

# ALSCConnect

June 2010, Vol. 8, no. 2

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## Officially Speaking

### Kids, Curiosity and Conduits

Once upon a time, a few months ago, I asked you why you do what you do. What does it mean to be a children's librarian? It was, and remains, an important question.

Where the business of the association is concerned, the purposes beneath our practice color our deliberations at every turn. As important as it is to design attractive conference programs or generate engaging booklists, it is even more important to leverage those activities to a higher calling; our activity does double duty, serving our immediate needs and reinforcing our fundamental commitments.

For my part, I have long felt that we're in the curiosity business. Sure, we answer questions and procure and deliver information. But, underneath all of that, we inspire imagination. In our collections and programs and services, in the direct contact we have with our young customers, and in the room between the books and stories and information exchanges, we carve out little spaces where curiosity can grow.

And boy do we need curiosity. From earthquakes to oil leaks, the world of today offers up issues and problems whose solutions demand cooperation and collaboration, openness and objectivity. Those qualities, in turn, owe their understanding to a receptive attitude. Inquisitiveness has never been more critical to our young people, and to our planet.

So, what does all of this have to do with you? Another important question. ALSC sits ready to reinvent our Strategic Plan. It is time to reconsider our activity, and measure it in terms of how well it supports our deepest purpose. For me, that means asking how ALSC activity supports kids' curiosity. But we need to know what it means to you. In the coming months the ALSC Board will be reaching out to you for input. I know that strategic planning can be positively soporific. These solicitations can feel abstract and distant. Heck, sometimes they feel tiresome or, even, irrelevant. But remember what we're doing. We're positioning the Association for Library Service to Children to deliver you the tools to make your work easy, and to keep your work relevant.

We need to know. What does it mean, to you, to be a children's librarian?--*Thom Barthelmess, ALSC President*

### What Would Zena Do?

Although I had been a kindergarten teacher and a graduate student in early childhood education when I decided to pursue a master's degree in library science at the University of Chicago, I had no intention of becoming a children's librarian. Yet when the Dean of Students suggested that I take the introductory children's literature course, I thought "Why not?" After all, I loved to read as a child, and children's literature had been a centerpiece in my classroom. The Dean also mentioned that an instructor named Zena Sutherland taught the course, and that a festschrift had recently been published in her honor (I had no idea what a "festschrift" was but it turned out to be *Celebrating Children's Books: Essays on Children's Literature in Honor of Zena Sutherland*, edited by Betsy Hearne and Marilyn Kaye, both doctoral students working with Zena).

I have to admit that Zena (we called most of our professors by their first names) won me over very quickly. She was extraordinarily witty and intelligent, as well as very frank and direct – all four feet eleven of her. Zena believed that all

children deserved outstanding books that portrayed their experiences with honesty and artistry. Better yet, Zena told wonderful stories about her friends who were children's book authors, illustrators, editors and publishers, many of them set during conferences of the American Library Association and often concerning the work of the Association for Library Service to Children.

The children's literature class was fairly big since it also had students from the college as well as the graduate Education Department. For this reason, I was surprised when Zena stopped me in the library one day to remark that I hadn't yet talked with her about my folklore paper. I did the next day and ended up writing what I still think is the best paper of my library school career. Needless to say, I enrolled in Zena's young adult literature course the following quarter. This class was held in the seminar room in the Center for Children's Books where Zena spent most of her time as editor of *The Bulletin*, a job title that is a bit of a misnomer since Zena actually wrote the eighty reviews - yes, that's right, eighty - that appeared in every issue. Early in the quarter, Zena handed out galleys of young adult books for students to read, review, and discuss in class. Even though I had now become aware that she was THE Zena Sutherland, Zena listened to what we had to say and genuinely valued our opinions. As part of our coursework, we also visited The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools where high school librarian Hazel Rochman presented a booktalk. I wanted to read EVERY book that Hazel presented - and realized that my roster of memorable mentors had grown to two.

The rest, as they say, is history (at least for me), as Zena became my thesis advisor, confidante and friend. As busy as she was (in addition to the professional duties I've noted, Zena was always at work on her children's literature textbook), there was never a time when I stopped by Zena's office or called her at home that she didn't have time to talk with me and offer guidance and support.

On the ALSC electronic discussion list, I regularly see subscribers asking how they can find a mentor. These posts often make me think of Zena and how differently my life might have turned out had it not been for our relationship. I know that ALSC members take many different paths to a career in children's librarianship: some have opportunities for the kind of sage counsel that I received, but others do not.

For all of these reasons, and because we need mentors throughout our careers, the program at the ALSC Division Leadership Meeting (DLM) at the Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. will focus on mentoring. Despite the meeting's name, the DLM is open to ALL conference registrants. It will be held on Saturday, June 26 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Jefferson Room at the Hilton Washington. If you can't be at this meeting but have suggestions that you would like to be considered, please contact me at [juliealsc@gmail.com](mailto:juliealsc@gmail.com). And, as always, thank you for your help.—  
*Julie Corsaro, ALSC Vice-President/President-Elect*

## **ALSC Supporters**

Many thanks to the following contributors to the Friends of ALSC and the Frederick Melcher Scholarship Endowment. To learn how you can contribute, visit [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) and click on "About ALSC--Contact ALSC--Donate to ALSC" on the left-hand navigation menu.

### **Friends of ALSC**

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## ALSC Scholarship Opportunities Going Strong

This year the ALSC Scholarships Committee received scholarship applications from 127 individuals setting their sights on a career in librarianship, and during Annual Conference this month in Washington, D.C., ALSC President Thom Barthelmess will announce our deserving 2010 scholarship recipients.

Currently, ALSC awards six scholarships annually: four Bound to Stay Bound Books (BTSB) Scholarships of \$7,000 each and two Frederic G. Melcher Scholarships of \$6,000 each. In these tough economic times, ALSC is truly pleased and grateful to be able to extend this level of financial assistance to our nation's future librarians. ALSC sincerely thanks Robert L. Sibert, president of Bound to Stay Bound Books Inc., contributor of the BTSB Scholarships, for his continued support, and all the individuals who have contributed to the Frederic G. Melcher Endowment, which funds the Melcher Scholarships. With everyone feeling the economic crunch, these donations become even more significant, valuable, and appreciated.

Bound to Stay Bound Books Inc., prebinders of juvenile books since 1920 and a third-generation family business, has funded the BTSB Scholarship for 25 years. In 1985, one scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 was granted to Megan McDonald. Over the years, BTSB's support has grown dramatically. "It is a proven fact that our scholarships have helped bring some wonderful people into the youth services field," says Robert L. Sibert. "This is extremely important because, if children can get a great start in the library at a young age, they become better readers, students, and citizens for life."

The Melcher Endowment, established in 1955, will soon fund yet another scholarship opportunity. Beginning with the announcement of the 2010 class of Spectrum Scholars, ALSC will sponsor one Spectrum Scholar each year through funding from the Melcher Endowment. The ALSC Spectrum Scholar will be awarded to a Spectrum applicant who expresses an interest in library service to children.

As we spotlight our scholarship program, we cannot forget to extend our thanks to the hard-working, dedicated members of the Scholarships Committee for their time and effort in reviewing the many applications and choosing our winners.

ALSC is committed to promoting and advancing the library profession, and our strong scholarships program goes a long way to helping us fulfill that goal.--*Laura Schulte-Cooper, ALSC Program Officer, Communications*

## ALSC Voices

### ALSC Profile

**Kerry Gleason**  
**Youth Services Librarian**  
**Wilmington Institute Library, Wilmington, Delaware**  
**ALSC membership: Almost 9 years**

#### **Where did you attend library school?**

I attended the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

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

I've always known that I wanted to work with children but it wasn't until I was working at the Penfield Library at SUNY

Oswego that I realized I had the option to work with children AND libraries. I don't think many people think about libraries as a career growing up. I'm just glad that I met the right people who encouraged me to pursue this career before I went in another direction. I'm happiest among books and libraries and to have this as a career fulfills me. I must have always known though that I wanted to be a librarian because I still find books from my own collection that have stamps in them from when I played "library" as a child.

**Why did you join ALSC?**

I joined ALSC because I felt it was important to attach myself with like minded individuals who valued the importance of children and libraries. I also wanted to become involved in the organization and make the most out of my own career. I really feel you get more from life if you are engaged and connected to different communities and I felt ALSC was an essential one to be associated with.

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

The biggest reward for me is the connections you make with the patrons. I look forward to seeing my regulars and helping them find books that I know they'll like. Or when you help a "nonreader" become an avid reader, nothing hits you the same way. When those kids start coming back and look to you as a trusted ally instead of an outsider, it makes me feel like I'm doing something right.

**What is your favorite job responsibility?**

My favorite job responsibility is collection development. Without the right books in your collection, I feel like everything else doesn't work. I'm lucky enough that I'm responsible for my book ordering and that I can personally develop the collection based on the needs of my specific audience. I make it a point to have a diverse, well rounded collection but I also try to make sure I have what my readers want. It is always exciting to get the new books and it is especially rewarding to hear from my patrons how good our collection is.

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

My advice for anyone in school or starting out at a job is that you are responsible for your own success and happiness. Your life/education/career is what you make of it. What you put into it is what you'll get out of it. Make sure you take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way and give it all you got.

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

Our Culture for Kids series which features storytellers, puppet shows, singers, and other artists is very successful each month and the Brandywine Zoo visit is always popular at the library.

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

I'm drawn to the art in picture books and one of my favorite artists is Taeun Yoo. Her illustrations for *So Many Days*(January 2010) are gentle and comforting, perfect for a book about choices and being brave.

**What are your hobbies?**

I love to read mysteries, bake, and practice my photography.

**What three words best describe you?**

Bright, imaginative, and friendly

## Bright Ideas

Don't miss the Summer/Fall 2010 issue of *Children and Libraries*. The annual awards issue will include acceptance speeches by Rebecca Stead (Newbery Medalist) and Jerry Pinkney (Caldecott Medalist).

The issue mails out to ALSC members in late August.

## LEGO® Fun at the Library

In an effort to attract children who had outgrown storytime, the Canton (Mich.) Public Library decided to try something new. We hosted a “Dad and Me Lego” program that attracted over 40 boys and girls, ages 5-9, who came with their dads, grandfathers, and other male caregivers. During this 60-minute program, the families had fun creating and interacting with other LEGO® enthusiasts. Dads and grandfathers were excited to share their love of LEGO® with their children and grandchildren. The children were excited to introduce their loved ones to their friends. It also was a great time for these groups to interact in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere.

LEGO® bricks have been around for over 50 years, but they have just recently become popular in libraries. There is a strong connection between playing with LEGO® and reading. Play contributes to literacy development by increasing attention span, language, and vocabulary skills and also lays the foundation for mathematical thinking and problem solving.

Playing with LEGO® offers children something physical and something imaginative. The library did provide a few examples of projects to build, but most groups decided to create their own masterpieces. It was exciting to watch the creativity and cooperation that went into each design. Some families worked independently, while others joined together to create larger designs.

Due to the popularity of the program, the library is offering the program more frequently and has increased the age span. We have discovered people as young as four and as old as 75 love LEGO®. It's amazing to watch these enthusiastic kids and grown-ups work together in our library in new ways. What a great way to encourage multigenerational programming.—*Anne Heidemann, Canton (Mich.) Public Library*

## Truck Town

The Northwest Library, a branch of Multnomah County Library (Portland, Ore.), attracted over 600 people to its second annual Truck Town Party in April. Children came to “pet” trucks, make crafts, and hear truck stories. Each child received a yellow hard hat souvenir. Last year, youth librarian Susan Smallsreed decided to replicate a Touch-a-Truck event she'd read about. It was so popular that now it is an annual event. Here's how you can plan one:

1. Identify and get permission to use a large parking lot.
2. Invite companies or government agencies that own trucks & machines in which kids are interested to park them at the lot for your event.
3. Publicize with flyers, and on bulletin boards and the library's Web site, through your library's public relations/marketing outlets, and on Facebook & Twitter. Talk it up at every outreach visit and storytime in the month before the event.
4. Purchase/borrow gear to create atmosphere and to maintain safety. Items include safety vests, hard hats, traffic cones, hand-held stop signs, tables and chairs, canopies, and carpet or flooring for storytime. You may also want some caution tape for decoration.
5. Prepare needed crafts and supplies. This year, Portland kids assembled construction paper diggers or dump trucks (find designs with permission to use through an online search).
6. Recruit volunteers (great for teens!) to help set up, hand out hard hats, capture attendance, direct traffic, and break down the event. Volunteers make great picture takers too!
7. On the day of the event, post big signs at the parking lot. Set up the rest of your supplies and craft stations, open the gates, enjoy, send home the trucks, dismantle your setup, and save purchased items for next year's program.

8. Convey thanks to all the companies, agencies, staff, and volunteers who helped make the program such a success.
9. Post pictures on the library's Web site, Facebook page, and in the library.

Multnomah's 2010 trucks included the Police Bomb Squad van & robots; two fire engines; a snowplow; an ambulance & EMT crew; a remote-operated tow truck that the kids operated; Penske Truck Rentals' big semi-tractor and a step van; and a big brown UPS van in which kids banged around. Give-aways from participating companies included balloons and frisbees!

In our experience, this is an easy-to-produce event, great fun for the kids, requires minimal financial commitment, and is a fantastic experience for truckers big & small!--*Susan Smallsreed, Youth Librarian, and Ellen Fader, Youth Services Director, Multnomah County Library (Portland Ore.)*

## **Bake with Me!**

It's never too early to learn your way around the kitchen--even if you're only two years old! The Bake with Me program at the Green Valley Library in Henderson, Nev. is a unique cooking class/story experience for children ages two through six. Encouraging motor and counting skills while promoting special one-on-one time with parents and caregivers, Bake with Me allows young children to create their own delicious masterpieces and eat them too!

The first installment, in the series of quarterly programs, featured an individual serving recipe for chocolate chip cookies. With the help of the grown-ups, kids measured and mixed ingredients and shaped their cookies. While the treats baked in the library's staff lounge oven, program creator Stephanie Espinoza read the popular *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff and let kids "shake their sillies out." The second program of the series, Bake with Me: Chocolate!, introduced kids to individual serving chocolate mug cakes, mixed and baked all inside one ceramic coffee mug. For libraries that don't have their own oven, fear not; this recipe works in the microwave! The most recent offering, Bake with Me: Pizza!, was another culinary hit.

The Bake with Me program has responded to the interests of Henderson community members who not only have an increasing fascination with TV's Food Network, making more meals at home in today's economy, but also have shown a strong desire for more programs and activities for their littlest ones to enjoy.

## **Chocolate Mug Cake**

Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons flour (whole wheat pastry flour recommended)  
2 ½ Tablespoons white sugar  
1 Tablespoon cocoa powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
Pinch of salt  
1 ½ Tablespoons milk  
1 ½ Tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 ½ Tablespoons mini chocolate chips  
Splish of vanilla (that's half a splash!)  
2 Tablespoons egg  
1 extra Tablespoon mini chocolate chips

Directions:

Step 1: In a microwave-safe mug, add flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt. Mix well with a fork so that no flour sticks to the bottom of the mug.

Step 2: Pour in milk, oil, chocolate chips, and splash of vanilla. Mix together, then add the egg and mix again. Add the extra tablespoon of chocolate chips on top. Cover with a plate.

Step 3: Microwave for 1 minute. If not completely cooked, add an extra 30 seconds. Carefully remove mug from microwave. Let cool slightly and enjoy!

## Mini Pizza (serves one)

Ingredients:

1/4 cup whole wheat pastry flour  
1/8 teaspoon baking powder  
Tiny pinch of salt  
1 and 1/2 teaspoons water  
1 teaspoon vegetable oil  
2 Tablespoons marinara (tomato) sauce  
Sprinkle of basil  
3 Tablespoons mozzarella cheese  
1 Tablespoon parmesan cheese  
Pepperoni

Directions:

Step 1: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees and set a square of parchment paper (NOT wax) on a baking sheet.

Step 2: Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt in a small bowl. Add the water and oil and then stir. Knead the dough by hand, adding more water as necessary if the dough is too dry.

Step 3: Pat the dough into a small circle on the parchment paper and pinch the edges up. Top with sauce, basil, cheese, and as much pepperoni as you like! Bake for about 10-15 minutes, let cool and enjoy! --*Stephanie Espinoza is a Youth Services Specialist, Green Valley Branch, Henderson Libraries, Nevada*

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Member News

**Rita Soltan's** (West Bloomfield, Mich.) new book, *Solving the Reading Riddle: The Librarian's Guide to Reading Instruction* (Libraries Unlimited, 2010) explores the past 75 years of reading instruction and how today's children's librarians and school media specialists are a crucial part of the developing philosophy and strategy. The book explains reading instruction theory and demonstrates how to integrate that theory into the librarian's role as reading advocate, family reading coach, educational partner, and keeper of the books. For more information, visit <http://lu.com>.

**Mary Kuehner**, outreach librarian, Jefferson County (Colorado) Public Library (JCPL), received special recognition at the 19th Annual Good News Breakfast held this past April in Golden, Colo. Kuehner was one of twelve outstanding individuals and/or organizations honored for outstanding contributions to literacy in Jefferson County. She also served as keynote speaker for the event. At JCPL, Kuehner is in charge of the Traveling Children's Library, a program that brings books and bilingual storytimes to more than 1,500 at-risk preschool children throughout Jefferson County. She also works to give parents and caregivers the skills they need to help their children become successful readers and learners. She also is a founding member of Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy.

**Tricia Twarogowski**, library location supervisor, children's services, Matthews Branch, Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County (N.C.), was named Professional of the Year 2009 by the Autism Society of North Carolina. The award is given for outstanding service in the fields of health, recreational, therapeutic, or support services to persons on the autism spectrum. In an effort to create a program that meets the needs of children with autism, Twarogowski contacted the Autism Society of North Carolina for help in developing appropriate activities for this audience. The very successful result was Rhythm and Rhyme Story Time, which incorporates visuals, songs, movement, and tactile objects that appeal to children with autism. The program is held once a month at the Matthews Public Library at two different times to accommodate the large number of participants.

**Patty Wong**, Yolo County (California) librarian and chief archivist, was named a Women of the Year by the 5th Senate District of California. Every March, the state Senate celebrates Women's History Month by honoring women whose contributions improve lives in their communities. Wong, Senator Lois Wolk's Yolo County honoree, is a 26-year veteran in the field of library services who has dedicated her life to improving library access. Recently, she was instrumental in overseeing the construction and opening of two new libraries in Winters and West Sacramento, California.

## ALSC Online Education Summer Courses

Stay current with the latest trends, research, and emerging technologies in children's librarianship through an online education course this summer from ALSC. Budget and time constraints can often make attending local and national conferences for continuing education difficult, but ALSC's series of online courses provides you the flexibility and affordability you need to stay current and ensure you are providing the most up-to-date programming in your library.

Starting on July 19, ALSC is offering five courses that are sure to enlighten and engage librarians at any point in their career. Course selections include: **Information Literacy—From Preschool to High School; Introduction to Graphic Novels for Children; Out of This World Youth Programming; Children with Disabilities in the Library;** and **Reading Instruction and Children's Books**. Registration is now open and discounted rates are available for ALSC members. Course space is limited, so please register early to reserve your spot.

Courses are taught asynchronously using Moodle, an online learning community. A certificate of completion will be sent to participants upon successful completion of the course. Detailed descriptions and registration information are at [www.ala.org/alsced](http://www.ala.org/alsced). Fees are \$95 for personal ALSC members; \$145 for personal ALA members; and \$165 for non-members. For more information, contact ALSC Deputy Director Kirby Simmering at [ksimmering@ala.org](mailto:ksimmering@ala.org).

## New from ALSC/ALA

*The Newbery and Caldecott Awards: A Guide to the Medal and Honor Books, 2010 Edition* is now available from the ALA Store at: <http://www.alastore.ala.org/>. This practical guide covers the most distinguished American children's literature and illustration. Librarians and teachers everywhere have come to rely on it for quick reference, collection and curriculum development, and readers' advisory. In this year's essay, Diane Foote, former ALSC Executive Director, presents an enlightening overview of recent clarifications to the awards' definitions and provides an insightful look at some recent trends in children's book publishing that affect the work of the Newbery and Caldecott Award Selection Committees.

## 21 Things for 21st Century KidLibs

Twitter? Blogger? Vimeo? Oh My! Is all this technology just a big confusing puzzle to you? Are you feeling lost when it comes to using these technologies with families, children, and teens in your library?

No need to worry anymore; join ALSC's Children and Technology Committee in a rousing 8-week play date with some of these Web 2.0 tools, I mean toys! This program is based on the 23Things program created by Helene Blowers while she was working at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (N.C.).

21Things is a self-paced, fun-filled journey towards new approaches in providing library services to youth. The first module will be posted on July 12th, 2010, and new modules will be added weekly. Participants are asked to please feel free to play at their leisure. No need to worry about getting stuck, everyone will be assigned a cyber navigator who will help you along the way if you get stuck on any of the modules.

To get started, please visit <http://21things4kidlibs.eventbrite.com> to register. Space is limited to 100 participants, so sign up today. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Children and Technology Committee Chair, Amber Creger at acreger at chipublib.org.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

## Media Awards - Send Us Your Suggestions

ALSC members are welcome to suggest titles and names for the upcoming media awards. Send recommendations with full bibliographic information to the committee chair listed below. For more information about each award, visit [www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc) and click on "Awards & Grants."

Newbery Medal, Cynthia K. Richey, richeyc at einetwork.net  
Caldecott Medal, Judy Zuckerman, j.zuckerman at brooklynpubliclibrary.org  
2012 Arbutnot Lecture, Shawn S. Brommer, sbrommer at scl.slib.wi.us  
Batchelder Award, Susan Faust, sanfransue4 at gmail.com  
Belpré Award, Martha Walke, walkem at sover.net  
Carnegie Medal, Angelique Kopa, kopa at hcplonline.info  
Geisel Award, Julie Roach, jul\_roach at yahoo.com  
Notable Children's Books, Katie O'Dell, kodell at multcolib.org  
Notable Children's Recordings, Karen Perry, perrykm5 at yahoo.com  
Notable Children's Videos, Angelique Kopa, kopa at hcplonline.info  
Odyssey Award, Sarah McCarville, smccarville at grpl.org  
Sibert Medal, Barbara Brand, brandb at jocolibrary.org  
2011 Wilder Award, Megan Schliesman, schliesman at education.wisc.edu

## Día 2010

Libraries around the country celebrated El día de los niños/El día de los libros on April 30th this year. ALSC mailed over 14,000 Día brochures to more than 300 public and school libraries.

Thanks to the new Día Facebook Fan Page, word about the Día initiative is spreading, and librarians are able to share their Día stories and resources. During the month of April, the ALSC Public Awareness Committee provided a "Countdown to Día" with daily postings of suggestions, ideas, and resources on the fan page. To become a Día fan, visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "The Official El día de los niños/El día de los libros."

ALSC sincerely thanks our 2010 Día partners for their invaluable support:

- HarperCollins produced a 2010 poster that featured tips and ideas for celebrating Día. Posters were distributed during spring library conferences.
- Arte Público Press offered a special 50% discount to libraries on book orders placed in conjunction with Día events.
- Cinco Puntos Press offered discounts to libraries and schools celebrating Día.
- Charlesbridge Publishing offered discounts to libraries celebrating Día.
- Children's Book Press offered a 40% discount through April 30 to all libraries that were celebrating Día.

Are you interested in developing a Día celebration for your library next year? Don't miss your opportunity to learn more at "Día Is Diversity in Action," an educational program developed by REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. The program will be held on Monday, June 28, at 1:30 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center (Room 103B) during the ALA Annual Conference.

## 100 Years of Best Books

Each year, the Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College (New York) reviews over 6,000 children's and young adult books and creates a list of the year's best. The committee is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary. This year, for the first time, the printed list is available free online. It is organized by age and category--for example, if you're looking for an adventure story for a seven-year-old, a nonfiction science book for a nine-year-old, or an historical novel for an eleven-year-old, you can find it easily.

ALSC members **Rita Auerbach, Jennifer M. Brown, and Lisa Von Drasek** served on the Children's Book Committee. The 2010 edition of The Best Children's Books of the Year list is available at: <http://www.bnkst.edu/bookcom/>.

## Your Día Input Requested

ALSC member Jeanette Larson is writing a book for ALSC entitled, *El día de los niños/El día de los libros. El día de los niños/el día de los libros: Building a Culture of Literacy in Your Community*. It will be published by ALA in 2011 and will focus on the history of Día, the benefits of the celebration to the library, children, and the community, as well as include model programs and best practices for garnering community involvement. Please send information about what your library has done and is doing, especially if you work with other ethnic groups in addition to Spanish-speaking populations. Any material that might be useful in the book, especially examples of flyers and program material, information about partnerships, and photographs of participants is welcome. Contact Jeanette at [larsonlibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:larsonlibrary@yahoo.com).

## Getting Together

### Welcome to Washington, D.C.

The 2010 Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) proudly welcomes you to Our Nation's Capital for this year's ALA Annual Conference! Besides offering friendly assistance during ALSC's many wonderful programs and events, the LAC has assembled an array of resources to help maximize your enjoyment of this year's conference experience.

Before and during your stay in Washington, visit the LAC's wiki ([http://wikis.ala.org/alsc/index.php/ALSC %40 ALA 2010 Annual Conference ...](http://wikis.ala.org/alsc/index.php/ALSC_%40_ALA_2010_Annual_Conference_...)).

- Need help getting to and around town? Check out the "Transportation Tips" link for the low-down on airports, trains, buses, and Washington's Metro transit system.
- Hoping for a chance meeting with the President? Check out the "Restaurants" link for the scoop on his favorite dining spots and watering holes around town.
- Are you bringing the kids (or are you a kid at heart)? Click on "Kid-Friendly Washington" for lots of fun experiences for children of all ages.

We hope your experience at the 2010 ALA Annual Conference is both enriching and rewarding. See you in Washington!

## Volunteers Needed

Please share your time and expertise by volunteering in the ALSC booth at Annual Conference. Two-hour slots are available starting Friday, June 25th through Monday June 28th. Exhibits will be held in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Halls A, B, and C. The ALSC booth will be located in the Membership Pavilion, booth #2525.

### Friday, June 25 (Opening Celebration)

5:30-7:30 pm

### Saturday, June 26

9:00 – 11:00 am

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

1:00 – 3:00 pm

3:00 – 5:00 pm

### Sunday, June 27

9:00 – 11:00 am

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

1:00 – 3:00 pm

3:00 – 5:00 pm

### Monday, June 28

9:00 – 11:00 am

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

1:00 – 3:00 pm

3:00 – 4:00 pm\* (1 hour slot)

Please send me an email by Friday, June 4th if you are interested in this wonderful opportunity. Please include your preferred time slots. Thank you!--Kerry Gleason, [kerry\\_gleason@hotmail.com](mailto:kerry_gleason@hotmail.com), ALSC Membership Committee

## ALSC: DC at a Glance

Join ALSC at Annual Conference for exciting programs, events, and more!

**ALSC 101** is on Friday, June 25, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in the Capital A Room. If you're new to ALSC or if this is your first conference as a children's librarian, then this program is for you! We'll provide you with information about the perks of ALSC membership, tips on how to get involved in the organization, and tricks of the trade for navigating Annual Conference.

**ALSC Happy Hour** is on Friday, June 25, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Gordon Biersch restaurant and bar (900 F Street NW, Washington DC). Stop by and grab a drink with friends old and new! Drinks are not sponsored by ALSC, but we'd love to see you there to mix and mingle with other members.

**The Tech Petting Zoo** is on Saturday, June 26 from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. in the ALA Membership Pavilion (Exhibits Booth #2525). The Children and Technology Committee will be hosting this event where they will be showing off cool new gadgets and highlighting tech programming ideas that are easy to replicate in libraries. Committee members will also be displaying their committee presence on ALA Connect and helping other members log on and upload a profile picture. The Tech Petting Zoo is an introduction to an online program the committee will be starting this summer called "21 Things," which takes librarians through 21 different technologies and their uses in libraries.

**Advocacy Hour** will be held at the ALA Membership Pavilion is on Saturday, June 26 through Monday, June 28, at the ALA Membership Pavilion (Exhibits Booth #2525). Stop by to pick-up information about advocacy or have your advocacy questions answered by an expert. There will also be a 10-minute presentation from the ALA Washington Office about what you can do to advocate for libraries.

The **Pura Belpré Celebración** is on Sunday, June 27 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Join ALSC and REFORMA in a joyous celebration honoring the 2010 Belpré Medal winners and honorees.

The **Newbery Caldecott Banquet** is on Sunday, June 27 from 6 - 11 p.m. at the Hilton Washington. Join us for this gala to celebrate the Newbery and Caldecott Medalists and Honorees, authors and illustrators of the year's most distinguished books for children. Cocktails (cash bar) available prior to dinner; doors open at 6:45 p.m. No tickets will be available at the door. Reserved table seating is an option for anyone attending the banquet, as long as you purchase a whole table (seats 10) in one payment transaction. A limited amount of tickets are available, register now!

**ALSC Charlemae Rollins President's Program featuring Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl** is on Monday, June 28 from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 144A-C. Dr. Kuhl will discuss her research and findings on infants' early language and later reading skills, teaching librarians how they can best help families with literacy.

The **Awards Presentation and Membership Meeting** is on Monday, June 28 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 144A-C. Join your colleagues for the annual presentation for the Batchelder, Carnegie, Geisel and Sibert, Awards. The ALSC Membership Meeting will immediately follow.

**Odyssey Award Presentation & Program** is on Monday, June 28 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. in the Washington Convention Center, Room 145B. Celebrate the spoken word at this event featuring the 2010 Odyssey winner, *Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken*, written by Kate DiCamillo, narrated by Barbara Rosenblat, and produced by Live Oak Media. Three honor titles will also be recognized for their excellence in audiobook production for children and young adults. A reception sponsored by the Audio Publishers Association with light refreshments will follow the award presentations program.

**Library Advocacy Day** is on Tuesday, June 29 at 11 a.m. at the U.S. Capitol Grounds, and is being hosted by the ALA Washington Office. This one-time opportunity during conference is a chance for library supporters to join together to demonstrate support for libraries and for first-time advocates to get involved.

After the rally, which is free and open to the public, ALA members will meet with their members of Congress and their staffs to talk about the needs and concerns of libraries in their communities. Go to the Library Advocacy Day Web site ([www.ala.org/lad](http://www.ala.org/lad)) to learn more about the event and to register (not required, but recommended).

## 2010 ALSC National Institute

There's still time to get the early bird rate for the 2010 ALSC National Institute. ALSC members can register from now until June 30, to take advantage of the special low rate of \$360 per person. After June 30, registration for ALSC members goes up to \$395. Register now and save!

Taking place in Atlanta on September 23 – 25, 2010, at the Emory Conference Center, the Institute touches on some of the most important topics in library service to children such as technology in the library, children's literature, and programming and partnerships. Still curious why you should attend the ALSC Institute?

- For as little as \$360 you receive nearly 30 hours of educational programming that includes five programs, three keynote sessions, and multiple networking activities. Registration also includes most meals and snacks and all handout materials.
- This is one of the only conferences devoted solely to children's librarianship, literature, and technology.
- Learn from more than seven award-winning authors, illustrators and artists including: Ashley Bryan, Carmen Agra Deedy, John McCutcheon, Walter Dean Myers, Christopher Myers, Brian Selznick, and David Saylor.

- Bring information back to your library on improving your programming, increasing your partnerships, and enhancing your technology.
- Networking! More than 200 children's librarians, authors, illustrators, and publishers will be at the Institute to meet new people and exchange ideas.
- Get an up-close look at one of Atlanta's most interesting venues, the Center for Puppetry Arts.
- All programming and lodging is at the Emory Conference Center making the Institute extremely easy to navigate.
- Check out the ALSC Blog to hear what 2008 Institute participants had to say about their experience! Posts are being added as the 2010 Institute gets closer, so please don't forget to check back in the near future.

Registration program details and prices are now available at <http://www.ala.org/alscinstitute>. More pricing options, such as discounted group rates and single day passes, are also available. Questions should be directed to ALSC Deputy Director Kirby Simmering at [ksimmering@ala.org](mailto:ksimmering@ala.org) or 1-800-545-2433, ext. 2164.

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