

The **African Studies Association** has announced the winners of the 2003 Children's Africana Book Award. The award, established in 1991 as the African Studies Association Children's Book Award, recognizes outstanding picture books and books for older readers set in Africa and published in the previous year. The award is designed to encourage publication and use of accurate and balanced children's materials on Africa; if no book is deemed outstanding in a given category, the award is not given.

In the Books for Young Children category, *What's Cooking, Jamela?*, written and illustrated by Niki Daly, was the winning title. Three Honor Awards were announced in that category: *Beatrice's Goat*, by Page McBride and illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter; *Gugu's House*, written and illustrated by Catherine Stock; and *Bikes for Rent*, written by Isaac Olaleye and illustrated by Chris Demarest. No awards were given in the Books for Older Readers category.

Alyson Publications is pleased to announce that its young adult novel *Finding H.F.*, by Julia Watts, was chosen by the journal *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)* for its 2002 "Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers." The 2002 "Top Shelf Fiction" list recognizes books published between October 2001 and September 2002 for their appeal to middle school readers and their reflection of geographic, ethnic, racial, intellectual, and economic diversity.

Finding H.F. depicts a high school girl, raised by her grandmother in rural Kentucky, who has become aware of her own lesbian identity and who seeks to learn more about her past, including the fate of her missing mother. She embarks on a road trip, accompanied by a gay boy who is her closest friend.

Founded in 1980, Alyson Publications is the oldest publisher of fiction, nonfiction, and children's books for the gay/lesbian/bisexual community. In 1995, the company was purchased by Liberation Publications Media, a gay and lesbian publishing company that also publishes the national magazines *The Advocate* and *Out*. For more information about the publisher or *Finding H.F.*, contact Alyson Publications, 6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90028; web site: www.alyson.com.

The **American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)** has published a report documenting attacks against Arab Americans in the year following September 11, "Report on Hate Crimes and Discrimination Against Arab Americans: September 11, 2001 to October 11, 2002." The report, which is available free of charge from the ADC, documents the more than 700 violent incidents against Arab Americans or those perceived to be Arab American in the nine weeks following the terrorist attacks as well as the per-

sistence of bias, including employment discrimination. The report outlines the major challenges facing Arab Americans when dealing with other groups in the United States, including individuals, corporations, news and entertainment outlets, educational institutions, law enforcement, and the government. The report is divided into four sections: legal issues, discrimination in education, media bias and disinformation, and recognizing positive acts of support.

The "Report on Hate Crimes and Discrimination Against Arab Americans" may be ordered from the ADC, 4201 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20008; phone: (202) 244-2990; e-mail: adc@adc.org; web site: www.adc.org.

CAPNET, the Caribbean Publishers' Network, is a pan-Caribbean nonprofit network of Caribbean publishers created to support and promote indigenous publishing throughout the region. Formed in Trinidad and Tobago in June 2000 to respond to the chronic underdevelopment of the Caribbean publishing industry, CAPNET links more than 70 publishing and associated enterprises across the region in all four major language areas—English, French, Spanish, and Dutch. Among the countries currently represented by publishers and associated enterprises are Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad, and Venezuela. The organization also includes publishers or distributors in the United States and Canada that focus on works from the Caribbean.

CAPNET's current projects include joint representation at major book fairs, the development of a Caribbean book fair, strategies for joint marketing and rights trading, compiling a register of regional publishing skills and resources, establishing a set of uniform publishing standards, making publishers' voices heard on copyright and freedom of expression issues, and encouraging government support for publishing ventures. The organization has established a web site to publicize its initiatives and to market the titles of its individual publishers. Those interested in learning more about the diverse efforts of indigenous publishers from the Caribbean should visit this site, www.capnetonline.com. Currently located in Jamaica, the CAPNET offices may also be contacted at 11 Cunningham Ave., Kingston 6, Jamaica, West Indies; phone: (876) 978-0709; e-mail: capnet@colis.com.

The Catalyst Centre has released several new titles in its series for educators and community organizers, Reading the Word, Reading the World (RTW2). The titles are reprints of important but hard to find manuals such as *Counting Our Victories: Popular Education and Organizing* and *Naming*

the Moment: Popular Education and Organizing. The Catalyst Centre also sells books and manuals by community agencies such as *Starting with Women's Lives: Changing Today's Economy*, *Teach Me to Thunder: A Manual for Anti-Racism Trainers*, and *The Nature of Transformation: Environmental Adult Education*. These books provide both theoretical and practical grounding for readers interested in popular education, adult education, environmental issues, storytelling, and community development.

In addition to popular education resources, The Catalyst Centre offers readers books on a wide range of community issues, including the complete series of No-Nonsense Guides: Small Books on Big Subjects. The No-Nonsense Guides are concise resources on world issues geared to high school, college, and general adult readers. All are written in clear, accessible language by leading experts in the field. The titles in the series examine globalization, democracy, climate change, international migration, indigenous peoples, and many other topics.

Books may be ordered online at www.catalystcentre.ca. For more information, contact the Catalyst Centre, 720 Bathurst St. #500, Toronto, ON M5S 2R4, Canada; phone: (416) 516-9546 or toll free (888) 521-1453; e-mail: catalystcentre@web.ca.

Curbstone Press is pleased to announce that Mary Helen Lagasse is the winner of the 2003 Miguel Mármol Prize for her novel *The Fifth Sun*. Selected by judge Judith Ortiz Cofer, *The Fifth Sun* depicts Mercedes, a Mexican immigrant girl in the early twentieth century who seeks to rise above the constraints of her impoverished environment. The novel is slated for publication in March 2004.

Nominations are currently sought for the fourth annual Miguel Mármol Prize. The prize, which honors the legendary Salvadoran labor union leader, is given annually to a first book-length work of fiction in English by a Latina/o writer. The winning manuscript will be published by Curbstone Press in spring 2005, with a \$1,000 advance against royalties given to its author. The judge for the 2004 prize is Luis J. Rodríguez, and the deadline for submitting manuscripts is December 15, 2003. Please visit the Curbstone Press web site, www.curbstone.org, for a full list of prize rules and guidelines.

Curbstone Press is also pleased to announce that *Soy la Avon Lady and Other Stories*, by Lorraine López, the winner of the first annual Miguel Mármol Prize in 2001, has received two other awards. In May 2003 López won the 2003 Independent Publisher Book Award for Multicultural Fiction, given by the Jenkins Group, and the 2003 Latino Book Award in the short fiction category from the Latino Literary Hall of Fame. Both awards were presented in conjunction with the 2003 Book Expo America in Los Angeles. A nonprofit organization supporting literacy and literary excellence within the Latino community, the Latino Literary Hall of Fame seeks to recognize the many positive contributions in the world of Latino literature. The Independent Publisher Book Award seeks out a diverse range of independent press books, with the common factors of innovation, creativity, and craftsmanship.

The Foundation Center is pleased to announce the publication of *Guía para escribir propuestas*, a new Spanish-language edition of its popular *Guide to Proposal Writing*, 3rd edition. Originally written by Jane C. Geever, a professional fundraiser who has been creating successful proposals for more than 25 years, the guide delivers comprehensive instruction on both the basics and the finer points of this crucial skill for those seeking grants.

The Spanish translation is geared to both Spanish-speakers in the United States and Spanish-speakers abroad who are seeking support from U.S. foundations. In addition, the Foundation Center has posted a free Spanish-language Proposal Writing Short Course to its web site. Visitors to the site will find the course, "Curso breve para escribir propuestas," at www.fdncenter.org/learn/classroom.

The new Spanish translation of the *Guide* provides a step-by-step explanation of the entire proposal writing process, including how to create, submit, and follow up on grant proposals to foundations. The book also offers insights into the proposal evaluation process through interviews with grantmakers. Translated excerpts from funded proposals illustrate the principles of successful proposal writing. To add further value for Spanish speakers, the book features a special appendix that lists Spanish-speaking consultants and technical assistance providers who can help individuals craft proposals in English or give advice on fundraising.

Guía para escribir propuestas sells for \$34.95 per copy; add \$5.50 shipping/handling for the first copy and \$2.50 for each additional copy. Discounts for larger orders are available. Contact The Foundation Center, 79 Fifth Ave., Dept. NN6, New York, NY 10003-3076; phone: (800) 424-9836.

On June 25-27, 2003, the first **Free International Forum of Art and Culture** took place in Bolognano, Italy, a medieval village near Rome. The three-day festival featured exhibits, lectures, and performances from almost 100 artists, philosophers, art critics, and musicians from Italy, Portugal, Brazil, the United States, France, Switzerland, China, Iran, Bosnia, Israel, and Germany. The event was free and open to the public.

According to its co-director, Emanuel Dimas de Melo Pimenta, the Forum was designed to be "an important step in the process of a true dialogue of civilizations...a world meeting point of artists, philosophers, musicians, [and] critics, as well as people from different disciplines." News of the Forum and plans for future events may be found on the web at www.asa-art.com.

Graywolf Press is pleased to announce that Khaled Mattawa has won the 2003 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation for *Without an Alphabet, Without a Face*, his translation from Arabic of the selected poems of Saadi Youssef. The award was presented in a ceremony in New York City on May 20, 2003. *Without an Alphabet, Without a Face* is the second volume in Graywolf's Lannan Translation Selection Series. It presents the work of Youssef, who chronicles modern Iraqi life and whose poems have been read at peace rallies throughout the world. The Libyan-born Mattawa himself

participated in a reading and translation panel at the People's Poetry Gathering in New York City last year.

For more information about the PEN awards and a full list of nominees, visit the PEN web site at www.pen.org. For more information on Graywolf Press and the Lannan Translation Selection Series, contact the press at 2402 University Ave., Suite 203, St. Paul, MN 55114; phone: (651) 641-0077; web site: www.graywolfpress.org.

The **JASON Foundation for Education**, a provider of experience-based science and math curricula for students and teachers in grades four through nine, has released the JASON XV Project Rainforests at the Crossroads, which focuses on Panama's rainforests and canal. This curriculum provides science materials that include a comprehensive instructional program, teacher's guide, videotapes with closed captions, a web site with live chats with research scientists in the field, interactive simulation programs, resource lists for students and teachers, assessment tools, and a live interactive broadcast. The 2003-2004 school year curriculum retails for \$249, with volume discounts available.

Also available through the JASON Foundation is a Spanish-language version of the JASON XV curriculum and a JASON Aquatic Field Study Kit, which includes all equipment needed to conduct field studies for 30 students.

The JASON Foundation conducts professional development workshops geared to the use of its curricula, with detailed walk-throughs, online activities, and video components. For more information, call (888) 527-6600 or e-mail info@jason.org.

Just Us Books, a leading publisher of children's books that focus on Black experiences, history, and culture, celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in 2003 with a dinner and book fair in October in East Orange, New Jersey. Among the authors featured were Valerie Wilson Wesley, George Ford, and Haki Madhubuti. Founded by Wade and Cheryl Hudson in 1988, the company took as its mission the production of positive, vibrant Black-interest books that they wanted for their own two children. Today, those children, Katura and Stephan, have joined their parents in creating quality books for another generation of Black children.

Since 1988, Just Us Books has marked a number of accomplishments. The company has produced over 55 books, including more than a dozen through a special partnership with Scholastic, and now has more than six million copies in print. Various books have garnered awards such as the Publishers Marketing Association's Ben Franklin Award for illustration and the Blackboard Children's Book of the Year, and the company itself was recognized by *Income Opportunities* magazine and the state of New Jersey as an exemplary small business.

For more information on the publisher and its current and forthcoming titles, contact Katura Hudson, Just Us Books, 356 Glenwood Ave., Third Floor, East Orange, NJ 07017; phone: (973) 676-4345; web site: www.justusbooks.com.

On April 26, 2003, poet and essayist Nikki Grimes was

honored as co-recipient of the 2003 **Kerlan Award**, given annually by the Kerlan Collection "in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children's literature and in appreciation for generous donation of unique resources to the Kerlan Collection for the study of children's literature." Also receiving the award was the illustrator Gustaf Tenggren, who was honored posthumously.

Grimes, who gave the keynote address at the awards ceremony, donated original manuscripts for eight of her books to the Kerlan Collection. Among these manuscripts were those for her Coretta Scott King Award-winning novel *Bronx Masquerade*, published in 2002; *Jazmin's Notebook* (1998); and the picture book *C Is for City* (1995).

For more information about the annual awards and the Kerlan Collection, located at the University of Minnesota, contact the Children's Literature Research Collections, University of Minnesota, 113 Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55455; phone: (612) 624-4576; e-mail: clrc@tc.umn.edu; web site: <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/>.

Congratulations to **Geary Larrick**, longtime MCR reviewer of world music recordings, on the publication of *Bibliographic Analysis of Percussion Literature*, published by Edward Mellen Press in fall 2003. The volume surveys a broad spectrum of literature on percussion, from Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms through contemporary jazz and rock musicians. Also covered are sources that place the works in historical and social context, particularly as they relate to African-American and women's history.

A retired professor of music at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Larrick has authored four other books and performs regularly on percussion and piano. For more information on *Bibliographic Analysis of Percussion Literature*, contact Edward Mellen Press, P.O. Box 450, Lewiston, NY 14092-0450; phone: (716) 754-2788; web site: www.mellenpress.com.

Rethinking Schools is pleased to announce that its 2002 publication *Rethinking Globalization: Teaching for Change in an Unjust World*, edited by Bill Bigelow and Bob Peterson, has won the 2003 Harry Chapin Media Awards—Judges' Award. The awards are given annually by World Hunger Year (WHY) to encourage the media to focus on the issues of hunger and poverty throughout the world. The awards honor print and electronic media for outstanding coverage that has a positive impact on hunger, poverty, and efforts to create self-reliance.

Rethinking Globalization is a collection of essays, photographs, poems, and interviews with writers and artists throughout the world that educate youth about global economic and race relations, poverty, corporate power, and popular resistance. It covers topics such as global warming, child labor, sweatshops, sustainable agriculture, the role of independent media, and alternatives to corporate globalization. The book's editors are public school teachers and education activists.

For more information on *Rethinking Globalization* and the award, contact Rethinking Schools, 1001 E. Keefe Ave.,

Milwaukee, WI 53212; phone: (414) 964-9646; web site: www.rethinkingschools.org.

In fall 2003 **Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing** launched a Spanish-language imprint, *Libros para niños*, which features best-selling books and characters from Simon & Schuster's Simon Spotlight and Little Simon imprints. The initial list, released in September to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month, included board books, the Super Chubby Board books, 8x8 paperbacks in the *Dora the Explorer* and *Blue's Clues* series, and two paper-over-board books. In addition to these titles, *Libros para niños* will add to its backlist 18 existing Spanish-language titles from the Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing backlist, including the best-selling *Cheerios* board books. For more information about these and forthcoming 2004 titles in the *Libros para niños* imprint, contact Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020; phone: (212) 698-4350, web site: www.simonsayskids.com.

On May 19, 2003, timed to coincide with the 113th anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh's birth, the Vietnamese language version of *Ho Chi Minh: A Portrait* was released in Hanoi, Vietnam. The English language version was released several weeks later. This clothbound, full-color 140-page book is the result of an extensive collaboration between two Americans, artist **C. David Thomas**, a feature writer for *MCR*, and writer Lady Borton, both of whom are currently living in Hanoi—Thomas as a Fulbright Scholar and Borton as the representative for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Vietnam. Both have spent considerable time in Vietnam, beginning in the late 1960s when Thomas served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stationed in Pleiku and Borton with the AFSC in both North and South Vietnam.

Ho Chi Minh: A Portrait contains many rarely and never before published photographs of the Vietnamese leader and his life and times. The text includes much new information about Ho's life and the forces that shaped his destiny. The book was published in Vietnam and distributed in the United States by the Indochina Arts Partnership (IAP) in Newton, Massachusetts, and in Vietnam by the Youth Publishing House (YPH) in Hanoi. All profits from the sale of this edition will be used by the IAP to continue its cultural and educational exchange programs between the United States and Vietnam. For more information, visit the publication web site, www.hochiminh.org, or the web site of the IAP, www.iapone.org.

Nominations are being sought for the **Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award** for books published in 2003. The award, established at Texas State University–San Marcos in 1995, is designed to encourage authors, illustrators, and publishers to produce books that authentically reflect the lives of Mexican-American children and young adults in the United States.

The 2002 Rivera award, sponsored by the Texas State College of Education, was presented September 25, 2003, to author Pat Mora and illustrator Beatriz Vidal for *A Library for Juana*, their illustrated story of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz's life

and a testament to the power of knowledge.

Texas State University–San Marcos developed the Tomás Rivera award to acknowledge authors and illustrators dedicated to depicting the values and culture of Mexican Americans. Rivera, a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas State who died in 1984, published his landmark novel in 1971 titled *...y no se lo tragó la tierra/ ...And the Earth Did Not Part*. In 1979, Rivera was appointed chancellor of the University of California–Riverside, the first Latino chancellor named to the University of California system.

The deadline for nominations for books with a 2003 publication date is Feb. 1, 2004. That award will be presented in the fall of 2004. Nominations should be sent to: The Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, Texas State University School of Education, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX, 78666. For more information on the award or ceremonies, please visit www.education.swt.edu/rivera/mainpage.html.

A booklist entitled **Twenty-First Century Gay-Themed and Gay-Sensitive Literature for Children and Young Adults** is available from Maine middle school librarian Kelley McDaniel. The list of 48 books published from 2000 to 2003, with one-sentence annotations, includes picture books and intermediate level fiction and biographies, though the majority of titles are for young adults. The picture books, for the most part, present diverse families, while the intermediate level books emphasize sensitivity and tolerance, and many of the young adult books focus on gay parents or teens' coming-out experiences.

To obtain a copy of the list, contact McDaniel by phone at (207) 874-8140, ext. 402, or by e-mail at mcdank@portlandschool.org.


The **United States Department of Agriculture** has established a web site to report on its activities in Latin America regarding commercial credit programs, food aid and technical assistance, trade fairs, training, and other cooperative efforts. Some of these programs, such as food aid, credit allocations, and new bilateral agreements, are announced in news releases available at no charge. They may be viewed at the web site or sent automatically via e-mail. Both general and country-specific information may be found at www.fas.usda.gov, where visitors may also register for e-mail updates on specific countries or topics.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was the featured guest at the fifth anniversary celebration of the 1998 inauguration of the **Eric Williams Memorial Collection (EWMC)**. In 1999 the collection was named to UNESCO's prestigious Memory of the World Register.

Available for research by scholars, the Collection is located at the University of the West Indies (Trinidad & Tobago campus). It consists of the library and archives of Eric Williams, Trinidad & Tobago's first prime minister, a historian in his own right and the author of the renowned book *Capitalism and Slavery*, acknowledged by many as having defined the

study and affected the course of Caribbean history. The EWMC has been touted by Colin Palmer, Dodge Professor of History, Princeton University, "as a model for similar archival collections in the Caribbean" and "a national treasure."

Additional information on the EWMC and an offering of

greeting cards for sale to benefit the collection may be found at the University of the West Indies web site, www.mainlib.uwi.tt/eric.html. A web site maintained by the University of Florida, <http://palmm.fcla.edu/eew>, provides general information on Williams as well as a selection of speeches. 

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Another film, *Is the Crown at War with Us?*, by the prolific Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin, explores the Canadian government's persistent attacks on the fishing and land rights of the Mi'gmaq people. In her interview with McDonald to be published in June 2004, Obomsawin describes her purpose in the film as uncovering a 300-year history of indigenous community rights and struggle. Conflicts continue over Native rights because, in Obomsawin's words, "the population and the country have never been educated in terms of what the real history is...if the history was taught the way it [happened] and recognized the rights...of the first people of the country...the rest of the country would have respect for Native people."

Information. Education. Travel. Personal contact. All key components of reducing hatred and increasing understanding. At a time of terror, war, and growing suspicion and polarization within the United States, we need to stop and take another look at the path we are pursuing, a path in which ideology has overshadowed empathy and common sense. In my September editorial I wrote about the American Library Association's opposition to the USA PATRIOT Act, particularly Section 215, which lowers the evidence bar for official seizure of library and bookstore records. Recently, the attorney general labeled his librarian opponents as "hysterics" and declassified records to show that no library records were subpoenaed under Section 215 in the course of a terror investigation. (However, library records and computer equipment have been seized under other types of investigations, such as drug trafficking, fraud, and identity theft, since the passage of the PATRIOT Act.)

At the American Library Association conference in Toronto and in various publications afterward, MCR Editorial Advisory Board member Sanford Berman has called attention to a parallel issue in Cuba. In March 2003, 75 dissidents against the Communist government of Fidel Castro, including 10 "independent librarians" or owners of private libraries, were arrested and tried as U.S. government agents. In echoes of other draconian provisions of the PATRIOT Act, these dissidents were tried in secret with only their families permitted to observe the proceedings. They have been sentenced to up to 28 years in prison. In its 57-page report entitled "Cuba: 'Essential Measures'? Human Rights Crackdown in the Name of Security," Amnesty International describes the 75 dissidents as "prisoners of conscience" and concludes that their conduct was "nonviolent and seemed to fall within the parameters of the legitimate exercise of fundamental freedoms as guaranteed under international standards." As part of its action against the dissidents, the Cuban government confiscated books, letters, fax machines, and typewriters.

Defenders of U.S. sanctions against Cuba—sanctions that include the travel ban—would seize on this action to prove the evil of the Castro regime and to justify stronger measures, including war. Berman instead calls on librarians to write

directly to Fidel Castro to urge the release of the prisoners. (His letters to the American Library Association and to Castro may be found in their entirety in *Counterpoise*, volume 7, number 3, page 2.) He also continues to oppose the travel ban and other sanctions that he feels have led to the hardening of an already paranoid regime.

I agree with Berman. A lot of good things have come from a travel program like the one Scott Ballantyne describes—intercultural and interracial understanding; an openness to establishing trade and contact across borders and ideological systems; a belief that Cuba can move toward democracy and capitalism through contact with Europe, Canada, and the United States; and a willingness to see beyond the narrow view of our own government. The opposite is isolation, and—as we see in the case of Cuba and may well be seeing in the United States as well—such isolation breeds not only suspicion but also repression. 

Coming in the March issue of

MCR

- Special Issue on Cultural Competency: Teaching Latino and Filipino-American Students
- The Literature of Immigration
- Interview with Poet Martín Espada