

ALSCConnect

December 2010, Vol. 8, 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

Motion Commotion

The ALSC Board of Directors was quite productive at both the 2010 Midwinter Meeting and 2010 Annual Conference. In addition to the ALSC Scope of Attention Motion proposing a bylaws change to the upper end of our age range of service, there is a trio of other motions scheduled for the spring 2011 ballot. The ALSC Scope of Attention Motion at the lower end proposes a bylaws change to our age range of service, a move that recognizes focus of the ALSC initiatives, "Born to Read," and "Every Child Ready to Read."

There is also the "New to ALSC Director" Motion ("Director" is the official title of an ALSC Board member). The ALSC Board of Directors is comprised of the president, president-elect, immediate past-president, fiscal officer, and eight other directors elected for a three-year-term. If approved by the membership, the "New to ALSC Director" Motion will convert one of the "eight" director positions to a person with between 2-7 years membership in ALSC.

The final motion concerns the "Term of Service on Award Committees." According to the current bylaws, "No individual may serve on either Caldecott Award, Newbery Award, Sibert Award, or Notable Children's Books Committees more often than every four years" (chairs are exempt). If passed, this motion will also apply to the Batchelder, Geisel and Wilder Award Committees.

As was the case with the ALSC Scope of Attention Motion at the upper end, there will be opportunities to discuss the three remaining motions in three separate locations on ALAConnect. These discussions will begin on December 9, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. EST and remain open through the close of the ALSC ballot in late April. In some cases, pro and con statements will accompany these motions on ALAConnect and the ALSC ballot. Reminders about the discussions will be sent via the ALSC blog and ALSC electronic discussion list; members will also receive an e-mail notice with direct links to these discussions. Just click on the links to participate.

I hope that these opportunities are a positive step in providing greater transparency, and allowing all our members to participate in the essential work of our association.—*Julie Corsaro, ALSC President*

My Lucky Number Seven (Hundred)

It began during my investigation into what it really entails to be ALSC president. "The committee appointments are time consuming," said one mentor mildly. "Committee appointments will keep you busy," said another. "Committee appointments? Well, they're a bit of a job," said a third.

What none of them mentioned is that . . . there are seven hundred of them. Seven hundred!! So, you will understand why I, as a vice-president facing her first round of appointments, am taking this opportunity to ask for your help. Here's what I need from you:

- **A commitment to get involved in ALSC.** ALSC is you. You are ALSC. Without your active participation, we're weaker. Our division needs your talent, your ideas, your passion, and your perspective. And it's not all about ALSC. Your life will be enriched from your work with ALSC – that's a promise. The "kindred spirits" you meet and the satisfaction of making a difference on a national level are priceless. On a practical level, your ALSC connections can give a career boost that takes you somewhere marvelous you never dreamed you could go.

ALSC has a huge array of ways to get involved. While many necessitate face-to-face interaction, we are working hard to incorporate virtual participation as a meaningful option. Discover the many opportunities for involvement here:<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/aboutalsc/coms/index.cfm>

- **A current, completed volunteer form. From anyone wanting an appointment for anything.** **Period.** Whether you are a past board member, a new ALSC member, or anything in between, I need a form telling me your interests and experiences. Your form gives me information about you essential to making committee appointments. I don't have access to that essential information except on the form you fill in.

It is a treat to meet you at conferences. It is valuable and a pleasure for me to connect with more ALSC kindred spirits. I sincerely hope that you will continue to introduce yourselves and articulate your experience and interests. And such conversation needs to be backed up by your volunteer form, or it can have no impact for you. Find the form here:<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/aboutalsc/coms/index.cfm>

- **A current email address in your ALA membership information.** ALSC committee invitations are now issued by email. An invitation goes to the email address you have in your ALA records. Right this minute, if you have any doubts, go to www.ala.org and click Login at the upper right. Once logged in, the first option is to update your profile. Choose this, and verify that the email address listed for you is the one you still prefer to use, and one that you access regularly.
- **A habit of checking your junk mail folder once a week.** Distressingly, your email program may decide that an email from maryalsc@gmail.com is junk. Not so! But if you don't frequently check your junk mail folder contents, you may miss a committee invitation. Did I mention that I have 700 committee appointments to make? You'll understand, then, why there's a two-week response time frame for the invitations. If I haven't heard from you within those two weeks, I must assume that you are not interested and I then offer the invitation to the next choice. ALSC needs fully staffed committees to do its work, and I need prompt responses in order to fully staff committees.

Thank you for your partnership in doing the work of our organization. To lead an organization where 700 people give of their time and talents to create a better world – for that is what we are doing – makes me lucky indeed.—*Mary Fellows, ALSC Vice-President/President Elect*

Friends of ALSC

Many thanks to the following contributors to the Friends of ALSC. 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.

Notables' Circle

Mary Fellows
Andrew Medlar

Friends' Circle

Mary Berman
Bruce Farrar
Phyllis Van Orden

ALSC Voices

ALSC Profile

Claudette McLinn
District Field Librarian

Los Angeles Unified School District
ALSC membership: eight years

Where did you attend library school?
Wayne State University

What attracted you to library service to children?

I wanted to meet and associate with serious people who had a passion for literature and library services to children.

Why did you join ALSC?

I wanted to join an organization where I could share ideas as well as continue to grow in the profession.

What to you is the biggest reward of serving youth in libraries?

Exposing teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, and students to high quality multicultural literature.

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

Become familiar with many authors and illustrators and know their works.

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

The Wonder of Reading, a non-profit organization, which partners with schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District to renovate and restock school libraries and train volunteers as literacy mentors to students.

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

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia.

If you could be the character from a children's book, whom would you be?

Grace from the books, *Amazing Grace*, *Boundless Grace*, and *Princess Grace* by Mary Hoffman.

What are your hobbies?

Exercising, reading, and collecting art from children's books.

What three words best describe you?

Passionate, principled, and funny.

Bright Ideas

Scene on ALSC-L

Phyllis Peter, a youth services librarian at Newton (Iowa) Public Library, recently posted a query on the ALSC-L electronic discussion list, asking about a list of recommended children's books for holiday giving that she remembered printing out several years ago. She said that many grandparents at her library loved it.

ALSC-L subscribers came to her rescue, identifying the book list and offering additional suggestions. You might find these helpful too.

Guide Book to Gift Books: An Annotated List of Books for Youth

The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

<http://bccb.lis.illinois.edu/GB2/2010GB2.html>

(posted by Joella Peterson, youth services librarian, Tumwater (Wa.) Timberland Regional Library)

Books as Gifts - Holiday Buying Guide

Reading Rockets

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/buyingguide/2010>

(posted by Rachael Walker, children's literacy consultant)

105 Ideas for Book Gifting

MotherReader Blog

<http://www.motherreader.com/search/label/105%20Ways%20to%20Give%20a%20Book>

(posted by Stacy Dillon, lower school librarian, LREI - Little Red School House & Elisabeth Irwin High School, New York)

A Collection of Great Books and Gift Ideas for Kids

Cuyahoga County Public Library

http://www.cuyahoga.lib.oh.us/uploadedFiles/PDFs/GBFK_2010.pdf

(posted by Anna Heinz, youth service librarian, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library, Warrensville Branch)

Library Outreach on a Shoestring

The Olathe (Kan.) School District (OSD) has 33 elementary schools, ten of which are Title I, ELL sites. The district also holds summer school for approximately 1,000 students in grades K-5, with much of the emphasis on reading. The Olathe Public Library promoted its summer reading program to OSD summer school students in a variety of ways for several years without success. In February 2010, a summer school teacher told me that the reason summer school students don't participate in summer reading is their inability to visit the library. She wondered if I would seek a grant to bring the students to the library during the summer. That seemed like an idea fraught with problems, so I did some brainstorming about taking the library to the children. Thus the Olathe Public Library (OPL) "bookmobile" pilot project was born.

Working with the OPL Friends group, OPL Foundation, community organizations, generous individuals, and dedicated staff (and three volunteers), the library converted its semi-retired courier van into a bookmobile. It was loaded with folding tables and chairs, boxes of donated books, library literature, summer reading program materials, and a laptop for simplified checkout. The library partnered with the school district to identify four schools to visit every other week in June and July. The bookmobile arrived in time to meet the summer school bus as it returned students to their school where a free lunch was waiting. Principals, PTO members, and teachers joined in as well. The City of Olathe donated the gas to run the bookmobile.

The result: 200 children checked out books, and 185 signed up for the summer reading program. Twenty-one percent of them completed the program. Most remarkable of all? The library did not expend any funds on this project, nor did it add staff hours. The children's department staff added this major project to their already firm summer plans. We are very pleased with the success of the program and we are already discussing how we might expand the program next year.--*Kate Capps, Children's Librarian and School Liaison, Olathe (Kan.) Public Library*

The Summer the Babies Came to the Library

Early literacy is what children learn about reading and writing long before they can read and write themselves. We know babies are born ready to learn. Research has shown that babies who are read to have larger vocabularies and have an easier time learning to read. Naperville (Ill.) Public Library encourages early literacy by offering storytimes just for babies, which include early literacy tips for adults. The library also offers informational programs for parents and caregivers. All these programs are well attended and well received by our patrons.

In previous years, children from newborns to fifth graders were encouraged to sign up for the summer reading program. The summer reading logs included early literacy activities that could be used as an alternative to reading for the youngest participants. In 2009, over 6,300 children registered for the summer reading program, but only 3% of those were under three years old. When asked why they didn't register their younger children parents would say: "My baby can't read," "He's too young," "The prizes aren't appropriate for babies," "I have too many other things to do."

To help parents and caregivers realize the importance of early literacy and to encourage them to participate in the summer reading program, Karen Burke, children's services/early literacy librarian, Susan Stumbaugh, children's services librarian, and Susan Kenney, children's services associate, worked to create the Rubber Ducky Club. The program was designed for babies 0-35 months. At registration, each baby was given a yellow reading log with twelve suggested early literacy activities. The recommended activities included: let your baby hold the book and practice turning the page; recite or sing a nursery rhyme; and declare a letter of the day and point out things that start with that letter. The parent returned the log after completing six activities and received a rubber duck and a coupon to a local apple farm. When all twelve activities were completed the child had a choice of a board book or an Indestructible book, a new series by Karen Pixton, advertised as being chew-proof, rip-proof, and non-toxic.

The response was amazing--593 babies registered for the Rubber Ducky Club, which was ten percent (10%) of the total number of all the children who registered for the summer reading program. Forty-nine percent (49%) of those who registered returned their logs for a rubber duck and thirty-three percent (33%) of those registered received a book. Parents were thrilled with the activity suggestions and age-appropriate prizes. The babies themselves were eager participants in the program. One two-year-old girl clutched her copy of a Max and Ruby book and shouted, "This book for me!"

The Rubber Ducky Club was a rousing success from both a patron and staff perspective. The twelve suggested activities were simple enough for parents to see the benefits of early literacy without feeling overwhelmed. There was some additional staff time involved this year to create the guidelines for the reading club and to design the logs. Given the number of registrants and the positive feedback from patrons, the library plans to have a similar program during Winter Reading and the Rubber Ducky Club will definitely be part of Summer Reading again next year.--Karen Burke, Children's Services/Early Literacy Librarian, Naperville (Ill.) Public Library

One Snowy October Day!

On October 7, 2010, The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats, was read to 2,057,513 children around the globe! Jump Start's 2010 Read for the Record event was indeed record-breaking. And for Joseph Liebman, children's services librarian, San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), Read for the Record was downright inspiring! His story below may inspire you too!

It was the sunniest day of the week. Perfect for reading *The Snowy Day* to a bunch of first-graders who had probably never seen a snowy day in their entire California lives. But when I got to the Commodore Sloat Elementary School, one of the kids raised his hand when I asked if anyone had ever seen it snowing. When I asked where, he said in his father's office. His father works for a novelty company that makes, among other things, snow globes. The kid's personal favorite was one of Barry Bonds swinging at the snowflakes. At least the kid still had his California credentials.

To tell you the truth, I had been less than thrilled when I first heard that this book had been selected for Read for the Record. The storyline is rather thin, and the "events" sweet but unremarkable. But as things turned out, it was a perfect fit. When I asked for a show of hands as to how many knew how to read, every hand in the room went up. Christy (Christy Estrovitz, Early Lit Specialist at SFPL) had sent a carton of books, and after passing them around it was decided that we all should read in unison.

Listening to those little voices following the day in the life of a boy their own age was magical. I realized the wisdom of the folks at Jumpstart. Because after the reading there were all sorts of questions. Did snow have a smell? Could you eat it like ice cream? Do they close the schools on snowy days so that the kids can play in it? Being the only kid in the room who had actually seen actual snow, I fielded their questions like, well, like Barry Bonds. And after that I passed out the certificates, the badges, and the bookmarks that were also in Christy's carton. And guess what? The handout that thrilled them the most were the bookmarks! They proudly placed them in the last page of their books, like they had placed a flag on Mt. Everest. "Do we get to keep them?" they chirped. You get to keep everything, I said, including the books. But they couldn't get over the bookmarks. "You are the best librarian ever!" they said. I felt like Oprah.

All the way home on the Muni (SF's municipal railway transit system) I thought about those kids. They had read a book from cover to cover. They had read it together with their friends. And they had learned a most valuable lesson: you cannot put a bookmark in a computer. After today, if anyone should ask them if they had ever seen snow, they could honestly say, yes, they had even touched it. And best of all, it would never melt away. It made me think of the lines from Emily Dickinson:

There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away.
And that was when the frigate foundered.

Somewhere in the middle of the Twin Peaks tunnel, the Muni car came to a sudden halt. For the first few minutes, the passengers treated it like an everyday occurrence (which it probably was). But after a while, the fidgeting began and the cellphones started to appear. When the driver finally got on the P.A. system, it was to announce that there had been a slowdown up ahead and that we would be moving momentarily. Twenty minutes later, we weren't. So I took out my copy of *The Snowy Day* and began to read. Aloud. After a couple of pages, I looked up and saw that the

cellphones were gone and the fidgeting had stopped. It occurred to me that I literally had a captive audience. So I quickly explained the mechanics of Read for the Record, adding that as of this moment they were all a part of it. There was a trickle of laughter and a smattering of applause. And then a little voice piped up: "Can I read it?"

The voice came from the back of the crowded car. So I passed the book to the person next to me and watched as it went on its journey, hand over hand, to the other end of the car. And when the voice began to read, there was a blanket of silence. I know it sounds corny, but it felt like snowflakes falling on a snowy day. When the last page had been read, another little voice asked if she could have a turn. This voice came from the opposite end, so back went the book, hand over hand, to the front of the car. But the voice was so soft that the people in the back shouted "louder, louder, we can't hear you!" So the driver opened the door to his booth and told the child to talk into the mike. Five readings later, the train gave a hiccup and started to roll. That's when the thought popped into my mind. This was the "T" car, the train that goes to AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants baseball team. In a couple of hours, the Giants would be starting their first game of the National League playoffs. There would be thousands of fans in the stadium, and hundreds of thousands watching at home on their televisions. If I could somehow persuade the ballpark announcer to give me just five minutes to read for the record....--*Joseph Liebman, Children's Services Librarian, Merced Branch, San Francisco Public Library*

Thank you to all those ALSC-L subscribers who shared stories about their Reach Out and Read activities in the library and community!

At the monthly Polish story hour at Lansdowne (Pa.) Public Library, *The Snowy Day* was read in English and then translated into Polish. (Rachee Fagg, Youth Services Coordinator)

During the "Gotta Move" program at the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Ohio, children performed the actions as the librarian read each page of *The Snowy Day*. (Hayley McEwing, Children's Librarian)

At the Claycomo Branch of Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Mo., kids walked over to the firehouse next door to the library, where the fire chief read *The Snowy Day* from the back of an ambulance. (Anitra Steele, Children's Services Manager)

The Alice Boucher World Languages Academy in Lafayette, La. provided kids with a snowy day of their own on October 7. The library hosted 15 classes, totaling 230 preschoolers and kindergarten kids, who enjoyed buddy read-alouds with older students, the *Snowkey Pokey* dance, a paper plate snowman craft, and 12-24 inches of snow (shredded paper!). The staff even wrapped students up in scarves before they headed for the library. (Martha Baden, Librarian)

Librarians at the Bel Air Library in Harford County, Md. read *The Snowy Day* every hour on the half hour from a large-size copy of the book. Each child who heard the story put a snowflake sticker on a library window to signify how many children heard the story that day. Also posted in the library was a large sheet of blue paper where kids could draw snowmen and snow angels with chalk. (Barb Heaps, Bel Air Children's Department)

After listening to the story at Green Valley Library in Henderson, Nev., children created their own winter story and collage of a winter scene. (Bethany Lafferty, Green Valley Library)

For more information about Jump Start and Read for the Record, visit www.readfortherecord.org/.

Recycling Imitates Art

When Desiree Fairouz, Youth Services Librarian at Arlington (Va.) Public Library's Columbia Pike Branch, began moving puppets and craft supplies to a storage area more convenient to her office space, she found reels and reels of children's filmstrips hidden behind rolls of butcher paper. Before deciding to dispose of them, she recruited local artist/librarian/social media maven Alexandra Zealand to consider repurposing them into art.

Alexandra created whimsical sculptures like the one shown here from reels of filmstrips of the books *Abel's Island*, *The Witch Who Was Afraid of Witches*, and *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, which now hang above the children's DVD collection at the Columbia Pike Branch Library.--*Desiree Fairouz, Youth Services Librarian, Arlington (Va.) Public Library, Columbia Pike Branch*

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Member News

ALSC Members **Amanda Moss Struckmeyer** and **Svetha Hetzler** have co-authored *DIY Programming and Book Displays: How to Stretch Your Programming without Stretching Your Budget and Staff*. It is available from ABC-CLIO.

Welcome Dan Rude

ALSC is very pleased to welcome Dan Rude to the staff in the position of Marketing Specialist, Membership. Dan's start date is Monday, December 13, 2010. He will be responsible for member attraction and retention, utilizing data from current member demographics and trends to reach targeted sectors, communicate ALSC's programs and services to current membership, manage our social media platforms, and coordinate ALSC's professional awards.

Dan graduated with an MLIS from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Information Studies (SOIS) in 2009 and is currently the Communications Specialist at the school. His areas of concentration included instructional technologies, library marketing, and foreign language services. He has written feature articles for the school's biannual magazine, created website content, and developed promotional literature.

Dan's past experience also includes working as an English language instructor in Ambato, Ecuador and as a Spanish language instructor. He worked at the Pewaukee (Wis.) Public Library while attending Milwaukee's SOIS program.

Winter Online Education Courses

Bring something new to your library by taking an online course this winter. Starting on February 18, ALSC is offering four timely courses that are sure to cure your winter blues and liven up your library!

The winter course selections are: Information Literacy—From Preschool to High School; The Newbery Medal: Past, Present and Future; Introduction to Graphic Novels for Children; and Out of This World Youth Programming. Registration will open January 3, 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 Program Officer Jenny Najdich at jnajdich@ala.org or 1-800-545-2433 ext. 4026.

Watch the ALA Youth Media Awards Live

ALA will provide a free live webcast of its Youth Media Awards, a national announcement of the top books and media for children and young adults, at 7:45 a.m. PST on Monday, January 10, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

The 2011 announcements will consist of 19 awards, including the Newbery, Caldecott, Sibert, Belpre, Coretta Scott King, Printz, and Schneider Family Book Awards.

The number of available connections for the webcast is limited, and the broadcast is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Online visitors can view the live webcast the morning of the announcements by visiting <http://alawebcast.unikron.com>.

Live results also will be available via Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ALAYma> (hashtag #alayma). Members also can view live updates via the ALA Youth Media Awards press kit, RSS feed, or ALA Youth Media Awards Facebook page.

The press release announcing all ALA Youth Media Award recipients will be posted in the Youth Media Awards Press Kit at <http://www.ala.org/yoma> prior to 10 a.m. PST.

Stonewall Award joins the Youth Media Award Announcements

This year, the Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award joins the ALA Youth Media Award announcements. The award, administered by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table, is awarded annually to English-language works for children and teens of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered experience.

The demand for quality GLBT children's books continues to grow as the nation becomes more diverse. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services an estimated 14 million children have a gay or lesbian parent, and the most current U.S. Census data shows that more than 56 percent of same-sex households have at least one child under the age of 18.

For information on the Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award and other ALA Youth Media Awards, please visit www.ala.org/yma.

The Rainbow Project - Diverse Reads for Children and Young Adults

Bob the bear and Michael Cart have something in common: they both like the annual list of books compiled by the Rainbow Project: a joint effort of ALA's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table (GLBTRT) and the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT). The Rainbow Project promotes books for young readers that reflect gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/questioning experiences by creating an annual book list of recommended GLBTQ fiction and nonfiction titles for young readers from birth through age 18.

Books on the final bibliography, to be determined at the ALA 2011 Midwinter Meeting, are published within the assigned calendar year or between July 1 and December 31 of the previous calendar year.

Interested in nominating titles in 2011? The Rainbow Project invites recommendations for the bibliography from anyone not affiliated with the author or publisher of the proposed book. A short statement explaining the book's merit should accompany the recommendation. Nominations from jury members are to be submitted by October 31, 2011. To review past lists, visit <http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com> or email Michael Cart at mrmcart@sbcglobal.net

Día Celebrates 15 Years

If you serve a diverse community, Día's 15th anniversary is a great opportunity to better address their needs. Around the end of December, you will be able to register your Día event on the Día website. This will make your library part of a searchable database that everyone can access for Día programming ideas.

Through an Everyone Reads @ your Library(r) grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, ALSC expects to enhance the registration database and add downloadable resources on the Día website.

Coming April 1, 2011, *Building a Culture of Literacy in Your Community through Día* will be available from ALA Editions. This book will provide many helpful suggestions for multicultural programming in your library.

Plans for the actual anniversary date—April 30, 2011—include a special presentation by Día founder Pat Mora at a library to be identified soon. The Día anniversary also will be celebrated at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans on June 25th beginning at 10:30 a.m. Further details will be available in early January.

Día's anniversary is on Facebook®, where daily exchanges of ideas are already taking place.

Planning continues! Check for further anniversary developments at <http://www.ala.org/dia>.

Mora Award Winners Announced

REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking, recently selected the following libraries as recipients of the 2010 Estela and Raúl Mora Award for exemplary efforts in promoting El día de los niños/El día de los libros: Arthur F. Turner Community Library of Yolo

County Library, West Sacramento, Calif.; Pima County Public Library, Tucson, Ariz.; and Santa Barbara (Calif.) Public Library System. Each library will receive \$1,000 and a plaque commemorating their efforts. The total number of Mora Award winners is now 15, as Día enters its 15th anniversary year.

The celebration at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library, a branch of Yolo County Library, featured a poetry presentation by author Francisco X. Alarcón and a discussion of illustration by illustrator Maya Christina Gonzalez. The program also featured a lasso demonstration, a Mexican dance troupe, Mexican crafts, and a book giveaway for children. The program was funded by grants from First 5 Yolo, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, LSTA funds from the California State Library, and West Sacramento Friends of the Library.

Pima County Library has celebrated Día since 1997 and over the years has worked to expand its Día programming to all of its branches, recognizing that Día is for all children and a way to celebrate the cultural diversity within the community. In 2010, their celebration featured 39 literacy-focused programs at 27 branches. Programs included family storytimes, a bilingual puppet show, book-making workshops, and an American Sign Language storytime for toddlers. There were also art, music, and dance presentations by students of all ages. The program was funded by Pima County and Friends of the Pima County Public Library.

The Santa Barbara Public Library System hosted its second Día celebration, which staff described as becoming “an important multigenerational and multicultural event for our community.” The event featured readings and presentations by authors Marni McGee and Molly H. Hahn, and local storyteller Joseph Velasco. Multicultural performances included a jujitsu demonstration, mariachi and folklorico groups, and Aztec dancing. The program was funded by the Junior League of Santa Barbara and in-kind donations from local businesses.

REFORMA will present the awards during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January. Details about the Mora Award application and guidelines for 2011 will be announced and posted by February 2011 at <http://www.reforma.org>.

Last Call

The 2011 Newbery Award Committee wants to hear from you. We know you've been reading and we welcome your participation. ALSC members are invited to submit suggestions of eligible books for consideration for the 2011 Newbery Award.

The Newbery Medal is awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published by an American publisher in the United States in English during the preceding year. There are no limitations as to the character of the book considered except that it be original work. Honor books may be named. The Award is restricted to authors who are citizens or residents of the United States.

Please see the Newbery Medal Home Page on the ALSC web site (link below) for more about the award, including the terms, criteria, and eligibility requirements, as well as lists of all winners and honor books. <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymed...>

After reviewing the terms and criteria, **please send your suggestions by December 10 to Cynthia K. Richey, 2011 Newbery Committee Chair, at richeyc@einetwork.net.**

The 2011 Newbery Award will be announced at the ALA Youth Media Awards press conference in January in San Diego, and presented at Annual Conference, June 2011 in New Orleans.

Reading Rockets Widgets

Reading Rockets has new content sharing tools to help organizations freshen their online resources. In Reading Rockets' widget library at www.readingrockets.org/sharing/widgets, free widgets are available that can deliver daily news headlines about reading and early education, classroom strategies, themed booklists, exclusive video interviews with top children's book authors and illustrators, a daily literature quiz, and resources for parents in eleven languages.

Attract visitors to your website, blog, or personal profile page with this interesting, valuable, and automatically-updating material.

National Pet Poetry Contest

The American Pet Products Association (APPA) is accepting poems for the third annual APPA National Children's Pet Poetry Contest through its public awareness campaign—Pets Add Life (PAL).

Third, fourth, and fifth grade students are invited to write a unique poem about their pets, what they love about them, the joys they bring, and post it online at www.petsaddlife.org or mail their final poem and submission form to: Pets Add Life, 45 Winter Street, Reno, NV 89503. **Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. EST.**

Two students from each grade level nationwide will win a \$250 gift certificate for pet products, and a “by-line” in a nationally circulated publication. In addition, the six winning students' classrooms will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to spend on pet-related education.

To learn more about APPA's pet poetry contest, visit www.petsaddlife.org or contact Allison at MassMedia, 775-322-0755 or Allison@massmediacc.com.

Getting Together

ALSC @ Midwinter

Friday, January 7

ALSC Speed Networking, 7:30–9 p.m., San Diego Marriott and Marina, Santa Rosa
The object of the evening is to meet as many professionals as you can...with Speed Networking! Join ALSC for this fun spin on the classic speed dating structure. Participants will be organized to move around the room every couple of minutes, meeting new colleagues and exchanging ideas. The event is free and refreshments will be provided. ALSC Speed Networking is being sponsored by Disney-Hyperion. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/77GQar>.

Sunday, January 9

ALSC All Committee Meeting, 8 a.m.–Noon, San Diego Convention Center/Rooms 32 A/B and 30 C/D
All committees will meet during this time to discuss the year's happenings and future plans. All members are welcome to attend and sit-in on open committee meetings!

Monday, January 10

ALA Youth Media Awards Announcement, 7:45 a.m., San Diego Convention Center/Ballrooms A-D
Don't miss the announcements of 2010's best children's and young adult book and media at the Youth Media Awards (YMA) press conference. Visit the YMA webpage at <http://bit.ly/4uOFNN> for more information.

Joint Youth Divisions Membership Reception, 6-7:30 p.m., San Diego Convention Center/Room 02
Relax and network with fellow AASL, ALSC, and YALSA members after a busy day at this informal, social gathering. Light refreshments will be served.

A list of all ALSC meetings and hotel/room locations is available on the ALSC website at <http://bit.ly/dLp3SP>.
Questions? Contact Jenny Najduch at jnajduch@ala.org or (312) 280-4026.