



Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the NCTE

## ALAN Online News Spring 2018

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*In this issue: Introducing the ALAN Workshop Breakfast Speaker, A Message from your Membership Secretary, Call for Applications for Editor and Co-Editor Positions, Call for Manuscripts, Real Quick Picks*

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### ALAN Breakfast Speaker

Alright. The ALAN Workshop is a little over 6 months away. You've read most of the books you received at the 2017 conference and are starting to get excited about seeing who will be on the interesting and stimulating author panels this year. You may also be thinking about the ALAN breakfast the Saturday before the workshop. Annually, breakfast attendees get to hear from authors who touch the lives of so many of our students, who inspire us to be advocates for our students, and who have a message that inspires us as we begin the second half of the school year.

This year is no different. Make sure when you make your conference plans that you include registering for the breakfast. The absolutely amazing A.S. King will be the ALAN Breakfast Speaker for the 2018 Workshop. You won't want to miss it...or her.



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### From Your Membership Secretary

Don't miss a single issue of *The ALAN Review*!

Want to know your expiration date? Look at your mailing label. Your expiration date is now printed there.

In fact, don't miss any ALAN communications!

Keep us updated with your most current (and preferred) email and mailing addresses. Contact Suzanne Metcalfe at [alanya.membership@gmail.com](mailto:alanya.membership@gmail.com) with any changes.

Please note there's a new mailing address for mail-in memberships. If you hand out membership forms to peers, students, and other potential members, please download the new membership form at <http://www.alan-ya.org/join/>. Note: the mail-in form is for checks only. We take credit cards online, and prefer this method of payment.

ALAN State Reps still needed! I'd like to see at least 2 reps per state if possible. We

either have one person or no one for AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CT, DC, DE, HI, ID, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, NE, NH, NJ, NM, OK, OR, PA, RI, SD, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY. If you are interested, find out more and apply at <http://www.alan-ya.org/alan-state-representatives/>. If you talked to me about being a state rep, but haven't heard from me, please reapply so I have your best email address. Any questions, email me at [alanya.membership@gmail.com](mailto:alanya.membership@gmail.com).

Thank you-  
-Suzanne Metcalfe

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## From Your Nominations Committee

The ALAN 2018 slate of possible ALAN board members and the future ALAN president from nominees should be finalized by late May. ALAN is committed to ensuring the slate is comprised of diverse and worthy candidates and encourages all ALAN members to vote when ballots are emailed. "

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## Call for Editors

### Initial call:

Help Wanted: Editor(s), *The ALAN Review*  
Call for Applications

ALAN, the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE, is seeking applicants for the position of editor of their journal, *The ALAN Review*.

### **The ALAN Review: Editor's or Coeditors' Duties**

The editor or coeditors of *The ALAN Review* are responsible for maintaining contact with the following:

1. YA Authors and Publishers-- for features (to get copyrights to print authors' photos and book jacket photos, as well as any quoting from a novel, etc. if the quoted amount exceeds 200 words...but the good news is that the publishers like to have those included, so they tend to grant the copyrights quickly at no cost).
2. Experts Who Submit Articles---professors, teachers, media specialists---most often, manuscripts come in unsolicited, but on occasion, you may choose to arrange for a set of articles for a special "feature" on a timely topic.

Occasionally people who submit manuscripts want to hear our decision RIGHT AWAY---so there are emails to send in that regard, but so long as you send an acknowledgement of receipt and an anticipated response date, then keep to your own schedule fairly well, most folks understand that they need to be patient.

3. Regular Columnists—TAR editors ask specific people to fill the roles as column editors, and might propose new ideas for columns for the journal. The editors develop and share with columnists a definite schedule.
4. Editorial Review Board---TAR editors work to compose and maintain the editorial review board membership. Editors may choose to examine the current editorial review board and adapt it, perhaps asking additional good folks from ALAN and other YAL groups to serve on this board. It is a good idea to balance professors, teachers, & media specialists on the list. It is also a good idea to avoid asking the same people over and over to read and review articles.
5. NCTE provides a liaison between the editors of *The ALAN Review* and NCTE. Our NCTE liaison is the captain of production and crucial to the publication of our

journal. Weekly and sometimes daily (during the heat of a production cycle) contact with our liaison through email and phone contact is necessary as the journal runs through the various stages of production

Regular duties of the editors include:

1. Managing manuscripts as they come in.
  - a. A receipt letter is sent to the writer.
  - b. The manuscript is sent to reviewers.
  - c. The editor makes decisions on accepting, rejecting or working with the writer on revision of the article, and a letter indicating this is sent to the writer.
2. Editing manuscripts and working with writers. Manuscripts often need editing for accuracy, format, and fluency. At times reviewers may find a manuscript compelling but in need of some revision, in which case the editor may choose to interact with the writer about the revision.
3. Engaging column editors. A schedule of columns for each issue can be established and column editors consulted as they develop ideas and manuscripts for their columns.
4. Selecting themes for issues.
5. Creating the cover art. With each new editor, the cover art has changed. This is the province of the editor.
6. Preparing the issue manuscript.
7. Working with our NCTE liaison on page proofs after typesetting both to work out problems of composition and to edit for errors in conventions. A professional copyeditor may be included as one of the steps in production.
8. Creating a mailing list of contributors for each issue and providing this to our NCTE liaison to be added to the subscription list. These are the names and mailing addresses of the writers who contributed to each issue, as well as authors who are featured so that two complimentary copies may be mailed to them.
9. Editors (or one member of the editing team) must be present at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors held at NCTE, where they will present an annual report about TAR.
10. Editors are expected to attend the ALAN Workshop to keep themselves informed about important topics being presented there and to meet potential writers of future journal articles (one editor each year receives complimentary registration for the ALAN Workshop).

### **Application Process**

Submit the following:

1. a letter of application detailing qualifications for the position and the applicant's vision for the journal
2. a current vita
3. one sample of published writing
4. a letter of general support from appropriate administrators at the applicant's institution.

Classroom teachers are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Applications should be sent via email, using the subject line, ALAN Editor, to James Blasingame, Executive Director of ALAN ([James.Blasingame@asu.edu](mailto:James.Blasingame@asu.edu))

Please send files as Word attachments. Applications must be received no later than October 1, 2018. Finalist interviews will be conducted at the NCTE conference in Houston.

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# Call for Manuscripts

**Volume 46: Issue 2 (Winter 2019)**

**How We Play the Game: YA Literature and Sport**

Sport, culture, identity, and power are intimately related. Sport can both reaffirm and challenge societal beliefs, strengthening and calling into question existing ideologies related to gender, race, and class. While it might be true that “it’s a long race and you can always outwork talent in the end” (Matthew Quick, *Boy 21*, 2012, p. 8), the relationship between sport and socioeconomics, for example, is real: sport is an industry driven by profit, and young people pay to play. Working hard sometimes isn’t enough to gain access, leading us to wonder who gets to participate and if and how such issues are addressed in YA literature.

Sport can also unite and divide people—with real consequences. It’s true that the team element of sport can connect people in memorable ways, as “it’s amazing how two thin pieces of clothing can hold such deep memories. Laughter, pain, victory, defeat, friendship, fatigue, elation... they’re all there, but only to the person who’s worn the uniform” (Wendelin Van Draanen, *The Running Dream*, 2011, p. 187). But it’s also true that sport can perpetuate inequities across people across time, as evidenced by this scene from Sherman Alexie’s (2003) *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*: “Last night I missed two free throws which would have won the game against the best team in the state. The farm town high school I play for is nicknamed the ‘Indians,’ and I’m probably the only actual Indian ever to play for a team with such a mascot. This morning I pick up the sports page and read the headline: INDIANS LOSE AGAIN. Go ahead and tell me none of this is supposed to hurt me very much” (p. 179).

For this issue, we invite you to consider the presentation of sport in YA titles and how YA sports literature might be used to foster a more nuanced understanding of the game and its players, its history and institutional norms, and its impact on life on and off the court.

As always, we also welcome submissions focused on any aspect of young adult literature not directly connected to these themes. All submissions may be sent to [tothealanreview@gmail.com](mailto:tothealanreview@gmail.com) prior to **July 1, 2018**. Please see the ALAN website (<http://www.alan-ya.org/page/alan-review-author-guidelines>) for submission guidelines.

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## ALAN Real Quick Picks Spring 2018

**Sorosiak, C. (2018). Harper Collins.** *Wild Blue Wonder* by Carlie Sorosiak is an outstanding YA novel for older teenagers about first love, overcoming loss, and coming-of-age with the love and support of empowered female mentors and friends. Quinn Sawyer’s interest in science and swimming makes her a role model for young girls. The setting is beautiful and developed as if it is a character in the novel. Young Adults and those young at heart alike will enjoy the book. (Release date: 6/26/18) - Margaret Robbins

### From Students:

**Reynolds, J. (2017). Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books.** *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds is about a boy named Will who lives in a neighborhood where there are three rules. The first rule is don’t cry. The second is don’t snitch, and the third is always get revenge. Will’s brother Shawn gets shot and dies. So Will decides to avenge shown and shoot Shawn’s killer. ON his way in the elevator, people from Will’s past (who died) enter the elevator and tell him their experience of following the rules. So now Will has to choose wether he will mourn for Shawn without following the rules or if he will get revenge and take the risk of dying (because someone else make follow the rules and get revenge on him). -Clara A., 8th Grade, Orlando, FL

**Burt, J. (2017). Feiwel & Friends Publishers.** *Greetings from Witness Protection* by Jake Burt is an amazing book about Nicki Demere, an orphan with incredible pick-pocketing skills. Her talents are sought by the U.S. Marshals to join a foster family in witness protection to throw off the people chasing them. She and her new family all gain new identities and are instructed to behave as ordinary as possible. To do this she must try her best to look and act like a perfectly normal middle school student. But will all this keep them safe from the destructive consequences of getting on the bad side of the nefarious? I really liked this book because of how amusing it is written and how the characters are so relatable. -Morgan M., 6th Grade, Orlando, FL

**-Thank you Kellee Moye for sharing these student reviews!**

### Open call for ALAN Real Quick Picks

Please email 3-5 sentence book reviews or 1-2 minute book talks (can be from students!) 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.

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## Supporting ALAN

Donate Here

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## 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:



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