



Number 25  
February 2014

*"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*

## The secret is out!



This year's Secret Garden Party is different from past Secret Garden Parties. For all of the past eleven years, the party location has not been revealed to guests until they sign up. This year, however, we are proud to announce the location in advance: the newly completed Leo Politi Garden on the Fresno State campus! A rededication of the garden will take place during the party.

The Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) invites everyone to attend the party/rededication on Sunday, April 13, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The party is ANCA's major annual fundraising event, with all profits going to the Arne Nixon Center. Underwriters are needed; they will receive tickets to the party and acknowledgements in promotional materials. The \$1,000 Sponsor fee includes up to eight tickets; Patrons, for a \$500 fee, get up to six tickets; Contributors, for \$250, receive up to four tickets. Individual tickets for \$50 are also available.

Leo Politi was the Caldecott Award-winning illustrator and/or author of over three dozen books. A Fresno native who relocated to Los Angeles, Politi was a good friend of Professor Arne Nixon, who often asked Politi to return to Fresno to attend his children's literature classes and festivals. The Politi Garden was created with funds raised by ANCA to honor the special friendship between the two men. Paul Politi and Suzanne Bischof, the son and daughter of the late Leo Politi, will attend the rededication.

Colorful mosaic tiles crafted by artist John Cook were installed in the garden last summer. The tiles, measuring up to 40"x 67" and weighing as much as 900 pounds, are replicas of those Politi created for his L.A. home.

Bronze castings of Politi's only known sculptures will be installed. The statues, fabricated by sculptor Lester Harries, depict a girl and boy reading a book with a dog, and a little girl with arms outstretched to birds overhead.

For more information or to make reservations, please send email to [jsanford@csufresno.edu](mailto:jsanford@csufresno.edu).

## Third session of Common Core Symposia

The Arne Nixon Center and the San Joaquin Valley Writing Project (SJVWP) present the third session of their "Inquiring Minds" symposia for teachers and pre-service students. "Breaking Barriers" will be the topic: many students encounter situations in which their options seem limited. This symposium will address ways in which teachers can use Common Core aligned literacy practices to help students think beyond these limiting barriers.

The session will be held on February 8 in the Kremen Education Building, Room ED140, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Morning enrichment speakers for the event include Fresno's first Poet Laureate, James Tyner, and Fresno State professor and acclaimed author, Alex Espinoza. Afternoon curriculum workshops will be conducted by Fresno State professor and specialist in English Education and comics, Alison Mandaville and Marcie Haas, an elementary teacher, GATE program coordinator, and Common Core implementation committee member.

Registration is \$25 per session. The form is found online at <http://adobe.ly/1e78Va7>.

The registration fee for "Breaking Barriers" includes a hard cover copy of Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True*

(See **Symposia**, page 2)

## A Presidential visit

Last November the university's new president, Dr. Joseph I. Castro, and his wife, First Lady Mary Castro, honored an invitation to visit the Center. Their tight schedule limited their time, but it was pleasing that they could stay for as long as they did.

The Center's mascot, Koko the [stuffed] gorilla, greeted the couple as they toured the reading room gazing at artwork and displays of authors' papers. A number of the Center's highlights were gathered in advance for their perusal. These included a



(See **Visit**, page 2)

## Symposia, from page 1

*Diary of a Part-Time Indian*; a plenary session with inspiring speakers; lunch; and participation in Common Core aligned workshops focusing on writing instruction.

Registration is also open for the last session of the symposia series, "Investigating Our World." This session, which combines writing curriculum with the natural sciences, will be held completely online throughout the month of March, using the Blackboard learning management system. The first 20 registrants for the session will receive a hard cover copy of the featured book, *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle*, by Claire A. Nivola. Author and naturalist Michael Elsohn Ross will present a brief video discussing our connections within the natural world. Curriculum ideas, discussion threads, and additional resources will be offered.

More information is available at SJVWP's website at <http://sjvwp.org/> or the Arne Nixon Center's at [www.arne-nixoncenter.org](http://www.arne-nixoncenter.org). You may also send email to [kgodfrey@csufresno.edu](mailto:kgodfrey@csufresno.edu), or call the Center at 559.278.8116.

## Visit, from page 1

rare edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* illustrated and signed by surrealist painter, Salvador Dali; the oldest book in the Center's collection, *Lagime in morte di un gatto*, published in 1741; and the most valuable book in the collection, *A Book of Cats: Being Twenty Drawings by Foujita*, appraised at \$16,000. The latter two books are in the Helen Monnette Amestoy Collection of Books on Cats.

The couple viewed Michael Cart's beloved donation of a first edition *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and were impressed with the significant collection of books in Spanish donated by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy. They also saw a copy of *The Cat in the Hat* inscribed by Dr. Suess to Arne Nixon.

In addition to two adult children, the Castros are the parents of a three-year-old son, so were quite familiar with some reliable favorites, such as *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. (There is a replica of the Great Green Room in the Center's reading room.) Mrs. Castro, who is very fond of children's books, told of reading her son's favorite night-time book over and over and over again as he often asks for multiple readings.

Meeting President Castro and the First Lady was truly an enjoyable experience. Both are very knowledgeable and charming guests. The Center welcomes their support and looks forward to many future visits.



## ANCA Anecdotes

(Arne Nixon Center Advocates)

by Kristene Petrucci Scholefield,  
ANCA President

How can you go to Washington, D.C. to the National Book Festival and hear authors Jon Scieszka, (rhymes with Fresca), Christopher Myers, and Suzy Lee? It helps if your daughter lives there and you miss her terribly and she happens to have been inundated with exceptional children's literature her entire life of twenty-nine years and begs you to come to this free event on the National Mall. Illness restricted our attendance to only these three authors . . . but they made it worth our while!

I am Kristene Petrucci Scholefield and I've had the pleasure of working with Denise Sciandra, the founding president of ANCA, for several years. I cannot sing her praises loudly enough! She started with Angelica Carpenter, Curator Emeriti, from the ground up in building the Arne Nixon Center and its Advocate group to the status it now holds in the place of children's literature. As the newly elected president, I hope to work with Jennifer Crow, Curator of the Arne Nixon Center, and be as supportive, creative, and dedicated as Denise has been. I know Denise and Angelica have shared road trips, singing songs from the 50s, and I look forward to attending conferences and events with Jennifer although I'm not sure about our voices!

I've taught preschool, elementary school, and college classes. Children's literature was always part of my curriculum . . . yes, even at the graduate level. I started my lessons with a children's book or excerpt from one.

Attending conferences and exhibits sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center and ANCA has been exhilarating. My nametag at the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators meeting said, "Other." I am not an author or illustrator, but a lover of children's books and I look forward to sharing my passion with all of you.



Pish and Posh



## Published by

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## CURATOR'S CORNER



by Jennifer Crow

Choosing the best book for young people to represent California's people, history, and culture is not an easy task. But that is the charge each year for the John and Patricia Beatty Award Committee. I was honored to serve on the California Library Association's Beatty award committee to choose the award-winning book for 2012.

The award was started by children's author Patricia Beatty, whose goal was to promote an increased awareness of California through quality children's literature. The prize now honors her husband, the late John Beatty, an English history and humanities professor, and Patricia, who passed away in 1991. Recipients of the award receive an engraved plaque and \$500 in prize money.

Beginning early in 2012, the committee read dozens of children's and young adult books that pertained to California and were written in the given year. In order to be chosen for the award, California must play an integral part of the story. While many of the books' settings were located in the state, they were not fundamental to the story.

After emailing and numerous conference calls, the committee narrowed the field to two very different books. Each was exceptional in its own way, but it was like judging ice cream against apple pie: we could choose only one, but we wanted *a la mode*.

One of these two finalists was a young adult fiction book by a well-known author. The language was well-crafted, characters nuanced and believable, plot absorbing, and the setting, indeed, vital. The other book was a non-fiction picture book whose story depicted an important event in California history. The writing was engaging and the crisp illustrations added delight to the text.

In the end, *The Camping Trip That Changed America* by Barb Rosenstock and illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein won. The book tells of the 1903 meeting between President Theodore Roosevelt and conservationist John Muir. The four-day meeting took place on a private camping trip in Yosemite. Inspired by this visit with Muir, Roosevelt declared large areas of wilderness as federally-protected lands and doubled the number of national parks. The committee felt the book portrayed California's important impact on the nation as a whole. Its added message of preservation and ecology will have a lasting effect on a young audience whose awareness of the natural world is beginning to expand. The book's significance is greater than its individual parts. Congratulations to Barb Rosenstock and Mordicai Gerstein for creating such an invaluable book.



My experience as a committee member was enlightening, at times frustrating, but overall highly enjoyable. Once the award choice was made, I felt a sense of accomplishment. With the nearly inexhaustible number of selections, I can only imagine how a Caldecott, Newbery, or Printz committee member must feel.

*Big Boss! Little Boss!*

# Tales & Tidbits

by Denise Sciandra, Outgoing ANCA President

Since 2010, I've devoted my biannual column to writing about the books my young grandchildren enjoy and the mutual pleasures and benefits of reading with them. That subject has resonated with readers. I have received lots of appreciative feedback. More than one reader has told me that she cuts out the column to share with new grandmothers. So I continue.

My granddaughter, Nora, is now 20 months old. From the beginning, she has enjoyed interactive books. At her very first book fair at school, she selected the board book, *Giggles*, by Caroline Jayne Church. It has a push button that produces the sound of children giggling and can be pushed on every page. Good choice, Nora.

Although I prefer real books, Loud Crow Publishing has produced a spectacular smartphone app called "Pop-Out Peter" of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Nora squeals as she touches animals causing them to move or shake the blackberry bushes bringing down blackberries.

Peaceable Kingdom Press has produced a 3" x 3" board book simply called *Farm* featuring 12 farm animals. On the right hand page is the farm animal and on the left is the sound that animal makes. You can count on Nora to laugh every time the hen clucks.

Nora is enjoying the Duck and Goose series, by Tad Hills. These are simply told and warmly and playfully illustrated stories about the friendship of Duck and Goose. In *Duck and Goose Find a Pumpkin*, they pose questions to each other about where to find a pumpkin. Is it in the log? The leaf pile? The apple tree? Each time, the answer is 'no.' I love Nora's response to each question as she answers with a long "Noooooooooooo." In the end, a friend says, "Have you tried the pumpkin patch?" "The what?" say Duck and Goose.

The warm and rhythmical *Baby Cakes*, by Karma Wilson, is another favorite. "Baby Cakes, Baby Cakes, I love you. Baby Cakes, Baby Cakes, Yes, I do! Bouncy-bounce Baby Cakes on my lap. You're my little Baby Cakes. Clap! Clap! Clap!" By the time she hears the word lap, Nora is clapping in anticipation. "Laugh with little Baby Cakes. Ha! Ha! Ha!" Nora laughs heartily.

In the nearly wordless picture book, *Good Night, Gorilla*, by Peggy Rathmann, in which animals are let out of their cages by the gorilla and put back in by the zookeeper's wife, Nora waves good night as the animals are all tucked in.

Reading with grandchildren is such a rewarding activity. I wonder what Nora and I will discover next?



# Bring it on, Bootsie Barker!

The Center is honored to have received a gift of papers from Barbara Bottner, author and/or illustrator of over 36 books, including picture books, I Can Reads, middle grade readers, and young adult novels. One of her best known books, *Bootsie Barker Bites*, is now one of the classic books about bullying. It has been translated into eight different languages and produced as an animated short for television. Her latest book, *Miss Brooks' Story Nook*, illustrated by Michael Emberley, is due to be published this spring. In this companion to the bestseller *Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I Don't)*, Miss Brooks encourages the children to tell their own stories when the electricity fails in the library.

Bottner's gift to the Center, which provides a chronicle of her fascinating creative life, includes signed copies of her books, typewritten manuscripts, original drawings, galleys, mock ups, cover art, correspondences, editorial reviews, posters, book reviews, newspaper articles, and more.

In addition, the archive also contains her illustrations and articles for *Ms. Magazine*, *The New York Times*, the *Miami Herald*, *LA Weekly*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Playgirl*.

Please visit [barbarabotterbooks.com](http://barbarabotterbooks.com) for more information about Bottner and her books.

# Thank you, Denise!

Denise Sciandra, ANCA President for the past 13 years, has stepped down from her position. She is replaced by long-time ANCA board member Kristene Scholefield, but will continue to serve on ANCA's Board of Directors.

Denise has helped to make ANCA the thriving support group that it is today. There are 445 members, including 71 Life members, residing in 34 states; many of these members she personally recruited.

Denise's leadership made many projects possible. The Leo Politi Garden, a personal dream of hers, with lighted walkways, a water fountain, and artwork, will soon be finished and will be rededicated this April. Denise also solicited a number of authors' papers, including those of the late Newbery Award winner Sid Fleishman. She drove to L.A. on many occasions to retrieve the papers from his daughters. She has also written numerous opinion pieces in support of the Center and has been quoted in articles on a variety of subjects related to children's literature. In 2009, she was instrumental in bringing the London-based Beatrix Potter Society members to Fresno for a conference dedicated to the author.

These are but a few of Denise's accomplishments. ANCA and the Arne Nixon Center applaud her tireless dedication and will be forever grateful for her endeavors.



## Secret Garden books and ephemera on display

Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, a professor at Dartmouth and leading authority on Frances Hodgson Burnett, donated pieces from her personal Burnett collection to the Center. The donation of *Secret Garden* ephemera included an activity kit, notebooks, puzzle, game, hand-crafted bracelet, and framed signature from Frances Hodgson Burnett. We thank Ms. Gerzina for her donation!



## Celebrating volunteers

The Arne Nixon Center hosted its yearly holiday party in honor of its hardworking and dedicated volunteers. This year's theme was "Holidays Around the World." The tree, decorated by Library Services Specialist Arturo Mendoza, featured international decorations. Swirled in burlap trimming, the tree held small dolls, postcards, and flags from numerous countries, as well as mini piñatas, origami cranes, and handmade greetings in many languages. A battery-operated globe recited holiday wishes from various nations.



Pish and Posh

Guests were treated to a surprise visit by young adult author Kasie West, a local resident and Fresno State alumna. She wrote *Pivot Point* and *The Distance Between Us*, both published by Harper Teen. West talked about her writing, her life, and her love of Junior Mints! She also held a drawing to give out signed copies of her books.

*Split Second*, the sequel to *Pivot Point*, and *On the Fence* will be released later this year. *The Fill-in Boyfriend* is due out in 2015. *Pivot Point* and *Split Second* are considered paranormal fiction, while *The Distance Between Us* and *On the Fence* are contemporary romance. For more information about West and her work, please visit [www.kasiewest.com](http://www.kasiewest.com).

If you're interested in volunteering for the Center, call us at 559.278.8116 or email [jsanford@csufresno.edu](mailto:jsanford@csufresno.edu).

# “The Big Read” and all that jazz!

Jazz! It's the music that comes to mind when thinking about this year's “The Big Read” book, *The Great Gatsby*. The Fresno County Public Library and the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Fresno State will be celebrating jazz with a presentation from children's author Amy Novesky, the author of *Mister and Lady Day: Billie Holiday and the Dog Who Loved Her*. The program will take place Saturday, March 29, at 2:00 p.m. in the Woodward Park Branch Library at 944 East Perrin Avenue in northeast Fresno. “The Big Read” is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

*Mister and Lady Day* tells the true story of Billie Holiday, one of the greatest jazz singers who ever lived, and her best friend—her dog. Mister, a boxer, accompanied Billie to many performances, often waiting in the wings for her to finish. It could be said that Mister was Holiday's personal therapy dog.



In this tradition, the Library will make its own therapy reading dogs, the Tail Waggin' Tutors, available before and after the program. A related craft project will also be offered. Light refreshments will be served.

Amy Novesky is an award-winning children's book author. Her other picture books include *Elephant Prince: The Story of Ganesh*, about the elephant-headed god; *Me, Frida*, about Frida Kahlo in San Francisco; *Georgia in Hawaii*, about Georgia O'Keeffe's travels in the Hawaiian Islands; and *Imogen: The Mother of Modernism and Three Boys*, about photographer Imogen Cunningham. Novesky lives just north of San Francisco with her family, including a beloved pug dog named George.

For more information, contact the Fresno County Public Library's Information Officer Jonathon Waltmire at 559.600.6274, or send email to [jsanford@csufresno.edu](mailto:jsanford@csufresno.edu).

**All the illustrations** featured in this issue of *The Magic Mirror* are the work of **Barbara Bottner**. Book titles accompany the illustrations, except for the one used with the “First Lines” quiz on the back page—that one is from *Big Boss! Little Boss!*

*Please plan to join us!*

## February 8

“Breaking Barriers” symposium

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Education Bldg. Rm. 140, Fresno State

## March 1–30

“Investigating our World” online symposium

## March 24–May 30

Exhibition “Turning Pages: Intersections of Books and Technology”

Madden Library Ellipse Gallery, 2nd floor

## March 28

“Turning Pages” reception with guest

artist Mike Stilkey

Madden Library Room 2206

## March 29

“Big Read” program with author

Amy Novesky, 2 p.m.

Woodward Park Regional Branch Library

## April 13

Secret Garden Party/Politi Garden Rededication

3 – 5 p.m., Madden Library

## July 19, 20, 26, 27

Shine! Youth Theatre's traveling production of “Alice in Wonderland,” Madden Library



*Big Boss! Little Boss!*



# “Turning Pages: Intersections of Books & Technology”

The Madden Library’s Arne Nixon Center and the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) will host a new exhibition entitled “Turning Pages: Intersections of Books and Technology.” The exhibition will be held in the Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery on the second floor of the Library beginning March 24 and continuing until May 30. The Nixon Center and SCRC will team up with the Center for Creativity and the Arts, a non-profit arts organization on campus, to collaborate with this year’s chosen theme of “Data and Technology.”

Technologies—new, old, and reinterpreted—have altered the paradigm of the book since its inception. From creation and content to format itself, the collective notion of the book, a benign object, is continually changing. “Turning Pages” will provide a glimpse into some of the ways in which technology has radicalized books and book making. Using examples from our Special Collections, as well as book art from five world-renowned artists, we will explore the convergence of books and technology from advances in printing to the digital arena to new and exciting forms of art.

Works by five acclaimed artists pay homage to the book while also addressing its significantly altering nature. English artist Su Blackwell, depicts miniature scenes clipped from the pages of fairy tales. Brian Dettmer stratifies discarded reference volumes to reveal existing images. Thomas Allen creates prints from science books and children’s midcentury readers. Pamela Paulsrud wears away layers to expose hidden messages. Mike Stilkey piles ceiling high stacks to create giant canvases. For more information on the exhibition and the artists, see the “Turning Pages” website at [www.turningpages.fresnostate.com](http://www.turningpages.fresnostate.com).

A reception to celebrate the exhibition’s opening will be held on Friday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the Madden Library. A presentation by Mike Stilkey will begin at 7:00 p.m.; Stilkey will discuss his process and the inspiration for his artwork.

The event is free and open to the public. Parking for the event in Lots 30 and 31 (formerly E and D) is relaxed. To RSVP or to request information, please email [jsanford@csufresno.edu](mailto:jsanford@csufresno.edu) or call the Arne Nixon Center at 559.278.8116.

## 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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## Answers to quiz

1 *Pivot Point*, by Kasie West

2 *An Annoying ABC*, by Barbara Bottner

3 *Mister and Lady Day*, by Amy Novesky

4 *Song of the Swallows*, by Leo Politi



*Big Boss! Little Boss!*

# Can you identify the books that begin with these lines?

**Q<sup>1</sup>** Am•bush: n. to pick a subject (me) and lie in wait to attack. “Heads up,” a loud voice called from my right. I looked up just in time to see a football smack me right between the eyes.

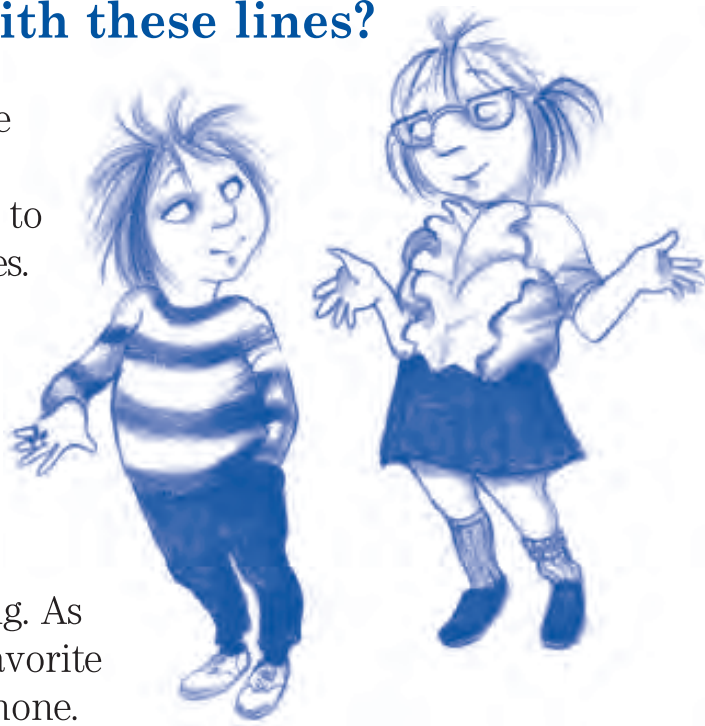
It was a quiet morning until ...

**Q<sup>2</sup>** Adelaide annoyed Bailey.  
Bailey blamed Clyde.  
Clyde cried.

**Q<sup>3</sup>** Billie Holiday loved to sing. As a girl, she sang along to her favorite songs on a borrowed gramophone.

**Q<sup>4</sup>** At the foot of the low and soft hills near the sea, lay the small village of Capistrano.

*(Answers on page 7)*



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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