

# ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION JUNE 20-25, 2019

# COGNOTES



MONDAY, JUNE 24

WASHINGTON D.C.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## Enriching the Narrative Journey of Science Fiction and Fantasy

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

A fan of Star Wars, Nnedi Okorafor enjoys the narrative tangent. She has incorporated into her novels and comics a variety of sidebar stories about interesting characters and unique activities of others beyond the story protagonists. These tangents, she explained during Sunday's ALA President's Program, provide an opportunity for fiction writers to explore individual personalities and interesting action in depth. In fact, readers find these subplots to be enjoyable parts of Okorafor's stories, which leads them to read her books multiple times.

Many of her characters and plots have found inspiration in her real-life experiences, whether mundane (in being stopped by airport security because of her hair), or adventurous (traveling to some of the Nigerian cities featured in her books), or serious (immigration, gender inequality, and corruption). Her sharp wit, humor, and deeply political themes resonate with a wide variety of readers, and include works

published by Dark Horse and Marvel. The author's Akata books, along with The Binti Trilogy, and the series LaGuardia, showcase her wide range of interests and talents.

"Don't be afraid to tell your story," Okorafor advised young writers. "Tell the story the way you want to write it, and someone will always want to read it." When asked for her advice to librarians, she explained, "Writers are beacons. Bring them to your community and look beyond the mainstream for additional authors." In doing so, librarians bring readers a wide variety of materials from among what is available. And just as Okorafor provides details to illustrators about every corner of a panel, librarians can provide opportunities to read deeply, widely, and repeatedly in order to thoroughly enjoy the journey.

A favorite of both young people and adults, Okorafor's novels include *Lagoon*, *Who Fears Death*, *Shuri*, and *Wakanda Forever*, many of which have been published internationally and periodically have been

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ALA President's Program speaker Nnedi Okorafor, a Nigerian American author of African-based science fiction, is interviewed by Donna Seaman.

### Actor, Community Activist George Takei



George Takei

**George Takei**  
Auditorium Speaker  
Monday 6/24 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Sponsored by Top Shelf Productions

With an acting career spanning six decades, George Takei is known around the world for his founding role in the acclaimed television series "Star Trek," in which he played Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the Starship Enterprise. But Takei's story goes where few stories have gone before. He has become one of the country's leading figures in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ rights, and marriage equality, and remains

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### Author, Writing Coach Tomi Adeyemi

**Tomi Adeyemi**  
Auditorium Speaker  
Monday 6/24, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Tomi Adeyemi is a Nigerian American writer and creative writing coach based in San Diego, Calif. After graduating Harvard University with an honors degree in English literature, she received a fellowship that allowed her to study West African mythology and culture in Salvador, Brazil, where she discovered her inspiration for her novel, *Children of Blood and Bone*.

Her debut West African YA Fantasy



» see page 8 Tomi Adeyemi

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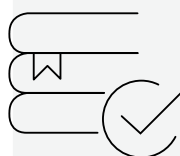


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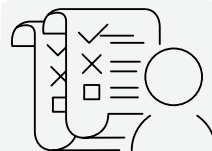
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# What's Hot

## Monday, June 24

**FUN FACT:**

97% of libraries help people complete online government forms.

## SPEAKER

### Journalist and Author Mariana Atencio

**Mariana Atencio** is a journalist, TED Talk speaker, influencer, and award-winning news personality covering domestic and international assignments, breaking news, and special reports. As a first-generation Latina who fled violence and oppression in her native Venezuela, Atencio crossed over from Spanish to English-language television. Her life story and the message of her new book, *Perfectly You: Embracing the Power of Being Real*, available Summer 2019, is grounded on the discovery of how every single person can come to find their own voice and purpose in a seemingly broken world. "It is precisely when we harness our own voice that we, in turn, have an opportunity to use it to create and foster community." Atencio has channeled it in storytelling that is cross-cultural, cross-format, and cross-border, a feat that would not have been possible were it not for the events of her life and the stories she has covered. Atencio has been named one of the top young voices in American newsrooms, and her awards include the Peabody Award for Investigative Journalism, the Gracie Award, and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists' Latino Issues Award. She studied at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Georgetown University, the London School of Economics, and UCLA.

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Ballroom B/C**  
**Sponsored by**  
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## EXHIBITS

**Maker Pavilion****End of 3300 and 3400 Aisles**

Visit the Maker Pavilion to talk with maker organizations highlighting products to help inspire you to think about the kinds of program you could offer in your own library.

**Sound Garden****Booth 2413**

Visit the Sound Garden, a feature area on the exhibit floor. Take part in the "listening lounge," an area of kiosks offering the first chapter of exhibitor's audiobooks, categorized by subject, along with the Live from the 25 Podcast Booth.

**Diversity in Publishing Pavilion****Booth 813**

Bringing together in one space exhibitors who offer books, products, and services to help libraries meet the needs of their diverse populations and engage with issue of diversity, equality, inclusion, and access.

## STAGES

It's the last day to hear the latest **buzz** about the newest titles – all in one easy-to-find location in the Exhibit Hall. From 9:15 – 10:00 a.m., children's and teen books from **Norton, Sterling, Ingram, and Workman** will be presented and discussed. **Simon & Schuster** is up next from 10:00 – 10:40 a.m. At 10:50 – 11:20 a.m., **National Geographic's** fall list includes *Women*, a photographic portrayal of the female experience across the globe, its landmark *Atlas of the World*, and popular annual *Almanac 2020*. From 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., **HarperCollins/Harlequin Books** adult books will take the stage, sharing a preview of their favorite Fall/Winter titles. Then at 12:25 p.m. – 12:55 p.m., **Oasis Family Media** will introduce its new classic literature line, including a collection of beloved stories adapted and narrated for children. At 1:05 – 1:35 p.m., join **Page Street Kid's** Publisher Kristen Nobles and Director of Publicity and Marketing Lizzy Mason as they discuss the imprint's mission and detail the picture book and young adult titles coming in Fall 2019.

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**buzz**  
 theater

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(left photo) Rebecca Makkai receives the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction for *The Great Believers*, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House. “The written and spoken word are our greatest weapon,” she said in her acceptance speech.

(right photo) Kiese Laymon, winner of the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction for *Heavy: An American Memoir*, published by Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, accepted his medal Saturday night, which he then presented to his mother; “This is the person who deserves it.”



## Frank Miller and Tom Wheeler Share New Take on a Classic Myth



Graphic novelist Frank Miller (left) and screenwriter, producer, and comic book artist Tom Wheeler discuss their work during the auditorium speaker series Sunday morning.

By Marley Kalt, University of Michigan

For screenwriter Tom Wheeler, working with graphic novelist Frank Miller is like a dream come true. “Frank has been a huge influence on me,” said Wheeler at the Auditorium Speakers Series session Sunday. “I remember his comics vividly growing up and he was kind of an unknown mentor to me.” Their new collaboration, *Cursed*, is a prequel to the Arthurian legend featuring Nimue, the “Lady of the Lake.”

Miller and Wheeler grew up as fans of the King Arthur tales, sharing stories about several of the different tellings of the myth, from Disney’s *The Sword in the Stone* to *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

For Miller, it was the elasticity of the Arthurian mythology that drew him toward illustrating Wheeler’s story. “[The story] could be done for children or for adults. It can be terrifying. It can be romantic. It can be all of these things at once,” Miller said.

One feature that sets Miller and Wheeler’s approach to this legend apart from other versions of the Arthurian tale is the focus on a female character. Wheeler shared that his daughter inspired him to choose Nimue as their story’s hero. “We all kind of find Arthurian moments, you know, ‘seize the sword,’ [but] women had to step into that story on their own,” Wheeler said. “Who is the hero that my daughter, who is 12, looks to in this mythology that I love so much?”

Miller added that Wheeler’s writing “took a surprisingly feminist slant that the legend had never showcased before. That’s a whole different wrinkle, and adds another dimension to such a masculine canvas,” Miller said.

Despite their excitement about exploring Arthurian characters in new ways, developing this story presented challenges for its creators. For Miller, *Cursed* is his first major work aimed at a young audience. “This was

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Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and author of *Palaces of the People* Eric Klinenberg discuss the important and unique role that libraries provide to the community.

## Hayden and Klinenberg Address Social Infrastructure

By Chris Heckman, Student to ALA

The Auditorium Speakers Series continued Saturday afternoon with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and Eric Klinenberg, professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. Klinenberg spoke about his new book, *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*.

Klinenberg’s book argues for the importance of “radically inclusive” social spaces that encourage people from all walks of life to visit, leading to communal activities and individual interactions between people who otherwise would not cross paths. These interactions are important for the functioning of a civil society and a healthy democracy, as they help us to connect and empathize with other members of our community. In addition, these places can provide life-saving services as well as social and material support for people on the margins of society. Klinenberg dubs this “social infrastructure,” the physical and interpersonal resources that keep society running and highlights several sites of social infrastructure including childcare centers, churches, synagogues, bookstores, parks, and libraries. Libraries are really the star of

this book. Klinenberg explained that he was inspired to write the book because of libraries and later expanded the scope of his study to include other social spaces.

Hayden and Klinenberg touched on number of topics relating to the importance of libraries over the course of their discussion. Klinenberg said his work helped communities to recover after Hurricane Sandy and pointed to the importance of social infrastructure in that recovery. He told the audience that city officials, attempting to construct what they called a community resilience center, essentially came up with the idea for a library.

Hayden and Klinenberg discussed some of the challenges of advocating for libraries. Specifically, Klinenberg cited his frustration with public officials who seem to take advantage of librarians’ willingness to do more with less by continually cutting budgets, while Hayden expressed frustration with finding herself the lone advocate for libraries in some government meetings.

They opened the floor for questions addressing how library science programs can better prepare students to do the work of radical inclusiveness and empowerment, the emerging focus on the value of libraries as a topic in sociological research, and the benefits of librarians running for political office.



ON SALE  
SEPT 3

The highly-anticipated memoir from hip-hop icon **RICK ROSS** chronicles his coming of age amid Miami's crack epidemic, his star-studded controversies, and his unstoppable rise to fame.

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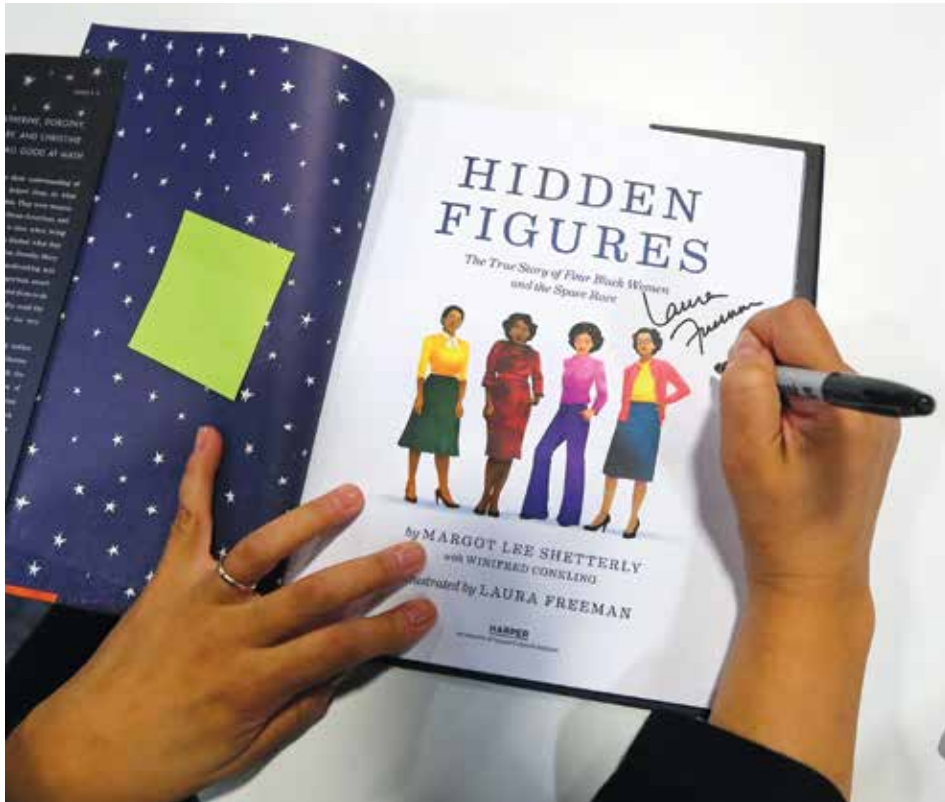
ALA President Loida A. Garcia-Febo gives her team members a high five on stage during the ALA President's Program, thanking them for all their hard work.



Attendees pass by an image of Madonna at the Rock's Back Pages booth in the Exhibit Hall.



Spectrum scholar Riko Fluchel buys a Yoda "READ and The Force is with you" shirt at the ALA store.



Kelly Holt launches her air-propelled rocket during the NASA STEM Programming session.

Illustrator Laura Freeman autographs copies of her book Hidden Figures at the HarperCollins booth.



# Journalist and Author Mo Rocca to Close Annual Conference

Emmy winner Mo Rocca is a correspondent for “CBS Sunday Morning,” a frequent panelist on NPR’s hit weekly quiz show “Wait, Wait...Don’t Tell Me!,” and the host of “The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation” on Saturday mornings. He began his career in television as a writer and producer for the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning PBS children’s series “Wishbone.” He spent four seasons as a correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” and created and hosted Cooking Channel’s “My Grandmother’s Ravioli,” learning to cook from grandparents across America. This session will take place Tuesday from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Rocca’s long love of obituaries led him to create his new podcast *Mobituaries*, as well as the associated forthcoming book, available Fall 2019. *Mobituaries* is an irreverent but deeply researched appreciation of the people and things of the past that have long



Mo Rocca

intrigued him – from an unsung Founding Father to the first Chinese American superstar – from Medieval medicine to the station wagon. Rocca said, “Why should it be only

**Mo Rocca**  
Closing General Session  
**Ballroom B/C**  
**Tuesday 6/25, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
Sponsored by Simon & Schuster

the rich and famous who get obits? *Mobituaries* celebrates extraordinary people whose names you may not remember, in addition to sitcom characters, historical epochs, and even snack foods that have all bitten the dust.”

Rocca will be joined by moderator Barbara Hoffert who has worked for over three decades assigning literary fiction and poetry, planning book events, and writing news and features about books as the editor of *Prepub Alert* at *Library Journal*.

## Censorship Beyond Books: Preparedness Strategies

By Michelle Kowalsky, Rowan University, NJ

Only 62% of the over 500 censorship challenges reported to ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) are reactions to books, according to Kristin Pekoll, OIF’s assistant director. Patron complaints are increasing each year about other types of items in libraries such as displays, programs, uses of meeting spaces, music, DVDs, films, magazines, social media, games, and even entire library databases.

A panel of library staff members from around the country discussed strategies for handling negative feedback to their library displays, guides, and programming. “Tacit support from your library leaders is not enough,” said Sarah Ward of Hunter College (N.Y.) Her resource promotions for



Phoebe Larson talks about obstacles her library faced during the Censorship Beyond Books session. #alaac19

**“Be clear in your programming goals. Target your marketing of particular programs to patron interests based on keywords in social media tools or by using geographic limiters.”**

—Phoebe Larson

banned books week and her library’s social media posts received complaints, prompting requests from school administration to take them down. To counter this, Ward suggested that librarians “solicit active support and confirm backup from supervisors and other advocates in advance.”

Panel members agreed that advance planning for anticipated protests with local law enforcement and staff training on consistent messaging surrounding controversial events is particularly effective. Phoebe Larson from Saint Paul Public Library (Minn.) described challenges to her drag storytime programming, and provided recommendations including training for performers and local officials in library policies and collaboration on details of how potential problems should be addressed. “Be clear in your programming goals,” explained Larson. “Target your marketing of particular programs to patron interests based on keywords in social media tools or by using geographic limiters.”

Seeking support systems among patrons, parents, like-minded organizations, and other stakeholders is also an effective strategy. Conversations and input during the planning stages, as well as implementation of strong policies such as those for reconsideration of materials and responsibilities for meeting space use is essential. Laura Broderick of Pikes Peak Library District (Colo.) encouraged attendees to draw users into programming by providing additional context, which helps them learn why particular topics are being showcased by the library. “Have ready responses to pushback which can help teach about library values,” she said. “We need to help patrons see

themselves represented in our libraries,” she explained, since resources have value that may not be apparent to users with limited information about them.

Librarians are urged to report to the OIF any censorship challenges they experience, since there are likely many more examples than those reported thus far; your information can be kept confidential by OIF if you wish, or reports can be made anonymously. Go to [www.ala.org/challengereporting](http://www.ala.org/challengereporting) for more information, along with resources for librarians who have experienced repercussions as a result of standing up against censorship.

## Takei

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a powerful voice on issues ranging from politics to pop culture.

In his upcoming graphic memoir, *They Called Us Enemy*, available this summer, the beloved actor, author, and activist revisits his haunting childhood in American concentration camps, as one of 120,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned by the U.S. government during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon – and America itself – in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love. Hear firsthand from Takei, as well as his co-authors Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott and artist Harmony Becker, about this dark chapter of our nation’s history and its urgent relevance for our world today.

Takei has been a passionate advocate for social justice, an outspoken supporter of human rights issues, and a community activist. He has served as the spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign’s “Coming Out Project” and was Cultural Affairs Chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League. He is also chairman emeritus and a trustee of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. He was appointed to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission by President Clinton, and the government of Japan awarded Takei the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, for his contribution to U.S.-Japanese relations. The decoration was conferred by His Majesty, Emperor Akihito, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. Mashable.com named Takei the most influential person on Facebook, with 10.4 million likes and 2.8 million followers on Twitter.

**EXHIBITS  
HOURS**



**Monday**  
**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
*Exhibits Closing Events*

## Live from the 25

Located in Booth 2517  
in the Exhibits

### Monday’s Podcast Recording Schedule

#### Time..... Podcast Title

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. .... Appalachian Jack Tales

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. .... Drink to Every Beast

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. .... Taking God to Work: The Keys to Ultimate Success

– David Winters

11:00 – 11:15 a.m. .... I Would Not Step Back – Glenys Scott



# Social Workers in Public Libraries: Lessons Learned

By Sara Zettervall, Hennepin County Library

San Francisco Public Library hired Leah Esguerra to be the first-ever library social worker 10 years ago. On Sunday, she offered lessons learned from her unique journey as part of a PLA-sponsored panel. She was joined by her co-chairs from the new PLA Social Work Task Force, Jean Badalamenti, DC Public Library; Elissa Hardy, Denver Public Library; and Nick Higgins, Brooklyn Public Library.

The panelists chose to focus on conversation and forego a formal presentation. They began by taking turns to outline what each of them considered important lessons learned in their cumulative 23 years of experience. They then encouraged the audience to bring forward their own questions about this rapidly-expanding, but still young and sometimes unfamiliar trend in public library services.

Esguerra's top recommendation for libraries with new social workers was good communication, which her colleagues reinforced throughout the discussion. Her situation, which has served as a model for many other programs, began with twice-monthly meetings between her and her supervisors. That level of communication was crucial because her work crossed from the library into the city's department of public health. She also attended all the library staff meetings she could in order to be visible as a resource. She counseled patience, noting that SFPL began discussions to create her position six years before she was hired, but she also encouraged librarians to see this as an opportunity for them and their social workers to learn together. She said collaborators should be open to possibilities and expect great things, saying, "You're going to see lives being transformed and changed."

Agreeing, Badalamenti said, "There are many opportunities and ways social workers can serve your system." She noted that while she was brought on board to work with patrons experiencing homelessness, she quickly took on other roles, a development that her fellow panelists echoed. She described the evolution of her role over time to encompass the establishment of a library in a local correctional facility, work as a liaison to the district's department of disability services, and supervision of a growing staff. As a result, she said libraries that bring social workers to staff

should "think broadly about what some of the possibilities might be," such as her own hopes for a future where public health services like HIV testing and childhood vaccines can be offered in a library setting.

Badalamenti pointed out that "one social worker cannot do the job alone." Higgins said that his experience with one social worker and two part-time peer navigators backed up this assertion. "The risk is they're going to shoulder all sorts of responsibilities," he said, and "burnout is a real thing." These lessons have informed recent contract renegotiations, which included adding more peer navigators, a case manager, and a policymaking-level supervisor. He also agreed with Esguerra's recommendation of patience, saying he worked for several years before getting approval for his initial contract, and "it's still an unusual concept to merge two professions, especially in a public library."

Higgins also introduced the idea that libraries need to engage in a cultural shift. He emphasized, "We always like to tell ourselves we're one of the last remaining democratic spaces, but we need to be a little more courageous in backing that up." He recommended working alongside community members to dismantle unjust systems of power, which he recognized challenges the traditional notion of a "neutral" library. This is something Hardy wholeheartedly supports as well, and she began by pointing out that the presence of social workers in libraries reflects the policy failure of our country as a whole. She pointed out that social workers can't solve the problems library patrons experience daily, but "what we can do is come in and talk about inclusiveness and how we make everyone feel welcome." She, too, was hired to work with patrons experiencing homelessness, but she sees library social workers taking on a much larger role.

One recommendation Hardy added was to work with grant writers if possible. She was able to expand from her lone position into supervising three other social workers and six peer navigators by bringing in grant funding, then using outcomes to demonstrate the need for permanent positions. She also recommended that library managers take a lesson from social workers and incorporate "supervision" for all staff. Librarians may not be familiar with "supervision" in this context, which for social workers is time for reflection

with a colleague in which they discuss, dissect, and release challenging workplace experiences. At the very least, Hardy said, libraries should be prepared to build in time for this type of supervision with a partner for any social services staff members.

All of the panelists emphasized the importance of their relationships with partnering organizations. Some use those partners as employers for social workers embedded in the library, while others use them for support and referrals. Esguerra described the importance of a "warm hand-off," where a librarian uses their personal relationship to connect her with patrons. Hardy reinforced this by pointing out the library is a place of safety, and the warm hand-off helps extend that safety to organizations that might otherwise feel intimidating to the patron. Badalamenti added that social workers have access to systems library staff do not, so they can learn more about a patron's situation once that warm handoff takes place. The hand-off also serves as an important boundary between library and social worker responsibilities.

Although the panel didn't have time to delve into the work libraries without social workers on staff can do, they did offer examples of their own community relationships as models librarians can follow. Also, the new Social Work Interest Group sponsored by PLA is open to any ALA member to join.

## Wheeler & Miller

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a way for me to stretch and try things new It's taken me back to school, and that's always a good thing," said Miller.

Still, the young adult audience did not mean that they lightened much about the original myth.

"I think the worst thing you can do is talk down to your audience. If it's kids, you change some of the graphic focus, but this story has to be tough. I wanted [Nimue] to be an absolute warrior. It's a 'dark fairy tale meets an all-ages Game of Thrones,'" Wheeler said.

*Cursed* is also being released as a Netflix Original series, expected in 2020, with Miller and Wheeler at the helm as executive producers.

"The show and the book have different story demands, but we are deeply involved in both of them," Wheeler said, adding that the book and the Netflix series will have significant differences but that they will both be deeply gratifying for audiences. The *Cursed* book will be available in Fall 2019.

## Adeyemi

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novel, *Children of Blood and Bone*, was named a 2019 YALSA Morris Award Finalist and has spent over a year on the *New York Times* Bestseller list. It was also recently awarded the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize for 2018. A *Children of Blood and Bone* movie is currently in development with Rick Famuyiwa attached to direct.

Heralded by *Entertainment Weekly* as "the new J.K. Rowling," she has appeared on "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon," "Good Morning America," and "BBC Breakfast" and she has been featured in *Elle*, *Essence*, and *O Magazine*.

Adeyemi seeks not only to inspire readers through her work, but to help people of all races, ethnicities, and orientations understand that they matter and that their dreams are achievable. When she's not watching BTS and Seventeen music videos, she can be found teaching creative writing to her 12,000 subscribers at [tomiadeyemi.com](http://tomiadeyemi.com), named one of the 101 best websites for writers by *Writer's Digest*.

This session's moderator is Rose Brock, PhD, professor of Children's and Young Adult Literature and Library Science at Sam Houston State University. She is the author of *Young Adult Literature in Action: A Librarian's Guide*. A veteran educator and advocate for using audiobooks as tools for literacy, Brock is one of the co-founders of the North Texas Teen Book Festival.



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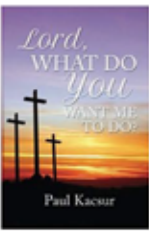
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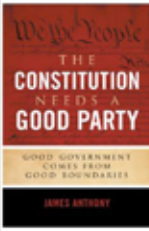
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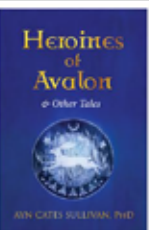
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# REFORMA Awards Presented Saturday Evening

On Saturday evening, ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo hosted the REFORMA annual awards ceremony. This year REFORMA awarded the Arnulfo D. Trejo Librarian of the Year Award to two exceptional librarians and reformistas: Edwin Rodarte, emerging technologies manager at the Los Angeles Public Library, and Maria Cotto, bilingual children's librarian at Pawtucket Public Library.

The Arnulfo D. Trejo Librarian of the Year Award is presented annually by REFORMA to recognize a librarian who has distinguished himself or herself in the field of librarianship, promoted and advocated services to the Spanish-speaking and Latino communi-

ties, and made outstanding contributions to REFORMA.

REFORMA also awarded the Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement Award to two librarians: Camila Alire, former ALA president, and Orlando Archibeque, research support librarian at Auraria Library.

The Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement Award was created to recognize those who have achieved excellence in librarianship over an extended (20-plus years) period of service and who have made significant and lasting contributions to REFORMA, as well as to the Latino and the Spanish-speaking communities.



Award winners (from left to right) Camila Alire, Edwin Rodarte, Maria Cotto, and REFORMA President Madeline Peña Feliz.



Janina Fariñas Nicole Cooke Yuyi Morales

## ALSC Charlemae Rollins President's Program

### Subversive Activism: Creating Social Change Through Libraries, Children's Literature, and Art

This high-energy presentation examines activism and social change through multiple lenses. First from two scholarly leaders, Nicole Cooke, PhD, from Library & Information Science, and Janina Fariñas, PhD, from Pediatric Neuropsychology, from acclaimed children's book author/illustrator Yuyi Morales, and from Karin Perry, PhD's sketchnoting that will document this dynamic event.

## Join YALSA for the Michael L. Printz Award Program and Reception

Come listen to the 2019 Michael L. Printz award-winning author, Elizabeth Acevedo, as well as honor award-winning authors Elana K. Arnold, Deb Caletti, and Mary McCoy speak about their writing, followed by a reception tonight from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.



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GUADALAJARA



## How to Hug a Porcupine? Tell Them a Story

By Elizabeth Uchimura, Florida State University

The United for Libraries President's Program invited Bradford Fitch, president and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF), to speak on Sunday afternoon about effective advocacy strategies at local, state, and federal levels. Fitch emphasized the impactful role of storytelling and personal identification when communicating with representatives at any level of government. Drawing from his extensive experience on Capitol Hill, Fitch outlined preferred methods of advocacy at the national level that easily transfer in most other situations.

Fitch described the environment on Capitol Hill as an emergency room – a lot of people working long hours and making big decisions that affect other people's lives. On average, congress members can work up to 70 hours per week during the legislative session, taking on an average of 13 meetings each day. The goal of advocacy, then, is “to build a relationship so that when the meeting's done, they think about you and your issue.”

Here are some of the ways that Fitch and the CMF have found to be the most effective when contacting any representative:

Identify yourself and your activity in the community that they serve.

Mass emails, phone calls, or letters without some type of personalized reference to your role in the community garner signifi-

cantly less response from representatives because they are less able to make a connection with you. Fitch stressed that librarians and library staff operate within a unique sphere of influence called “grasstops” that includes organization leaders, business owners, and elected officials within a community. Since these leaders represent bigger swaths of their area, they also carry more clout to leverage with their representatives.

### Tell a personal story

Effective advocacy means wooing with facts and getting others to back the cause, Fitch explained, which is best done through storytelling. Representatives, at their core, are serving people, and the more that you can humanize their work and their ability to work for you, the better. Fitch's tips for bringing the most effective story to the table are:

- Begin with the end in mind – know what you're specifically asking of your representative
- Set the stage and paint a picture of what's at stake – be as descriptive as possible
- Explain the struggle or fight that you're facing
- Include a surprise that makes the story memorable
- Introduce the potential for success and joy
- Finish with a hook
- Connect in person and online

Representatives still value in-person meetings the most, which can be achieved through office meetings, town hall attendance, or invitations for the representative to attend events at the library or business. Social media also continues to gain traction with representatives if you still identify yourself and your activity in the community.

### Remain civil and respectful

While the topic may be contentious,

representatives are human too, and respond better to respectful discourse over anger. Being able to articulate both sides of an issue and remind your representative that you understand their position can go a long way to creating and maintaining an impactful connection with your representative.

Fitch closed with a perfect quote from Thomas Jefferson: “We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”



Author Kimberly Jones (center) speaks to interested librarians at the YA Author Coffee Klatch on Sunday morning.



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# Implementing Employee Wellness for Library Success

By Marley Kalt, University of Michigan

Which comes first: a culture of employee wellness or investment in employee well-being? This was the question posed by Christina Pryor, library engagement and Missouri coordinator at the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Mid-Continental Region, during “Wellness Works! The Importance of a Healthy Workplace for Healthy and Happy Library Staff” session in the Placement & Career Development Center on Saturday afternoon.

The answer to her question is both. “Culture eats planning for lunch,” said Steve Potter, library director and CEO of the Mid-Continent Public Library (MCPL). He explained how being intentional about building maintenance can contribute to employee wellness. In his library, a routine carpet replacement and a switch to more natural, environmentally-friendly cleaning supplies paved the way for the introduction of employee wellness into the workplace culture.

Quanetta Batts, program director for outreach and engagement at The Ohio State

University (OSU) University Libraries, had a similar story of how investment in employee wellness and a culture of wellness go hand-in-hand. In Batts’ case, the investment in wellness was present as part of a campus-wide initiative promoting wellness at OSU, including free fitness classes and educational events, but the culture of wellness was not widespread among library employees.

To try to change this, Batts surveyed library employees to find out what participants in wellness events like about the university-wide programming, and to discover what is preventing other employees from participating in wellness events. She found that flexibility, variety, and convenience were key factors in attendance at wellness events.

Batts now runs several types of wellness events aimed at library employees. She implemented weekly yoga classes, group walks, and group runs to help employees stay active and network with people they may not otherwise meet at work. She plans monthly workshops on different aspects of wellness, including physical, financial, and emotional wellness, and sends out a weekly

*Batts implemented weekly yoga classes, group walks, and group runs to help employees stay active and network with people they may not otherwise meet at work.*

newsletter to keep employees updated on upcoming wellness events, health-related news, and to share stories of the wellness activities library employees are doing during and outside of work.

Potter echoed the ideas of flexibility and variety. He hired a wellness coordinator to plan activities for staff members, add health tips to the employee newsletter, and attend staff meetings. He also allows all employees, even part-time employees, to participate in annual health assessment screenings.

Potter spoke about the relationship between employee wellness and public wellness, noting that a better environment for library

patrons works to create a better environment for staff. He tries to bring more natural light and outdoor elements into buildings to promote wellness for patrons and employees alike. Many MCPL branches also have wellness rooms that can be used by employees and the public, including new mothers and parents with their children.

Batts and Potter ended the session with a few tips for librarians to implement employee wellness initiatives in their libraries:

- Find low-cost activities: Weekly walking and running groups can be hosted for free. Partner community members who volunteer their time to lead wellness workshops.
- Have alternatives: A variety of wellness activities is necessary to ensure wellness is accessible for everyone.
- Focus on the culture: When you make a change in your library, think about which decisions will contribute to employee well-being, such as adding water-bottle filling stations or switching to LED lights.

## Black Caucus of the American Library Association Announces Reading is Grand! Library Grant Winners

During this American Library Association Conference & Exhibition, Karen Lemmons, chair of the 2018 Reading is Grand! Celebrating Grand Families Telling Our Stories @ Your Library Selection Committee announced that two libraries will receive the 2019 Reading is Grand! grant. Reading is Grand! is a celebration of the important role African American grandparents and older adults play in the lives of children. It is through their infinite wisdom and experience that children learn the unique cultural and familial values that help them grow into valuable contributors to the community.

The grant-winning libraries are Ferguson Library South End Branch (Stamford, Conn.) and Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center, (Corona, N.Y.) They were selected based on the level of creativity and originality of program criteria, action plans, level of involvement of grandparents in the activities, and impact of the program on the community.

The winning programs are as follows:

### Ferguson Library South End Branch

The theme, “Booking it On the Bookmobile,” begins August 29, with a series of programs, introducing children, grandparents, and caregivers to raise awareness of the importance of reading and family and to highlight African American culture through reading, songs, and art.

Grandparents and caregivers will read books about the African American experience and share their own personal stories with the children. The culminating event will consist of book giveaways, painting, and storytelling.

### Langston Hughes Community & Cultural Center

Award-winning illustrator George Ford is the featured presenter/illustrator for the Langston Hughes’ Community and Cultural Center Reading is Grand event. Ford will present his art and explain how his illustrations tell the African American experience. Ford and the children’s librarian will lead the children and grandparents into reading, art, and storytelling activities. The culminating activity will be children and grandparents sharing their art and stories.

## COGNOTES

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# ALA Executive Director Opportunity

Libraries are an iconic feature of American life. In study after study, libraries are ranked among the public's most trusted sources of information. They have introduced users to the joy of learning and the magic of books; have offered a safe and productive haven for study, research and reflection; and have transformed users' lives through educational programs and community resources. Not only have America's libraries changed the lives of many of their users, they themselves have transformed as societal needs, technology, and other forces in the economy have dramatically reshaped their role and nature. Libraries of all types have adapted to the digital age and are committed to meeting the evolving needs of their communities.

In July 2017, Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels retired after serving the

American Library Association (ALA) for 15 years. His tenure was marked by important developments in the field and the association. Mary Ghikas, formerly senior associate executive director, is now serving as the executive director. Ghikas will serve as the executive director through ALA's midwinter meeting, in January 2020. Upon the start of a new executive director, Ghikas will become the deputy executive director and she will work to support the orientation and transition of the new executive director through ALA's annual conference in June 2020.

ALA seeks a dynamic, innovative, entrepreneurial, and experienced leader as its next executive director. Founded in 1876, ALA is the world's oldest and largest library association and promotes the work of libraries and the value of professional library and information science education. It advocates for issues

and values that are important to the field and to a free and open information society. ALA achieves these goals through its programs, publications, conferences, professional development, and outreach work. The Association, headquartered in Chicago, Ill. represents over 58,000 members, has a staff of 260, and an annual budget of \$52 million. The ALA also has an office in Washington, DC.

The position of executive director of the American Library Association offers an extraordinary and exciting opportunity to champion, represent, and support one of the most trusted and valuable institutions in American society. The next executive director will be able to leverage the organization's strong reputation and the passion and dedication of the Association's members, staff, and elected leaders to build even stronger support for libraries, those who work in

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ALA has engaged Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important search. To contact them, please email Marc St. Hilaire (msthilaire@IMSearch.com) or Pamela Pezzoli (ppezzoli@IMSearch.com). For additional information about this opportunity, please visit <https://www.imsearch.com/search-detail/S6-883>.

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## ALSC Awards Presentation

Celebrate the best in children's literature at the annual presentation of the Batchelder, Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media, Geisel, and Sibert awards! Join us at 8:00 a.m. today from 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. in WCC 147A for a continental breakfast and a chance to mingle with your favorite authors and illustrators. The awards presentation will promptly start 8:30 a.m. and is open to all registered attendees.

## Okorafor

» from page 1

*"Don't be afraid to tell your story," Okorafor advised young writers. "Tell the story the way you want to write it, and someone will always want to read it."*

renamed due to cultural differences. She is no stranger to conflict, utilizing in her books many traditional stereotypes and emotional language, which adds additional layers of complexity to her themes. Nevertheless, many of her works have won top awards in the science fiction and fantasy genre categories.

"I've been able to do different types of writing when working for different publishers," she explained. In writing for Marvel, she was able to go on new journeys with characters she knew well, such as the Black Panther and Spider-Man. And in writing for Dark Horse, she was able to wander into different directions and see the funny aspects underneath more complex issues which anger and confuse the world today. Yet precisely when she is being difficult or causing friction, Okorafor is at her best, providing a provocative look at modern issues and developing new work. She promises that additional news about her new projects is forthcoming.

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Booth schedule and more: [loc.gov/ala](http://loc.gov/ala) f @libraryofcongress t @libraryofcongress [loc.gov](http://loc.gov)

## MONDAY EVENTS

**9:30-10:00 AM**

**LC Trivia Game**

Are you smarter than the Library of Congress? Trivia Game

**10:00-10:30 AM**

**Colleen Shogan**

Special Presentation

**10:30-11:00 AM**

**Jarrold MacNeil**

Signature Programs at the Library of Congress

**11:00-11:30 AM**

**Dianne Houghton and Emily E. Roberts**

Enriching the Library Experience: A User-Centered Plan for the Library of Congress

**11:30-12:00 PM**

**Kerry Ward**

Veterans History Project: Learn, Collect and Share the Story of Our Nation's Veterans

**12:00-12:30 PM**

**Lee Ann Potter**

Learning and Innovation

**12:30-1:00 PM**

**Jason Yasner**

Have you heard about NLS?

For more information about our programming, please visit us at [loc.gov/ala](http://loc.gov/ala).



## LC PAVILION SCHEDULE

9 am-2 pm	Learning and Innovation Office
9 am-2 pm	National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
9 am-2 pm	Veterans History Project
9 am-2 pm	Copyright Office
9 am-2 pm	By the People
9 am-1 pm	Law Library
9 am-11 am	Cataloging-in-Publication
10 am-12 pm	LibGuides
12 pm-2 pm	Conservation
11 am-12 pm	Program for Cooperative Cataloging
12 pm-2 pm	BIBFRAME
1 pm-2 pm	Interlibrary Loan

## LC CAMPUS EVENTS

**11:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Adams Building, Room 508**

Science, Technology & Business Open House

**1:30 PM-2:30 PM**

**Madison Building, Pickford Theater**

National Screening Room Presentation

**11:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**Madison Building, Pickford Theater**

Moving-Image Research Center Orientation: Recorded Sound

**12:00-1:00 PM**

**Madison Building, Pickford Theater**

Moving-Image Research Center Orientation: Moving Image

**4:30-6:00 PM**

**Jefferson Building, Room 229**

International Collection Social Media Roundtable

**4:00-7:00 PM**

**Madison Building, Room 133**

History Unfolded with the Holocaust Museum

**10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**Jefferson Building, Rooms 110-113**

Acquisitions and Bibliographic Control Special Demonstrations

For more information about our programming, please visit us at [loc.gov/ala](http://loc.gov/ala).



*Pauletta Bracy (center) receives a standing ovation as she accepts the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement during the Coretta Scott King Book Awards 50th Anniversary Breakfast.*



*Carla Hayden welcomes everyone to the Library of Congress to celebrate Coretta Scott King.*



*Interpretive dancers honor Coretta Scott King at the Library of Congress.*



*Kurtis Darden and his children (from left) Viktoria, 10, Brooklyn, 12, Jada, 16, and Kurtis Jr., 5, enjoy the Coretta Scott King Book Awards 50th Anniversary Breakfast.*



*The audience enjoys performers at the Coretta Scott King Gala.*



*Children's librarian Ebony Njoku gives her son Anthony Jr., 1, a kiss as they arrive for the Coretta Scott King Book Awards 50th Anniversary Breakfast.*



# Simmons

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### Conference Tip: Don't Believe Everything You Hear



Library Comic by Gene Ambuam and Willow Payne librarycomic.com © Ambuamminable LLC

**Visit Library Comic at Booth #3544**

## Meredith Broussard on Why Technology Isn't Always the Answer

By Elizabeth Uchimura, Florida State University

Meredith Broussard, associate professor at New York University and author of *Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World*, spoke at the Library Information Technology Association (LITA) President's Program Sunday afternoon. In *Artificial Unintelligence*, Broussard confronts the idea that technology is inherently better, and argues for a mindset that opts for the most inclusive tool for the situation, whether or not that is a new piece of technology. She used machine learning as the lens through which to understand this concept, explaining how humans perpetuate their own biases through the technology that they create.

Machine learning, put simply, takes an input of data, uses a computer to construct a model, or functional rule to be applied to the data, and gives an output of a result on the other side. Then, the model can be used to answer similar questions or perform similar functions on other types of data. While this process can seem objective, Broussard stresses that "people embed their own biases in technology." She displayed pictures of the core group of people largely responsible for the way technology is viewed today, pointing out their commonalities: white, male, Ivy League-educated mathematicians.

When there is no diversity in the creation of technology, the same unconscious biases continue and compound.

Hollywood depictions of the Terminator and intelligent robots give machine learning a reputation as a mysterious monolith that cannot be understood. This leads to a phenomenon Broussard calls "tech chauvinism" or "the idea that computers are better than people." In reality, Broussard said, machine learning is "just math," which makes it much more manageable. It also means that it is less capable because "math can't do some things, and that's okay." It is more important to use the right tool for the situation than to push new technology that might not be as helpful. Broussard noted, "Sometimes when we think we're being liberating, we're actually being oppressive."

By confronting the assumptions behind technology creation and use, a more diverse and complex picture emerges that promotes solutions that work for more diverse people. Broussard closed with a charge to the audience: "When using machine learning models, we're creating a world as it is. But I want us to think about models where we can create a world as it should be."

Broussard is researching how we will "read today's news on tomorrow's computers" and is looking into the necessity of human intervention in the digital archival process.

## EXHIBITOR NEWS

### Brodart Co. - Booth #823

Brodart is hiring! We're looking for a knowledgeable, energetic Library Services Consultant with a background in the public library market to serve customers in the Mid-Atlantic region. Visit [Brodart.com](http://Brodart.com) for more information, or see us in person at Booth 823.

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### New Exhibitors

Anything Printed . . . . .	569
Element Manufacturing Design . . . . .	760
MrZoomBalloons.com . . . . .	761
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# Bring your library to the classroom

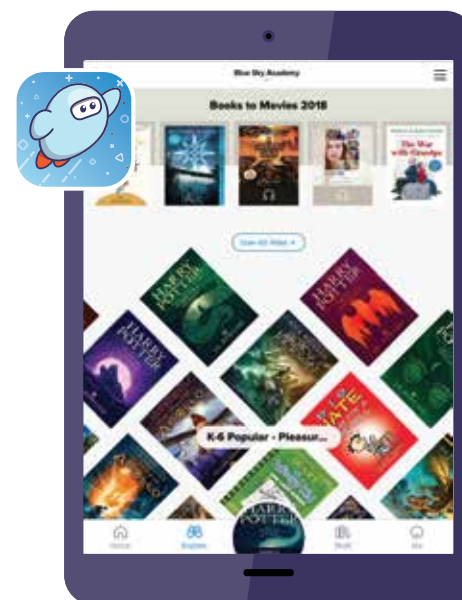
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