

THE MAGIC

mirror

Newsletter of the Arne Nixon Center

Happy 90th Birthday, Arne Nixon!

Let's Get This Paint Party Started!

Guadalupe García McCall
Spreads Her Storytelling Magic!

*9066: Japanese American
Voices from the Inside*

Exploring More Rainbow Families in
Children's Literature

Dr. Debbie Reese
"American Indians of the 21st Century:
Still Here, Still Fighting"

Pura Belpré Award
20th Anniversary Celebration in Fresno

Arne Nixon Center Research
Fellowships Awarded

FRESNO STATE

Arne Nixon Center for the Study
of Children's Literature

The Arne Nixon Center is a unit within the Special
Collections division of the Henry Madden Library



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of Children's Literature

Curator
Jennifer Crow
Email: jcrow@csufresno.edu

Library Services Specialist
Jami Sanford



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Editor
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Graphic Designers
David Celaya, Randy Zamorski

Photos by
David Celaya, Jami Sanford, Smiley Photo Booths

**Arne Nixon Center for the
Study of Children's Literature**

Henry Madden Library
California State University, Fresno
5200 N. Barton Ave. M/S ML34
Fresno, CA 93740-8014
559.278.8116

*“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 Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature



The Arne Nixon Center is one of the West Coast's largest and most significant research centers for the study of children's literature. With an emphasis on diversity, the Center's collection includes more than 60,000 books, original artwork, letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, ceramics and other ephemera, including:

- The largest LGBTQ collection of books for young people in the United States.
- A World Languages collection of books in over 50 languages.
- Over 2,100 Spanish-language children's books.
- Over 2,100 editions by, about and inspired by the works of Lewis Carroll.
- The Helen Monette Amestory collection of 6,000 books on cats.
- Archives for Leo Politi, Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy, Margarita Engle, Michael Cart, Steven Mooser, Robert San Souci and more...

The Arne Nixon Center would like to thank and recognize our Arne Nixon Center Advocates board members who have retired this past year. We have appreciated all of their creativity, dedication and teamwork. As devoted allies, their collaborative spirit has helped make the Arne Nixon Center the best of its kind and we are ever grateful.

Denise Sciandra, Founding President, Director	Cheryl Caldera, Director
Kristene Scholefield, Past President	Dan Dunklee, Director
Judith Chibante Neal, Vice President	Audry Hanson, Director

We are proud to welcome our incoming Arne Nixon Center Advocates board members and wish them much success as they continue to foster support for children's literature and for the Arne Nixon Center.

Arturo Mendoza, President	Kristin Baer, Director
Shivon Hess, Correspondence Secretary	Randy Morris, Director

Cover illustration by Thacher Hurd, from his book *Mama Don't Allow*.

ArneNixonCenter
www.arnenixoncenter.org

FRESNO STATE

Arne Nixon Center for the Study
of Children's Literature



Let's Get This Paint Party Started!



Stormy Tower painting by Mark DeRaud

Paint a canvas today, paint a mural tomorrow!

The Arne Nixon Center Advocates are hosting a new fundraising summer series of Canvas and Cordials paint parties to support the Arne Nixon Center's upcoming Community Mural Project with internationally recognized and award-winning children's book illustrator and mural artist, Rafael López.

Tickets are \$45 and include all the supplies needed to complete a 16" x 20" masterpiece. A take-home apron is also included.

The paint parties will be held at four different locations and will take place once a month during the months of May through August. Instructors for the evening events will be Mark and Wendy DeRaud, Shivon Hess and Jaipriya Kaur.

The parties take place at some of the finest restaurants and cafés in Fresno and Clovis. Canvas and Cordials participants will be offered a delicious faire from each of the site's

menus. These collaborative efforts partner local businesses with the Arne Nixon Center's goal to raise funds for the community mural. We show our gratitude to the venue owners by purchasing food and drink for the evening. Come an hour early and dine with us!



Wednesday, May 24th
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Mia Cuppa Caffé
620 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno



Wednesday, June 14th
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Gazebo Gardens
3204 N Van Ness Blvd, Fresno



Wednesday, July 19th
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Ovidio Italian Restaurant
3097 W. Bullard Avenue, Fresno



Wednesday, August 16th
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Elephant Lounge
80 W. Shaw Avenue, Clovis

More information, images of the paintings and registration instructions are available online at: www.arnenixoncenter.eventbrite.com
For additional questions, please email Jami Sanford at jsanford@csufresno.edu or call the Arne Nixon Center at 559.278.8116.

Guadalupe García McCall

Spreads Her Storytelling Magic!

The Arne Nixon Center's first artist-in-residence, Guadalupe García McCall, fulfilled her fellowship duties with pride and commitment during her week-long visit to Fresno, March 13-17. García McCall, the young adult literature author of three novels, including the Pura Belpré Medal winner *Under the Mesquite*, was chosen as the first recipient to receive the \$10,000 fellowship award. The award was made possible by the generous gift of a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Provost Lynnette Zelezny, Dean of Library Services Peter McDonald and Arne Nixon Center Curator Jennifer Crow, welcomed García McCall at an opening reception where she offered her gratitude for being selected for the prize and delivered a heartfelt talk about her work as a writer.

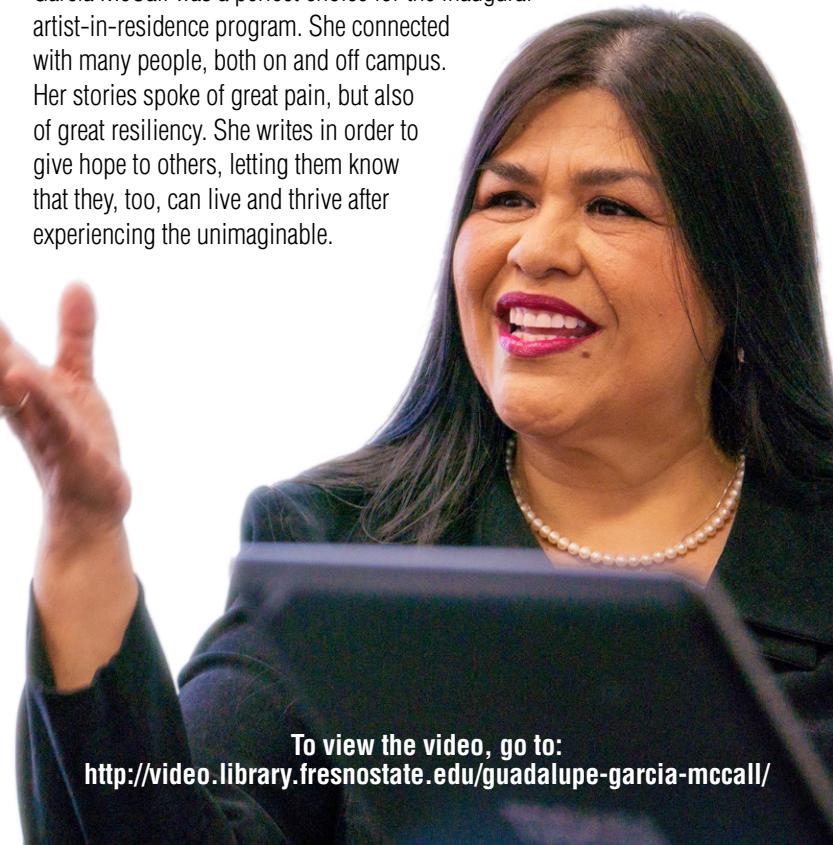
The rest of the week was a whirlwind of activity as García McCall taught English classes in Dr. Ruth Jenkins' adolescent literacy studies and Dr. Alison Mandaville's feminism and science fiction graduate courses. She also presented in Dr. David Low's literacy engagement in the community through collaborative inquiry education class. The students and professors from these classes were impressed with García McCall's pedagogical style. Currently a high school teacher in San Antonio, Texas, García McCall connected with Fresno State students on an individual and personal level. Professor Low remarked that his students opened up to her in ways for which they had been previously reticent.

In addition to embedding in Fresno State classes, the author presented on a panel discussion titled, "Our Place on the Shelf: A Cross-Disciplinary Discussion on Chicanx/Latinx Youth Literature." Along with professors Laura Alamillo (literacy, early, bilingual, special education), Cristina Herrera (Chicano and Latin American studies) and Larissa Mercado-López (women's studies), García McCall discussed critical themes, trends and challenges within the field of Chicanx/Latinx children's and young adult literature.

THE Magic OF STORY

Off campus, García McCall gave presentations for the Fresno County Public Library, Sunnyside High School English classes and the School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL), a high school charter. She also addressed the Fresno chapter of REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. A showcase of Fresno State student work, accomplished as a result of her visit, and a video chronicling her busy week were revealed in a reception held the last day of her stay.

García McCall was a perfect choice for the inaugural artist-in-residence program. She connected with many people, both on and off campus. Her stories spoke of great pain, but also of great resiliency. She writes in order to give hope to others, letting them know that they, too, can live and thrive after experiencing the unimaginable.



To view the video, go to:

<http://video.library.fresnostate.edu/guadalupe-garcia-mccall/>

Arne Nixon Center Research Fellowships Awarded

The Arne Nixon Center is pleased to award two Research Fellowships to top scholars of children's literature. Dr. Jamie Campbell Naidoo, from the University of Alabama, in the School of Library and Information Studies, spent several days examining the Arne Nixon Center's LGBTQ collection to gather information for his upcoming book, *A World of Rainbow Families*. Naidoo's new book will focus on evaluating and selecting outstanding children's books with LGBTQ content from both English and non-English speaking countries. Naidoo was recently elected

vice president/president-elect of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

Dr. Denise Dávila, from the University of Nevada and Dr. Patricia Enciso, from Ohio State University, have been awarded a second Research Fellowship. The Arne Nixon Center's collection will play an integral part in the completion of their soon-to-be-published book, *Attentive Reading & Teaching with Critical Literature for Children*. The book focuses on

ways of "becoming critical readers and mediators of diverse literature by building new frameworks and practices for understanding how diversity works in everyday life and stories."

Recipients of the Fellowships will present brown bag presentations about their findings to the Henry Madden Library faculty and staff and other interested Fresno State personnel. The Arne Nixon Center Research Fellowships were made possible from a generous gift by an anonymous donor.

9066: Japanese American Voices from the Inside



In collaboration with the Henry Madden Library Special Collections Research Center and its exhibition *9066: Japanese American Voices from the Inside*, the Arne Nixon Center created a display of its books featuring the topic of Japanese incarceration camps. Picture books, middle grade and young adult books of both fiction and nonfiction are on exhibit just outside the Arne Nixon Center.

Here is a list of recent children's books about the incarceration:

Gaijin: An American Prisoner of War

a graphic novel by Matt Faulkner

New York: Disney Hyperion Books, 2014

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, a 13-year-old California boy who is half Japanese is sent to an internment camp. Story is based on the history of the author's great aunt.

Dash by Kirby Larson

New York: Scholastic Press, 2014

When her family is forced into an internment camp, Mitsi Kashino is separated from her home, her classmates and her beloved dog, Dash; and as her family begins to come apart around her, Kashino clings to her one connection to the outer world—the letters from the kindly neighbor who is caring for Dash.

Uprooted by Albert Marrin

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

On the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor comes a harrowing and enlightening look at the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Barbed Wire Baseball by Marissa Moss

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2013

Traces the childhood of Japanese American baseball pioneer, Kenichi Zenimura, his dream of playing professionally and his family's struggles in a World War II internment camp where he introduces baseball to raise hope.

Paper Wishes by Lois Sepahban

New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2016

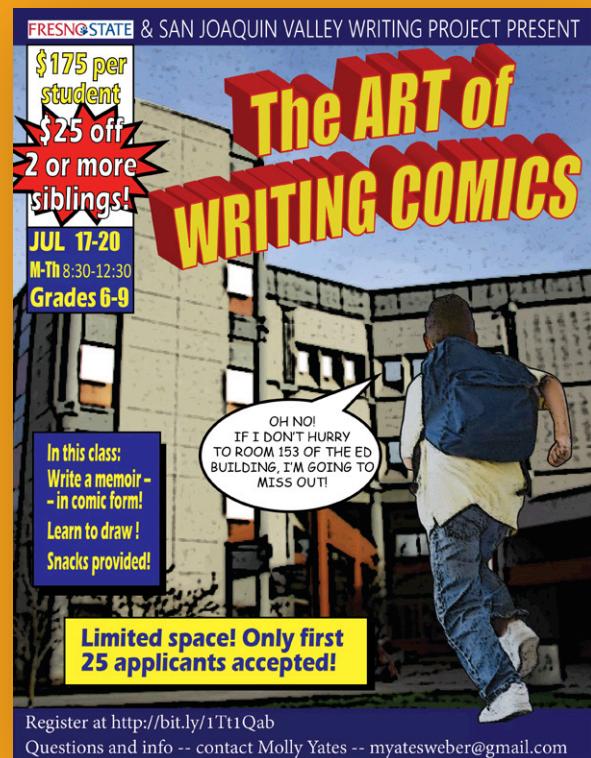
Near the start of World War II, young Manami, her parents and grandfather are evacuated from their home and sent to Manzanar, an ugly, dreary internment camp in the California desert for Japanese American citizens.

Fish for Jimmy by Katie Yamasaki

New York: Holiday House, 2013

When brothers Taro and Jimmy and their mother are forced to move from their home in California to a Japanese internment camp in the wake of the 1941 Pearl Harbor bombing, Taro daringly escapes the camp to find fresh fish for his grieving brother.

The Arne Nixon Center is sponsoring two scholarships for students who might not otherwise be able to attend. Additional scholarships are available. Please email Dr. Kathleen Godfrey (kgodfrey@csufresno.edu) for queries.



Register at <http://bit.ly/1Tt1Qab>

Questions and info -- contact Molly Yates -- myatesweber@gmail.com

Happy 90th Birthday, Arne Nixon!

Professor Arne J. Nixon would have turned 90-years-old on February 19, 2017. To celebrate his life and legacy, the Arne Nixon Center along with its support group, Arne Nixon Center Advocates, hosted a birthday celebration on Friday, February 24 in the Henry Madden Library Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery lobby.

Thacher Hurd, a friend of Nixon, was the guest speaker for the event. Hurd is the award-winning author and illustrator of over 25 books for children, including the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award-*

winner and *Reading Rainbow* featured book, *Mama Don't Allow* and the *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book Award-winning, *Zoom City*. In the past, Hurd spoke at Professor Nixon's children's literature festivals and later for the Arne Nixon Center in 2002.

Life members were honored with red rose boutonnieres. Attending life members were Curator Emerita Angelica Carpenter, founding Arne Nixon Center Advocates President Denise Sciandra, past President Kristene Scholefield, past Director Ruth Kallenberg and member Lydia Kuhn. Birthday cake and Fresno State ice cream were served while guests posed for



pictures in a "Magic Mirror" photo booth with a life-sized cutout of the beloved Nixon. It was an evening of fun of which we believe Nixon would have approved.

To view photo booth images from the event, visit: www.smileyphotobooths.com/3183108-2/

“Exploring More Rainbow Families in Children’s Literature: From the Arne Nixon Center and Beyond”

by Jamie Campbell Naidoo



During the first full week of February, I had the wonderful opportunity to examine the unique collection of the Arne Nixon Center as the inaugural Research Fellow. The Arne Nixon Center holds

the largest collection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) children's and young adult books in the United States, which proved very useful in my research on LGBTQ characters and families or "rainbow families" in children's literature. Following up on my previous work on the topic *Rainbow Family Collections* (Libraries Unlimited, 2012), my current research project examines how rainbow families are represented in children's picture books around the world and supports my current book project, *A World of Rainbow Families* to be published by Libraries Unlimited/ABC CLIO. The book-in-progress includes English-language titles published since *Rainbow Family Collections* as well as foreign language LGBTQ children's books.

Prior to my visit, I examined the Arne Nixon Center's holdings and compiled a list of children's picture books, informational titles and novels that met my research needs. The staff was gracious to pull these titles for me and have them waiting on a book cart. I was provided a quiet spot to thoroughly examine these materials. Jennifer Crow, the director of the Arne Nixon Center, also arranged for me to present my work at a lunch-and-learn session for students, staff and faculty in the Henry Madden Library. The event was very well attended! She also planned a number of lunches for me to meet other research faculty in children's literature as well as local experts, scholars and authors whose work is of keen interest to my own.

At one of these lunches, I had the fortuitous chance to chat with award-winning author Margarita Engle about some of her work. Engle mentioned that she had written a short story about gay historical figure Alexander von Humboldt in the edited collection by Mike Winchell, *Been There, Done That: Writing Stories from Real Life* (Grosset & Dunlap, 2015). That very day Engle was donating a copy of the book to the Arne Nixon Center! Using my

powers of persuasion (i.e. begging), I convinced Crow to allow me to examine the book for my research. If she had not arranged this meeting during my Research Fellowship, I firmly believe that I would never have found Engle's buried treasure to share with children's literature scholars and practitioners interested in LGBTQ characters.

Other gems in the Arne Nixon Center's collection of relevance to my work were self-published and out-of-print titles related to trans identity and gender diversity. While many such titles exist in young adult literature, very few are available for children and the Arne Nixon Center has almost all of them in their unique collection.

My week ended on a quiet note with me finishing my work and driving off into the swiftly setting sun to meet with a French translator on the next aspect of the book. Yet, I had to pause and thank the Arne Nixon Center staff and foundation for their assistance and magnanimous generosity in supporting my work. I hope to have the opportunity to return again someday! Without a doubt, I will certainly tell other researchers about the collection and the treasures within.

Dr. Debbie Reese

American Indians of the 21st Century: Still Here, Still Fighting

On October 13, Dr. Debbie Reese addressed a standing-room only classroom of 150 Fresno State students, primarily registered in education classes. Reese, an educator, author and activist, tribally enrolled at Nambe Pueblo in northern New Mexico, is best known for her blog, *American Indians in Children's Literature*. She was invited by the Arne Nixon Center to speak about native populations and their depictions in children's and young adult literature. Her talk to the students and faculty members, "Teaching Children About American Indians," explained the sovereignty of tribal nations and the concept of federally recognized tribes. She pointed out what to look for when choosing books for children that depict American Indians and gave examples of what she called the "good, the bad and the ugly." She also provided suggestions to the education students on how to best teach children



about American Indians, noting the hot button issues of Thanksgiving, Columbus Day and fourth grade California mission projects.

Reese's second presentation was given to the Arne Nixon Center Advocates membership at their Annual Meeting and was titled, "American Indians of the 21st Century: Still Here, Still Fighting." She focused on what the general public can do to become more informed.

For more information, go to Reese's blog at: www.americanindiansinchidlensliterature.blogspot.com

Pura Belpré Award 20th Anniversary Celebration in Fresno



Last fall, the Arne Nixon Center partnered with the Fresno chapter of REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking to celebrate the Pura Belpré Award's 20th anniversary. The Pura Belpré Award, founded by REFORMA and co-sponsored with the Association for Library Service to Children, is presented each year

to the Latinx author and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latinx cultural experience.

Attendees of the Fresno celebration were treated to music, food, community organization tables and a panel discussion. The program began with children guitarists from Generaciones, a traditional Oaxacan community based music group founded by Agustín Lira and Patricia Wells Solórzano.

Fresno State's President Castro greeted the audience, noting the Award's importance. Sandra Ríos Balderrama, an original co-founder of the award, and panel moderator, told of how the Award came into being.

An informative discussion about the impact and future of the Award

was presented by panel members: Margarita Engle and Rafael López, the 2016 Pura Belpré author and illustrator Award winners; Alicia K. Long, former Pura Belpré Award selection committee member and Library and Information Services Professional at State College of Florida; and Josefa Bustos Pelayo, multiple subject/dual immersion teacher at Jefferson Charter Academy in Hanford. Former Pura Belpré Award winners, Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy were also present at the event.

Creating a powerful sense of unity, the traditional ending of the Pura Belpré Award celebration was performed as everyone formed a large circle, joined hands and voices and sang *De Colores*.

The Arne Nixon Center gratefully acknowledges our new and renewing Arne Nixon Center Advocates members. Their gifts were received from September 2016 to March 2017.

New Members

Mary Bogan
Linda Geis
April Halprin Wayland
Susan Miller
Anita and Randy Morris
Penny Smith
Barbara St. Louis
Betsy Temple

Renewing Members

Ruth Elaine Andersen
Kristin Baer
Margaret Baker
Roberta and John Barta
Shirley and Bob Byrd
Cheryl Caldera
Mary T. Degroot
Saskia and Paul Dyer
Margarita Engle
Ben Ewell
Linda Fraley
Anne Reuland and Michael Gorman
Susanne Haffner
Audry Hanson
Patricia and John Hardebeck
Harriet and James Harris
Sylvia Hart
Eileen and William Hennrikus
Geraldine and Gray Hughes
Mary Hung
Ruth Kallenberg
Lydia Kuhn
Christine Lee
Mai Soua Lee
Patricia Libby
Susan Loucks
Janet Nichols Lynch
Nancy Mack and Bill Geissert
Janice Maroot
Arturo Mendoza
Colleen Mitchell
Michael Motta
Frances Neagley
Anne Neal
Alexis O'Neill and David Boeshaar
Mary Purucker
Kathie Reid-Bevington
Mary Ann and Eugene Richardson
Peter Robertson
Irene Rosato
Eleanor Rubin
Blondina Scherr
Sandy Schuckett
Lisa and James Scroggin
Helen Sirett
Nancy Tholen and Robert Wilkinson
Barbara Troisi*
Lauren Twohey
Christine and Howard Watkins
April Wheaton
Tekla White
Jennifer and Hugh Williamson
Jane Worsley

* Life Member



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Congratulations, Margarita Engle, Latest National Young People's Poet Laureate!

Margarita Engle has recently been named the latest Young People's Poet Laureate by The Poetry Foundation, a national independent literary organization. Engle's verse books have won many awards, including multiple Pura Belpré, Jane Addams and Americas awards. She received the inaugural Walter Dean Myers Award Honor, the inaugural Arnold Adoff Teen Poetry Award, the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, the PEN USA Award for her book, *The Lightning Dreamer*, and a Newbery Honor Book Award for *The Surrender Tree*.

Engle is the first Latina to receive the title of Young People's Poet Laureate. A San Joaquin Valley resident, she has had a long-standing relationship with the Arne Nixon Center where her archives are housed.

"The Center has always been extremely honored to house the papers of Margarita Engle," said Jennifer Crow, curator of the Arne Nixon Center. "Her imaginative stories peek into forgotten worlds and give voice to the silenced. Her fascination with the intricacies of nature and her advocacy for greater harmony shine through her free verse novels and picture books for young people. We are thrilled that she has received this deserved honor."

To learn more, go to:
www.poetryfoundation.org

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