

News Notes

news notes

The National MultiCultural Institute (NMCI) appointed cross-cultural expert John R. Kirksey as its new president. Kirksey joins NMCI, a Washington DC-based consulting firm that serves government, corporate, and nonprofit



organizations on many multicultural and diversity issues affecting today's society, as a widely regarded expert in the areas of diversity, human resource, and organizational culture, having served in many areas of the financial, manufacturing, electronics, entertainment, and media worlds. Kirksey says, "NMCI has achieved an extraordinary record of success over the last three decades. . . . Diversity in the American and global workplace and other settings is increasing at an astounding

rate, a phenomenon that presents both challenges and opportunities in the private and public sectors. I view NMCI's work as essential, and I look forward to building on our portfolio of services as we promote the organizational benefits of developing multicultural competencies. Diversity drives innovation, engagement and productivity. To succeed in the future, organizations must focus on the strengths and opportunities created by a diverse workforce and consumer base."

Kirksey plans two initiatives: NMCI will conduct a national survey to track changing attitudes and public opinion on diversity in advance of its semi-annual conference; the organization will also increase significantly the scope of its "Leading Lights Diversity Awards" program that recognizes diversity leadership in the nonprofit sector. More information can be found at <http://www.nmci.org>.

The **2010 National Horace Mann Upstanders Children's Literature Award** was announced by the Antioch University Department of Education in partnership with the South Bay Literacy Foundation and the Better World JL Institute. *The Dunderheads* by Paul Fleischman and illustrated by David Roberts (Candlewick Press) is this year's winner as the top book that encourages youth to recognize injustice and take a stand against it. Fleischman's story features a group of time-squandering, mind-wandering, doodling, dozing dunderheads who unite in a spectacular display of teamwork to offer their terrifying teacher,

Miss Breakbone, a lesson she will not soon forget. Newbery winner Fleischman unites with illustrator Roberts to bring vividly to life this cast of determined underdogs.

The Honor Books include *Sparrow Girl* by Sara Pennypacker and illustrated by Yoko Tanaka (Disney/Hyperion); *Big Bear Hug*, written and illustrated by Nicholas Oldland (Kids Can Press); *Finding Lincoln* by Ann Malaspina and illustrated by Colin Bootman (Albert Whitman Co.); *Duck and Cover* written and illustrated by Jackie Urbanovic (HarperCollins); *How Robin Saved Spring* by Debbie Ouellet and illustrated by Nicoletta Ceccoli (Henry Holt); *The Curious Garden*, written and illustrated by Peter Brown (Little, Brown); *First Come the Zebra*, written and illustrated by Lynne Barasch (Lee and Low); *Weezer Changes the World*, written and illustrated by David McPhail (Beach Lane Books); *The Hair of Zoe Fleefenbacher* by Laurie Halse Anderson and illustrated by Ard Hoyt (Simon & Schuster); and *Nasreen's Secret School*, written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter (Beach Lane Books). More than 150 books published in 2009 were nominated for this honor. More information about this award and the presentation can be found at <http://www.upstanderaward.org>.

The **2010 Hans Christian Andersen Author Award** from the International Board on Books for Youth (IBBY) was given to David Almond from the United Kingdom (<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1021>). Jutta Bauer is the winner of the **2010 Hans Christian Andersen Illustrator Award** (<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1022>). The primary mission of IBBY is to promote international understanding through children's books, and the biannual awards honor a living author and illustrator whose complete works are judged to have made lasting contributions to children's literature.

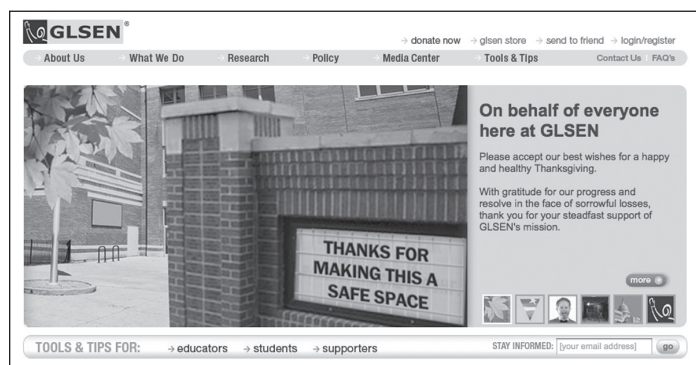
The **International Reading Association's 2010 Children's and Young Adult Book Awards** honored five authors whose work shows unusual promise in the children's and young adults' book field. Awards are given for fiction and nonfiction in each of three categories: primary, intermediate, and young adult. Books from all countries and published in English for the first time during the 2009 calendar year were considered. Liz Garton Scanlon received the Primary-Fiction award for *All the World* (Beach Lane, 2009). The award for Primary-Nonfiction went to Rachel Rodriguez for *Building on Nature: The Life of Antoni Gaudí* (Henry Holt, 2009). Michelle Houts won the Intermediate-Fiction honor for *The Beef Princess of Practical County* (Delacorte, 2009), Jacqueline Kelly was honored with the Intermediate-Fiction prize for *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* (Henry Holt, 2009), and Rebecca Snead was awarded the Young Adult-Fiction prize for *When You Reach Me* (Wendy Lamb Books/Random House, 2009). More information on earlier prize winners and IRA can be found at http://www.reading.org/Resources/AwardsandGrants/childrens_ira.aspx.

The 2011 **Diversity and Outreach Fair**, presented by the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), will provide an opportunity for libraries and member groups to share successful diversity and outreach initiatives with other ALA members during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, on Saturday, June 25, 2011. No theme has yet been chosen, but basic information on the Diversity and Outreach Fair can be found at <http://www.ala.org/divfair> or phone the ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services at (312) 280-2140.

The **National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCVP)** joins lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer (LGBTQ) communities to mourn youth reported to have died in hate-related suicides or attacks across the nation in recent weeks. The organization calls on educators, parents, administrators, and legislators to take immediate action to prevent such tragedies and to support LGBTQ youth by standing up for their right to safety and to redouble efforts to make all schools, campuses, and communities safe for all youth, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. These efforts are made more pressing in light of the fact that many LGBTQ youth may not feel able to ask for help at home. School-based bullying and harassment are forms of hate violence that are reinforced by broader structural discrimination in society at large.

NCVP recommends getting support and taking action using these resources:

- **The Trevor Project**, which offers suicide prevention and mental health resources for GLBTQ teens through a 24-hour Lifeline at (866) 4 U TREVOR (866-488-7386).
- Learn more about the risks of suicide and school bullying through a report by the Montrose Counseling Center of Houston, Texas (<http://www.montrosecounselingcenter.org/2010/?p=2667>).
- Use the **It Gets Better Project**, author Dan Savage's *You Tube Channel* (<http://www.youtube.com/itgetsbetterproject>) to send your personal inspirational message to GLBTQ youth.
- Find public education activities from **Indiana Equality** (<http://www.indianaequality.org/Default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>).
- Find resources for students, educators, and community members to fight school LGBTQ bullying, harassment, and hate on **GLSEN's** Web site (<http://www.glsen.org>).



- E-mail NCVAP to connect with an anti-violence program or initiative in your community or to learn about starting one, info@ncavp.com.
- Sign the **New York City Anti-Violence Project's** "I'm Anti-violence" pledge (<https://nycavp.wufoo.com/forms/sign-the-im-anti-violence-pledge>) to assert your belief that all people should live free from fear of violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Although these resources are overdue for the 2010 tribute to Hispanic heritage, the information offered within will provide a treasure trove for next year's observances.

Hispanic Heritage Resources for Teachers (<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/hispanic-heritage-month/south-america/6629.html>)—Educators will find links to lesson plans; activities involving music, art, and literature; references for further reading; printable information and activity sheets, and more at this Web site designed to help celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) in the classroom.

DiversityStore.com (<http://diversitystore.com>)—This one-stop online store offers posters, books, gifts, costumes, jewelry, and more to help celebrate and honor diversity in the nation. Hispanic Heritage Month 2010 posters are now available, but be sure to check back next year.

Hispanic Heritage Month 2010 Recommended Reading List (<http://www.justreadfamilies.org/Reading/HHM.asp>)—Use this link to access a reading list from the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! effort that breaks down recommended reading by grade level (Pre-K, elementary, middle school, high school, and adult reading). 📖

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