



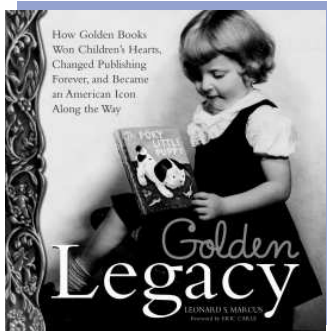
Number 20

(August 2011)

"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 speak on September 16

ANCA's annual meeting, to be held September 16, 2011, will mark the opening of the Arne Nixon Center's exhibition "Down the Rabbit Hole with Lewis Carroll and Leonard Weisgard." This Friday evening program will feature a 6:00 p.m. reception, followed by a talk at 7:00 p.m. by Leonard Marcus, entitled "Revolution in 32 Pages: How Leonard Weisgard and Friends Re-Invented the American Picture Book." Leonard Marcus is a renowned 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 Ursula Nordstrom. His lavishly illustrated *Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children's Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became an American Icon Along the Way* was published to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Little Golden Books. The author's books will be available for sale and autographing courtesy of Petunia's Place bookstore. There is no charge for admission, but seating is limited and reservations are required by calling 559.278.8116 or sending e-mail to mrrianto@csufresno.edu.



"Down the Rabbit Hole"

The Arne Nixon Center will offer a major exhibition from September 16 through October 26, 2011. "Down the Rabbit Hole with Lewis Carroll and Leonard Weisgard" will be in the second-floor Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery. This exhibition will display Lewis Carroll materials from the Arne Nixon Center's extensive collection, including original art by Leonard Weisgard for his 1949 edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass* (including the image shown here). Materials on loan will include original Alice-themed art by Charles M. Schulz for his "Peanuts" comic strip (from the Charles M. Schulz Museum, www.schulzmuseum.org), anamorphic Alice bronze sculptures from artist Karen Mortillaro (www.karenmortillaro.com), and original art by author/illustrator Byron Sewell.

The third-floor Pete P. Peters Ellipse Balcony will showcase additional illustrations from picture books by Leonard Weisgard, on loan from his family. Weisgard won the 1947 Caldecott medal for illustration for his pictures for Golden MacDonald's book *The Little Island*.

The exhibitions, suitable for all ages, will be open from 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday; 1:00–5:00 p.m., Saturday; and 2:00–5:00 p.m., Sunday. Other viewings may be arranged by calling the Arne Nixon Center at 559.278.8116.



IBBY comes to Fresno

The International Board on Books for Young People will hold its 9th United States Regional Conference, co-sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center, on the Fresno State campus, October 21-23, 2011. The conference theme is "Peace the World Together with Children's Books." About 250 people—professors, librarians, teachers, authors, illustrators, publishers, collectors, and fans from many countries—are expected to attend.

This three-day conference offers a rare opportunity to interact with authors and illustrators, who are described

elsewhere in this newsletter. Petunia's Place Bookstore will sell books. Activities will include exhibitions, book discussion groups, tours, and more. Additional, optional activities are available to people who stay on beyond the conference closing (after lunch on Sunday). Later Sunday afternoon the group will tour the Shinzen Japanese Garden in Fresno and on Monday a one-day bus trip to Yosemite National Park will be offered.

For information about the conference and registration, see the website at www.usbby.org.

Two authors donate two thousand books

Globe-trotting authors Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy have donated 2,000+ rare children's books from their personal collections. The books date from the 1950s to the 1980s. The gift includes nearly 200 titles written by one or both authors.

Alma Flor Ada was born in Cuba to a family of storytellers. Her first books were published in Peru, where she earned a Ph.D. Later she became a Radcliffe Scholar at Harvard and a Fulbright Research Scholar. She is Professor Emerita at the University of San Francisco, where she directed a doctoral program in multicultural education. She also founded an M.A. program in Children's Literature.

F. Isabel Campoy was born in Spain. This poet and playwright has published more than 100 books for children in both English and Spanish. She obtained her degree in Philology at University Complutense of Madrid, obtained an M.A. in Reading, England, and was a Fulbright Research Scholar at UCLA while completing her Ph.D. Many of her books explore Hispanic folklore and interpret Spanish culture to children around the world.

The authors have won many awards for their books and their humanitarian efforts. Both are donating their papers to the Arne Nixon Center and they have pledged their unique collections of children's books, too. This first donation consists of 752 books from Spain, 283 from Argentina, 194 from Mexico, and 119 from the USA, with smaller groups from Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific, the former Soviet Union, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Uruguay. Most are in Spanish; some are bilingual editions.

For more information, see the authors' websites at www.almaflorada.com and www.isabelcampoy.com.

London author/illustrator Alikei was inspired by the last issue of *The Magic Mirror*, which contained a photo of ANCA President Denise Sciandra reading to her grandson, Sam. Alikei turned that photo into a calendar page for an Ithaca, New York, literacy project.



Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

(Arne Nixon Center Advocates)

by Denise Sciandra, ANCA President

Books have taken my grandson Sam and me on many journeys these past 23 months. Where have we traveled recently?

Sam has been interested in classical music from the beginning. An early indication was his seeking out Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" on his exer-saucer. So, I shouldn't have been surprised when he loved the "v" page in *Dr. Seuss' ABC*: "Vera Violet Vinn is very, very awful on her violin." "Violin" became "vuv-vuv." Next, we read Richard Scarry's *Best Mother Goose Ever*, where he excitedly found all the fiddles which he identified as "vuv-vuvs." He has since moved on to *The Encyclopedia of Stringed Instruments*. I love the photo on my desk of Sam looking very scholarly as he browses through the photos of every stringed instrument imaginable in this book.

Nineteen months turned out to be the perfect age for books with moving parts. A favorite was *Good Egg*, by Barney Saltzberg, a book with one or two words per page in which an egg is directed to sit, lie down, roll over, and speak. It is the young reader who makes the egg do all of these things and who then congratulates the egg by saying, "Good egg!" Sam squeals at the surprise on the last page when the egg "speaks." He woke up from many naps asking for "guh-egg."

Bow-Wow Attracts Opposites, by Mark Newgarden and Megan Montague Cash, is a nearly wordless picture book about a dog chasing a cat. Even a toddler knows that it is a cat that is being chased although all we ever see of it is its tail. The dog chases the cat up and down, in and out, over and under. The cat jumps through an open window. The dog faces a closed door that eventually opens to seven pairs of cat eyes under the couch. *Does the dog end up sad or happy?* One of my favorite videos is of Sam reading this book to himself. He patiently turns each page and when he gets to the end, he laughs out loud.

By 21 months of age, Sam developed a personal approach to reading a new book. We would read a new book a dozen or so times and then he would focus on favorite pages. In *If You're Hoppy*, by April Pulley Sayre, he spent a lot of time flipping between the page with the baboon ("ba-boo") and the one with the pterodactyl ("doh-doh"). After reading this book, he went to sleep dreaming about this new story. I know this because he drifted off saying, "ba-boo, doh-doh, ba-boo, doh-doh."

I continue to be amazed at what Sam gets from books. I'm looking forward to our future journeys.

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by Angelica Carpenter

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Cuban-American author Margarita Engle visited the Center recently to donate a copy of her newest young adult novel, *Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck*. Like Engle's other award-winning books, *The Poet Slave of Cuba*, *The Firefly Letters*, and *The Surrender Tree*, *Hurricane Dancers* is set in Cuba.

It was inspired by historical events that occurred near her mother's home town of Trinidad, a place the author has often visited. "The story has been told over and over," Margarita said, "sometimes with different endings, sometimes with different details about the romance, and sometimes with different meanings for the names of the Indian boy and girl."

Margarita, who loves doing research, tried to learn all she could about the Taíno language, which is used in the book. "It's not a living language," she said. "Only a couple of hundred words were written down by the Spaniards and they were all nouns, like 'gold' and 'silver.'"

Hurricane Dancers tells of a pirate captain who has kidnapped the governor of Venezuela, and is holding him for ransom. Both men are former conquistadors, cruel abusers of the Indians. Their story is told by Quebrado, meaning "Broken," a young deckhand and translator. "The pirate finds me useful," he says, "because I know two tongues/my mother's flutelike Taíno, and my father's drumlike Spanish."

After a shipwreck, near a part of the island as yet unreached by Spanish invaders, the pirate and the governor must learn to live with the islanders. "I have always been fascinated by contacts between cultures," said Margarita, "and I liked it that this story took place two years before the conquest of Cuba, before the genocide began. This is just a contact between individuals."

The author's next novel will be based on the life of her grandmother. "She grew up after the Americans withdrew from Cuba," Margarita said, "in a time of bandits and chaos. She lived on a farm with many brothers and sisters. She was dyslexic—the only one struggling to learn how to read."

Margarita's grandmother survived to well past 100. "She told me stories about her childhood," said Margarita, "and later, when I told them to my daughter, she said, 'Mom, you have to write these down so that I will remember them.' But I did fictionalize a little—just certain aspects—for storytelling purposes."

Margarita is thrilled that her publishers chose Yuyi Morales to do the cover art for this new book. At the artist's request, Margarita sent her a 1915 photo of her grandmother. Wait a minute—an author and illustrator, collaborating on a book—isn't that against the rules?

"The publisher knows we know each other," Margarita explained. Both have won multiple honors, including the Pura Belpré Award.

Which leads to another question: what does Margarita think about the always controversial topic of authors from one culture writing about people from another one, and how does this issue impact bi-cultural authors like her?

"Never having been a slave," she said, "and never having been a boy, I might have had trouble writing convincingly about *The Poet Slave of Cuba*. But the problem with that book was that it was hard for me to write about a poet in prose. It didn't really work as a book until I switched to poetry."

I am proud that Margarita has donated her papers to the Arne Nixon Center. I look forward to hearing her speak at the October IBBY conference.

“Summer Reading,” by Wendy Costa

Thanks to Wendy Costa for permission to reprint this article she wrote for the online newspaper, The Chestertown [Maryland] Spy (www.chestertownspy.org). Costa, who once taught history at Fresno State, helped to found University High School on this campus before moving to Georgetown, Maryland.

Since the world didn't end on May 21, I guess I'll have to pay my credit card bill, but at least I can finish the new Bill Bryson book on my Kindle. Apparently, the new date for the end of the world is October 21, which gives everybody one last delightful round of summer reading. The expression, summer reading, conjures up two seemingly dissimilar activities: required reading from a list if you are a student and more random, light “beach” reading if you are an adult. Summer is when book lovers try to persuade everyone they know to read their favorite books. It seems that every school, newspaper, and magazine publishes lists of suggested summer reading.

I asked my seven-year-old great nephew what he plans to read this summer and he replied without hesitation: *Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets*. His enthusiasm for the Captain Underpants series (more than 35 million volumes sold) is so infectious that I decided to read *Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopy-pants*. Perhaps I am an old geezer, but I have to admit that the book shocked me with its disgusting language and crude pictures. We live in a golden age of children's literature, yet this series captivates my smart, creative little nephew.

Of course, there is a long tradition of shock and violence in children's books in America. Thousands of colonial children learned to read by studying the *New England Primer*, several editions of which included a graphic illustration of a 16th-century English Protestant martyr named John Rogers being burned at the stake while his wife and nine children looked on. Another colonial bestseller had the cheery title *A Token for Children, Being an Exact Account of the Conversion, Holy and Exemplary Lives, and Joyful Deaths of Several Young Children*.

Kent County [Maryland] Public Schools take reading seriously and publish lists of suggested summer reading for

everyone from entering kindergartners to high school seniors. These lists have been thoughtfully prepared and include a mix of genres as well as a balance of classic children's literature and more recent titles. (I am happy to report that Captain Underpants is absent from all the lists). Reading logs are provided on the school system's website and parents are encouraged to require their children to read for at least 15 minutes a day in grades 1–3, and for at least 25 minutes a day in grades 4–5. Middle school and high school students are required to read one novel from an approved list, and Advanced Placement students have slightly more required reading. College-bound students are encouraged to read works from a much longer list.

This is a good beginning—and more than many school districts require of their students—but it is not enough. Fifteen minutes a day of reading during the summer is much better than no minutes, and one novel is better

than none, but the best schools in America, both public and private, require much more reading.

For example, University High School, a charter school on the campus of California State University, Fresno, was recently ranked by *The Washington Post* as the 36th most challenging public high school in the nation, and it requires all students to read a book in common outside of class every month. Called The 48 Books Program, for the 48 months of high school, the list was compiled by community members, teachers, parents, professors, and students, and it changes a little from year to year. The purposes of

The 48 Books Program are to develop reading as a pleasurable habit, to introduce good books in many genres, and to build bridges between students from diverse backgrounds. Students need both quantity and quality in their reading.

Some scholars estimate that two-thirds of the “academic achievement gap” in reading and language between middle-income and low-income students is caused by the “learning loss” that occurs during the summer. Middle-income children tend to read more in the summer, and low-income students tend to read less. By the end of 5th grade, low-income children often fall

(See Summer Reading, page 6)



(The above illustration is by Aiki.)

International Board on Books for Young People

IBBY Conference October 21–23, 2011, at Fresno State

Featured Speakers



Adwoa Badoe, who trained as a physician in her native Ghana, is an author, storyteller, and teacher of African dance. Her children's books include *Crabs for Dinner*; *The Queen's New Shoes*; *The Pot of Wisdom* (a collection of Ananse Stories); *Nana's Cold Days*; and *Between Sisters*.

She grew up in Ghana, West Africa, and lives now in Guelph, Ontario. www.afroculture.com/AdwoaBadoe.html

Michael Cart, who lives in Columbus, Indiana, is past president of the Young Adult Library Services Association and a columnist and reviewer for *Booklist* magazine. He is the author or editor of 19 books, including the gay coming-of-age novel *My Father's Scar* and, with Christine Jenkins, *The Heart Has Its Reasons*, a critical history of young adult literature with gay/lesbian/queer content. His anthologies include *Love and Sex: Ten Stories of Truth* and *Necessary Noise: Stories about Our Families as They Really Are*. In an ongoing donation, he is giving his papers and books to the Arne Nixon Center.



David Diaz has illustrated numerous award-winning books for children, including *Smoky Night* by Eve Bunting, for which he received the Caldecott Medal; *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech, a Newbery Honor book; and *Diego: Bigger Than Life* by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand, a Pura Belpré Honor winner. His newest book is *Me, Frida* by Amy Novesky. USBBY is happy to have David's permission to use his artwork from the book *Let There Be Peace on Earth* for the conference program and publicity pieces.



Margarita Engle is the daughter of a Cuban mother and an American father. Educated as an agronomist and botanist, she later studied creative writing with Chicano novelist Tomás Rivera. Her book *The Poet Slave of Cuba* won the Pura Belpré and the Américas awards. *The Surrender Tree*, a Newbery Honor book, won the Pura Belpré Award. Her most recent books are *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*; *The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba*; *Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian*; and *Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Shipwreck*. Margarita is donating her papers to the Arne Nixon Center.



www.margaritaengle.com



Jehan Helou was elected to serve on the IBBY Executive Committee from 2008-12. Born in 1943 in Haifa, Palestine, she was later uprooted to Lebanon with her family. She moved to the UK at

the end of the '80s and went to the Palestinian Occupied Territory in 2000. Jehan worked as editor at the Arab Press House, was Director of the Tamer Institute for Community Education, and served as editor of *Taif Journal* on Children's Literature. She is the author of *Palestinian Women in Lebanon: National Struggle and Social Transformation*. President of the Palestinian Section of IBBY, she was coordinator for the Arab Region on the theme of Education in Situation of Poverty, Armed Conflict and Occupation, and she has served in many other volunteer positions. USBBY is a twinning partner of IBBY Palestine.

Kang Woo-Hyon, majored in Advertisement and Design at Hong-ik University in Seoul, Korea. He has won many awards such as the Children's Culture Award in Korea in 1995 and the Award of the Minister of State for the Person Who Contributed to Development of Culture in 1993. His published works in Japan include *Sabaku no Kyoryu* and the *Yuki-yama*. This internationally known illustrator resides in Seoul. Formerly president of IBBY's Korean section, he is now the CEO for Nami Island and director of the world-famous NAMEBOOK Festival.



Ahmad Redza Ahmad Khairuddin from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was elected to serve as IBBY President at the 32nd IBBY General Assembly in Spain. Previously he was vice president and a member of the IBBY Executive Committee. A businessman who holds positions in private companies, he has been involved in publishing for 13 years. In 2005 he was appointed vice president of the Majlis Buku Kanak-Kanak & Remaja Malay, the Malaysian Section of IBBY (MBBY).

Grace Lin is the author and illustrator of the award-winning *The Year of the Dog*, *The Year of the Rat*, *The Ugly Vegetables*, and *Dim Sum for Everyone!* Her *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, a 2010 Newbery Honor book, was inspired by her travels to Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan. Her *Ling & Ting* is a 2011 Geisel Honor book. Grace believes that "Books erase bias ... a book makes all cultures universal." www.gracelin.com



Alvina Ling has always been passionate about books but never thought of publishing as a career possibility until one of her friends mentioned it. While working at a Barnes & Noble as a bookseller, she gravitated toward the children's section. She now edits children's books at Little, Brown, and she is the editor of Grace Lin's book *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*.



Roger Mello, the winner of numerous awards in his native Brazil, has illustrated more than 100 titles, 19 of which he also wrote. His book *Meninos do Mangue* (Mangrove Boys) received the International Award from the Fondation Espace Enfants (Switzerland) in 2002. Three of his books, *A Flor do Lado de Lá* (*The Flower on the Other Side*), *Todo Cuidado é Pouco!* (*You can't be Too Careful!*), and *Meninos do Mangue*, are on the "list of books that every child should read before becoming an adult," published by the Folha de São Paulo newspaper in 2007. Mello was short-listed for the Hans Christian Andersen Award for illustrators in 2010.



Beverley Naidoo grew up in South Africa under apartheid. She says, "As a white child I didn't question the terrible injustices until I was a student. I decided then that unless I joined the resistance, I was part of the problem." Detained without trial at age 21, Beverley later went into exile in Britain, where

she still lives. Her first children's book, *Journey to Jo'burg*, banned in South Africa until 1991, was an eye-opener for thousands of readers worldwide. Her characters in *Chain of Fire*, *No Turning Back*, and *Out of Bounds* face extraordinary challenges in a society she describes as "more dangerous than any fantasy." Her awards include the Carnegie Medal, the Jane Addams Book Award, and the American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults for *The Other Side of Truth*, about two refugee children smuggled to London. They are also featured in *Web of Lies*. Her most recent book, *Burn My Heart*, is a story of two boys, one white and one black, in an uneasy friendship in 1950s Kenya. www.beverleynaidoo.com

Liz Page grew up in England and lived there until 1985, when she moved with her family to Basel. She was a founding member of JuKiBu, the Intercultural Children's Library in Basel and later President of the Intercultural Children's Libraries Association of Switzerland. She joined the IBBY staff in 1997, working in several positions before being appointed Executive Director in 2009.



Pam Muñoz Ryan has written more than 30 books for young people, including *Mud is Cake*; *Mice and Beans*; *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*; *Nacho and Lolita*; *When Marian Sang*; *Esperanza Rising*; *Becoming Naomi León*; and *Paint the Wind*. She has twice received the Willa Cather Literary Award for Writing and her books have won the Pura Belpré Medal, the Jane Addams Peace Award, the ALA Schneider Family Award, the Tomás Rivera Award, and many more. In 2010 she collaborated with illustrator Peter Sis on *The Dreamer*, a fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda. Pam, who lives near San Diego, has pledged her papers to the Arne Nixon Center.

www.pammunozryan.com



Peter Sis attended the Academy of Applied Arts in his native Czechoslovakia and the Royal College of Art in London. His illustrations for the 1986 Newbery Medal winner, *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleishman, made him a leading illustrator. His award-winning books include *Rainbow Rhino*; *Beach Ball*; *Follow the Dream*; *Komodo!*; *The Three Golden Keys*; and *The Tree of Life: Charles Darwin*. His *Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei*, a Caldecott Honor book, has been published in many languages. In 2007 Peter wrote and illustrated *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*, which won the Robert F. Sibert Medal and was also a Caldecott Honor book. In 2010 he collaborated with Pam Muñoz Ryan on *The Dreamer*. www.petersis.com

California Authors and Illustrators:

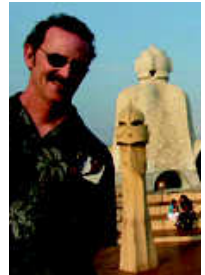


Alma Flor Ada, Professor Emerita at the University of San Francisco, has devoted her life to advocacy for peace, personal realization, and social justice. Her award-winning books include *The Gold Coin*; *Under the Royal Palms* (Pura Belpré Medal); *Gathering the Sun*; *Dear Peter Rabbit*; *My Name is María Isabel*; and many other titles for children and adults. In an on-going donation, she is giving her papers and her children's books to the Arne Nixon Center. Born in Cuba, she now lives in northern California.

www.almaflorada.com

Paul Brewer illustrated the popular "Robert" series of 31 chapter books. He wrote and illustrated *You Must Be Joking!* and *You Must Be Joking, Two!* With his wife, Kathleen Krull, he co-wrote *Fartiste*, *Lincoln Tells a Joke*, and a third biography to be published in 2012. Paul and Kathleen, who live in San Diego, travelled this year to the Middle East where they spoke to students at schools in Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

www.paulbrewer.com and www.youmustbejoking.net



Shirin Yim Bridges' first book, *Ruby's Wish*, was named one of the Best Children's Books of 2002 by *Publishers Weekly*. It has been translated into six languages. *The Umbrella Queen* was named one of the Best Children's Books of 2008 by Bank Street College. Her third book, *Mary Wrightly So Politely*, will be published by Houghton

Mifflin Harcourt. Shirin is the head goose at Goosebottom Books, a new press focusing on "fun non-fiction." Shirin has lived in many countries and now nests in Foster City.

www.goosebottombooks.com



F. Isabel Campoy, who was born in Spain, is a writer, poet, playwright, storyteller, songwriter, translator, and a scholar in the field of linguistics. Her children's books include *Mama Goose*, *Pi0 Peep*, *Tales Our Abuelitas Told*, and many others in both English and Spanish. This award-winning author belongs to several

organizations for the advancement of multicultural awareness and world peace. In an ongoing donation she is giving her books and papers to the Arne Nixon Center. www.isabelcampoy.com

Angelica Shirley Carpenter is the founding curator of the Arne Nixon Center. She is the author or co-author of four biographies for young people: *Frances Hodgson Burnett*; *L. Frank Baum*; *Robert Louis Stevenson*; and *Lewis Carroll*. She also edited an anthology, *In the Garden: Essays in Honor of Frances Hodgson Burnett*, based on a conference sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center. Angelica is the past president of the International Wizard of Oz Club and a board member of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America. www.angelicacarpenter.com



Dorina Lazo Gilmore's most recent book, *Cora Cooks Pancit*, is about a Filipino girl learning to cook her family's favorite noodle dish and tasting some family history while she's at it. The book was awarded the Asian Pacific American Librarian Association's "Picture Book of the Year" in 2009. Her other books are *Children of*

the San Joaquin Valley and *A Stone in the Soup: A Hmong Girl's Journey to the United States*. Dorina has an M.F.A. in Children's Literature from Hollins University. She divides her time between Fresno and Pignon, Haiti where she serves as Communications Director for Christian Friendship Ministries.

Doug Hansen spent 23 years as an illustrator for *The Fresno Bee*. His drawings for the newspaper were published later in several books. Doug received his master's degree in art from Fresno State in 2002 and now teaches in the Department of Art and Design at his alma mater. His first picture book, *Mother Goose in California*, features California animals, plants, and settings. His second will be a California version of *Aesop's Fables*. Doug, who has pledged his papers to the Henry Madden Library, collaborates often with the Arne Nixon Center on art projects for his illustration students.



www.doughansenart.com



Bonnie Hearn Hill, a former newspaper editor, is the author of six international thrillers, the young adult Star Crossed series (*Aries Rising*, *Taurus Eyes*, and *Gemini Night*), and *Ghost Island*, a young adult

paranormal. A national writing conference speaker and contest judge, she is a cofounder of the Yosemite Writers Conference a book reviewer for *Publishers Weekly*, and a longtime community correspondent for KMPH TV's "Good Day, Fresno." A passionate teacher and mentor, she is proud to have helped numerous writers break into print. www.bonniehill.com.



Anna Grossnickle Hines's illustration career spans three decades, from pre-separated art to watercolor, colored pencil, and fabric. Her *Pieces: A Year in Poems and Quilts*, won the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award; it was followed by *Winter Lights: A Season in Poems and Quilts*; *1, 2 Buckle My Shoe*; and, *Peaceful Pieces: Poems and Quilts About Peace*; all receiving starred reviews. Anna has ventured into digital illustrations with *I Am a Backhoe* and *I Am a Tyrannosaurus*. She lives in the redwoods in northern California. www.aghines.com

Elisa Kleven spent her Los Angeles childhood making miniature people and animals, using paper, paint, clay, scraps of cloth, yarn, nutshells, and even dried apples. She is the author and/or illustrator of more than 30 picture books, among them *Welcome Home, Mouse*; *The Paper Princess*; *The Apple Doll*; *The Lion and the Little Red Bird*; *Sun Bread*; *A Carousel Tale*; *The Puddle Pail*; *De Colores* by Jose-Luis Orozco; *Abeula and Isla* by Arthur Dorros; and *The Weaver* by Thacher Hurd. She lives near San Francisco. www.elisakleven.com



Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff, a student of Arne Nixon, graduated from Fresno State. While in Fresno, she directed children's plays and taught school. Her books include *Jackson and Bud's Bumpy Ride*; *The ABCs of Writing for Children*; *John Muir and Stickeen: An Alaskan Adventure*; and *Louise the One and Only*. She publishes many articles and columns, chairs a countywide middle-school writing contest, and teaches middle-school writing workshops. She has pledged her papers to the Arne Nixon Center. www.lizbooks.com

Tommy Kovac has been writing and illustrating comics since 1999, including the dark and edgy *Stitch*, *Skelebunnies*, and *Autumn* for SLG Publishing. Kovac also wrote *Wonderland*, which was selected by the American Library Association in 2010 as a "Great Graphic Novel For Teens." Kovac, who is currently writing a series called *The Royal Historian of Oz*, is a library technician for a college prep academy in Cypress, California. www.tommykovac.com.





Kathleen Krull is known for her innovative biographies. Her “Lives of” series profiles famous writers, musicians, presidents, athletes, and extraordinary women, and always tells readers “What the Neighbors Thought.” Her “Giants of Science” include Marie Curie, Sigmund Freud,

Leonardo da Vinci, and Isaac Newton. Other books profile César Chávez, Ted Geisel (Dr. Seuss), L. Frank Baum, Hilary Rodham Clinton, Pocahontas, Houdini, and Victoria Woodhull. She lives in San Diego with her husband, Paul Brewer.

www.kathleenkrull.com

Janet Nichols Lynch’s young adult novels include *Peace Is a Four-Letter Word*, *Messed Up*, and *Addicted to Her*. Her fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Seventeen*, and in an anthology by California writers, *Highway 99: a Literary Journey through California’s Great Central Valley*. For 14 years Janet has read her fiction on Valley Public Radio’s “Valley Writers Read.” A high school English teacher, she lives in Visalia.

www.janetnicholslynch.com



Patricia Newman’s award-winning books include *Nugget on the Flight Deck*; *Jingle the Brass*; *Seasons Around the World*; and *The Science of Play*. Three board books include *Go To Bed, Ted*; *Can You See the Wind?*; and *Guess Who Mama?*. A frequent speaker at schools and conferences, she often relates anecdotes from the

100+ children’s authors and illustrators she has interviewed. She lives in northern California. www.patriciamnewman.com

C.J. Omololu (Cynthia to her friends) writes books for children of all ages. Her picture book *When It’s Six O’Clock in San Francisco* takes young children on a visual trip around the world. Her young adult novel *Dirty Little Secrets* deals with the aftermath of the psychological disorder of compulsive hoarding. Her YA novel *Destined*, a paranormal exploration of past lives and reincarnation, will come out in 2012, followed by a sequel, *Fated*, in 2013. She lives in Northern California. www.cjomololu.com



Alexis O’Neill is the author of *The Recess Queen*, *The Worst Best Friend*, *Loud Emily*, and *Estela’s Swap*. (Lee & Low Books). Her works have also appeared in *Cricket*, *Spider*, *Cobblestone*, *Calliope*, *Faces*, and *Odyssey* magazines. A former elementary school

teacher, she earned an M.S. in Instructional Technology and Ph.D. in Teacher Education from Syracuse University and now writes full-time. Alexis visits students all over the country, sharing the joy of language and writing, and helps authors and illustrators navigate the world of school visits. Visit her at www.SchoolVisitExperts.com and www.alexisoneill.com.



Virginia Walton Pilegard began writing for children while teaching math to third and fourth graders. Her “Warlord” series of picture books features adventure stories set in ancient China, each demonstrating a math concept. *The Warlord’s Puzzle* and *The Warlord’s Beads* are listed

on California’s core curriculum literature list for mathematics. Virginia did research in China for this series and for her newest book, *The Emperor’s Army*, a history of the terra-cotta warriors. www.virginiapilegard.com

Joan Schoettler’s first children’s book, *Good Fortune in a Wrapping Cloth*, tells of a young girl’s determination to sew bojogi, Korean wrapping cloths. In 2010 Joan won the Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award for her middle grade novel *On the Run*, the story of a young Jewish girl hidden in a circus during World War II. Joan, who teaches children’s literature and storytelling at Fresno State, wrote and produced a video, *Creating a Love of Learning*. Available in English, Spanish, and Hmong, it stresses the importance of reading to children from birth.



Linda Joy Singleton is the author of 35+ books for kids, including the YALSA-honored series *The Seer* and the *Dead Girl Walking* trilogy. Her childhood collection of 100 girls’ series books grew into an adult passion and a collection that now numbers in the thousands. A fan letter she wrote at age 13 led to her

friendship with author Margaret Sutton and later a co-written Judy Bolton mystery. Her next book, *Buried: A Girl Goth Mystery*, comes out in 2012. She lives in Burson, in the Sierra foothills. www.lindajoy singleton.com

D. James Smith has received an NEA fellowship in creative writing and an Edgar Award. His novels for young people are *Fast Company* and a three-part award-winning series set in Fresno, *The Boys of San Joaquin*, *Probably the World’s Best Story About a Dog and the Girl Who Loved Me*, and *It Was September When We Ran Away the First Time*. The author, who lives in Fresno, has pledged his papers to the Arne Nixon Center.



Katherine Tillotson has illustrated seven picture books: *All the Water in the World*; *It’s Picture Day Today*; *When the Library Lights Go Out*; *Penguin and Little Blue*; *Night Train*; *Nice Try, Tooth Fairy*; and *Songs of Papa’s Island*. Born in Minneapolis, she lives now in a house on a hill in San Francisco.

www.katherinetillotson.com

An intimate Secret Garden Party

The Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) held their ninth annual Secret Garden Party on Sunday, April 10, 2011—a glorious spring day. The party, ANCA's annual fundraising event, celebrated Fresno State's first 100 years with vintage decor, historical recipes, and fashion from years gone by.

Dr. Debra Garley graciously offered to host the event. Her Tudor style brick house and lovely grounds, located in Old Fig Garden, created an air of cozy intimacy. More than 100 guests spent a leisurely afternoon exploring the garden, sipping champagne, and chatting with friends. They enjoyed old-fashioned refreshments like chicken-mushroom crepes, Waldorf salad, and devilled eggs. The desert table featured macaroons, lemon bars, and a layered berry trifle. Ceramic teapots brimming with spring flowers served as centerpieces.

Tucked away on a sunny porch was a display of wedding attire. ANCA President Denise Sciandra loaned her mother's hand-sewn wedding dress from 1938 for the occasion. The lacy dress with blue bows had a tiny 20" waist. The display included Angelica Carpenter's 1968 wedding dress, a short lace dress made by her grandmother. Also on display was the 2002 wedding dress of Angelica's daughter Carey, a long, tailored halter dress

with a crystal-studded shoulder wrap. Library Assistant Jennifer Crow loaned a satin dress she had worn as a flower girl in 1960. Made by her grandmother, it had a wide sash that tied in back and a multilayered petticoat.

Master Gardeners stationed in the garden volunteered their time to answer questions about the plantings and to provide information on sustainable gardening.

After welcoming remarks by President John Welty and Library Dean Peter McDonald, Denise introduced a fashion show depicting styles from the past ten decades. Fresno State student Abigail Paxton organized the show, which featured theatre students knowledgeable about their chosen eras.

The Center thanks all who attended and contributed to one of the most delightful Secret Garden parties ever. A list of Party sponsors is found on page 6.

For more photos taken by Howard Watkins, Lisa Black, and others, please see the Arne Nixon Center's Facebook page www.facebook.com/ArneNixonCenter or visit the website at www.arnenixoncenter.org (under "Events," then "Past Events.")

From left: Fresno State President John Welty, organizer Abigail Paxton, and the Secret Garden Party fashion models.



Summer Reading, from page 4

more than two years behind their middle-income peers in reading and verbal achievement, and the gap widens during each succeeding year.

Kent County is a book-loving place, with a fine college library and public library system, as well as an independent bookstore, three used bookstores, and several other stores that sell books. Kent County Public Schools have a number of imaginative programs to encourage reading, and respectable test scores in reading confirm that these programs are working for most students.

Still, there is a long road to climb if we are to meet the No Child Left Behind goal that all students will read on grade level by 2014. It may be too late for this summer since school gets out soon, but I propose that book lovers in Kent County form a volunteer cadre to tutor struggling students in reading throughout the summer. Gina Jachimowicz, Supervisor of English/Language Arts, in Kent County Schools, has promised to help match reading tutors with students. A safe space must be found, of course, but there are really no insurmountable barriers to create such a program. We can get this done before the world ends.

Please plan to join us!

September 16–October 26

Exhibition “Down the Rabbit Hole with Lewis Carroll and Leonard Weisgard,”

11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday;

1:00–5:00 p.m., Saturday;

2:00–5:00 p.m., Sunday.

Henry Madden Library.

September 16

ANCA Annual Meeting

with Leonard Marcus, 6:00 p.m.

Henry Madden Library.

October 21–23

IBBY Regional Conference,

Fresno State Campus and

University Square Hotel

(the former Piccadilly Inn-University).

April 15, 2012

Secret Garden Party, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Location TBA.



Thank you to our

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Children's literature book club for adults

Teachers, librarians, student teachers, and community members are invited to a monthly book discussion group at Petunia's Place Bookstore, Opus I Shopping Center, 6027 North Palm Avenue (northwest corner of Bullard and Palm), in Fresno, on the first Thursday of each month from 4:30–5:30 p.m. The “Good Books, Good Friends” group focuses on children's and young adult books to enrich the use of literature at home and in the classroom. This book club is co-sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center and the California Reading and Literature Project, part of the Literacy and Early Education Department of Fresno State's School of Education. Each month the group will discuss two titles, a picture book and a book for older children or young adults, connected by a theme. A list of titles is found at www.arnenixoncenter.org. Upcoming meeting dates are September 1, October 6, November 3, and December 1.

In memoriam: Jean Ray Laury

Jean Ray Laury, the internationally known fiber artist and author, passed away in Fresno on March 3, 2011, at the age of 82. A Life Member of ANCA, she also belonged to the Friends of the Madden Library and many other cultural organizations.

Her family hosted a celebration of her life—her highly inspirational life—on May 28. There her husband Frank greeted guests, and her son Tom, daughter Lizbeth, and several friends and students spoke of her accomplishments and her loving ways. Her friend Joyce Aiken recalled working with Jean in 1964 to design benches for Fresno's Fulton Mall. Later the bench designs became headboard designs, patterned with wood appliques, like quilts. Jean was a great recycler.



For many summers, she ran quilting camps in the mountains near Fresno. Her quilts, which managed to be beautiful, modern, and edgy, all at once, often depicted feminist themes. They were shown in museums around the world and she traveled as a guest lecturer to many countries. Jean was a role model for women who wanted to work on art projects despite family responsibilities. "Dust is a great preservative," she would say, reassuringly.

Jean Ray Laury published 32 books, some of them picture books for children. She donated the picture books and accompanying papers to the Arne Nixon Center, along with a cut paper collage. This glowing picture shows a red-haired, red-bearded man gazing happily at a pink and purple quilt that he has just hung on a wall. Jean's 33rd book, *The Come-Uppance Poems*, will be published soon.

We will miss Jean Ray Laury's pretty smile, her bright eyes in their trademark red-framed glasses, her lovely voice (for speaking and writing), and her slim, well-dressed figure. Her encouragement, ideas, art, and love live on in museums, libraries, homes, and in the hearts of her friends, fans, and family.

Jean Ray Laury's quilt, "Listen to your mother! The universal mother speaks."



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.)

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Phone: 559.278.8116

FAX: 559.278.6952

Email: angelica@csufresno.edu

Answers to quiz

1 *Mr. Popper's Penguins*

by Richard and Florence Atwater

2 *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*
 by Dav Pilkey

3 *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*
 by Brian Selznick

4 *The Book of Fred* by Abby Bardi

Can you identify the books that end with these lines?

(Answers on page 7)

*Q*¹ Then they solemnly lifted their flippers and waved, as the great ship moved slowly down the river to the sea.

*Q*² George and Harold went back to their old ways, pulling pranks, cracking jokes, and making new comic books. They had to keep an eye on Mr. Krupp, though ... because for some strange reason, every time he heard the sound of fingers snapping ... Snap! ... Principal Krupp turned back into ... you know who!

“Oh no!” cried Harold.

“Here we go again!” said George.

*Q*³ The complicated machinery inside my automaton can produce one hundred and fifty-eight different pictures, and it can write, letter by letter, an entire book, twenty-six thousand one hundred and fifty-nine words. These words.

*Q*⁴ The darkness of the room, or maybe it was the tunnel, seemed to sparkle around me, as if it was full of little magic things that I had never seen before, all the things that connected me to the people I knew, as if all around us were fine webs, everywhere we went, threads of gold and silver that flashed in the darkness and showed us where we came from and where we had to go.

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