

# ALSCConnect

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## Officially Speaking

### Past Voices, Future Visions

I've been a member of ALSC for twenty-five years and have been attending Midwinter and Annual conferences regularly since 1982. From the beginning, I have always enjoyed talking to my predecessors in ALSC so I could hear their stories about the people and events I was too young to have known myself. I once had the audacity, as a young librarian, to cut out on some afternoon conference sessions so I could take the train from Chicago to Evanston, Illinois, to meet Mildred L. Batchelder in person. At that point, she was too frail to attend ALA conferences, but she welcomed me into her home where she served me tea and cookies, and shared wonderful stories about her years as the executive director of ALSC, which was then called the Children's Services Division.

It was with great pleasure, then, that I learned last year from ALSC's Oral History Committee that the memories of twenty ALSC leaders had been recorded between 1995 and 1999. The list included such luminaries as Mimi Kayden, Virginia Mathews, Effie Lee Morris, Spencer Shaw, and Peggy Sullivan. An ALSC member who had been specially trained in oral history had interviewed each individual. The tapes had been made but nothing had been done with them, and it was the committee's concern that the tapes would languish in obscurity or disintegrate into dust. The committee got some estimates, and asked for funds to have the tapes professionally transcribed. The ALSC Budget Committee was able to earmark the requested funds so they were in the budget that the ALSC Board approved at Annual Conference. And thanks to the efforts of ALSC Deputy Director Aimee Strittmatter, who always follows through so quickly on requests, all the tapes have now been professionally transcribed.

I read three of the transcripts on the plane during my return trip from ALSC's National Institute in Pittsburgh. Although each of the three leaders reminisced about her career in the latter half of the twentieth century, they all spoke about issues that are central to our work today. Mary Margaret Kimmel spoke about library education and how mentoring can help get young librarians involved in ALSC. Carolyn Field spoke about forging partnerships, both within the local community and with other national and international organizations that serve children. Marilyn Miller talked about the need for ALSC leaders to understand ALA policy, politics, and structure in order to be more effective as youth services advocates. It's as if these three had a hand in shaping our current strategic plan.

And, indeed, they did. As ALSC moves ahead into the future, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Maggie Kimmel speaks about us as the keepers of tradition, "not in an anachronistic sense but in a sense of long-term memory of keepers of hopes and aspirations, of things that don't quantify or measure easily." In the months to come, I look forward to reading the rest of the oral history transcripts, and will encourage the Oral History Committee to work with the ALSC office to find ways to make these important documents available to all ALSC members so we can all be inspired by the words of these visionary leaders.— *Kathleen T. Horning, ALSC President*

### Campaign Hums Along

You know the feeling. It happens in the first few seconds of storytime, when a circle of expectant faces looks up at you, waiting. It happens when you step in front of a class and with closed books and inquisitive expressions the students wait to see what's brought you to their school. It happens at a PTA meeting, library board meeting, or village meeting when parents, trustees, or elected officials wait for your report.

It feels a little like that now. As the newly elected Vice President/President-Elect, I sometimes feel those expectant faces looking at me, waiting to hear what I'm going to say. I have turned for inspiration to my predecessors, peers, and colleagues. I have reminded myself of the many accomplishments ALSC has achieved in the past few years: a new strategic plan and a wonderful collaboration with PLA in "Every Child Ready to Read," to name two of them. I

have reflected on my amazing experiences as a member of ALSC: committee memberships, winning the Bechtel fellowship, and serving on the ALSC board.

But I have to confess that what I come back to is the wonderful morning I spent in New Orleans this past June during Annual Conference. As a shameless and unabashed fan of singer and storyteller Bill Harley, I, along with a group of New Orleans schoolchildren, watched him introduce the theme song he wrote for the ALSC initiative Kids! @ your library®. For those of you who might not know about Bill Harley, visit [www.ala.org/kids](http://www.ala.org/kids) and click on the “Campaign Theme Song” link. After you have listened to all four versions of his brilliant original song that so wonderfully promotes and celebrates our new initiative, explore the rest of the resources on the campaign Web page.

What is Kids! @ your library®? It's an initiative that builds on the Campaign for America's Libraries, a “multi-year public awareness and advocacy campaign sponsored by ALA . . . to help local libraries reach out to kids, their parents and caregivers.” (That's straight from the fact sheet.)

You will also find a tip sheet on the Web site. It provides ideas for ways to plan for and implement the Kids! campaign. It will help you begin a new series of programs or incorporate the theme into a program that is already at your library. In addition to the fact sheet and tip sheet, there is the song itself, ready to download and use anywhere you like, including a PSA version recently recorded by Harley. There are promotional products you can order, including a poster and bookmark illustrated by Michael White, as well as logo pencils and stickers.

I hope many of you had a chance to attend our wonderful ALSC National Institute in Pittsburgh in September that included a Kids! workshop, or maybe some of you were in Boston in November for the public kickoff featuring Bill Harley. If not, don't despair. Just visit the Kids! Web site to get started. The Kids! initiative is another way that ALSC makes it easier to meet those expectant faces we look at every day and deliver a message that is just right.— *Jane Marino, ALSC Vice President/President-Elect*

## ALSC Supporters

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

As tax season approaches and you consider year-end contribution opportunities, remember that all donations to the Friends of ALSC and Belpré Endowment Fund are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Consider making your gift in another's name or memory. This is a unique way to remember someone special during the holiday season.

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## Bright Ideas

### Pure Magic

A tea party for four hundred children and adults! Not as stressful as it might seem with volunteers, community involvement, and careful planning.

Provo (Utah) City Library puts on an increasingly popular, almost legendary, annual event, the Fairy Tea Party. It is promoted through the in-house Children's Events Calendar, Web site calendar, and press releases. Actually, promotion is no longer necessary. The two sessions of the 2006 Fairy Tea Party sold out in a matter of hours. Word of mouth is the most powerful promotion tool. "We look forward to the Tea every year," said Cassia Flores, library board member. "I actually fly my grandchildren here for the event."

The Tea is held in the Provo Library's historic ballroom, saving hundreds of dollars on rental costs. The food is catered by the Provo High School foods class and a local bakery provides baked goods at cost. These savings allow the library to sell tickets for only five dollars each. The menu includes a blueberry muffin, raspberry tart cookie, chocolate dipped shortbread, a fresh strawberry, and an individually wrapped piece of cheese, all served on a clear plastic plate covered with paper lace. The "tea" is ice water with a slice of lemon. We've also used a lavender lemonade in the past. The four hundred glass tea cups were purchased by the Friends group from a local secondhand store. Tea cup handles are tied with sequined ribbons. These cups are used each year. Presentation of the simple fare is very important; tables are set with white linen tablecloths and pastel linen napkins. Each setting includes a fairy favor and a copy of the "Pixy Papers," which includes local fairy news, ads, and bibliographies of fairy books.

Tea attendees, ages three and up, as well as all volunteers, are asked to come dressed as fairies. Even those working in the kitchen don fairy dress and wings. This ensures a pleasant feast for the eyes, a consistent atmosphere, and the sense of visiting a magical fairyland. Fairy wings, wands, and crowns are also sold at the Fairy Boutique along with fairy books, jewelry, candy, and other trinkets. "Flutter On In" is the welcoming sign outside the Fairy Boutique.

The forty-minute program length accommodates the youngest attention spans. A general fairy welcome is followed by the grand entrance of the Fairy King, who just happens to be Gene Nelson, Provo City Library director. The Fairy King is welcomed with curtsies, bent knees, and a musical fanfare. Unfurling the official golden scroll, he proclaims "this day as the Day of the Fairies at Provo City Library and in all the land!" Seated on the throne, he presides over the remainder of the program. A local ballet school performs a short ballet excerpt. A brief reminder of "fairy manners" is followed by the serving of the tea. Then comes the anticipated high point of the event: The Fairy Promenade. All fairies are called forth to walk down the runway and model their fairy finery—the great payoff for dressing up. Local harpists, also dressed as fairies, provide background music for the fashion show. This part of the program provides numerous photo opportunities not only for fairy moms, but the press as well. Check out Fairy Tea photos at [www.provocitylibrary.com/kids/photoalbums/fairytea06/index.html](http://www.provocitylibrary.com/kids/photoalbums/fairytea06/index.html).

The most memorable part of the entertainment, scenery, and ambiance is created by the participants themselves. The library simply provides food, the runway, twinkling white fairy lights—and, of course—the fabulous Fairy King. If you are looking to add a little sparkle and magic to your library, you need only to begin with a little imagination. Just be sure to end with a library director Fairy King, dressed in tights and gossamer wings. A must see!— *Carla Morris, Provo City (Utah) Library*

## Hero or Villain?

Nothing captures the imagination quite like a peglegged, high-flying pirate of the high seas. These larger-than-life characters of book, stage, and film have been thrilling old and young alike for generations.

In response to an exchange of e-mails on the subject of pirates on the Child\_Lit electronic discussion list, Kay Vandergrift, Professor Emerita, School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers University, created a resource Web page on the topic. While the site provides a selected list of children's book titles and a list of Web sites, such as the National Geographic Pirate Web site, Blackbeard Lives, and The Jolly Roger, Vandergrift also raises questions about the true nature of pirates and their criminal acts and educators' responsibility, if any, in helping children understand the unglorified truth about these colorful personalities. Check out the site at: [www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/ChildrenLit/Pirates.html](http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/ChildrenLit/Pirates.html).

## Dino Days

In February 2006, the Fargo (N.Dak.) Public Library's Children's Services Department hosted five sessions of its popular Dino Days program for children ages 3 to 9. More than two hundred young dino-enthusiasts and their caregivers each attended one of the five 45-minute sessions held on February 16 and 17, days on which the local public schools were closed. A similar Dino Day program, which brought in more than sixty children, was held at the library in November 2005.

During the program, children's librarians Erin Smith and Sarah Shaw read dino-rific stories including Lois G. Grambling's *Can I Have a Tyrannosaurus Rex, Dad? Can I? Please?* and Jane Yolen's *How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?* A flannelboard with pictures of dinosaurs posted on it and various dinosaur puppets served as a backdrop for the stories. The storytelling session was followed by a trip back to the prehistoric era made in the library's imaginary "time machine."

Participants pretended to exit the time machine in the prehistoric age and proceeded to go on a dinosaur hunt, surviving encounters with tar pits, earthquakes, erupting volcanoes, and an angry T. rex along the way. An accompanying dinosaur hunt story was created by Smith and was modeled after Michael Rosen's well-known, interactive story, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Smith created actions and sound effects to go along with the hunt. Children rolled up their pants legs and made it through an "icky, sticky" tar pit (a large black garbage bag taped to the floor), shook their way through an earthquake, ran past an erupting volcano, and narrowly escaped the hungry T. rex they found in the deep, dark cave. The children were very willing to use their imaginations to conjure up the land of the dinosaurs and had a lot of fun acting out the story.

After effectively evading the jaws of the T. rex, the children worked on hatching their own baby tyrannosaurs from inflated balloons. The balloons each contained a dinosaur sticker and participants had to jump over a tar pit to get to the dinosaur nesting grounds where the "egg" lay waiting to be hatched. Children sat on the balloon to pop it and retrieve their prize.

The dino hatching session was followed by a volcano craft. Each child and caregiver team created their own volcano following the simple directions pulled from the Kids Domain site ([www.kidsdomain.com/craft/volcano1.html](http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/volcano1.html)). Participants created their volcanoes using a paper plate, a small disposable bathroom cup, and aluminum foil. Each child also received a small plastic dinosaur that they could place on their volcano and watch the "lava" flow over the dinosaur. The children made the volcano erupt using pre-measured cups of baking soda, water, and vinegar.

I received many enthusiastic thank-yous from children and caregivers attending the program. One particular child asked his mother the question all librarians love to hear, "When can we come back to the library again, mom?" I can't wait to host this fun, inexpensive program again!— *Erin Smith, Fargo (N.Dak.) Public Library*

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# ALSC Voices

## ALSC Profile

**Georgene DeFilippo**

**Youth Services Coordinator**

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh**

**ALSC Membership: eight years**

**Where did you attend library school?**

University of Pittsburgh

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

After I taught nursery school for several years an opening became available at our local public library. I enjoyed working with young children, so it seemed like a natural move.

**Why did you join ALSC?**

It is a great way to network and share information with colleagues.

**What is the biggest reward of being a children's librarian?**

I think it is the excitement I see when children find a book that they really like, or when a parent or caregiver relates a story about sharing a special reading moment with their child.

**What is your favorite job responsibility?**

Pulling children's staff together to develop system-wide programs and events.

**What is the greatest challenge your children's services department faces?**

Finding, training, and retaining enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and dedicated children's staff.

**What is the most popular children's program or event at your library?**

Our Summer Reading Extravaganza is our major kickoff to summer reading. It started six years ago with 1,200 children and adults in attendance and has grown into one of the library's and community's major literacy events. This past June more than six thousand children and adults attended.

**What are you currently working on?**

Grant projects with community partners, One Book Statewide Program, planning for summer reading 2007, staff training, and development of competencies.

**Who is your favorite children's author?**

Kate DiCamillo. It was an honor to be on the Newbery Committee that selected *The Tale of Despereaux*.

**What are your hobbies?**

Reading, antique shopping with my husband, and my six grandchildren.

## What three words best describe you?

Innovative, collaborative, resourceful.

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# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Kids! Campaign Update

The ALSC Kids! @ your library® campaign had a busy autumn. A half-day campaign workshop was held during the National Institute in Pittsburgh on September 15. Speakers introduced the campaign tool kit resources and incentives and shared practical program ideas and tips.

Numerous activities for kids, which were introduced in Pittsburgh, have been added to the campaign's online tool kit at [www.ala.org/kids](http://www.ala.org/kids). Ready to download and use in your library are a Mad Libs game, hidden pictures puzzle, and other fun games for kids. All activities have a library theme.

The campaign had its official unveiling to the public and media at Boston Public Library on November 12 to help kick off Children's Book Week. Singer and storyteller Bill Harley performed for children and their families in the Rabb Lecture Hall and a good time was had by all. ALSC distributed a list of Top 10 Things for Kids to Do @ your library® to remind children, parents, and media of all the library has to offer. The list also is available in the online tool kit.

Is your library using the Kids! campaign materials and resources? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete our online evaluation form at [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc). See the link under "Breaking News." Your comments and suggestions will help us evaluate the resources we currently are providing and to plan for new resources that you will find useful. We also welcome samples of materials that your library has developed or adapted using the campaign materials. Please send samples to Laura Schulte-Cooper, ALSC, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Illinois, 60611, or e-mail [lschulte@ala.org](mailto:lschulte@ala.org).

## Member Notes

*School Library Journal's* First Steps column, written by **Renea Arnold** and **Nell Colburn**, Multnomah County (Ore.) Library, was named the best column of the year by the Association of Educational Publishers. The bimonthly column discusses early literacy topics and issues in early childhood development. Arnold and Colburn report on cutting-edge research and provide advice on the hottest issues facing libraries that offer early literacy services.

**Sylvia Vardell**, Texas Woman's University, hosts a new blog called Poetry for Children (<http://poetryforchildren.blogspot.com>). The blog is dedicated to helping adults find and share poems with kids. Vardell welcomes your comments and feedback.

**Victor L. Schill**, Harris County (Tex.) Public Library, co-chaired the award selection committee for the first American Indian Youth Literature Awards. See related story under "New Literary Award."

*The Higher Power of Lucky* by **Susan Patron**, Los Angeles Public Library, was published in November by Atheneum/Simon & Schuster (a Richard Jackson book). This middle-grade novel with illustrations by Matt Phelan is a Junior Library Guild selection. Listening Library will publish the novel in audio format in January.

## Summer Reading Milestone

Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library (CML) generated record results for its 2006 Summer Reading Club. A record 97,208 central Ohioans registered this year—a 9.6 percent increase over 2005's 88,700 registrations, which was the standing record for the program.

"Tune In! Read." kicked off at the main library with a lively party replete with music, drumlines, puppeteers, jugglers, and magicians. Thousands of visitors were on hand to enjoy the festivities and register for the summer reading club. CML promoted the program as a way for individuals of all ages to rediscover reading for pleasure. Children and teens also were encouraged to join the club to maintain the reading skills they had worked so hard to gain during the school year. Parents were reminded that when they relax with a good book on a summer afternoon they are being a great role model for their kids.

CML provided plenty of incentives to motivate club participants to spend at least twelve hours reading throughout the eight-week program. Children who completed the program earned a free book, activity kit, and a raffle entry for a new bike. Teen readers received a free book, messenger bag, and the chance to win an iPod Shuffle. Adults also earned chances to enter drawings for prizes and gift certificates.

Highlights of the record-breaking 2006 summer reading club include: teen completion rates rose from 33 percent in 2005 to 43 percent in 2006; adult summer reading club registrations increased by more than 3,800 this year—from 11,004 registrations in 2005 to 14,847 in 2006; and fourteen library branches increased their children's completion rates. Northside Branch's rate was 63 percent—a 17 percent spike above last year's rate and Parsons Branch reached a completion rate for kids of 73 percent. System-wide, 55 percent of the children registered completed their commitment in 2006, up from 52 percent in 2005.

As an added bonus, the success of "Tune In! Read." has helped CML build momentum for its next big event—the centennial celebration of the main library next April.

## New Literary Award

The American Indian Library Association (AILA), an ALA affiliate, announced the first recipients of its American Indian Youth Literature Award in September. The new literary award was created as a way to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. Books selected to receive the award present Native Americans in the fullness of their humanity in present and past contexts.

The award is presented in each of three categories—picture book, middle school, and young adult—and each winner receives five hundred dollars and a commemorative plaque. The 2006 winners are *Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story* (University of Nebraska Press, 2005) by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, illustrated by Sam Sandoval; *The Birchbark House* (Hyperion, 2002) by Louise Erdrich; and *Hidden Roots* (Scholastic, 2004) by Joseph Bruchac. The 2006 awards were presented in October during the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color's Children's Luncheon program in Dallas .

For more information about the award, visit [www.nativeculturelinks.com/aila.html](http://www.nativeculturelinks.com/aila.html).

## Belpré DVD Available

A special DVD, *The Pura Belpré Award: Celebrating the Latino Experience in Children's Literature*, is available while supplies last from the ALSC office. Created by Scholastic and Weston Woods in association with ALSC and REFORMA: The Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking in honor of the award's tenth anniversary, the DVD highlights the significance of the award to readers, authors, illustrators, librarians, and educators through interviews with the founders and winners of the award. The entire DVD can be played in either English or Spanish and also has the option of playing with subtitles.

The DVD price is fifteen dollars per copy, which includes shipping and handling. Proceeds from the DVD's sales will benefit the Belpré Award Endowment fund. A link to the DVD order form is at [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) under "Breaking News."

## New Honor for Audiobooks

ALSC and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) will administer a new award for the best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults. The **Odyssey Award**, sponsored by *Booklist*, will debut at the 2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting. A committee of ALSC and YALSA members will select the award. The 2008 award will represent the best audiobook released in 2007.



## 2007 Arbuthnot Planning

The University of Kentucky's ( UK ) McConnell Center for the Study of Youth Literature has created a special Web site, [www.uky.edu/~smcgu2/mcconnell/confer/arbuthnot/index.html](http://www.uky.edu/~smcgu2/mcconnell/confer/arbuthnot/index.html), for the 2007 Arbuthnot Lecture featuring Kevin Henkes, scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at Memorial Hall on the UK campus. The site includes information on lodging and links to campus maps. Stay tuned to the Web site for updates and information on ticket requests to be added.

## 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.

## Nací para Leer

An updated version of the Spanish-language *Born to Read: How to Raise a Reader* brochure is now available. *Nací para Leer: Cómo Criar un Lector* features a recommended book list of titles available in Spanish, current early literacy information, and tips for parents on sharing books with babies. The brochure is available in packets of fifty for \$22. The ISBN is 0-8389-8334-0. To order, contact ALA Order Fulfillment at 1-866-746-7252.

Born to Read is an ALSC program designed to help our members encourage parents to read to their baby everyday, beginning at birth. It also is intended to promote greater public awareness of parenting resources available in libraries.

## Special Honor

Congratulations to **ALSC President Kathleen T. Horning**, recently named a Centennial Alumnus of the Year by the SLIS Alumni Association, University of Wisconsin (UW), Madison. Horning was among eight distinguished graduates recognized for the profound impact they have made on the library community. The special Centennial honors helped mark the 100th anniversary of UW's SLIS.

## Training Available

The ALSC/PLA Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) @ your library® Web site has a new look. Check it out at [www.ala.org/everychild](http://www.ala.org/everychild). Did you know that ECRR training is available for your library staff? The goal of training is for each participant to be able to present ECRR workshops for parents and childcare providers in the library or as part of outreach efforts. For more information on training options, visit the ECRR site and click on "Workshops."

ECRR materials are now available for purchase through the ALA Online Store at [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org). Click on the "Reading Programs & Pamphlets" link on the red left-hand banner.

## Getting Graphic

Have you caught the comics fever? Check out Kids Love Comics (KLC) at [www.kidslovecomics.com](http://www.kidslovecomics.com). KLC is a children's comics advocacy group made up of cartoonists, publishers, and educators working to spread the word about graphic novels and their value as a source of entertainment and education for young readers. The Web site

provides a reading list, which includes reviews from publications such as *Booklist* and *School Library Journal*, and links and news all about comics and kids.

## Sharing Poetry

The Children's Book Council's (CBC) annual Young People's Poetry Week will take place April 16–22, 2007. The CBC Web site ([www.cbcbbooks.org](http://www.cbcbbooks.org)) offers great ideas on how to celebrate the special week, highlighting activities such as poetry starters and crossword puzzles. The site also provides tips for promoting Young People's Poetry Week and generating media involvement. Articles about sharing poetry with children are also available on the Web site.

## Save the Date

ALSC's 2007 media awards, including the prestigious Newbery and Caldecott Medals, will be announced at a press conference on Monday, January 22, at 8 a.m. Pacific time, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. The winners will be posted on the ALSC Web site following the press conference. Look for the link at [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) under "Breaking News."

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# Getting Together

## Serving the Underserved

ALSC and the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) are co-sponsoring the preconference, "The Underserved 20%: Children, Teens, and Adults with Disabilities," on Friday, June 22, 2007, during Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Harriet McBryde Johnson, disabilities rights activist, lawyer, and author of *Too Late to Die Young* and *Accidents of Nature*, will be the featured keynote speaker. A resource fair and panel discussions on community awareness, staff training, and more will help arm attendees with the information they need to better serve the underserved in their community.

## Institute Notes

Thank-you to all who took part in the successful National Institute in Pittsburgh this fall. Special thanks to our talented and hardworking Planning Task Force, including co-chairs Crystal Faris, Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library, and Hedra Packman, Free Library of Philadelphia; Rosanne Cerny, Queens Library, Jamaica, N.Y.; Georgene A. DeFilippo and Patte Kelley, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Marna Elliott, Somerset County (N.J.) Library System; Lisa Paulo, Great Neck (N.Y.) Library; Sue Rokos, Mohawk Valley Library System, Schenectady, N.Y.; Mary Morgan Smith, Northland Public Library, Pittsburgh; and Kathryn Whitacre and Irene Wright, Free Library of Philadelphia. Many thanks to Cynthia K. Richey, Mt. Lebanon (Pa.) Public Library, and Maggie Kimmel, University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences, for planning the Institute preconference, "Legal Issues Affecting Policies in Children's Services."

ALSC also extends its sincere thanks to the many organizations that provided support, including: Babygarten, Inc.; Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Clarion Books; Free Library of Philadelphia; Friends of ALSC; Ingram Library Services, Inc.; Mt. Lebanon Public Library; The Pittsburgh Children's Museum; Scholastic, Inc.; Tutor.com; and the University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences.