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2003 CHILDREN’S BOOK AWARDS

The Newbery and Caldecott awards for 2003 were announced at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. Considered the “Academy Awards” of children’s book publishing, the Newbery and Caldecott Medals honor outstanding writing and illustration of works published in the United States during the previous year.

Avi, author of Crispin: The Cross of Lead, and Eric Rohmann, illustrator and author of My Friend Rabbit, are the 2003 winners of the John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott medals, the most prestigious awards in children’s literature.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead, published by Hyperion Books for Children, is an action-filled page-turner set in 14th-century England. “Asta’s son” is the only name the 13-year-old title character has ever known when he is suddenly orphaned and stripped of home and possessions. Accused of murder and wanted dead or alive, Crispin flees his village and falls in with a juggler, Bear, who becomes his protector and teacher. Relentlessly pursued by Crispin’s enemies, the pair flees to solve the mystery of his identity and fight the injustices of feudalism.

The 2003 Caldecott Medal for illustration was awarded to Eric Rohmann for My Friend Rabbit, published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of The Millbrook Press. In the book, Mouse shares his brand-new toy airplane with his friend Rabbit, and no one can predict the disastrous – but hilarious – results. When the airplane lands in a tree, the chaos only builds as Rabbit drags, pushes, and carries the whole neighborhood, including Elephant, Hippo, and Crocodile, to the rescue. It’s a lighthearted celebration of a friendship that will last – even if whatever Rabbit does and wherever he goes, trouble follows.

Three Caldecott Honor Books were named: *The Spider and the Fly*, illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi, written by Mary Howitt and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; *Hondo & Fabian*, illustrated and written by Peter McCarty and published by Henry Holt & Company LLC; and *Noah’s Ark*, illustrated and written by Jerry Pinkney and published by SeaStar Books, a division of North-South Books Inc.

The awards are administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the ALA. You may learn more about the Newbery/Caldecott Awards, as well as other children’s book awards on the ALA web site.

**BRIEFINGS**

**Patriot Act in NM.** A news brief for February 24 in the online version of *American Libraries* reported that the Santa Fe Police detained a library patron. A St. John’s College Library visit by a former public defender was abruptly interrupted February 13 when city police officers arrested him about 9 p.m. at the computer terminal he was using, handcuffed him, and brought him to the Santa Fe, New Mexico, police station for questioning by Secret Service agents from Albuquerque.

Andrew J. O’Conner, 40, who was released about five hours later, said in the February 16 *Santa Fe New Mexican*, “I’m going to sue the Secret Service, Santa Fe Police, St. John’s, and everybody involved in this whole thing.” According to O’Connor, the agents accused him of making threatening remarks about President George W. Bush in an Internet chat room. Admitting he talked politics face-to-face in the library with a woman who was wearing a “No war with Iraq” button, O’Connor recalled saying that Bush is “out of control,” but that “I’m allowed to say all that. There is this thing called freedom of speech.” He also speculated that the FBI might have been observing him because of his one-time involvement in a pro-Palestinian group in Boulder, Colorado.

Earlier on the same day O’Connor was questioned, officials at St. John’s – as well as at the College of Santa Fe and Santa Fe Community College – issued warnings to students and faculty that the FBI had been alerted to the presence of “suspicious” people on campus within the past four weeks.

Concern about threats to individual privacy under the USA Patriot Act has prompted New Mexico legislators in both houses to propose resolutions urging state police not to help federal agents infringe on civil rights (see *HH #1489*). The resolutions also encourage libraries to post prominent signage warning patrons that their library records are subject to federal scrutiny without their permission or knowledge.

**NM State Library staff to present at conference.** Stephanie Gerding,
Continuing Education Director, and Pam MacKellar, Technology Consultant, will be presenting two sessions at the annual Computers in Libraries Conference. The conference will be held in Washington, D.C. March 10-14. The first workshop will be a three hour pre-conference on writing technology grants. The second session is on planning large training events. For more information visit the web site.

Harry Potter at top of ALA’s Most-Challenged List. For the fourth consecutive year, the best-selling Harry Potter series of children's novels by J. K. Rowling tops the annual report of most-challenged books issued by the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF). The series, whose fifth novel, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, is slated for release June 21, continues to worry some parents that the saga of a boy wizard might entice young readers to dabble in witchcraft.

Released January 13, the "Ten Most Challenged Books of 2002" also lists, in order of number of challenges: the Alice series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, for sexually explicit language and age-inappropriateness; The Chocolate War (the most-challenged book of 1998) by Robert Cormier, for offensive language and age-inappropriateness; I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, for sexual content, racism, offensive language, violence, and age-inappropriateness; Taming the Star Runner by S. E. Hinton, for offensive language; the Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey, for encouraging children to disobey authority, insensitivity, and age-inappropriateness; The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, for racism, insensitivity, and offensive language; Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson, for offensive language, sexual content, and references to the occult and Satanism; Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor, for insensitivity, racism, and offensive language; and Julie of the Wolves by Julie Cathead George, for sexual content, offensive language, violence, and age-inappropriateness.

The OIF received 515 reports of challenges in 2002, a 15 percent increase since 2001, according to Director Judith F. Krug.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grantsmanship training. Want to learn how to write competitive grant proposals? Plan to attend the Grantsmanship Training Program at the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe, May 12-16. This five-day hands-on program takes you step-by-step through all stages of researching grants, writing grant proposals, and negotiating with funding sources. The workshop will be conducted by the Grantsmanship Center, the world’s oldest and largest training organization for the non-profit sector.

The Grantsmanship Training Program is designed for both novice and advanced grantseekers. During the week participants learn the Center’s
proposal writing format, team up with classmates to prepare and write a proposal, and investigate funding sources for their individual organizations. Participants get to use the State Library’s Foundation Center Cooperating Collection, an extensive collection of materials available for the use of New Mexico citizens who are looking for funding opportunities. Upon completion of the workshop, graduates will receive a one-year TGCI membership, which includes proposal review and an array of benefits and services. You will also be enrolled in the Alumni Forum, an online discussion group for the exclusive use of TGCI alumni, trainers, and staff.

To maximize personal attention, group size for this workshop is limited to 26 participants. Tuition for this top quality program is $775, with a few partial scholarships available to qualified organizations. More information, as well as a registration form, is available from The Grantsmanship Center on the Internet. Please let your community know about this opportunity. For registration information call the Grantsmanship Center toll-free at 1-800-421-9512 or contact Peggy Medina Giltrow at New Mexico State Library at (505) 476-9714.

Grantsmanship scholarship. A scholarship to the Grantsmanship Training Program (see above) is available for one public, community, tribal, school, or academic librarian in the state. If you are interested in attending this intensive, week-long workshop, please write a one-page essay on what the training would mean to your library. A committee of readers will judge each entry based on clarity of thought, sincerity of motive, and “the difference it will make to my library community.” Send your entry to Jackie Dalmy, New Mexico State Library, 1209 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, NM 87507, postmarked by April 11 at the latest. Or fax it to her at (505) 476-9721, but check to be sure it was received by calling Jackie toll-free at 1-800-340-3890.

Basic reference collection. The newest edition of the Basic Reference Collection is now available online. If you have questions about the list, contact Valerie Nye, Public Library Consultant at the New Mexico State Library Library Development Services Bureau; call toll-free 1-800-340-3890 or e-mail vnye@stlib.state.nm.us.

issues and policy implications for libraries and the impact of legislative and regulatory proposals on the privacy of library users. The video kit is now available for purchase online.

**Equipment offer.** New Mexico could receive as much as $840,000 in Toshiba equipment from the Beaumont Foundation of America in 2003. The Beaumont Foundation of America grants Toshiba branded equipment to support digital inclusion for underserved individuals. The Foundation will grant $350 million over five years in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In 2003, the Foundation will award grants in 21 states (including New Mexico) and the District of Columbia (Group A). Between four and 19 libraries in New Mexico could receive an estimated $380,000 in community grants and between one to six New Mexico schools could receive another $380,000 in education grants. Grants to individuals are also available. Grant applications must be submitted by March 31. For more information and to apply online, see the Beaumont Foundation of America’s website.

**JOBS**

**Librarian.** The New Mexico State Library is reopening the search for a creative, energetic, forward-thinking individual to direct the Public Services Bureau. The position is Library Manager 3, Director of Public Services Bureau. The bureau is comprised of fourteen staff in five sections including reference, federal publications, state publications (a statutory program), the Southwest Room, and ILL/circulation. The director supervises five librarians. The director plans, analyzes, and evaluates bureau activities; directs services to multiple client groups statewide; monitors bureau budget and advises on budgetary matters affecting the bureau; serves on several internal committees, including the State Library Management Team and Administrative Team. The position requires a Master’s degree in Library or Information Science from a program accredited by the American Library Association and five years of paid post-masters library experience, three of which must be administrative. The salary range is $21.635 - $32.404 per hour. For more information about the position contact Benjamin T. Wakashige, State Librarian, at (505) 476-9762. The position is due to be posted on the Jobs Bulletin of the State Personnel Office (SPO) website beginning March 17 through April 4. Application form 500A and an Official Statement of Job Interest form 600 (forms are also found at the SPO website) plus transcripts (unofficial OK) must be mailed or delivered – not faxed – to arrive at the State Personnel Office, 2600 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507, by the closing deadline. In addition to the forms sent to SPO, copies of the forms along with a résumé, a cover letter, and transcripts (unofficial OK) must be mailed or delivered to Heather Gallegos-Rex, Deputy State Librarian, New Mexico State Library, 1209 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, NM 87507 during the open recruitment period. For more information about the position contact Benjamin T. Wakashige, State Librarian at 505-476-9762.