Published on *Highland Park Public Library* (http://hplibrary.org)

Happy Gerbilhog Day!

By *efardoux*
Created *2013-02-02 13:46*

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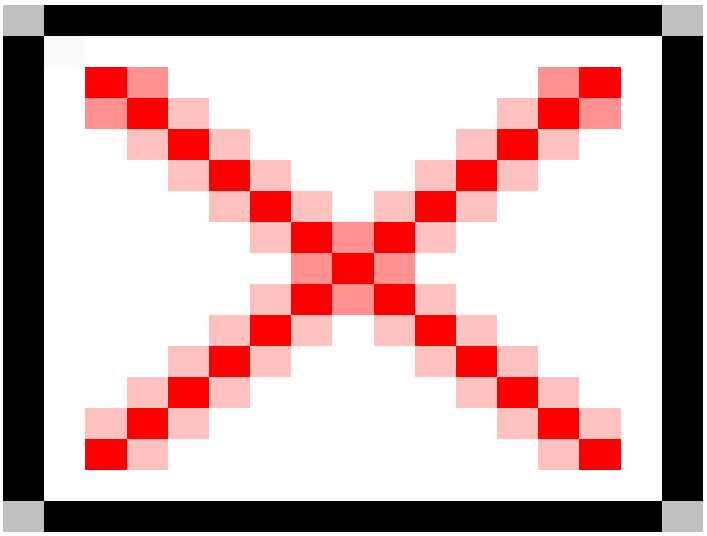
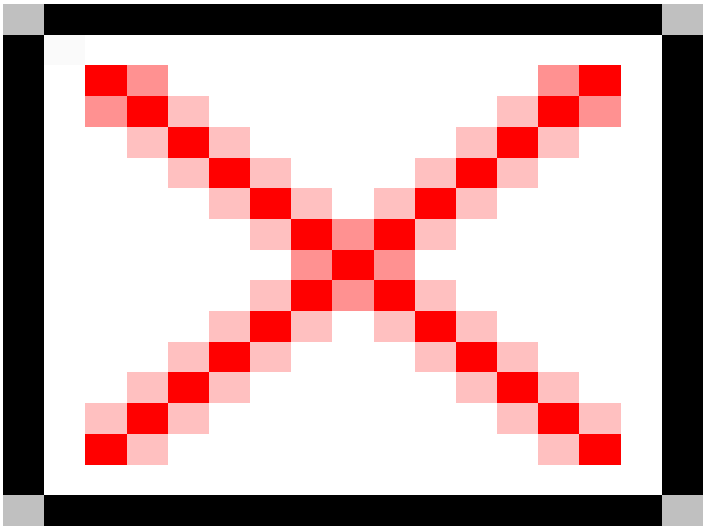
As we dictate this blog to our librarians, our hardy weekend maintenance crew is hard a-shovelin' outside... it's a winter wonderland outside! We decided though, to stay in our tank today rather than go outside & see about our shadows... it looks cold! We'll let Punxsutawney Phil take care of everything. (Did you know Phil has been to our library before as part of an animal program? He has.)



Robyn told the Tri-Con preschoolers last week in storytime that if the said the word "snow" over and over enough they could make it snow. Do not get on Robyn's bad side!



Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Rec Center for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. We had a great time making bags for the North Shore Health Center.

Facebook Features

Do you "Like" us on Facebook? We've started featuring books we hope you have been enjoying our new features. Mystery Mondays preview a small portion of a book cover - try to guess what the book is! Terrible Tuesdays celebrate *great* books with *awful* covers. Wistful Wednesdays feature different staff member's beloved childhood book and the reason the staff member loves it so. Feature Fridays share a title from our department that is currently in high demand. We decided to switch things up a bit on Thursdays. Watch for our Tell Us Thursday polls and be sure to give us your opinions.

ALA Youth Media Awards

Last week was a huge day in children's literature, the American Library Association's Youth Media Awards Ceremony. Some call it the Oscars for kids' books!

The **Newbery Award**, given each year to the most distinguished contribution to children's literature, was awarded to *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate. *Ivan* tells the story of a downtrodden, has-been silverback gorilla living in a small, unkempt domain in a shopping mall - and the promise he makes to a dying elephant. Narrated by Ivan himself, Applegate's novel is an honest, painful, and heartbreaking insight into captive animal life, and is not one to miss. Three **Newbery Honor**s were given: *Splendors and Glooms* by Laura Amy Schlitz, *Bomb: The Race to Build - And Steal - The World's Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin, and *Three Times Lucky* by Sheila Turnage. You may remember that *Bomb* was the winner of our department's Mock Newbery this year - yea for our librarians' good prediction!

The **Caldecott Award**, given each year to the most distinguished picture book for children, was awarded to *This is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen - a follow-up to last year's Geisel Winner, *I Want My Hat Back*. Who would have thought hat stories would be so awesome? Five **Caldecott Honor**s were named: *Creepy Carrots* illustrated by Peter Brown and written by Aaron Reynolds; *Extra Yarn* illustrated by Jon Klassen and written by Mac Barnett; *Green* illustrated and written by Laura Vaccaro Seeger; *One Cool Friend* illustrated by David Small and written by Tony Buzzeo; and *Sleep Like a Tiger* illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski and written by Mary Logue.

The **Theodor Seuss Geisel Award**, given to the most distinguished book for beginning readers, was awarded to *Up, Tall and High* by Ethan Long, a simple fun exploration of the three title words. Three **Geisel Honor**s were given, to *Let's Go for a Drive!* by Mo Willems, *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* by Eric Litwin, and *Rabbit & Robot: the Sleepover* by Cece Bell.

The **Printz Award**, for excellence in literature written for young adults, was awarded to *In Darkness* by Nick Lake, a survival story about a fifteen year-old boy trapped in the rubble of a hospital destroyed during the 2010 Haitian earthquake. Four **Printz Honor**s were given to *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz, *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein, *Dodger* by Terry Pratchett, and *The White Bicycle* by Beverley Brenna.

The **Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award** recognizes an African American author. This year's award was given to *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, which presents the stories of ten African-American men from different eras in American history, organized chronologically to provide a scope from slavery to the modern day. Two **Coretta Scott King (Author) Honor**s were awarded to *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Wilson and *No Crystal Stair: A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller* by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson.

The **Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Award** was given to *I, Too, Am America* illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Langston Hughes. This picture book presentation of a famous Hughes poem is striking. Collier has previously won a Caldecott Honor for *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave* (written by Laban Carrick Hill.) Three **Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Honor**s were awarded to *H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination* by Christopher Myers, *Ellen's Broom* illustrated by Daniel Minter and written by Kelly Starling Lyons, and *I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr.* written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

The **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award** for most distinguished informational book for children was given to *Bomb: the Race to Build - and Steal - the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin. Three **Siebert Honor**s were awarded to *Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* by Robert Byrd, *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* by Phillip M. Hoose, and *Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson.

The **YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults** was given to *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* written by Steve Sheinkin. Four other books were finalists for the award: *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different* written by Karen Blumenthal, *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* written by Phillip Hoose, *Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* written by Deborah Hopkinson, and *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* written by Cynthia Levinson.

The **Schneider Family Book Award** is given to books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience. This year's winner for children is *Back to Front and Upside Down* by Claire Alexander, a story that reminds us that patience and practice pay off. The Schneider winner for middle school is *A Dog Called Homeless* by Sarah Lean, about a girl's silent struggle to deal with her mother's death. The award for teens was given to *Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am* by Harry Mazer and Peter Lerangis, a harrowing story about a brain-damaged Iraq veteran remembering his autistic brother.

The **Stonewall Book Award** for young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the GLBT experience was given to *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz. Four **Stonewall Honor**s were given to *Drama* by Raina Telgemeier, *Gone, Gone, Gone* by Hannah Moskowitz, *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* by Leslea Newman, and *Sparks: the Epic, Completely True Blue, (Almost) Holy Quest of Debbie* by S. J. Adams.

The **Laura Ingalls Wilder Award** honors an author or illustrator whose books have made a lasting and substantial contribution to children's literature. This year's award was given to Katherine Paterson.

The **Margaret A. Edwards Award** is given to an author honoring lifetime achievement in writing for young adults. This year, the award was given to Tamora Pierce.

The **Mildred L. Batchelder Award** is given for an outstanding children's book originally published in a language other than English. This year's winner is *My Family for the War* by Anne C. Voorhoeve, translated from the German by Tammi Reichel. Two **Batchelder Honor**s were given to *A Game for Swallows: To Die, to Leave, to Return* by Zeina Abirached, translated from French by Edward Gauvin, and *Son of a Gun* written and translated from Dutch by Anne de Graaf.

The **William C. Morris Award** for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens was given to Rachel Hartman for *Seraphina*. Four other books were finalists for the award: *Wonder Show* by Hannah Barnaby, *Love and Other Perishable Items* by Laura Buzo, *After the Snow* by S.D. Crockett, and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* by emily m.

danforth.

The **Pura Belpre (Illustrator) Award** honoring a Latino illustrator was given to *Martin de Porres: the Rose in the Desert* illustrated by David Diaz and written by Gary D. Schmidt.

The **Pura Belpre (Author) Award** was given to *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz. One **Pura Belpre (Author) Honor** was given to *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*.

The **Odyssey Award** for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults went to *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green and narrated by Kate Rudd. Three **Odyssey Honor Audiobooks** also were selected: *Artemis Fowl: The Last Guardian* written by Eoin Colfer and narrated by Nathaniel Parker;*Ghost Knight* written by Cornelia Funke and narrated by Elliot Hill; and *Monstrous Beauty* written by Elizabeth Fama and narrated by Katherine Kellgren.

Ten **Alex Awards** are given each year to the best adult books that appeal to a teen audience. This year's winners are *Caring Is Creepy* by David Zimmerman, *Girlchild* by Tupelo Hassman, *Juvenile in Justice* by Richard Ross, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan, *My Friend Dahmer* by Derf Backderf, *One Shot at Forever: A Small Town, An Unlikely Coach, and A Magical Baseball Season* by Chris Ballard, *Pure* by Julianna Baggott, *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich, *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt, and *Where'd You Go Bernadette?* by Maria Semple.
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