The question of neutrality in librarianship is not new—yet is as relevant as ever. On February 11, ALA President Jim Neal introduced a panel which sought to discuss the questions: Are libraries neutral? Have they ever been? Should they be? Neal noted that while libraries have always been presented as content neutral, “our library should be vigorously advocating for a distinct set of values.”

James LaRue, the director of the ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom and the Freedom to Read Foundation, argued that, yes, libraries should be neutral. “We do not deny access to library services and resources. We do set limits on behavior, but speech is not the same thing as action.” He added, “Suppressing speech in any way is the foundation of censorship and tyranny.” LaRue argued that everyone gets a seat at the table. Firefighters, nurses, and librarians are all nonpartisan and will serve their patrons.
Looking Forward to Seeing You in New Orleans in June

The thousands of library workers, exhibitors, and supporters of ALA that converged in Denver this past weekend fully embraced the Libraries Transform – Libraries Lead initiative and future-focused library objectives. There was a clear and strong commitment directed to our respective communities, as discussions on education, technology, library funding, information policies, diversity and inclusion, social justice, and library advocacy took place throughout the meeting.

We were inspired by an encouraging roster of featured speakers, most of whom recollected their introduction to libraries and how it contributed to their career paths and life’s work. We found motivation from two generations of activists, #BlackLivesMatters co-founder, Patrisse Cullors and #1000blackgirlbooks founder, Marley Dias; diversity and inclusion recognition from Junot Díaz, Dave Eggers, and Elizabeth Acevedo; and the reminder that science is always cool from TV personality, Bill Nye and children’s author, Gregory Mone. The personal connections whether initiated during the weekend, or reinforced as attendees reconnected, were key to the onsite peer discussions and future commitment to our community work and professional development.

I am pleased that my President’s Program debating the issue, "Are Libraries Neutral? Have They Ever Been? Should They Be?" generated a wealth of forward-thinking ideas, and while the debate offered contrasting views, the conversation was extremely necessary and astoundingly significant. This was the second year for a Symposium on the Future of Libraries. More than 40 sessions, over three days were offered to explore innovation and future trends for academic, public, school, and special libraries. And the popular News You Can Use and ALA Master Series provided the forums to discuss matters from civic issues, to food and nutrition.

Attendees enjoyed an energy-infused exhibit floor with organizations from around the nation eager to make the lives of library workers more efficient and productive. The Book Buzz Theater and PopTop live stages offered hundreds of publishers and authors who signed countless books, while new and diverse films were unveiled at the Now Showing stage. And as always, the winners of the YALSA Media Awards (YMA) and RUSA Book and Media Awards were met with pure joy when announced.

I am excited by what I witnessed at the 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting, an eagerness to work toward a new model of library advocacy. I’m sure the enthusiasm will continue as we head to New Orleans for the 2018 ALA Annual Conference, June 21-26. To date, confirmed speakers include Dr. Carla Hayden and Doris Kearns Goodwin as part of the Auditorium Speaker Series, and actress Viola Davis, who will close the Conference. You can find general information, registration and housing, and social media links at www.alaannual.org. I’ll see you there!

Jim G. Neal
ALA President

Culinary Literacy In the Library Space

Liz Fitzgerald, administrator of the Free Library of Philadelphia’s Culinary Literacy Center, delivers her Masters Series presentation, “Every Bite of Food We Eat.”

By Kacee Anderson/Northbrook Elementary

Conversations around food are often lively and provide a window into the lives of others. As part of the ALA Masters Series, Liz Fitzgerald from the Free Library of Philadelphia’s Culinary Literacy Center presented on the use of cooking and culinary programming, as an invitation to connect to other people in the community and bring them into the library.

The Culinary Literacy Center now has a commercial-grade kitchen classroom. The mission is to advance literacy through food and cooking around a community table. Libraries serve the needs of their patrons and the Culinary Literacy Center addresses some of the major needs of the city. A large population of adults in Philadelphia are in the low-literacy level, one in four is food insecure, and obesity is an issue for both adults and children. This programming has brought in many who are not typically library patrons.

Public programming includes knife skills, vegan classes, cheese making classes, butchering, and cookbook authors. Leanne Brown’s Good and Cheap is a resource given to patrons and students in many of the classes. The Free Library also has offerings for target populations including an ESL program; a program for pre-K with academic, health and nutrition, and chef standards; a program for adults with disabilities; and a program for people with low visibility. The Recipes for Change program was directed toward refugee and immigrant women in the city. The six-week Edible Alphabet program teaches ESL students different recipes and their ingredients.

Culinary Literacy programs can be done anywhere. Librarians wishing to start their own culinary literacy programming are encouraged to reach out to chefs at local restaurants as they are often open to coming to the library to teach a class. Librarians can lead classes for kids, but outside teachers such as dieticians, state university extension services, culinary school interns, and other nonprofits around food insecurity may be brought in.

For more information and ideas, visit www.freelibrary.org/cook.
Libraries Represent Resistance and Regeneration

By Kacee Anderson/Northbrook Elementary

“Books help us make a way when there is no way.” Junot Díaz delivered an animated, deeply powerful Auditorium Speaker presentation February 11, recounting the influence of libraries in his own life as well as the role of libraries in society. “Throughout my childhood, libraries were my one constant. How could they not be?” Díaz said that no matter what happened, he never turned away from libraries.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao held nothing back as he recounted how central libraries were to his childhood. As an immigrant child, Díaz said nothing came close to the utter desolation felt during the first few months in America. He gave a nod to his elementary school librarian for giving him a tour of the library and making sure he understood that the library was his. “I’d never seen a non-Bible book before or a library. To be honest I didn’t even know a library existed. On a cold sunny February day, a librarian gave me the gift of libraries.”

Díaz spoke on his own depression in high school causing him to start skipping school. While cutting school in his neighborhood was endemic, “My ass cut school so I could was endemic, “My ass cut school so I could be there. I was so sad. I felt alone. I’ve still got a cold. I’ve still got a cold.”

The seeds for Her Right Foot were planted when Eggers visited Ellis Island with his family. He was struck by the fact that the statue of liberty was in mid-stride. Not long after their visit, anti-immigrant rhetoric came to the forefront in the public sphere. Eggers first wrote an op-ed about the topic, but decided to aim his book at children. “We need to remind the youngest readers who we are. This is a message I hope we can impart to our younger readers.”

Her Right Foot is illustrated by Shawn Harris, his first picture book. Eggers stressed that Harris’ illustrations elevated every sentence.

Eggers and Harris are teaming up once more for a nonfiction children’s book, What Can a Citizen Do? Eggers reckoned a lack of civics knowledge. “People often aren’t aware of what to do or try and make society better,” Eggers said. “Both books have welcoming others as a central theme. I’m most proud as an American of our ability to take in and lift up the most vulnerable people.”

Eggers enjoys writing children books from a different perspective. He noted that children’s books don’t have to stop at 32 pages. He strives to find a way to reach reluctant readers and help them to get through a longer book and feel a sense of accomplishment.

Eggers’ latest work of nonfiction, The Monk of Mokha, is a true story of a Yemeni American man who sets out to become a coffee farmer. Eggers and Moktar Alkhanshali worked together on the project for three years. Eggers believes Alkhanshali embodies the American dream.

In addition to his writing, David Eggers opened 826 Valencia, a writing and tutoring place for kids. The space was zoned as retail, so Eggers came up with a creative solution. He opened The Pirate Supply Store, which sells pirate supplies and accessories, while the writing and tutoring center is located in the back. 826 Valencia has since grown to literacy and writing nonprofits across the country. Each nonprofit has its own creative storefront, such as The Rebot Supply and Repair in Michigan and The Superhero Supply Company in Brooklyn. These series of literacy and writing nonprofits across the country works with kids and even in books. Mone added, “It is so much more challenging now. You have to teach how to sort through the good and the bad.”

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Closing Session

who “believed in women doing anything. She was brazen and fearless, so that’s the way I was brought up. I wanted the girl character to be that way.”

Nye insisted that the book be realistic. “The three things we want for the world are clean water, reliable and renewable electricity, and reliable internet.” These are the focus of the storylines of the first three genius books. Nye spoke about the absurdity of the flat earth theory and how people challenge basic scientific facts. “In the larger sphere, we want Jack and the Geniuses to push back against the anti-science movement,” Nye said.

While writing the books, Nye set boundaries. Mone and Nye agreed that the characters could not violate the laws of physics. One rule Nye carried over from the science guy show is that technology comes first. But he wants kids to work to understand the process of science. “When you learn the process of science, it’s empowering. You grow faster. The risks you take are greater.”

Both discussed the importance of libraries in their own lives and the mission of libraries today. Nye stated, “When I was growing up, a librarian helped you learn to think. That was an important skill and it was empowering. Sometimes grownups are not accurate. I was really empowered to book things up in the library. The library is a place to learn critical thinking skills.

Nye said, “The big skill we need from librarians now is how to sort out the bad information.” He maintained that bad information can be anywhere: online, published in magazines, and even in books. Mone added, “It is so much more challenging now. You have to teach how to sort through the good and the bad.”
ALC Council II gathered to discuss a variety of issues during Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, ranging from special interest groups and inaccessibility to reorganization.

Susan Conotidine from the Committee on Organization brought CD #27 to the ALC Council for approval on February 12. Item one: Approve dissolution for the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) and its subsequent merger with Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) to create the Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCGLA). Merger date is set for September 1, 2018. Brian Green, member of FAFLRT, spoke in favor of the amendment, as did Mike Marin, executive board, council at-large. Trevor Dawes, member of the executive board; Pat Hogan, council for the small round table; and current treasurer of FAFLRT Richard Huffine all spoke in favor of the merger. CD #27 Item one passed. Item two: resolving the dissolution of the Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums also passed.

Martin Garnar briefed council as a representative of the Committee on Diversity. CD #14 on their charge to encourage and facilitate diversity in ALC membership and the recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce in the profession.

As part of CD #22 Martin Garnar briefed council on the activities on the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF). FTRF assisted students in the Tucson Unified School Program in that they were awarded legal counsel for their fight against the elimination of Mexican American studies and the banning of related books.

The second victory for FTRF came when the Animal Legal Defense Fund challenged Idaho’s agricultural gag law. District court in Idaho ruled a ban on recording violated the First Amendment. Idaho was singling out one mode of speech (video). Garner also addressed education as a major initiative of the foundation and its work to expand partnerships for professional education.

Council held small group discussions on how ALC might organize itself to continue to fulfill its mission into the 21st century. ALC President Jim Neal said, “Nothing has been decided. We are at the very beginning of the conversation and need thoughts and guidance.”

Groups of eight to 10 individuals discussed: What does our ideal organization do? What does our ideal organization look like? What are three ways we can get there? Participants were given a structured format for capturing recommendations. After discussions, individuals were allowed 15 minutes to complete their forms.

Anyone who wished to do so shared their thoughts on the discussion. Participants shared that an ideal organization would look out for the greater good and go beyond special interest groups. Another noted that council is perceived as inaccessible and needs to do a better job of demystifying council and making it more accessible. Participants suggested that council keep the communication going, use Connect, and get those represented by council involved, and report out the progress. Participants also discussed governance at ALC, a need to simplify, and the difficulty of becoming involved as a new member. Recommendations were made to invest in technology and virtual meetings, advocate more for members, consider an organizational effective consultant that specializes in different types of organizations, lower dues, and find a way to help new members find their way into divisions and round tables.

The conversations started at this meeting will be used to bring a report with recommendations forward at Annual in 2019. Neal thanked everyone for their participation in the start of this important process.

**Every Person Matters: Criminal Justice Reformer Keynotes King Sunrise Celebration**

“Where Do We Go from Here?” was the theme of the 19th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration, held every Monday at the ALC Midwinter Meeting.

An estimated 230 people attended the 6:30 a.m. celebration in Denver on February 12, joined by more than two dozen library leaders who read passages, made short speeches, and recited poems that recognized King’s legacy and advocated for peace and social justice. The event was sponsored by the American Library Association’s Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services; the Social Responsibilities Round Table; and the Black Caucus of the ALC.

Keynote speaker Anthony Graves spoke of perseverance and hope. Graves spent more than 18 years imprisoned – including 12 years on death row – after being wrongfully convicted of murder in Texas. “I was a man with his dreams just like any other man,” he said, “It all changed in a second.”

During his time in prison, Graves was twice given an execution date. They asked what he
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American Library Association Announces 2018 Youth Media Award Winners

The American Library Association announced the top books, video, and audio books for children and young adults — including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery, and Printz awards — at its Midwinter Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

A list of the 2018 award winners follows:

**John Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children’s literature:


**Newbery Honor Books**

*Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, written by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James (Bolden, an Agate Imprint, a Denene Millner Book).

*Long Way Down*, written by Jason Reynolds (Athenaeum, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, a Calkins Creek Book).

*The Hate U Give*, written by Angie Thomas (Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers).

**Caldecott Honor Books**

*Big Cat, Little Cat*, illustrated and written by Elisha Cooper (Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership).

*Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, written by Gordon C. James, written by Derrick Barnes (Bolden, an Agate Imprint, a Denene Millner Book).

*A Different Pond*, illustrated by Thi Bui, written by Bao Phi (Capstone Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Publishing Group).

**Coretta Scott King Book Awards** recognizing African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults:

**Author**

*Pacing Me Together*, written by Renée Watson (Bloomsbury Children’s Books).

**Author Honor Books**

*Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, written by Derrick Barnes (Bolden, an Agate Imprint, a Denene Millner Book).

*Long Way Down*, written by Jason Reynolds (Athenaeum, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division, a Calkins Creek Book).

*The Hate U Give*, written by Angie Thomas (Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers).

**Illustrator Award**

*Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*, illustrated by Euka Holmes, written by Kwame Alexander with Chris泠ender and Marjory Winworth (Candlewick Press).

**Illustrator Honor Books**

*Crown: An Ode to a Fresh Cut*, illustrated by Gordon C. James, written by Derrick Barnes (Bolden, an Agate Imprint, a Denene Millner Book).


**Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement** paying tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children’s author Virginia Hamilton: Eloise Greenfield, who published her first book in 1972 and went on to write and publish more than 40 books.

**Michael L. Printz Award** for excellence in literature written for young adults:

*We Are Okay*, written by Nina LaCour (Dutton Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers).

**Printz Honor Books**

*The Hate U Give*, written by Angie Thomas (Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers).


*Strange the Dreamer*, written by Laini Taylor (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a division of Hachette Book Group).

**Schneider Family Book Award** for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience:

*Young Children*:

*Silent Days, Silent Dreams*, written and illustrated by Allen Say (Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.)

**Middle Grades**:

*Macy McMillen and the Rainbow Goddess*, written by Shari Green (Pajama Press Inc.)

**Teen**:


**Alex Awards** for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences:


*Down Among the Sticks and Bones*, written by Seanan McGuire (Tor.com Book, published by Thomas Doherty Associates).

**Electric Arrows**, written by Eve L. Ewing (Haymarket Books).

*Hope More Powerful Than the Sea*, written by Melissa Fleming (Flantzon Books).

*Malagash*, written by Joey Comeau (ECW Press).

*Roughtneck*, written by Jeff Lemire (Gallery 13, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc.).


*Things We Have in Common*, written by Tashia Kavanagh (MIRA Books).

*An Unkindness of Magicians*, written by Kat Howard (SAGA Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc.).

**Laura Ingalls Wilder Award** honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children:

*Jacket for Jacob*, written by Eve Bunting, whose award-winning works include Brown Girl Dreaming, Locomotion, and Show Way.
Youth Media Awards » from page 6

Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults: Angela Johnson – her books include Heaven, Looking for Red, The First Part Last, and Sweet, Hereafter (all published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing), Bird (Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers), and Toning the Sweep (Orchard Books, a imprint of Scholastic Inc.).

May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award recognizing an author, critic, librarian, historian, or teacher of children’s literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site. Dr. Debbie Reese will deliver the 2019 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. Reese is a long-time advocate for Native representation and is a former teacher and university professor. She earned her PhD in Education from the University of Illinois, where she also helped establish the Native American House and American Indian Studies program. Dr. Reese also holds an MEd degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. She is triribly enrolled at Nambe Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico.


Batchelder Honor Books
- When a Wolf is Hungry, written by Christine Naumann-Villemin, illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo and translated from French by Eerdmans Como and translated from French by Julie Cormier (Charlesbridge Publishing).
- La Princesa and the Pea, written by Dori Hillestad Butler, illustrated by Emily Hughes (Chronicle Books).
- La Princesa and the Pea, written by Xelena González and translated from Spanish by Adriana M. Garcia, illustrated by Emily Hughes (Chronicle Books).
- My Kite Is Stuck! And Other Stories, written and illustrated by Dashka Slater (Farrar Straus Giroux for Young Readers, an imprint of Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers).
- The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives, written by Dashiell Satter (Farrar Straus Giroux for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group LLC).

Illustrator Honor Books
- The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora, written by Pablo Cartaya (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC).
- Noodleheads See the Future, written and illustrated by Dean Mary Davis (Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing).
- Life (and the Invention of Modern Photojournalism), written by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos (Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group).
- You Can’t Be Too Careful, written and illustrated by Roger Mello, and translated from Portuguese by Daniel Hahn (Elsewhere Editions).

Odyssey Award for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States: The Hate U Give, produced by HarperAudio. The book is written by Angie Thomas and narrated by Bahni Turpin.

Additional Announcements to Reflect Diverse Population

Librarians and library staff work to transform lives by connecting youth with materials that celebrate diversity, abolish cultural invisibility, and foster understanding. The American Library Association and its professional affiliates will highlight the best of the best in multicultural literature for youth by adding additional announcements to its 2019 ALA Youth Media Awards.

The United States is becoming more diverse. Demographics predict that by the year 2050, African Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, Latino/Hispanics, and Native Americans will constitute most Americans, yet multicultural literature for youth is at a low point. According to the University of Wisconsin’s Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC), only a third of the 3,400 books received by the CCBC written for children in 2016 were by and/or about people of color.

“Often children in the United States are not exposed to print or digital materials that reflect themselves or their culture,” said ALA President Jim Neal. “A child’s lack of exposure to other cultures paves the way to bigotry and cultural invisibility. The addition of professional affiliate awards can only assist with our efforts to encourage understanding and abolish cultural invisibility.”

To bring awareness about and encourage the creation of more books that depict diverse cultures, or by authors of color, ALA will highlight titles selected by the American Indian Library Association (AILA), Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), and the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) during the upcoming 2019 ALA Youth Media Awards. In the meantime, ALA encourages readers of all ages to visit the affiliate websites to learn more about the 2018 award winners.

Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, the ALA Youth Media Awards, including the prestigious Coretta Scott King Book, Caldecott, Newbery, and Printz awards, guide parents, educators, librarians, and others in selecting the best materials for youth. Award winners rarely go out of print and stay on library shelves for decades or longer. For more information regarding the ALA Youth Media Awards, please visit ilovelibraries.org/yma.
Opening Session Lends Itself to Conversation

Patrisse Cullors and Marley Dias took the stage to open the 2018 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits talking about the importance of activism starting locally. Both women brought about their own social movements with the use of hashtags and activist mindsets. In 2013 Cullors cofounded the Black Lives Matter movement, which has since grown into dozens of chapters and thousands of members worldwide. Cullors opened her time onstage with a reading from her new book co-authored by Asha Bandele, When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir. She described an elementary teacher letting her give short presentations to her class over the books she read.

Dias was 11 years old when she started the hashtag #1000blackgirlbooks. Dias’ movement to see more black female characters in literature has resulted in over 10,000 books generated to date.

Dias interviewed Cullors about what she is doing as a mother in hopes of raising a feminist son, and how boys can help girls succeed. Cullors noted that she feels a particular responsibility to shape her son to be a change maker, but also stressed the importance of having a village mentality. “The environment all young people are raised in should foster critical thinking as well as consent. Children learn so much from what they see and hear, so modeling is crucial,” Cullors said.

Dias’ new book, Marley Dias Gets It Done and So Can You!, focuses on motivational strategies that anyone can use to stand up and take action for a cause. Throughout the interview, 13-year-old Dias seamlessly wove together questions about activism, advice for librarians and teachers, and influences from musicians and other facets of her life. At one point, Cullors stated, “This is the best interview I’ve ever had.”

Both women work to keep their energy focused on the positive, and people who are ready to make a difference rather than spend time and energy on negative feedback they might receive online. In her advice to her young interviewer, Cullors stated that she must “take time to take care of yourself always.”

Both Dias and Cullors noted that reading has always been a central part of their lives. From a young age Cullors was curious about civil rights and animal rights. Her fourth grade teacher, Ms. Goldberg, challenged kids to be curious. “Teachers and librarians can make space for children to have the hard conversations. It’s also important for teachers and librarians to ask students more questions about themselves and what they might be going through.”

Cullors also emphasized the importance of reading to and with children. She believes positive affirmations should be a big part of every young person’s life and would tell every child, “You are brilliant. You are courageous. And you are loved.”

ALA President Jim Neal opened the session by calling upon ALA members to email and call elected officials at key times and invite them into local libraries. The resource page ALA.org/fundlibraries provides talking points as well as a place for librarians to share stories that ALA can collect and take to Washington.


Carnegie Medals Awarded in Denver

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan, published by Scribner, was named the winner of the 2018 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and You Don’t Have to Say You Love Me: A Memoir by Sherman Alexie, published by Little, Brown, is the winner of the 2018 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. The selections were announced February 11 at the Reference and User Services Association’s (RUSA) Book and Media Awards, sponsored by NovelList.

Chelton Receives YALSA’s 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has selected Mary K. Chelton as the recipient of its 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award.

Dr. Chelton is a retired professor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at Queens College, CUNY, YALSA Past President, co-founder of the Voice of Youth Advocates (VOA) publication, as well as an author who has published numerous articles and books on young adult services and reader’s advisory. Chelton has received multiple recognitions for her significant contributions to the profession, most recently Novelist’s Margaret E. Monroe Library Adult Services Award.

“Mary K. Chelton has been and continues to be a strong advocate for young adult library services,” said nominator Crystal Faris. “Mary K. has never been afraid of challenging pre-conceived notions of library service and we who have followed her are better for it.”

The $2,000 award, given every other year, is funded by Friends of YALSA and recognizes a YALSA member who has demonstrated unique and sustained devotion to young adult services through substantial work across the trajectory of their career. Learn more here.
Acevedo Shares Poetry, Gift of Literature

By Kacie Anderson/Northbrook Elementary

Elizabeth Acevedo captured the attention of her audience by opening with a powerful poem. The Arthur Curley Lecture speaker has been a writer, poet, and performer for 12 years. The session touched on how she fell in love with reading, began as a writer, and the purpose of both of these art forms.

Acevedo’s parents were Dominican immigrants. Her father worked on a factory line and her mother taught in poor children, so that she could feed her own. Acevedo described her literature-rich home. Her father bought three newspapers every day. Her mother read lots of medical texts. “Literature was at home, but I thought it was an adult thing, what grownups did.”

Acevedo credits her mother for being the reason she loved books. Her mother brought her a large book and said they would start the book together, but she would finish it by herself. “I fell in love with reading, and the empowerment it brought.” Acevedo did not have much of a classroom or school library. She started forcing her mother to go the library twice a week.

“My love of reading is directly related to my mother’s love of me; her efforts to make me into a ‘literary being’ was a result of her wanting to equip me with a facility of language and an access to knowledge.”

RUSA’s Notable Books Council, first established in 1944, has announced the 2018 selections of the Notable Books List, an annual best-of list comprised of 26 titles written for adult readers and published in the U.S. including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. For a complete list with annotations, please visit www.rusaupdate.org.

The 2018 selections are:

Fiction
Stay with Me: A Novel by Ayobami Adebayo, Scribner, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Inc.

Days Without End: A Novel by Sebastian Barry, Viking.

The Last Ballad: A Novel by Wiley Cash, William Morrow.


Here in Berlin: A Novel by Christina Garcia, Counterpoint Press.

Less: A Novel by Andrew Sean Greer, Little, Brown and Company.

Exit West: A Novel by Mohsin Hamid, Riverhead Books.


Patchinko by Min Jin Lee, Grand Central Publishing.

Solar Bones by Mike McCormack, Soho Press Inc.

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders, Random House.

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward, Scribner, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Inc.

Nonfiction


The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir by Thi Bui, Abrams ComicArts, an imprint of ABRAMS, Gallery by Ron Chernow, Penguin Press.


The Butcher’s Art: Joseph Lister’s Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine by Lindsey Fitzharris, Scientific American/Farrar, Straus and Giroux.


Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann, Doubleday.


Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women by Kate Moore, Sourcebooks.

Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America’s Most Storied Hospital by David Oshinsky, Doubleday.

The Blood of Emmet Tilly by Timothy B. Tyson, Simon and Schuster.

Poetry
I Know Your Kind by William Brewer, Milkweed Editions.

The Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded by Molly McCully Brown, Persea Books.

Debuts New Toolkit

The American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) introduced its new Selection and Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, and Academic Libraries at the Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Denver on February 10. The session was part of the Symposium on the Future of Libraries.

The toolkit fully revises and updates a previous workbook and now includes information for public and academic libraries in addition to school libraries. It is divided into four sections: an overview on why libraries need a selection policy; the basic components of a policy; reconsideration procedures and processes; and an appendix with a bibliography, core intellectual freedom documents, and information on challenge support and reporting censorship.

Each section includes sample documents, but

Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair Helen Adams advised against cutting and pasting them. “The forms are intended to spark discussions locally about what is appropriate in each library and each community.”

Kristin Pekoll, a former public librarian and current assistant director of OIF, said one of the first questions she asks when librarians call her office to report a challenge is what the library’s selection policies are. “These policies are important to have and to have access to,” Pekoll advised. “That includes knowing what the library’s policy is about appropriate materials, selection, and services.”

She added that it is important for librarians to know the designated path for reporting issues.

“Academic libraries may have more independence and may be able to harness campus support to develop their selection policies. Students and classroom faculty play a role in selecting resources; however, the library should clarify that it has final say in both selection and weeding.”

Valerie Nye, library director at the Institute of American Indian Arts, explained that academic libraries might also face complaints about what isn’t in a collection or how the collection is organized. Policies must go beyond procedures.

Academic libraries often collect in controversial areas to benefit scholars who study multiple sides of an issue – what is art to some might be considered porn to others, for example. She mentioned the American Association of University Professors as a good resource.

April M. Dawkins, assistant professor in the department of library and information studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, explained that school libraries have seen an uptick in challenges to classroom collections. In compiling the toolkit, the authors had to consider many possible variations on who could file a complaint.

Print copies of the toolkit were distributed to session attendees and will be available through the ALA store soon. The full toolkit is now available online http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit.
American Indian Youth Literature Awards Announced

The American Indian Library Association (AILA), an affiliate of the American Library Association, has selected three titles to receive the 2018 American Indian Youth Literature Award. The 2018 AILA Best Picture Book is Shyamachee/Elce: Salmon Boy (2017) published by Sealslaska Heritage Institute, illustrated by Tlingit artist Michaela Goade, and edited by Tlingit speakers Johnny Marks, Hans Chester, David Katzeek, Nora Dauenhauer, and Tlingit linguist Richard Dauenhauer. The 2018 AILA Best Middle School Book is Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers, Volume 1 (2016) published by Native Realities, edited by Arigon Starr (Kickapoo), and featuring the work of Theo Tao (Las Vegas Paiute), Jonathan Nelson (Diné), and Kristina Poo (Lakota/Cherokee), Johnnie Diacon (Mvskoke/Creek), Roy Boney Jr. (Cherokee), and Lee Francis IV (Laguna Pueblo), Johnnie Diacon (Mvskoke/Creek), Weshoyot Alvitre (Tlingit), and Renee Nejo (Mesa Bad Hand (Sičhá Vego), Jonathan Nelson (Diné), Kristina Poo (Lakota/Cherokee), and Cleo Keahna (Ojibwe/Meskwa-ki). All Around Us

2018 Picture Book Honors:
ALL AROUND US (2017) by Xelena González (Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation) and illustrated by Adriana M. García. Cinco Puntos Press.

2018 Middle Grade Honor Book:

The Reading List Council of the Reference and User Services Association has announced the 2018 selections of the Reading List, an annual best-of list comprising eight different fiction genres for adult readers.

The 2018 winners are:

Adrenaline

Fantasy

Historical Fiction

Mystery
The Dime: Being a True and Accurate Account of the Amazing Career of a Most Curious Coin by John Scalzi. Tor Science Fiction, a Tom Doherty Associates Book.

Science Fiction
The Collapsing Empire by John Scalzi. Tor Science Fiction, a Tom Doherty Associates Book.

Women’s Fiction

For the list, including annotations, shortlists and read-alikes, visit www.rusaupdate.org.

RUSA Announces Winner of 2018 Dartmouth Medal

The winner of the 2018 Dartmouth Medal for most outstanding reference work, an annual award presented by the expert reference and collection development librarians of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of ALA, is The Music of Central Asia published by Indiana University Press and edited by Theodore Levin, Saida Duskeveya, and Elmira Kechichkova. The Dartmouth Medal, established in 1974, honors the creation of a reference source of outstanding quality and significance.


With contributions from 27 authors from 14 countries, The Music of Central Asia is beautifully illustrated with sidebars and musician profiles and an illustrated instrument glossary; this is an extraordinary, affordable resource for all libraries.
2017-2018 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Winners Selected

The Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), an affiliate of the American Library Association, has selected the winners of the 2017-2018 Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature (APAA). The awards promote Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and are awarded to titles published from October 2016 to September 2017 based on their literary and artistic merit.

There are five categories for the awards. The winners of the 2017 awards:

**Adult Fiction**
- **Winner:** The Learner by Lisa Ko (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill).
- **Honor:** The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen (Grove Press).

**Adult Nonfiction**
- **Winner:** Asianfail: Narratives of Disenchantment and the Model Minority by Eleanor Ty (University of Illinois Press).
- **Honor:** The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration by Karen M. Inouye (Stanford University Press).
- **Winner:** A Different Pond by Bao Phi, illustrated by Thi Bui (Capstone Young Readers).
- **Honor:** The Nian Monster by Andrea Wang, illustrated by Alina Chau (Albert Whitman & Company).

**Children’s Literature**
- **Winner:** Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh by Uma Krishnaswami (Tu Books, imprint of Lee and Low).
- **Honor:** Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire by Susan Tan, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte (Roaring Book Press).

**Young Adult Literature**
- **Winner:** It’s Not Like It’s A Secret by Misa Sugiura (HarperTeen).
- **Honor:** Saints & Misfits by S.K. Ali (Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers).

**Picture Book**
- **Winner:** The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen (Grove Press).
- **Honor:** It’s Not Like It’s A Secret by Misa Sugiura (HarperTeen).

Herb is 2018 ALSC Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Dr. Steven L. Herb is the 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). This prestigious award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to library service to children and to ALSC.

Herb is librarian emeritus from the Pennsylvania State University and director emeritus of the Pennsylvania Center for the Book, and a longtime advocate of early literacy services in libraries.

“Steven Herb exemplifies deep, sustained, and impactful service to our profession,” said chair Mary Fellows. “During his 35 years of ALSC membership, Steven has always focused on contributing. Whether on process committees or in the spotlight of the ALSC presidency, through his public library work, teaching, or research, Steven has consistently shown us how to be more and do greater things. We have all created a better future for children through libraries thanks to Steven’s example and sheer output.”

Herb is an author and a teacher as well as a leader. He served as a children’s librarian at the Washington County (Md.) Free Library. Following a decade as coordinator of children’s service at the Dauphin County Library System in Harrisburg, Penn., Herb became head of the Education and Behavioral Sciences Library at Pennsylvania State University. In 2000, he was also named director of the Pennsylvania Center for the Book.

Ilana Kurshan Named Winner of 2018 Sophie Brody Medal

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selection for the 2018 Sophie Brody Medal, an annual honor bestowed by its Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES).

This year’s winner is Ilana Kurshan, author of If All the Seas Were Ink: A Memoir published by St. Martin’s Press. This engaging memoir chronicles the author’s experience with Daf Yomi, the practice of studying a page of Talmud daily. Contemporary life and Jewish learning intersect as Kurshan searches for answers to the changes and challenges of her own life.

Honorable mentions include Heretics by Leonardo Padura, translated from the Spanish by Anna Kushner, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and Bruce Henderson, author of Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned with the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler published by William Morrow.

The Sophie Brody Medal is given to encourage, recognize, and commend outstanding achievement in Jewish literature. Works for adults published in the United States in the preceding year are eligible for the award.
President's Program

regardless of background and beliefs. LaRue also stated that libraries must remain neutral in service, access, and collections.

Chris Bourg, director of Libraries at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was the first to argue that libraries are not, in fact, neutral. Bourg proclaimed, “Libraries are not now, have never been, and cannot be, neutral.” Bourg defined libraries as social institutions providing access to community. She noted that the prevalence of white librarians itself presents a bias. Bourg also argued that collection development decisions are already made in a literary bias. “It is impossible to be neutral. Our work is political and not neutral.”

Em Claire Knowles, assistant dean for student and alumni affairs at the Simmons College School of Library and Information Science, argued, “Neutrality is a process to which libraries and librarians must fully commit.” In order to keep residents informed, “We must be able to consider and represent facts without being influenced by personal experiences and feelings.” Knowles stated that libraries must provide equal access to materials, meeting spaces, and services. Libraries provide a safe, responsible space for diverging opinions, as long as all groups are abiding by the rules.

In Knowles’ view, libraries strive for balanced and unbiased choices, consonant with a solid collection development policy. “In the writing of policy, we must be actively striving for neutrality. To do this, diversity of opinion must be there.” When creating a collection development policy, libraries must not shy away from controversial topics.

David Lankes, director of the University of South Carolina’s School of Library and Information Science, argues, “Libraries are not neutral organizations. And the myth of neutrality prevents an engaged professional conversation with diverse communities.” Libraries seek to serve patrons equally. Lankes argues, “Equity is not neutrality. If you differentiate services in any way, you are not neutral.” He brought up several instances when librarians are not neutral, from content filters to sources school librarians allow students to use. He also stated that, “You cannot be passion advocates for your community and still be neutral.”

A commentary panel followed the speakers. Emily Drabinski, coordinator of library instruction at Long Island University, Brooklyn, discussed library spaces, materials, and collection development decisions that are made. “Each choice we make for something is a choice we make against another. We have to make decisions about resources.” Libraries need to “Consider what ideals should guide our practice.”

Emily Knox, assistant professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, noted that it’s often difficult to begin discussions on harder topics. It might be better to start with looking at how simpler policies impact users. Later Knox posed the question, “Does supporting or not supporting Black Lives Matter mean you’re neutral? No. Making a decision means you’re not neutral.” She went on to state that a Black History Month display in a library shows that the library does, in fact, believe that black lives matter.

Knox also argued that libraries have always taken a strong position against censorship and that this is not a neutral position. “You can be nonjudgmental, but you cannot be neutral, because you’re always making a choice.”

Kathleen de la Peña McCook, distinguished university professor of librarianship at the School of Information, University of South Florida in Tampa, began her time by selecting a book for the other commentators and panelists. She discussed the fact that libraries must make all people feel welcome. “People will self-select outside of the library if we don’t make them feel comfortable. We can’t show them both sides if they don’t come in.”

Kelvin Watson, director of the Broward County (Fla.) Libraries Division, defined neutrality as the absence of decided views. He said that while libraries might be claiming neutrality, “We can’t be neutral on social and political issues that impact our customers, because social and political issues impact us as well.”

The session concluded with a conversation with attendees. Panelists agreed that if we’re going to matter we have to take stands on things. We must have a welcoming community in which we can have hard conversations.
Librarians pour over the just-released Monday issue of Cognotes, distributed immediately after the Youth Media Awards presentation February 12.

Patrisse Cullors and Marley Dias receive a standing ovation as they high-five to open the 2018 ALA Denver Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits.

Bree Carter, Atlanta, reacts to the snow falling down outside the Colorado Convention Center.

The ALA/ERT Exhibits Opening Reception draws a crowd, as seen in this 360-degree photo.

Patrisse Cullors and Marley Dias receive a standing ovation as they high-five to open the 2018 ALA Denver Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits.

Curley Lecture Author and Poet Elizabeth Acevedo signs a book for an audience member, after her Auditorium Speaker Series talk February 10.

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Patrisse Cullors and Marley Dias receive a standing ovation as they high-five to open the 2018 ALA Denver Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits.

Venessa Carson (from left), Matthew Phipps, and Summer Ogata wear hypnotizing glasses to help promote the book The Strange Fascinations of Noah Hypnotik at the Penguin Random House booth.

Bree Carter, Atlanta, reacts to the snow falling down outside the Colorado Convention Center.

The ALA/ERT Exhibits Opening Reception is the place to be!
ALAs members rose in record numbers to advocate for libraries last year, after the White House proposed cutting federal funding for libraries in its FY2018 budget proposal. In addition to phone calls and visits with elected federal leaders, more than 40,000 emails were sent to Congress, and more than 500 people attended National Library Legislative Day 2017 in Washington, D.C.

That advocacy is paying off for libraries. By the time FY2018 officially began in October 2017, the Appropriations Committees from both chambers of Congress had passed bills that maintained (and in the Senate, increased by $4 million) funding for libraries. Though the FY2018 budget is still not finalized, a budget agreement passed last week gives further reason for hope.

One lesson learned from the long FY2018 appropriations process is that when libraries speak, decision-makers listen. Library advocates will need to strengthen that resolve this year. The White House is expected to release its FY2019 budget proposal very soon, and ALAs Washington Office expects even more drastic cuts than those proposed last year. In addition to funding cuts, many other federal programs and policies important to libraries are under threat.

One way you can advocate for libraries is to participate in the 44th annual National Library Legislative Day. Held in Washington, D.C., May 7-8, 2018, the two-day educational event will give you the opportunity to learn from advocacy and issue area experts.

National Library Legislative Day is open to the public, and to advocates with any level of advocacy experience. Whether you are fresh out of library school or you are a longtime library board member, a new advocate, or an experienced defender of library interests, National Library Legislative Day will give you tools to help you engage your elected leaders effectively.

On day one, you’ll join hundreds of other librarians, information experts, and library supporters for a full day of training. We’ll discuss the most pressing legislative issues facing libraries, prepare you to make the most of your meetings on Capitol Hill, and give you the chance to share tips with library advocates from all over the country. On day two, you will put those skills to work, along with other attendees from your state, in meetings with your elected officials and their staff. All you must do is come prepared to talk about the important work your library is doing for your community.

To register for National Library Legislative Day in Washington or to participate virtually from home, visit www.ala.org/nlld.

**Inaugural ALA Policy Corps Members Convene for the First Time**

The 13 members of the new ALA Policy Corps met for the first time immediately before the opening session of ALAs 2018 Midwinter Meeting. The corps is a signature initiative of ALA President Jim Neal, who launched the program in October 2017 as an extension of the Libraries Transforming: Libraries Lead” campaign.

“The past year has brought sweeping changes and challenges to policies that ALA has advocated for, from net neutrality, to federal library funding, to privacy protections,” said Neal. “It is imperative that information professionals have a voice, not only in defending, but in shaping national policies that impact our patrons, our profession, and our nation.”

The ALA Policy Corps is part of a larger effort that also includes equipping and training at least one ALA member in every congressional district to establish and maintain relationships with their elected officials and policymakers. “The word ‘advocacy’ scares people,” said cohort member Lance Werner, director of Kent (Mich.) District Library. “But advocacy is really just building constructive relationships. ‘In advocacy,’ he continued, you approach relationships with a goal in mind, but maintaining those relationships is the key to creating meaningful change. Cultivating relationships within the profession is a key aspect of the corps, which will develop members’ skills in the context of a community of practice. Candice Mack of Los Angeles Public Library looks forward to learning with the group how to effectively advocate for her patrons. A teen services librarian, Mack especially sees the need to show that decision-makers. “The older children get, the less attention they receive – yet the more resources they need to succeed.” Developing a level of expertise in advocacy alongside colleagues, she says, will enable library professionals to bring more opportunity to the youth they serve.

Like Mack, Todd Carpenter and other members feel confident in their expertise in a specific issue area, but look forward to broadening their experience in one-on-one advocacy with decision-makers. Sometimes the only thing standing in the way of that is an invitation.

Carpenter, executive director of National Information Standards Organization in Baltimore, has worked with Neal in other professional contexts. “One hallmark of Jim Neal’s leadership,” said Carpenter, “is giving people like me – especially early in their careers – the opportunity and encouragement to step up. Distributing knowledge and responsibility is part of an institutional succession plan, but it’s also smart advocacy.”

The corps will meet next twice in Washington, D.C. – for a training program in March, and for National Library Legislative Day in May.

**Sunrise**

“I asked myself, as Dr. King once did, ‘Where do I go from here?’”

wanted done with his body and what he wanted for his last meal. But he decided then that he was going to “live until I die. I didn’t just survive; I thrived,” Graves said. “I asked myself, as Dr. King once did, ‘Where do I go from here?’”

Graves turned to writing and reading, corresponding with pen pals who encouraged him to persevere. He said he realized that he enjoyed interacting with people and decided he would commit himself to the service of others and his community. Along the way he read books by King, Malcolm X, Carter G. Woodson, Harriet Jacobs, Sidney Peitier, James Baldwin, and others.

“Lost almost everything,” Graves said. “I did not lose my mind. I did not lose my soul.”

After his conviction was eventually overturned and he was released in 2010, Graves became a community advocate and public speaker, creating a foundation to push for criminal justice reform, with a focus on Texas. In 2016, Graves was able to have the prosecutor of his case disbarred for presenting false testimony and for withholding information that led to his wrongful conviction.

“I would not be the same man today if I didn’t go through hell and come back,” Graves said. “Death row did not take my life, it did not kill my soul. It gave me purpose.”

He encouraged attendees to be active and never give up: “Every person matters.”

Following Graves, Alexandra Rivera, senior associate librarian at the University of Michigan, delivered the call to action, asking attendees to find strength and hope despite frustrations and obstacles. “We are here,” Rivera said. “We are present. Despite the many efforts to silence us, to subjugate us, we are here.”

The event concluded with audience members joining hands to sign “We Shall Overcome.”

**Contest**

The contest will run from February 12, 2018, through March 19, 2018. ALA members can submit entries via the ALA Advocacy Network at www.ala.org/advocacy/contest.
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Listen List Announced

The Listen List Council of the Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced the 2018 selections of the Listen List, selected for both avid listeners of audiobooks and those new to the pleasures of the fastest-growing format in publishing. This juried list of 12 newly released titles features extraordinary narrators and listening experiences that merit special attention by a general adult audience and the librarians who advise them.

The 2018 selections are:


Check out all of the videos from the Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits – capturing sessions, exhibits, and one-on-one interviews with speakers – at YouTube.com. You’ll even find the Presidential Candidates’ Forum in its entirety. Just search “ALA Midwinter 2018” to see the playlist. Enjoy!

Thanks to Our Sponsors

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For information on sponsorship opportunities at future events, contact Paul Grraller at pgraller@ala.org or (312) 280-3219.

2018 Amelia Bloomer List Highlights Best Feminist Books for Young Readers

This bibliography consists of well-written and well-illustrated books with significant feminist content for young readers from birth to 18 years old. Named for Amelia Bloomer, a pioneering 19th century newspaper editor, feminist thinker, public speaker, and suffragist, the list features books that spur the imagination and promote equity for people of all genders.

The top 10 titles of the 2018 Amelia Bloomer List are:
- #Notyourprincess: Voices of Native American Women by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale, editors. Annick Press, Grades 8 and up.
- Hand Over Hand by Alma Fullerton, illustrated by Renné Benoit. Second Story, Pre-K to Grade 3.
- The One Hundred Nights of Hero by Isabel Greenberg. Little, Brown, Grades 9 and up.
- Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating, illustrated by Marta Alvarez Miguens. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, Pre-K to Grade 3.
- Noteworthy by Riley Redgate. Abrams/Amulet, Grades 9-12.
- Piecing Ms Together by Renée Watson. Bloomsbury, Grades 7 and up.


Outstanding Reference Sources List for Adults Announced

The most noteworthy reference titles published in 2017 have been named to the 2018 Outstanding Reference Sources List, an annual list selected by experts of the Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA). The Outstanding Reference Sources Committee was established in 1958 to recommend the most outstanding reference publications published the previous year for small and medium-sized public and academic libraries. The selected titles are valuable reference resources and are highly recommended for inclusion in any library’s reference collections.

The winners are:

- Women in American History. A Social, Political, and Cultural Encyclopedia and Documentary Collection. Peg A. Lamphier and Rosanne Welch. ABC-CLIO.