklin Roosevelt’s 1941 “Four Freedoms” speech (ww.carnegie.org/library/marist.edu/four-freedoms), Jenkins said it’s time for a “four freedoms of aging.” It should include the freedom to choose how you want to live as you age (having options available); the freedom to earn (reimagining work); the freedom to learn (keep job skills up to date and prevent isolation); and the freedom to pursue happiness (fulfilling our purpose in life).

“Libraries have a ‘huge role to play’ in helping older communities to pursue the freedom to learn, she said.

Jenkins, who spent 15 years at the Library of Congress, said that “libraries and libraries change lives every day. They serve as equalizers of information, and I’m particularly grateful that the access of information includes older adults.”

The Sympathizer, Hold Still, Receive 2016 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction

The American Library Association selected The Sympathizer, by Viet Thanh Nguyen, published by Grove Press, as the winner of the 2016 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs, by Sally Mann, published by Little, Brown, and Company, Hachette Book Group, as the winner of the 2016 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. The selections were announced Sunday January 10 during the RUSA Book and Media Awards Ceremony and Reception.

Viet Thanh Nguyen’s bravura debut novel, The Sympathizer, illuminates the double-mindedness of a half-French, half-Vietnamese spy as he contemplates impossible and dire situations in divided, war-torn Vietnam and the spy as he confronts impossible and dire-mindedness of a half-French, half-Vietnamese, illuminates the double-

The four finalists each received $1,500.

With the Youth Media Awards (YMA) following the morning after the Carnegie Medals for Excellence, the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits now offers all ALA book and media award announcements within the same 24 hours.

“As libraries transform to advance our legacy supporting literacy and creating a more digitally inclusive society, we find ourselves as partners in learning, exploration and inspiration,” said ALA President Sari Feldman. “Literary prizes such as the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence illustrate how today’s librarians are an invaluable resource for adult readers who are looking for the best of the best in fiction and nonfiction titles.”

The Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction were established in 2012 and recognize the best fiction and nonfiction books for adult readers published in the U.S. in the previous year. They are the first single-book awards for adult books given by the ALA and reflect the expert judgment and insight of library professionals who work closely with adult readers.

The 2016 Nonfiction finalists include His for Hawk by Helen Macdonald and The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World by Andrea Wulf.

The 2016 Fiction finalists include The Book of Aron, by Jim Shepard and A Little Life: A Novel by Hanya Yanagihara.

The Medals are made possible, in part, by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York in recognition of Andrew Carnegie’s deep belief in the power of books and learning to change the world, and are co-sponsored by ALA’s Booklist and the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA).

Annotations and more information on the finalists and the awards can be found at www.ala.org/carnegieadult.
Readers’ Advisory Experts Announce 2016 Reading List: Year’s Best in Genre Fiction for Adult Readers

T he Reading List Council of the Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) of RUSA has announced the 2016 selections of the Reading List, an annual best-of list comprised of eight different fiction genres for adult readers.

The 2016 selections are:

**Adrenaline**
**Winner:** Pretty Girls: A Novel by Karin Slaughter. (William Morrow)

**Short List:**
- The Cartel by Don Winslow. (Alfred A. Knopf)
- Descend: A Novel by Tim Johnston. (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill)

**Fantasy**
**Winner:** Uprooted by Naomi Novik. (Del Rey)

**Short List:**
- The Aeronaut’s Windlass: The Rising Trilogy Book 1 by Pierce Brown. (Del Rey)
- Sand Sea: A Novel by Adrian McKinty. (Severny)

**Horror**
**Winner:** The Fifth House of the Heart: A Novel by Ben Tripp. (Gallery Books)

**Short List:**
- A Head Full of Ghosts by Paul A. Tremblay. (William Morrow)
- Girl with the Gun by Ronal Malfi. (Kensington Publishing Corp.)

**Historical Fiction**
** Winners:**
- The Truth According to Us: a Novel by Annie Barrows. (The Dial Press)

**Winner:** Paradise Sky by Joe R. Lansdale. (Mulholland Books)

**Women’s Fiction**
**Winner:** When We Were Animals: a Novel by Tessa Dare. (Avon Books)

**Short List:**
- This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!: A Novel by Joshua Ferris. (Titan Books)
- The Silence by Tim Lebbon. (Orbit)

**Science Fiction**
**Winner:** The Long and Faraway Gone by Lou Berney. (William Morrow)

**Short List:**
- Gun Street Girl: A Detective Sean Duffy Novel by Adrian McKinty. (Seventh Street Books)
- Land of Careful Shadows by Suzanne Chazin. (Kensington Books)

**Mystery**
**Winner:** Last Ragged Breath by Julia Keller. (Minotaur Books)

**Short List:**
- Little Black Lies by Sharon Bolton. (Minotaur Books)
- The Silence by Tim Lethen. (Titan Books)

**Romance**
**Winner:** Taking the Heat by Victoria Dahl. (HQN, Harlequin Books)

**Short List:**
- A Desperate Fortune by Suzanne Kearsley. (Sourcebooks Landmark)
- Ever After: a Nutshell Bride Novel by Jude Deveraux. (Ballantine Books)

**Science Fiction**
**Winner:** The Silencing of the King: A Science Fiction Novel by Alastair Reynolds. (Tachyon)

**Short List:**
- Seveneves by Neal Stephenson. (William Morrow)
- Slow Bullet by Alastair Reynolds. (Tachyon)
- The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi. (Alfred A. Knopf)

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