

ALSC Matters!

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Officially Speaking

Meet the ALSC Board

I am delighted and proud to introduce my colleagues on the 2015-16 [ALSC Board of Directors!](#)

This year's ALSC Vice President/President-Elect, **Elizabeth Orsburn**, serves as adjunct faculty for [Drexel University's College of Computing and Informatics](#) where she teaches the Children's Resources course online. Having chaired the 2014 Newbery Committee, Betsy has been greatly impacted by Kate DiCamillo's *The Illuminated Adventures of Flora and Ulysses*, and you can feel free to reach out to her at [eco519 at comcast.net](mailto:eco519@comcast.net).

Immediate Past President **Ellen Riordan** is Chief of Planning, Programs and Partnerships for the [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#) in Baltimore, responsible for projects and services the library does with other agencies and organizations, administration of public programming, and strategic planning. During her time in Enoch Pratt's Central Children's Department, she discovered *Room Made of Windows* by Eleanor Cameron and Trina Schart Hyman, which has the most beautiful description of the word "epiphany" in all of literature. Ellen is available at [eriodan at prattlibrary.org](mailto:eriodan@prattlibrary.org).

As Division Councilor, **Jenna Nemec-Loise** is ALSC's advocate on [ALA Council](#), and as children's librarian at Chicago Public Library's [Theodore Roosevelt Branch](#), she celebrates literacy by making reading, discovering, and creating awesome for kids and families. Katherine Paterson's Newbery Medal-winning *Bridge to Terabithia* is the first book that ever gave her a lump in the throat, when Sister Frances read it aloud in sixth-grade, and you can find Jenna on Twitter (@ALAJenna) and her [blog](#).

Diane Foote is ALSC's Fiscal Officer and assistant dean and curator of the Butler Children's Literature Center at [Dominican University's GSLIS](#), where she gets to do two of her favorite things: Help mint librarians of the future, and study and advocate for the best in books and media for kids and teens. Enormously impacted as a kid by *Nobody's Family Is Going to Change* by Louise Fitzhugh, she came to understand that even kids are empowered as individuals, regardless of what zaniness might be happening among family members, and Diane encourages everyone to follow her blog at butlerspantry.org.

Christine Caputo is the Interim Chief of Public Service Support at the [Free Library of Philadelphia](#) and loves managing city-wide programs, outreach, and special projects. One of her favorite books from childhood is *Harold and the Purple Crayon* and she really enjoys how Crockett Johnson shows Harold's freedom in exploring his imagination through line drawings and one beautiful purple crayon. Chris can be reached at [caputoc at freelibrary.org](mailto:caputoc@freelibrary.org).

Gretchen Caserotti is the New-to-ALSC Board member, a role providing the opportunity for someone who has been a member for 2-7 years to contribute his or her perspectives. In her job as Library Director at [Meridian Library District](#) in Idaho, she oversees all operations—from the bookmobile to doing storytimes—and admits to laughing out loud and relating well to *Clementine*, from the series by Sarah Pennypacker. Gretchen also loves having conversations on Twitter (@gcaserotti).

After 40 years as a children's librarian, **Doris Gebel** now teaches children's literature at [Salisbury University](#) and is exploring ways to assist early literacy projects on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. She loves the idea of traveling to new places, meeting new people, exploring, adventuring, and going on a journey of discovery in a book, and you can chat with Doris about her beloved *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* at [dorisgebel at gmail.com](mailto:dorisgebel@gmail.com).

Julie Roach manages youth services at the [Cambridge Public Library](#) in Massachusetts and teaches children's literature at [Simmons College's GSLIS](#) and at [Lesley University](#). She often comes back to the stories and art in Tove

Jansson's curious and wonderful Moomin books, finding them comforting, inspiring, and haunting all at once. Feel free to e-mail Julie at jul_roach@yahoo.com.

A librarian at the [Cooperative Children's Book Center](#) at UW-Madison, **Megan Schliesman** gets to share her enthusiasm for literature with preservice and practicing teachers and librarians on campus and across Wisconsin. She often returns to the young adult poetry anthology *What Have You Lost*, edited by Naomi Shihab Nye, not only for the individual poems but for the emotional impact of the volume as a whole, which is a reminder of how much that is also found in our everyday experiences. You can find Megan at schliesman@education.wisc.edu.

Vicky Smith gets to live the dream of being children's & teen editor at [Kirkus Reviews](#), where just about every book published comes to her door, and then she gets to match each one with a reader (and then hassle those readers about deadlines and make sure their reviews are accurate and beautiful . . . but it's still the dream). Vicky's favorite children's book is *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and you can reach her at VSmith@Kirkus.com.

In her work as the Children's Services manager at the [Allen County Public Library](#) in Fort Wayne, Indiana, **Mary Voors** is privileged to work with a GREAT group of people who are all committed to offering quality materials, excellent programs, and superior customer service to both kids and their adults. One of the books she loves is Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld's *Duck! Rabbit!* because of the not-too-hidden message that there are always (at least) two ways to look at things. Feel free to reach out to Mary at mvoors@acpl.info.

Kay Weisman keeps very busy working as a Youth Services librarian at [West Vancouver Memorial Library](#), reviewing for *Booklist* and *Canadian Materials*, and chairing the [Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable's Information Book Award](#). Kay's on Twitter (@kweisman) and one of the books that has had the greatest influence on her is *The Incurable Children of Ashton Place* by Maryrose Wood.

Thank you all for volunteering your passion and dedication to leading ALSC in creating a better future for children through libraries!--**Andrew Medlar, ALSC President, andrewalsc@outlook.com**

Editor's note: To learn more about Andrew, visit his [President's Page](#) on the ALSC Website.

ALSC Councilor's Report – 2015 ALA Annual Conference

At the 2015 Annual Conference in San Francisco, the American Library Association (ALA) Council passed a resolution on the importance of sustainable libraries. This resolution had been previously discussed and passed at the June 4 Virtual Membership Meeting and, in fact, was the first ever resolution to be presented at a virtual membership meeting. By policy, any resolutions passed at a membership meeting are then considered and voted on at the next meeting of Council.

The resolution notes that libraries play an important and unique role in wider community communications about resiliency, climate change, and a sustainable future, and that libraries that demonstrate good stewardship of the resources entrusted to them can build community support that leads to sustainable funding.

The resolution goes on to encourage ALA, its membership, library schools, and state associations to be proactive in their application of sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, partnerships, and library school curricula.

ALA Council also passed three resolutions related to the June 17, 2015, shootings at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The first resolution, denouncing the systemic racism that motivated the shootings, recognizes the hidden, endemic, and pervasive nature of systemic racism in American culture and resolves that ALA will strengthen and prioritize its own efforts to support diversity and foster cultural understanding and humility within the library profession and will work with other professional associations to enable library staff and information organizations to expand the collective understanding of the hidden, systemic nature of racism in American culture and its potential for violence. In the resolution, Council notes that the death of Cynthia G. Hurd, manager of the St. Andrews Regional Library Branch of the Charleston County Public Library System, who was among the nine individuals killed, exemplifies the connection between the library profession and the community and this systemic racism.

A second resolution addresses gun violence and notes that the safety and security of all communities served by libraries across the United States are constantly threatened by unexpected and potentially lethal gun violence. The resolution affirms that the ALA will work with state chapters and affiliates to support legislation that allows the prohibition of the carrying of guns in or near libraries and other educational institutions.

In a third resolution, ALA endorsed the [Statement from the Movement for Black Lives on the Charleston Shooting](#), which was issued on Friday, June 19, 2015.

A Resolution on Libraries and Schools Affected by the Conflict in Gaza and Israel in 2014 (CD #40) was defeated, and a Resolution Against Mass Surveillance of the American People (CD #42) was referred to the Council Committee on Legislation and the Council Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Also referred back to the Council Committee on Legislation and the Council Intellectual Freedom Committee were Resolution on the Passage of the USA Freedom Act and Reaffirming ALA's Commitment to Surveillance Law Reform, ALA CD 20.3 & ALA CD#19.6.

Memorials were read for Gail A. Schlachter, David Cohen, Charles Benton, Cynthia D. Clark, Ruth C. Carter, William Vernon Jackson, Elizabeth H. (Betsy) Park, Floyd C. Dickman, Cynthia G. Hurd, and Zoia Horn.

Tributes included: Jessie Carney Smith, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 35th anniversary of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, and the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

ALA Treasurer Mario M. Gonzalez presented his report, including approval of the Annual Estimates of Income and the FY2016 Budgetary Ceiling. The new FY2016 Budgetary Ceiling of \$67,087,027 passed unanimously.

Councilor Denise Zielinski gave the Report of the Tellers (CD #12.3). The following candidates were elected to the Committee on Committees: Gladys Smiley Bell, Maria Carpenter, Stephen Matthews, Rocco Staino; and the Planning and Budget Assembly gained three chapter members (Jennifer Alvino, Ben Allen Hunter, and Patty Wong) and two councilors at large (John C. DeSantis and Eric D. Suess).

Ma'Lis Wendt of the Intellectual Freedom Committee proposed three action items: Internet Filtering: An Interpretation of the Library Bills of Rights (CD #19.3), Labeling Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (CD #19.4), and Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (CD #19.5). All passed.

In other new business, a resolution on Improving Access to Spanish, Bilingual, and Books in Various Languages for Children in Detention Centers (CD #38_Revised-2_62915_act) passed, and an amended resolution on Gun Violence (CD #45) passed.

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels provided the attendance numbers of 22,696 attendees, versus 19,889 in Las Vegas in 2014, and 23,545 in Chicago in 2013.—*Lisa Von Drasek, 2014-2015 ALSC Councilor*

Silver & Gold Sponsors Support Banquet

Many thanks to our 2015 Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Banquet sponsors.

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ALSC Profile

Debra S. Gold

Children's Librarian, Head of Children's Department
Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL), Parma Heights Library, Cleveland, Ohio

ALSC membership: 26 years

Where did you attend library school?

Kent State University

When and where was your first library position?

1982, Children's Assistant at Beachwood Library of CCPL. I was hired to do toddler programs, a practice just beginning to get popular!

What do you love most about your current job?

School visits where I get to do booktalking! So many children do not have the opportunity to get to the library so I do a lot of outreach to schools where I try to get the students excited about the new titles. It is still always exhilarating to me to match the right child to the right book!!

You're marooned on a desert island; what three books and food item do you need to survive?

The Giver by Lois Lowry, *The Adventures of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick, and *The Book Thief* by Mark Zusak--all books that made a great impact on me and have so many layers to explore with rereading. Food item would have to be a bag of pretzels or white cheddar popcorn (something munchy!).

What are your hobbies?

Swimming, walking, baking, writing, movies. I am on the board of the Cleveland International Film Festival and love anything to do with the movie process.

What three words best describe you?

Charismatic, creative, and compassionate

Bright Ideas

AlligatorZone: Where Kids Meet Cool Startups

AlligatorZone is an hour-long program for children and families that gives them a front-row seat to local startup founders showing innovative products. Once a month, families gather on a Saturday morning to listen as two new and very different startup founders talk about their respective businesses and tell the story behind the products that they have created. Presentations are interactive and often include demonstrations and props. The real magic begins when hands of all ages start going up with questions and the conversation that follows leads to revelations for both the presenters and audience alike.

AlligatorZone is the brainchild of local entrepreneur and father, Ramesh Sambasivan of SiliconGlades™, a design and innovation firm. He noticed on a rainy vacation day that his elementary-aged children had become very interested in the entrepreneurial television show, Shark Tank. They were very curious about the products and startups, and very vocal with their opinions to be supportive of the startup founders featured. Always on the lookout for learning opportunities for his own and other children in the community, Ramesh set out to create a way for them to have these experiences face-to-face with local startups and found a partner in the public library.

The presenters Ramesh invites to each session of AlligatorZone benefit greatly from unfiltered feedback and direct suggestions from prospective consumers and members of the public. They are challenged to address questions they might never have considered and compelled to simplify their message for an audience of all ages and backgrounds. The ideal presenter at AlligatorZone is one who has founded and publicly launched a startup enterprise and has a working product that a young audience can personally explore.

Children and their families enjoy the opportunity of getting a peek into the life of an entrepreneur and often provide suggestions that prove helpful for the startups to avoid the “alligators,” or potential barriers to success. Attendees learn by listening not only to the presenters, but also to the questions asked by fellow audience members. We’ve noticed that questions posed by those who have attended multiple sessions tend to increase in clarity and sophistication and presenters often remark afterward that they are surprised at the types of questions asked by children.

Our library has enjoyed working with this grassroots and community-driven program. We support Ramesh’s efforts largely by reserving library space and advertising the program on our website, social media, and flyers. We have worked together to determine target audience and the ideal time, day, and location for the program.

AlligatorZone has been a great opportunity for our library to connect and become more familiar with our local entrepreneurial community and their needs, while at the same time offering an exciting learning opportunity to youth and their families. One of our library’s goals is to support new and small businesses and our local entrepreneurial ecosystem. We offer subscription databases, meeting rooms, and collaborative furniture and equipment free of charge. We partner with our county’s Economic Development department to bring expert-led business workshops to the library and work to keep our resources helpful and current. AlligatorZone fits very well into our goals to help foster the entrepreneurial spirit that drives economic development and has opened doors to new partners and helped pave the way for like-minded programs. To learn more about AlligatorZone, visit AlligatorZone.org.—*Laura Doyle, Senior Librarian, Tampa-Hillsborough (Florida) County Public Library*

Early Learning Showcased at Annual Conference Reception

More than 220 library staff from around the country attended an Early Learning at the Library Reception held at this year’s ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. Sponsored by the California State Library’s Early Learning with Families (ELF) Initiative and the First 5 Commission of El Dorado County, the reception took place on Friday, June 26 at the Children’s Creativity Museum – steps from the Moscone Convention Center and the hub of all ALA conference activities. Located behind the historic 1906 Children’s Carousel, the museum is an interactive art and technology museum for kids. Their mission is to nurture the 21st-century skills of creativity, collaboration and communication... a mission compatible with the goals of many early learning services and programs offered in public libraries!

The evening showcased posters (displayed throughout the museum) from 20 different libraries and community organizations, each highlighting an innovative early learning library service or community partnership.

Representatives from each project were on-hand to discuss their work. Topics ranged from the Lunch @ the Library Summer Meal Program (California Library Association & California Summer Meal Coalition) to Inclusive Storytimes (San José Public Library) to Environments that Inspire Creativity (Center for Childhood Creativity/Bay Area Discovery Museum).

In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10, adding a 50-cent tax to each pack of cigarettes sold, to create First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission with separate commissions for all 58 counties in California. First 5 El Dorado is dedicated to improving the lives of El Dorado County's young children and their families through a comprehensive system of education, health services, childcare, and other crucial programs. To learn more go to:<http://first5eldorado.com/>

The State Library's Early Learning with Families (ELF) Initiative is a statewide effort created to support public libraries in providing quality services to young children (ages 0-5), their families, and caregivers. Through the ELF Initiative's resources and training, libraries are creating family-friendly and developmentally appropriate services that support family strengths and nurture young children's bodies, minds, and spirits. To date, more than 104 library systems in California are participating ELF libraries, reaching millions of young children and their adult caregivers each year. To learn more go to:www.elf2.library.ca.gov

For more information about this event, please contact Suzanne Flint at suzanne.flint@library.ca.gov.—*Suzanne Flint, Library Programs Consultant, California State Library*

Spreading the Maker Mindset with Maker Kits

I work in a regional library system in Kansas. Our system has almost 50 libraries, many of which serve populations under 200. Over the last year, many of the libraries in my region have expressed an interest in maker programming. However, few of them have the time, money, or space to add a collection of tools and maker resources. In order to allow our regional libraries to experiment with the maker movement and expose their patrons to some of these community building services, we've created Maker Kits.

The kits circulate to libraries only, so that they can host programs using resources they could not otherwise afford. Each kit can be checked-out for up to two months. The kits are themed, with all the materials necessary for presenting a variety of programs. For example, the solar kit contains different pre-packaged building kits that can be put together multiple times, like the Greenex DIY Amazing Solar Eco-House; the materials and directions necessary to create your own solar oven and test it; a notebook of ideas for other solar and green energy projects; seven books related to the theme; and all the tools necessary to make the projects and crafts. The kits are flexible, with enough materials to be used with large or small groups, as active or passive programs, and resources for expanding programs beyond an individual event.

While some of the materials included in the kits would be prohibitively expensive as a single use item for an individual library, the majority of the items in the kits are reusable. This means that the cost of creation and upkeep for a shared resource is reasonable. We currently have twelve kits: Robots, Circuits, Solar, Mini-Weapons, Builder, Repurposing Books, Photo Booth, Break It reMake It (deconstructing computers), and 4 LEGO kits. The kits are housed in roughneck Rubbermaid bins for easy transport and are delivered via our rotating collection van or through the Kansas courier system. Librarians in towns nearby often stop in to pick up their kits in person.

The maker kits were especially popular during last year's summer reading, with the first five circulating seven times in two months. The most popular kit is the Photo Booth, and expectations for it with this year's summer reading theme are high. Doesn't everyone need a picture of themselves dressed up as a superhero?—*Melendra Sutliff Sanders, Youth Consultant, North Central Kansas Library System*

Getting Together

Huck Festival Celebrates Best in Children's Books

Registration is open for the 20th Annual Charlotte S. Huck Children's Literature Festival, scheduled for February 26 and 27, 2016, at University of Redlands, Redlands, California. The event features author/illustrator presentations; small group workshops for teachers, librarians, parents, writers, illustrators--anyone who shares a love of children's

books; book market and author signings; art from children's books; library programs; and practical ideas for teaching & sharing. For further details, [visit the event website](#).

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Member News

Annette Y. Goldsmith is co-author of *Autism in Young Adult Novels: An Annotated Bibliography* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), with Marilyn Irwin and Rachel Applegate. The book shares results of a study of 100 young adult novels published between 1968 and 2013, that include a character with autism. Among the areas studied are where the individual attends school, whether friendships are present, family relationships, and the behavior of others toward the character with autism. An annotated bibliography of the books included in the study is also presented.

Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) named assistant dean **Diane Foote** as curator of the [Butler Children's Literature Center](#), a center for the study of children's and young adult literature in the services of literacy, learning, and a life-long love of reading, effective July 1.

Foote brings a depth and breadth of children's literature-related experience to the position, including ten years as a director of marketing for Holiday House, a children's book publisher; six years at the American Library Association (three as associate editor of *Book Links* magazine and three as executive director of ALSC); service on the Board of Directors of the Children's Book Council in New York; and service on the John Newbery Award Selection Committee and the Coretta Scott King Book Award Jury.

Foote succeeds founding curator and lecturer **Thom Barthelmess**, who has become youth services manager at the Whatcom County Library System in Bellingham, Washington. Barthelmess developed the Butler Center into a nationally-known venue for sharing new children's books and has fostered a community of children's and youth services literature lovers. Thom's many achievements include the Butler Lecture series, bringing to campus renowned speakers including Allen Say, Jane Yolen, and LeUyen Pham; Butler Book Banter (B3), a monthly moderated book discussion group; development and teaching of several youth services-focused special topics courses including a Mock Newbery, a travel learning course to the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy, and Picture Book Art, among other topics; and the creation of a vibrant virtual community via the [Butler's Pantry](#) blog.

Congratulations, Diane and Thom!

Coming Soon: Curiosity Creates

ALSC is poised to announce an exciting new funding opportunity to encourage creativity programming in public libraries. Your library could be one of 77 recipients chosen to receive a grant of \$7,500 to develop and implement creativity programs to allow children ages 6-14 to explore, question, find problems and create solutions. ALSC will officially launch the application for Curiosity Creates in mid-August, so [stay tuned!](#)

Back to School - ALSC's Fall Online Courses

ALSC encourages participants to sign up for Fall 2015 online courses. Registration is open for all classes, which begin Monday, September 14, 2015.

It's Mutual: School and Public Library Collaboration (6 weeks, September 14 –October 23)
Instructor: Rachel Reinwald, School Liaison/Youth Services Librarian, Lake Villa District Library

Storytelling with Puppets (4 weeks, September 14 – October 9, CEU Certified Course, 2.2 CEUs)
Instructor: Steven Engelfried, Youth Services Librarian, Wilsonville Public Library

The Newbery Medal: Past, Present and Future (6 weeks, September 14 - October 23)
Instructor: KT Horning, Director, Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin- Madison

[Detailed descriptions and registration information](#) are available on the ALSC website. Fees are \$115 (ALSC members); \$165 (personal ALA members); and \$185 (non-members). Questions? Please contact Kristen Sutherland at ksutherland@ala.org or 1 (800) 545-2433 ext. 4026.

ALSC Staff Updates

ALSC welcomes **Angela Hubbard**, who joined our team as Program Officer for Projects and Partnerships on May 18. Angela has a MA in teaching and a BS in business administration. She worked eight years with the Chicago Public Schools and went on to serve as an Illinois Early Childhood Fellow for two years with the Ounce of Prevention Fund. Most recently, she served as the Educare Chicago Alumni Network Manager at Ounce of Prevention where she planned and implemented programs to engage Educare alumni in activities to benefit alumni families and current program participants. Angela oversees ALSC's projects and partnership activities including grants, Dia, advocacy, and early literacy projects. Her email is ahubbard@ala.org.

Also in May, ALSC bid a fond farewell to Joanna Ison who has relocated to Minnesota. ALSC greatly appreciates the many accomplishments Joanna achieved in her two and a half years at ALSC. As Program Officer for Projects and Partnerships, she expanded the Dia initiative, launched our efforts to support the 30 million word gap, facilitated the Board's adoption of two white papers, established corporate collaborations including our work with LEGO® DUPLO®, formed strategic partnerships with youth-focused organizations, worked with Quicklists and other committees to roll out fresh book lists, and furthered our advocacy efforts. We wish her all the best!

ALSC Mentoring Program

Fall 2015 applications are open for the ALSC mentoring program, which is available to members and non-members and intended to help develop the next network of leaders in the field of library service to children. Applications are open for both mentors and mentees and are due by Sunday, August 30, 2015. The program lasts one year. For more information on the program or to apply, please [visit the website](#).

Media Awards & Notables - Send Us Your Suggestions

ALSC personal members are welcome to suggest titles for the upcoming media awards and notable lists. Send recommendations with full bibliographic information to the appropriate committee chair listed below. Please note that publishers, authors, illustrators, and/or editors may not nominate their own titles. For more information about each award, visit www.ala.org/alsc and click on "Awards & Grants."

Newbery Medal, Ernie Cox, ernest.cox@gmail.com

Caldecott Medal, Rachel Godwin Payne, rpaynenyc@gmail.com

Batchelder Award, Elizabeth Rosania, edrosania@hotmail.com

Belpré Award, Ana-Elba Pavon, apavon0405@gmail.com

Carnegie Medal/Notable Children's Videos, Lizabeth L. Deskins, liz4lib2000@yahoo.com

Geisel Award, Robin Smith, smithr@ensworth.com

Notable Children's Books, Micki Freeny, maralitalf@yahoo.com

Notable Children's Recordings, Barbara Scotto, bscotto@gmail.com

Odyssey Award, Cindy Lombardo, cindy.lombardo@cpl.org

Sibert Medal, Elizabeth Overmyer, ove1817@gmail.com

Wilder Award, Chrystal Carr Jeter, chrystal.carr.jeter@gmail.com

Help Us Award Our Members

Applications are open for ALSC professional awards and grants. This year more than \$100,000 will be given away in professional awards, grants, and scholarships. Available opportunities include:

- Bechtel Fellowship
- Penguin Young Readers Group Award
- Baker & Taylor Summer Reading Grant
- Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Award
- Distinguished Service Award

- Light the Way: Library Outreach to the Underserved Grant
- Bookapalooza

[Details and applications](#) are available online.

Everyday Advocacy Challenge

Looking for a great way to activate your inner Everyday Advocate and motivate your colleagues to do the same? Then volunteer to be a part of our very first Everyday Advocacy Challenge (EAC) cohort! We're looking for 10-15 participants to take our first eight-week challenge between September 1-October 20, 2015.

Here's the scoop on what we'll be asking of you:

- Commit to completing eight consecutive Take Action Tuesday challenges on a back-to-school theme.
- Collaborate with your EAC cohort over the eight-week period, sharing successes and troubleshooting issues via e-mail list or other online sharing tool.
- Write a post for the ALSC blog about your EAC experience.
- Nominate another ALSC member to participate in the next EAC beginning November 2.

Interested? Submit the [webform](#) at the Everyday Advocacy website and we'll be in touch with all the details.

Join Snoopy for Library Card Sign-up Month

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when parents and caregivers turn to their local library to sign up their children for the most valuable and cost-effective back-to-school supply of them all--a library card.

This year, Snoopy, world-famous beagle, is serving as honorary chair of the initiative and will appear in digital and print PSAs. For information on the initiative, visit www.ilovelibraries.org. Please note downloadable artwork featuring Snoopy is available in multiple formats. To request an electronic file for use in your publication, please call Heather Cho at 312-280-4020 or e-mail hcho@ala.org.

NYPL Joins in Sponsoring the I Love My Librarian Award

ALA recently announced that The New York Public Library has joined as one of the co-sponsors of the I Love My Librarian Award. The New York Public Library will work with the ALA in the promotion of the award and the selection process.

The award will be funded through 2017, thanks to a \$200,000 grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, which has been the award's primary sponsor since ALA took over administration of the award from The New York Times in 2008.

The I Love My Librarian Award invites library users nationwide to recognize the accomplishments of exceptional public, school, college, community, or university librarians.

Nominations through September 28 and are being accepted online at ilovelibraries.org/ilovemylibrarian. Up to 10 librarians will be selected. Each librarian will receive a \$5,000 cash award, a plaque, and a travel stipend to attend the awards ceremony and reception in New York City in December, hosted by Carnegie Corporation. For further information, visit the [I Love Libraries website](http://www.ilovelibraries.org).

Gaver Scholarship Winner

The American Library Association (ALA) named Reid Craig of Portland, Oregon, as the 2015 recipient of the Mary V. Gaver Scholarship. The \$3,000 scholarship was established to honor the memory of a past ALA president and Rutgers University professor, who made many contributions to library youth services. The scholarship is awarded to a person pursuing a master's degree in library and information studies, with a specialty in youth services.

Craig says the thread that ties his work of nearly a decade together is his work with children in poverty in multicultural environments. After working in the Peace Corps where he performed storytimes, trained volunteers, conducted teacher workshops, and rehabilitated and managed a library in Namibia, he came right back to work in libraries. Craig attends Valdosta (Georgia) State University.

For information on the ALA Scholarship program, visit our [scholarship page](#).

Woodson Named Young People's Poet Laureate

The Poetry Foundation has named Jacqueline Woodson the Young People's Poet Laureate. Awarded every two years, the \$25,000 laureate title is given to a living writer in recognition of a career devoted to writing exceptional poetry for young readers. The laureate advises the Poetry Foundation on matters relating to young people's literature and may engage in a variety of projects to help instill a lifelong love of poetry among the nation's developing readers.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Woodson grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and Brooklyn, New York. She is the author of more than 30 books for children and young adults, and among her many honors, she was awarded a Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults, a St. Katharine Drexel Award, and an Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature.

In recognition of Woodson's achievements, the [Poetry Foundation website](#) is featuring her in a Poetry off the Shelf podcast and an interview.

Librarian of Congress Appoints Herrera Poet Laureate

Juan Felipe Herrera was appointed as the Library's 21st Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, for 2015-2016, by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. Herrera will take up his duties this fall, participating in the Library of Congress National Book Festival on Saturday, September 5, and opening the Library's annual literary season with a reading of his work at the Coolidge Auditorium on Tuesday, September 15. Herrera, who succeeds Charles Wright as Poet Laureate, is the first Hispanic poet to serve in the position.

Herrera is the author of 28 books of poetry, novels for young adults, and collections for children, most recently *Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes* (2014), a picture book showcasing inspirational Hispanic and Latino Americans and a Pura Belpré Honor Book. His most recent book of poems is *Senegal Taxi* (2013).

Herrera was born in Fowler, California, in 1948, the son of migrant farm workers. In 1972 he graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a bachelor's degree in social anthropology. He then attended Stanford University, where he received a master's degree in social anthropology, and in 1990 received a Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Keats Inducted into the NYS Writers Hall of Fame

Ezra Jack Keats (1916-1983) was among seven distinguished writers who were inducted into the New York State (NYS) Writers Hall of Fame in June during a gala at the Princeton Club of New York. The Hall was established by the Empire State Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book, to highlight the rich literary heritage of the state and to recognize the legacy of individual NYS writers. A Caldecott award-winning children's book author and illustrator, Keats wrote the beloved classic *The Snowy Day*.

Resources from Reading Rockets

Strengthen STEM and maker lab programming and outreach to parents with Reading Rockets' Literacy in the Sciences resources. The [Start with a Book website](#) has lots of ideas for combining fiction and nonfiction books with hands-on activities, as well as bilingual tip sheets for parents. And the bilingual Reading Adventure Packs can be used in K-3 programming. You'll also discover ways to support literacy skills such as predicting, inference, cause and effect, and categorizing.

Reach Out and Read's Prescription for Success

Reach Out and Read (RO&R) has launched the Prescription for Success Toolkit, designed to support collaborations between libraries, museums, and RO&R program sites, natural partners that have a collective impact on the lives of young children. The toolkit is a compilation of best practices learned from a survey of current state and local partnerships between Reach Out and Read, libraries, and museums. It provides ideas and resources for those who currently, or would like to, work together. For more information, visit the [Institute of Museum and Library Services blog](#).

Sweet Reads by the Dozen

Among the many children's books published last year, 13 were chosen by the Pennsylvania Center for the Book to form "A Baker's Dozen: The Best Children's Books for Family Literacy" for 2015.

Winners include: *Adventures with Barefoot Critters: An ABC Book* by Teagan White; *Blizzard* by John Rocco; *Five Trucks* by Brian Floca; *Found* by Salina Yoon; *The Girl and the Bicycle* by Mark Pett; *I Spy in the Sky* by Edward Gibbs; *I'm My Own Dog* by David Ezra Stein; *Little Humans* by Brandon Stanton; *Nana in the City* by Lauren Castillo; *Shh! We Have a Plan* by Chris Haughton; *This Book Just Ate My Dog* by Richard Byrne; *Tugboat* by Michael Garland; and *Two Tough Crocs* by David Bedford, illustrated by Tom Jellett.

Selection criteria, annotations, tips for using the books, and more are available at [A Baker's Dozen website](#).

Reading "Norman" for the Record

On October 22, 2015, children and adults worldwide will take part in Jumpstart's Read for the Record®, the world's largest shared reading experience. In its tenth year, the campaign generates public support for high-quality early learning and highlights the importance of building children's vocabulary and love for reading. This year's campaign book, *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story*, written by Kelly Bennett and illustrated by Noah Z. Jones, is a humorous tale about a child who finds a new friend in an unexpected place. Help Jumpstart break the world reading record (again!) for the most people reading the same book on the same day. For more information, [visit the Jumpstart website](#).