

# ALSC Matters

November 2016, Vol. 14, no. 4

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## Officially Speaking

### Come Face-to-Face with the ALSC Mini Institute

Are you ready for Midwinter? It's less than three months away, and ALSC has good news for those heading to Atlanta. The ALSC National Institute, originally scheduled for Charlotte, North Carolina, has morphed into a second innovative, educational opportunity called the Atlanta Mini Institute, which will take place on Friday, January 20, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis hotel.

Registration is now open! Tickets for the ALSC Mini Institute can be purchased through ALA's [Midwinter Meeting registration site](#), under Ticketed Events. *(Please note: ALA Midwinter Meeting registration is not required to sign up for the ALSC Mini Institute.)* The cost for ALSC members is \$150 (ALA members, \$170; non-members, \$185) and includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

While the virtual institute held in September was very successful with great programming; it did occur online. Many people, including me, prefer face-to-face continuing education courses. The ALSC Mini Institute should satisfy all. The day will open with Breakfast for Bill, a continental breakfast program, honoring the memory of William C. Morris, former VP and director of promotion at HarperCollins Children's Books and first recipient of the ALSC Distinguished Service Award, and featuring Erin and Phil Stead, Kevin Henkes, and Laura Dronzek. The two husband-wife teams will discuss their collaborations as well as the artistic process of working alone.

Following breakfast, there will be two 75-minute breakout session slots and break/exhibit time. Breakout session topics range from partnerships to family reading engagement, from multicultural children's literature to STEAM programming. In our exhibits space, sponsors will meet, greet, and discuss their latest children's books. Our Gold level sponsors are HarperCollins Children's Books, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, Penguin Random House Young Readers, Scholastic, and Friends of ALSC. Silver level sponsors are Discount School Supply, Janice Davis Design, University of South Carolina School of Library & Information Science, and the Carol D. Fiore Leadership Fund. Bronze level sponsors include Candlewick Press, Charlesbridge Publishing, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, Peachtree Publishers, and the University of North Carolina, School of Information and Library Science.

After a full morning, attendees will relax at the Luncheon General Session with Carmen Agra Deedy, Pura Belpré honoree and storyteller extraordinaire. Ms. Deedy also has a new book coming out in 2017 from Scholastic. The afternoon continues with another educational breakout session and exhibit time. The day will be capped off by the Closing General Session, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., featuring multi-award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson!

Don't miss this educational opportunity. For more information, visit the [Mini Institute webpage](#).--  
*Betsy Orsburn, ALSC President*

## Our Makerspace: ALSC Committee Work

I recently visited Boston Public Library's remodeled Johnson Building, where I was wowed by the children's space. It wasn't just the colored pathways leading through tunnels in shelving; the toys mounted on low walls that defined the early learning play space; or the vibrant trompe l'oeil skyline on the wall, but: toddlers ducking into nooks with new friends; caregivers relaxing and chatting while watching one another's charges; older kids leaning in to ALSC member Laura Koenig's storytime. It was packed, but what might elsewhere have felt chaotic, here just buzzed, naturally fueled by firing neurons: active, creative, and productive by design.

It struck me that while ALSC supports the development of these kinds of library spaces and services, it's also our own sandbox for engagement and inspiration, the place where we get to work together, a space we caretake as we create in it. We bring our brains, our friends, our trust in collective impact, and our passion in our work to make amazing things happen for children through libraries.

At least, that's what great committee work can feel like, and ALSC has some great committees. From the nimble and steadfast work of the Public Awareness committee to the take-action Legislation and Advocacy committee, from the eagle-eyed Organization & Bylaws to the agile workhorse of QuickLists Consulting—through ALSC's "process" committees members deliver the goods. Each year these committees need new members. Will you help? Will you bring a friend?

### What Does That Committee Do?

**The chairs will tell you:** just browse their responses to the survey compiled earlier this year by ALSC's Organization and Bylaws committee to gauge time commitment, virtual vs. in-person participation, useful skills, and recent accomplishments. Click through for more information, rosters, and (if you are logged in) contact information for each committee.

### Want to talk to someone about where you fit in?

If you will be at Midwinter, I encourage you to explore options for committee work by networking with members at Leadership & ALSC or at the All Committee meeting. While not all committees meet at Midwinter, members of the ALSC Board of Directors are always available to talk.

### Not going to Midwinter?

I'd love to hear from members who haven't yet served on a committee, as well as members who've contributed but may be ready for their first chair position. I'll be announcing virtual office hours in my ALSC blog post on November 10th.

### Ready to Volunteer?

Visit the [Volunteering and Appointments Process](#) page and fill out a [volunteer form](#). I will start making appointments for process committees soon after Midwinter, for work to begin following Annual conference. Stay tuned, as well, for improvements to this form, but don't hesitate to submit now if you are ready!

As I was leaving the children's library in Boston, a daycare provider brought in a group of children holding hands. They let go and scattered—several kids running through a tunnel under a lion. Only one child, holding back for a moment, noticed the lion lighting up as they ran under it, and pointed it out to the others, to renewed delight.

In ALSC, we do our best work with a diversity of thought, bringing individual styles, skills, knowledge, and perspectives to bear on our work. You can help, not just by contributing your own, but by inviting a colleague to join you. ALSC committee work can be satisfying and enriching, but it is also work—volunteer work. I know there are many members willing to help if asked. So: want to make something together?—*Nina Lindsay, ALSC Vice-President*

## **ALA Election 2017**

The 2017 ALA/ALSC election will open on March 13 and close on April 5, 2017. For a list of candidates, visit the [2017 election webpage](#). Complete ALA election information is available at the [ALA website](#).

## **Thank You to Our Most Recent Donors**

Many thanks to the following generous contributors to ALSC. To learn how you can support ALSC, visit our website.

### **Belpré Award Endowment**

Alan Bern

### **Friends of ALSC**

#### **President's Circle**

Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.

#### **Notables' Circle**

Christopher Brown  
Cecilia McGowan

#### **Friends' Circle**

Alan Bern

## **ALSC Voices**

### **ALSC Profile**

*Celebrating colleagues with 25 years of ALSC membership*

Lucia M. Gonzalez  
Library Director  
North Miami Public Library  
North Miami, Florida  
ALSC membership: 26 years

**Where did you attend library school?**

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

**What, when and where was your very first library position?**

My first library position was in January 1987 as Library Assistant 3 in the Children's Department at the Miami Springs Branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. This job was an introduction to my life-long passion for children's services and storytelling.

**What do you love most about your current job?**

This job gives me the opportunity of develop and apply my vision of the ideal library. I get to apply the knowledge and skills I've acquired through years of service in directing, training, and developing library services for the North Miami community.

**What has been your favorite/most rewarding ALSC committee experience?**

I thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Quicklists Committee. I loved the communication among the members that allowed us to generate well-rounded lists in so many different areas. I also loved serving on the Pura Belpre Award Selection Committees and working on the Dia Family Day project.

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

*The One Thousand and One Nights*  
*My Antonia*  
*Harry Potter* (all books in the Series)

**What are your hobbies?**

Reading, Juggling, Bicycling

**What three words best describe you?**

Open-minded, Involved, Curious

## **Bright Ideas**

### **Great Stories Club**

Alachua County Library District (ACLD) received a "Great Stories Club" book club programming grant for at-risk teens. The competitive grant, administered by the American Library Association (ALA), provided training, books, and materials for hosting a reading and discussion program for young incarcerated females, ages 12 to 18.

As one of the [75 Great Stories Club grant recipients](#), Alachua County Library District in partnership with The Alachua Academy is working with groups of six to ten young women to read and discuss select books featuring young adult narrators who use the creative arts to move past challenges.

"This grant enables the Library District to reach young women at The Alachua Academy [who] are trying to continue their education, earn a high school diploma or obtain vocational training while they are incarcerated," said ACLD Headquarters Librarian Linda Cue. "We hope this book club program will convey the importance of reading and how books can prepare them academically, help them discover a sense of self, and open their minds to experiences they might have thought were impossible. The three true stories we will read and discuss illustrate how young people use the arts to respond productively to hardships."

The book titles, under the theme “The Art of Change: Creation, Growth and Transformation,” include: *Buck: A Memoir* by M.K. Asante, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, and *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi. The titles — selected by librarian advisors and humanities scholars — were chosen to resonate with reluctant readers who struggle with complex issues such as incarceration, violence, and poverty.

The grant provides 11 copies of each of the three books that ultimately are gifted to the book club participants. In addition, the Library District received paid travel and accommodations for library project directors to attend an orientation workshop in June at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, plus project materials, training, and support.

The Library District’s Community Engagement Team selected this project as way to expand services to at-risk youth in the community. Library staff will work in partnership with Joanna Hutchinson, instructor for The Alachua Academy, located within the Alachua Regional Detention Center. The Alachua Academy works in collaboration with the Alachua County School Board to offer young females ages 12 to 18 an opportunity to continue their education, earn a GED, or obtain vocational training while they are incarcerated. In the past, the Library District has provided a monthly book deposit collection, book talks, and other programs for teens at this facility. Teaming up again enables the library to expand and extend its services into the community to provide more opportunities for at-risk youth. Gatherings of the Great Stories Club at the academy began in July and continued through September with support and access to books continuing.

Since its inception in 2006, ALA’s Great Stories Club has reached 670 libraries in 49 states and more than 30,000 young adults (ages 12 to 21). The grant is administered by [ALA’s Public Programs Office](#).—*Alachua County (Florida) Library District*

## **Building Baby’s Core Collection: A Book-themed Baby Shower**

*My colleagues at Kennesaw State University hosted a book baby shower for my unborn baby granddaughter, Maggie. When I posted photos on Facebook, I was pleasantly surprised at the enthusiastic response, which prompted me to write this article.*

The time-honored practice of showering a mother-to-be with gifts is an American social tradition, and a celebration of happy beginnings.

When a group of librarians gather together to provision an infant for a happy beginning in this world—you can be certain that it will involve—BOOKS! My colleagues at Kennesaw State University (KSU), located in the greater metro Atlanta area, hosted a book baby shower for my unborn granddaughter, Baby Maggie. Besides the food and fun, the event turned out to be a collegial and fun team-building event for our library staff.

“Books may well be the only true magic,” according to author Alice Hoffman. If so, a book is the perfect gift for a new baby! In my experience, librarians of all stripes have an ongoing relationship with the book and consider them: “Holy objects, to be caressed, rapturously sniffed, and devotedly provided for.”—Maurice Sendak.

Since Baby Maggie already possesses a substantial nursery/early childhood library of books lovingly handed down from previous generations, and to avoid duplication, the shower hostess provided guests with a list of those titles already in Baby Maggie’s library, and requested, “if you’d like to bring a gift, please bring a favorite book from your childhood.”

Having the guests share their selection criteria, enhanced the collegiality of the event, and was an all-inclusive feature that drew attendees into the festivities in a personal and non-embarrassing way.

We were celebrating new life, books, and at the same time, got to know our co-workers a little better.

Speaking of inclusive, although baby showers have traditionally been female-only gatherings, our male library colleagues were thrilled to participate fully in the event. In addition, the KSU staff is multigenerational, consisting of Baby Boomers, Gen X-ers, and Millennials. With such a diverse age group, it is noteworthy that books received did NOT include a Disney title, nor an e-book, but DID include a number of Caldecott titles, and baby-appropriate board books. All of the books selected were traditional and contemporary fiction that would constitute a beautiful core collection for a child's library.

When it comes to quality books—you can be sure librarians know their stuff.—*Barbara A. Wood, MLIS, Kennesaw State University, Georgia*

## 90-Second Newbery Film Fest

The [90-Second Newbery Film Festival](#) is back for its sixth year. The annual video contest showcases short movies by young filmmakers that creatively tell the entire stories of Newbery-winning books in about 90 seconds. The best entries are screened each year in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Oakland, Portland, Tacoma, San Antonio, and Rochester—and new this year—Boston and Asheville, too!

Complete details on the film festival are at the [90-Second Newbery website](#), including a compilation of [past movies](#)--from a horror-movie version of *Charlotte's Web* to a claymation account of *The Story of Mankind*.

Know any kids who enjoy making movies? There's still time to make a 90-Second Newbery film for next year's festival! The deadline is January 7, 2017.—James Kennedy, founder and curator, 90-Second Newbery Film Festival

### Details on screenings

January 21, 2017, 3 p.m., San Antonio, Texas  
Hosted by James Kennedy and Nikki Loftin  
Charlene McCombs Empire Theatre

February 11, 2017, 3 p.m., Tacoma, Washington\*  
Hosted by James Kennedy, Doug Mackey, and Keir Graff  
Tacoma Public Library

February 12, 2017, 4:30 p.m., Portland, Oregon  
Hosted by James Kennedy, Keir Graff, and Dale Basye  
Hollywood Theatre

February 17, 2017, 7 p.m., Oakland, California  
Hosted by James Kennedy, Keir Graff, and Marcus Ewert  
Rockridge Branch, Oakland Public Library

February 18, 2017, 4 p.m., San Francisco, California  
Hosted by James Kennedy, Keir Graff, and Marcus Ewert  
Main Branch, San Francisco Public Library, Koret Auditorium

February 25, 2017, 3 p.m., Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Hosted by James Kennedy, Keir Graff, and Kelly Barnhill.  
Minneapolis Central Library, Pohlad Hall.

March 11, 2017, 3 p.m., New York  
Hosted by James Kennedy, Keir Graff, and a co-host TBA.  
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Bartos Forum

March 12, 2017, 2 p.m., Brooklyn, New York  
Hosted by James Kennedy, Keir Graff, and a co-host TBA.  
Central Library, Dweck Auditorium

March 19, 2017, 2 p.m., Rochester, New York  
Hosted by James Kennedy and Charles Benoit  
Dryden Theatre, Eastman Museum

April 1, 2017, 3 p.m., Chicago  
Hosted by James Kennedy and Keir Graff.  
Vittum Theater

April 22, 2017, 1 p.m., Asheville, North Carolina  
Hosted by James Kennedy and Alan Gratz  
Pack Memorial Library

April 30, 2017, 2 p.m., Boston Area  
Hosted by James Kennedy and M.T. Anderson, with special guest Jack Gantos  
Brookline Public Library

## **Charlotte Mecklenburg Library expands ONE Access™ program**

In an expansion of a groundbreaking initiative launched last school year, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is adding new benefits for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) students and educators to its highly successful ONE Access™ program. This year, CMS teachers and staff will be given library E-accounts, and the library is piloting a student mobile hotspot lending program with Sprint to address the challenges faced by students in homes without internet connectivity.

The ONE Access initiative was launched in fall 2015, when more than 146,000 students in CMS' 168 schools were given public library accounts that they could easily use with just a CMS student ID number. The initiative was named ONE Access because one number—a CMS student ID—was the only number a student needed to remember to access the wealth of resources of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. By December 2015, more than 100,000 students had used their ONE Access accounts.

Beginning this September 1, teachers and staff in the CMS system are able to use a unique ID as their ONE Access E-account, giving them instant access to all of Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's online resources, including e-books, research databases, and online instructional course sites like Lynda.com. Teachers can find details on the Library's ONE Access webpage.

<[cmllibrary.org/oneaccess](http://cmllibrary.org/oneaccess)> The ONE Access account complements the library's standard Teacher Loan Card program, available to all educators who teach in Mecklenburg County, which allows teachers to borrow up to 30 items for six weeks for classroom use. <[cmllibrary.org/teacher-loan-card](http://cmllibrary.org/teacher-loan-card)>

The Library is also piloting new ONE Access initiatives with the aim of testing solutions for the educational challenges that exist beyond the walls of schools and libraries. One of these challenges is lack of internet access in many Charlotte-area households, locking students out of learning after the school day ends. This school year, Sprint and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library have made a



commitment of offering 150 free, wireless hotspots to CMS students to stay connected at home. The library hopes the pilot program can be expanded to ensure no child or family is left behind.

## Getting Together

### Gallery Talk Featuring Children's Book Art

Join the Society of Illustrators for an in-depth exploration of the annual [Original Art exhibit](#), featuring the very best illustration in children's books this year. Registration is open for *READING PICTURES: The Artist's Voice and Vocabulary in Picture Books*. The event will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016, 1-8 p.m. in New York City and is open to librarians only.

Art directors Laurent Linn, Simon & Schuster, Martha Rago, Random House/Golden Books, and Ceclia Yung, Penguin Books for Young Readers, will lead a gallery talk of an original art exhibit, providing an up-close examination of the works on view.

Illustrators Nancy Carpenter, Mike Curato, and Sergio Ruzzier will discuss and/or demonstrate their creative processes in a gallery setting. Attendees will continue the conversation with colleagues and presenters at a buffet dinner.

For complete details and to register, [visit the Society of Illustrators website](#).

### Build. Believe. Become.: ALSC Mini Institute

Join fellow children's librarians and educators for ALSC's one-day Mini Institute on Friday, January 20, 2017, at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, just prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting.

The Mini Institute offers everything in one place--programming, keynote author/illustrator events, networking, discussion forums, and much more. This is an intensive learning opportunity with a youth services focus, designed for front-line youth library staff, children's literature experts, education and library school faculty members, and other interested individuals. It is one of the only workshops devoted solely to children's librarianship, literature, and technology.

Learn more on the [Mini Institute webpage](#). Hurry! Secure your seat now. ***ALA Midwinter Meeting registration is not required to sign up for this event.***

At the Virtual Institute in September, the location of the 2018 ALSC National Institute was announced. Cincinnati, Ohio, will host the event and further information and a press release will be released soon!

### Kwame Alexander to Speak at Midwinter President's Program

Kwame Alexander—poet, educator, and award-winning, bestselling author of 24 books for children of all ages, including the 2015 Newbery Medal-winning *The Crossover*—joins ALA President Julie Todaro as speaker on the 2017 Midwinter Meeting President's Program, Sunday, January 22, 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia.

Attendees can look forward to hearing how Alexander's work is inspired by his belief that poetry can change the world, and how he uses poetry to inspire and empower young people all over the world.

His latest project pairs his uplifting poetry with more than 100 stunning photos of the world's endangered animals in the photo-illustrated book *Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures*. The poetry and photographs by acclaimed National Geographic photographer and founder of the National Geographic Photo Ark Joel Sartore, speak to children of the importance of conservation and the beauty of the animal kingdom.

Advance registration for the ALA 2017 Midwinter Meeting is open through noon (Central) on January 13, 2017. For more information, [visit the conference website](#).

## **Mark Your Calendar Now - 2017 Arbuthnot Lecture**

Jacqueline Woodson will deliver her Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, "What Gets Left Behind: Stories From The Great Migration," on April 1, 2017, at W. W. Hootie Johnson Performance Hall, in the Darla Moore School of Business, at the University of South Carolina. Free tickets will be available in Spring 2017. Stay tuned to the [ALSC website](#).

## **Charlemae Rollins President's Program in Chicago**

Join ALSC on Monday, June 26, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. for "Plugging into the Digital Age: Libraries Engaging and Supporting Families with Today's Literacy." Digital technology impacts all areas of life: brain development, learning styles, and interpersonal relationships. Experts in the field have gathered to present the latest research on digital-age technology and its relationship to childhood development and childhood literacy. This panel will feature Chip Donohue from the Erikson Institute and Sarah R. Lytle from the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences, who will present the latest research in this area of study. Lisa Regalla from the Center for Childhood Creativity at the Bay Area Discovery Museum will discuss practical ways to implement this information in our libraries and services. This program will provide attendees with innovative ways for librarians to enhance their professional development and grow into their role as media mentors for children and caregivers.

## **Save the Date: Inaugural Walter Dean Myers Memorial Lecture**

Join the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) for the first Walter Dean Myers Memorial Lecture, an engaging panel discussion featuring Phoebe Yeh, Vice President and Publisher at Crown Books for Young Readers at Penguin Random House, librarians, and other invited experts.

The lecture, "Second Chances: Strategies for Working with At-Risk Youth in Libraries," will be held Saturday, June 24, 2017, from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The event is co-sponsored by the BCALA, ALSC, Young Adult Library Services Association, Ethnic & Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table, and the Coretta Scott King Committee.

## **BCALA Conference Dates**

The 10th National Conference of African American Librarians, Culture Keepers X/Beyond Library Walls: Innovative Ways to Engage Our Communities will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 9–13, 2017. The event is hosted by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. For more details, [visit the conference website](#).

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Member News

ALSC members, **Keturah Cappadonia**, head of Children's Services, David Howe Public Library, N.Y., and **Julie Patterson**, teacher librarian, Ascend International School, Mumbai, India, are the recipients of a Friends of ALSC Mini Institute Scholarship, which includes registration and lodging travel stipend. The ALSC Mini Institute is a one-day event taking place on Friday, January 20, 2017, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. See you in Atlanta, Keturah and Julie!

**Cheryl Wolf**, Neighborhood School and S.T.A.R. Academy, New York, was a judge for the New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2016. Kudos, Cheryl! For more information on this year's award winners, please [see below](#).

Congratulations to **Emily Bayci**, Naperville (Ill.) Public Library; **Katy Halpern**, Parsippany (N.J.) Public Library, Lake Hiawatha Branch; **Kathia Ibacache**, Simi Valley (Calif.) Library; and **Laura Tucker**, Homewood (Ala.) Public Library! Each will receive a \$600 stipend, made possible by Penguin Young Readers Group and Random House Children's Books, to attend her first ALA Annual Conference as well as attend the Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder banquet in Chicago next summer.

**Tori Ann Ogawa**, Darien (Conn.) Library, has been named ALSC's representative in the [2017 Emerging Leader program](#). Ogawa is the Harold W. McGraw Fellow at Darien, where she works as a children's librarian. Congratulations, Tori!

ALSC member **Amy Koester**?, Skokie (Ill.) Public Library, co-wrote, with Cen Campbell, a chapter, "Children's Librarians as Media Mentors," in *Family Engagement in the Digital Age: Early Childhood Educators as Media Mentors* (Routledge, 2017). The publication was edited by [Erikson Institute's](#) internationally recognized early childhood technology expert Chip Donohue, Ph.D. Donohue also wrote the foreword for *Becoming a Media Mentor: A Guide for Working with Children and Families*, by **Claudia Haines**, Homer (Alaska) Public Library, Cen Campbell, and ALSC.

## Every Child Reaches the Summit

Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR), administered by ALSC and the Public Library Association (PLA), was recognized nationally with a Summit Award in the 2016 "Power of A" Awards competition from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). The Power of A Awards showcase how associations leverage their unique resources to solve problems, advance industry/professional performance, kickstart innovation, and improve world conditions. ASAE created a video about ECRR, which can be accessed from [The Power of A website](#).

## ALSC/YALSA Receive Dollar General Funding

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded a Youth Literacy grant in the amount of \$248,306 to ALSC and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA).

ALSC will use its funding to help libraries provide children's programming that strengthens community opportunities for STEAM learning during school breaks. ALSC will award 12 \$5,000 Strengthening Communities Through Libraries minigrants to members in public libraries and develop supplemental resources that will be made widely available to support the out-of-school time programming of libraries and their community partners.

With the grant funds, YALSA will provide summer learning and Teen Read Week™ minigrants to libraries in need. A total of ten Teen Read Week, 20 Summer Learning Resources and 20 Summer Teen Intern minigrants will be awarded to libraries across the nation.

For more information about the Dollar General Literacy Foundation or for a complete list of grant recipients, visit the [foundation's website](#).

## **ALSC Professional Awards - Deadlines Approaching**

Do you have a colleague or know a librarian who has made a significant contribution to library service to children and/or ALSC? If so, the ALSC **Distinguished Service Award** (DSA) committee wants to hear from you. DSA nominees must be a personal member of ALSC, who is a practicing librarian in a school or public library, on staff in a publishing house, a library or information science educator, or a member of the library press. Please consider nominating that extraordinary someone. Nominations will close on December 1, 2016. Visit the [Distinguished Service Award webpage](#) for more information.

ALSC also is accepting applications for the 2017 **Light the Way: Library Outreach to the Underserved** grant. The \$3,000 gift, made possible by Candlewick Press in honor of award-winning author Kate DiCamillo, will go to a library conducting exemplary outreach to underserved populations through a new program or an expansion of work already being done. Applications are due December 1, 2016. Learn more at the [Light the Way webpage](#).

Applications are now being accepted for **Bookapalooza**. The Bookapalooza program was created to find new homes for the newly published books, videos, audio books, and recordings from children's trade publishers that the ALSC office receives each year for awards and notables consideration. ALSC selects three libraries to receive a Bookapalooza collection of materials to be used to enhance library service to children and families. The deadline for applications is February 1, 2017. For more information, please visit the [Bookapalooza webpage](#).

Been meaning to apply for the **Bechtel Fellowship**? Good news! The application deadline has been extended. Take advantage and apply today! For more information, visit the [Bechtel webpage](#).

## **CSK/Virginia Hamilton Practitioner Lifetime Achievement Award**

ALA is accepting nominations for the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Practitioner Lifetime Achievement Award. Named for award-winning children's author Virginia Hamilton (1936-2002), the Practitioner Award honors practicing youth advocates whose productive activities, work, or career engage students in the reading of award-winning African American literature for children and young adults, and who have made significant contributions to champion youth reading and engagement with award-winning African American literature. The winning recipient will be announced during the ALA Youth Media Awards during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta, and will be honored at the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast during the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The winner receives a medal and a \$1,500 cash award. Nominations are being accepted through Monday, November 14, 2016. To view the award criteria and submit a nomination, please visit the [award webpage](#).

## New Infographic Presents Stats on Diversity in Children's Books

Sarah Park Dahlen, assistant professor at St. Catherine University, worked with illustrator David Huyck and several children's literature experts, to create a new "Diversity in Children's Books 2015" infographic, presenting CCBC data on multicultural publishing. More information on the infographic, those who made it happen, and how to download a copy is on [Dahlen's blog](#). According to Dahlen, the infographic is already being used in classes and posted in libraries and classrooms.

## Story Shares Helps Kids Read Better

Story Shares, a nonprofit organization devoted to inspiring reading practice and improving literacy skills, is impacting youth literacy across the United States and abroad. Currently, more than 300 schools across 44 states and 26 countries are accessing stories shared on the [Story Shares website](#). Story Shares aims to empower and inspire struggling readers, including English language learners, students with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, and students from low-income communities who have fallen behind in literacy skills and reading comprehension.

Pieces presented at Story Shares are written by every day writers including students and teachers. The organization holds an annual Relevant Reads writing contest to build their library. This year's contest launched in August and will remain open until December 31. The contest seeks submissions from 1,000 to 10,000 words in a variety of genres including historical fiction, horror/suspense, fantasy, and overall diversity so that every reader is able to find his or her reflection in the books available. Like most writing contests, the Story Shares Relevant Reads contest offers cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, along with publication in both digital and print form. Unlike most writing contests, however, those who submit their work to Story Shares have a real opportunity to make a difference. For more information about Story Shares and the Relevant Reads contest, visit the [contest webpage](#).

## Summer Reading & Learning Support

Chris Caputo, chair of ALSC's Summer Reading and Learning Task Force, recently noted on ALSC-L that the Urban Libraries Council developed a new toolkit in partnership with the National Summer Learning Association. *[Libraries at the Center of Summer Learning and Fun: An Online Toolkit to Expand from Summer Reading to Summer Learning](#)* is designed to help libraries explore ways to expand summer reading and learning, and includes examples of successful summer learning models in libraries with links to many additional resources.

The Summer Reading and Learning Task Force welcomes your ideas around how ALSC can best support you in your summer and out-of-school-time programming. Please feel free to contact [Chris Caputo](#) with your suggestions and ideas.

## New Fellowships Available from Nixon Center

The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature is pleased to offer Research Fellowships to support scholars from outside the Fresno/Clovis area who are engaged in graduate-level, post-doctoral, and independent research. The fellowships have been created to encourage innovative inquiry into the varied aspects of children's literature. Proposals are reviewed by a committee and selection is based on significance to the study of children's literature, likelihood of publication or other dissemination of the work, and relevance of the project to the Center's holdings. Two Fellowships of up to \$2,000 will be awarded annually to scholars. The award may be used for

transportation to and from Fresno, living expenses while in residence, and research materials and supplies. For more information, please visit the [Arne Nixon Center website](#).

## Importance of Play Resource List

The Delaware Division of Libraries has created a handy resource on the importance of play at their [LibGuides website](#). The documents and resources provided are courtesy of Dr. Betsy Diamant-Cohen, culled from materials in her course, "Importance of Play."

## Caldecott Collection Featured in Holiday Catalog

Neiman Marcus has good taste in smart gifts! According to the [retailer's website](#), a curated collection of 36 Caldecott Medal-winning books is among 12 fantasy gifts topping its annual Christmas book for 2016. The collection was pulled together by antiquarian booksellers, Johnnycake Books and E.M. Maurice Books, and includes either first editions or early printings. With the purchase of the collection, Neiman Marcus will donate \$10,000 to The Heart of Neiman Marcus Foundation. Among the other fantasy gifts this year, a walk-on role in a Broadway musical, a slumber party at the Neiman Marcus Flagship store, and a private quarterback camp with Joe Montana! (ALA/ALSC does not sponsor or endorse this gift or Neiman Marcus.)

## Best Illustrated Books of the Year

The New York Times recently released its list of Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2016. Among the winners were:

***The Cat From Hunger Mountain***. Written and illustrated by Ed Young

***The Dead Bird***. By Margaret Wise Brown. Illus. by Christian Robinson.

***Freedom in Congo Square***. By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie.

For the complete list, please visit the [New York Times website](#).