ment the rich, evocative text and capture the universal longing to believe. The double-page spreads provide scope for the unusual perspective and slightly indistinct outlines that create a haunting atmosphere." This is the second Caldecott Medal Van Allsburg has won. In 1982, Jujumani (Houghton) won the prestigious medal, and in 1980, his Garden of Abdul Gasazi was named a Caldecott Honor Book. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Rhode Island School of Design, and lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Newbery Honor books are Commomore Perry in the Land of the Shogun by Rhoda Blumberg (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), and Dogsong by Gary Paulsen (Bradbury). Caldecott Honor books are The Relatives Came, by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Stephen Gammell (Bradbury) and King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub by Audrey Wood, illustrated by Don Wood (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich).

**Nat’l. Read-In Planned School Lib. Media Month**

A nationwide "Read-In" is scheduled for April 1 to launch the second annual National School Library Media Month. The American Association of School Librarians is asking that school library media specialists sponsor a read-in in the media center beginning at 10:30 A.M. local time. During this special time, everyone in the school should be encouraged to read for 30 minutes.

Guidelines and suggested activities compiled by the National School Library Media Month Committee are expected to be available from AASL, American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Also available is Handbook for National School Library Media Month, which is $9.75 for AASL members; $12 for nonmembers.

**Patron Wants to Oust Cat: Library Board Lets Pet Stay**

One winter, nine years ago, when a black and white cat strayed into the warm environs of the Woodbury (Conn.) Public Library, no one had the heart to send her out into the cold again. Fred, later discovered to be a female, enjoyed sleeping in the children’s room atop a stuffed purple pig. But Fred’s life became complicated when Phyllis Delaney, who is allergic to and afraid of cats, demanded that the cat be banned from the library. She made the issue public when she asked the First Selectman to aid her having the Board of Trustees research the legality of keeping a cat in the library. She also sent a open letter to the local paper during the 1985 election.

Delaney’s letter to the editor explained why she was so distraught: "When we first moved here, they told us that they had the cat because there were mice in the building. I figured that mice would ruin the books and that it would be better to have a cat. But when they built the new library with tax dollars that I paid [in 1980], I thought they would get rid of the cat.” She claimed to have researched whether animals could be kept in a public building and found that it is illegal, “I know there are other libraries that keep cats, but I don’t care if there are a million . . . the law is the law.”

Acting on her complaint, the selectman had the town attorney conduct research; the library trustees offered to work out a compromise. Library director Jill Smith said the staff is prepared “to put the cat out back” if someone complains, however she has never had problems before. Smith also said that Delaney had a choice of libraries with a library card that is recognized statewide. None of these solutions were acceptable to Delaney who claimed they were prohibitive, and that she should not be denied entrance to the library. On January 29, the trustees granted Fred a reprieve. She remains at home in the library.
Fred, who is estimated to be about 13 or 14 years old, became a celebrity—the focus of nationwide attention in the media, even in *The New York Times*. Smith told *SLJ* she has received a lot of support from cat lovers, especially children who drew up a petition with 150 to 200 signatures in favor of Fred. Not one of the library’s 4000 registered borrowers backed Delaney’s complaint. “Fred is a very gentle cat,” said Smith, “the only problem we’ve had is that she liked to scratch the art books and we had to have her declawed.”

**Pay Equity Commission Plans ALA Preconference**

ALA’s Special Pay Equity Commission is planning a Pay Equity Preconference for the ALA Annual Conference in New York City, June 25-27. Pay equity is briefly defined by Commission Co-Chair Cynthia J. Johanson as “a concept requiring comparable salaries for dissimilar jobs [that demand] comparable overall effort, skill, responsibility, and working conditions.” The preconference goal is to utilize a multilateral approach in attracting a broad spectrum of librarians and library technical assistants, managers, and union organizers; the aim is to be representative of all types of libraries in all fifty states. Participants will be trained to work for pay equity both within their own institutions and as a nationwide network. Nina Rothschild, Commissioner of Employee Relations, State of Minnesota, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, contact Sue Galloway, Project Director, Reference Dept., Central Unv. Library C-075-R, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. 92039.

The Pay Equity Commission is slated to dissolve after the Annual Conference. The commission plans to recommend the establishment of permanent committee, while noting, in the words of Johanson, that ‘this committee’s goal is to go out of business.”

**Hamilton & Pinkney Win Coretta Scott King Awards**

Virginia Hamilton, author of *The People Could Fly: American Black Folk Tales* (Knopf), and Jerry Pinkney, illustrator of *Patchwork Quilt* by Valerie Flournoy, are the winners of the 1986 Coretta Scott King Awards for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions to literature for children and young adults.

Honorable Mentions in the author category were awarded to Virginia Hamilton for *Junius Over Far* (Harper) and Milred Pitts Walker for *Trouble’s Child* (Lothrop). Leo and Diane Dillon won an Honorable Mention in the illustrator category.

The Coretta Scott King Awards, administered by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association, are presented annually to a black author and a black illustrator to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King and to recognize the courage and determination of Coretta Scott King in continuing the work for peace and world brotherhood. The awards were established in 1969 by the late Lyndon B. Johnson, a school librarian from Englewood, N.J. The awards will be presented on July 1 during the ALA Annual Conference in New York City.

**Creative Education Wins Batchelder Award**

A Mankato, Minnesota, publisher, Creative Education, was named winner of the 1986 Batchelder Award for its publication of *Rose Blanche* by Christophe Gallaz and Roberto Innocenti (translated by Martha Coventry and Richard Graggia). Presented by the Association for Library Service to Children, a divi-