

Africa Access and the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association announced the winners of the 2008 Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA) on June 16, 2008, the International Day of the African Child. Awards and honorable mentions were given in two categories—Books for Young Children and Books for Older Readers.

Ikenna Goes to Nigeria, by Nigerian photojournalist Ifeoma Onyefulu, won the Award in the Books for Young Children category. This photo-essay of a young immigrant girl's trip to the country of her birth was published by the British-based imprint Frances Lincoln and distributed in the United States by Publishers Group West. *Wiil Waal: A Somali Folktale*, retold by Kathleen Moriarty, illustrated by Amin Amir, and published by the Minnesota Humanities Commission, received an honorable mention.

Winning the award in the Books for Older Readers category was the graphic novel *Aya*, a tale of teenage girls seeking true love in a working-class district of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in the 1970s. Ivoirian author Marguerite Abouet originally published the novel in France, with illustrations by the French artist Clement Oubrierie. Graphic novel publisher Drawn & Quartered published *Aya* in the United States. Two books received honorable mentions—*Rise of the Golden Cobra*, by Henry Aubin (Annick Press), a historical novel set in ancient Egypt; and Ishmael Beah's best-selling *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

In March 2008, the **American Library Association (ALA)** released an unprecedented study on the range of specialized library services for non-English speakers. "Serving Non-English Speakers in U.S. Public Libraries" is the first national study to consider the range of library services and programs developed for this population, addressing effectiveness of services, barriers to library use, most frequently used services, and most successful library programs by language served. The study also analyzed library service area populations and patron proximity to local libraries that offer specialized services. The most frequently used services by non-English speakers were special language collections (68.9 percent) and special programming (39.6 percent), including language-specific story hours and cultural programming. The library programs and services developed for non-English speakers that were rated most successful were English as a Second Language (ESL), language-specific materials and collections, computer use and computer classes, story time, and special programs.

The study found that Spanish is the most supported non-English language in public libraries. Seventy-eight percent of libraries reported Spanish as the first priority language after English, for which they develop services and programs. Asian languages ranked second in priority at 29 percent. Another 17.6 percent of libraries indicated Indo-European languages as a second priority.

Conventional wisdom predicted that the density of library service to non-English speakers would have been in large urban settings. The study data indicate quite the opposite. Public libraries in communities with fewer than 100,000 residents are the majority of libraries meeting the demands of non-English speaking residents. More than 53 percent of residents in these smaller communities traveled between one and three miles to reach a library, and another 21 percent traveled between four and six miles for library service. Although any distance may be a barrier when transportation is an issue, it was the lowest ranked barrier to use reported by libraries.

Literacy proved to be the major barrier for non-English speaking library users. Reading and library habits negatively impact use of the library by non-English speakers (76 percent). Lack of knowledge of the services offered by the library was the second most frequent barrier to participation (74.7 percent) identified by librarians. A lack of discretionary time was the third most common barrier (73.1 percent).

"Serving Non-English Speakers in U.S. Public Libraries," was conducted by the ALA's Office for Research and Statistics. Completed in spring 2007, the study was made possible through funding from the 2006 World Book – ALA Goal Grant. Dr. Christie Koontz and Dean Jue of Florida State University conducted the research for the ALA. The ALA Offices for Literacy and Outreach Services, Public Programs, and Diversity provided additional support. For more information, visit the ALA web site, www.ala.org.

La Casa Azul Bookstore celebrated the launch of its web site on April 24, 2008, at Net Plaza in the heart of El Barrio in New York City. Book lovers and supporters attending the event had the opportunity to be the first to browse the site. The site is bilingual and the online store set up for national orders and shipping within the continental United States.

La Casa Azul Bookstore offers online, and later this year at its very own shop in East Harlem, an opportunity to share the richness of the Latino experience in writing, art, and culture. Latino authors, poets, and cultural products will find a place at the store. To sign up for a listserv to receive the store's monthly newsletter with updates on events, book club meetings, and book news, visit www.lacasazulbookstore.com.

Coexistence International announces the publication of a 48-page report titled "Education Policy in Multi-Ethnic Societies: A Review of National Policies That Promote Coexistence and Social Inclusion." The report is available free of charge at the Coexistence International web site, www.brandeis.edu/coexistence.

Taking a cross-cultural approach, the report offers case studies of the following ten countries with diverse populations in terms of race, ethnicity, and/or religion: Brazil, Canada, England, Israel, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, South

Africa, and the United States. Arguing that education is key to building a society based on mutual tolerance and the peaceful interaction among diverse groups, the report discusses the types of diversity that exist in each case, the reasons that diverse populations have come together to live (national boundaries that incorporate multiple ethnic groups, immigration, and so on), and the existence, approach, and efficacy of multicultural education programs. The study assesses how each of the ten countries has addressed the tension between diversity and national unity and how teachers and administrators are trained to carry out multicultural education programs. The report concludes with a list of web resources and a bibliography.

Funded by the Alan B. Slifka Foundation and located at Brandeis University since 2005, Coexistence International is an initiative committed to providing resources and guidance to policymakers, administrators, and teachers, with both a national and an international focus. For more information, visit www.brandeis.edu/coexistence.

The **Consortium on Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP)** announces the recipients of the 2008 Américas Awards, given to children's and young adult books published in the previous year in English or Spanish that "authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States." The award goes beyond geographic borders to highlight and celebrate shared cultural heritages within the Western Hemisphere.

The two Américas Award winners for 2008 were the young adult novel *Red Glass*, written by Laura Resau and published by Delacorte; and *¡Yum! ¡Mmmm! ¡Qué Rico! America's Sproutings*, a picture book written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Rafael López, and published by Lee & Low. Two books received honorable mention—*Nohecita/Little Night*, written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales (Roaring Brook Press) and *Raining Sardines*, by Enrique Flores-Galbis (Roaring Brook Press).

Eighteen books were chosen as commended titles. They were:

Abuelita Full of Life/Abuelita llena de vida, by Amy Costales, illustrated by Martha Avilés (Luna Rising)

Alfredito regresa volando a su casa/Alfredito Flies Home, by Jorge Argueta, illustrated by Luis Garay (Groundwood)

Angelina's Island, written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Capoeira, written and illustrated with photos by George Ancona (Lee & Low)

A Caribbean Journey from A to Z: Read and Discover What Happened to Z, by Mario Picayo, illustrated by Earleen Griswold (Campanita)

Come Look with Me: Latin American Art, by Kimberley Lane (Charlesbridge)

Frida: ¡Viva la vida!/Long Live Life!, by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand (Marshall Cavendish)

Hip, Hip, Hooray, It's Monsoon Day!/¡Ajua, ya llegó el chubasco!, by Roni Rivera-Ashford, illustrated by Richard Johnsen (Sonora Desert Museum Press)

Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach, by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Michael Austin (Peachtree)

My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo, written and illustrated by Maya Cristina González (Children's Book Press)

My Name Is Gabito/Me llamo Gabito: The Life of Gabriel García Márquez/La vida de Gabriel García Márquez, by Monica Brown, illustrated by Raúl Colón (Luna Rising)

N Is for Navidad, by Susan Middleton Elya and Merry Banks, illustrated by Joe Cepeda (Chronicle Books)

Nana's Big Surprise/Nana, ¡qué sorpresa!, by Amada Irma Pérez, illustrated by Maya Cristina González (Children's Book Press)

Old Dog, by Teresa Cárdenas (Groundwood)

Sacred Leaf, by Deborah Ellis (Groundwood)

A Small Nativity, by Aquiles Nazoa, illustrated by Ana Palmero Cáceres, translated by Hugh Hazelton (Groundwood)

Touching Snow, by M. Sindy Felin (Atheneum)

Tricycle, by Elisa Amado, illustrated by Alfonso Ruano (Groundwood)

For more information and a list of award winners and commended titles in past years, visit the Américas Award web site, www.uwm.edu/Dept/CLACS/outreach/americas.html.

The **Cross Cultural Health Care Program (CCHCP)** announces the publication of a new report, "Vietnamese Cultural Characteristics, Traditional Medicine and Health Beliefs: A Biomedical Practitioner's Guide to Better Understanding Vietnamese-American Patients." The report includes an introduction to Vietnamese immigrants in the United States, a list of Vietnamese traditional treatments, a guide to Vietnamese-American traditional medicine practitioners, a discussion of cultural barriers and misunderstandings and their potential impacts on health outcomes, and recommendations for conventional health practitioners working with Vietnamese Americans. The report is available via the CCHCP web site, www.xculture.org.

The **Danish Library Centre for Integration** has relaunched one of its most popular services to ethnic minorities in 2008—the multilingual website FINFO. The service has been used millions of times over the past ten years and has now been revamped to serve the needs of Internet users in the twenty-first century.

FINFO, short for Refugee and Immigrant Information, offers information in the many languages spoken by Denmark's most recent arrivals, including Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, English, Farsi, Russian, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. For more information about this project and other library initiatives to improve access, services, and collections to ethnic minorities, which could serve as a model for libraries in the United States and elsewhere, contact the Danish Library Centre for Integration, www.statsbiblioteket.dk/sbci/videncenter/finfo/ifla-artikel-om-detny-finfo.

East West Discovery Press is pleased to announce that *Mei Ling in China City* by Icy Smith was named a Bronze Medal Winner of the 2008 Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY), in the Multicultural Fiction – Children's category.

Mei Ling in China City is based on a true story of events during World War II in Los Angeles China City. A Chinese-American girl is separated from her Japanese-American best friend when the friend's family is interned in the Manzanar War Relocation Center. By writing letters to each other, the girls describe their lives and hardships in both China City and Manzanar. This unique children's book depicts the cross-cultural experiences of Americans of Chinese and Japanese ancestry during the war years.

In addition, *What in the World!* by Michael Smith was named a Gold Award winner and *The Tale of the Lucky Cat* by Sunny Seki was named an Honors Award winner in the 2007 National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA) Children's Products competition.

In *What in the World!*, Smith uses short vignettes to narrate personal experiences while offering glimpses of many different cultures. *The Tale of the Lucky Cat* is a retelling of the most famous Japanese folktale which captures positive values, love, and kindness. A toymaker who cares for an injured cat ends up having his own life saved and is repaid with good fortune.

East West Discovery Press is an independent publisher of multicultural literature and bilingual books with an emphasis on history, culture, and social issues. Its web site is at www.eastwestdiscovery.com.

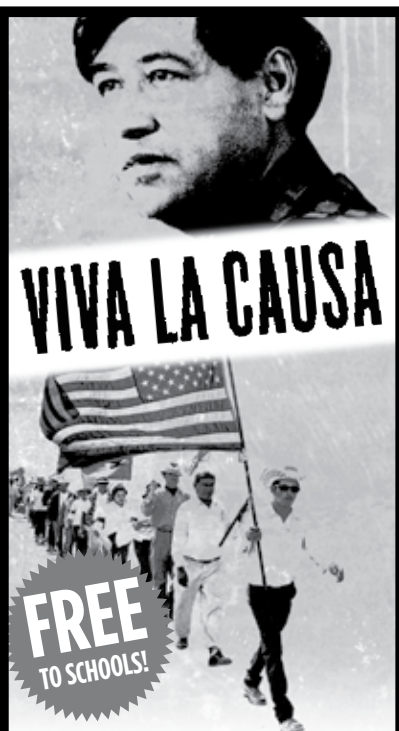
The **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** is pleased to announce *American History: Elementary School Edition*, a multimedia resource kit providing teachers in grades three through eight with a variety of innovative tools that students can use to explore America's past.

American History: Elementary School Edition is the fourth volume of the Institute's History in a Box series of multimedia resource kits. The *American History* box includes ten color-coded units, each featuring an overview of the unit topic, primary source documents with questions, discussion cards featuring individuals both ordinary and famous, classroom activities, and a poster. The box also includes the DVD, *An American Sampler: Poems and Songs That Celebrate Our Nation's Past*, and a CD-ROM with printable versions of the box contents.

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History promotes the study and love of American history. The Institute serves teachers, students, scholars, and the general public. It helps create history-centered schools, organizes seminars and programs for educators, produces print and electronic publications and traveling exhibitions, sponsors lectures by eminent historians, and administers a History Teacher of the Year Award in every state through its partnership with Preserve America. The Institute also conducts awards, including the Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and George Washington Book Prizes, and offers fellowships for scholars to work in the Gilder Lehrman Collection. The Institute maintains two web sites, www.gilderlehrman.org and the quarterly online journal www.historynow.org.

Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP has been named a National Corporate Plus Member of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), which recognizes certified minority businesses with nationwide proven capability. Less than 100 companies throughout the United States have achieved Corporate Plus status. Each potential member must be recommended by an NMSDC National Corporate Member and have the ability to provide services nationwide. Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP was elevated to Corporate Plus status through the endorsement of their client, Johnson Controls, Inc., for which the firm provides national and international environmental counsel.

Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP is the second largest minority-owned law firm in the nation, with more than 75 attorneys located in offices in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nevada, New York,



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Intersections, a multicultural and interfaith initiative of The Collegiate Church of New York, has launched a new web site, ChangeTheStory.net, which seeks to build understanding of the five million Muslims who live in the United States. ChangeTheStory.net offers an interactive experience where users can meet their neighbors, learn about Islam, and apply techniques of interfaith dialogue and action to local communities. The primary audiences for the web site are educators, religious leaders, and individuals concerned about building bridges of understanding across lines of faith and culture.

Intersections enlisted a nationally known team of writers, theologians, video producers, and web designers to develop this resource. While the site has a youthful look, it appeals to users of all ages. The content is designed to connect people with informative resources and an array of tools for networking. ChangeTheStory.net also allows people to tell their own stories of being Muslim in America. The site was inspired by a new report, *Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World*. The report was compiled by the Leadership Group on U.S. Muslim Engagement, comprised of more than 30 American leaders, including Madeleine Albright, Stephen Covey, Daniel Yankelovich, Vin Weber, and Imam Feissal Abdul Rauf.

For more information, visit the Intersections web site, www.intersectionsinternational.org.

The Jane Addams Peace Association and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Educational Fund announce the winners of the 55th **Jane Addams Children's Book Awards**. These awards are given to books published the previous year "that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence."

The award winners were *The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom*, written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully and published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux; *We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin*, written by Larry Dale Brimmer and published by the Calkins Creek division of Boyd's Mills Press; and *One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II*, written by Lita Judge and published by Hyperion. All three winners in this year's competition were nonfiction titles.

One picture book received an honorable mention—*Rickshaw Girl*, written by Mitali Perkins, illustrated by Jamie Hogan and published by Charlesbridge. The two honorable mentions for older children were *Elijah of Buxton*, written by Christopher Paul Curtis and published by Scholastic; and *Birmingham 1963*, written by Carole Boston Weatherford and published by Wordsong/Boyd's Mills.

The awards were presented in October 2008 in New York City. For more information and a complete list of books honored since 1953, visit www.janeaddamspeace.org.

The **Jewish Publication Society (JPS)**, in partnership with JWB (Jewish Welfare Board) Chaplains Council, has just produced 10,000 copies of a military edition of the *JPS Tanakh*—the most widely read English translation of the Hebrew Bible. Chaplains on all overseas and domestic bases are distributing a free copy to every Jewish soldier, sailor, and airman and woman who wishes to have one, to carry into battle or for personal use. In all, there are more than 14,000 Jewish military personnel.

The new military Tanakh, funded by the Everett Foundation, JPS, and many individual donors, contains prayers and blessings, including prayers recited in a time of danger, during illness, and for a safe journey on the road, and the traditional blessings over meals. Featuring a cover with the official camouflage patterns from each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, it is compact enough to fit into a military uniform pocket. The text, based on the new (1985) JPS translation, replaces the abridged 1941 military edition, which was distributed during World War II and has been out of print for many years.

Just Us Books, premier publisher of Black-interest books for young people, has launched a new blog entitled "Good Books Make a Difference," which discusses issues related to publishing, youth, and the Black community. The first blog posts highlights programs, organizations, and individual efforts of people in Newark, Chicago, and Cleveland. The press invites and encourages teachers, students, and activists to read the blog and share with our community what you're doing to make a difference. Visit the Just Us blog here: <http://justusbooks.blogspot.com>.

Mind Lab New York, a strategy game-based program derived from the internationally acclaimed Mind Lab group, announced in March 2008 the launch of a pilot program at Zvi Dov Roth (ZDR) Academy, a Jewish day school in Brooklyn, New York. Mind Lab New York also recently secured a contract with the Department of Education to bring its unique game-based program to public and private schools across the country.

The Mind Lab program at ZDR was conducted over eight weeks with two groups of ninth grade students. Students who play strategic thinking skills games are able to process complex cognitive tasks as well as most adults, with data indicating that young children utilize higher-order thinking skills, analyze actions and consequences, and visualize future possibilities when playing those specific board games. During the program, students learned how to use board games to develop critical thinking and life skills, which in turn spurred motivation and enthusiasm among learners. Regular education students, English Language Learners (ELL), gifted and talented, and special education students have benefited.

The Mind Lab Method, which originated in Israel in 1994, has been adopted by thousands of educational institutions worldwide. In addition to the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Spain, Hungary, Mexico, and Chile are among the countries using the program.

For more information, visit the Mind Lab New York web site, www.mindlab-ny.com.

In this current national climate where some 350 bills aim at curbing immigration, **Roosevelt University** is being honored by

the American Immigration Law Foundation for its work on behalf of immigrant students and communities. Most notable is a partnership with Social Justice High School in the Little Village neighborhood, a largely immigrant community in Chicago. As part of this commitment, Roosevelt has pledged to provide full scholarships to all qualified 2009 and 2010 high school graduates regardless of immigration status.

Roosevelt, a private institution with 7,200 students on two comprehensive campuses, has a deep history of social justice and support of immigrants. President Chuck Middleton has long been a proponent of providing educational opportunities for undocumented students and has made immigration/social justice a hallmark of his presidency.

Roosevelt University's Chicago and Schaumburg campuses are comprised of 50 percent minority students, and women make up 68 percent of the student body. The campuses strongly reflect the underrepresented communities in the populations they serve. The Chicago Campus student body is largely African American and Hispanic, whereas the Schaumburg Campus has significant numbers of Asian/Pacific Island and Eastern European students, reflecting the changing make-up of the Northwest suburbs. For more information, visit the university's web site, www.roosevelt.edu.

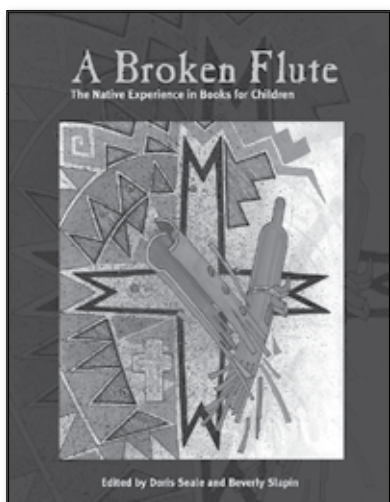
WellPoint, Inc., the nation's largest health benefits company, accepted the 2008 Corporate Leadership Award presented by the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) in April 2008. The CBC

honored the company's commitment to health equality and reducing health disparities among its employees and other health plan members.

The awards ceremony was part of a two-day conference titled "Health Equity and Justice NOW!" jointly hosted by the CBC Health Braintrust and the National Minority Quality Forum. WellPoint recently conducted a study within its employee populations as well as its health plan members to determine how factors such as race, income, and geographic location lead to disparities in health care coverage. WellPoint has launched initiatives aimed at reducing health care disparities among its employees, plan members, and the nation.

Women Make Movies (WMM) announces the acquisition of *The Sari Soldiers* by filmmaker Julie Bridgham, recipient of the 2008 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival (HR-WIFF) Nestor Almendros Award for courage and commitment in filmmaking. The riveting documentary made its North American debut in June 2008 as the festival centerpiece. Filmed over three years, during Nepal's transition from dictatorial monarchy to fledgling democracy, *The Sari Soldiers* is the extraordinary story of six women and their conflicting efforts to shape the political future of their country. From intimate interviews to uprisings in seemingly peaceful rural villages and rallies in bustling Kathmandu, Bridgham's camera sensitively captures women on multiple sides of the escalating civil war. 📺

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Comments about

A Broken Flute: The Native Experience in Books for Children



"[Seale and Slapin's] latest volume evaluates hundreds of books for children and teenagers published from the early 1900s through 2004, [and] it is more brutally honest than anything else out there. Seale, Slapin, and their reviewers and commentators—noted storytellers, poets, fiction writers, scholars, teachers, and student and community activists—take on Newbery and Caldecott medalists and reading-list perennials for their simplistic, stereotype-filled, condescending, and outright false portrayals of American Indians.... The bulk of *A Broken Flute* consists of reviews arranged alphabetically. However, preceding this are bibliographic essays on a variety of subjects—the Thanksgiving myth, photoessays, the Indian boarding schools, buffalo, Coyote, Raven, and dreamcatchers, among others. Equally valuable are the reflections of the reviewers and their children, in the form of essays and poems, about the negative images perpetrated by mainstream society and its educational system as well as their own efforts to make their voices heard. Here, we see concerned parents and grandparents and strong Indian children who have grown up with the good examples that ultimately stand out in this book."

—*Multicultural Review*

"Strong American Indian voices permeate *A Broken Flute*. In innovative stories at the beginning, adults and young people speak movingly of how certain books have brought pain—or healing—to their lives. Readers of all ages can relate to these powerful words, which vividly reinforce the book reviewers' excellent critiques. *A Broken Flute* is a compelling call for truth-telling and healing."

—Marilou Awiakta (Cherokee), author of *Selu: Seeking the Corn Mother's Wisdom*