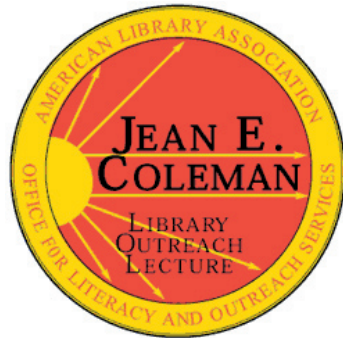


DOCUMENTS

PRESS RELEASE

Librarians and Human Rights: PLG Member Kathleen de la Peña McCook Presents 2010 Coleman Lecture

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Dr. Jean E. Coleman was the first director of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services of the American Library Association. The Coleman lecture series is a tribute to her work to ensure that all citizens, particularly Native Americans and adult learners, have access to quality library services. The lecture series will focus on librarians' roles in providing equity of access.

Kathleen de la Peña McCook, distinguished university professor at the University of South Florida, School of Library and Information Science in Tampa was selected to present the 2010 Coleman lecture. Kathleen is the author of *A Place at the Table: Libraries and Community Building*, and *Introduction to Public Librarianship*. She is a member of the Coordinating Council of the Progressive Librarians Guild.

In her lecture "Librarians and Human Rights" Kathleen explored the philosophical basis of librarians' commitment to human rights and human development as grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). She made the following key points

- 1) instruments that provide the foundation for the librarians' role as primary promoters of the rights are detailed in the Universal Declaration

- of Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals;
- 2) international statements and declarations on peoples, regions, situations and specific rights contribute to a universal understanding of the need for more assertive models of library and information services; and
- 3) the eighteen public library service responses used by the Public Library Association will increasingly be informed by a human rights philosophy .

By presenting U.S. public library practice in the framework of human rights, Kathleen provided U.S. public librarians with the context and documentation for the development of an expanded commitment in the service of human capabilities.

Many friends and colleagues who attended the Sam Coleman Lecture on June 28, 2010 have committed their life work to aspects of the Universal Declaration. By introducing these individuals Kathleen was able to provide specific human examples of activist librarians. Recognized were:

- Diane Austin, asst. director, University of South Florida, School of Library and Information Science, making technology accessible to all.
- Alma Dawson, Russell Long professor at Louisiana State University, School of Library and Information Science, ALA Equality Award Honoree
- Cora P. Dunkley, University of South Florida, School of Library and Information Science -Professor and member ALA Coretta Scott King Awards Task Force.
- Barbara J. Ford, Mortenson Center distinguished professor, first Coleman lecturer and past ALA President.
- Barbara Immroth, professor at University of Texas, past president of ALSC, Beta Phi Mu honoree;
- Alicia Long, SPECTRUM Scholar at University of South Florida, School of Library and Information Science, REFORMA member.
- Bill McCook, 47 year member of United Brotherhood of Carpenters.
- Satia Orange, past director of ALA OLOS.
- Katharine J. Phenix, Adult Services Librarian Rangeview Library, Adams County, Co. past chair ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship.
- Henrietta M. Smith, Professor Emerita, University of South Florida, School of Library and Information Science ALSC Honoree, Coretta Scott King Task Force.
- Ann Sparanese, past ALA Futas Honoree, Head of Adult and Young Adult Services, Englewood Public Library, NJ, Coleman Committee;



*Kathleen de la Peña McCook, Bill McCook, and Ann Sparanese
at 2010 Coleman Lecture, American Library Association Washington, DC*

Sponsored by the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, the Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture is presented each year during the American Library Association's Annual Conference. PLG member Ann Sparanese served on the Coleman lecture Committee in 2010.

Website:

www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/olos/olosprograms/jeanecoleman/jeanecoleman.cfm