

International Leads

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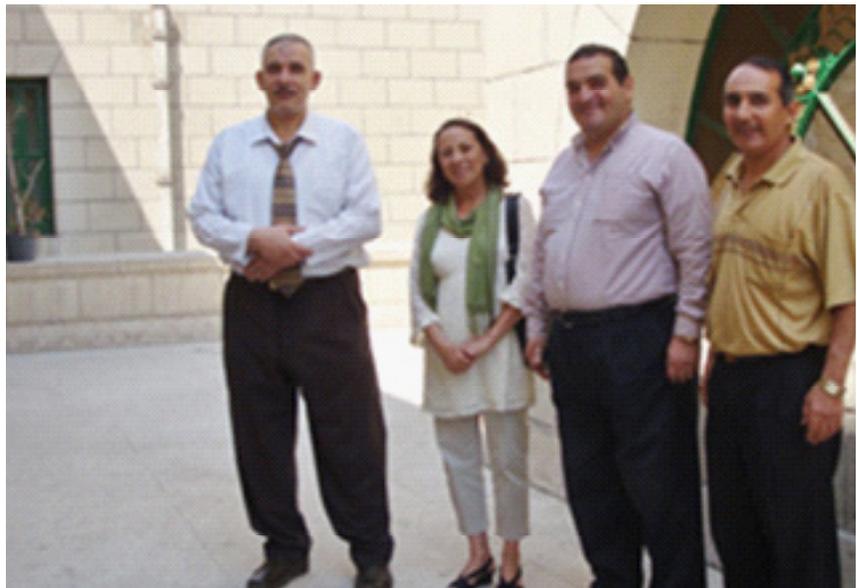
Number 2

Egyptian Adventure

By Magda El-Sherbini

In 2010 I was awarded a nine-month Fulbright grant to go to Alexandria, Egypt to conduct research at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina--the New Library of Alexandria-- and to teach classes and seminars there. I knew immediately that this would be a great adventure and after talking it over with my son and husband, we decided to go as a team. The prospect of living in the city established by Alexander the Great, visiting the pyramids, and floating down the Nile was tantalizing. Preparations for the trip took a few months, and we finally reached Alexandria in the fall of 2010.

After arriving at our destination, our first priority was to set up housing in the unfamiliar environment. We had to learn where to shop for food, how to find a school for my son, how to get our computers up and running and do all those little things that make life possible back home that we just take for granted. Every day was an adventure and brought countless new experiences. We were strangers in a strange land and



Magda El-Sherbini with colleagues in Egypt where she served as a Fulbright scholarship recipient.

had to make the best of it.

Our apartment was located in a very comfortable area of town, very near the sea, good restaurants and St. Stefano, a huge complex consisting of a hotel, shopping mall, grocery store, a cinema, coffee shops and much more. Countless shops, bakeries, pharmacies, and vegetable stands that lined nearly every street in the neighborhood satisfied our daily shopping needs. We were located several miles from my son's school and from the library where I was going

to spend much of my time, so transportation became an issue. The school we had selected for my son had a bus service, which took care of transportation for my son. For other transportation needs, we relied on the local taxi service and an old tram line that connected us with the downtown area.

Our first impression of Egypt was a combination of astonishment and awe. Egypt gives a new meaning to the term 'overpopulation' and ur-

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Message from the Editor

It is time to gear up for the ALA annual conference scheduled for Chicago, June 27 – July 2, 2013. As always, IRRT will be sponsoring many great programs including the Chair's Program, International Papers, International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group, and IRC regional programs. A must go to event is the International Librarian's reception to be held on Monday evening. Please consider attending the IRRT/IRC committee meetings scheduled for Saturday morning. In this issue, I have included the entire IRRT meeting and program schedule, complete with room assignments.

Magda El-Sherbini takes us on an "Egyptian Adventure" as she fulfills the duties of a Fulbright grant recipient at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt. Travel under normal conditions is not for the faint of heart, let alone when one finds oneself in the midst of

civil unrest soon to be known as the "Arab Spring." Thankfully, Magda was not in harm's way and is here to tell the tale.

Jane Mirandette, President of the Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries for All program, describes the power of collaboration and mentoring as her organization works with a fledgling project in El Salvador. She tells of Yancy Ochoa, a Canadian who returns to her native country of El Salvador to embark on an ambitious project of library development in a rural community. The process described could serve as a model for similar projects in the region.

The editorship of International Leads is a two-year appointment and I have completed that term with this issue. It has been a gratifying experience, but time to turn over the opportunity to new leadership.

See you in Chicago!

~ Janet Lee

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Call for Submission

Do you have news about...

International library activities?

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Upcoming international conferences?

International partnerships between libraries?

Then why not submit it to *International Leads*?
Send your news to intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com
for consideration.

International Leads (ISSN 0892-4546) is published quarterly by the International Relations Round Table of the American Library Association in March, June, September, and December. The first issue was published in 1957. IL contains news about international library activities, the international work of ALA and other organizations, and people and publications in the field. IL is indexed by *Library Literature* and *Library and Information Science Abstracts* (LISA) and is sent free to all members of IRRT (dues \$15); non-ALA members can subscribe for \$12 per year by writing to International Relations Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Materials for IL should be sent to Editor, Janet Lee, Regis University, 3333 Regis Blvd., D-20, Denver, CO 80221, USA, email: intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com

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ban congestion. Great throngs of people crowded the streets of the city day and night. In fact, much of the social life and business was conducted after dark since the city did not turn in until three in the morning. We quickly had to adjust to the new life style, which included an afternoon siesta that helped compensate for the sleepless nights.

The other overpowering impression was created by the hospitality and kindness of the people we met. This can be neither overstated nor expressed in truly meaningful terms. The people of Alexandria greeted us each day as we left our building; strangers would offer directions if we seemed lost, strike up a conversation on the tram, and generally go out of their way to help. Since people spend much of their time in the outdoors, including eating and drinking tea, which seems to be the national pastime, we were frequently invited to tea or offered food by strangers. The people made us



Bibliotheca Alexandrina--the New Library of Alexandria.

feel comfortable and safe, even after the world around us began to spin out of control, as it did soon after we arrived.

It all started on New Year's Eve. The city was alive as people partied all around and we watched the fireworks explode. The next morning I received a call from a colleague at the library who instructed us: "Don't go out anywhere. There was a terrorist attack. A Coptic church near you was bombed last night." This came

as a shock, since nothing like this had happened here in the past. This set the tone for the remainder of our stay in Egypt. Our carefree days of wandering around the city were severely curtailed.

The rest of January was very busy. I worked at the Bibliotheca, giving seminars and starting my research project. The memory of January 1 had begun to recede when the phone rang again. This time, a colleague from the library



One of many protest murals seen on the city streets.

warned us about demonstrations planned for the next day and suggested we stay off the streets. We spent most of January 25 indoors, watching the first day of what came to be known as Arab Spring.

During the next week we were poisoned by tear gas, saw the neighborhood police station go up in flames, watched tanks and personnel carriers rumble down our street, heard gunfire in the neighborhood, and heard ambulance sirens screaming constantly. We also lost our phone and Internet connections. Our only source of news was the BBC and some other English language stations. The situation remained tense and we had no inkling of what was to come next. Our Egyptian neighbors and acquaintances took good care of us, and continued to reassure us that we

would be fine. Street protests went on for more than a week and did not seem to be letting up. After a few days we received a call from the Fulbright officer from Cairo instructing us to leave Egypt as soon as possible. We were fortunate to find a flight out of Alexandria in just a few days. We returned to winter weather and thoughts of what could have been had we stayed.

As the situation in Egypt stabilized, we were given the opportunity to go back and without much hesitation we returned to our old digs a month later. Our flat was still there and the neighbors were very happy to see us again. The rest of our stay consisted of more work for me and a bit of travel for all of us. We flew down to Luxor to visit the famous Valley of the Kings

and the temples of the pharos. We took short trips to Cairo and visited the Sphinx and the pyramids. Back in Alexandria, my son took every opportunity to visit the ancient sites there, including the Roman amphitheater and ancient cemeteries scattered around the city. We swam in the sea and took a little boat tour of the harbor. Before we knew it, it was time to return. I wrapped up my work at the Alexandria Library and we headed home. As we were leaving Egypt, the whole experience seemed somehow unreal. We returned rich in memories and new friendships.

Magda EL-Sherbini
Head of Cataloging
Department
Ohio State University

Children's Africana Book Awards 2013

BEST BOOKS FOR OLDERS READERS

Getz, Trevor R.; Clarke, Liz (illus.) *Abina and the Important Men : A Graphic History*. Oxford University.

Robert, Na'ima B. *Far From Home*. London: Frances Lincoln / Janetta Otter-Barry Books.

BEST BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

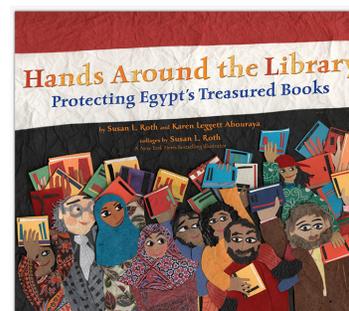
Walters, Eric; Campbell, Eva (illus.) *The Matatu*. Orca Book Publishers.

Nelson, Marilyn; Kuru Art Project (illus.) *Ostrich and Lark*. Boyds Mills Press.

Roth, Susan and Karen Leggett Abouraya ; Roth, Susan (illus.) *Hands Around the Library : Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books*. Dial Books for Young Children.

K'naan with Sol Guy; Rudy Gutierrez (illus.) *When I Get Older : The Story Behind Wavin' Flag*. : Tundra Books.

Kamkwamba, William and Mealer, Bryan; Zunon, Elizabeth (illus.) *The Boy Who Harnessed the*



Wind. Dial Books for Young Children.

For more information about the Africana Book Awards see: <http://www.africaaccessreview.org/aar/awards.html>

IRRT: Join, Attend, Participate!

By Loriene Roy, IRRT Chair

It has been my great pleasure to serve as your 2012-2013 IRRT Chair. IRRT is successful because of its many hardworking, creative members. This hard work is evident as the 2013 ALA Annual Conference approaches. International delegates will be welcomed and mentors are available to help them navigate the busy conference schedule. The theme of the International Pre-conference, "Innovative Library Services and Programs in Digital Era," will feature speakers from the Smithsonian Libraries, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin, SUNY Maritime College, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Texas Woman's University, and Columbia University. They will speak on topics ranging from global biodiversity to oral history, the use of a wiki for interlibrary loan, and 3d virtual museum and library exhibits. Other planned events at the conference will provide information about the ALA-Guadalajara Book Fair Free Pass Program, e-books in Europe, public libraries in Brazil and China, technology in Africa, and Peace Corps efforts in locations around the world.

While I will step down as your IRRT Chair, my own international contacts and experiences will continue. This is a busy year for those interested in library services for and with indigenous peoples. I recently attended the 8th International Indigenous Librarians Forum (IILF) on the Lummi Reservation near Bellingham, Washington. Beginning in 1999, IILF provides a

platform for indigenous library workers to share, network, and deliberate. Outcomes of past forums can be viewed at: <http://ailanet.org/activities/iilf-2013/iilf-outcomes/>. The 9th IILF will take place at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The 2013 International Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums will take place from 11 – 13 June 2013. This event is organized by the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums, a non-profit that has consistently secured financial support from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). In addition to numerous presentations, the ATALM conference is also the venue for an awards program. The seven awards recognize individuals (e.g., Lifetime Achievement Award, Leadership Award, and Honored One Award), efforts (e.g., Outstanding Project Award), and institutions (excellence awards for an archives, library, and museum setting).

The Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters of IFLA has been renewed for another two years. I will step down as convener in August 2014 and Ms. Te Paea Paringatai from Aotearoa/New Zealand will assume the role as convener at that point. Following the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Singapore will be an International Symposium, "Hidden Gems: The Role of Libraries and Archives in Cultural Revitalisation," at the State Library of New South Wales

in Sydney from 26-27 August 2013. Finally, the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) will take place in Honolulu, 19-24 May 2014. While the focus of WIPCE is education, it has also drawn attendance by those involved in indigenous librarianship.

I am fortunate to be involved in several projects and committees with international settings. Mukurtu is a content management system that allows for its developers to negotiate different levels of access to the content. Thus, it allows for tribal protocol or etiquette to be reflected in accessing digital content. The Mukurtu team is working with the Musqueam tribe of Vancouver, British Columbia on an online exhibit program. I am thrilled to be a part of this work. And I am also serving on the awards committee for the Library of Congress's first literacy awards including the David M. Rubenstein Prize (\$150,000) and the International Prize (\$50,000), both of which are available to international applications.

Students in my graduate classes continue to demonstrate interest in international librarianship and some will find their careers in those areas. Students in my new fall 2013 course, "Popular Music Digital Space Design," will work with local musician, Ian McLagan, to create a virtual venue highlighting his influence on rock music history since his early days as a member of British rock band, Small Faces.

Many thanks for your support of IRRT. I look forward to seeing you in the future!

IRRT at ALA Annual 2013 in Chicago

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Innovative Library Services and Programs in Digital Era – An International Perspective-IRRT Preconference 8:00 am- 1:00 pm (FOLLOWED BY LUNCH) McCormick Place Convention Center - S401bc

Description: Preconference addresses important issues, trends, and strategies that contribute to the understanding of the transformation of 21st century libraries along with emerging technology. This year's program features case studies related to digital library development and the preservation of local culture and historical heritages. The panel presentations highlight the interrelationships among digital preservation, digital resource development and management, as well as their presentation and dissemination to the global community.

Speakers: Nancy E. Gwinn & Martin R. Kalfatovic, Smithsonian Libraries; Anton duPlessis, Texas A&M University; Kent Norsworthy, University of Texas at Austin; Constantia Constantinou, SUNY Maritime College; Leslie McCartney, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Valerie Hill, Texas Woman's University; Seangill Peter Bae, Columbia University.

REGISTRATION now open: <http://ala13.ala.org/register-now>

International Relations Committee Meeting I

1:30 - 3:30 pm
MPCC - N134

International Librarians Orientation

2:30 - 4:00pm

Hyatt regency McCormick Place - Regency Ballroom A

Description: This is a "must-attend" session for first-time international attendees and other members from abroad. ALA members will provide an overview of ALA, the conference, exhibits and the city of Chicago, including recommended programs and social activities. This program provides an opportunity to meet other colleagues who will help international librarians get the most from their conference experience.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting

8:30-11:00am
MPCC - Hall A, Meeting room B

IFLA Update

10:30 am – 11:30 am
MPCC - Hall A, Meeting room B

Ebooks in Europe and Beyond

3:00 -4:00 pm

Description: Ebooks are a growing worldwide phenomena, and efforts in Europe and elsewhere can impact libraries ability to access Ebooks from other countries and in other languages. Get a better understanding of Ebook use around the world, and here how IFLA and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) are making the case for libraries.

Presenter: Gerald Leitner. Secretary General Austrian Library Association

Improve Your Spanish Language Collection through the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
MPCC - N427d

Description: Hear from fellow librarians from all types of libraries describe how their visits to the Guadalajara Book Fair have enriched their collections, enhanced their cultural knowledge, and improved their services to their Spanish language communities.

Libraries Transform Lives in Brazil

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm MPCC - N427bc

Description: Come hear about how Brazilian public libraries are transforming themselves, and a new national advocacy program under development.

Public Libraries in China Today

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
MPCC - S106b

Description: Public libraries in China, like the rest of the country, have seen dramatic growth the last fifteen years. Come hear members of a visiting delegation from the Library Society of China discuss public library development and services in their country, including initiatives for children and young adults.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Executive Committee Meeting-IRRT

8:30 am - 11:00 am
Hilton Chicago Hotel - PDR 2

International Poster Session

10:30 am - 12:00pm
MPCC - Exhibit Floor

Emerging Technologies, Emerging Economies: Transforming International Libraries-IRRT Paper Session

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
MPCC - S402b

Bridging the Digital Divide: Technology and Information Access in Africa

1:00 pm - 2:30pm
MPCC - S103bc

Description: This panel presentation will describe technology initiatives in African libraries and provide insights to the challenges encountered in efforts to utilize technology to enhance services. Panelists will discuss digitization projects, institutional repositories, resource sharing, Internet connectivity and other technologies.

Speakers: -Graziano Krätli, Digital Projects and Technology Librarian, Yale University Divinity School Library; Jane Kinney Meyers, President, Lubuto Library Project® Inc.; Yetunde Zaid (Ph.D), Head, Readers' Services Department, Main Library, University of Lagos, Nigeria; Mrs. Olubukola Olatise, Circulation Librarian, Main Library, University of Lagos, Nigeria; Innocent Rugambwa, Director, Library Services, Parliament of Uganda.

The End(s) of the Library

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
MPC - N427d

Description: Art and libraries intersect in this overview of a magnificent series of commissioned exhibitions by U.S. and German artists that were coupled with a discursive program held at the Goethe Institute in New York. Rather than idealize the library in crisis by offering a nostalgic look at its past or recuperative speculation about its future, the invited artists propose a number of divergent positions from within the library, showing it to be a site of infinite invention. Definitely a program outside the box.

Speakers: Jenny Jaskey, Curator, David Horvitz, Artist, Raphael Lyon, Artis

MONDAY, JULY 1

Training: The Key to Sustainable International Library Development Projects- ISLD

8:30-10:00am
MPCC - N226

Description: Join ISLD in an exploration of the importance of training in the sustainability of international library development projects. Marcy Carrel, Technical Information Specialist at Peace Corps, will present on the development, content and implementation of the newly created "Sustainable Library Development Training Package," a set of resources designed for training Peace Corps Volunteers engaged in library projects. You will leave with a collection of training

resources for your project.

Speakers: Marcy Carrel, Technical Information Specialist, Peace Corps; Connie Champlin, IRRT, International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group; Min Chou, Chinese American Librarians Association; Barbara Ford, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs; Jane Mirandette, President, San Juan del Sur Biblioteca; Susan Schnuer, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs

International Relations Committee II

1:00 - 2:30pm
MPCC - S504bc

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility- IRRT Chair's Program

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
MPCC - S404a

Description: The talk will address the power of video games as a maturing medium and a largely untapped tool "for good". It will make an impassioned case for using games for social impact and learning, with an overview of the latest trends and core challenges. Burak will share some case studies and success stories including his unique entry to the field, leading the team behind the award-winning game "PeaceMaker" around the Middle-East Conflict. Attendees will learn about the field at large and how Games for Change is leading the future of this movement, including showcasing games in public spaces, museums and libraries.

Speaker: Asi Burak, Co-President Games for Change

International Librarians Reception

6:00 - 8:00 pm
Harold Washington Public Library
Winter Garden Atrium (9th floor)

Description: Please join the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) in welcoming and celebrating with librarians from more than 80 countries at the ALA Annual Conference. Open to all conference attendees, this reception offers a unique opportunity to network with hundreds of information professionals from around the world. Join us for a mixing of culture and ideas, regional cuisine, hors d'oeuvres and open bar (this event is free for international librarians). ALA President, Maureen Sullivan, will announce the recipients of the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Projects. Winners of the Bogle Pratt Award and the OCLC Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award for International Librarianship will be announced.

Advance registration is required. No tickets will be sold at the site.

The Power of Agreement: Mentoring Lending Libraries in Developing Countries

By Jane Mirandette

It takes only a few people to successfully start a lending library in a developing country, especially when those few come together with their mutual passion to supply the needed drive and vision. This is a report of two strangers who combined their vision and passion to create and facilitate an innovative, groundbreaking program.

It took Yancy Ochoa, a Canadian mother of five and a native of El Salvador, to birth the Las Marías Biblioteca Móvil in rural El Salvador. She had immigrated to Canada with her family when she was seven years old. Yancy knew firsthand that in rural communities in Central American countries, there's a dismal lack of access to books, information and reading programs.

Yancy approached the Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries for All program in 2011 via email in the hopes of gaining agreement and support in winning the fellowship needed to develop this program. Ochoa was working on her master's degree in the Queen's Industrial Relations program and wanted to apply for a fellowship to be awarded by the Canada-based Pathy Family Foundation. The PFF Fellowships for students at Queen's University in Canada are used to promote social change internationally.



Las Marías Bibliotecamóvil in El Salvador.

Several emails, calls and recommendation letters passed between Yancy and me (Jane Mirandette) during the application process. HJH and the SJDS Biblioteca wrote formal letters to Queen's University, provided an invitation, and agreed to mentor, train and support Yancy and the community in El Salvador that she had chosen. The background of the San Juan del Sur's successful 10-year lending program supported the validity of Ochoa's proposal to spend a year in her mother's community in El Salvador to develop a library that would subsequently become the responsibility of the school department and community members. For almost a year, there was no word on the result of our efforts. Then we heard the news. Ochoa's fellowship was accepted in the spring of 2012. Our midwife efforts were to begin.

In August of 2012, Ochoa and her children moved to rural Las Marías de Yucuaiquín, northeast of the city of San Miguel, to begin the process.

A flurry of activity followed Ochoa's arrival in El Salvador: meetings, meetings and more meetings as she connected with community leaders; Director Fausto Orfilio Bonilla Mejia and teachers at Centro Escolar Las Marías, the school that had agreed to be home base for the traveling library; parents; and governmental representatives—all the people who could help her make the dream of a library a reality and sustain it when she returned to Canada. She formed a steering committee of school and community representatives, including a student and teacher. She hired a librarian, Jose Modesto Juarez Perez. More conversations and suggestions and ideas continued to flow by email between us.

A proposed part of the Fellowship and a highlight of this entire process was a trip from Las Marias de Yucuaiguín, El Salvador to San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua by Yancy and nine community members by minivan in November of 2012. It was a 15-hour trip.

The group consisted of Fausto Bonilla, the director of all the schools in the department (state) surrounding Las Marias, the principal of the school housing the mobile library, two of the teachers from the school, the new librarian, a parent from the community, two supporters and fundraisers, including Yancy's aunt, and one teenager, Yancy's niece. The training program involved everyone who had come on the trip including the driver.

Book selection, protocols for successful lending, book repair and maintenance, use of crafts and various toys and puppets to enhance storytelling, and aspects of sustainability were all subjects that were explored. Together we chose the books that would be donated—more than 180—and the books they would purchase—another 250. We previously purchased equipment and supplies for them and scoured our own equipment and supplies for things unavailable in El Salvador that were needed and that we could replace for ourselves. The minivan was packed to the hilt at the end of the training session with ten dedicated mobile lending library promoters and all the books and supplies



Jane Mirandette and Director Fausto Bonilla demonstrating the art of puppetry.

it could carry.

A fishing excursion, meals together and sharing our own stories bonded the group into a cohesive, passionate, aware and dedicated team with strong ongoing sustainable support available to these Central American community members from a town a 15-hour ride away from SJDS when Ochoa returns to her life in Canada.

Late this January, the school-based mobile library held its inauguration with a clown performance, face-painting, games and a visit by three members of the staff/volunteer team of the SJDS Biblioteca Movil with a donation of more supplies, books, crafts and prizes. Heather Caraway, Esau Vega and Jill Gramling boarded a Trans Central America bus for the 16-hour trip to be present and help coordinate events for this inauguration. The National Library's Bibliobus from San Salvador arrived as well. That brightly painted bus, equipped with books and activities for children, travels around the

country to promote reading, according to Ochoa.

These efforts created unexpected results. Partly because of the library initiative, and the awareness of other successful long-term Central American mobile lending programs, Las Marias was selected for a pilot project aimed at changing teaching methodology.

This is a new endeavor that is certainly off to a very positive start. Yancy will shortly finish her stay in Las Marias and head back to Canada. The program is set up to function well without her, and HJH and SJDS Biblioteca will be on hand and alert to provide whatever we can to assure this project's ongoing success.

HJH Program has supported the SJDS Biblioteca for close to 12 years. The mobile project of SJDS services 36 communities monthly and is engaged in two prototype replicable enrichment programs for rural schools. Workshops and seminars for the Nicaraguan Association and NGO librar-

ies are held throughout the year. There are over 50 lending programs in Nicaragua that have received seed collections of books and training as part of our “Library in A Box Recipient” Program.

Las Mariás is the fifth fledgling lending program in Central America outside of Nicaragua that has come to San Juan del Sur for mentoring, training and ongoing support

sponsored by The Hester J. Hodgdon Program.

Agreement and support between programs and prospective projects are essential to the spread of this modality of access to books and information where none has existed. Mature programs must be willing to mentor, support, collaborate and work for the possibilities of grants and fellowships if children in developing nations

are to discover new worlds between the pages of books and information and media divides are to be bridged.

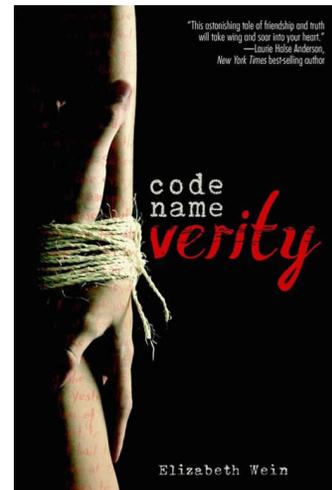
Jane Mirandette
President

Hester J. Hodgdon
Libraries for All Program.
Director of the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca Movil

Elizabeth Wein, author of *Code Name Verity* Presents at ALA Annual Co-sponsored Event

The United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) are pleased to present Elizabeth Wein, author of *Code Name Verity*, a Printz Honor title and listed as one of the 2013 USBBY Outstanding International Books.

Saturday, June 29th
4:30-5:30 pm
McCormick Place
Convention Center S403



International Relations Office

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Postage