**From:** Evelyn Keolian [mailto:ekeolian@chipublib.org]
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:47 PM
**To:** Steve Berlin
**Subject:** Conference Recap for Evelyn Keolian

Dear Steve,

Please find my conference recap from attending the American Library Association Midwinter Conference in January as an ALSC fellow. I apologize for the lateness in getting this to you.

Thanks,

Evelyn

**Evelyn Keolian** | Children's Librarian

Edgewater Branch | Chicago Public Library

American Library Association Midwinter Conference Recap - Evelyn Keolian

This is my recap on my attendance to the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter conference in Seattle, WA from January 25 – 29, 2019 as an 2019 Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC) Equity Fellow. Every day I attended and participated in various professional development activities. I traveled to Seattle on Thursday, January 24th from Chicago and flew home to Chicago on Tuesday, January 30th.

Friday, January 25, I attended the Opening Session with Melinda Gates, went to the opening of the exhibits hall where all the publishers and vendors are, met up with the 2019 ALSC fellows and mentors and attended two publisher events to learn about the upcoming children’s and teen books coming out this year which helps with collection development at the library and with my CPL committee work.

Saturday, January 26, I attended publisher events with the ALSC fellows and mentors. Three conference sessions I went to include: “Our Own Voices: YA Authors Share Fiction Based on Their Stories” (one highlights a deaf teen at a hearing school), “Leadership & ALSC”, and “BCALA Multicultural Children’s Literature: Who’s Evaluating?”.

Sunday, January 27, I attended two conference sessions:  All Committee Meeting – ALSC and Community, Equity, and Storytimes. The rest of the time I used to peruse the various publishers to what books they would be publishing later this or had already published. In looking for new books, I look for books that I can use towards collection development, story time, and readers’ advisory. I also attended two more publisher events with the ALSC fellows and mentors.

Monday, January 28, I attended the ALA Youth Media Awards, Closing Session with Isha Sesay, Board of Directors ALSC meeting, and Joint Member Reception ALSC/YALSA. Attending the Board of Directors ALSC meeting and the Joint Member reception enabled me to build on my networking efforts after attending the All Committee Meeting on Sunday to get more involved on a national level which will help with my local every day library work. I also went to the exhibits hall one last time since the publishers give away and/or sell at a huge discount all of the books from the conference that are not advance reader copies (ARCs).