

# ALSCConnect

December 2005, Vol. 3, no. 4

\*\*\*Attn: This is an ARCHIVE page. Web sites and e-mail addresses referenced on this page may no longer be in service.\*\*\*

---

## Officially Speaking

### Armed and Ready

As I write this column in late September for your December reading pleasure, I'm tempted to borrow and revise Garrison Keillor's now-famous opening line to describe my summer and early fall: "It's been a quiet few months in library land, my hometown." That would only be true if you base ALSC activity on the number of friendly and most welcome constructive suggestions that have recently passed through my e-mail, snail mail, or voice mail. Yet I know everyone has been hard at work, too busy to even think of much more than wrapping up highly successful summer reading programs (a wonderfully distant memory by December!); beginning the new school year by reviving those sometimes tenuous but ever-so-rewarding school and public library partnerships and getting the MLIS students engaged in youth librarianship right from the start; and reading and listening to all the wonderful new books that have been published this year.

ALSC members, especially those who serve on an award or evaluation committee, are especially engaged at this point, thoughtfully narrowing their choices and getting ready for intense discussions about their favorites. ALSC's @ your library Advocacy Campaign Task Force is planning a Midwinter Meeting soft launch (i.e., the introduction) of ALSC's new campaign that will invite greater participation in school and public libraries by school-age children and their families. Committees and task forces are planning stimulating programs for Annual Conference. Our hard-working office staff, led by the highly able and indefatigable Interim Executive Director Aimee Strittmatter, is revising documents, planning for Web site revisions, handling conference arrangements, facilitating committee appointments, and answering your most pressing questions. We have all found a way to contribute to ALSC and youth librarianship in a way that is meaningful to us.

Of course everyone has been captivated and saddened by the plight of Gulf Coast residents who have had such a hard time in the hurricane season this year.

As I compose this column, the twenty-third annual Banned (and Challenged, in some jurisdictions) Books Week, the last full week in September, is in full swing. My theory is that we are beginning to see the result of descending the slippery slope we have so long feared: would-be censors in cities and counties that have enacted filtering provisions are emboldened to continue their quest to restrict the choices of young readers. Well-intentioned citizens, fearful of the imagined impact of words and images on young school and public library users, have been hard at work in many communities. The Office for Intellectual Freedom informs us that 60 percent of book challenges came from parents last year. Their requests to remove books from library shelves happen all year, not just in late September. Librarians might believe that the days of trying to ban *In the Night Kitchen* (1970) are behind us, but a recent ALA report tells us that Sendak's picture book is on the list of the most frequently challenged books in 2004 (for nudity and offensive language).

We all struggle to ensure that school and public libraries continue in their important role of providing access to a wide variety of books, information, and ideas. ALA Past-President Carol Brey-Casiano's words ring so true: "Not every book is right for every person, but providing a wide range of reading choices is vital for learning, exploration, and imagination. The abilities to read, speak, think, and express ourselves freely are core American values." Take some time to peruse the plentiful resources at ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom Web site ([www.ala.org/oif](http://www.ala.org/oif)) so you understand current issues and will be ready at a moment's notice to explain how the First Amendment, along with state or local laws, impact your library. "Coping with Challenges/Kids and Libraries: What You Should Know" is an especially helpful resource for ALSC members ([www.ala.org/oif/challengesupport/dealing/copingkids](http://www.ala.org/oif/challengesupport/dealing/copingkids)).

Refresh yourself on how to handle challenges by re-reading your library's procedures. I find it hard to imagine a time when there will be no move to censor, but I *can* imagine a time when we may clearly and confidently speak about

what libraries believe in: decisions about what materials are suitable for particular children should be made by the people who know them best—their parents or guardians.— *Ellen Fader, ALSC President*

## Shaping Our Future

Last May I spent an invigorating day in the ALA offices with our current and incoming ALSC board members and the ALSC staff working on the new strategic plan for ALSC. Understand that I generally am someone who feels that my eyes are going to roll back into my head and my ears are going to bleed any time I hear such words as “long-term plan,” “strategic plan,” or “vision statement.” Perhaps this is simply because I have had one too many experiences with committee meetings in which we get bogged down endlessly arguing the difference between a mission and a goal.

But this planning session was different. For one thing, ALSC had invested in professional help from Paul Meyer of Tecker Consultants. Paul managed to take us through the entire planning process in less than ten hours, a process that he said took most groups at least two days to complete. It seems that your ALSC board representatives are not only real workhorses, willing to roll up their sleeves and pitch in, but they also come to the table with ideas and enthusiasm. They are all leaders and knew exactly what direction they wanted to point us in.

Within a relatively short time, Paul had helped us define our association's core purpose, which was “creating a better future for children through libraries.” He challenged us to envision the future of our profession and of our association, using the concept of our “big hairy audacious goal,” or BHAG (it seems professional planners love their acronyms, too). He got us to state in just a few words what we wanted as the focal point of all of our efforts. ALSC's BHAG: to lead the way in forging excellent library services for all children.

After discussing our association's core ideology and our vision for the future, we were then able to come up with three major goal areas: advocacy, education, and collaboration. We spoke of the importance of equity of access, coalition building, legislative initiatives, library education, professional development, and diversifying the profession, for example, and it was quite amazing and exhilarating for us to see that all of our major objectives fit into one of these three categories. We drafted strategies for each of our objectives, and we are eager to put our new plan into action.

And what about the children? It is easy to lose sight of those we serve in the midst of the bureaucratic morass that can easily bog us down. I'm happy to report that a central part of ALSC's new strategic plan includes a description of our desired future for the children we serve. It is:

- All children, including those with different cultural backgrounds, have equal access to library services
- All children have a strong foundation for learning to read
- All children recognize libraries as an integral part of their lives
- Every child will feel welcomed at the library and will have the necessary skills to use library services
- Parents and caregivers are partners with library staff in developing children's literacy and school success

I hope you will join me in helping to make this desired future a reality. And if you are wondering how we will manage to do it all, well . . . we have a plan.— *Kathleen T. Horning, ALSC Vice President/President-Elect*

## ALSC Supporters

Thank you to our latest Friends of ALSC and Pura Belpré Award Endowment Fund contributors. To learn how you can contribute, visit [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc), click on the “Support ALSC” link at the top right of the page.

Many Friends and Belpré contributions have been made in honor or memory of a special individual. In 2005, ALSC board members and members of the 2005 Notable Children's Books Committee expressed their appreciation for former ALSC Executive Director Malore I. Brown and Committee Chair Maureen White, respectively, through their donations. Making a gift in another's name or memory is a unique way to thank someone for outstanding service to ALSC.

## Friends

### *President's Circle*

Cynthia K. Richey

### *Friends' Circle*

Ellen G. Fader  
Jean Gaffney  
Kathleen T. Horning  
Starr Latronica  
Jane Marino  
Kathryn McClelland  
Debra McLeod  
Cynthia K. Richey  
Pat Scales  
Kathy Toon

## Belpré Endowment

Floyd C. Dickman  
Carol A. Edwards  
Martin Gomez  
Cynthia K. Richey  
Scholastic, Inc.  
Gretchen Wronka

---

## Bright Ideas

### Come on In

The 2000 census found that 16.4 percent of the total pre-K–12 enrollment in Skokie (Ill.) schools was children with special needs. Yet seldom had we in the youth services (YS) department seen children with recognizable disabilities come to our programs or check out library materials.

An ongoing goal of our YS staff is to make the library a meaningful and popular place for all children. To make that a reality, we needed a special approach for welcoming children with special needs. A Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant, that we titled *Come On In: The Library Is a Special Place for Children with Disabilities*, allowed us to work toward that end. The grant objectives included partnership, collection development, assistive technology, contractual, and library program components.

Awarded the grant in October 2004, we began work in November 2004 with our grant partners, the teachers and administrators of Niles Township District of Special Education (NTDSE). As grant leader, I immediately set up monthly meetings of our Special Needs Advisory Council (SNAC), which is comprised of YS and NTDSE staff and parents of special needs children.

To help library staff become more knowledgeable of and relate better to students with special needs, the library held training sessions led by NTDSE teachers in January 2005. Sessions focused on the range of disabilities, behavior and autism, and early childhood development. This information helped us in ordering appropriate books and materials and in planning suitable programming for special needs children.

Three subcommittees researched the purchase of assistive technology, hardware and software for a special needs computer, and other resources for children, parents, and teachers. We contracted with a local mother of a special needs child to make twenty storyboard books using Boardmaker symbols. These are adapted from popular picture books that children who cannot traditionally read can enjoy through the picture symbols that tell the story at the bottom of each page.

Last spring, a six-week afternoon program was held for four autistic children from a local school. Three library staff members observed an NTDSE social worker interact with the students for the first weeks, and then the library staff members provided a twenty-minute storytime that included picture book stories, songs, and simple games. The four boys became more attentive and comfortable in the library program room and were eager to return each week. We plan to continue this program each school year.

In March, Terry Trueman, young adult author, spoke to students in grades five through eight about his novels, which reveal what life is like for young people with disabilities and their families. In April, Jim Gill performed for special education preschoolers. His interactive style draws children into active participation. Gill also spoke with parents and educators about the best ways to encourage these children to learn, emphasizing stories told through song and rhythm. In June, the Story-N-Sign division of the International Center on Deafness and the Arts performed fairy tales and poems in sign, increasing public awareness of the way deaf people communicate and encouraging non-deaf children and adults to learn sign language.

NTDSE staff trained library staff on the special needs computer and software purchased with grant money. As a culmination of the grant year, we hosted Come On In! Community Special Education Night in September. This open house for parents and teachers of children with special needs featured the YS department's new collection of books and parent and teacher resources. The YS and NTDSE staffs presented an opening session titled "What's New in Special Education in Your Community." Workshops were offered to special education teachers and administrators on such subjects as behavior, school relations, legal rights, community providers, and integration into the regular classroom. Local legislators and Illinois State Library representatives also were invited.

To publicize our grant activities, articles were published to share what we were doing in the *Skokie School Connection* newsletter for teachers and in the library-wide *UPDATE*. We are developing a section of our YS Web page, titled "Come On In," using, with permission, the Boardmaker symbol for the phrase. The section will highlight materials, technology, and other resources for children with special needs, their parents, and teachers. The Come On In logo will be used on our plasma screen and promotional materials.

We have already seen evidence from the children and their teachers that we are progressing toward our goal of making the library a welcoming place for children with special needs. *All children need and deserve to be well accommodated and warmly welcomed in public libraries.— Jan Watkins, Head of Youth Services, Skokie Public Library*

## Caped Crusaders

The Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL) said good-bye to librarian stereotypes in 2004. Children's librarians there created a brand new children's Web site featuring superheroes based on actual TCCL librarians. Animated characters, including Beatrice the Brilliant and Ezra the Explorer, guide visitors around the site and highlight what the library has to offer its young patrons. Tyrone Wilkerson, a local actor and storyteller, did the voice-over for each super librarian. In-house library staff provided the site's design and artwork. Several librarians even created capes to wear while out promoting the library and its services. The site is at <http://kids.tulsalibrary.org>.

## Harry Mania

*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* made a spectacular debut at the Boca Raton Public Library on the morning of July 16, 2005. The day before, staff transformed the youth services (YS) and circulation areas of the library from the summer reading Hawaiian theme into Hogwarts Academy. Circulation became Flourish and Blots, staff areas became the Forbidden Forest, the YS entrance became Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ , and many other areas throughout the YS section were altered to complete the scene.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., YS and circulation staff were in costume and children flowed into Hogwarts Academy to begin the party with a Sorting Hat ceremony. Each child was examined by the Sorting Hat and given a pin with his or

her dormitory name and crest. After the ceremony, children, some dressed as Hermione, some as Harry Potter, went to Ollivander's Wand Shop to make their own wands. Next door, children could enter Madame Malkin's Robes for All Occasions to have the Harry Potter scar painted on their foreheads by teen volunteers. At 11:30, a Deathday party ensued with a large cake, decorated with gummy worms, for Sir Nicholas's 500th Deathday. To help the delicious cake go down, children had a choice between Pumpkin Juice or Butterbeer.

Finally, all children had a merry time playing Quidditch on the library lawn. Due to flight restrictions in the area, children were not allowed to fly during the Quidditch match and instead ran an obstacle course while balancing their snitch on a spoon. Boca Tire, a local company, donated tires for the obstacle course that challenged all players.

The party was a success with more than 120 attendees and all fifty books were checked out by 1:00 p.m. Boca Raton Public Library certainly knows how to celebrate with fabulous displays, crafts, and entertainment for everyone! Many of the staff throughout the library participated to make this a wonderful event for everyone who attended.—  
*Elise Pincu, Boca Raton (Fla.) Public Library*

## Sensory Storytime

The Mt. Lebanon Public Library in Pittsburgh has been running popular Sensory Storytimes for children eighteen months to three years of age for the last two years. We incorporate many principles from sensory integration in our program. According to the Ayres Clinic and Sensory Integration International (<https://mmm1106.verio-web.com/sensor/faq.html>), "sensory experiences include touch, movement, body awareness, sight, sound, and the pull of gravity. The process of the brain organizing and interpreting this information is called sensory integration. Sensory integration provides a crucial foundation for later, more complex learning and behavior." As librarians, our goal is to promote a connection between the brain and body that will prepare children to grow into great readers. Sensory Storytime borrows many activities from sensory integration, such as treasure hunts in huge bins of beans or rice, "painting" with shaving cream, and bubble clapping parades. Our book selections are made more interesting by incorporating movement and auditory activities, and programs include lots of music that is highly participatory. If you are interested in creating your own sensory storytime, seek ideas and knowledge of sensory integration from two wonderful books by Carol Stock Kranowitz: *The Out-of-Sync Child* (Perigee/Penguin, 1998) and *The Out-of-Sync Child Has Fun* (Perigee/Penguin, 2003). The latter is loaded with activity suggestions that are easily translated for the public library setting. —*Liza Purdy, Mt. Lebanon (Penn.) Public Library*

## 2006 Arbuthnot

Tickets for the 2006 Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, featuring Russell Freedman, author of nonfiction for children and young adults, will be available beginning March 1, 2006. Information on tickets will be available at that time at [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) under "Breaking News."

The lecture will be held on Friday, April 28, 2006, in the historic Kimball Theatre located in Merchant's Square in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, and will be hosted by the Williamsburg Regional Library with support from The Library of Virginia and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

## Join the List

To stay informed about ALSC activities and issues, subscribe to the ALSC electronic discussion list. Send the following message to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org): subscribe ALSC-L [firstname] [lastname]. Leave the subject area blank.

Change of address? Be sure to subscribe under your new e-mail address and unsubscribe from your old address. To unsubscribe, send the following message to [listproc@ala.org](mailto:listproc@ala.org): unsubscribe ALSC-L. Leave the subject area blank.

Other ALSC special interest discussion lists focus on public library–school partnerships, children's collection management, preschool services, storytelling, technology issues, and managing children's services. To learn more about all of ALSC's electronic discussion lists, visit [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) and click on the discussion lists graphic near the bottom of the home page.

## Join the Conversation

Children's book authors April Pulley Sayre and Jeffrey P. Sayre have established Children's Media Professionals' (CMP) Forum, an online space targeted for professional, friendly exchange among librarians, authors, illustrators, booksellers, educators, and publishers. On the forum users can meet and interact with featured authors, discuss issues of the day, recommend and read about books and DVDs, and exchange techniques and tips with colleagues who care about high-quality content for children. To learn more, visit [www.aprilsayre.com](http://www.aprilsayre.com) and select Children's Media Professionals' Forum.

## CBC Poll

Is there a children's book you absolutely love that has gone out of print? From November to February the Children's Book Council, the non-profit association of children's publishers, will be hosting a poll on its Web site asking all librarians, teachers, parents, and even kids to name a book they would love to be reissued.

Visit [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org) to vote for your favorite out-of-print book. The poll is a project of the ALA-CBC Joint Committee and the top ten books named will be announced in the spring.

## Food for Thought

The Food Museum is on the road with two educational programs for libraries and schools. Suitable for children of all ages, the interactive programs explore what we eat, where it comes from, how we grow, prepare, and eat it, and how foods have transformed the way we live. Using museum artifacts, toys, and props, educator Tom Hughes explores how history has been influenced through food and how geography has determined what people eat. For more information about the museum and its programs, "Chocolate, Chiles, Corn, and More: Foods of the Americas" and "Lunchtime around the World," visit [www.foodmuseum.com](http://www.foodmuseum.com) or call (505) 898-0909. The museum is a tax-exempt educational organization.

---

## ALSC Voices

### ALSC Profile

**Veronica L. C. Stevenson-Moudamane**  
**Manager of Junior Services**  
**The Danbury (Conn.) Library**  
**ALSC Membership: eight years**

#### Where did you attend library school?

The School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh.

#### What attracted you to library service to children?

My entrée into public librarianship and library services to children was through a circulatory route that began with academic librarianship. My first "real" job position was reference and bibliographic instruction librarian at a four-year academic institution in New York State. While I truly enjoyed the many opportunities that academic librarianship afforded me, I longed for more—more activity, more excitement, more diversity, and more unexpectedness.

The excellent mentors who were in my life at the time advised me to try working part time at a public library so I could "test the waters" and determine if public librarianship was a better match for my personality. Like the good student that I was, I took that advice and worked for two years as a part-time librarian in almost every department of the Greenwich (Conn.) Library and the Greenburgh (N.Y.) Library. My need for *more* definitely had been met. From adult information services, to the audio and video and fine arts departments, to children's services—I just loved working in the public sector and quickly realized that my true passion was children's services. I could plan and host programs, lead book discussions (something I had wanted to do as an academic librarian), and I had a budget and could purchase exciting materials. Best of all, I really enjoyed my job and being a children's librarian.

**Why did you join ALSC?**

As a transplant from academia, I was definitely "association" conditioned. I knew the benefits of belonging to professional organizations. Because I had already been an ALA and RUSA member, I was aware that ALSC specialized in library service to children. Joining ALSC would be the first and most important step in completing my specialization metamorphosis.

Through my membership, I have met hundreds of wonderful professionals from across the nation who believe that librarians should not be "typecast" and who understood that children's services, or librarianship for that matter, may not always be an individual's first profession. My fellow ALSC colleagues helped me, nurtured me, and worked with me through the entire "second career" process. For their tutelage and expertise, I am grateful and can only wish to emulate their professionalism for anyone needing a guiding hand.

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

The Managing Children's Services, Membership, and Notable Children's Recordings Committees.

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

Well, all of them, of course!

**Have you attended the Newbery/Caldecott Banquet? Is there one that stands out in your memory?**

Yes, I've attended a few Newbery/Caldecott Banquets, and it's awfully difficult to pick just one. The banquets are such an exceptional opportunity for those of us in youth services to celebrate those who work tirelessly at putting quality children's literature and illustrations into the hands of our children. Each banquet is a gift unto itself and I've been privileged to witness, first hand, the soulful and passionate speeches of the medal recipients as they share the inspiration behind their award-winning titles.

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

I find ALSC to be very responsive in providing quality service and resources to members that address most, if not all, of their professional needs. However, if you're willing to venture out, I've been looking for a professional cook.

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

We've got quite a few things going on here in Danbury. We are having the entire library re-carpeted, and I just love the style and colors selected for my department. We're also installing a fifteen-station computer lab in the junior services department. However, the most radical change for us is the disbanding of our junior reference collection.

**Who/What is your favorite children's author/book and why?**

Here again is another area in which I have difficulties selecting just one. In truth, I don't really have just one favorite author or book; I do have favorite subjects, such as mysteries, fantasy, family life, and coming-of-age stories. To this end, I have thoroughly enjoyed titles written by such authors as Philip Pullman, Christopher Paul Curtis, Lurlene McDaniel, Barbara Brooks Wallace, Sharon Creech, and Kate DiCamillo.

**What three words best describe you?**

Adventurous, perfectionist, resilient.

**What are your hobbies?**

Traveling and interior decorating are probably my two top hobbies. As far as traveling is concerned, my personal goals are to travel to all seven of the world's continents and to visit all fifty of the United States by the time I turn fifty. Right now, I've been to six of the world's continents, twenty-seven countries, and thirty-three states. As for interior decorating, I am just addicted to how furniture, paints, fabrics, and accents come together to create magnificent spaces; and with a recent property acquisition, I have another blank canvas to test out everything I have learned from watching HGTV.

---



# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Member Notes

At the 2005 Annual Conference, ALSC Past-President Effie Lee Morris received the Trailblazer Award, the highest honor given by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA). Given once every five years, the award recognizes an individual whose pioneering contributions and accomplishments have been outstanding and unique. Morris was honored for her lifelong career as an activist librarian, her advocacy of books and children's services, and her service as a founding member of BCALA.

Betsy Diamant-Cohen, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, was also honored at Annual Conference with a plaque and \$500 cash award for her first prize 2004 feature article, "Mother Goose on the Loose: Applying Brain Research to Early Childhood Programs in the Public Library," which appeared in PLA's journal *Public Libraries*. Her book, *Mother Goose on the Loose*, a practical guide to planning and running programs for babies birth to age three, will be published by Neal-Schuman this month. Her Web site [www.mgol.net](http://www.mgol.net) highlights information about the program.

Who knew that a corner conversation with Bruce Coville and Daniel Bostick at the 2003 ALA Annual Conference in Toronto would lead into a narrating gig with Full Cast Audio publishers for ALSC member Ellen Myrick, editor of *Children's & Teen Librarian*, published by Ingram Library Services? During that conversation and a subsequent dinner at a nearby restaurant, the following came out: (1) Myrick loved audiobooks; (2) Full Cast Audio was preparing a production that had seventy-three distinct speaking parts; and (3) Myrick would be happy to play the tiniest part in *The Red-Hot Rattoons*. Eighteen months later artistic director Bostick was searching for a narrator for the Oklahoma-based story *Stop the Train!* by Geraldine McCaughrean and remembered Myrick was a native Okie. After submitting a demo from the book, Myrick found herself signed up for two weeks in Syracuse, New York, to narrate the story of the little town that could. Flanked by wonderful actors impeccably cast, it was the experience of a lifetime for Myrick who enjoyed a stage-side seat to the rambunctious frontier tale filled with humor, warmth, and suspense. According to Myrick, "Nothing shows how well a story is written like reading it aloud repeatedly, and McCaughrean's novel stood the test beautifully as the colorful characters came to life under Bostick's direction." Coville himself voiced the town banker and spending time in the studio with him ranks as one of Myrick's favorite activities. She is glad that this train has left the station without mishap and can't wait for the next trip!

## Newbery Tradition

I wanted to tell you that I have read each of the Newbery Medal books named since 1922. Each year when a new book is chosen, it is about the time of my birthday. To celebrate I buy the new Newbery Award Book and, when I have finished, I donate it to my public library.

I learned of the Newbery Medal books when I was attending Western Michigan University. I have two children (ages thirteen and twelve) and thought that we could share our love for reading together. Since then, I have read books and handed them to my children to read. My children will then tell me they read a really good book and will leave it for me to read. Once we have read the same book, we will sit down and discuss our favorite parts or sections we did not understand. I have found this to be a very effective tool in maintaining an open, communicative relationship with my children.

I am now trying to read each of the Newbery Honor books; yes, all 273 if I correctly added. I have forty-eight completed and look forward to each and every one of the others. I just wanted to say thank you for keeping up this tradition. I hope to pass this on to my children to pass on to their children.— *Melissa L. Bowman*

## High Honors

ALSC Past-President Cynthia K. Richey, director of Mt. Lebanon Public Library, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) in September. The award is the association's highest honor, given to an individual in recognition of exceptional service to libraries of the Commonwealth.

The association cited Richey as "one of our state's most creative, articulate, and dedicated library leaders [who has] consistently demonstrated visionary leadership and tireless energy, hallmarks of excellent library service." As a



children's services advocate, Richey has written articles and publications and frequently serves as a speaker at state and national conferences. She is regarded as a knowledgeable and articulate spokeswoman on responsible Internet use and policy development. Richey served PaLA with distinction as its president in 1994. She has been a librarian for thirty-three years.

## USC Endowment

The School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina is embarking on a campaign to endow the Augusta Baker Chair in Childhood Literacy. This \$3 million effort will create a position for a nationally-recognized scholar devoted to childhood literacy research. At the same time, the chair will honor a master librarian and storyteller who left his or her mark on the world of children's literature. If you would like to get involved or make a contribution, contact Kim Bowman at (803) 777-6898 or [kbowman@sc.edu](mailto:kbowman@sc.edu).

---

## Getting Together

### Storytime Joy

ALSC will hold a workshop, "The Fun and Facts of Early Literacy: Communicating with Parents and Caregivers through Storytime," on Friday, January 20, in San Antonio, designed to help attendees: keep the joy of storytime as they share early literacy information with parents and caregivers, develop storytimes (newborn to age five) incorporating research and activities promoting early literacy development based on the Every Child Ready to Read @ your library® project, and enhance storytimes and learn to articulate to staff, administrators, partners, and funders how storytimes support early literacy. Speakers are Saroj Ghoting, early childhood literacy consultant, and Pamela Martin-Diaz, branch manager, Allen County (Ind.) Public Library, Shawnee Branch.

Registration is required. Visit [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc), "Events & Conferences."

### Ten Years of Día

Pat Mora, noted children's author, will launch the tenth anniversary celebration of El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) during the ALA Midwinter Meeting on January 21, 2006, 6–7 p.m., at the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL). Mora will join SAPL staff to present their plans for the Día celebration on April 30. Ideas for promoting "bookjoy" and bilingual literacy in your library will be part of the presentation. For more information, see the ALSC/Día Web site at [www.ala.org/ala/alsc/projectspartners/projectspartnerships.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/projectspartners/projectspartnerships.htm), or contact Linda Mays at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 1398 or [lmays@ala.org](mailto:lmays@ala.org).

© American Library Association/Association for Library Service to Children

<http://www.ala.org/alsc>