



Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the NCTE

## ALAN Online News October 2017

---

*In this issue: Election Results and Grant/Award Winners, ALAN Workshop Information, Ways to Support ALAN (we are ALAN!), Call for Manuscripts, ALAN Quick Picks and Book Talks, and Membership Renewal Information*

---

### Election Results

Congratulate our new Alan Leaders!



ALAN President Steve Bickmore



Board Member Jennifer Ansbach



Board Member Courtney Johnson



Board Member Nancy Johnson

### And Congratulate Our Grant Recipients:

**Cart/Campbell Award:** **Jodi Blair** (Alcoa High School, Alcoa, Tennessee)

**Gallo Grant:** **Diana Fliginger** (Nedrose High School, Minot, North Dakota) and **Amy Banks** (Diamond Fork Junior High School, Spanish Fork, Utah)

**Nilsen-Donelson Award:** **Sean P. Connors**, "Becoming Mockingjays: Encouraging Student Activism through the Study of YA Dystopia" (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas).

**Smith/Carlsen Award:** **Steffany Comfort Maher** (Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan).

---

**It's Almost Time!**

Will we see you next month? It's almost time for the exciting, inspiring, informative, and connection-making ALAN Workshop. As of last week, 417 members have registered for the St. Louis Workshop. If you are not one of those 417, you still have time to [fill out the registration form and hit send!](#) Not quite sure? You can [peruse the full workshop schedule](#) and check out **these impressive numbers**:

- Over 21,000 books were donated by generous publishers
- 90 different YA titles will be packed into boxes and tote bags
- Each attendee will receive 42 books to take home (please note shipping information below)
- 83 authors will speak at the Monday and Tuesday panels
- Rick Riordan will kick off our annual event at the Saturday Breakfast (6:30am-8:45am)--you are correct, technically that is not a number. But it has numbers in it, right?

As you read those numbers, were you thinking about **shipping** your books home? UPS will be located outside the workshop rooms and will be available for shipping Monday from noon to 4pm and Tuesday from 10am-2pm.

Many thanks to Emily Nafziger and Laura Renzi for this information about the convention layout and locations of our ALAN events.

**Virtual tour of the building** [https://explorestlouis.com/tour/slcc\\_tour.html](https://explorestlouis.com/tour/slcc_tour.html) and building map of [Level 1](#), [Level 2](#)

- **ALAN Breakfast: 222, 223, 226, 227**
- **ALAN Workshop: 100-106**
- **ALAN Breakout Rooms: 120-127, 131, 132**

---

## Supporting ALAN

When you arrive at the ALAN workshop, or even come early for NCTE and the Exhibition Hall, you will see volunteers working the ALAN booth, passing out boxes of books, and moderating author panels. This support is visible; but we have behind-the-scenes support as well. Because you know how inspiring the ALAN workshop is, you are just the person to share that experience with someone new. To help, consider financial support to our two newest grants: the [Cart/Campbell](#) Grant and the [Smith/Carlsen](#) Grant. Both grants provide assistance towards attendance at an ALAN Workshop. And, as you know, once you attend a workshop, you'll count the days until the next one.

[Donate Here](#)

---

## Wanted: ALAN State Reps

Have you been looking for a way to be more involved in ALAN? Consider becoming an ALAN State Representative. We're revising the program and are looking for ALAN members to join our team. We have NO Reps from these states: AL, AZ, AR, CA, CT, DE, DC, HI, ID, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, MN, MT, NE, NH, NM, NC, ND, OK, PLA, RI, SC, SD, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, & WY!

These states have only one representative--be a buddy: AK, IL, IN, MS, MO, NV, NJ, & OR.

- If you are interested, [please apply here](#).
  - You can see [an overview of the program here](#).
  - It is a work-in-progress, so thanks for being patient with us, AND thanks for volunteering for ALAN.
-

# Call for Manuscripts: There's Still Time!

*The ALAN Review*

## **Summer 2018: Dollars and Sense?: Economic (In)Equities in YAL 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

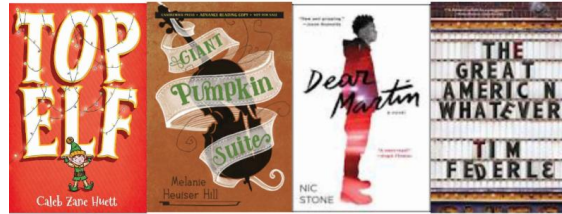
not directly connected to this theme.

### 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](mailto:thealanreview@gmail.com).

---

## ALAN Real Quick Picks October 2017



*Top Elf* by Caleb Zane (Scholastic, 2017): [Caleb Zane book talks his new novel Top Elf](#).

*Giant Pumpkin Suite* by Melanie Heuiser Hill (Candlewick Press, 2017). Rose is one special young lady. She is a prodigy of the cello and academics. She is talking college courses and has skipped grades and is in high school at the age of 12. And, other than re-reading her favorite E.B. White book, she has lost what it is to be a child. Enter the pumpkin. Shhh, we're not going to say anymore. Read this lovely book and learn, as Rose does, who truly cares for her and how the people who love you help shape who you will become. - Kellee Moye

*Dear Martin* by Nic Stone (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017). Disturbed by his unfair and brutal arrest by a police officer, high school senior Justyce McAllister begins a series of letters to Martin Luther King, Jr., in an effort to develop his own response to racism in 21st century America. Before the story is done, Justyce will come even closer to a circle of violence that challenges him in ways he never expected. This debut novel is a fast-paced read that packs a punch but keeps alive the possibilities of hope and reconciliation in a troubled world. Cynthia Anne McLeod

*The Great American Whatever* by Tim Federle (Simon and Schuster, 2016). Sixteen year old Quinn, just a few weeks shy of 17, was able to live his dream of writing screen plays because his older sister made his words come alive through film. Quinn thought he had his life story, the story-structure of a hero's journey, all planned out. However, like in all journeys, "Shit happens. Worse shit happens. The worst shit happens and the hero's life is basically over" (p. 85). Quinn's sister dies in a car accident, he and his mother shut-down, and the story seems to come to an end. Will our hero overcome all that stands in his way? Will he learn who he is, and understand that all stories have their own points of view? Teen readers will appreciate the honesty that all of Federle's characters bring to the story. -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](mailto: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/>

-Daria Plumb- ALAN Treasurer

P.O. Box 14

Bellaire, MI 49615

### 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\*)

See what's happening on our social sites:



Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of  
NCTE (ALAN) | [heleneh@uga.edu](mailto:heleneh@uga.edu)

[Visit our website](#)