

# ALSCconnect

June 2003, Vol. 1, no. 2

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## Officially Speaking

### Pass It On

#### Thanks

Welcome to *ALSCconnect*, our brand new, freshly designed newsletter, available both in print and on the ALSC Web site! We think that it not only looks terrific but that it will prove an elegant way to advance continuous content-rich communication among all our ALSC membership. So keep connected to ALSC—read, share, and submit articles to this vital new ALSC publication. Congratulations to all involved in creating this fresh new face for our association. Kudos to ALSC's headquarters staff member Laura Schulte-Cooper who made this a reality. Thank you.

It is hard to believe how quickly this, my year as ALSC president, is coming to a close. On Tuesday, June 24, I will pass the gavel to our new president Cynthia Richey. The seats of the retiring class of 2003 ALSC board will be filled by the class of 2006. Thanks to the 2003 board members for their wonderful and enduring contributions: Carole Fiore, past president, and Randy Enos, K. T. Horning, and Carolyn Noah—board members extraordinaire. In fact, thanks to *all* ALSC members and staff—this has been both the year and the opportunity of a lifetime! Please Come!

ALA in Toronto is fast approaching. We have a really great line up of programs and events planned! Thanks to each and every member and volunteer who combined to build such stellar offerings! I want to single out for praise Jo Ann Jonas, Chula Vista (Calif.) Public Library and her preconference planning team; Charlemae President's Program chair Sylvia Kraft-Walker, Glenview (Ill.) Public Library; and Toronto Local Arrangements co-chairs Leslie Anne McGrath, Toronto (Ont.) Public Library, and Lynne F. McKechnie, University of Western Ontario, London. Please say thanks to them and their committees when you see them in Toronto!

I also want to take the opportunity to extend a personal invitation to all ALSC members to attend our annual ALSC membership meeting and awards presentation in Toronto on Monday, June 23, 2003, from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. This will be immediately followed by our annual Charlemae Rollins President's Program, "Boys Will Be. . . : The Unique Reading and Development Needs of Boys in Libraries" (10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.). This program will feature psychologist and author Michael Thompson ( *Raising Cain: Best Friends, Worst Enemies*), who will highlight the unique needs of boys, in literature and in life. Do arrive early enough to enjoy a screening of *The Hockey Sweater*, animated by the National Film Board of Canada and written by Roch Carrier, National Librarian of Canada and best-selling author of books well loved by boys. It's one of my very favorite short films.

At this writing I don't know if there are any slots left for our exciting preconference "The Literature of Fact: Informational Materials for Youth." Our goal is to celebrate the essence of Sibert Medal-winning books and explore the entire process of bringing an exceptional informational book from writer to reader. Will I see you there?

For more information about ALSC's Annual Conference events, visit [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) and click on "Events and Conferences."

#### Musings about Mentoring

**Story Number 1.** Last night I attended the retirement party for longtime friend and colleague Devra Langsam. She had served the children of Brooklyn for thirty-seven years, the last twenty years as a children's librarian in one branch. I first had the privilege of working with her more than twenty five years ago. While I moved up the leadership ladder in the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), she chose to stay in a branch where she could engage in

direct daily contact with kids. She is a wonderful and a generous storyteller and a patient teacher. An early organizer of Star Trek fan conventions, she also has prodigious interest in science fiction and fantasy literature for all ages. Devra always took the time to participate in any and all of our book selection committees, and her superb child-centered critical skills have helped many a new children's librarian to build better collections and connect kids to the wonderful books they select. Her branch librarian noted that Devra was now the librarian for the children of the very first children she served! How did she become such a great librarians' librarian? Devra acknowledged *her* BPL librarian mentors—among them Harriet Quimby—a name that will resonate with many a seasoned ALSC member.

**Story Number 2.** Last fall I was getting acquainted with a new member of our local public radio station's community advisory board, a man (a late forty-something guy). Being fellow board members, he knew I was a librarian and that I worked for the BPL, and I knew that he was a mathematics professor at a City University of New York College. He asked me, "Did you know Miss Davenport? She was my children's librarian from childhood." He and his sister were a part of (the then) Miss Davenport's library club at our Rugby Branch. As members they participated in all sorts of children's room activities year round. He went on to say that he owed so much of his later success to her. He wanted to write and thank her. Of course I remembered her! Leila Davenport retired and was recently widowed. In fact, I'd just received a note from her. She was and is a superb storyteller and—although she had technically retired—she was still using her more than forty years of children's librarian organizational skills in her church and within her extended family. Leila and Fred, my public radio board colleague, are now corresponding. Fred just needed to say thank you!

**Children's Librarians.** We are still primarily a women's profession, and now we are an aging profession as well. All over North America experienced children's librarians have retired or are nearing retirement or planning their retirement in five to ten years. Who will take our places? How can we plant the seeds that will grow great children's librarians? How can we enlarge our ranks? How can we pass on the skill, idealism, and commitment to books and kids we gained from our own librarian mentors?

We are not alone. Faced with desperate teacher shortages, the N.Y.C. Board of Education is trying to recruit new teaching fellows—humanities or sciences degree holders with no previous teaching experience—who will be trained as teachers and given stipends to complete their master's in education. How are they advertising these opportunities? A campaign that asks: "You remember your first-grade teacher's name. Who will remember yours?" I suggest that most of us are children's librarians as a direct result of a caring, inspiring librarian in our past. I also suspect that there are children, parents, and grandparents all over the nation who can still remember the name of their very own children's librarians. You remember the old saying: "If you know how to read thank a teacher. If you love to read—thank a librarian!"

How can we make that continue to happen? Here are just a very few ideas about growing our profession. I've gleaned them from successful libraries around the country. I know that you can find many more and even better ways that will work for you and your community!

- Develop as many special opportunities as possible for library pages—find ways for them to do *lots* more than shelve books and clean up after arts and crafts!
- Collaborate with YA librarians to involve older kids in developing ideas and programs for summer reading . . . or any other library program.
- Experiment with a young critics or a regular book discussion program. Train kids how to book talk and let 'em go!
- Work with your library board and local undergraduate colleges to develop *paid* internships. Negotiate for college credit and develop content that has genuine relevance for college students.
- Work with local youth organizations and schools to identify and support quality volunteer opportunities with meaningful (not made-up) library work!
- Grow your own. Recruit new librarians from your own staff, regular library patrons, and library volunteers. Work with your own library's leadership to fund scholarships for library school.
- Participate in career day programs or take-your-child-to-work days. Talk up our favorite career!
- Consider creating librarian-for-a-day opportunities in conjunction with local high schools and junior colleges.
- Recruit and support for ALA's Spectrum Scholars Initiative.
- Encourage students to investigate ALA , ALSC, and state association scholarships even before they apply for library school.

I know you can think of more! Just remember . . . whatever you do—do something! We need to grow our ranks. Inspire more children and mentor more colleagues. We must pass on the joy, the satisfaction, and the power of librarianship—and soon!—*Barbara Genco, ALSC President*

## Help Wanted—Volunteer Now

The work of ALSC is far-reaching and significantly affects children, their families, and all who work with them. This work takes many forms: booklists, bibliographies, and other resources on such topics as children with special needs, preschoolers and parents, international books, children and the Internet, as well as national publications and media outlets; programs that can be replicated in libraries across the country; Web sites selected to provide positive experiences for children and families; and awards that promote the best in children's literature and media. Additionally, ALSC advocates for children on many levels, publishes important research on children's librarianship, provides professional development opportunities for librarians and others in the field, and offers scholarships and awards that recognize professional achievement. The direct benefits of these activities are crucial to so many. Who does this important work? You do: the dedicated, hard-working, enthusiastic ALSC membership makes this happen. And there are so many ways for each of you to participate.

The primary work of ALSC is accomplished by committees, with members doing the visible work described above and shaping the organization through participation on such committees as the Organization and Bylaws, Planning and Budget, and Membership Committees. In addition to committees, ALSC frequently appoints task forces to carry out special projects (such as developing the strategic plan or recording the oral history of the profession) or to explore ways for ALSC to serve such groups as homeschoolers. We also ask members to help plan and conduct programs and workshops at conferences, institutes, and regional meetings. One of the most important ways members further the work of ALSC is by serving as local liaisons to one of the many national organizations that serve children, such as the Boys and Girls Club, 4-H, Scouts, PTA, and the like.

Other challenging opportunities exist with fellow ALA divisions. Currently, we have members serving on a PLA/ALSC Task Force on Preschool Literacy, and the AASL and YALSA vice presidents and I are working on a joint project involving school and public library cooperation that will collect best practices, offer programs, and produce a toolkit. Other possibilities for collaborative projects and activities with ALA divisions are legion. A few examples we can work on are intergenerational programs and services with RUSA, early childhood education in institutions of higher learning with ACRL, the continuum of lifelong learning with RUSA and ACRL, and teen parents with YALSA. We would like to initiate such cooperative activities and then institutionalize that cooperation so that we always work with other divisions on a formal basis, much as we do now with our natural partners YALSA, AASL, and PLA. This, of course, means more opportunities for member involvement.

The best way to become involved is to volunteer your time and talent. Submit a volunteer form (on the ALSC Web site or call the ALSC office) and let us know how you would like to help. Because committee membership is often limited, not every volunteer receives an immediate appointment and not all those appointed receive their first choices. But there are many other ways to become involved in the work of ALSC. Contribute to our new journal, *Children and Libraries*, and let us know your ideas for other publications. Offer your ideas and expertise for programs and activities such as those I've described in this column and let me know how you would like to help. Let me know how you can work in your own states and communities, whether contacting new members, serving as a legislative network member, or working with an organization that serves youth. Since many members cannot attend conferences, particularly in the current adverse economic climate, we are exploring expanded electronic participation and other creative ways to conduct the work of ALSC. Let me know your ideas in this regard, too. The critical work of ALSC depends on you. Please contact me at [richeyc@einetwork.net](mailto:richeyc@einetwork.net) or (412) 531-1912 so we can work together. I look forward to hearing from you.—*Cynthia K. Richey, ALSC Vice President*

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## Bright Ideas

### Comics Draw New Patrons

Washington County Libraries are enjoying success with The Comic Book Exchange. Books on the exchange are placed in plastic tubs or customized steamer trunks designed to keep the lid open. Teens—and in many cases,

adults as well—are welcome to take up to ten books at a time. They may keep the books for as long as they wish—no due date—as the books are not officially checked out. In order to track use, libraries do count the number of books taken.

### **How It Started**

Local patron Matt Schiffman began the exchange, based on a similar program that was offered in the local library when he was a child. In second grade, he was not interested in reading until he came upon a trunk of comic books at his hometown library. Schiffman began to love reading. By the age of eleven, he was collecting comics. An avid comic collector, he has amassed thousands of comic books. Schiffman has donated more than ten thousand comics to seven county libraries under the name of a foundation honoring his daughter, Hannah. He also coordinated donations from other local collectors, Dark Horse Comics, as well as from Collection Connection and Excalibur Books and Comics, two local comic book stores. Patrons also regularly bring in their used comics to exchange.

### **How It Works**

Comic books are received centrally, so Schiffman only has to make one delivery stop and has only one contact from the libraries. Schiffman culls out the inappropriate, X-rated comics before giving them to the libraries. Each library receives approximately five hundred to one thousand books to start and sorts through the collection to determine suitability for its individual community. The books that each library chooses to keep are given a sticker that reads “Comic Book Exchange @ Your Washington County Library—Sponsored by Books from Hannah.” Many libraries use teen volunteers, and occasionally reference librarians, to sort through the books and label those appropriate for the exchange. When libraries need more comics, they are delivered centrally. Stickers are also kept at a central location and distributed as needed.

### **The Controversy**

Librarians who do not currently read comic books often have an innocent view of the industry. They may remember comics from their childhood; the twenty-first century *Batman* is very different from the *Batman* of even the 1980s. In nearly all comics, with the exception of perhaps *The Powerpuff Girls* or *Donald Duck*, the women are fully endowed, hyper-sexualized, and scantily dressed (or dressed in very revealing costumes), and the men are unnaturally large, quite muscular, and fond of loincloths or tight-fitting leggings. Violence abounds, so does sexism, racism, and all those subjects that adults do not want kids reading. The typical concerns over comic books came up many times: Should we really be offering these? Will people complain about the content?

Yes, the comic books are controversial. Many young children are interested and want to take the books, but the collections are light on *Archie* or *Scooby-Doo* titles. The books that are being purchased and read by nine-year-olds are not the books that society wants nine-year-olds to enjoy. Schiffman has contacted publishers of the titles considered tame, and many of them are so small that they cannot donate. Some libraries have chosen to purchase more of these tame titles to add to the donated books. Two of the larger libraries have decided to use part of their book budgets to create a Comic Book Exchange for the younger set, placing the trunks in the children's area (as opposed to the YA area) and filling the trunks with purchased titles.

As of yet there have not been any reports filed of overly angry patrons. Complaints that the books are too old for the younger set have been heard, and, as mentioned previously, several libraries are addressing that issue. Mainly, the intended audience enjoys the books, and others ignore them.

### **The Project Continues**

We currently have seven libraries participating. The books check out regularly, and draw new users into the library. When we do fairs or festivals, we always take comics along and hand them out along with a flyer that describes the program and lists the participating libraries. All in all, a successful venture! —*Angela J. Reynolds, Washington County Cooperative Library Services, Hillsboro, Oregon*

## Red Hot Summer Program

In honor of National Hot Dog Month, held every July, the Children's and Young Adult Services Department at Northland Public Library, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, held an outdoor hot dog cookout for teens and their families on July 24, 2002.

Staff members from other departments rarely have a reason to embrace the Summer Reading Club. This program, however, gave the entire staff an opportunity to mingle with each other and our patrons in a relaxed, fun environment. Staff from all departments, including computer systems and maintenance, got involved.

On the patio outside our department, we grilled more than 300 twenty-five-cent hot dogs, sold bags of chips and drinks, and played tunes from Oscar Mayer's online jukebox, available at the Kraft Foods/Oscar Mayer Web site at [www.kraftfoods.com/om/](http://www.kraftfoods.com/om/). Picnic goers enjoyed versions of the jingle "I Wish I Was an Oscar Mayer Wiener" performed as salsa, polka, rock and roll, and so on.

In the program room near the entrance to the patio, we ran Rick Sebak's wonderful PBS documentary *A Hot Dog Program* continuously. We also had recipes, nutritional information, quizzes, and lots of hot dog facts and tidbits available. We displayed books on cookouts, hot dogs, and baseball and had several coloring pages, including the Wienermobile, available for young children to color. ALA's national program Join the Major Leagues @ your library<sup>®</sup> was also publicized with several computers set aside for patrons to peruse hot dog information Web sites and enter ALA's contest.

While the event was outreached to teens as part of the Teen Summer Reading Program, with the intent that teens would attend with their friends and families, there were also many families without teens in attendance.

Even without a related theme, the annual nature of National Hot Dog Month and the human desire to eat hot dogs should make this a popular program for years to come! We hope to invite the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile ([www.kraftfoods.com/om/](http://www.kraftfoods.com/om/)), a major league baseball player, or the Pittsburgh Pirate's parrot mascot to this year's celebration. —*Laurena Schultz, Young Adult Librarian, Northland Public Library, [schultzl@einetwork.net](mailto:schultzl@einetwork.net)*

## Celebrating the Arts

In March and April, the Nashville Public Library system offered more than one hundred special programs and exhibits during its six-week Spring into the Arts celebration of literary, performing, and visual arts. From author talks, craft projects, and musical performances to exhibits, writing workshops, and ballet story hours for children, the series offered programs for all ages.

Two programs, Ballet Story Hour and Write and Illustrate Your Own Book, were held at all public libraries. Special events featured author Philip Gulley (the Harmony books), classical guitarist Lorenzo Micheli, the Nashville Ballet, the Nashville Opera, the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, and several other local artists, among others.

## Reaching Out

Austin Public Library, through the APL Foundation, received a gift of \$35,000 from the Junior League of Austin. Along with any junior league gift comes junior league volunteers. We used the funds to produce storytelling kits (four to five books on a theme, plus fingerplays, puppets, song sheets). We then trained the volunteers to do story times at childcare centers in the community. Due to budget cuts and staff reductions, there are many more centers than library staff can serve.

The junior league volunteers visit a childcare center once a week for at least twelve weeks and present a thirty- to forty-minute program, repeating the program twice to maximize the number of kids who can participate. In order to connect the story time back to the library, the kids receive The Library Visited Me Today stickers to wear home (and encourage questions from the adults at home) and a colorful bookmark that provides information about the library. Since the project began in September 2002, more than four thousand children have received story times from junior league volunteers. —*Jeanette Larson, Youth Services Manager, Austin Public Library*

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# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## New Grant

ALSC recently received a grant from the George Washington University's Center for Aging, Health, and Humanities as part of the center's new program titled Societal Education about Aging for Change (SEA Change).

ALSC invites its members to participate in a public education program about aging that targets youth. We need volunteers to work with their library patrons to complete a survey evaluation of books that our Quicklist Consulting Committee has identified as good examples of portraying aging and older adults in a positive light.

If you are interested in taking part in the survey or would like more information, please contact ALSC at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 1398, or at [lmays@ala.org](mailto:lmays@ala.org). Please respond by July 15, 2003. Results of the evaluation process will be made available to members.

## Young Heroes

Young adult author T. A. Barron has created the Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, named in honor of his mother. It recognizes young people ages eight to eighteen who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Winners receive \$2,000 to be applied to their higher education or to their service project.

One of last year's winners, Kyle Alderson, was nominated by his public librarian for creating Project READ (Reading Encourages All Dreams), a reading mentorship program based in his town's public library.

A Bibliography of Heroes and a Heroes Study Guide are available to support librarians interested in the subject of heroism.

To nominate a hero or download the bibliography and guide, visit [www.barronprize.org](http://www.barronprize.org).— *Barbara Ann Richman, Barron Prize Program Director*

## USBBY News

Mark your calendars for the Fifth Biennial International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Regional Conference in Chautauqua, New York, October 10–12, 2003. Presenters include Ashley Bryan, Sharon Creech, Mette Newth, Katherine Paterson, Peter Sis, and more. For more information about USBBY and its events and activities, please visit [www.usbby.org](http://www.usbby.org).

## Canadian Children's Books Up-Close

Join the Booklist Books for Youth Editors on Friday, June 20, 8–10 p.m., for a lively discussion featuring authors Linda Granfield and Paul Yee, artist Ruth Ohi, and publisher Kathy Lowinger, who will talk about making art and telling stories Canadian-style.

## Belpré Nominations

Send your nominations for the 2004 Pura Belpré author and illustrator awards. For the award criteria, visit [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) and click on "Awards and Scholarships" and "Literary and Related Awards."

Send author, title, publisher, and illustrator information when pertinent to committee chair Rose V. Treviño at [atrose.trevino@cityofhouston.net](mailto:atrose.trevino@cityofhouston.net).

Thanks in advance for your suggestions. Committee members will read all books recommended that meet the award criteria.

## Poetry and Kids

Congratulations to ALSC member Sylvia M. Vardell, professor in the SLIS at Texas Woman's University. She is the 2003 winner of the Texas Library Association DEMCO Research Grant for her project Using Technology to Re-examine Children's Poetry Preferences. Vardell is conducting a pilot project in a local elementary school to see what poetry kids most enjoy when exposed to a current and varied collection of poetry books and activities. She is also creating a new Web site modeled after the national Favorite Poem Project created by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, where children are invited to submit their favorite poems during the month of April.

## Toronto Bound

A complete schedule of ALSC meetings, programs, and other special events is available in the spring issue of *Children and Libraries*, which mails in May, and on our Web site, [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc), under "Events and Conferences."

## In Memory

Janice Smuda, Cuyahoga County Public Library's early childhood specialist and head of Project LEAP (Library's Educational Alternative for Preschoolers), died on September 17, 2002. Donations in her memory may be made to the Children's Services Trust Fund of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2111 Snow Rd., Parma, OH 44134. All donations will be used to further the services of Project LEAP. To learn more about Project LEAP, visit <link removed - for archive>.

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## ALSC Voices

### Meet the Winners

In the last two issues of our newsletter we introduced you to four of our 2002 ALSC scholarship winners by printing the personal statement from their scholarship application. We hope you enjoyed the glimpse at our up and coming librarians. Following are the personal statements of our final two 2002 scholarship winners.

#### Jill Heritage

**University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**

**2002 Bound to Stay Bound Scholarship Winner**

Miss Freeman just knew. She knew that I'd love the morphing slippers of Julie Edwards' whangdoodle, the mathematic intricacies of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, and the abalone creations of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. She knew the "In What Book Game," songs about Doritos, and most importantly she knew who the whangdoodle was for every kid in our class.

As a child, I felt like Miss Freeman's library was pure magic. It was not until I began seriously considering school librarianship as a career, however, that I began to demystify the role. I discovered the many layers beneath the songs, the games, even the simple act of choosing a book. The challenges of building and maintaining a collection under budgetary restraints, utilizing ever-changing technology, and creating a collection that reflects the students' needs comprise only the beginning of an endless job description.

School librarians are expected to fulfill those roles typical of a librarian—information broker, research analyst, systems manager—but must simultaneously fulfill this role for a quite varied audience. The challenge seems to lie not only in fulfilling all of these roles for the administration, faculty, students, and parents, but also in outwardly instilling such responsibilities with wonder and mystery in a library consumed by technology, literacy rates, and increasingly sophisticated students.

After time working in children's book publishing, evenings spent as a bookseller, and volunteering at the public library, it seems as if all has been leading back to this—I am compelled by the issues facing school librarians today and am anxious to confront the countless challenges. While I have grown through my previous work with children's books, I want to become that integral connection between book and student.

In the end, it will come down to the students and the challenge to turn them on to reading. I will strive to keep the things that attracted me to the library most when I was eight—the power of the stories contained within its walls and the contagious enthusiasm of a librarian—a vital and integral part of my library.

**Melissa Kerrigan**  
**Dominican University, River Forest, Ill.**  
**2002 Bound to Stay Bound Scholarship Winner**

At Illinois State University I have not only learned in the classroom, but outside as well. Being financially independent and putting myself through school has taught me to organize my time and finances very well. Although I have not started my graduate studies, my five years of work experience in the children's department of the Normal (Ill.) Public Library has taught me much about the library. I believe that a librarian can play a key role in the life and education of a child. I see the library as a valuable resource where, with the Internet, any information can be found. Also, I think that the library is an important tool to get kids excited about reading. Libraries are a supportive place where children's lives are influenced in many ways. Children who use libraries learn better research skills, become more culturally aware, and expand their imaginations, promoting education and creativity.

I love working in a public library, and want to work in one because libraries reach out to a larger part of the community. I know that I want to be a librarian because I love my job. I play an active role in children's lives by starting them on the right track. I am passionate about the programs in my library. We have story hour and summer reading programs that get children into the library and excited about reading. We also have educational programs that teach children how to read and research. To further pique their interest, there are a number of specialty programs, such as an international fair and meet-the-author days.

## **ALSC Profile**

**Teffeny Edmondson**  
**Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, Southwest Regional Library, Atlanta, Georgia**  
**ALSC Membership: 8 years**

*ALSC: Where did you attend library school?*

**TE:** Clark Atlanta University, Georgia

*ALSC: What attracted you to library service to children?*

**TE:** I taught first and second grade and found that the children had problems reading. I wanted to help children to become lifelong readers and decided to go back to school to become a children's librarian.

*ALSC: Why did you join ALSC?*

**TE:** I joined ALSC to keep up with the latest trends and resources in children's literature, to network with other children's librarians, and to become an advocate for children to become lifelong readers and library users.

*ALSC: On which ALSC committees have you served over the years?*

**TE:** I have served on the Notable Children's Videos Committee, Notable Children's Books Committee, ALSC Membership Committee, and currently I am the chair of the Membership Committee.

*ALSC: Which committee service did you enjoy the most?*

**TE:** I enjoyed the ALSC Notable Children's Books because I enjoyed the experience of working with other Children's Librarians picking the most notable books of the year for children.

**ALSC:** *How many conferences (including Midwinter Meeting) have you attended?*

**TE:** Eighteen midwinter and annual conferences.

**ALSC:** *Is there a particular Newbery/Caldecott Banquet that stands out in your memory? If so, which one and why?*

**TE:** There is not a particular Newbery/Caldecott that stands out in my memory, but I do keep all programs and tapes of the authors' speeches. They become part of the children's department collection at the library at which I work.

**ALSC:** *When you think back to ALSC when you first joined, what is the biggest change you see in ALSC in 2003? Or, what is the biggest change in library service to children since back then?*

**TE:** I see ALSC reaching out more to new children's librarians and encouraging new professionals to join the organization. I see an interest in generating new ideas through our current ALSC President, Board of Directors, and Executive Director.

**ALSC:** *What service or resource would you like to see ALSC offer which we currently do not?*

**TE:** I would like to see ALSC start a mentoring program that mentors children's librarians and helps them become involved in the organization, in which ALSC members spend time with new members on committees and at workshops and other ALSC activities.

**ALSC:** *What are you currently working on at your library?*

**TE:** Currently, I am working on a special needs grant for children with disabilities. Through the grant, parents of children who come into the library will be able to access information and resources for their child from a laptop computer listing resources through an organization called Parent to Parent. We will offer workshops for parents of children with special needs and storytimes.

**ALSC:** *Who/what is your favorite children's author/book and why?*

**TE:** My favorite children's author is Ashley Bryan. He has written and illustrated numerous books for children and is a wonderful storyteller as well. Ashley Bryan has a wonderful dedication to children and storytelling and to the art of encouraging children to read. One of my favorite books that he has written is *Beautiful Blackbird* (Atheneum, 2003).

**ALSC:** *What three words best describe you?*

**TE:** Energetic, outgoing, and dedicated.

**ALSC:** *What are your hobbies?*

**TE:** Horseback riding, traveling, movies, and reading.

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## Welcome

The following new members joined ALSC in December 2002 and January 2003. Please welcome those from your area.

Danielle M. Butler, AL  
Mary Hamilton-White, AR  
Trudy Luberecki, AR

Amber Dawn Mathewson, AZ  
Lisa Lyn Tharp, AZ  
Sara Adler, CA  
Yael Bozzay, CA  
Scott M. Bunn, CA  
Letha Kay Goger, CA  
Mary Ei-Yun Ho, CA  
Marsha Korobkin, CA  
Theresa Luz Tringali, CA  
Georgia A. Birmingham, CO  
Marilyn R. Derr, CT  
Mario M. Gonzalez, CT  
Karen Elizabeth O'Grady, CT  
Faith Williams, DC  
Gloria Jean Cabral, FL  
Elisa Jean Carlson, FL  
Sybil M. Farwell, FL  
Pamela S. Grigg, FL  
Charmette S. Kendrick, GA  
Rosanne Tricoles, GA  
Sally J. Van Dorin, IA  
Daniel W. Braun, IL  
Susan Carrigan, IL  
Elizabeth Cothen, IL  
Lida Dever, IL  
Helen E. Gbala, IL  
Jim Kaisen, IL  
Carole Petro, IL  
Kira Birgitte Homo, IN  
Lisa Ann Pinard, IN  
Angela Grace Vietti-O'Kane, KS  
Elaine Allen, KY  
Donna Gillahan, KY  
Jack Wasano, KY  
Donna Gainey, LA  
Laura Beals D. Elia, MA  
Cynthia D. Fustukjian, MA  
Stacy Ann Howard, MA  
Bobbie Spiegelman, MA  
Tracy Ann Pruyne, ME  
Gwendolyn E. Davidge, MI  
Luren E. Dickinson, MI  
Constance Ilmer, MI  
Julie Lynette Jimkoski, MI  
Paula Smeltekep, MI  
Grace A. Stoll, MI  
Trinidad Turse, MI  
Kathleen T. Ahern, MN  
Judith Anne Sheriff, MN  
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