



Editor's Note Renewing Friendships

By Sharon Verbeten

Great relationships. That's a big part of what attending ALA Midwinter means to me. This Midwinter in Chicago was no different—except it had one special personal twist. I was able to attend with two of my close friends from Green Bay, Miranda Paul and Melissa Gorzelanczyk.

I've known both for years, but this year, both were attending as first-time published authors—and the excitement was palpable. As Miranda celebrated on the weekend of her first book's release, Melissa was overwhelmed and thrilled to visit the exhibit floor and meet her editor in person for the first time. I was so proud of both of them for their hard work and diligence, which ultimately has led to their success in children's literature. I hope someday to see them honored at the Youth Media Awards.

I also use my time at ALA to renew friendships from the last conference—librarians who want to write about their experiences for *Children and Libraries*, publishers I'm meeting for the first time, or—my favorite—meeting authors I've admired. (This time it was Mac Barnett!)

These meetings are all part of the fabric of ALA for me and, I'm sure, for you as well. Make the most of these relationships—as long-term or as fleeting as they may be. We're all on this very exciting journey celebrating children and books, with a singular goal in mind; it's nice to know we're all in this together!

I look forward to renewing friendships and making some new ones this summer in San Francisco! 🍷



Sharon Verbeten meets first-time author Dan Gemeinhart with his new book *The Honest Truth*. Photo by Melissa Gorzelanczyk.

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