

On October 17, 2009, the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) honored the winners of the 2009 **Américas Award** for Children's and Young Adult Literature at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The award is given in recognition of works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected non-fiction (from picture books to works for young adults, in English or Spanish) published in the United States in the previous year that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. The award winners and commended titles are selected for their 1) distinctive literary quality; 2) cultural contextualization; 3) exceptional integration of text, illustration, and design; and 4) potential for classroom use.

The two winners of the Américas Award were *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*, written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales and published by Roaring Brook Press, and *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*, written by Margarita Engle and published by Henry Holt. Honorable mentions were awarded to *The Best Gift of All: The Legend of La Vieja Belén/El Mejor Regalo del Mundo: La Leyenda de la Vieja Belén*, written by Julia Alvarez, illustrated by Rudy Nuñez, and published by Alfaguara/Santillana; *Dark Dude*, written by Oscar Hijuelos and published by Atheneum; and *The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos*, written by Lucía González, illustrated by Lulu Delacre, and published by Children's Book Press.

In addition to the winners and honorable mentions, 20 books were named as Commended Titles. These are:

Animal Poems of the Iguazú/Animalario del Iguazú, by Francisco X. Alarcón, illus. by Maya Christina González (Children's Book Press)

Arco Iris de Poesía: Poemas de las Américas y España, selected by Sergio Andricaín, illus. by Olga Cuéllar (Lectorum)

Baila, Nana, Baila/Dance, Nana, Dance: Cuban Folktales in English and Spanish, retold by Joe Hayes, illus. by Mauricio Trenard Sayago (Cinco Puntos Press)

Cesar Chavez: Crusader for Social Change, by Brenda Haugen (Compass Point)

The Disappeared, by Gloria Whelan (Dial)

Divali Rose, by Vashanti Rahaman, illus. by Jamel Akib (Boyd's Mills)

Dolores Huerta: Labor Leader and Civil Rights Activist, by Robin S. Doak (Compass Point)

Down to the Bone, by Mayra Lazara Dole (HarperCollins)

Facts of Life, by Gary Soto (Harcourt)

He Forgot to Say Goodbye, by Benjamin Alire Sáenz (Simon & Schuster)

Kitchen Dance, by Maurie J. Manning (Clarion)

Pablo (Cuando los Grandes Eran Pequeños), by Georgina Lázaro, illus. by Marcela Donoso (Lectorum)

Peace Jam: A Billion Simple Acts of Peace, by Ivan Suvanjiëff and Dawn Gifford Engle (Puffin)

A Perfect Season for Dreaming/Un tiempo perfecto para soñar, by Benjamin Alire Sáenz, illus. by Esau Andrade Valencia (Cinco Puntos Press)

Reaching Out, by Francisco Jiménez (Houghton Mifflin)

The Secret Legacy, by Rigoberta Menchú, coauthored with Dante Liano, illus. by Domi (Groundwood)

The Smell of Old Lady Perfume, by Claudia Guadalupe Martínez (Cinco Puntos Press)

Voices in First Person: Reflections on Latino Identity, ed. by Lori Marie Carlson, illus. by Flavio Morais with photos by Manuel Rivera-Ortiz (Atheneum)

The Walls of Cartagena, by Julia Durango, illus. by Tom Pohrt (Simon & Schuster)

What Can You Do with a Rebozo? by Carmen Tafolla, illus. by Amy Córdova (Tricycle Press)

The **Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APA-LA)** has announced the winners and honor books in the 2009 Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature. The awards promote Asian/Pacific American culture and heritage, based on literary and artistic merit. The books were chosen from titles by or about Asian Pacific Americans published in 2008.

The winner in the Adult Fiction category is Jhumpa Lahiri for her short story collection *Unaccustomed Earth*, published by Knopf. Fae Myenne Ng received an honorable mention for her novel *Steer Toward Rock*, published by Hyperion.

The Adult Non-Fiction winner is Jennifer 8 Lee for *Fortune Cookie Chronicles: Adventures in the World of Chinese Food*, published by Twelve. The two honorable mentions in this category are Andrew X. Pham for *Eaves of Heaven: A Life in Three Wars* (Crown/Harmony) and Kao Kalia Yang for *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (Coffee House Press).

Author Mark Reibstein and illustrator Ed Young are the winners of the Picture Book category for *Wabi Sabi*, published by Little Brown, with honorable mentions going to Kashmira Sheth and Yoshiko Jaeggi, author and illustrator of *Monsoon Afternoon* (Peachtree Publishers).

The Youth Literature winner, for text in a book for middle grade or young adult readers, is Many Ly, author of *Roots and Wings*, published by Delacorte. Honorable mentions are Naomi Harahara for *1000 Cranes* (Delacorte) and Paula Yoo for *Good Enough* (HarperCollins).

East West Discovery Press is pleased to announce that *Mei Ling in China City*, written by Icy Smith and illustrated by Gayle Garner Roski, received the Chinese American Librarians Association Best Children's Book Award for 2009 and the 2008 Moonbeam Children's Book Award Silver Medal in the Multicultural Picture Book category. Also receiving a Moonbeam Children's Book Award for 2008 in the Non-Fiction Young Adult category

was *What in the World!* by Michael Smith.

East West Discovery Press is an independent publisher of multicultural literature and bilingual books with an emphasis on history, culture, and social issues and the Asian and Asian American experience. For more information, visit www.east-westdiscovery.com.

Building on students' fascination with visual storytelling, computer animation, and video games, **Museum of the Moving Image** is offering its Future Lab after-school program in select New York City public schools during the 2009–2010 school year, helping spark an interest in computer science among young women from underserved New York City communities.

An Innovation Generation grant of \$50,000 from the Motorola Foundation has enabled Moving Image to offer Future Lab to some 60 young women in grades six through twelve at schools in Queens and Brooklyn. At the end of the 12-week course, each student will have designed her own 2D or 3D computer animation or video game—and in the process will have learned the principles and practice of working with advanced software from designers at the MIT Media Lab and Carnegie Mellon University.

The 2009–2010 Future Lab program, taught by Museum of the Moving Image educators, is offered at the Young Women's Leadership Schools of Astoria, Queens and Brooklyn. Students alternate between sessions in their schools and at the Museum. Museum educators work closely with program staff of the Young Women's Leadership Foundation, which oversees the after-school partnerships at each of the organization's network schools.

Education is at the core of Museum of the Moving Image's mission. Each year, 30,000 middle and high school students and their teachers depend on the Museum's curriculum-based education programs to enrich their classroom studies. Education programs include exhibition tours, workshops, screening programs, professional development for teachers, and after-school programs for middle and high school students, including Future Lab. Online education resources provided by the Museum include the highly praised and popular web site *The Living Room Candidate: Presidential Campaign Commercials 1952–2008* and Moving Image Source, a web site devoted to the history of film, television, and digital media, which have received more than one million unique visitors.

In 2010 Museum of the Moving Image will double its size with a new theater, galleries, and an education center. For more information on the museum and the Future Lab program, visit www.movingimage.us.

In August 2009, the **National Women's Law Center (NWLC)** and **MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)** released "Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation," a new report that takes a close look at the dropout crisis in the Latino community. The latest data show that 41 percent of Latina students do not graduate on time with a standard high school diploma. The study reports that while 98 percent of high school seniors want to graduate from high school, and 80 percent aspire to higher education, Latina students continue to face numerous challenges in reaching these goals.

The study reveals that as Latinos work to provide for their families, education too often takes a back seat to survival. Often times Latina students must take on parental duties to either younger siblings or, in a community with the highest teen pregnancy rate in the nation, their own children. Cultural stigmas contribute to low self-esteem and insecurities, allowing society to ignore Latina students who then trade in the possibility of a future career for a future predestined by bias, discrimination, and a lack of support.

Beginning by acknowledging that a problem exists, and recognizing the importance of investing in our children, the study offers some solid recommendations. The recommendations include calling on schools, policymakers, and government agencies to invest in the future of Latino children through high-quality early learning programs, to connect Latinas with role models, to ensure that all students are prepared for post-secondary educational opportunities, to create safe school environments that are culturally inclusive and free from discrimination, to help Latino parents get involved in their children's education, to improve efforts to prevent teen pregnancy and provide support for pregnant and parenting students, and to require better data collection and school accountability.

For more information on this study underwritten by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the report, visit www.MALDEF.org.

Congratulations to *MCR* feature writer **Mirela Roznoveau**, whose reference title in Romanian, *Civilizatia romanului*, was recognized as "The best book on comparative literature in Romania for 2008" by the Association of Romanian Comparative Literature.

TASH, the leader in advancing inclusion and human rights for people with significant disabilities, has announced its receipt of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant to continue efforts that will expand the participation of people of color in national disability advocacy organizations.

Significant disparities in access to health and disability services have long existed for communities of color. TASH's People of Color Initiative is one of the first nationwide efforts to focus on eliminating this disparity within national disability advocacy organizations by empowering people of color to access available services. In its first year, the TASH People of Color Initiative directly impacted nearly 200 individuals of color with disabilities or their family members, enabling them to attend three national and two regional conferences. The project successfully merged values of disability rights and civil rights to facilitate participation and leadership within national disability rights organizations.

In its second year, the People of Color Initiative will expand its scope to reach at least 120 individuals of color with disabilities or their family members in partnership with five other national disability organizations—the Autism Society of America, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the National Council on Independent Living, the National Down Syndrome Congress, and the Arc of the United States of America. The People of Color Initiative will also be conducting or assisting with outreach efforts in several local and regional areas across the

nation. For more information, visit www.tash.org.

The University of Minnesota Libraries will host the 7th Biennial Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups from July 10 through 16, 2010, on the Twin Cities campus. The Institute brings together a cohort of high potential academic librarians from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups in the first three years of their professional career for a unique leadership development experience. The intense week-long Institute provides training in leadership skills, organizational behavior, and practical grant writing skills. In addition, Institute participants join an active community of 140 previous graduates that provides support as they continue their professional careers.

Institute faculty members DeEtta Jones Young (DeEtta Jones and Associates) and Kathryn Deiss (Association of College and Research Libraries) are experienced organizational leadership development consultants and trainers who have led the professional and personal development component of the Institute since it be-

gan in 1998. Lori-Anne Williams, a successful independent grant writing consultant and frequent instructor both at the University of Minnesota and nationally, will present a two-day session on grant writing.

Participants pay a modest \$750 fee that includes housing in a hotel adjacent to the campus, lunches, opening and concluding dinners, and a midweek reception. Participants are responsible for travel arrangements, approval from their home institutions for the time commitment to participate in the Institute, and other expenses, such as meals other than those noted above and local transportation during the Institute.

Participants are selected through a competitive application process. More information about the Institute and the application process is available at www.lib.umn.edu/sed/institute/ or potential applicants may contact Linda DeBeau-Melting, Associate University Libraries for Organization Development (l-debe@umn.edu) or Peggy Johnson, Association University Librarian for Access Services (m-john@umn.edu). ☎

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