

Circle of Diversity

January—The Half-Way Moon: Abitaa Giizis;
February—The Bald Eagle Moon: Migiziwi-Giizis

by Lorie Roy

Welcome to those who are attending the 2008 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

I am delighted to announce that NBA legend, researcher, and author Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will join us January 13 at the President's Program (see preview, p. 62–69). He will introduce us to the life lessons of leaders from the Harlem Renaissance, jazz, and early professional basketball. Abdul-Jabbar has a wonderful message that also supports my strong connections to children, reading, and basketball. Congratulations Dr. Abdul-Jabbar on your wonderful work!

This month, we celebrate the staff that support our libraries along with the diversity of patrons and the services libraries provide. Several special projects are being explored that recognize the career lifespan of the library worker—from prospective librarians to current master's and doctoral students, and, finally, to the life histories of experienced library workers.

Discussions are underway about the possibility of a national library camp. Contributors to this early conversation include Emerging Leaders cohorts Christy Donaldson, Florante Ibanez, Jolie Ogg Graubill, and Mario Ascencio, as well as Sharon Saulmon, project director for Information Matrix Camp, an information science/library camp for Oklahoma middle school students. Funded through a three-year Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, the Information Matrix Camp is supported by the Oklahoma Library Association

and Rose State College in Midwest City. The second camp will take place in July. Lessons learned from this experience will help us understand the feasibility of expanding this model to other states. Results of the analysis will be posted at lorieneroy.com.

Joe Sanchez, a doctoral student in the University of Texas at Austin's School of Information, chairs a subcommittee charged with planning this year's education forums. The next forum will be held during January's Midwinter Meeting and will focus on the doctoral students' experience in our schools of library and information studies. A dozen doctoral students will each provide 90-second summaries of their research, which will be further detailed in poster sessions. Forum attendees will review the work, provide feedback, and identify questions that they would like to see studied.

The 2008 ALA Annual Conference forum in Anaheim will focus on the involvement of master's degree students in service learning and citizen engagement.

Members of ALA's Committee on Education, chaired by Kenley Neufeld, have provided invaluable assistance in the planning for the forums. Sanchez will restage the forums in Second Life to provide an opportunity for ALA members to view the posters and engage in a continuing discussion.



A national advisory board is starting to discuss the possibility of our own version of National Public Radio's StoryCorps.

Radio's StoryCorps. The goal is to gather life histories of experienced librarians as they exit their careers and make their oral histories easily accessible to colleagues, students, and less-experienced library workers.

We are also taking our first steps toward realizing our workplace wellness initiative. Watch for our developing website—a place where you can find selected wellness journeys taken by notable library workers, examples of how libraries are promoting workplace wellness, links to key resources, and space to contribute your own content. The Lance Armstrong Foundation is providing additional resources, including the shipment of two *Livestrong Survivorship Notebooks*, designed to organize and guide individual cancer experiences, to all U.S. public libraries.

I am now past the halfway mark of service as your 2007–2008 ALA president. I have worked diligently as your spokesperson and have valued your support. I look forward to the gift of serving you over the remaining six months. ■

ALA President LORIE ROY is professor at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Information. She is enrolled on the White Earth Reservation, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.