

ALSCConnect

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

Officially Speaking

Are You Connected?

Top Ten Reasons to become a member of ALAConnect:

10) Stay informed.

ALAConnect provides a wealth of information, across the association, not the least of which is up-to-the-minute reporting on what your favorite ALSC Committees are up to.

9) Practice your tech skills.

Taking on the ALAConnect learning curve is a terrific way to immerse yourself in emerging technologies, with the assistance of tremendous online help and tutorials, and the encouragement of your peers.

8) Find a mentor.

Need some advice about moving through your chosen profession? Looking for support with a particular, on-the-job issue? MentorConnect can match you with someone with precisely the skills and experience to offer some meaningful guidance.

7) Become a mentor.

With crops of new librarians moving into the workplace, it's time that those of us who have been around for a while share some of our wisdom, and prepare tomorrow's leaders to catch the torch.

6) Connect.

Build a network of contacts with people inside and outside of ALSC. I don't need to tell you of the formidable force of a group of united librarians.

5) Put a face with a name.

ALAConnect sorts member groups (including ALSC) alphabetically by first name, starting with those who have uploaded a profile picture. It's pretty cool - check it out.

4) Be heard in the division.

With its capacity to organize and thread discussions, ALAConnect is the forum where the ALSC leadership solicits input and feedback on matters of interest and import to the members.

3) Be heard in the association.

Later this month ALA will deliver the draft 2015 Strategic Plan to members for review and comment. ALAConnect will be the place to make your voice heard, and represent the interests of the youngest library users.

2) Take charge.

Not seeing a place to pursue your own special subset of professional practice? Create a community, find some fellow enthusiasts, and make the world a better place.

1) You already are.

By virtue of your ALA membership, you are already all set up in ALAConnect. Just log in with the same username and password you use for other ALA business. You'll find that your profile is fundamentally populated with your information and involvement, and you're ready to go!

Get connected today at <http://connect.ala.org/>. --Thom Barthelmess, ALSC President

Council Report - Midwinter 2010

Attendance at this year's Midwinter Meeting was 11,095, as compared to 10,220 in Denver.

ALA President-Elect Roberta Stevens introduced the three initiatives of her presidency, which will include frontline fundraising, authors as advocates, and cultivating "young notables," a contest for young people, who will use "Library 2.0" technology to communicate why their local libraries are important to them.

Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director, gave a report to Council. ALA has experienced a slight decrease in membership, which is due in part to the removal of duplicate member records during a clean-up of ALA's membership database. ALA received a grant from Dollar General in the amount of \$750,000. Capwiz, an online advocacy program that facilitates communication with elected officials at the state and national level, has been an effective tool for librarians and advocates to get the message out to legislators.

The goal of the Spectrum Presidential Initiative is to raise a million dollars in 2010 for the scholarships in order to fund every applicant. Past ALA President Betty Turock addressed Council, and ALA President Camila Alire announced that Betty Turock and her family have donated \$100,000 to the initiative.

A resolution declaring 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research was introduced by Diane Dates Casey, ALCTS division councilor, and passed.

ALA Treasurer reported that the association posted revenue of \$653,102 in 2009, due primarily to stringent budget cutting actions undertaken by ALA.

Council approved the following 2011 program activities for ALA: diversity, equitable access to information and library services, education and lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, advocacy for libraries and the profession, literacy, and organizational excellence.

J. Linda Williams and Kevin Reynolds were elected to the Executive Board.

Council approved a recommendation from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to grant affiliate status to the Association of Jewish Libraries.

Barbara Jones was announced as the new director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF). The Libraries and Internet Toolkit has been updated. The OIF Gala will be held at the Folger Shakespeare Library during Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. on Monday evening.

The Committee on Legislation reported that there will be a rally at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday, June 22 prior to conference, instead of during National Library Legislative Day in the spring.

A detailed account of Midwinter Council actions are at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/council/councilactions/index.cfm>. —*Rhonda K. Puntney, ALSC Division Councilor*

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.

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ALSC Voices

ALSC Profile

Deb Taylor

Coordinator of School and Student Services

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland

ALSC membership: About 18 years

Where did you attend library school?

I went to the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland

What attracted you to library service to children?

My library has a very strong tradition of services to young people. While my background is YA, my office oversees outreach to all things education related, K-12.

Why did you join ALSC?

I actually joined in solidarity with another ALA youth division when I was YALSA President.

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

Being connected to others who care about young people and the opportunity to have a positive impact in the lives of young people.

What is your favorite job responsibility?

Promoting the library's materials and services.

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

Stay connected with others of like minds in the profession.

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

Any time we are able to bring in an author or illustrator.

What is your favorite children's book out this year (2009) so far?

Sweethearts of Rhythm by Marilyn Nelson and Jerry Pinkney

What are your hobbies?

Watching too much sports.

What three words best describe you?

Interested, fortunate, and bookloving.

Bright Ideas

Tricycle Music Fest West Rocks the San Fran Library!

Hundreds of children rocked out at the San Francisco Public Library in October for the first ever Tricycle Music Fest West. This series of seven free concerts at six branches and one rollicking, outdoor block music fest at the main library, presented by SFPL and the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, gave families from around the Bay Area the chance to enjoy live indie rock music and explore San Francisco's libraries.

Inspired by the original Tricycle Music Fest at the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (N.C.), SFPL's fest featured the coolest indie rock bands of the San Francisco Bay. The line-up included Frances England, The Hipwaders, Charity and the JAMband, The Time-Outs, and The Devil-Ettes Pip Squeak A Go Go.

Over a thousand families gathered and grooved at the library. One mother proudly commented, "I took my son to his first concert...at the library!"

For more information, contact Christy Estrovitz at cestrovitz@sfpl.org or www.tricyclefest.org. —Christy Estrovitz, *Early Literacy Specialist, San Francisco Public Library*

One for the Record Books

October 2009 was the first time Mid-Continent Public Library (Independence, Mo.) participated in Jumpstart's Read for the Record. Previously the date and book title had come out too late for our large system to get behind it, but in early spring, when we learned that October 8, 2009, was the date and Eric Carle's classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* was the book, we decided to go for it. Mid-Continent Public Library is a multi-county, consolidated library system with 29 full-service branches and a Genealogy Library serving 680,000 people in the Kansas City (Mo.) metropolitan area; so I knew that, by simply requiring participation by all Thursday story times and encouraging outreach story times to be scheduled on that Thursday, I could net about 1,000 listeners. Wanting to expand this, I first set up a meeting with the folks from Jumpstart Kansas City and our marketing and adult services departments.

With the understanding gained from that meeting of what was involved, a timeline was developed, special event programs were scheduled by the adult services department, branch managers were alerted to upcoming scheduling needs, and program presentation support materials were gathered.

We promoted it many ways. Within our fall program booklet, a quarter page, full color photo of a child reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* was featured with participation information included. (A staff member's grandchild posed with a new copy of the book and a small stuffed caterpillar on his shoulder.) The library's Web page featured the photo and a link to the book as well as participation information. Press releases went out to all area newspapers as well as to all school district communications and public information departments. Additionally information was sent to all public school media specialists via their association's district representatives and to all Parents as Teachers program supervisors. (We have 21 school districts in our service area, all with state-mandated Parents as Teachers programs.) On the first of October, postcards were sent to over 300 preschools and day cares, inviting them to participate. These were locations that participated in our 2009 summer reading program, so we knew they were interested in early literacy. I even sent it out to my Facebook friends and had it posted on the KC Parent calendar of events.

We provided access to the book through our own collection...over 175 copies in different formats, the online link, and in a "Caterpillar-to-Go" kit. The kit contained the text of the story, full-color flannel board pieces (found on the Web), information on how to make and present the story as a flannel board, several coloring pages, caterpillar and butterfly finger plays, songs and rhymes, and even a snack idea. The kit cover page invited participants to call or send in their numbers to my office within a relatively short time frame—by Saturday October 10.

Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9 were like election eve. By 10 a.m. Thursday, I was getting phone calls and email messages from readers reporting listeners. One group of early childhood teachers read to their children, reported it, and when they discovered another group of young children next door, went over and read to them too, adding to their total. Grandmothers called in reporting readings to their preschool grandchildren and promising to read to the school-aged ones when they got home. Having checked with Jumpstart Kansas City that large group readings were allowable, elementary school principals were reported having read to their students at special assemblies or by going from classroom to classroom. One principal read to children gathered in the auditorium before school and then went to the cafeteria to read to those having breakfast too.

Local children's musician Jim "Mr. Stinkyfeet" Cosgrove presented two library programs that included reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and over half of our branch libraries sent out staff to read to children in day cares and preschools, including one who reported going home and reading it to her grandchildren after work. Branches also set up "Caterpillar in the Corner" areas with scheduled or "self service" readings. Other area Read for the Record events included local media personality "guest" readers who were seen on the evening news.

Altogether I reported over 16,000 children hearing *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* on October 8. Our participation garnered a follow-up article in the education section of the *Kansas City Star* where I was able to promote the importance and value of reading to young children as a fun and vital early literacy activity. The national Jumpstart office did contact me regarding the large number; most sites register and report individually, not through a library

system. I had tracked my phone calls and email messages, recording reader, site, and number of children, so that we could weed out any duplication. I am impressed that Jumpstart wanted a valid number...a real record.

Thoughts for the future include mobilizing retired teachers as outreach guest readers, coordinating with area HeadStart administration so all their children participate, and linking up with other local early literacy and child welfare groups (First Books, Reach Out and Read, the Mother and Child Health Coalition, etc.).

Consider helping set a new record in 2010. The excitement and energy from the effort is amazing.—*Anitra Steele, Children's Services Manager, Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Mo.*

Editor's note: On October 8, 2009, 2,019,752 children around the world read The Very Hungry Caterpillar! Voting for the official campaign book for Jumpstart's 2010 Read for the Record closed on February 28. The winning book is being announced on March 2. Will it be Blueberries for Sal, Make Way for Ducklings, Peter's Chair, or The Snowy Day? Find out at www.readfortherecord.org. Read for the Record 2010 will be held in early October.

Sensory Programming Takes Off in Charlotte

In August 2008, "Rhythm & Rhyme: A Storytime for Children with Special Needs and Their Families" was instituted at the Matthews Branch of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Through school visits to institutions educating children with disabilities, discussions with parents, questionnaires, focus groups, and hands-on experience, this innovative programming has evolved to a monthly library event at the branch benefiting many children and families who are underserved in our community.

The incorporation of Mayer-Johnson Boardmaker software, to create picture cards for use as a schedule, establishes structure for the program. Content includes low-key music, hands-on activities, and gentle sharing of books and literacy in an atmosphere of comfort with stuffed animals and dim lighting. The program currently serves children with autism, primarily, but also children with language delays, sensory-processing disorder, Down syndrome and disabilities.

The program at Matthews Branch Library received local news coverage in the *Charlotte Weekly* and *Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly* newspapers. Program creator, Tricia Bohanon Twarogowski, presented at the Librarian's Association at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (LAUNC-CH) Research Forum in May 2009 and now leads a task force focused on increased services to patrons of all ages with disabilities. While the program originated in one location, plans have been made to offer the class in at least six locations by summer 2010. For more information, contact, Tricia at 704-416-5004, ptwarogowski at cmlibrary.org.—*Tricia Bohanon Twarogowski, Children's Services Manager, Matthews Branch Library, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (N.C.)*

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Member News

Sam Patch: Daredevil Jumper (Holiday House, 2009), written by **Julie Cummins** has won a 2010 Storytelling World Resource Honor Award. Julie's book *Women Daredevils: Thrills, Chills, and Frills* (Dutton, 2008) is a 2010-2011 South Carolina Children's Book Award Nominee. Michael Austin, illustrator of *Sam Patch*, won a gold medal for a piece of art from the book at a competition held by the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles.

Leda Schubert's latest picture book, *Feeding the Sheep*, was illustrated by Andrea U'Ren and published by Farrar Straus and Giroux. For more information, visit her Web site: www.ledaschubert.com.

Día 2010

Celebrate! Celebremos! Join colleagues across the country as libraries nationwide celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day). Held annually on April 30, Día promotes the importance of advocating literacy for every child, regardless of linguistic and cultural background. Through Día celebrations, libraries showcase their multicultural programs and services. While supplies last, ALSC is providing up to 100 complimentary bilingual

brochures, with recommended book lists and tips on how to encourage children to read, to each library that registers its Día event at: www.ala.org/dia. The registry of events is searchable by state. Please feel free to contact us at dia@ala.org.

Paterson Is New Young People's Literature Ambassador

Katherine Paterson, two-time winner of the National Book Award and Newbery Medal, was recently named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Paterson will serve in the position during 2010 and 2011; she succeeds Jon Scieszka, appointed in 2008, who was the first person to hold the title. Katherine Paterson has chosen "Read for Your Life" as the theme for her platform.

The National Ambassador for Young People's Literature is named by the Librarian of Congress for a two-year term, based on recommendations from a selection committee representing many segments of the book community. The selection criteria include the candidate's contribution to young people's literature and ability to relate to children. The position was created to raise national awareness of the importance of young people's literature as it relates to lifelong literacy, education, and the development and betterment of the lives of young people.

For more information about Katherine Paterson and the position of National Ambassador, visit <http://www.read.gov/cfb/ambassador/ambassador.html>.

Tune In: Kids Public Radio

Entertaining kids far and wide, Kids Public Radio (KPR) is a network of free Web-based radio channels featuring music, stories, news, comedy, and more for listeners from birth to age 11. KPR is ad-free and commercial free, and includes three channels: Lullaby, Jabberwocky (stories), and Pipsqueaks (children's sing-alongs), plus links to other programming for kids. The Jabberwocky and Pipsqueaks channels are primarily hosted by kids and offer kid-produced programming as well. Whether you're looking for mellow bedtime music, lively sing-alongs, or amusing stories told by kids, check out <http://www.kidspublicradio.org/>.

A widget is available at <http://www.kidspublicradio.org/widgetsandlinks.html> to add to your library Web site, which allows patrons to listen to each of the channels while staying at your site.

Getting Together

Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Updates

2010 Arbuthnot Lecture. Tickets to attend the 2010 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, featuring Kathleen T. Horning, Director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin, are now available. The lecture is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 at 7 p.m., and will be held at the University of California-Riverside Extension Center. Lecture attendance is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance. To register online, visit: <http://www.rivlib.net/Arbuthnot>.

2011 Arbuthnot Lecture. Interested in hosting the 2011 Arbuthnot Lecture? Host applications will be available soon for the 2011 lecture to be delivered by Lois Lowry, two-time winner of the Newbery Medal. Host site application forms will be located at www.ala.org/alsc. Look for the link under "Breaking News." Completed applications are due **May 1, 2010**. Information about host site responsibilities is included in the application materials. The lecture traditionally is held in April or early May.

ALSC Preconference: Drawn to Delight

Learn to better utilize picturebooks in your library's programming by seeing these books through the eyes of the people who create them! The 2010 ALSC Preconference, Drawn to Delight: How Picture Books Work (and Play) Today," will bring together art directors, museum educators, and award-winning illustrators to take you through the creative and collaborative journey of picturebook development. This inspirational session will be held on June 25, 8

a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Studio demonstrations, hands-on opportunities, and original art door prizes are just a few of the highlights that await participants.

The award-winning line-up of presenters includes William Low, Kadir Nelson, Yuyi Morales, Jerry Pinkney, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Brian Selznick, and David Small.

Save your place now! Register online today

at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/registration/index.cfm>. Ticket prices are: Advance: ALA Member \$249; ALSC Member \$195; Retired Member \$180; Student Member \$180; Non-Member \$280. Advance registration closes on May 14. The event code is ALS1. The onsite cost is \$325 for all.

A Peach of an Institute - ALSC 2010

Join ALSC in Atlanta, September 23–25, 2010, for our biennial National Institute. This two and a half day workshop, devoted solely to children's and youth library services, offers a small, intimate setting for participating in programming and getting to know colleagues. Touching on some of the most important topics in library service to children, you're sure to go home feeling reinvigorated about the profession and more connected to others in the field.

Award-winning author and storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy and six-time Grammy-nominated musician, composer, and author John McCutcheon will open the Institute. On Friday, attendees will begin the day with the "Breakfast for Bill" program featuring 2008 Caldecott Medalist Brian Selznick, David Saylor, Vice President and Creative Director Trade Publishing, Scholastic Inc., and multiple award-winning father and son, author/illustrator team, Walter Dean and Christopher Myers. Ashley Bryan, 2009 Wilder Medalist, award-winning author, and storyteller will keynote the Friday luncheon.

Diversity is the theme of the Institute and will be reflected in the educational tracks focusing on technology, programming and partnerships, and children's literature. The successful Association Connection program debuted in 2008 return this year, just one of many engaging and fun networking activities to connect Institute attendees.

Registration prices and program details are now available on the ALSC Web site. Early bird registration (ends 6/30) for an ALSC member is \$360; regular advance registration (7/1 – 8/25) is \$395 for an ALSC member, \$410 for an ALA member, \$435 for a nonmember, and \$320 for students. More pricing options, such as group rates and single day passes, are also available. For more information, please visit <http://www.ala.org/alscinstitute>.

Questions? Contact ALSC Deputy Director Kirby Simmering at ksimmering@ala.org or 1-800-545-2433, x2164.

26th Annual Virginia Hamilton Conference

The 26th Annual Virginia Hamilton Conference on Multicultural Literature for Youth will be held on Thursday, April 8 and Friday, April 9, 2010, at the Kent State University Student Center. The conference provides a forum for discussion of multicultural themes and issues in literature for children and young adults. "New Horizons: The Next 25 Years!" is the theme of the conference, featuring the illuminating talents of two great wordsmiths, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Laurie Halse Anderson, and brilliant illustrator R. Gregory Christie.

The Thursday evening program will feature a keynote address by the 12th Annual Virginia Hamilton Literary Award winner, Pam Muñoz Ryan, and a performance by The HeartBEAT of Afrika. On Friday, a variety of local and national speakers will present workshop sessions on multicultural picture books, notable books for a global society, young adult novels for girls, cultural graphic novels, and puppet books. Friday's agenda again will include a "conversation" session with the three featured presenters.

Register early; the conference reaches capacity quickly. Contact the Office of Continuing and Distance Education at (330) 672-3100 or (800) 672-KSU2. Or register on-line at <http://www.yourtrainingresource.com> (Click on "Programs" at left and then on "Education" under the "Conferences" heading.) For more information, visit <http://dept.kent.edu/virginiahiltonconf>.