The Great Believers, Heavy Receive 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction

The American Library Association selected *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai, published by Viking, as the winner of the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and *Heavy: An American Memoir*, by Kiese Laymon, published by Scribner, as the winner of the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. The selections were announced January 27 at the Reference and User Services Association’s Book and Media Awards (BMA) sponsored by NoveList, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits.

The awards, established in 2012, serve as a guide to help adults select quality reading material. They are the first single-book awards for adult books given by the American Library Association and reflect the expert judgment and insight of library professionals and booksellers who work closely with adult readers. Both winners receive a $5,000 prize.

Makkai’s ambitious novel explores the complexities of friendship, family, art, fear, and love in meticulously realized settings – WWI-era and present-day Paris, and 1980s Chicago – while insightfully and empathically illuminating the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

In his artfully crafted and boldly revealing memoir, writing professor Laymon recalls the traumas of his Mississippi youth; the depthless hunger that elevated his weight; his obsessive, corrective regime of diet and exercise; his gambling, teaching, activism, and trust in the power of writing.

“They're not just a bloc of black girls who went missing where nobody cares to know their names,” said Sesay. “One of my biggest wishes with this book is that people see them as individuals.”

Isha Sesay Shares the Story of the Chibok Schoolgirls

Isha Sesay wants to tell the stories of women and girls who are often overlooked – including the account of 276 schoolgirls who were kidnapped by jihadist militant organization Boko Haram in Chibok, Nigeria, in 2014.

“Isha Sesay Shares the Story of the Chibok Schoolgirls

By Tera Dankowski, American Libraries

The American Library Association announced the top books, video, and audio books for children and young adults on January 28. A list of many of the award winners follows. For more information on the ALA youth media awards and notables, please visit www.ala.org/yma.

**John Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature.

**2019 MIDWINTER MEETING & EXHIBITS HIGHLIGHTS**

**AWARDS COVERAGE**

**Youth Media Awards Announced at January 28 Ceremony**

The American Library Association selected the top books, video, and audio books for children and young adults on January 28. A list of many of the award winners follows. For more information on the ALA youth media awards and notables, please visit www.ala.org/yma.
Next Stop: Washington D.C. for the 2019 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition

This year’s standout Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits brought a collective force of skill and determination with thousands of librarians, library workers, exhibitors, and supporters from across the nation.

Meeting highlights included the incredibly popular ALA Youth Media Awards which announced the Coretta Scott King Book, Caldecott Newbery, and Printz Award winners. We were inspired by philanthropist and author Melinda Gates who believes we can change the world, one woman at a time, and sociologist and author Eric Klinenberg who drove home his theory that libraries are, and should be, the foundation of social infrastructure. CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA Sylvia Acevedo taught us how to overcome obstacles, and travel host and activist Rick Steves spoke passionately about the rich education we receive when we take the leap to travel internationally. Journalist Isha Sesay’s session revealed a heartbreaking, yet courageous story of the 276 young Nigerian girls kidnapped by the Boko Haram, and my President’s Program featured author Robin DiAngelo, who addressed “white fragility.”

You may know that last June, I introduced the Libraries = Strong Communities advocacy effort, an opportunity to demonstrate the significant role that libraries play within our communities. We are currently on a six-city national tour, and as part of our tour we were excited to hold a public rally at the Seattle Public Library (https://bit.ly/2WpDkLR) hosting elected officials, community-based organizations, state library associations, ALA divisions and members, and conference attendees. We have also created a new website to house a growing collection of advocacy tools (ala.org/advocacy).

WE are the change we’ve been waiting for... and we look forward to a long stretch of shared triumphs as we head to the Annual Conference & Exhibition, June 20-25. Find information on registration and housing, social media links, and more at alaannual.org. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our communities and I hope to see you again in Washington, D.C.!

Loida Garcia-Febo
ALA President

Closing Session

“What got lost in the coverage was just how frightened they were,” said Sesay, who described a scene of 300 men descending upon the school in the middle of the night. “[The girls] could smell the smoke, they could hear the screaming, there were so many men... some were destroying the town.”

Of the girls taken, many have escaped or have been returned in negotiations, but 112 of the abducted are still missing. The book includes first-person accounts from survivors and, said Sesay, “gently” handles their trauma. “I’m hoping this book will restart an effort to find them,” said Sesay. “To the best of our knowledge, [the Nigerian government isn’t] doing anything. I could be wrong, but if they don’t share that information, how are we to know?”

Sesay also said that the search for the girls would have been different if they had well-known surnames or came from wealthy families. “These girls came from such poor homes” in a place where attending a boarding school without power, water, or windows in order to get an education is a necessity,” she said.

Another hope for Sesay is that her readers understand how events like this – and their implications for trade, terrorism, and destabilized governments – affect us all. “The very existence [of Boko Haram] and the fact that they were able to do this should frighten us,” she said. “We need to care about what’s happening. It’s all connected, it’s all one big circle.”

Still, Sesay was quick to dispel the notion that Africa is continent of people “waiting to be saved” by the U.S. “These girls saved themselves,” she said. “I hope people will understand the important role that America stands to play in the world, but also the resilience in other parts of the world.”

Sesay capped her talk by: discussing her nonprofit, W.E. (Women Everywhere) Can Lead, an organization that focuses on women’s and girls’ empowerment and leadership in her native Sierra Leone; her thoughts on literacy (“If we read more, we’ll have a fuller understanding of the world, and not every garbage tweet will resonate”); and her love for author Toni Morrison.

In parting she said, “You’re either a by-stander or an upstander, and you have to choose where you are right now. By not taking a side, you’re taking a side.”

Loida Garcia-Febo on ‘Libraries = Strong Communities’

Isha Sesay discusses Boko Haram’s abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls during the Closing Session.
Melinda Gates Opens Midwinter with Stories of Empowerment

By Phil Morehart, American Libraries

You are the guardians of our stories. You pass along our stories. And our stories bring us together,” said Melinda Gates during the Opening Session at the 2019 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Seattle. Her admiration for libraries is well documented: As co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, she has been at the forefront of philanthropic funding for libraries. The Gates Library Foundation (which closed in 2018) provided more than $1 billion to libraries around the world over the course of 21 years. Gates’ dedication to libraries was further cemented when it was revealed at the beginning of her talk that she will serve as honorary chair for National Library Week this year.

Gates spoke to ALA Midwinter attendees not as a philanthropist, however, but as an author. Gates’ new book *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* presents raw data and touching anecdotes to demonstrate that women’s prosperity and health are intrinsically linked to the health and prosperity of the world at large. In the book, Gates points out that as women are “lifted up,” the world follows. It is a call to action that shows how to improve women’s lives on the macro and micro level, from ensuring access to education and contraceptives to economic opportunity and equality in marriage.

“Demand for gender equality is growing louder and coming from all over the world,” Gates said. “We all need to step up, even if you’ve never thought of yourself as an advocate. This is the moment of lift.” Gates was joined by librarian and author Nancy Pearl, who guided their discussion of the book’s stories, which were gathered by Gates on travels throughout the world while working with the foundation. The plights of women she encountered who needed contraceptives and family-planning tools; who experienced inequities at home and in the workplace; or who were denied access to

Melinda Gates on Gender Equity at Home

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Author and Tour Guide
Rick Steves Wants Americans to Broaden Their Perspective

By Terra Dankowski, American Libraries

Rick Steves is on a mission. The author, television host, and travel guide behind Rick Steves Europe wants to inspire and equip Americans to venture beyond Orlando. “The book that beats mine [in sales] all the time is the guidebook to Disney World,” Steves told attendees of his Auditorium Speaker Series talk at the American Library Association’s 2019 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Seattle on January 27. “That’s lala land – I’m into gaining a better understanding of humanity.”

Steves, who recently released a third edition of his book Travel as a Political Act and the Rick Steves Classroom Europe online resource, recognized that fear keeps people from seeing the world.

“When someone tells me to have a safe trip, I’m inclined to say ‘Well, have a safe trip at home,’” said Steves. Statistically, he noted, Europe is much safer than the U.S. “Our country has never been more fearful,” he said. “Fear is for people who don’t get out very much. The flip side of fear is understanding, and we gain understanding when we travel.”

Steves maintained that meeting people along your travels – and discovering their interests – fosters this understanding and “carbonates” the experience.

“You go to France and step into a cheese shop, and it’s a festival of mold. The cheesemonger is evangelical,” he said. “In Ireland, I enjoy the sensation that I’m understanding a foreign language. Forget your schedule, this is why you’re there. Get into a conversation.”

For decades, Steves has been honing and designing European tour experiences for American visitors – he estimates he’s spent one-third of his adult life living out of a carry-on – but it was the aftermath of 9/11 that caused him to personally view politics as inextricable from travel.

“When we travel, we can see other societies’ priorities,” Steves said. For instance, “The British Library is typical of great new museums in Europe that prioritize this opportunity for people to come together and be inspired by information.”

Another example that Steves addressed is the “pragmatic harm reduction” and decriminalization approach that countries like Germany and Switzerland apply to drug use or the Netherlands applies to sex work. “Society has to make a choice: tolerate alternative lifestyles or build more prisons,” he said.

“Americans who are offended by Europe’s social sensibilities will put down the European economic systems,” said Steves. “They choose to work 25% fewer hours and willingly make 25% less so they can spend more time with their families.”

Steves told a story of how he was due for a family vacation in Mazatlan, looking forward to drinking margaritas with his “rich white friends on the beach,” when another friend asked if he wanted to march alongside peasants in El Salvador to observe the 25th anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero’s death. “It’s a choice we have,” Steves remarked. “When I do it, I’m always impressed by what a beautiful experience it is.”

Steves ended his speech with a note of praise for librarians and a piece of advice: “The best souvenir is a broader perspective.”
MORE THAN A GRADUATE PROGRAM.
WE ARE VOLUNTEERS.

SIS Student Olivia Forehand (top left), produced published research about how libraries can better serve the homeless.

Alumni Maria Sochor (top right), works to ensure those with physical limitations have access to books and media.

Associate Professor Potnis (bottom left, on right) developed social media guidelines to train journalists in developing countries to fight corruption.

Alumni Juniper Starr (bottom right) worked to preserve African-American Appalachian history during an experiential learning opportunity as a student.

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SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES
On the evening of January 26, REFORMA held its Noche De Cuentos, a night of bilingual stories and cuentos from local storytellers at the Seattle Public Library. Noche de Cuentos (A Night of Stories) is a REFORMA family literacy initiative celebrated all year round, but especially during the week of the spring equinox, March 18-25, in conjunction with World Storytelling Day. The event aims to celebrate the rich history and tradition of storytelling. Our featured storytellers included:

Tania Hino
Tania is a bilingual social worker, parenting educator, and storyteller, leads the audience in a fun activity during Noche De Cuentos. When she’s not teaching parents, this mother of three vibrant multicultural children might be found hosting Spanish language storytimes at various Seattle Public Library branches.

Marco Cortes
His music speaks of the different Latin American cultures and is especially geared toward younger children. He currently works as a Spanish and music teacher, and he actively participates in various cultural aspects of the Northwest of the United States.

Nora Girón-Dolce
Award-winning author, actress, singer, and storyteller. Promoter of the Spanish language and Mexican culture. Constant dreamer, rainbow chaser, part-time mermaid. Member of the writers’ group Seattle Escribe.

ALA members became more informed voters for the 2019 ALA Elections during the ALA Candidates’ Forum on January 26. Each candidate presented their platform, followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Pictured are the two candidates for ALA President: Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., left, and Lance Werner, right. Click here to view the video coverage of the Forum. The election is March 11 – April 3.
YMA Awards

« from page 1

literature: Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina. The book is published by Candlewick Press.

Two Newbery Honor Books also were named: The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Young Readers Group, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC; and The Book of Boy by Cynthia Gilbert Murdock, illustrated by Ian Schoenherr, and published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.


Five AILA Picture Book Honor titles were announced: All Around Us by Xelena González and illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia, Cinco Puntos Press; Black Bear Red Fox by Jolie Flett, Native Northwest; Fall in Line, Holden! by Daniel W. Van dever, Salina Bookshelf, Inc; I’m Dreaming Of... Animals of the Native Northwest by Melanie Gleeson-Lyall and illustrated by First Nations Artists. Native Northwest; and Mission to Space by John Herrington, White Dog Press.

The Middle Grade Honor Book is The Wool of Jonery Part I by Jonathan Nelson, Native Realities.

Three 2018 Young Adult Honor Books were announced: Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time: An Indigenous LGBT Sci-Fi Anthology, edited by Hope Nicholson, Bedside Press; Marrow Thieves, by Cherie Dimaline, DCB (submitted by Orca Books); and Fire Starters by Jen Storm, illustrated by Scott B. Henderson, and color artist Donovan Vacuik, High Water Press.

Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature, which promote Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage and are awarded based on literary and artistic merit: Picture Book winner is Dragon Together by Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat, and published by Disney-Hyperion, an imprint of Disney Book Group; Children’s Literature Winner is Front Desk by Kelly Yang and published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; Young Adult Literature winner is Doritos the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram and published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC.

Coretta Scott King Book Awards recognize African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults: A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 by Claire Hartfield, published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, is the King Author Award winner.

Three King Author Honor Books also were named: Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome, published by Holiday House; The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson, published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.; and The Season of Styx Malone by Kelda Magoon, published by Wendy Lamb Books, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC. The Staff of Stars, written by Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by Ekua Holmes and published by Candlewick Press, is King Illustrator Award winner.

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Meeting Rooms, Displays, and Drag Queen Storytimes Discussed at ALA Midwinter

Meeting room policies, drag queen storytimes, research databases, and library book displays have made headlines and sparked controversy in libraries. At the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) hosted “Intellectual Freedom and the Law: Issues and Updates for Meeting Rooms, Drag Queen Storytimes, and Library Displays,” a program that provided information about the legal issues surrounding these topics, as well as guidance on crafting library policies that protect and meet the needs of the library and its community; uphold intellectual freedom; and comply with the law. The program provided ample time for audience questions and discussion.

This News You Can Use session was presented by Theresa Chimara, general counsel of the Freedom to Read Foundation, and moderated by Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Book displays, research databases, and drag queen storytime programs have been the targets of recent censorship attempts, including lawsuits intended to halt library programs and remove library resources. An important conversation about meeting room policies and access for controversial groups took place in the library community after the adoption of the revised “Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, sparking a return to the 1991 interpretation and a proposed revision to address these concerns. “Intellectual Freedom and the Law” will use these real-life issues to outline relevant legal concepts and offer guidance on developing effective library policy. The presenters encouraged attendees to raise questions and concerns during the latter half of the program.

LITA Excellence in Children’s and Young Adult Science Fiction Notable Lists

The LITA Committee Recognizing Excellence in Children’s and Young Adult Science Fiction presents the 2019 Excellence in Children’s and Young Adult Science Fiction Notable Lists. The lists are composed of notable children’s and young adult science fiction published in 2018 and organized in three age-appropriate categories. The annotated lists will be posted on the website at www.sfnotables.org.

The Golden Duck Notable Picture Books List is selected from books intended for preschool children and very early readers, up to 6 years old. Recognition is given to the author and the illustrator:

**Bitty Bot’s Big Beach Getaway** by Tim McCanna, illustrated by Ted Carpenter. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books.


**Doll-E 1.0** by Shanda McCloskey. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

**If You Had a Jetpack** by Liz H. Detlefsen, illustrated by Linzie Hunter. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

**Little Robot Alone** by Patricia MacLachlan and Emily MacLachlan Charest, illustrated by Matt Phelan. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

**A Place for Pluto** by Steve Wade, illustrated by Melanie Demmer. Capstone Editions.

The Eleanor Cameron Notable Middle Grade Books List titles are chapter books or short novels that may be illustrated. They are written for ages 7 - 11. Containing more science fiction than fantasy, the main characters are problem solvers and science users rather than someone who must be rescued. This list is named for Eleanor Cameron, author of the Mushroom Planet series.

**CatStronauts: Robot Rescue** by Drew Brockington. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

**Jamie Drake Equation** by Christopher Edge.

**CatStronauts: Robot Rescue** by Drew Brockington. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

**If You Had a Jetpack** by Liz H. Detlefsen, illustrated by Linzie Hunter. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

**A Place for Pluto** by Steve Wade, illustrated by Melanie Demmer. Capstone Editions.

**Sanity & Tallulah** by Molly Brooks. Disney-Hyperion.

**Star Scouts: The League of Lasers** by Mike Lawrence. First Second.

**The Story Pirates Present: Stuck in the Stone Age** by Geoff Redkelly, illustrated by Haren Aly, Rodale Kids.

**Too Much Space! (Beep and Bob)** by Jonathan Roth. Aladdin.


The Hal Clement Notable Young Adult Books List contains science fiction books written for ages 12 - 18 with a young adult protagonist, a teenager who must make adult decisions. This list is named for Hal Clement, the pen name of Harry Stubbs, a well-known science fiction writer and high school science teacher who promoted children’s science fiction.


**Cross Fire: An Exo Novel** by Fondua Lee. Scholastic Press.

**The Future Will be B S Free** by Will McIntosh. Delacorte Press.

**Pitch Dark** by Courtney Alameda. Feiwel and Friends.

**Skyward** by Brandon Sanderson. Delacorte Press.


**A Spark of White Fire** by Sangu Mandanna. Sky Pony.

**Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful** by Artemis Ellys Dayton. Delacorte Press.

**This Splintered Silence** by Kayla Olson. HarperTeen.

**Unearthed** by Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner. Disney-Hyperion.

**Your One & Only** by Adrienne Finn. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

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ALA Council Approves New Penguin Random House Library Award for Innovation Through Adversity

The American Library Association Council, at a January 27 session during the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, approved the new Penguin Random House Library Award for Innovation Through Adversity.

The award, which ALA intends to present at its Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., recognizes the staff of U.S. libraries who overcome adversity to create lasting innovative community service programs that inspire and connect with readers. The award is open to public, school, and academic libraries. The $10,000 cash prize given to a library is sponsored by the Penguin Random House Foundation. In addition, four runner-up awards consisting of $1,000 in Penguin Random House books will be awarded to eligible libraries.

Skip Dye, vice president, library marketing and sales operations for Penguin Random House said, “Libraries are essential and invaluable assets to communities, providing a safe space for freedom of expression, diversity, and education. On behalf of Penguin Random House, it’s a privilege to recognize and honor libraries that effectively overcome adversity in support of their local community.”

Jury Chair Andrea Lapsley stated, “We are excited that the award is open to all libraries. Librarians or library staff will be recognized, and the funds will be used for their library. Although we do not want libraries to experience hardships, this is a way to recognize those that innovate and excel during times of crisis. We thank the Penguin Random House Foundation for their sponsorship of this significant award.”

The nomination must show evidence of hardship, including economic difficulties or natural disasters, and demonstrate successful partnership(s) that work to overcome the hardship. Partners can include schools, local business, museums, and other community organizations. The nomination should focus on innovative and unique programming that may include new technology, reading methods or formats, outreach, etc. Nominees are not required to have a Master of Library Science degree but is preferred.

The award application can be found online at www.ala.org/awardsgrants/penguin-random-house-library-award-innovation-through-adversity. The deadline for applications is March 16. The award will be present at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, June 23 during the ALA President’s Program. For additional information, please contact Cheryl Malden at 312-280-3247, cmalden@ala.org.

Newbery, Caldecott Announced at Youth Media Awards

Click here to register for the 2019 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition.

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AASL Celebrates School Library Month with Spokesperson Dav Pilkey

Dav Pilkey, New York Times bestselling author of Captain Underpants and Dog Man books, will serve as the national spokesperson for the 2019 celebration of School Library Month. Observed in April and sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), School Library Month celebrates school libraries as open, equitable, and personalized learning environments necessary for every student’s well-rounded education.

“Growing up with learning challenges in school after being diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia, I’ve been fortunate to have had the encouragement and support of my parents, who helped me to associate reading with fun,” said Pilkey. “I have fond memories of going to the library with my mom who had a radical idea—she let me pick whatever book I wanted to read. I read lots of books and magazines that made me laugh out loud, which led me to discover many other books in different genres. Reading without judgment was a turning point in my life and that is what made me a lifelong reader.”

Pilkey first created a comic book about a superhero named Captain Underpants in the second grade. The series now has more than 80 million copies in print worldwide and has been translated into more than 28 languages. In 2017, DreamWorks Animation brought the character to the silver screen in the feature film adaptation “The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants” in 2018.

His latest character, Dog Man, is a #1 global bestselling series with more than 23 million copies in print worldwide and translations available in more than 23 languages. Pilkey is also the creator of the Dragon series, the Dumb Bunnies, Dog Breath, and The Paperboy, which is a Caldecott Honor Book.

“A few years ago, I had the great pleasure of hearing Dav Pilkey speak to families about his craft and super powers,” said AASL President Kathryn Roots Lewis. “As I watched the crowd, both parents and their children were absolutely enthralled, heads nodding, children and parents whispering acknowledgement. Dav Pilkey helped learners, both young and old, in that large venue identify their own super powers and better understand their unique challenges.

“Over the years I’ve had the privilege to have met many committed librarians whose passion and dedication to literacy is life changing,” said Pilkey. “I’m honored to be this year’s AASL ambassador for school libraries and an advocate for everything they do to make the world a better place.”

Lewis shared her thanks to Pilkey, saying, “Dav’s role as a champion for all learners is representative of the transformational change he has made in the lives of readers everywhere. What a powerful message for all of us! Please join me in thanking Dav for his dedication to literacy as AASL’s spokesperson as we celebrate School Library Month.”
we selected these two very powerful Andrew Carnegie Medal winners,” said selection committee chair Annie Bostrom, who is Booklist’s associate editor for adult books. “We think that readers across the country will find the winning titles as affecting and unforgettable as we did.”


The 2019 fiction finalists include The Great Believers, by Rebecca Makkai, published by Algonquin Books; There There, by Tommy Orange, published by Alfred A. Knopf; and Washington Black, by Esi Edugyan, also published by Knopf.

Both Makkai and Laymon will attend the Carnegie celebration at ALA’s Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in June, where they will speak about their books.

The medals are made possible, in part, by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York in recognition of Andrew Carnegie’s deep belief in the power of books and learning to change the world and are co-sponsored by ALA’s Booklist and the Reference and User Services Association.

Annotations and more information on the awards can be found at www.ala.org/carnegieadult.

Annual Conference attendees can join both winners on Saturday, June 22 to celebrate and watch them receive their medals.

Application Deadline for 2019 ALA Leadership Institute

Quickly Approaching

The application process for the 2019 “Leading to the Future” ALA Leadership Institute (August 5 – 8, Hilton Oak Brook/Chicago Conference Center and Resort, Oak Brook, Ill.) is underway, with applications accepted through March 8.

Building on the success of the past ALA Leadership Institutes, the four-day immersive leadership development program for 40 mid-career librarians will be led again by ALA Past-President Maureen Sullivan and library and leadership consultant Kathryn Deiss.

Now in its seventh year, the institute helps future library leaders develop and practice their leadership skills in areas critical to the future of the libraries they lead. Through reflective and active learning, it offers participants an opportunity to delve into leadership practices, concepts, and frameworks, and to shape their own sustainable leadership vision and ethos, at the same time as building a learning community and network. With content based on real-world cases and nuanced situations, participants explore topics related to the greatest challenges and possibilities of leading into a future marked by turbulence and ambiguity.

Participants in past institutes highlighted a wide range of benefits, describing it as the “best professional development…related to leadership,” with a “wonderful atmosphere and congeniality among participants and between participants and facilitators.” Most attendees have given the ALA Leadership Institute the top rating possible in the post-event survey.

The application form as well as details and guidelines are at www.ala.org/educationcareers/leadership. Applicants may nominate themselves or be nominated by their employer. Participation includes a free one-year membership in the Library Leadership and Management Association, a division of ALA.

Pack Your Bags for a Literary and Cultural Tour of North and Western Ireland with ASGCLA!

The Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) is sponsoring a seven-night themed tour of North and Western Ireland. The May 11 – 18, 2019 tour focuses on some of the greatest writers to come from the region. These writers include W. B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, C. S. Lewis, and hundreds of others that are part of the collective culture of the Irish literary world.

This fascinating tour will take you to the writer’s birthplaces, schools, writing rooms, and final homes. History and epic scenery will be taken in each day to delight and wonder the visitor to this ancient and wildly beautiful country. For details and full itinerary, go to www.asgcladirect.org/travel/.
The Muckleshoot Canoe Family performs during the ALA President’s Program. They represent Coast Salish culture, which has existed in the Pacific Northwest for more than 10,000 years.

Librarians react as the ALA Youth Media Awards are announced in Seattle.

Author/illustrator Marianne D. Wallace (center) looks over some of the books receiving starred reviews the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt booth in the Exhibits.

Librarians Janna Lux (left) and Linda Peterson dress up like the “princess in black” to battle the monster at the Candlewick Press booth in the Exhibits.


Librarian Rona Johnson (left) gets a hug and a photo with Isha Sesay during her book signing for Beneath the Tamarind Tree after her Closing Session presentation.

The Muckleshoot Canoe Family performs during the ALA President’s Program. They represent Coast Salish culture, which has existed in the Pacific Northwest for more than 10,000 years.

ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits attendees fill the floor for the ALA/ERT Exhibits Opening Reception.
RUSA 2018 Notable Books List Announced

The Reference and User Services Association’s (RUSA) Notable Books Council, first established in 1944, has announced the 2019 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. The winners were selected by the Notable Books Council whose members include 12 expert readers’ advisory and collection development librarians. The Council considers titles based on stellar reviews published in standard library reviewing sources and other authoritative sources.

The 2019 Notable Books List selections are:

Fiction
There There by Tommy Orange. Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Penguin Random House.


Poetry
If They Come for Us: Poems by Fatimah Asghar. One World, a division of Penguin Random House.

Nonfiction
High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing by Ben Austen.
One World

The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life by David Quammen. Simon & Schuster.

American Sonnets for My Own and Future Assassin
2020 Census: How Libraries Can Help Achieve a Complete Count

The 2020 Census begins April 1, 2020, and libraries will play an essential role in helping their communities be counted. Now is a good time for libraries to begin thinking about what activities they might undertake to meet these special, once-a-decade demands – and how to access resources to fulfill those needs. Along with planning potential activities, libraries can begin assessing their resource needs and look for funding opportunities from government, philanthropy, and business partners.

Libraries often work with public agencies to achieve community priorities. Library staff connect people with the information they need to access government services and benefits, complete online forms, and engage with civic issues. A public library is located within five miles of 99% of the hard-to-count Census tracts. Libraries can deliver accurate information about the importance of Census participation, options for responding, and other topics.

With the 2020 Census designed to take place primarily online, libraries can ridge the digital divide and support a more complete count.

To learn more, visit ala.org/advocacy/go/ govinfo/census. Follow the conversation online at #CountOnLibraries.

Sophie Brody Medal Awarded to Michael David Lucas

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) has announced its selection for the 2018 Sophie Brody Medal, an annual honor bestowed by the Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) at ALA’s Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits.

This year’s winner is Michael David Lucas, author of The Last Watchmen of Old Cairo: A Novel published by Spiegel & Grau. Spanning time and place, Lukas weaves together three compelling life stories. Joseph, whose father was the last watchman of the Old Cairo synagogue, embarks on a journey to discover his late father’s gift. Lukas merges history and fiction to help a son understand his heritage.


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.

2019 Amelia Bloomer List Presents Top 10 Feminist Books for Young Readers

The Amelia Bloomer Project, a subgroup of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table’s Feminist Task Force, announced its top 10 feminist books for young readers, selected from the 2019 Amelia Bloomer List.

The Amelia Bloomer List recommends 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 bibliography is intended as a recommended reading list for children and teens. It may also be used by interested librarians, teachers, parents, and others who work with youth.

The complete list will be released following the Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits at https://ameliaisabloomer.wordpress.com and http://www.ala.org/rtsr/feminist-task-force.

Gates education inspired both the book and Gates’ life’s direction.

"I heard a resounding cry and plea for help," she said. Gates described multiple stories of women whose lives and families were stunted by lack of access to resources, including a young mother in Africa who tearfully asked Gates to take her newborn child back to the U.S. The woman was afraid that she would be unable to provide her new baby a good life should she get pregnant again. That story and others led Gates and the foundation to raise $2.6 billion to help provide contraceptives to women in need.

The book also provides a rare look into Gates’ personal life and her marriage to Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates. Gates said she had to be open about her own struggles for full transparency and to show how these issues affect everyone regardless of socioeconomic status or where you live in the world.

“We worked hard to get equality in our marriage,” she said. “We try to live an integrated life. What we’re role modeling to the world, we have to replicate at home.”

Gates shared an anecdote about her family’s morning routine to drive the point home describing that when one of her daughters was enrolled in a new school years ago, she had to add an extra hour to her morning drive to get the girl to school on time. When her husband offered to take over that duty, it alleviated strain on Gates’ already busy schedule and had a ripple effect on others.

She said that other mothers noticed when she stopped driving her daughter to school. Instead they saw one of the world’s richest men doing it. Gates said the women told her that the change inspired the women to tell their own husbands, “If Bill Gates can drive his kid to school, you can too.”

Save the Date for YALSA’s 2019 YA Services Symposium

YALSA’s 2019 YA Services Symposium will take place in Memphis, Tenn., November 1-3. The theme is Show Up and Advocate: Supporting Teens in the Face of Adversity. All are welcome to attend. Registration opens in April. Want updates? Sign up at tinyurl.com/ylsa-symposiumupdates.
Join us to learn, share, and participate in the Transforming of Libraries!

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW AT ALAANNUAL.ORG
Walter Dean Myers Wins 2019 Children’s Literature Legacy Award

Walter Dean Myers is the winner of the 2019 Children’s Literature Legacy Award honoring an author or illustrator, published in the United States, whose books have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. His numerous works include Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff and Monster. The award is administered annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the ALA.

“With vast literary talent and deep empathy for young readers, Walter Dean Myers created shelves full of books over the course of his half-century career that were groundbreaking, distinctive, and vital,” said Committee Chair Andrew Medlar.

Born in West Virginia in 1937, Myers was raised in Harlem where he “found solace in books.” After serving in the U.S. Army he began writing in the 1960s, eventually publishing more than 100 titles for young people. He lived with his family for many years in Jersey City, N.J., often creating books collaboratively with his son, Christopher. Walter Dean Myers died in 2014.


Myers also received multiple other Coretta Scott King Author Awards and Honors; served as the 2009 Arbuthnot Honor lecturer; was the 2010 United States nominee for the interna-tional Hans Christian Andersen Award; and was named by the Library of Congress as the 2012 – 2013 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature with the platform of “Reading Is Not Optional.” A prolific and versatile writer who exemplified excellence in many forms, including biography, fiction, history, and poetry, Myers brought profound insight to his vivid portray-als of Black culture and Black lives, especially those of boys and young men, capturing their language and concerns, struggles and successes.

With a brilliance for humor and curiosity, his work reminds readers, without preaching, that they always have choices.

One of his most valued works is Scorpions, a Newbery Honor Medal winner, in which 12-year-old Jamal draws on his artistic talents and best friend Tito to cope with the realisti-cally portrayed effects of racial stereotyping, gang influence, and institutional indifference. In Scorpions, Myers’ compassion for his char-acters’ experiences and dreams demonstrates his understanding and respect for all children.

For more information on the Children’s Literature Legacy Award and other ALA liter-ar-y awards, please visit www.al.org/yma.

Early Literacy Activity Calendars for 2019

Now available in the ALA Store are reproducible calendars with fun early literacy activities for every day of the year. Based on Every Child Ready to Read practices of reading, writing, singing, talking, playing (and now counting), each download contains 12 months of learning activities, book lists, nursery rhymes, and more. On one side is a calendar with a fun skills-building activity for each day and the other contains supplementary content like nursery rhymes, early literacy tips, song lyrics, or suggested reading material.

To download a copy of the 2019 Early Literacy Activities Calendar, please visit the ALA Store at www.alastore.ala.org/content/pla-2019-early-literacy-activities-calendar%E2%80%94download

The digital download costs $23.99 for Public Library Association members, $26.99 for ALA members, and $29.99 for non-members.

The ALA Scholarship Program is Turning 50

During the 1969 ALA Midwinter Meeting, in Washington, D.C., the ALA Council approved the establishment of the ALA Scholarship Program. This action gave birth to a variety of academic scholarships, allowing individuals to become professionally degreed librarians. Included among these are the Christopher Hoy/ERT, Mary V. Gaver, Tom and Roberta Drewes, and the Spectrum Scholarship. For more information on the ALA Scholarship Program visit the ALA Scholarship Program page.

In Washington, D.C., during the ALA 2019 Annual Conference & Exhibition, we are rolling out a new ALA Scholars Program and sponsoring the 2018 scholarship recipients.

You can play a part in our efforts to continue advancing the library profession. With a gift to the ALA Scholarship Program, you can make a difference in the career of an aspiring librarian and make a statement about the value of library and information studies. To support the ALA Scholarship Program, visit the donation page.

Contact Kimberly L. Redd at klredd@ala.org or 800-545-2433 x4279 if you have questions.

Mark your Calendar...

ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition June 20-25, 2019 Washington, DC

ALA Midwinter Meeting January 24-28, 2020 Philadelphia, PA
YMA Awards

Three King Illustrator Honor Books were also named: Hidden Figures, illustrated by Laura Freeman, written by Margot Lee Shetterly, and published by HarperCollins Children's Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers; Let the Children March, illustrated by Frank Morrison, written by Monica Clark Robinson, and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company; and Memphis, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, written by Alice Faye Duncan, and published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Highlights.


Thank You, Oma!, illustrated by Oge Moro, published by Little, Brown and Company: is the Steptoe Illustrator Award winner.


Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Pauletta Brown Bracy is the recipient of the 2019 Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award pays tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton.

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults: The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo, published by HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, is the 2019 Printz Award winner.

Three Printz Honor Books were also named: Dancer by Elana K. Arnold, published by Balzer+Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; A Heart in a Body in the World by Deb Caletti, published by Simon Pulse, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; I, Claudia by Mary McCoy, published by Carolrhoda Lab, an imprint of Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group.

Schneider Family Book Award for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience: Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship written by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes, illustrated by Scott Maagun, published by Candlewick Press, wins the award for young children (ages 0 to 8).


Anger is a Gift by Mark Oshiro, published by Tor Teen Books, Tom Doherty Associates, is the winner for teens (ages 14-18).

This year marks the introduction of Schneider Family Award Honor titles: Remember Ballrooms by Jesse Oliveto, illustrated by Dana Wulfkotte, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

is the Schneider Family Book Award young children honor title; The Collectors by Jacqueline West, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers is the Schneider Family Book Award middle grades honor title; and (Don’t) Call Me Crazy by Tash McLean, published by Knopf, an imprint of Random House, is the Schneider Family Book Award young adult honor title.

Alex Awards for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teenage audiences: The Black God's Drum by P. Djèlí Clark, published by Tor.com, is the Alex Award for an out-of-print book; The Power by DNF Clark, an Alex Award for young adult literature; and The Book of Este by Meghan MacLean Weir, published by Knopf, an imprint of Random House, is a distinguished book for young adults.

Pura Belpre Awards, honoring Latino writers and illustrators whose children's books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience: Yuyi Morales, illustrator of Dreamers, and Elizabeth Acevedo, author of The Poet X, are the 2019 winners of the Pura Belpre Illustrator Award and Author Award.

Two Belpre Illustrator Honor Books also were named: Islandborn, illustrated by Leo Escobosa, written by Juanito Diaz, and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group, is the Alex Award for an out-of-print book; and When Angels Sing: The Story of Rock Legend Carlos Santana, illustrated by Jose Ramirez, written by Michael Mahin, and published and distributed by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

The Belpre Committee selected one Honor Book for narration: They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems, by David Bowles, published and distributed by Cinco Puntos Press.


The committee selected five Honor Books: Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild by Catherine Thimmesh, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America by Gail Jarrow, published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Highlights; The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugee by Don Brown, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frank Lesac, published by Charlesbridge; and When Angels Sing: The Story of Rock Legend Carlos Santana by Michael Mahin, illustrated by Jose Ramirez, and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults: The 2019 winner is M.T. Anderson.

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. Neil Gaiman will deliver the 2020 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture.

Madrid L. Batchelder Award for an outstanding children's book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States, and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States: Thames & Hudson, Inc. is the winner of the 2019 Mildred L. Batchelder Award for The Fox on the Swing.


Odyssey Award for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States: Macmillan Audio, producer of the audiobook, Sadie has won the 2019 Odyssey Award for Excellence in Audiobook Production.

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This year marks the introduction of Schneider Family Award Honor titles: Remember Ballrooms by Jesse Oliveto, illustrated by Dana Wulfkotte, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

YMA President Crystal Martin (from left), Coretta Scott King Chair Claudette McLinn, PhD, ALSC President Jamie Campbell Naidoo, PhD, ALA President Loïd Garcia-Febo, and REFORMA President Madeline Peña Feliz announce the ALA Youth Media Awards.