

# ALSC Matters

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## Officially Speaking

### Transforming ALSC: Leadership Development

I'm thrilled: the recent [ALSC Mentorship Program](#) application period was a huge success. We made 58 matches: the most since we began the program in 2014, and the first time *we successfully matched every mentee who applied.*

The ALSC Board of Directors talked about the importance of mentorship and sponsorship at a recent informal online board orientation session. We came to the discussion having read April Hathcock's [White Librarianship in Blackface](#) (In the Library with the Lead Pipe, October 7, 2015), and used it as a lens to explore where structures in ALSC may stand in the way of achieving goals in our [strategic plan](#), specifically:

*Transforming ALSC: Members have clear, welcoming pathways to contribute to the work of the organization.*

*Diversity & Inclusion: ALSC will become more diverse and inclusive, acting to promote these values in all aspects of library service to children.*

We considered where our applications and volunteer forms may be "recruiting for whiteness," as Hathcock puts it, rather than for diversity. I'm excited that we'll soon be putting out call for committee volunteers with a revised form, and that the Board recently voted to expand the charge of the Nominating Committee to become the Nominating and Leadership Development committee. These and other pipelines for ALSC leader development will be evaluated by the newly formed Equity, Diversity and Inclusion within ALSC Implementation task force, further developing recommendations made at annual conference by the Diversity within ALSC task force, and working closely with ALSC leadership through the course of our strategic plan.

The mentorship program is just one piece of this, and it's affirming that so many of you heeded the call to step up to mentor. Hathcock calls upon those of us in librarianship with privilege "to make space for our diverse colleagues to thrive within the profession ... by mentoring early career librarians in both playing at and dismantling whiteness in LIS."

Matching mentees and mentors is only the first step in this work, and we don't have to do the work solely through a formal mentoring program. Who can you work to support, to advocate for, to dismantle barriers for, to champion?

And...think you might be interested in the next round of the ALSC Mentoring Program? Just [RSVP](#), and we'll let you know when the application reopens.--*Nina Lindsay, ALSC President*

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## Diversity, Inclusion, & Advocacy: DIA as Radical Change

In October, I attended the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) conference in Seattle, Washington. The theme of the conference was Radical Change Beyond Borders, building off the late Dr. Eliza Dresang's seminal work *Radical Change: Books for Youth in a Digital Age* (1999, H.W. Wilson). Much of the conference was looking at new approaches to international children's literature made possible by technology, and how these changes have allowed books to cross borders.

It was the panel on diverse Asian American perspectives in children's books that sparked my theme for this column. Author Linda Sue Park eloquently spoke about how we unintentionally create walls when we booktalk literature with diverse themes. Rather than *centering* the pitch on the exciting adventure or suspenseful plot in a story that will draw in listeners from numerous cultural backgrounds, often librarians and educators engage in *othering* by presenting the book as a title about a particular diverse culture. Human nature is such that if we hear a book is about someone different from us, we create an "us vs. them" wall that prevents us from fully engaging with a story. For instance, pitching a book as "a story about trying to find your place in the world and understanding the power of your voice" will attract a wider audience than selling it as "a story about a Pakistani American Muslim girl trying to navigate a school culture that doesn't support her religious beliefs." While children reading the book will invariably learn more about Pakistani American Muslim culture, some will never embrace the opportunity to understand universality of experiences if their librarian delivers an othering booktalk that creates the notion that the book is about someone completely and totally different from their own culture. Children's author and illustrator Grace Lin has also talked about this in her "[A Cheat Sheet for Selling Diversity](#)."

So what does this have to do with ALSC? As indicated in the last year's ALSC survey from the Diversity within ALSC Task Force, specific members of our association do not always feel welcomed in our activities, meetings, etc. due to the prevailing homogeneity of our membership. ALSC leadership is continuing to look for new ways to create an environment in our association that is inclusive and welcoming of all individuals. We've created the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within ALSC Implementation task force to help us. While they are hard at work, I think we can lay the groundwork for change by looking at othering and centering moments we have experienced at ALSC events and in our own libraries.

Want to bring about radical change in the way that we engage with others in the association and in our library communities? Let's begin thinking of approaches to centering experiences. One avenue in our libraries is through intentional programming — specifically, inclusive programming that engages children and families in opportunities to explore diversity, understand commonalities, and build bridges of cross-cultural understanding.

Programs like [Día](#) can be offered not only on April 30th but also throughout the calendar year to create centering experiences where diverse perspectives are welcomed and respected but not portrayed as "other." [Día](#) activities can lay a foundation for advocacy, providing the framework to infuse diversity, equity, and inclusion into collections, programs, and services. Back in January 2015, ALSC hosted the [Day of Diversity: Dialogue and Action in Children's Literature and Library Programming](#) to begin the conversation on how to increase diversity in children's literature and make that diverse literature available in libraries. Much of the day's content is archived on the [Día](#) website, providing recommendations, thought pieces, and more, to turn dialog into action.

It is time for radical change in the way that we approach diversity in our libraries and create inclusive spaces within ALSC. We need opportunities to investigate ways to be effective advocates that promote diversity and inclusion, avoiding othering practices. The [2018 ALSC National Institute](#) with the theme of Embracing Advocacy and Inclusion will be one opportunity to explore this conversation

as several keynote sessions and breakouts will address these topics. Other opportunities are sure to arise as the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within ALSC Implementation task force works on its charge. If you have any thoughts, I'd love to hear from you! Let's work together to create library spaces and an association where all really means all.—**Jamie Campbell Naidoo**, ALSC Vice President

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## Thank You to Our Recent Donors

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

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## ALSC Voices

### ALSC Profile

*Celebrating colleagues with 25 years or more of ALSC membership*

**Debbie Pfeuffer**  
**Children's Librarian**  
**Oakland Public Library, Oakland, N.J.**  
**ALSC membership: 25 years**

**Where did you attend library school?**

I attended library school at Rutgers University.

**What was your very first library position?**

My very first library position was as a library assistant in the Children's Department of the Englewood (N.J.) Public Library. Was I thinking "librarian"? Not at all! I began my career as a preschool teacher, and each Friday, the Englewood Library offered films for younger children. I visited the library with my class. One Friday, the film projector (yes, there were projectors 32 years ago!) broke down, and I jumped up to lead the assembled group with some songs and finger plays. The library assistant told the children's librarian about my assistance. After that, I was in the library to use a pay phone (yes, pay phone!), and the children's librarian asked if I had ever considered working in a library? I actually said "NO!" However, I interviewed for the position of library assistant, and fell in love with the job! One might say there was a bit of "divine intervention!"

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

What I love most about my current job is the community I serve. There are so many wonderful people all in one place. Oakland, N.J.! Of the job itself, I love all the facets of being a children's librarian. I am NEVER bored!!

**What's your favorite myth, legend, or fairy tale?**

My favorite fairy tale is: *Cinderella*. I am not particular about the adaptation, even Disney included the essential elements. I love the kind-hearted heroine, the fairy godmother, the ball, the romance, and being rewarded for good deeds. It is a feel good story! I like being happy!

**What was the single most influential event in your lifetime?**

The most influential event was the loss of my best friend, my mother. There is no substitution for the mother-daughter relationship after it is gone. It is something that happens once in a lifetime, if you are lucky! I was lucky!

**If you could close your eyes and be anywhere on earth when they opened, where would you be?**

If I could close my eyes and be anywhere on earth when they opened, I would be in Hawaii. I was in the airport there once, waiting for a plane connection. I bought pineapples, carried them home, and vowed I would return and do all the sightseeing I missed that day. Yes, on my Bucket List....

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# Bright Ideas

## “Building a Better World” -- One Lego at a Time!

As part of our summer reading program, “Build a Better World,” patrons at Anderson-Lee Library in Silver Creek, NY worked on a community Lego structure. For each book a registered participant read or had read to them, they received three Legos to add to the structure. All ages were welcome to take part and, although the majority of the participants were kids, some adults were involved as well.

It was great fun to see the kids come in with their reading logs and learn that they had earned 30 Legos (or more!) to add to the structure! Kids up to age 18 also scored a free book for every 10 books they read.

The structure grew day by day, with some patrons venturing guesses as to what it was. An amusement park? A happy town? Some kind of Ninja warrior obstacle course?! Whatever it was, it was colorful and fun and a great way to get patrons coming back to check out the progress from week to week! —*Amy O’Connell, children’s/young adult program coordinator, Anderson-Lee Library, Silver Creek, NY*

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## LEGO Games & Challenges

In keeping with the Summer Reading theme of Build a Better World, our library hosted a LEGO Games and Challenges program on July 3, 2017. Despite being held on the Monday before the Independence Day holiday, we had an enthusiastic turnout, including some families coming to the library for their first library program!

Because so many kids love building with LEGO blocks, we had a small free-building area set to one side for anyone who just wanted to make their own creations. A few people came in just for the building but soon joined in on the fun at other stations set up with activities that were great for preschoolers up through elementary school age.

All of the other activity stations focused on STEM skills. At one station, participants were encouraged to use blocks and bases to create 3-D versions of their names. Another station featured a dice game in which players chose to roll a 4-sided, 10-sided, or 20-sided dice to build a tower using the number of blocks indicated by the dice roll. Players could compete against one another or play on their own, and they could choose to try for greatest number of blocks or tallest tower via creative and strategic placement of their blocks.

An estimation station using LEGO blocks as measurement tools appealed to even preschoolers as they figured out how many blocks it would take to cover various lengths and shapes of lines. One father of a three-year-old explained to his daughter that “estimating” and “guessing” are related, but you can use clues to make your estimation more accurate, and they played at that table for ten minutes straight.

By far the favorite station was the Float Your LEGO Boat area. As the name implies, kids and adults built boats or boat-like structures and then attempted to float them in water-filled tubs set out on a tarp. If their creations floated, they then tried to guess how much more they could add to them to

make them sink, which utilized STEM skills like estimating, making a hypothesis, experimenting, and drawing conclusions. There was much laughter and suspense as kids tried to sink their own creations, and a little splashing on a hot day is a glorious thing.

This program was a fun success and required just a small amount of pre-planning and set-up—the most time-consuming part was sorting out the LEGO's for use in a few of the activities that did best with one shape/size brick. There are tons of LEGO activities available with a quick Pinterest or Google search, and you can find my program plan with some links here. I encourage anyone with LEGO bricks at the library to give a similar program a try!—*Natasha Forrester Campbell, youth librarian, Multnomah County (Oregon) Library, Hollywood Library*

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## Exploring the World of Sherlock Holmes

Know any young detective enthusiasts who might jump at the chance to explore the inner workings of the most iconic and enigmatic investigator of all time? They may be perfect candidates for Junior Sherlockian Training!

The [Beacon Society](#), a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, recently launched the [Junior Sherlockian Society](#), which invites young people to complete Junior Sherlockian Training—an in-depth study of Sherlock Holmes's character traits, observational skills, capacity for critical thought, and inductive and deductive reasoning. While the training is geared to youth between 8 and 13 years old, trainees all of ages may participate.

Through [online training activities](#) Junior Sherlockians-in-Training explore, experience, and extend their understanding and appreciation of the master detective. Trainees who complete the tasks are granted a certificate of completion.

More information and a promotional poster and bookmark are [available on the website](#).

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## Getting Together

### Call for Proposals - Jt. Conference of Librarians of Color

The 2018 Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) Steering Committee invites you to [submit a proposal for presentation](#) at the conference, focusing on the theme “Gathering all Peoples: Embracing Culture & Community.” The proposal submission deadline is November 15, 2017. [Complete information about the call for proposals](#) is available on the JCLC site.

The [3rd National JCLC](#) will take place September 26-30, 2018, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is open to all library staff, students, influencers, and decision makers interested in exploring inclusive policies and practices in libraries and how they affect the ethnic communities who use our services. The conference is sponsored by the five ethnic affiliates of ALA: the American Indian Library Association (AILA), Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish

Speaking (REFORMA). For information about attending the 3rd National JCLC in Albuquerque in 2018, [stay tuned to the conference website](#).

If you are an ALSC member and plan to attend the 2018 JCLC, please consider applying for Roadshow funds to represent ALSC by staffing a booth, presenting a program, or coordinating a social event at the conference! Learn more about the [ALSC Roadshow](#) on the ALSC website.

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## **Mark Your Calendar - 2018 Arbuthnot Lecture**

Naomi Shihab Nye will deliver her Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, "REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED - Our Lives of Reading & Writing," on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Free tickets will be available next spring. Western Washington University and the Whatcom County Library System are hosting the event. Please stay tuned to the [2018 Arbuthnot Lecture webpage](#) for further details as they are available.

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## **2018 National Institute Updates**

Planning for the 2018 ALSC Institute is in high gear. The event, which includes programming, keynotes, networking, and more, is scheduled for September 27-29, 2018, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

ALSC just announced that award-winning children's book creator Grace Lin will present the Opening General Session, sponsored by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, on Thursday, September 27. Lin is the author of *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *Dumpling Days*, and *Ling & Ting*, among others. She has also illustrated many books, such as *Dim Sum for Everyone!*, *Red Is a Dragon*, and *Round Is a Mooncake*.

The Opening General Session is free for all individuals registered for the Institute. All special events are included in the cost of registration.

New at the 2018 ALSC National Institute, the "[Big Ideas](#)" sessions will kick off activities on Thursday and Saturday with top-of-mind topics discussed by industry leaders. On Thursday, panelists for the *A Is for Advocacy, Allies, and Action* session will present perspectives and action steps to bring diverse literature front and center in libraries and classrooms. In Saturday's *Building Baby's Brain with Books* session, attendees will learn about local and national efforts to spread the word about the importance of reading aloud to children from birth. Find the complete lineup of presenters at the [Big Ideas webpage](#).

For more information, including registration details and a full list of programs and activities for the 2018 Institute, please [visit the Institute webpage](#).

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# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Member News

Congratulations to **Pat Scales**, ALSC past president. In October, Alabama's University of Montevallo Carmichael Library held a dedication and ribbon cutting for the new **Pat Scales Special Collections Room**. The collection includes more than 3,000 items donated by Scales, including first edition Caldecott and Newbery Medal-winning books, intellectual freedom papers, and correspondence. Among the special guests at the ceremony, which included Pat's nieces and nephew, were Jamie Naidoo, ALSC president-elect; Steven Yates, president of the American Association of School Librarians, and Aimee Strittmatter, ALSC executive director.

*Pictured left to right: Jamie Naidoo, Pat Scales, Aimee Strittmatter, Steven Yates*

*Photo credit: Alyssa Luna Green, University of Montevallo*

ALSC member **Andy Howe** and the Sun Valley Library in Los Angeles were featured in episode one of **The Truth about Libraries**, a light-hearted YouTube series, created by **Annabeth Bondor-Stone and Connor White**, that highlights the many activities and services libraries have to offer. Each episode includes an interview with a librarian.

*Pictured at left: Andy Howe (left) with Annabeth (back right) and Connor (front right)*

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## 2017 Friends of ALSC Report Coming Soon

ALSC extends a hearty thank you to our 2017 donors whose generous contributions helped carry ALSC through another dynamic year. Look for the 2017 Friends of ALSC report coming next month, which will highlight the many projects and scholarships supported by our Friends. Find **Friends reports** from previous years on our website.

We are committed to achieving even greater impact in 2018 and hope you will consider supporting ALSC on #GivingTuesday later this month on November 28. Thanks to an anonymous donor, ALA will match each gift of up to \$1,000 from individual donors, made between now and January 15, 2018, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per ALA unit.

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## Professional Awards - Deadlines Approaching

Just imagine how \$3,000 could help make your 2018 summer reading program shine. Now, take steps to make that happen! Submit an application for the Baker & Taylor Summer Reading Program Grant. Applications are due November 15. [Visit the grant's webpage](#) for complete details.

ALSC also is accepting applications for the 2018 Candlewick Press Light the Way: Library Outreach to the Underserved grant. The \$3,000 gift 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. Learn more at the [Light the Way webpage](#).

Do you 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. Nominations will close on December 1. Visit the [Distinguished Service Award webpage](#) for more information.

Hurry! Applications for the Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Award are due on November 15. The award provides up to \$4,000 to fund an author/illustrator visit to a library. Visit the [award webpage](#) for details.

Mark your calendar. The application period for the [Bookapalooza Program](#) opens on December 1. What library couldn't use a collection of recently published books, videos, audio books, and recordings for children?!

The wait is almost over. Winners of the [2018 Penguin Random House Group Award](#) will be announced this month. Look for a press release coming soon. The awards provides a \$600 stipend to up to four children's librarians to attend their first ALA Annual Conference...next year in New Orleans.

Recipients of the 2018 [Bechtel Award](#) will be announced in December. The fellowship provides a \$4,000 grant to children's librarian to spend four weeks or more reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

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## ALA Election 2018

The 2018 ALA/ALSC election will open on March 12 and close on April 4, 2018. Election results will be announced on April 11, 2018. For a list of candidates, visit [ALSC's 2018 election webpage](#). Complete ALA election information is available at the [ALA website](#).

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## ALSC Blog Seeks Mock Election Results

Calling all libraries, schools, bookstores, discussion groups, blogs, MLIS classes, book clubs, classrooms, or any other readers holding youth media mock elections! The ALSC blog would love to include your results. The [2018 Mock Elections Results page](#) highlights Mock Coretta Scott King, Mock Newbery, Mock Caldecott, Mock Geisel, Mock Sibert, Mock Pura Belpré Award results from far and wide.

Send off the names of your mock winner and honor titles using the form at the bottom of the [2018 Mock Elections Results page](#). And, be sure to visit the results page often to check out what titles are being selected in youth media mock elections. The real winners will be announced at the ALA Midwinter Conference in Denver on February 12, 2018.

## Stories of Immigration: New Book List

In September, REFORMA and ALSC's 2018 Pura Belpré Award committee compiled a list of past Belpré medal and honor books that address the Latino/a immigration experience and provide young

readers with insight into the very real struggles and choices faced by families every day. The [Stories of Immigration list](#) is available on the ALSC website.

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## \$500,000 in Grants for Coding Programs in Libraries

ALA recently announced more than \$500,000 in grants for 28 libraries in 21 states plus the District of Columbia ([see full list](#)) to design and implement coding programs for young people. The grants are part of ALA's ongoing Libraries Ready to Code initiative sponsored by Google to promote computer science (CS) and computational thinking among youth. It is the first time ALA has dedicated funding for CS programs in libraries.

Libraries are filling a crucial gap in K-12 education, with fewer than half of U.S. K-12 schools offering computer science classes. Specific groups underrepresented in CS careers - girls, rural residents, those from low-income communities, young people of color or with disabilities - are disproportionately disenfranchised by digital opportunity gaps, according to a Pew Research Center study. Libraries, proximate to diverse communities, are ideal places to provide equitable access to technology and training all young people need to develop the CS skills that will be indispensable in the workforce.

Libraries Ready to Code grant recipients span every region of the U.S. and range in size from rural libraries serving as few as 50 youth to urban library systems with branches serving populations of up to a million young people. Selected from a pool of more than 400 public and school libraries, grantees will develop programs that instill coding and computational thinking skills through dozens of innovative projects, including:

- designing educational escape rooms,
- making mechanical computers powered by marbles to solve logic puzzles,
- coding music with the use of assistive technology in special education classes, and
- building a residential-sized FarmBot machine to install a community garden.

For further information, see the [ALA press release](#) announcing the grantees.

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## ALA Disaster Relief Fund

ALA and the library community are supporting response and recovery efforts for libraries damaged by Hurricane Maria and the recent earthquake in Mexico through the ALA Disaster Relief Fund. Donations will be accepted to support library relief efforts in the Caribbean islands, Mexico, and Puerto Rico at <https://ec.ala.org/donate/projects>.

Additional information regarding local funds established for Florida and Texas libraries is [available on the ALA website](#). For a list of resources on dealing with natural disasters, visit [Libraries Respond](#).

## Free Health Literacy Toolkit

In preparation for Health Literacy Month (October), ALA's Public Awareness Office partnered with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) on a pilot program to create a [Libraries](#)

[Transform toolkit](#) for showcasing the many ways libraries promote health literacy in their communities. The free toolkit includes health literacy data, key messages and talking points sourced through NNLM, as well as nine “Because” statements that speak to some of the varied health literacy issues that libraries address. Each statement comes with downloadable graphics including posters, social media images, and more. The toolkit also includes ideas for libraries to use these tools for promoting their own services and programming.

As health literacy is an evergreen topic, the toolkit can be used throughout the year. *Please note: to view the full toolkit, visitors must log in, or sign up for, the Libraries Transform campaign.*

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## New Digital Exhibit from the Kerlan

The Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota Archives and Special Collections has added a new digital exhibit. [Children's Book Art: Techniques and Media](#) is the fourth component of the Children's Literature Research Collections' digital exhibits project.

The exhibit presents digital reproductions of book art, representing the various techniques used in picture book art, such as collage, printmaking, and scratchboard. Descriptions of the artists' processes and the creators' biographies also are shared.

Additional digital resource exhibits in the Children's Literature Research Collection are:

[Balloons Over Broadway, Melissa Sweet, and the Engineering of a Picture Book](#), exploring the process of researching, writing, and illustrating an informational picture book.

[The Making of Picture Book Illustrations: What is Preseparated Art?](#), addressing the preseperated art process of creating and printing of picture books.

[Rejoice the Legacy! Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney](#), created in support of ALSC's 2014 Arbuthnot Honor Lecture delivered by Andrea Davis Pinkney and hosted by the Children's Literature Research Collection.

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## Call for Papers/Presentations

The 51st Annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival will be held April 11-13, 2018, at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. A call for papers and presentations is open through November 30. Notification of acceptance will be made December 18.

The online application and more information can be found at the [University website](#).

## Which Iconic Toys Entered the Hall in 2017?

The Strong Museum of Play's National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, New York, has announced three new inductees! This year, paper airplanes, Clue, and the Wiffle Ball join other iconic toys already inducted, including Mr. Potato Head, Monopoly, and Rubik's Cube. The 2018 inductees were chosen from 12 finalists that also included: Magic 8 Ball, Matchbox Cars, My Little Pony, PEZ Candy Dispenser, play food, Risk, sand, Transformers, and Uno. Does your library house any of these classics?!

For further details, visit the [National Toy Hall of Fame website](#).

*Photo Credit: Courtesy of The Strong®, Rochester, New York*

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## **Best Illustrated Books of the Year**

The *New York Times* recently released its list of Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2017. Among the winners were:

*Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos.* Written by Monica Brown. Illustrated by John Parra.

*On a Magical Do-Nothing Day.* Written and illustrated by Beatrice Alemagna.

*Town Is By the Sea.* Written by Joanne Schwartz. Illustrated by Sydney Smith.

*The Way Home in the Night.* Written and illustrated by Akiko Miyakoshi.

For the complete list, please visit the *New York Times* website.

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