



Number 24
September 2013

"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

Leonard Marcus to join ANC Governing Board

The Arne Nixon Center is proud to announce that renowned children's literature authority Leonard S. Marcus has offered to serve on its Governing Board. Marcus will take his place beside author, reviewer, and young adult literature expert, Michael Cart, and Dean of Library Services, Peter McDonald. The three-member board, formed in accordance with the wishes of the late Professor Arne Nixon, is charged with establishing and approving broad policy directions for the Center. (Sadly, the untimely death in May of founding member Tawfic Farah, left the Board with a vacancy.)

Marcus is a distinguished author, children's book expert, and historian. He has written many highly acclaimed books about children's literature and the authors and artists who create it, including Margaret Wise Brown and Madeline L'Engle. His book, *Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children's Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became An American Icon Along the Way*, was the inspiration for his traveling exhibition of original artwork from the illustrators of the Little Golden Books. This exhibition, with over 60 pieces of art, was sponsored by the Center and shown in the Library's Ellipse Gallery earlier this spring. Marcus is also a founding trustee of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

Currently on display at the New York Public Library is an exhibition curated by Marcus of over 250 children's books and related artifacts. "The ABC of It: Why Children's Books Matter" explores the dynamic nature of the genre, its depth and diversity, spanning from the early eighteenth century to the present. The exhibition will run through March 2014.

The Arne Nixon Center is privileged to welcome Leonard Marcus to the Governing Board position and is grateful to be able to draw on his extensive knowledge and insight. We look forward to working with him.



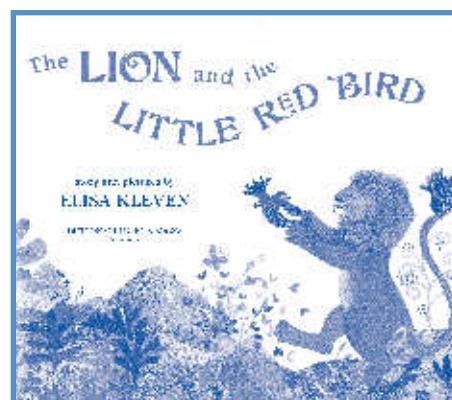
Elisa Kleven to speak at Annual Meeting

Award-winning author and illustrator Elisa Kleven will be the guest speaker at the 2013 annual meeting of ANCA (Arne Nixon Center Advocates). The meeting will be held at Fresno State in the Madden Library, Auditorium Room 2206, on Friday, November 1. A catered reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., with Kleven's talk to begin at 7:00 p.m. The reception and presentation are free of charge and open to the public, but reservations are required.

Kleven's talk, "Scraps and Imagination: Creating Miniature Worlds in Childhood and in Children's Books," will explore the connections between childhood play and adult creativity, with a focus on the magic of imagination and how best to encourage it. The presentation will include views of her many inspirations, an explanation of her creative process, and an interactive drawing and story making session. She hopes the interactive session will help those who work with young people to foster creativity and a love of books and art.

Kleven is the author and/or illustrator of over 30 children's picture books, among them *Welcome Home, Mouse*; *The Paper Princess* series; *The Lion and the Little Red Bird*; *Hooray, A Piñata!*; and *Wish: Wishing Traditions Around the World*. She was the illustrator of

Jose-Luis Orozco's *De Colores*, Arthur Dorros' *Abuela* and *Isla*, and Thacher Hurd's *The Weaver*, among others.



(See **Kleven**, page 6)

Frogs, Dogs, Hippies, Real Princesses, Dastardly Dames . . . and Ailiki!

The Center is deeply grateful to the authors and illustrators who recently contributed papers to our archives.

Carolyn Dee Flores donated original cover art and a double-spread illustration from the bilingual book she illustrated and wrote, *Canta, Rana, Canta/Sing, Froggie, Sing*. She will send more papers next month from *Daughters of Two Nations*, a book by Peggy Caravantes, which Flores illustrated.

Margarita Engle contributed two more boxes of her papers. Included were autographed copies of her newest books (the first two of which are about dogs), *When You Wander*, *Mountain Dog*, and *The Lightning Dreamer*, as well as advanced readers copies, correspondence papers, research papers, galleys, and journals.

We were pleased to add Janet Nichols Lynch's papers to our archives with a signed copy and papers for her new book, *My Beautiful Hippie*. She also donated original manuscripts, drafts, correspondence, photographs, and research materials for *Racing California; Addicted to Her; Messed Up; Peace is a Four-Letter Word; American Music Makers; and Women Music Makers*. In addition, Lynch donated newspapers and magazine articles for her books, unpublished articles and manuscripts, published magazine stories, press releases, and other materials relating to her books and research.

Shirin Yim Bridges provided additional materials for her archive. Her latest donation contained original manuscripts, editorial drafts with comments, correspondence, galleys, color separations, and research materials for *The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Real Princesses* series, *The Thinking Girl's Treasury of Dastardly Dames* series, and *Horrible Hauntings*.

This past spring, Ailiki sent four more boxes of materials. Catalogs containing her books from the 1960s to the present, earliest reviews, letters from schools, teachers, fans, and children, overflow reviews, and a handbook of research on teaching literacy were included.

A big thank-you to all!

Hurray, a Piñata!



Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

(Arne Nixon Center Advocates)

by Denise Sciandra, ANCA President

I've written much about my bookworm grandson, Samuel. Now it's time to introduce his baby sister Nora, who is seventeen-months-old. It has taken a little longer for her to engage with books. We turn the pages quickly and the more gimmicks, such as flaps, tactile images, objects that extend beyond the page, and peek-a-boos, the better. She enjoys verses that are sung.

I like to start babies with Mother Goose, with its rhyming, lyrical verses that often involve singing. A wonderful edition is Salley Mavor's *Pocketful of Posies*. Her photographed fiber art illustrations are amazing. Nora, at the tender age of four months, would touch them and rub her hand over them as though they were real. Now, when she knows that "This Little Pig Went to Market" is on the next page, she raises her foot so that I can reach her 'piggies'. And when we finish with one foot, we do the other foot. I try to turn the page. She stops me. I have to do each foot once more.

Nora has taken to Jellycats, both the quirky, cute, and soft-stuffed animals and the books, which often include hanging animals' tails. Don't try to put Nora to bed without a story or a snuggle with a Jellycat animal.

Nora seems attracted to books illustrated by photographs. Just like Sam, she loves the Eyelike Nature series of board books about stones, sticks, leaves, and snow. Each book is illustrated with photos of children enjoying these things in different contexts. She touches these photos as we read them over and over.

Global Babies is another favorite illustrated with photos of babies from many countries in various ethnic dress. The text is simple: "Wherever they live, Wherever they go, Whatever they wear, Whatever they feel, Babies everywhere, Are beautiful, Special, and Loved." Nora will look through her bookshelf to find this book.

I can't close without mentioning Sam. Mo Willem's Elephant and Piggie stories are laugh-out-loud funny, time and again. Sam was laughing so hard as I read them to him one rainy day in the library, I was concerned we were going to be asked to leave.

The creators of *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* have another winner in *Steam Train, Dream Train*. It is perfect for a train lover such as Sam. In soothing rhyme and illustrations, the various cars are appropriately loaded. It closes with "The freight and crew are tucked away. The next stop . . . is another day."

There is nothing to compare with reading to grandchildren. I look forward to many more years of it.

MAGIC MIRROR MAGIC MIRROR

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CURATOR'S CORNER

by Jennifer Crow



My father used to say, "Strive to become a passionate lover of all things. To do otherwise is a waste of one's time, energy, and talents." And it was, perhaps, his encouragement that led me to become socially aware and active at a fairly early age. In junior high, I organized petition drives and protests so that girls could enjoy the same right to warmth and comfort as boys experienced in wearing pants to school. I was part of the Human Relations Club, trying to bridge gaps of understanding in our self-segregated school. In high school, I worked on presidential campaigns and volunteered Saturday mornings at the recycling center. I handed out leaflets and attended marches against the increasingly unpopular war. I was, by no means, a perfect kid. But I was passionate. It seems that young people so often have the raw sentiment and conviction to try to make the world a better place, but they are also the ones whose efforts are most left out of recorded history.

One such passionate young woman was Claudette Colvin. Claudette Colvin was a key player in the civil rights movement and yet many people are unaware of her accomplishments. The book by Phillip Hoose, *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, explains her achievements, as well as the circumstances that led to her virtual anonymity. At age 15, Colvin was the first African American woman tried and convicted for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white person in Montgomery, Alabama. Just over a year later, she became one of four plaintiffs in a constitutional challenge to Alabama's bus segregation law. Because Colvin was seen as a feisty and unruly teenager and because she became an unwed mother after her conviction, she was deemed unsuitable as a role model for justice. That role became reserved for someone whose name we all know today, Rosa Parks.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice will be the featured book for the first session in a new series of symposia for teachers and credential students entitled "Inquiring Minds: Texts and Issues for the Common Core." The series is a collaboration between the Nixon Center and the San Joaquin Valley Writing Project. The first session will explore the theme of youth activism, using expository reading and writing experiences to promote Common Core standards. Text sets and new technologies will provide additional insight. A total of four sessions will be offered over the fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters. Themes for upcoming sessions include understanding family histories, breaking barriers, and investigating our world. I hope you will be able to join us as we delve into new topics using the Common Core framework.

I am lucky to have found my way to librarianship, a profession that embraces the principals of equity and intellectual freedom. The Nixon Center provides me the opportunity to work with a wide range of educators (e.g. professors, teachers, librarians, authors, community researchers) and students, so they, in turn, can foster a spirit of compassion and social responsibility in today's young people.

Illustrations



Except for the contest logo on page 4, the illustrations featured in this issue of *The Magic Mirror* are the work of **Elisa Kleven**. Book titles accompany the illustrations, with the exception of two from *Welcome Home, Mouse*: the little guy shown here and the one used with the Quiz questions.

“Wild About Books!” contest winners named

The second annual “Wild About Books” writing and illustration contest has ended and it’s time to announce the winners, whose names are listed below by category and division. The contest, sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center, A Book Barn, Channel 47, the Fresno County Public Library, and Linden Publishing, was launched this past spring. Over 85 entries were submitted from students in grades 3 through 12. The only requirement for contest submissions was that they pertain to books.

First place winners in each category, within each division, will receive a cash prize of \$50, while Honor Award winners will receive \$25 each. In addition to the cash prizes, an anthology of all the winning entries will be published and a copy given to each winner. Additional copies of the anthology will be available for sale, with proceeds going toward awards for next year’s contest.

Grand prize winners for each division will be awarded \$100, and their names will be announced at the awards ceremony on November 20. Family and friends are invited to attend the event in the Clovis Veterans Memorial District Building, Freedom Room, at 7 p.m. that evening.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the young writers who entered the contest! Your creativity and dedication are an inspiration to everyone.

Division A, Grades 3–5

Fiction

1st Place:

The Magic Book, by Aubrey Allen

Honor Awards:

The Undercover Hero, by Quaid Copher

The Book of Elven Magic, by Iris Wang

Non Fiction

1st Place:

The Path to Becoming a Good Writer, by Elyse Brewer

Poetry

1st Place:

“Books on a Vine,” by Elyse Brewer

Honor Awards:

“What Books Are,” by Haley Raiskup

“A Poem About Books,” by Jordan Rasmussen

Illustration

1st Place:

“The Rats of NIMH Meet with Mrs. Frisby,”

by Matthew Swanborn

Honor Awards:

“Books on a Vine,” by Elyse Brewer

“Sssseriously Good Book,” by Daniel Hopper

Division B, Grades 6–8

Fiction

1st Place:

Tragedy in the Library,

by Malcolm Church

Honor Awards:

Dream?, by Makayla Becker

Cinnamonbun’s Great Adventure,

by Hazel Koh

Non Fiction

[no submissions]

Poetry

1st Place (tie):

“Seven Little Books,” by Victoria Hopper

and “The Sweet Tooth,” by Jenna Rasmussen

Honor Award:

“Book Poem,” by Joshua Rasmussen

Illustration

1st Place:

Undersea Library, by Victoria Hopper

Honor Awards:

“Wolf Mountain,” by Tessa Nelson

“Rockstar / Singer,” by Kalina Duong

Division C, Grades 9–12

Fiction

1st Place:

Abstraction, by Graeme Merrow

Honor Awards:

Between These Parchment Pages, by Sarah Barnett

Sarah, by Max Reagan

The Box of Words, by Katlyn Tjerrild

Non Fiction

[no submissions]

Poetry

1st Place:

“Books—Amazing Adventures,” by Francesco Parisi

Honor Awards:

“I Am,” by Claire Copher

“A Bully Story,” by Delilah Ovalle

Illustration

1st Place: “Paperback Portals,” by Greame Merrow



“Inquiring Minds”: a new symposia series

The Center will team up again this academic school year with the San Joaquin Valley Writing Project to offer a new series of writing symposia for teachers and credential students. The series, entitled “Inquiring Minds: Texts and Issues for the Common Core,” will focus on the new Common Core State Standards. Offering practical ideas for classroom writing, each session will expand upon the theme of a single book title. We’ll explore non-fiction and fictional texts, leading to in-depth reading and writing experiences that reflect the Common Core’s emphasis on opinion, information, and argument.

One unit of credit will be offered through Fresno State’s Division of Continuing and Global Education. This year, two of the symposia will be conducted in a face-to-face classroom setting, and the other two through online sessions. Assignments will include the use of new technologies that can be adopted for implementation in the classroom. To earn university credit, participants are required to attend three of the four offered workshops. Face-to-face sessions will be held at Fresno State in the Education Building and will include box lunches. Costs for early registration fees are \$25 each, \$90 for all four, or \$70 for three classes. Late registration fees are \$30 each, \$110 for all four, and \$85 for three classes. (A unit fee of \$75 for college credit must be paid separately to Continuing and Global Education.) Featured books will be provided for registrants who have paid by the early registration deadline. Registration is online at <http://adobe.ly/13NgjzV>.

September 21, 2013 (Face-to-Face)

Fresno State Ed 360, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Featured Book: *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, by Phillip Hoose.

Theme: Exploring student activism.

Early Registration Deadline: 9/7/13

November 1–30, 2013 (Online)

Featured Book: *American Born Chinese*, by Gene Luen Yang.

Theme: Understanding family histories.

Early Registration Deadline: 10/26/13

February 8, 2014 (Face-to-Face)

Fresno State Ed 140, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Featured Book: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie.

Theme: Breaking barriers.

Early Registration Deadline: 1/25/14

March 1–31, 2014 (Online)

Life in the Ocean: *The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle*, by Claire A. Nivola

Theme: Understanding family histories.

Early Registration Deadline: 2/15/14

Theme: Investigating our world.

For more information, please send email to Kathee Godfrey at kgodfrey@csufresno.edu or call the Nixon Center at 559.278.8116.

Booktoberfest! A day-long program for authors, illustrators, and fans of children’s literature

The Arne Nixon Center and the California North/Central Region of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) will present a Children’s Booktoberfest on Saturday, October 5, in the Henry Madden Library.

Children’s Booktoberfest will bring together writers, illustrators, and fans of children’s literature. Whether you write novels, picture books, or nonfiction, or simply enjoy reading them, Booktoberfest has something for you.

Featured speakers will include Newbery Medalist Susan Patron (*The Higher Power of Lucky*); Caldecott Honor winner Marla Frazee (Frazee writes and illustrates picture books, such as *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*); award-winning nonfiction author Ginger Wadsworth (*First Girl Scout: The Life of Juliette Gordon Low*); novelist and social media expert Bonnie Hearn Hill (young adult novels, such as *Aries Rising*); and agent Jen Rofé from the Andrea Brown Literary Agency.

Registration fees, paid after September 5, are \$90 for SCBWI and ANCA members, \$100 for non-members.

Free campus parking is available for this event, which will begin with registration and a continental breakfast from 8:30–10:00 a.m. on October 5. Participants are to bring a lunch; drinks will be provided. The formal program will end at 4:00 p.m., after which participants may tour the Arne Nixon Center.

For more information, contact the Arne Nixon Center at 559.278.8116 or send email to jsanford@csufresno.edu.



In the archives

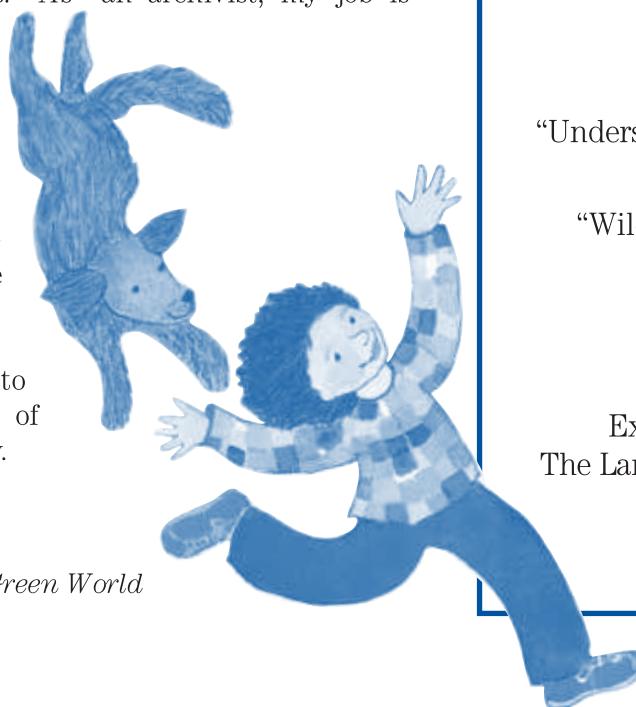
by Jenna Shaeffer

Jenna Shaeffer is a volunteer archivist for the Arne Nixon Center. She has a master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and is pursuing a master's degree in Creative Writing from Southern New Hampshire University.

To researchers, the importance of collecting and maintaining materials from the past so we can use them in our present studies, is something we do not question. At the Arne Nixon Center, we are privileged to receive a number of items from notable children's and young adult authors, including Margarita Engle, Robert SanSouci, Robin Rector Krupp, Doug Hansen, and many others. To be able to utilize the works of these wonderful authors for research is an extraordinary opportunity that should be recognized. The history of our culture is embedded in the archival collections of many organizations, such as the Smithsonian Institution, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Library of Congress, the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, and many small, but valuable institutions such as those on college campuses, local museums, or special collections.

When people think of "archives," what often comes to mind is a large room with shelves of old books and papers, all collecting dust—but archives are much more than that. As an archivist, I have had the pleasure of holding items that have contributed to epic careers, such as autographed photos of famous current and historical figures; manuscripts for stories that have gone on to be Disney movie classics, like *Mulan*; typescripts for children's stories that have impacted our interpretations of the world, such as *The Poet Slave of Cuba*; and many other remarkable articles. As an archivist, my job is to make sure the collections are organized in ways that are easy to explore, to create finding aids that help researchers to locate what they need, and to ensure the preservation of the collections so they can continue to provide invaluable information to those taking advantage of the research opportunity.

The Whole Green World



Kleven, from page 1

Kleven's newest book is *Glasswing: A Butterfly's Story*, that tells of Claire, a glasswing butterfly, who finds herself lost in a large city and separated from her family. Claire's resourcefulness and caring new friends help to create an urban oasis and to reunite her at last with her family. *Publisher's Weekly* wrote, "The radiance of each spread seems purely intended to provoke joy, kind-heartedness, and optimism." To learn more about Elisa Kleven and her books, please visit www.elisakleven.com.

A brief administrative meeting will be held by ANCA during the first few minutes of the program. Kleven's books will be available for sale and autographing after the presentation. Make reservations by sending email to jsanford@csufresno.edu or by calling 559.278.8116; parking directions will be provided then.

Please plan to join us!

2013

September 21

Symposium "Exploring Youth Activism"
Fresno State, Education Bldg. Room 390
(article on page 5)

October 5

SCBWI Booktoberfest, Madden Library
(page 5)

November 1

ANCA Annual Meeting with Elisa Kleven
Madden Library (page 1)

November 1-30

Online Symposium
"Understanding Family Histories" (page 5)

November 20

"Wild About Books!" award ceremony
(page 4)

2014

March 24-May 30

Exhibition "Once Upon a Time:
The Landscape of Books and Technology"

April 13

Secret Garden Party

Little Gorilla meets big gorilla

Ruth Lercher Bornstein, acclaimed author and illustrator of the popular picture book, *Little Gorilla*, has generously donated her papers to the Center. The Center's mascot, Koko, a large, stuffed gorilla, welcomed the donation with open arms, and the staff was also very delighted. Bornstein sent nine boxes of materials to the Center. Her gift included signed copies of her books along with CDs of novel revisions, original sketches, final illustrations, and color separations.

Bornstein is the author and illustrator of many well-known picture books and is the illustrator of many more. In addition to *Little Gorilla*, some of the books she wrote and illustrated are *The Dancing Man*, *The Seedling Child*, *The Beautiful Seashell*, and *Rabbit's Good News*. She illustrated Charlotte Zolotow's *Flocks of Birds* and *Summer Is*, Patricia MacLachlan's *Mama One, Mama Two*, and Crescent Dragonwagon's *Your Owl Friend*.

Bornstein's most recent book, published last year, is a novel entitled *The Summer Everything Changed*. The book is the life story of a teenage girl as told through her diary entries in 1943. Growing up in the Midwest, Janet Kessler, a child of Jewish immigrants, must endure not only learning of the atrocities of genocide in World War II, but also the anti-Semitic attitudes of those in her own town.

A closer look at Bornstein's life can be found in *The Sky and Me*, a collection of autobiographical essays. This book provides a personal glimpse into her life's history, her shared thoughts, and her artist's mind. *The Sky and Me* is found in pdf format at www.ruthlercherbornstein.com/images/book/The-Sky-Me-Bornstein.pdf. More information about Bornstein is available at www.ruthlercherbornstein.com.

We are grateful to Ruth for such a wonderful donation and are happy to be able to share it with our patrons.

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
 \$ 500 Benefactor membership
 \$ 250 Patron membership
 \$ 100 Sponsor membership
 \$ 50 Advocate membership
 \$ 25 Sustaining membership
 \$ 10 Student membership
 \$ Other amount

Make check payable to *Fresno State Foundation*.

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Koko, the Arne Nixon Center's mascot, is mesmerized by Little Gorilla.

Answers to quiz

1 *My Beautiful Hippie*, by Janet Nichols Lynch

2 *Canta, Rana, Canta/Sing, Froggie, Sing*, by Carolyn Dee Flores

3 *When You Wander: A Search-and-Rescue Dog Story*, by Margarita Engle

4 *Cixi: The Dragon Empress*, by Shirin Yim Bridges

Can you identify the books that begin with these lines?



Q1 I was in a hurry as usual, rushing down the hill on Ashbury Street. Only minutes before Denise's bridal shower was about to start, my mother had sent me to the Sunrise Market for a tub of Cool Whip.

Q2 Oh, the frog was sitting in the water. When she decided to croak out loud, along came a fly and hushed her mouth.

Q3 I am a graduate of sniffing school! I practice every day just in case you ever go out in the woods and lose your way.

Q4 From behind the silk curtains of her palanquin the last empress of China surveyed the scene. Exquisite palaces were charred, some burnt almost to the ground. Manuscripts from the Imperial Library littered the courtyards. Shattered porcelain vases, gold Buddha statuettes, jade ornaments and other treasures laid scattered

(Answers on page 7)

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