

**American Library Association
Midwinter Executive Board
President-Elect Report – Sari Feldman**

ALA Leadership

I continue to feel fortunate to have such strong support and collegial relationships with ALA Leadership, Courtney L. Young, Barbara Stripling and Mario Gonzalez. The entire Executive Board and ALA staff has also provided guidance as I move forward to prepare for my first conference as President-Elect.

New York Publisher Visits

From December 1-3, I participated in the collective effort of the American Library Association to discuss the current and future state of ebook access in separate meetings with representatives of Macmillan Publishers, Penguin Random House, and Hachette Book Group. ALA President Courtney L. Young and the co-chairs of ALA's Digital Content Working Group (DCWG), Carolyn Anthony and Erika Linke, focused our conversation.. Also included in the group were immediate Past President Barbara Stripling, Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, and Alan S. Inouye, the director of ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy.

The discussion focused on business models, preservation, pricing, marketing opportunities and increasing the relationship between publishers and libraries. This is particularly important to improve the discoverability and the access for library users. The dialogue is invaluable and ALA has certainly been a critical voice in improving access to Big Five content.

We also met with senior staff of the New York Public Library and the members of the board of trustees of the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO). In these meetings, we focused on digital content issues, the state of Big 5 publishers, and New York institution-based initiatives (for example, the [Library Simplified](#) project). ALA appreciated our productive exchanges with both organizations, and the Association looks forward to further developing our relationships on digital content and other library initiatives. There appears to be tremendous opportunity for ALA to be better connected to METRO and NYPL (as well as other NYC systems) and to deepen our connection to this large group of library professionals.

New York City Events

The annual I Love My Librarian Award Ceremony and Reception took place at the *New York Times* on December 2. Ten librarians were honored with the award sponsored by the NYT and the Carnegie Corporation. The emotional stories and moving testimonials to library services, are the fabric of our institutions. This inspirational reminder of the hard work and talent in libraries is a wonderful annual event.

I also had the pleasure of attending Jim Neal's retirement celebration, held at Columbia University. A huge crowd came to pay tribute to Jim and his remarkable contributions. The speeches were an important record of Jim's contributions to Columbia University and our profession. I feel fortunate to work with Jim on ALA's Executive Board and recognize his important role as an advisor to OITP's Policy Revolution Initiative.

Committee on Committees

Thank you to Kerri Price, members of the Committee, Ann Crewdson, Karen Downing, Susan Gregory and Jim Kuhn, as well as ALA Staff for assistance in making all appointments. While the first phase is completed, I will review the final choices with the COC at Midwinter before slates go to the Executive Board at for information.

Committee on Appointments

Thank you again to Kerri Price for her strong support in ensuring that committee appointments were made systematically and on time. I was ably assisted by the presidents-elects of the divisions and ALA staff provided many recommendations. It was exciting to see the interest in appointments among a diverse group of ALA members. The next step will be to review these appointments with the president-elects at Midwinter.

Presidential Focus

My Advisory Committee met by conference call to prepare for our session at ALA Midwinter. Saturday, January 31, we will hold a conversation about my proposed presidential platform and key areas of focus for the 2015-2016 presidential term. This event calls for input and guidance to map out a plan for effecting change.

Travel and Speaking Engagements

ALA persuaded representatives from the Departments of Education and Labor to join me and Susan Hildreth in a special webinar specifically for librarians on the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act held Monday, Oct 27 at 2 pm EDT via WebEx.

Tom Jackson, *Washington Post*, December 12 about weeding.

Sam Hendren, a reporter with WOSU (public radio station), January 2, about library buildings.

Angela Bole, director of Independent Book Publishers Assoc., previously with Book Industry

Study Group and Alan Inouye in NYC 1/15

Give welcome at METRO annual meeting 1/15

Tina Jordan, VP, Association of American Publishers, and Alan Inouye 1/16