

ALSCConnect

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Officially Speaking

Working Outside the Box: Progress Beyond the Conference Meeting Room.

Greetings friends!

As I'm writing this, many of us are busy preparing for the ALA Midwinter meeting in Boston next month. Midwinter is a special time, when we step aside from our own professional needs and aspirations, and concentrate our efforts on the business of the division. Midwinter is not about sessions and signings and banquets. Instead, we roll up our sleeves and dedicate ourselves to service. There is a tremendous energy that comes from uniting our efforts. There is great comfort that comes from reuniting with friends. Midwinter is an exciting and gratifying experience.

And it is this very excitement and gratification that has me thinking. As we might do with any pleasant, regular, and venerable institution, there can be a tendency to romanticize. Midwinter becomes something of a Brigadoon, a magical time when the stars line up and our business falls into place. That romantic notion may itself be an agreeable one, but built into it is the less-appealing implication that our business only happens when those of us who travel to conferences do just that.

Certainly many wonderful things happen over the course of these few days. Function statements are rewritten and ratified. Conferences are planned. Medal winners are chosen and announced. But let us not forget all of the wonderful work that happens year round. ALSC has many committees who convene regularly and virtually, to attend to their important charges, and a staff that never seems to rest. Continuing education is planned and delivered. The slate for the spring ballot is chosen. Emerging leaders emerge. And this is but the tip of the iceberg.

For many years ALA has had in place a rule that all regular committees need to meet, in person, at both the Annual and Midwinter Conferences, and ALSC has conformed to that requirement. Recently the ALA Council, in response to the changing demographics of our membership, and the volatile economic climate we're living in, has relaxed that requirement. ALSC now has much more flexibility in terms of how we engage our members in our work. Even before ALA Council took action in this regard, ALSC had a Board subcommittee in place to look at virtual work, exploring ways, inside and outside our current committee structure, where members can bring expertise and wisdom to the table and take knowledge and ideas from it, without ever leaving home. We're ahead of the game! And we're at something of a crossroads.

Electronic communication and collaboration offer great promise. Indeed, the possibilities are so vast as to require a healthy dose of proactive focus and prioritization. As we move forward, it will be critical that we hear from the very people we don't see at Midwinter. Maybe that's you. We've worked hard to open up the lines of communication. There is a space on ALA Connect where the Strategic Plan Alignment Board Subcommittee is exploring these prospects. They're looking for your input. The entire ALSC Board is at your disposal, as well. We are your representatives, and we need to hear from you. Our contact information is available here (NB Laura - can you embed a link to this ALSC page:<http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/aboutalsc/governance/boardroster/inde...>) on the ALSC Web site. Drop us a line. Let us know what you need. Let us know how you could help. Let us know how you want to interact with your professional association, from the comfort of your PJs.

At the end of the day, of course, we are our conferences, with their regular meetings, scheduled discussions, and happy reunions. But we are so much more than that, too, and growing every day. The only limits to our progress lie in our inertia. What will we be tomorrow? That's up to us. That's up to you.—*Thom Barthelmess, ALSC President*

Virtual Committee Service and Quicklists

It's time for me, as ALSC vice-president/president-elect, to begin making "spring" appointments to the process committees. These are the committees whose efforts will begin at the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. In preparation for this job—one of my biggest as vice-president—I've been reading through the function statements of the ALSC committees and task forces.

One group that has grabbed my attention is the Quicklists Consulting Committee. Its charge is to "serve as consultants and to promote books and other resources through recommendations, compilations of lists, and related services for mass media, individuals, and institutions/organizations." While it has a similar ring to that of the coveted award and media evaluation committees, the Quicklists Consulting Committee—unlike the former groups—does its work electronically. Because increasing numbers of ALSC members are expressing an interest in virtual committee work, I contacted Barbara Brand and Victor Schill—who served together as co-chairs of Quicklists—to find out more.

According to Brand and Schill, requests for booklists have come to the committee from Oprah Winfrey, the WNBA, Reading Is Fundamental, and *Time* magazine. Sharing editorial responsibility, co-chairs send e-mail guidelines to members who are asked to read the titles they recommend. "One of the reasons the committee is so large is that our deadline can be as short as one week. But it has also been as long as two months." In addition to partnering with other organizations serving youth, Quicklists has been asked to work on bibliographies by ALA and its divisions. "Because we update the ALSC Born to Read listings in English, Spanish, and Chinese, as well as the Día brochure, it is important that the committee be as diverse as possible."

ALSC Executive Director Aimee Strittmatter aptly sums up the noteworthy contributions of the Quicklists Consulting Committee: "Thanks to their great work, ALSC is gaining a reputation as THE organization to ask to connect children with great books." To volunteer for this and other virtual service, look for the "v" on the ALSC committee volunteer form.—*Julie Corsaro, ALSC Vice-President/President-Elect*

ALSC Supporters

Thank you to all of our latest contributors to the Friends of ALSC and Pura Belpré Award Endowment Fund. To learn how you can contribute, visit www.ala.org/alsc and click on "About ALSC--Contact ALSC--Donate to ALSC" on the left-hand navigation menu.

Belpré Endowment

Roxanne Feldman (in honor of Caroline Ward, 2009 Notable Children's Books Committee Chair)
Kathleen Isaacs (in honor of Caroline Ward, 2009 Notable Children's Books Committee Chair)
Darwin Henderson (in honor of Caroline Ward, 2009 Notable Children's Books Committee Chair)
Barbara Immroth (in honor of Caroline Ward, 2009 Notable Children's Books Committee Chair)
Betty Carter (in honor of Caroline Ward, 2009 Notable Children's Books Committee Chair)
Martha Walke (in honor of Caroline Ward, 2009 Notable Children's Books Committee Chair)

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ALSC Voices

ALSC Profile

Alison O'Reilly
Teen Services Librarian
Austin Public Library
ALSC membership: About 8 years

Where did you attend library school?

CUNY at Queens College

What attracted you to library service to children?

I worked in the Smithtown Library (Long Island, NY) as a teenager, and in the summer I would volunteer as a Summer Reading Program "listener." I could easily identify with the children who came in to tell me about what they were reading. I enjoyed connecting with children over our mutual love of stories for children. When a librarian suggested I go to library school, my first thought was "What's library school?" and my second thought was "How soon can I go?"

Why did you join ALSC?

The teen volunteer supervisor at the Smithtown Library was ALSC member Doris Gebel. Later she became the first person to hire me as a librarian trainee at the Northport-East Northport Library. Doris encouraged me to become an ALSC member, and she has been my mentor and friend throughout my career. Since joining ALSC, my circle of friends and mentors has expanded exponentially!

What to you is the biggest reward of being a youth services librarian?

There's this sense of optimism when you work with young people in a library setting, a feeling like anything can be accomplished. There are so many milestones being celebrated every day: a child learning to read, a mom learning to sing an old nursery rhyme, a teen applying for a scholarship and getting it. It's hard not to feel inspired.

What is your favorite job responsibility?

Right now I would say running the three Newbery Book Clubs I have going in Austin schools. I have two sixth grade groups and one group of fourth graders. I love hearing their responses to books I am reading as part of my responsibility as a 2010 Newbery Committee member.

Do you have any advice or a helpful tip for library school students or new librarians just starting out?

Try to get experience in all the basics of running a library: checking out DVDs, shelving books, collecting fines, processing items, and yes, even cleaning up messes. The more understanding you have of the library's big picture, the better you will be able to work with your colleagues and serve your customers.

What is the most popular youth program/event at your library?

I work with some creative people at the Austin Public Library. Two of my colleagues developed a program called Yomicon, which is a convention to celebrate manga, anime and cosplay. I volunteered to help at the event at the sign in table. I signed in over two hundred teens and their families, and most of them were dressed up as their favorite manga character. It was certainly one of the most successful and well-received programs I've witnessed as a youth librarian.

What is your favorite children's book out this year so far?

Hmmm...there are so many! I do have a soft spot for Alvin Ho. I think I might be in love with his dad. He is so sensitive and he's not afraid to cry, just like my own father. And Mr. Ho is so handsome! It figures he's married.

What are your hobbies?

I love to sing both classical music and jazz standards. I also love reading, cooking with my mom when she comes to visit, and swimming in the summer when it's 103 in the shade in Texas!

What three words best describe you?

We had an exercise at work not too long ago in which my colleagues and I had to describe each other in single words. Here are three about me I found particularly flattering: trustworthy, inquisitive, and bright. Hooray for the kindness of youth services librarians!

Bright Ideas

New Mexico Embraces Día

One of our fifty (New Mexico) was definitely not missing from the national literacy celebration of El día de los niños/El día de los libros, with 79 Día events held in schools, community centers, museums, and libraries throughout the state. The founder of Día, author Pat Mora, is from New Mexico, so it was time to let her know just how much New Mexico celebrates this event.

Governor Bill Richardson even provided a statewide proclamation to recognize Día on April 30, 2009. Organizations that registered a Día event for New Mexico online at ALSC's Web site received a copy of the proclamation and the official Día certificate, a Frisbee (yes, the flying disk) with "El día de los niños/El día de los libros" printed on it in several languages.

San Juan County enjoyed the largest Día presence. Forty-one celebrations were held by community partners throughout the county, including the Navajo Reservation. Thirty of those partners also took part in Farmington Public Library's celebration, the First Annual Día Tailgate Party, held on April 30. The afterschool event took place in the library parking lot where youth organizations parked their vehicles in designated spots, popped their trunks, set up tables, and waited to meet with children and families.

Shana Curtis, Miss Indian Farmington (N.M.), was guest host of the tailgate party, which highlighted many fun activities and entertainment for families. UMATTR Teens, successful local high school seniors who mentor younger kids as part of the San Juan Safe Communities Initiative, talked to youth about values and signed autograph cards (like baseball cards but featuring the UMATTR Teens). Sylvan Learning Center challenged families to "Are you smarter than..." games. Children Youth and Families provided information to families about their program and distributed coloring books to youth. ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities in Education) staff dressed as characters from Dora the Explorer! Parks and Recreation and Sycamore Family Center promoted summer programs with a sample of hands-on activities. The Farmington Museum shared how youth could go "green" for the summer. Yo-yo master slinger Luke shared his tricks. Maisy, one of several book characters present for the festivities, encouraged youth to register for summer reading. Visitors enjoyed free ice-cream, soda, and snacks. Farmington Library donated as door prizes bilingual autographed books by Pat Mora, Joe Hayes, Anthony Emerson Chee, Jane Tenorio-Coscarelli, and Rudolfo Anaya, and MP3 players to promote downloadable media.

According to Afterschool Alliance statistics, 19% of K-12 youth in New Mexico are unsupervised during the afterschool hours, and more than 39% of those youth would be likely to participate in an afterschool program if one

were available in the community. The Día Tailgate Party was a great way to connect the library to other youth-serving organizations in the community and illustrate just how much the community offers youth afterschool.

New Mexico Día was truly a community effort. The New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network promoted New Mexico Día events by joining the New Mexico Afterschool Ambassador at various sites. New Mexico Día “champions” were selected randomly from the New Mexico activities listed on ALSC’s online Día database. The champions, including librarians Riann Powell and Brenda Hollingsworth-Marley, Principal James Lujan, and teachers Jacqueline Lobato and Carmella Duran, each received a \$100 cash award to support their site’s Día event. The Afterschool Alliance’s “Afterschool for All” campaign hosted a booth for Día on April 25 at the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque. At the booth, the New Mexico Afterschool Ambassador provided a hands-on craft for youth and a packet for families about afterschool programs in New Mexico. The South Valley Community Center offered hands-on art projects and storytelling and also distributed free books during their Día event in Albuquerque on April 30. New Mexico Spanish Radio Station KANW read the Día Proclamation on April 30 throughout the day in Spanish. New Mexico’s favorite weatherman, Steve Stucker, had “El día de los niños” written on his weather map during his morning show on KOBT4 and dedicated the day to children and reading.

For more information about Día, please visit: www.ala.org/dia.—*Flo Trujillo, Youth Services Coordinator at Farmington (N.M.) Public Library and New Mexico Afterschool Ambassador for the Afterschool Alliance*

Earth Day Program Provides Worlds of Fun

The kids at Queens Library at Poppenhusen in College Point, N.Y. celebrated Earth Day this year by making necklaces and bracelets out of paper beads. Using old magazines that had been withdrawn from the collection, we cut triangles from torn pages and wrapped them around pencils to form the beads. A spot of glue on the last inch sealed the beads together. While the beads were drying, the kids took turns reading recycling facts that they picked out of a basket. They couldn’t believe that it takes 50 years for a Styrofoam cup to decompose, whereas a paper bag takes only one week. One particularly startling fact was that even though a lot of glass is recycled, Americans alone throw away enough glass to fill the world’s tallest building—the Petronas Twin Towers in Malaysia—every two weeks! I showed them a picture of the towers to bring home the point.

Finished beads were strung on lanyards with other beads we’d procured from a local Material for the Arts warehouse, which donates unused materials from various vendors.*

Craft and facts from Smith, Heather with Rhatigan, Joe, *Awesome Things to Make with Recycled Stuff*, N.Y.: Lark Books, 2002.—*Diane Janoff, Children’s Librarian, Queens Library at Poppenhusen, N.Y.*

**Editor’s Note: According to its Web site, Materials for the Arts, part of New York City’s Department of Cultural Affairs, provides thousands of New York City’s arts and cultural organizations, public schools, and community arts programs with supplies to operate and enhance their programs. Materials collected from companies and individuals that no longer want or need them are redistributed to artists and educators who do. Through this program, tons of materials are removed from the waste stream and saved from landfills annually, promoting reuse and waste reduction.*

Opening Doors to Family Childcare Providers

Multnomah County Library’s Early Childhood Services unit partnered with Child Care Resource and Referral Services to bring library services to Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) childcare providers. These providers, when compared with licensed child care providers, are typically more at risk of having low literacy levels, not reading with the children in their care, not using the library as a family resource, and of being more isolated in their daily work. Many of our participants were the grandmothers of the children in their care.

A series of four two-hour long classes of Mother Goose Asks Why? curriculum was presented. Reading children’s books aloud together was extremely beneficial. We could see the enjoyment in the faces of the participants as we introduced an old favorite—*The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, or at the end of a newer and inspiring book such as *Nobody Owns the Sky*. We observed with each subsequent book that the participants were truly listening to our words and our tips about how to make books more appealing—using simple dialogic reading techniques and slowing down and being tuned into the children when reading.

One grandmother noted that she is now reading with “more enthusiasm in her voice and asking questions” and seeing how it helps the kids stay interested. We modeled the concept of following a book with an activity to help enrich meaning for early learners. We planted grass-heads and brought in a variety of unusual fruits and vegetables to explore after reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Who could have imagined the beauty and sweetness of a cut mangosteen? We constructed aluminum foil boats, floated them in tubs of water, and predicted how many pennies we could add before they sank. Participants’ voices grew more excited as they counted aloud, “...one hundred and seven, one hundred and eight...!”

The series of classes gave us the opportunity to build relationships—among providers and with the library staff. Holding the classes in our branch libraries gave the participants the chance to have a tour, learn about helpful resources, and become comfortable in the library setting—a first for some of them. The providers happily went home with a science kit and two new books each week for their growing home library. Some reported that they had created special areas in their home for reading together. At the last class one grandmother commented, “It’s amazing to watch my grandchild’s world. It’s like a flower opening up.”—*Joanne McNamara, Library Outreach Specialist, and submitted by Ellen Fader, Youth Services Director, Multnomah County Library, Portland, Ore.*

Creating a Generation of Doers

No one has more passion, energy, and creativity than young people, right?! Kids are our future and there's no time like the present for them to get a taste of leadership through volunteerism. If you're looking for a good resource for young patrons eager to take action and make a difference, check out DoSomething.org, a Web site devoted to empowering young people to volunteer. Loaded with information and resources, the site connects youth to potential volunteer opportunities with trustworthy and effective nonprofit charities. Whatever their interest, kids can find the cause that moves them to action, from animal welfare to discrimination, international human rights to the environment. The site even has a section on "Celebs Gone Good," highlighting actors, musicians, and athletes who have gone above and beyond to help their favorite cause.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

2011 Program Proposal Forms Now Available

The call for proposals is now open for ALSC-sponsored programs at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference, June 23-28, in New Orleans, La. The proposal form is available online at www.ala.org, click on "Conferences & Events—[ALSC@AnnualConference](#)" on the left-hand navigation. Completed proposals are due to Diane Janoff, ALSC's Program Coordinating Committee Chair, by **April 30, 2010**. For further information, please consult the Web site and form.

Member News

Kathy East, former Assistant Director and Head of Children's Services at Wood County (Ohio) District Library, was named 2009 Hall of Fame Librarian by the Ohio Library Council (OLC). Kathy has made her mark on the public library community through her teaching and mentorship. She has been a popular presenter at state and national conferences, staff trainings, teacher in-service days, and other workshops. She has mentored countless library staff, teachers, daycare providers, college students, and parents through her leadership and participation in the OLC, ALA, ALSC, and the International Federation of Library Associations as well as through the classes she taught at Kent State University and Owens Community College.

Former ALSC and ALA President **Mary Somerville** recently was named a Trustee of the Merton Legacy Trust. Trappist Monk and prolific writer Thomas Merton established the trust a year before his death in 1968, naming Bellarmine College (now Bellarmine University) in Louisville, Ky. as the repository of his manuscripts, letters, journals, and other historical materials.

Congratulations to **Rosanne Cerny**, Coordinator of Children's Services at Queens Library since 1990. She is retiring effective December 31, 2009. Rosanne has been an active member during her 20 years with ALSC, serving on numerous committees including most recently the Membership and Caldecott Committees, and the *Children and Libraries* Editorial Advisory Committee, which she also chaired. In addition to her committee service, she co-authored *Outstanding Library Service to Children: Putting the Core Competencies to Work* (ALA, 2006) with Penny Markey and Amanda Williams.

Andrew Medlar, Youth Materials Specialist, Chicago Public Library, received the America Reads Spanish (ARS) Best Librarian Award, which is sponsored by the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade, the Federation of Publishers Guilds of Spain, and the Economic Trade Office of Spain. The award was presented at the International Book Fair, known as LIBER, in Madrid, Spain, in October.

The **Canton (Mich.) Public Library** is the recipient of a \$3,000 Target store Early Childhood Reading Grant. Money from the grant, combined with funds from the Friends of the Canton Public Library, will be used to sponsor Family Reading Nights at the library, which began in October and will run through June 2010.

Target store grants support nonprofit programs that impact the arts, early childhood reading, and family violence prevention in the communities in which they do business. Early Childhood Reading Grants support programs that foster a love of reading and encourage children, from birth through age 9, to read together with their families.

Morris Seminar Participants Selected

Congratulations to 28 ALSC members selected to take part in the second biennial "Bill Morris Seminar: Book Evaluation Training," being held Friday, January 15, 2010, prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston.

Participants in this year's seminar include: Megan Albright, Lauren Anduri, Natalie Arthur, Dana Buttler, Tony Carmack, Amber Creger, Betsy Crone, Julie Dietzel-Glair, Naphtali Faris, Michele Farley, Marianne Follis, Natasha Forrester, Kerry Gleason, Karen Kessel, Jennifer Knight, Susan Kusel, Susan Melcher, Mary Michell, Sally Miculek, Kiera Parrott, Deanna Romriell, Jill Rothstein, Sharon Salluzzo, Mary Schreiber, Ursula Schwaiger, Tracy Van Dyne, Eva Volin, and Stephanie Wilson.

"This year we received nearly 100 applications from outstanding candidates across the country, so, with only 28 spots to fill, the competition was really stiff," said ALSC Past-President and Morris Seminar Advisory Committee member Kathleen T. Horning. "This speaks to the excellence of librarians serving children, and their desire to hone their skills so they can be even better at their jobs."

This invitational seminar supports and honors William C. Morris' dedication to connecting librarians and children with excellent children's books. It brings ALSC members with limited evaluation experience together with those who have served on ALSC's media evaluation committees for training and mentorship. Participants learn from experienced ALSC leaders about the importance of the group process and children's media evaluation techniques.

The ALSC William C. Morris Endowment supports those selected to attend the training seminar by offering the seminar at no charge to the attendees. This includes all materials, breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon break. To help defray additional costs for hotel and other travel expenses, a \$200 stipend for each attendee is provided.

The Bill Morris Seminar will be held again in 2012 at ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas. For more information about the seminar, please visit www.ala.org/alscevents.

2009 Mora Award Winners

REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, announced the winners of the 2009 Estela and Raúl Mora Award. San Francisco Public Library and Topeka & Shawnee County (Kan.) Public Library were selected for their commendable efforts in promoting El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día), ALSC's family literacy initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The award was established by author, poet, and Día founder Pat Mora and her family in honor of their parents.

San Francisco Public Library hosted its tenth Día event by celebrating a decade of bringing children, families, and books together in San Francisco. A series of special programs was held in neighborhood libraries throughout the month of April. Programs included bilingual storytimes and crafts, Native American stories, and dance performances. The library also hosted a Día exhibit displaying original artwork, posters, and memorabilia from the past ten years. An anniversary reception was held to recognize the efforts of volunteers, community supporters, funders, activity sponsors, and the event organizers. The Día grand finale was held at Dolores Park with approximately 1,000 participants and included multicultural performances by Asian storytellers, Spanish bilingual puppeteers, an Afro-Brazilian dance, drumming, and stiling ensemble, and a kid-centered hip-hop group. The event also included many activities such as interactive art, 3-D animation, book making, lotería, and a free book distribution where approximately 825 multilingual books were given to children and their families.

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library celebrated its fourth Día celebration on April 30, with more than 550 participants in attendance. The library partnered with 18 community agencies, and targeted 35 preschools and 20 elementary schools. The library in its effort to reach the Hispanic community targeted agencies that worked with the Hispanic community to help them promote the event through community meetings, bulletin boards, and flyers. These agencies also encouraged their clientele to participate in the event. The celebration included a bilingual puppet show, bilingual readers theater, traditional dancers from Bolivia, a high school mariachi band, and bilingual storytelling and book displays. Participants also had the opportunity to receive a free book and to participate in book making, arts and crafts, lotería, and other activities.

Details about the Mora Award application and guidelines for 2010 will be announced and posted by February 2010 at <http://www.reforma.org>. To learn more about Día, visit www.ala.org/dia.

Getting Together

Museum Bus Tour

Don't miss the opportunity to travel to The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art (125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA 01002) during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston! The bus leaves on Sunday, January 17, at 10 a.m. from the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Participants will have the opportunity to view original artwork by Eric Carle and the artists of the Golden Books. The program, from noon until 4 p.m., will include: presentations by children's book historian, critic, and author of *Golden Legacy*, Leonard S. Marcus, and award-winning author, Norton Juster; lunch; and the opportunity to browse the museum shop, galleries, art studio, and reading library. The bus departs the museum at 4:30 p.m. to return to the convention center by around 6:30 p.m.

The cost for the tour is \$50 per person. **Please RSVP directly with The Carle staff by Friday, January 8**, at (413) 658-1155 or e-mail programs@carlemuseum.org. This event is being organized and sponsored by the museum. Please direct all queries to the museum staff at the preceding phone and/or e-mail address. For more information about The Carle, please visit www.picturebookart.org/.

ALSC @ Midwinter 2010

For ALSC members attending Midwinter, here are a few events and tips to keep in mind. Please check the ALSC Web site (www.ala.org/alscevents) for room locations (to be posted soon).

Events Not to be Missed

ALSC Speed Networking. Friday, January 15, 7:30 – 9 p.m. The object of the evening is to meet as many professionals as you can... with Speed Networking! The event is free and light refreshments will be provided by Disney-Hyperion, but we ask that you RSVP from the ALSC Web site at www.ala.org/alscevents.

ALSC All Committee Meeting. Sunday, January 17, 7:45 a.m. – Noon.

The ALA Youth Media Awards press conference. Monday, January 18, 8 a.m. The Newbery and Caldecott Medal and Honor Book winners are announced here among other ALSC and ALA awards.

AASL, ALSC, and YALSA Joint Reception. Monday, January 18, 6 –7:30 p.m. This event is free to attend and a great place to mix and mingle.

Tips for Attendees

Visit The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art! See article above. *Please note that this event is NOT being sponsored by ALSC or ALA; it is being organized and run through The Carle. All queries should be directed to the museum staff at programs@carlemuseum.org or (413) 658-1155 (phone).*

Check out the ALA Midwinter wiki at <http://alamw.ala.org/2010>.

Don't forget to pick up your ALSC ribbon at the ALSC table in the ALA Office area or at any ALSC-sponsored event.

Learn how things work in ALSC by attending a Board Meeting! Visitors are always welcome; check times and locations to be added to the Web site soon.

ALSC Notable Children's Books, Recordings, and Videos lists will be published on the Web as soon as possible after the Midwinter Meeting concludes.

Winners of ALSC's professional awards and grants will be announced via a press release on the ALSC Web site after Midwinter.

Liven Up Library Service through Online Education

Bring something new to your library by taking an online course this winter with ALSC. Starting February 1, ALSC is offering five timely courses that are sure to cure your winter blues and liven up your library!

Winter course selections are: Connecting with Tween Readers; Information Literacy—From Preschool to High School; The Newbery Medal: Past, Present and Future; Reading Instruction and Children's Books; and Series Programming for Elementary School Age. **Registration opens December 14**, and discounted rates are available for ALSC members. Course space is limited, so please register early to reserve your spot.

Detailed descriptions and registration information is available at www.ala.org/alsced. Fees are \$95 for personal ALSC members; \$145 for personal ALA members; and \$165 for non-members. Questions? Please contact ALSC Executive Director Aimee Strittmatter at aimee@ala.org.

ALSC Student Sessions

Looking for inexpensive professional development? Then look no further! ALSC Student Sessions are FREE interactive, online workshops that run about an hour and are lead by ALSC members from across the country. All you need to participate is a computer with speakers and an interest in children's services. This is also a great opportunity to network with other members without leaving the comfort of your home.

Upcoming sessions include: Connecting Kids with Great Web Sites, Tuesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. CST; Easy User Experience Strategies, Wednesday, January 6 at 6 p.m. CST; Getting Your First Library Job: Tips from Library Directors, Wednesday, March 17 at 6 p.m. CST; and Tech Tools for Parents and Caregivers, Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. CST.

Also, past sessions are now available through the OPAL archive so you can hear what you've missed, including sessions on Hosting a Mock Newbery @ your library® and Marketing Your Library on the Web. Visit the OPAL archive at: <http://bit.ly/1E1eqO>.

For more information about attending an ALSC Student Session, visit <http://bit.ly/oozVe>. Questions? Please contact Jenny Najdich, ALSC marketing specialist, at jnajdich@ala.org or (312) 280-4026.

ALSC Preconference in Washington D.C.

Do you linger over the pages of striking picture books, wondering how to tap their full potential in programs for children? Attend the ALSC Preconference, **Drawn to Delight: How Picture Books Work (and Play) Today**, and learn to look beyond the surface stories. Explore technique and design with art directors, museum educators, and award-winning illustrators Brian Selznick, Jerry Pinkney, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, and Kadir Nelson—to name a few.

Discover the innovative “whole book” storytime model, developed to help children derive meaning from everything picture books offer. Delve into the format’s relationship to graphic novels and the international and digital horizons. Studio demonstrations, hands-on opportunities, and original art door prizes will be part of the mix on Friday, June 25, 2010, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m., at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

ALSC National Institute in Atlanta

Join ALSC down south September 23 -25, 2010, for our star-studded institute sure to dazzle and inspire every children’s librarian, literature expert, and school faculty member present. With a focus on diversity and serving children and youth, this intensive, two-and-a-half-day learning opportunity will touch on some of the most important topics surrounding library service to young people.

Speakers scheduled for the institute include award-winning authors and illustrators such as Ashley Bryan, Carmen Deedy, John McCutcheon, Brian Selznick, Walter Dean Myers, and Christopher Myers. Meet and mingle with local authors and illustrators during an evening reception held at The Center for Puppetry Arts and sponsored by Peachtree Publishers. Association Connection networking activities will be held throughout the institute to connect participants and provide a good time for all. Events include a welcome happy hour and an evening trivia tourney, just to name a few!

The Emory Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia, on the campus of Emory University will host the institute. Specifics regarding registration and programs will be posted on the ALSC Web site at www.ala.org/alscinstitute as they become available.

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