

# THE MAGIC MIRROR

Number 4  
(August 2003)

*"It is the function of some people to be a lamp and some to be a mirror. I have been very pleased to function as a mirror of others' work." – Arne Nixon*



**Arne J. Nixon** taught children's literature and storytelling for many years at California State University, Fresno. In 1995 he gave 22,000 children's books to the Henry Madden Library and when he died, in 1997, he left the Library a generous bequest to endow the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature.

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## "Words and Pictures: The World of Children's Books" conference planned

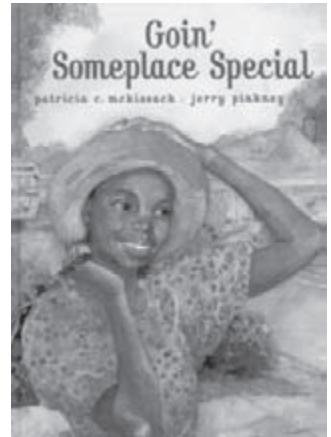
The Arne Nixon Center will co-sponsor a regional conference with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) on the campus of California State University, Fresno, on October 17 and 18, 2003. Activities include a Friday night reception and an all-day Saturday workshop.

On Friday, October 17, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) will host a reception so conference attendees can get acquainted and tour the Arne Nixon Center. Stephen Mooser, President and co-founder of the SCBWI, will describe this international organization, which has 16,000 members. Other speakers, listed below, will offer previews of their talks scheduled for the next day.

On Saturday, October 18, Mooser will discuss "Writing for Boys, Then Getting Them to Read It." Picture book author Alexis O'Neill will present "Selling Your Picture Book Without an Agent."

(See SCBWI, page 6)

*Patricia McKissack, award-winning author of "Goin' Someplace Special," will speak on October 18.*



## Frances Hodgson Burnett Society formed

A new literary society was founded in Fresno on April 26, 2003, tentatively titled The Frances Hodgson Burnett Society. It will study the works, life, and influence of this famous British/American author.

The society was a result of the "Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond *The Secret Garden* Conference" sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center. This conference, held in Fresno from April 25-27, attracted a hundred people from England, Ireland, Australia, Japan, and from many parts of the United States. Evaluations were overwhelmingly favorable. Even the weather cooperated, with cool, sunny

(See FHB Society, page 6)



*Gretchen Gerzina, Peter Hanff, Penny Deupree, Diana Birchall (standing), Deborah Bellew, and Angelica Carpenter discuss the new Society.*

# Betty Jo Peterson 1932-2002

Betty Jo Peterson, the founding Vice President and Membership Chair of the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, died September 23, 2002, in Fresno.

She received her M.L.S. from UC Berkeley in 1956. She worked as a children's librarian and later as children's services coordinator at the Kern County Library in Bakersfield from 1956-1973 and as Curriculum/Juvenile Librarian at the Madden Library at California State University, Fresno, from 1973-1996.

As a member of the American Library Association, she served on the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award Committee, the Notable Children's Books Committee, the Newbery Medal Award Committee, and the Caldecott Medal Award Committee. She also served on the John and Patricia Beatty Award Committee of the California Library Association. An active member of the Fresno Area Library Council, the California Media and Library Educators Association, and the Fresno Branch of the American Association of University Woman, she was for many years a judge for the story writing contest of Fresno's William Saroyan Festival.

Her family donated her collection of more than 600 children's books and other materials to the Arne Nixon Center and asked that donations be made to the Center in her memory. To date, more than \$1,800 has been received. The donations will help to fund the Frances Hodgson Burnett conference, which she was helping to plan.

Betty Jo Peterson's accomplishments and leadership touched the lives and hearts of many people, and helped to establish the Arne Nixon Center. Her friends miss her very much.



## Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

By Denise Sciandra,  
ANCA President



The Arne Nixon Center Advocates, ANCA, is thriving. There are 300 members including 20 Life Members. They live in Great Britain and 11 states in the U.S—California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington.

Members distinguish themselves in unique ways. Carol Brown of Corvallis, Oregon, joined ANCA at some 30,000 feet in the air somewhere between Atlanta and L.A. Lisa Schoof of El Cerrito, California, sent photos from the March Festival to be published in *Martha's Kidlit Newsletter*.

There has been transition on the ANCA Board. Founding members Betty Jo Peterson and Jane Fischer have been replaced by Cynthia MacDonald and JoEllen Misakian. Betty Jo died unexpectedly in September. Her calm, cheerful manner and thoughtful contributions are already missed. Jane continues to be active doing what she loves, calling people, for ANCA, on the telephone. Cynthia, Youth Services Manager for the Fresno County Public Library, and Jo Ellen, Director of the Library Media Credential/Master's Program at Fresno Pacific University, bring much expertise. A quirky statistic: this 12-member board now has 5 left-handers.

At the beginning of 2002, I had no idea that the ANCA annual meeting in October would be my first outing following four weeks of confinement after surgery. No one was happier to be at that event than I was. Out of the house AND hearing Richard Peck speak. Newbery award-winning author Peck exceeded expectations. He spoke primarily from his book, *Invitations to the World*, about teaching and writing for the young based on his experiences as a teacher. The many teachers in the audience could be seen nodding emphatically as he spoke.

In November, ANCA sponsored Peter Hanff, Deputy Director of the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, President of The International Wizard of Oz Club, and author of *Bibliographia Oziana*, who shared his knowledge of Oz books. He even interested several people in attending the Winkie conference at Asilomar in July. Performers from New Wrinkles dressed as Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion (see photo on page 7), treated the audience to Oz songs and Sandy Stubblefield prepared Ozzy refreshments. All in all, an informative, enjoyable morning. Many worthwhile programs that perpetuate the work begun by Arne Nixon are planned through June 2004. Members of ANCA will receive the earliest notice of all of these.

Would Arne be proud of what the ANC/ANCA team has accomplished so far? I think so!

### Answers to quiz:

1. *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett
2. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J. K. Rowling
3. *Goops and How to be Them*, by Gelett Burgess
4. *Anne of Green Gables*, by L. M. Montgomery

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*Magic Mirror*  
Angelica Carpenter, Editor  
Janet Bancroft, Designer & Co-editor

Graham Rust kindly granted permission for the  
use of his illustrations (on front and back pages)  
from *The Secret Garden*.



by Angelica Carpenter

CURATOR'S  
CORNER



*The Secret Garden* was my favorite book (well, one of my favorites) when I was a child. I read it over and over. It has healing powers: at age twelve I spent a homesick week at church camp. On my first day back, I celebrated by rereading *The Secret Garden* on my front porch in Omaha.

In 1990 my mother, Jean Shirley, and I

published *Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond the Secret Garden*, a biography for young people. When I tell people about this book, their eyes glaze over and they say, "The Secret Garden was my favorite book when I was young." This response occurs in America or Britain in the very same way.

Soon after moving to Fresno, I was invited to give a talk at the Unitarian Universalist Church, where Denise Sciandra and her committee have organized a fine children's library. Speaking outside in the sunny churchyard, I noticed a large vegetable garden next door. It was a community garden, I learned, and the gardeners were Hmong immigrants.

Teacher Richard Moats, whom I met that day, was teaching English to a class of these Hmong men and boys. He had planned to use children's books in this effort, but the books he had selected were not needed; the class he took over had already started reading a long novel written for children, *The Secret Garden*. Richard worried that this book might be more appropriate for female readers and he feared also that its Yorkshire dialect might prove confusing to people who were struggling with English.

But the book came through for him. The Hmong men and boys loved *The Secret Garden*. They, and all the book's fans, could identify with the idea of planting a garden in a strange land in order to make a new home.

In April Fresno will bloom with scholars and fans from around the world, meeting to celebrate the life and works of Frances Hodgson Burnett. We hope to see you at the conference!

*Happy reading!*

## Curator publishes fourth book

*Lewis Carroll: Through the Looking Glass* is Angelica Carpenter's fourth biography for young people. The book, dated 2003, was released late in 2002 by Lerner Publications Company of Minneapolis.

Lewis Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, wrote children's books under a pseudonym, probably to protect his academic reputation. As principal mathematics tutor at Christ Church, a college at Oxford University in England, he published many books on mathematics and logic. He wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* for a child friend, daughter of the college dean.

Born in 1832, the son of an Anglican minister, Lewis Carroll grew up in a large, happy family, telling stories to his ten brothers and sisters. At Oxford he took up the newly invented hobby of photography. Today he is considered the Victorian era's finest photographer of children. Photography gave him an entrée into artistic circles in London where his friends included the most famous authors, artists, and actors of his time. His photographs, some of nude children, make him a controversial figure more than 100 years after his death.

Angelica Carpenter traveled to England several times to do research for this book and to take photographs, her first to be published.

# ANCA members (joining April 1–December 31, 2002)

(those joining before January 1, 2002, are considered Charter Members)

## \$1,000 Life Membership

Robert & Linda Glassman  
James & Coke Hallowell  
Eleanor Larsen\*  
Jim & Kay Provost\*  
Don & Carol Larson  
Dennis & Sandy Stubblefield\*  
Alice Peters

## \$250 Patron Membership

Susan Cooper  
J. Delbert & Mary Crummey  
Lisa Schoof\*

## \$100 Sponsor Membership

Jean Beardsley\*  
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Robert & Doe Clark  
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Mary Graham  
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Dorothy Hughes\*  
Richard & Althea Johanson  
Thomas & Vicie Nagy  
Robert & Stephanie Oliver  
Alexis O'Neill  
Wendy Nugent  
R.W. & Grace Pengilly  
Bertina Richter  
SCBWI  
Sherry Shahan  
Turnipseed Infant-Toddler  
    Educare & Preschool  
Kristene Vaux & John Scholefield\*

## \$50 Advocate Membership

Neil & Linda Baird  
Jerry & Pat Bird  
Mary Lou Carrillo  
George & Anidelle Flint, in honor  
    of Nicholas Hershenow\*  
Craig & Kathie Hartsell  
Adrienne Herrell  
Gray & Geraldine Hughes\*  
Barbara Leal  
Gary & Barbara Marsella  
Betsy Mitchell  
Dick & Wilda Moller  
Bette Noblett  
Sylvia Owens  
Etta Paladino  
Caroline Williams

## \$25 Sustaining Membership

Merilee Amos  
Vallorie Borchardt  
Carol Lynn Brown  
Jeannie DeGroot\*  
Virginia Dow  
Sandra Dralle  
Jeri Chase Ferris\*  
Doreen Gauthier  
Frances Graves  
Nancy Hatcher  
Kathy Haug  
Karen Hill  
Melba Johnson

Lois Langer  
Daryl Lusher  
Brenda Martin  
Margaret McMahon  
Linda Minier  
Marisa Montes  
Kim Peters  
Jean Piston  
Stephen Sacks & Valerie Johnson  
Balzer & Blondia Scherr  
Mary Schrader  
Bernadette Siegel  
Ann Stalcup  
Elizabeth Sullivan  
Amy Teeter  
Nancy Tholen  
Karen Thomas  
Sandy Wee

Andrew & Carolyn Wright  
Roberta Young

**\$10 Student Membership  
and Other Members**  
Janice Hallaian  
Tirian Klein  
Chris Peters  
Ashley Peters  
Aaron Rapp  
Mercy Rubio  
Melanie Tatco

\* Membership upgrade/Additional donation

## Memorial donations

### *In Memory of Betty Jo Peterson*

AAUW-Fresno Branch  
Jean Anderson  
Janet Bateson  
Judith Board  
Hal & Janet Bochin  
Elizabeth Calderwood  
Richard & Angelica Carpenter  
Lanette Ching  
Wilma Conner  
Carol Cousineau  
Melva Cousins  
Richard & Sandra Crow  
Elaine Callaway Frankian  
Michael Gorman  
Jerry & Sandra Gothe  
Frances Graves  
Sue Haffner  
Christy Hicks  
Stephanie Hillman  
Ruth & John Kallenberg  
Rosellen Kershaw  
Russell & Kathleen Kirkpatrick

Bernice Lacks  
Howard & Mary Ann Latimer  
Susan Mangini  
Howard & Eileen Michaelis  
Evelyn Moon  
Carolyn Noah  
Lola Owensby  
Lillie Parker  
James & Dolores Pires  
Bertina Richter  
Walter & Nancy Rowland  
Salvatore & Denise Sciandra  
Edward & Valerie Spongberg  
Morva Taylor  
Bill & Marion Young  
Marilyn Zitterkopf & Paul Priebe

### *In Memory of Frances Hedgpeth*

Bob & Dorothy Daniel  
Grant & Ruth Erikson  
Reynold & Doris Laubhan  
Mary Ellen & Betty Graham  
Judy Rosenthal

### *In Memory of Jose Canales*

Agriculture Foundation of CSUF  
Dean's Club, College of Agricultural  
    Sciences and Technology  
Sue Fung  
Ivadelle Garrison-Finderup  
Virginia Kamimoto  
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Joseph Koontz & Kathleen Scheer  
Claude Laval III  
Helen Ogle  
Charles & Beverly Onken  
Ernest & Pamela Pero  
Alicia Rivera  
Edward & Jackie Sarkisian  
Robert & Carolyn Shorb  
Robert & Jill Smetherman  
Phillip & Evelynne Walker  
Hope Woodhouse

### *In Memory of Suzanne Cates*

Michael Gorman  
John & Ruth Kallenberg

# Donations of materials

April–December 2002

*Curriculum/Juvenile Collection, Henry Madden Library:*

66 books in foreign languages, 34 books in English  
*de Grummond Collection:* 6 books, 49 periodicals

*Lois Duncan:* 12 foreign language editions of her books

*Lynne Edwards:* 24 books

*Family of Betty Jo Peterson:* 600 of her books and other materials

*Louise Feinberg:* book and other materials

*Ramona Frasher:* 387 books from China

*Friends of the Fresno County Library and Rosellen Kershaw:*  
81 books

*Michael Gorman:* 29 books

*Henry Holt and Co.:* 46 books

*Holiday House:* 38 books

*Houghton-Mifflin:* 68 books

*Carol and Don Larson:* 23 books

*Lerner Publications:* 21 books

*Rudy Najar:* 5 books

*Oakland Public Library:* 146 books

*Richard Peck:* 6 books

*Penguin Putnam:* 10 books

*Mary Purucker:* 188 books

*Random House:* 133 books

*Richmond Public Library:* 30 books, 336 periodicals

*Bertina Richter:* 7 books

*San Francisco Public Library:* 142 books

*Scholastic:* 138 books

*Sciandra Family:* 16 books

*The value of materials donated to the Arne Nixon Center since its opening is estimated at more than \$70,000! To list every gift would overflow this newsletter. Thanks to all our donors!*

## Sign me up!

I/We would like to join the Arne Nixon Center Advocates and enclose a donation. (Donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.)

New membership       Renewal  
 \$1,000      Life membership  
 \$ 250      Patron membership  
 \$ 100      Sponsor membership  
 \$ 50      Advocate membership  
 \$ 25      Sustaining membership  
 \$ 10      Student membership  
 \$      Other amount

Make check payable to CSUF Foundation.

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## Not just for children

The Arne Nixon Center and Sunnyside Regional Library, a branch of the Fresno County Public Library, will co-sponsor a program funded by a grant from the California Center for the Book. "Not for Children Only: Classic Children's Literature for Adults" is a book discussion group to be led by Dr. Glenn DeVoogd from the Literacy and Early Education Department at California State University, Fresno. The books to be discussed are:

*Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott

*The Giver*, by Lois Lowry

*The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*Charlotte's Web*, by E. B. White

*The Classic Fairy Tales*, by Iona and Peter Opie

*Dragonwings*, by Laurence Yep

From March 4 through April 1, the program will meet every Monday at Sunnyside Regional Library, 5566 East Kings Canyon Road, Fresno, at 7 p.m. The library will lend books to program participants. There is no charge. For more information, call (559) 255-6595.

# Conference, from page 1

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Participants will stay at the Piccadilly Inn–University (phone (559) 224-4200; ask for “Burnett Conference” rates). Conference meetings will take place on campus and at the hotel. The conference will conclude with brunch in a beautiful Fresno garden.

## Featured speakers for plenary sessions:

Phyllis Bixler, author of *Frances Hodgson Burnett* (Twayne’s English Authors Series).

Angelica Shirley Carpenter, Curator of the Arne Nixon Center and author of *Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond the Secret Garden*.

Michael Cart, librarian, teacher, Booklist columnist, and author of *From Romance to Realism, a History of Young Adult Literature*.

Penny Deupree, Frances Hodgson Burnett’s great-granddaughter.

Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, Professor of English, Vassar University, author of *Black London: Life Before Emancipation and Carrington*. Her new biography of Burnett will be published in 2003 by Rutgers University Press.

Alison Lurie, Professor of English, Cornell University, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, author of *Foreign Affairs, Boys and Girls Forever: Children’s Classics from Cinderella to Harry Potter*, and *Don’t Tell the Grown-Ups: The Subversive Power of Children’s Literature*.



*Pulitzer Prize winner  
Alison Lurie will  
speak at a luncheon on April 26.*

Ann Thwaite, Burnett’s principal biographer, author of *Waiting for the Party: The Life of Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1849-1924*. Thwaite, the esteemed British author of *A. A. Milne: The Man Behind Winnie-the-Pooh*, will deliver a pre-conference lecture, “Who Wrote Winnie-the-Pooh?” at the Satellite Student Union at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24, as part of the University Lecture Series.

## Presentors and their topics:

Amy Billone, Professor, University of Tennessee. “Almost Like Fear: Doubling and the Sublime in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess*.”

Nancy Chinn, Associate Professor, English Department, Baylor University. “*A Little Princess* and Two Film Versions: Changing Images of American Girls.”

Carole Dunbar, Lecturer, St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Ireland. “Rats in Black Holes and Corners: An Examination of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s Portrayal of the Urban Poor.”

Jerry Griswold, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, San Diego State University, author of *Audacious Kids: Coming of Age in America’s Classic Children’s Books*. “Snugness: The Robin in its Nest.”

Ariko Kawabata, Assistant Professor, Aichi Prefectural University, Japan. “*A Fair Barbarian* and ‘the Noble Bachelor’: The Transatlantic Marriage Plot in Burnett and Doyle.”

Megan Lambert, Youth Services Librarian, Gaylord Memorial Library, South Hadley, Massachusetts. “Just a Whisper: Connecting Burnett’s *Secret Garden* with Other Touchstone Works of Children’s Literature in an Undergraduate Survey Course.”

Anne Lundin, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin, author of *Victorian Horizons: The Reception of the Picture Books of Walter Crane, Randolph Caldecott, and Kate Greenaway*. “Cultural Work: The Critical and Commercial Reception of *The Secret Garden*.”

Tim Morris, Professor and Chair in the English Department, University of Texas at Arlington, author of *You’re Only Young Twice: Children’s Literature and Film*. “Shifting Secrets in Burnett’s *Surly Tim* (1877).”

Sylvia Nosworthy, Professor, Walla Walla College, Washington. “A Comparison of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *Two Little Pilgrims’ Progress* with Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women* and Richard Peck’s *Fair Weather*.”

Sally Stokes, Curator, National Trust for Historic Preservation Library Collection, University of Maryland. “The Influence of Burnett on Noel Streatfeild, Particularly as Manifested in Streatfeild’s *Movie Shoes*.”

Midori Todayama, Associate Professor, Hachinohe National College of Technology, Japan. “Those Abandoned Children: The Children and Sexuality in *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Secret Garden*.”

Additional speakers will be announced. The deadline for conference registration is April 11. For more information, check our Web site at [www.arnenixoncenter.org](http://www.arnenixoncenter.org), contact the Center via E-mail at [anc@listserv.csufresno.edu](mailto:anc@listserv.csufresno.edu), or call (559) 278-8116.

# Bring Alice to Fresno!

The Arne Nixon Center wishes to acquire a unique research collection of materials related to Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. The 1,900 items, primarily books, were collected by Hilda Bohem, rare books librarian and scholar and bibliographer of Carroll's work. Bohem, now in her 80s, hopes that the collection will stay together, in a library with access for researchers.

The Bohem collection, including hundreds of editions, illustrations by 300 artists, 100 foreign language translations, 250 imitations of Alice, and many other rare items, is of international importance. Lewis Carroll's great classics and characters—Alice, the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat—are instantly recognizable the world over.

The collection is valued at \$150,000. Development efforts have resulted in pledges totaling \$59,000. The Center needs your generous support to acquire this outstanding collection.

To help, contact the Madden Library's Director of Development, Marcie Morrison, at (559) 278-7177 or by E-mail to [marciamo@csufresno.edu](mailto:marciamo@csufresno.edu).



## ANC pairs with SCBWI

The Arne Nixon Center and the Arne Nixon Center Advocates will co-sponsor a regional workshop for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators on October 17 and 18, 2003. Speakers will include Stephen Mooser, President of the SCBWI, author Alexis O'Neill, illustrator/author Deborah Nourse Lattimore, and author Patricia McKissack. Optional credit will be available. Details to be announced.

## Snapshots of past events

*NEAR: Newbery winner Richard Peck, shown here with Denise Sciandra, spoke at an ANCA luncheon on October 12.*

*FAR: Actors from the "New Wrinkles 2002" show greeted guests at Peter Hanff's Oz program on November 16.*



## CALENDAR CALENDAR

### 2003

March 17  
Tea for Life Members

April 6  
Secret Garden Party

April 24  
Ann Thwaite  
"Who Wrote Winnie-the-Pooh?"  
7:30 p.m., Satellite Student Union

April 25-27  
Frances Hodgson Burnett:  
Beyond the Secret Garden Conference

October 17 & 18  
Society of Children's Book Writers  
and Illustrators regional workshop

### 2004

June 10-13  
Children's Literature Association  
Annual conference.  
Theme: "Dreams and Visions"

# Can you identify book titles from these famous lines?

*(Answers on page 2)*

*Q*<sup>1</sup>

“Once upon a time there was a little chimney-sweep and his name was Tom. That is a short name, and you have heard it before, so you will not have much trouble in remembering it.”

*Q*<sup>2</sup>

“Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot. By Order of the Author, Per G.G., Chief of Ordnance.”

*Q*<sup>3</sup>

“Uncle McAllister lived in Scotland. Every year he sent Louis a birthday gift for his nature collection.”

*Q*<sup>4</sup>

“I like you the way you are,” she said, “but you’ll be more comfortable with your shoulder strap fastened.”

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