

ABC-CLIO is proud to name the Oregon Historical Society the first recipient of the ABC-CLIO Online History Award, administered by the History Section of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

The Oregon Historical Society is receiving the award for its Oregon History Project, an online resource for learning about Oregon history that brings primary source documents and digitized artifacts together with web-based thematic and regional narratives, biographies, a K-12 learning center, and “focused digital packets” including African-American, Asian Pacific, Native Reservation, Women’s History, and Wartime Portland.

The award, which consists of a citation and \$3,000 donated by ABC-CLIO, is given to encourage, recognize, and commend professional achievement in historical reference and research librarianship. This award will be offered every other year beginning in 2005. The first award was presented at the RUSA Awards Ceremony on June 27, 2005, during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

On March 3, 2005, the **Alabama Women’s Hall of Fame** inducted librarian Juliette Hampton Morgan, a civil rights activist who died in 1957 at the age of 42. Morgan, who was white, wrote numerous letters and opinion pieces to Alabama newspapers in support of the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott. She joined the mostly black Alabama Human Relations Council, endured harassment from the White Citizens’ Council and the rejection of her own family, and days before her death (from an overdose of sleeping pills) was forced to resign from her position as reference librarian at the Montgomery Public Library. In *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. paid tribute to this martyr to the civil rights cause, and a book on her life is currently in the works.

The **Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)**, a division of the American Library Association, is pleased to announce that it is now the national center for El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Day of the Child/Day of the Book). The annual celebration, also known as Día, takes place every April 30. Through a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, ALSC will coordinate with other national organizations each year to promote the Día celebration; among those collaborating organizations is REFORMA—the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking.

Día brings together children, books, languages, and cultures. It is both a daily commitment and an annual celebration of the joys and wonders of childhood and the importance of literacy in the lives of families. Nationally, hundreds of libraries will host Día celebrations with family

programs, including bilingual story hours, book giveaways, and other literacy events. The celebration is an enhancement of Children’s Day, which began in 1925 as a result of the first “World Conference on the Well-Being of Children” in Geneva, Switzerland.

For more information about ALSC and Día, please visit www.ala.org/alsc/eldia.html.

In response to the 2004 election, Time Warner Book Group has announced the launch of its latest imprint, **Center Street**, to publish fiction and nonfiction “characterized by wholesome entertainment, helpful encouragement, and relevant information.” The books are designed to be crossover books, going beyond the genre of Christian fiction to appeal to heartland readers of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. The first title of the new imprint is *A Thousand Tomorrows* by author Karen Kingsbury, whose previous novels and nonfiction works (including one about international adoption) regularly appear on the bestseller list of the Christian Booksellers Association.

Reaffirming its heartland ethos, the new imprint is located in the Nashville, Tennessee area. For more information, contact Center Street, 10 Cadillac Dr., Suite 220, Brentwood, TN 37027; phone: (615) 221-0996.

Congratulations to *MultiCultural Review* Education Advisory Board member **David Cohen**, who is the recipient of the 2005 Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) Roll of Honor Award. Cohen, director of Friends of the Queens College Library and professor emeritus at the college, accepted his award on June 25, 2005, at the American Library Association’s annual conference in Chicago. In the words of Judith Krug, FTRF executive director, Cohen “has been a beacon in New York and nationally for generations of librarians and free speech advocates. He has been a stalwart supporter and member of the Freedom to Read Foundation from day one. His work on multicultural issues in librarianship is legendary, and he understands the importance of ensuring the availability of the full spectrum of ideas and information to the whole of society. As a writer, speaker, teacher, and librarian, he has proven himself a treasure.” His contributions to the library community over the past eight decades include serving as co-founder of the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT), trustee of the LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund, co-founder of the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship, and charter member of FTRF.

The FTRF Roll of Honor was established in 1987 to recognize and honor those individuals who have contributed substantially to FTRF through adherence to its principles and/or substantial monetary support. FTRF was founded in 1969 to promote and defend the right of individuals to express ideas and access information freely. FTRF fulfills its

mission through the disbursement of grants to individuals and groups and through direct participation in litigation dealing with freedom of speech and of the press.

The Tenth Annual **Connecticut Conference on Multicultural Education** will be held at the Hartford Marriott in Farmington, Connecticut, on Monday, October 17, 2005. This year, there will be a keynote panel featuring noted multicultural educators Philip C. Chinn, Carl A. Grant, Sonia Nieto, and Christine E. Sleeter. The panelists will also lead several of the workshops.

Those interested in attending are urged to register as soon as possible to guarantee a space in the conference, which will attract participants from across the Northeast, and first choice of workshops. The conference will also feature exhibits of organizations and publishers, and musical entertainment. The conference is sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education and the National Association for Multicultural Education. For more information, contact William Howe, Connecticut Department of Education, conference co-chair, at (860) 713-6542; e-mail: william.howe@po.state.ct.us; web site: www.state.ct.us/sde.

In April 2005, the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB)** launched a \$20 million American History and Civics Initiative to reverse the well-documented decline in young people's knowledge of the basic information necessary for citizenship in a democracy. The initiative calls on the country's public television managers, filmmakers, and content developers—especially the high-tech and interactive media sector—to join educators in creating groundbreaking media projects and methods that measurably improve the learning of American history and civics by middle and high school students. To that end, the CPB will award up to \$20 million in grants in the coming three years to catalyze new public-private partnerships. For more information on this grant program and how to apply, visit www.cpb.org/grants/historyandcivics.

Curbstone Press is pleased to announce that Mary Helen Lagasse received the Rudolfo and Patricia Anaya Premio Atzlán Award for her novel *The Fifth Sun* in March 2005. The Premio Atzlán is a national literary prize established to encourage and reward emerging Chicana/o authors. The prize includes \$1,000. After the award ceremony at the University of New Mexico, Lagasse gave a lecture entitled "Breaking Barrio Images: A Voice from the Deep South."

Lagasse was also the winner of Curbstone Press's Miguel Mármol Prize, given annually for the best manuscript by a Latina/o writer who has not previously published a book-length work of fiction. *The Fifth Sun* was published in March 2004. For more information about the novel and other works by Latina/o authors, visit Curbstone's web site, www.curbstone.org.

The School of Education at Western Illinois University announces the 2005 **Dealing with Difference Institute**, to take place September 14–17, 2005, on the university cam-

pus in Macomb. The featured presenters are Henry Giroux and Benjamin Barber, with a performance of Southwestern folklore by Teatro Milagro. In addition, there will be a number of concurrent workshops, including ones led by Mary Dilg, Nilda Flores-Gonzalez, Amanda Lewis, and Catherine Hurt Middlecamp. The workshops will focus on such topics as the intersection of international and multicultural study, the pedagogical principles of Paolo Freire, curricular transformation, and the dynamics of intercultural interaction in the classroom and across campus.

For more information and to register, contact Janice Welsch, phone: (309) 298-1103; e-mail: jr-welsch@wiu.edu, or J. Q. Adams, phone: (309) 298-3698; e-mail: jq-adams@wiu.edu, or visit the web site, www.wiu.edu/ICDA.

Diversity Reviews announces the launch of Crossing Cultures, a free online newsletter containing reviews and announcements of new diversity films and professional literature in the fields of multilingual and multicultural education. The site also includes two literature lists. One is an annotated honor roll of exceptional professional development literature in the field of diversity education recommended by a panel of distinguished scholars, researchers, practitioners, and advocates. The second is an updated list of recommended readings and other resources regarding the use of diversity films and related media for staff development and student learning. These valuable resources, as well as the Diversity Reviews archives and several pamphlets on educational media and professional development, are available at www.diversityreviews.org.

Two nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving information technology in urban schools and linking American students to their counterparts around the world—**iEarn** and **MOUSE (Making Opportunities for Upgrading Schools and Education)**—announce a partnership between New York City schools and schools in the nation of Jordan. As part of the MOUSE program, New York City students have been trained to run computer help desks at their school, thus saving the urban district more than \$700,000 in the past four years.

Following a request from Jordan's King Abdullah, iEarn partnered with MOUSE to send a delegation of Jordanian students to New York City for three weeks in April 2005 to study the MOUSE-sponsored technical support program. In the summer of 2005, student technology leaders from New York City visited Jordanian schools to work with their technically savvy counterparts. The visits were coordinated by the State Department–accredited exchange program AYUSA and funded in part by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Established in 1988 to link American and Russian students, iEarn has become a 110-country collaborative online learning network. For more information, visit www.iearn.org. MOUSE tackles the issue of technology education in financially challenged schools by putting students in charge of establishing and running computer help desks and by pro-

viding job shadowing opportunities. For more information, visit www.mouse.org.

Just Us Books is pleased to announce that *Ma Dear's Old Green House*, a picture book written by Denise Lewis Patrick and illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler, was named the African American Academy of Arts and Letters' Children's Book of the Year for 2004. Patrick's text shares a young girl's fond memories of summers spent at her grandmother's old house in Louisiana. The award was presented in February 2005 at the Academy's Onyx Awards dinner.

Sponsored annually, the awards honor African-American writers for outstanding literary achievements. Along with Patrick and Sadler, this year's award winners included playwright August Wilson for *Gem of the Ocean*; comedian Wanda Sykes for her book *Yea, I Said It*; screenwriters Keir Pearson and Terry George for their script for *Hotel Rwanda*; and Russell Simmons's collection *Def Jam Poetry Artists*.

For more information about Just Us Books and its award-winning titles, visit www.justusbooks.com.

Congratulations to *MultiCultural Review* music reviewer **Geary Larrick**, whose most recent book, *An Annotated Bibliography of Percussion Music Publications*, was published by Edwin Mellen Press in April 2005. The book highlights 150 works published for percussion instruments by Per-Mus Publications from 1976 to 2004. In addition to the bibliography, the book features biographical information about Per-Mus's owner, Ohio State University music professor James L. Moore.

The **Lesley Ellis School** in Arlington, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that it has received a Leading Edge honor for equity and justice in independent-school education from the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). The coed day school serves 157 students in preschool through grade five.

Pursuing the school's mission to provide a multicultural, anti-bias, and nonviolent education, the teachers developed a schoolwide curriculum that includes lessons on racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, and ageism and uses these in building important critical thinking and social skills.

Lesley Ellis School was one of three independent schools to be honored with a Leading Edge award in 2005, the third year for the Leading Edge program. For more information on the school and its anti-bias curriculum, visit its web site, www.lesleyellis.org.

The **National Geographic Society** and the **JASON Foundation for Education (JFE)** have announced that the society will assume stewardship for JFE, with the transition to be completed by fall 2005. The National Geographic Society was a founding national sponsor of JASON in 1989.

During the transition period, all JASON programs will proceed uninterrupted, from professional and curriculum development and sales to 2005–06 school year expeditions.

The affiliation with National Geographic will help broaden JASON's reach and ensure continued growth.

JFE is best known for its JASON project, an annual education program that engages students in inquiry-based investigations by taking them on real-life scientific expeditions. The program is widely regarded as a leading provider of experience-based science and math curricula and professional development for teachers in grades four through nine. For more information, log onto the JASON web site, www.jason.org.

PEARL World Youth News, an Internet-based international student-run news service established by the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN-USA) and the Daniel Pearl Foundation invites high school students around the world to become certified PEARL reporters.

The youth-run international news service was founded to promote cross-cultural understanding through balanced, objective journalism with a global youth perspective. In the spirit of the high journalistic standards of Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was murdered by terrorists in Pakistan in 2002, teenage students will select the issues to be reported and collaboratively write, edit, and publish their articles on the new web-based news service. These articles will be made available to schools all over the world for publication in student newspapers.

Using online forums, PEARL student reporters and editors will work together to decide the issues covered, conduct collaborative research and interviews, and edit articles. Seven schools have volunteered to act as editors for the news service: Habib Girls' School and Aga Khan Secondary School Gilgit in Pakistan (News Editors), Valley International School in Lebanon (Features Editor), Gymnasium Parvoz in Uzbekistan (Music & Performing Arts Editor), Dr. Beheshti Boys High School and Ardeshiri Girls' High School in Iran (Entertainment Editors), and the Spokane Valley High School in Washington, United States (Managing Editor).

The PEARL Reporter Certification Program has been developed with the assistance of the *New York Times* and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. High school students worldwide who are proficient in English and have access to the Internet will be able to participate in the program at no cost. Graduate students at Columbia's Journalism School will serve as evaluators.

Founded in 1988, iEARN is a global network that enables young people to use the Internet and other new technologies to engage in collaborative educational projects that enhance learning and make a difference in the world. iEARN-USA was awarded the 2003 Goldman Sachs Foundation Prize for Excellence in International Education and is a 2004 Tech Museum Laureate prizewinner for "technology benefiting humanity." Please visit www.earn.org.

The Daniel Pearl Foundation was formed in 2002 in memory of journalist Pearl to promote the ideals that inspired his life and work. The foundation works domestically and internationally to promote cross-cultural understanding, to combat cultural and religious hatred, to encourage responsible

and creative journalism, and to enrich people's lives through music. For more information, please visit www.danielpearl.org.

Interested schools and students can contact Anindita Dutta Roy at anindita@us.iearn.org for more information or visit the web site at www.iearn.org/pearlproject/index.html.

Search for Common Ground, one of the world's largest nongovernmental organizations dedicated to conflict resolution, presented the 2005 Common Ground Awards on March 17, 2005, at the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C. These awards are presented annually in various categories to recognize achievements in conflict resolution, community building, and peacemaking.

The Common Ground Award for Education was presented to Adina Shapiro and Ghassan Abdullah, Israeli and Palestinian co-directors of the Middle East Children's Association (MECA), who have worked to achieve tolerance, mutual respect, and understanding between Palestinian and Israeli educators.

Other awards went to boxer Muhammad Ali for Lifetime Achievement; Americans for Informed Democracy and Families of September 11 for International Understanding for their "Hope Not Hate" series of town hall meetings; former gang members Henry "Hank" Johnson and Dominic Taylor for Community Peacebuilding; Ambassador John McDonald for International Peacebuilding; lawmakers Henry Cisneros and Jack Kemp for Bipartisan Cooperation; and the makers of *In My Country*, a film about South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Film category.

For more information about the Search for Common Ground, visit the web site at www.sfcg.org.

In May 2005, the **Shoah Foundation** launched a new online exhibit on its web site, *Surviving Auschwitz: Five Personal Journeys*. The exhibit introduces students to five men and women who survived one of the darkest periods of human history. Through a dynamic use of their first-person video testimony, *Surviving Auschwitz* shows how the shared experience of the Holocaust affected individuals from disparate backgrounds.

Surviving Auschwitz follows survivors, as they start in five different countries, are deported to Auschwitz and other concentration camps, and rebuild their lives after the war, emigrating to various places such as South Africa, Australia, and the United Kingdom. The exhibit includes four hours of English-language testimony from the Shoah Foundation's archive, an interactive map, a glossary, photos, and survivor profiles.

Surviving Auschwitz not only underscores the subjects' individual experiences during the Holocaust, but by tracing their lives before deportation and after liberation, it shows students the diversity of their cultural backgrounds and subsequent journeys. The variety of cultural experience revealed in the exhibit dispels stereotypes about the Holocaust and those who were persecuted. This online exhibit is an educational tool for teachers and students and a catalyst for an exploration of prejudice and racism. The use of visual history

testimonies helps to ensure that students understand that real individuals stand behind the faceless facts and statistics.

Surviving Auschwitz is geared to students in grades eight through twelve and the general public and is available at no cost on the Shoah Foundation's web site at www.vhf.org/survivingauschwitz.

Skipping Stones magazine and its committee of reviewers—editors, librarians, parents, teachers, and students—have selected this year's list of outstanding titles for children and educators. The multicultural and nature books and teaching resources released in 2004 and honored in the Twelfth Annual *Skipping Stones* Awards promote respect for diversity and the environment in the United States and around the world. Full reviews of the winners appeared in Volume 17, No. 3 (Summer 2005) of the international multicultural children's magazine. The honored titles are as follows:

Multicultural and International Books

Cheung, Shu Pui; Li, Shuyuan; Chau, Aaron; and Wei, Deborah. *Walking on Solid Ground* (Philadelphia Folklore Project)

Conover, Sarah and Crane, Freda. *Ayat Jamilah: Beautiful Signs* (Eastern Washington University Press)

Gunning, Monica. *A Shelter in Our Car* (Children's Book Press)

Fradin, Dennis Brindel and Fradin, Judith Bloom. *The Power of One: Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine* (Clarion)

Landowne, Youmi. *Sélavi: That Is Life* (Cinco Puntos Press)

Levine, Karen. *Hana's Suitcase* (Albert Whitman)

Ortiz, Simon. *The Good Rainbow Road*. Illus. by Michael Lacapa (Univ. of Arizona Press)

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Becoming Naomi León* (Scholastic)

Stratton, Allan. *Chandra's Secrets* (Annick Press)

Stickler, John. *Land of Morning Calm: Korean Culture Then and Now*. Illus. by Soma Han (Shen's Books)

Weber, Ednah New Rider. *Rattlesnake Mesa: Stories from a Native American Childhood*. Illus. with photos by Richela Renkun (Lee & Low)

Ecology and Nature Books

Cherry, Lynne. *The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Greive, Bradley T. *Priceless: The Vanishing Beauty of a Fragile Planet*. Illus. with photos by Mitsunaki Iwago (Andrews McMeel)

Markle, Sandra. *Owls* (Lerner)

Marx, Trish. *Everglades Forever*. Illus. with photos by Cindy Karp (Lee & Low)

Parent, Dorothy. *Garden of the Spirit Bear*. Illus. by Deborah Milton (Clarion)

Strauss, Rochelle. *Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth*. Illus. by Margot Thompson (Kids Can Press)

Teaching Resources and Educational Videos

Chasnoff, Debra; Cohen, Helen; and Stilley, Kate. *Let's Get Real*, DVD and Teachers Guide (Women's Educational Media)

Drew, Naomi. *The Kid's Guide to Working Out Conflicts* (Free Spirit Publishing)

Feinbloom, Sarah. *What Do You Believe? The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*, DVD and Teachers Guide (New Day Films)

Gutierrez-Baldoguin, Hilda. *Dharma, Color, and Culture* (Parallax Press)

Skipping Stones is inviting entries for the 2006 awards. All entries must be accompanied by the entry form and mailed by January 15, 2006. Books, magazines, resource publications, and education videos published between January 2004 and January 2006 are eligible. For more information on the magazine and the awards, or to receive an entry form for the 2006 awards, contact *Skipping Stones*, P. O. Box 3939, Eugene, OR 97403; phone (541) 342-4956; e-mail: editor@skippingstones.org; web site: www.skippingstones.org.

In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the lynching of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African-American boy in Mississippi who had allegedly whistled at a white woman, **Teaching Books.net** has created a dynamic online resource in collaboration with Houghton Mifflin to stimulate discussion about the crime. This multimedia, cross-curricular resource designed for middle and high school English, social studies, and history classes is available free of charge at www.teachingbooks.net/till.

At the centerpiece of the resource is *A Wreath for Emmett Till*, a volume of poetry by award-winning writer Marilyn Nelson, which is available in print from Houghton Mifflin. The volume is organized in the format of a heroic crown of sonnets; in an interview on the TeachingBooks.net site, Nelson describes this format as "a sequence of 15 sonnets, which are interlinked like the normal crown of sonnets, except that in the heroic crown the last sonnet is made up of the first lines of the previous 14 sonnets. My crown is slightly different because the last sonnet is also an acrostic. So the first letters of each line, if you read down, spell out the phrase, 'RIP Emmett L. Till.'"

Visitors to the site can listen to Nelson read, in its entire-

ty, her astonishing and haunting poem. Also included in this comprehensive online resource are audio interviews with Nelson and the book's publisher, an in-depth written interview, and links to numerous resources to teach about Emmett Till and about poetry.

TeachingBooks.net is a diverse and constantly growing collection of author programs and K-12 book-related materials to help literature come alive for students and teachers. Resources include original movies about the creative processes of authors and illustrators (filmed in the award-winning creators' studios), audio excerpts of professional book readings, and teaching guides for thousands of children's and young adult literature titles.

As follow-up to the recent publication of *Alec's Primer* by Mildred Pitts Walter and the reissue in paperback of *Daisy and the Doll* by Angela Shelf Medearis (both oral histories of African-American families), the **Vermont Folklife Center** announces the launch of its expanded children's book series web site. The pages for both picture books feature links to the original audio stories of Daisy Turner, photos of the Turner family, pages of classroom and in-home applications for each title, and information about the authors and illustrators.

The new interactive Classroom Applications web pages will enable educators to use the series titles as a dynamic point of entry to a larger field of classroom inquiry, especially in social studies and language arts curricula. The Family Storytelling web page activities will prompt families to consider their own stories and the importance of sharing them with succeeding generations.

This free web resource is available at www.vermont-folklifecenter.org/children's-books.

A plane circles over a crisis zone where people are starving. The aircraft goes into a steep climb before launching its first airdrop of food aid. A truck struggles up a muddy, treacherous road where rebels loom.

This is the virtual world of "Food Force," the first humanitarian video game about global hunger, created by the United Nations **World Food Programme (WFP)** and unveiled at the International Children's Book Fair in Bologna, Italy, in April 2005.

While playing the game's six different missions alongside Food Force's crack team of emergency aid workers, children aged 8 to 13 are faced with a number of realistic challenges to feed thousands of people quickly in the fictitious island of Sheylan. Players pilot helicopters on reconnaissance missions, negotiate with armed rebels on a convoy run, and use food to help rebuild villages.

The PC-based video game is available as a free Internet download from www.food-force.com and may also be downloaded at no charge from Yahoo! Games. It is currently available in English, with translation into other languages planned. 