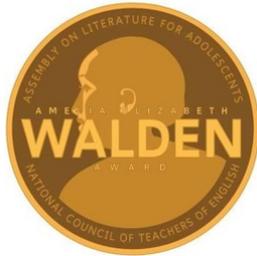




Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the NCTE

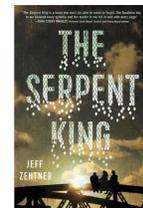
ALAN Online News May 2017



2017 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award for Young Adult Fiction Winner and Finalists

The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) is pleased and proud to announce the 2017 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award for Young Adult Fiction winner and finalists. Established in 2008 to honor the wishes of young adult author Amelia Elizabeth Walden, the award allows for the sum of \$5,000 to be presented annually to the author of a young adult title selected by the ALAN Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Committee as demonstrating a positive approach to life, widespread teen appeal, and literary merit.

The 2017 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award winner is:
***The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner**
(Crown Books for Young Readers / Random House Children's Books)



Finalists:

- ***Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow**
(Delacorte Press / Random House Children's Books)
- ***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys**
(Philomel Books / Penguin Random House)
- ***The Smell of Other People's Houses* by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock**
(Wendy Lamb Books / Random House Children's Books)
- ***The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon**
(Delacorte Press / Random House Children's Books)

The winning title and finalists will be honored at the 2017 ALAN Workshop on Monday, November 20th at 4:30pm in St. Louis, MO, and the authors will be invited to participate in a panel discussion.

The 2017 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee would like to thank: the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Foundation, the ALAN Executive Council, the ALAN Board of

Directors, NCTE, and the many publishers who submitted titles for consideration.

The 2017 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Committee considered nearly 300 young adult titles throughout the process. The committee was comprised of eleven members representing the university, K-12 school, and library communities. They are:

Lisa Scherff, Committee Chair
Mark Letcher, Past Committee Chair
Joellen Maples
Lisa Morris-Wilkey
Beth Scanlon
Jessica Lorentz Smith
Wendy Stephens
Beth Shaum
Sheila Benson
Marie LeJeune
Kerry Neuberger

For more information on the award, please visit ALAN Online: The Official Site of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents, [Walden Awards](#)

Lisa Scherff
Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, 2017 Chair

Grants

Dear ALAN members and friends,

The deadlines are quickly approaching for our wonderful variety of ALAN grants for 2017. I am pleased to provide a summary of these grand opportunities made possible by some very thoughtful folks.

As you refer to the ALAN website addresses for each grant, be sure to note that the requirements and deadlines vary from grant to grant. Please pass on this information to colleagues, librarians, and graduate students.

(1) The Cart/Campbell Grant for librarians offers \$500 funding plus complimentary registration toward attendance at the annual two-day ALAN Workshop which is held at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English on the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving Day. Eligible applicants are practicing librarians working with teens in high school, junior high school, middle school, or public libraries. Membership in ALAN is required for consideration. One Campbell/Cart Grant will be awarded annually, and each recipient may only receive the grant once. For more information and the grant application form, go to <http://www.alan-ya.org/awards/the-cartcampbell-grant/> Application due September 1.

(2) The Smith/Carlsen Grant for graduate students offers \$500 funding plus complimentary registration toward attendance at the annual 2-day ALAN Workshop. Eligible applicants must be enrolled as full-time graduate students in a program focused on English Education, Literacy Education, and/or Young Adult Literature and must not have attended an ALAN Workshop previously. Membership in ALAN is required for consideration. One Smith/Carlsen Grant will be awarded annually, and each recipient may only receive the grant once. For more information and the grant application form, go to <http://www.alan-ya.org/awards/the-smithcarlsen-grant/> Application due September 1.

(3) The Gallo Grants were established in 2003 by former ALAN Award and Hipple Award recipient Don Gallo to encourage educators in their early years of teaching to attend the ALAN Workshop for the first time. The grants provide funding—up to \$750 each—for two classroom teachers in middle school or high school each year to attend the ALAN Workshop. (The amount of a grant may be less than \$750 if the applicant lives within commuting distance of the convention location where airfare and housing would not be necessary or has access to other funding). In addition to the \$750 grant, the registration fee for the workshop will also be covered. Recipients will receive half of the

grant (\$375) before the workshop. The remaining half of the grant will be disbursed at the end of the ALAN Workshop. The ALAN Workshop is held at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English on the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving Day. Applicants must be teaching full-time; must have been classroom teachers for less than five years prior to the year in which they are applying; and must not have attended an ALAN Workshop previously. Membership in ALAN is not required for consideration, though applicants are expected to become ALAN members if they receive this grant. For more information and the grant application form, go to <http://www.alan-ya.org/awards/gallo-grants/> Application due September 1.

(4) Members of ALAN may apply for the ALAN Foundation Grant for funding (up to \$1,500) for research in young adult literature. Proposals are reviewed by the five most recent presidents of ALAN. Awards are made annually in the fall and are announced at the ALAN breakfast during the NCTE convention in November. The application deadline each year is September 15th. For more information and the grant application form, go to <http://www.alan-ya.org/awards/alan-foundation-grant/> Application due September 15.

We are so very grateful to the kind folks, including anonymous donors, who make these grants possible through their gifts.

James Blasingame

ALAN Executive Director

Grant Deadlines

Grant	Quantity	Amount	Deadline	Guidelines
ALAN Foundation Grant	1	Up to \$1500.00	September 15 th annually	Research in field of YA literature
Gallo Grants	2	Up to \$750.00 plus workshop registration	September 1 st annually	New educators who are first time workshop attendees
Smith/Carlsen Grant	1	\$500 and workshop registration	September 1 st annually	In-field graduate students who are first time workshop attendees
Cart/Campbell Grant	1	\$500 and workshop registration	September 1 st annually	Librarians/media center specialists

Cart Campbell Award for Librarians

Do you LOVE YA Literature? Want to hear from and meet dozens of YA authors, bring home a big box of books, hang out for 2 days with others who share your passion? You need to attend the ALAN Workshop which is held at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English on the Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving Day.

Need a financial boost to get there? The Cart/Campbell Grant for librarians offers \$500 funding plus complimentary registration toward attendance at the annual two-day ALAN Workshop. Eligible applicants are practicing librarians working with teens in high school, junior high school, middle school, or public libraries. Membership in ALAN is required for consideration. One Campbell/Cart Grant will be awarded annually, and each recipient may only receive the grant once. The grant honors the contributions of former ALAN presidents Michael Cart and Patty Campbell, both long-time ALAN members and passionate contributors to the field of Young Adult Literature.

The deadline for application submissions is September 1 of the year of the ALAN Workshop to be attended, and the recipient will receive notification by October 1. For more information and application form, go to the [Cart/Campbell Grant page](#) on the ALAN website.

For more information on ALAN including membership, the annual Workshop, grants and more, go to the [ALAN website](#).

Call for Manuscripts

The ALAN Review

Summer 2018: Dollars and Sense?: Economic (In)Equities in YA Submissions due on or before November 1, 2017

Some might agree with Billy Idol: "It doesn't matter about money; having it, not having it. Or having clothes, or not having them. You're still left alone with yourself in the end." Others, like Franklin D. Roosevelt, might subscribe to the belief that "Happiness is not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort." These words, however, reflect the voices of those with money, those who have the privilege of deciding that the money they possess isn't all that it's worth. We can't shake the steady voice of Nelson Mandela who advises us to remember that "Money won't create success, [but] the freedom to make it will." When it comes to money, our local and global realities are complicated. We talk of the top 1%, those in positions of power by virtue of their hefty investment portfolios. We learn of the vastly different living wage earned by people around the world. We hear of families in our own communities without homes, of jobs lost, of educational opportunities denied, of institutional oppression that limits access and mobility.

For this issue, we invite contributors to consider the complexities of economics and how they are taken up in young adult literature. How do authors represent class systems in the settings they create? How often is race conflated with socioeconomic status? What are the implications of such representations for young adult readers? How can we support their critical reading and understanding of wealth and poverty and their role in politics and policies, in literature and life? Do those with financial equity benefit inequitably? Are they "untouchable, immune to life's troubles" (Maggie Stiefvater, *The Dream Thieves*, p. 66)? Is it true that all young people have a chance, that "Someday an opportunity will come. Think about Harry Potter. His life is terrible, but then a letter arrives, he gets on a train, and everything is different for him afterward. Better. Magical" (Matthew Quick, *Boy 21*, p. 73)? Can we find truth in the advice to "Take care not to listen to anyone who tells you what you can and can't be in life" (Meg Medina, *The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind*, p. 79)? Do economic disparities leave us in despair?

Fall 2018: The Psychology of YA Literature: Traversing the Intersection of Mind, Body, and Soul Submissions due on or before March 1, 2018

Mental illness, the effects of violence, trauma, and other psychological issues permeate the lives of the young people with whom we work and the families and friends who exist around them. Young adult authors have taken up these topics in their writings, providing space and opportunity for readers to find solace and support and to develop understandings that complicate their existing assumptions and beliefs.

In this issue, we invite you to consider how YA authors explore, for example, what it means to feel lost, to be in that "moment when I know that I should scream. But screaming would be hard. And blackness would be easy. Black picks me" (E. K. Johnston, *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*, p. 47). Or to feel worn out, to have "no emotions left: I was a candle that'd burned all the way down" (Rahul Kanakia, *Enter Title Here*, p. 181). Or to want something you can't have due to forces out of your control: "I want to grab your hand, allow you to pull me through, to take us wherever you want to go, fill my calendar with your smile and laugh the way we used to" (Eric Gansworth, *If I Ever Get Out of Here*, p. 12).

As educators, we invite you to describe your efforts in using YA literature in the classroom. Perhaps your work might help students build richer, more accurate understandings of mental illness, trauma, and the impact of violence and learn to challenge, as noted by David Levithan, how "some people think mental illness is a matter of mood, a matter of personality. They think depression is simply a form of being sad, that OCD is a form of being uptight. They think the soul is sick, not the body. It is, they

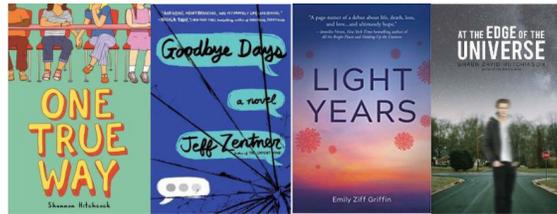
believe, something that you have some choice over. I know how wrong this is" (*Every Day*, p. 119). We wonder how your work can offer hope. Yes, it is a "hard cycle to conquer. The body is working against you. And because of this, you feel even more despair. Which only amplifies the imbalance. It takes uncommon strength to live with these things. But I have seen that strength over and over again" (*Every Day*, pp. 119-120).

As always, we also welcome submissions focused on any aspect of young adult literature not directly connected to this theme.

Submitting a Manuscript:

Manuscript submission guidelines are available on p. 2 of this issue and on our website at <http://www.alan-ya.org/page/alan-review-author-guidelines>. All submissions may be sent to thealanreview@gmail.com.

ALAN Real Quick Picks June 2017



One True Way by Shannon Hitchcock explores the ramifications for two middle school girls whose feelings for each other is more than friendship—or so they think. Set in the 1970s with the additional backdrop of Anita Bryant ranting about “that sinful gay lifestyle,” Allie and Samantha are two middle schoolers sorting through their first crush with each other. There was an uproar when Nancy Garden’s *ANNIE ON MY MIND* was published in 1982 about two 17-year-old teenagers fall in love. Like *ANNIE ON MY MIND*, readers will forget that their reading about lesbian love, and time will tell if society will accept this as the beautiful love story that it is.

-Joan Kaywell

Goodbye Days by Jeff Zentner

Following up on his remarkable debut novel (*The Serpent King*), Zentner’s newest book invites us into the heart and mind of Carver Briggs, a young man who admits that he probably killed his three best friends. He didn’t mean to, of course, but the text he sent while he knew they were driving likely caused the accident that killed them. Now, not only does Carver have to attend their funerals and confront a wave of conflicting emotions from those who were closest to his friends, but there are threats of legal action against him (one of his friends’ dad is a respected and feared local judge), and he’s beginning to have feelings for his dead friend’s girlfriend. In this inspiring and affirming book, Zentner provides a deep and penetrating meditation on guilt and loss while also showing how we can, with the help of those who care most about us, find hope and healing in our darkest hours.

-Jon Ostenson

Light Years by Emily Ziff Griffin

This amazing, lyrical science fiction YA novel tells the story of a brilliant, sensitive, and creative teenage girl named Luisa, who has just been accepted into a high profile internship program as a result of her computer coding skills. But Luisa’s plans change abruptly when a mysterious virus erupts that affects thousands of people, including her best friend and her father. Luisa, her brother Ben, and their friends Kamal and Phoebe go on a cross-country journey to try to find a cure and to save the world, before it’s too late. Luisa gets hints in the form of mysterious poems, and she has to learn to trust faith and intuition that go beyond science and logic. Along the way, she better understands the positive side of her condition, which is seeing waves of color when her emotions run high. This book has depth, suspense, intriguing characters, and an engaging plot that moves along like a gripping action film. Highly recommended for older adolescents.

-Margaret Robbins

At the Edge of the Universe by Shaun David Hutchinson

[Book Talk \(Video\)](#)

-Helene Halstead

Open call for ALAN Real Quick Picks

Please email 3-5 sentence book reviews or 1-2 minute book talks that are appropriate for sharing with students to heleneh@uga.edu. Books should not have been reviewed in "ALAN PICKS" and should have been published in the last two years or will be published in the next year.

Update on Membership Renewals by Credit Card



Would you ever spend \$5 for \$3 worth of merchandise or services? That doesn't seem like a sound investment – and ALAN doesn't think so either. For that reason, ALAN will no longer accept credit card payments with **mail in** memberships.

Credit card processing companies charge a monthly fee for the privilege of enabling credit card payments whether the service is used or not. In addition, each transaction triggers an additional fee. In the last 6 months, only a few credit card payments were processed. The fees take a big chunk out of the funds collected that make offering mail in credit card payment not very cost effective, especially since credit card payments are accepted online. So, from this point on, credit card payments that are mailed in will no longer be processed.

Credit cards can still be used, as always, for online membership. You can find that link at <http://www.alan-ya.org/join/>

-Marge Ford, Treasurer

Join ALAN Today

Get three issues of *The ALAN Review* and bimonthly emailed newsletters that provide resources, insights, and information about young adult literature in the classroom and beyond. [Click here](#) to join.

Membership Rates

Individual (\$30/year*)

Institutional (\$50/year*)

Student (\$10.00/year*)

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NCTE (ALAN) | heleneh@uga.edu

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