

Circle of Knowledge

Sap Boiling Moon Month or Iskigamizige-Giizis

by Loriene Roy

April is School Library Media Month and is also a time of new and continuing celebrations.

Support Teen Literature Day will be recognized April 17. It is designed as an opportunity to support literature written for teen readers, including the Young Adult Library Services Association's Michael L. Printz Award winners as well as titles recognized as the ALA division's Best Books for Young Adults, Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, and Great Graphic Novels for Teens.

The 50th anniversary of National Library Week (NLW), April 13–19, celebrates the contributions of libraries, librarians, and library workers in schools, campuses, and communities nationwide. This year's annual event carries the theme "Join the circle of knowledge @ your library" reflecting my interest in developing a year-long celebration of community, collaboration, and culture. Stage, screen, and television star Julie Andrews is serving as 2008 NLW honorary chair. Visit www.ala.org for ideas on how to mark this anniversary with customized products.

On April 18, the NLW focus will be on gaming. Libraries are invited to celebrate by hosting a variety of gaming events, including board game competitions, Guitar Hero and Dance Dance Revolution tournaments, as well as intergenerational Wii programs. Consider entering your gaming activities for a 2008 ALA Presidential Citation for Gaming, Learning, and Libraries (*AL*, Mar.,

p. 12). The deadline is April 21. Winners will be selected by a panel of library and gaming experts and will be featured on ALA's website. A special recognition program will take place at the open gaming night event during Annual Conference in Anaheim.

The fifth ALA–Allied Professional Association National Library Workers Day (NLWD), celebrated annually on the Tuesday of NLW, will take place April 15. Last year the ALA-APA received nearly 600 submissions that recognized library staff members as local stars in providing exemplary service. I encourage you to acknowledge your colleagues in this easy and meaningful way. For more information, visit ala-apa.org for ideas on how libraries across the country are celebrating.

A free downloadable NLWD poster is also available. A new feature for 2008 asks libraries to share how they support worker health initiatives, a topic in line with my presidential wellness initiative. Continue your support of library workers each day, especially on Equal Pay Day, April 22, when we acknowledge the salary differential between women and men.

I am proud to announce a recent collaboration with the Lance Armstrong Foundation. Public libraries will receive two free copies of the *Livestrong Survivorship Notebooks* with reference information designed to

help cancer survivors learn about the physical and emotional effects of cancer, its treatment, and day-to-day management. Additional *Notebooks*, complete with worksheets to record cancer experiences and life stories of cancer survivors, can be ordered at www.livestrong.org/notebook.

While every day is a day to celebrate children and reading, over 400 libraries around the country will observe El día de los niños/El día de los libros on or around April 30. ALA's



We are acknowledging the 50th anniversary of NLW. Visit www.ala.org for ideas on how to mark this anniversary with customized products.

Association for Library Service to Children is the national home for Día. The event, the brainchild of author Pat Mora, is cosponsored by the ALA affiliate Reforma. Visit www.ala.org/ala/also for more information.

This month will find me at the National Center for Family Literacy conference in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as at state library conferences in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Jersey. I will also travel to Calgary, Alberta, for the Canadian Library Association's 60th Annual Conference and Trade Show. I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you along the way. ■

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