



# THE MAGIC

# MIRROR

Number 21  
(February 2012)

*"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*

## Secret Garden Party: Sunday, April 15th



ANCA, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, invites everyone to its tenth annual Secret Garden Party, Sunday, April 15th, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The party will have an international flair this year as ANCA honors writers Alma Flor Ada, who was born in Cuba, and F. Isabel Campoy, who was born in Spain. These prolific authors, who now live in California, have published hundreds of books, writing alone and together, in Spanish and in English. This year they donated 2,200 children's books, mostly in Spanish, to the Center, and have pledged to donate their papers, too.

Please join us for tapas, sangria, and other Hispanic treats in a beautiful Spanish style garden in north Fresno. The party's exact location will be revealed to underwriters and ticket holders upon registration.

Underwriters for the party are needed; they will receive tickets to the party and acknowledgements in promotional materials. The \$1,000 Sponsor fee includes up to eight tickets for the party, a Leo Politi lithograph (see article on page 6), and life membership in ANCA. Patrons, for a \$500 fee, get up to six tickets; and Contributors, for \$250, receive up to four tickets. Individual tickets are also available for \$50.

The garden party is ANCA's major annual fundraising event; all profits benefit the Arne Nixon Center. Funds raised this year will support Phase II of the Leo Politi Garden, adding art by Fresno's most famous children's illustrator to the existing hardscape and landscaping that completed Phase I, funded by ANCA. The garden, which opened in 2010, is on the east side of the Henry Madden Library.

More information is available by calling Mila at 559.278.8116 or by sending e-mail to [mrianto@csufresno.edu](mailto:mrianto@csufresno.edu).

## *A Dog's Way Home*, part of Fresno's The Big Read

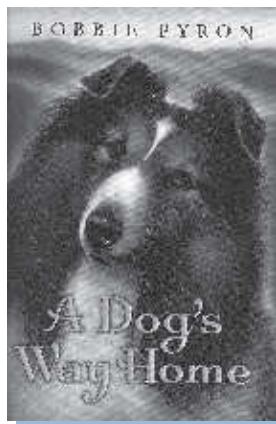
Everyone is invited to a talk by author Bobbie Pyron at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, at the Woodward Park Library, 944 East Perrin Avenue in northeast Fresno. Pyron will discuss her book, *A Dog's Way Home*. The program, which is co-sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center, is part of the Fresno County Public Library's The Big Read under the leadership of Linda Aragon. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Science and Arts Midwest.

This year The Big Read features *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London and will offer a variety of programs in March and April, including this one, which is suitable for readers of all ages. Refreshments will be served. The author's books will be available for sale and autographing from Petunia's Place bookstore. In addition, the library's own therapy reader dogs, the Tail Waggin' Tutors, will be present before and after the talk, on hand for children to sit and share a book with or simply to pet.

Pyron lives in Park City, Utah, with her husband, Todd, three dogs, and two cats. Pyron describes *A Dog's Way Home* as "a personal love letter to Shelties" and to the classic dog stories *Lassie Come-Home* and *The Incredible Journey*. The book tells the story of Abby and her Shetland sheepdog, Tam. Far from their home, Abby and Tam become separated after a terrible car accident.

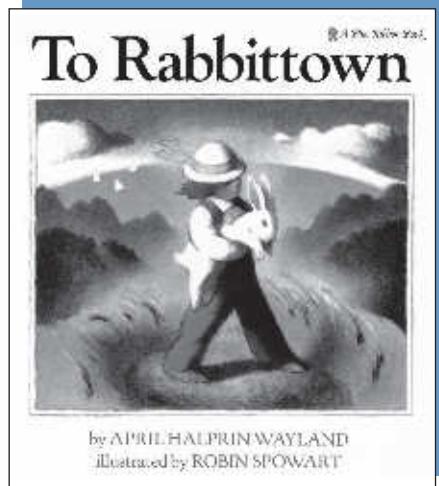
Abby is sent to the hospital but Tam is nowhere to be found. Abby believes Tam is still alive, but will they ever find their way home to each other? Information about Pyron and her books can be found at [www.bobbiepyron.com](http://www.bobbiepyron.com).

In conjunction with The Big Read program, the Woodward Library will host a special art exhibit. Fresno State professor Doug Hansen will present designs by students in his illustration class based on *The Call of the Wild*.



## April Halprin Wayland donates papers

Thanks to California author April Halprin Wayland, who has pledged her papers to the Arne Nixon Center. Her first book, *To Rabbittown*, published by Scholastic in 1989, received a starred review in *School Library Journal*, was reprinted as a Blue Ribbon paper back, stayed in print for more than eight years, and sold 64,000 copies.



the Pier. The author's website is [www.aprilwayland.com](http://www.aprilwayland.com). Her blog is [www.TeachingAuthors.com](http://www.TeachingAuthors.com), offered by six children's authors who also teach writing. Wayland is the only west coast author on the blog.

*The ANCA Board wears Emerald City green glasses at Angelica Carpenter's Oz-themed retirement party. (Angelica's last "Curator's Corner" message appears on the facing page.)*



## Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

(Arne Nixon Center Advocates)

by Denise Sciandra, ANCA President



Lucky me! My grandson likes to read with me.

Two-year-old Sam is turning into a car guy like his grandpa. He favors trucks, especially trash trucks. So, I went in search of picture books on this subject. It seems as though there are quite a few.

Sam loves *Smash! Mash! Crash! There Goes the Trash*, by Barbara Odanaka. In this story, two little pigs jump out of bed and rush to the window when they hear the trash truck coming (just like Sam does). When we get to the page that says, "Smashing, mashing, lights a-flashing, gobbling garbage, gulpy-gulp," Sam anxiously anticipates that I will make an exaggerated gulping sound, and when I do, he laughs out loud—every time.

Another favorite is *Smash That Trash* (dubbed The Crunch Book by Sam) from Jon Scieszka's Trucktown series. After a few readings, Sam was reading it to me in a loud, emphatic voice using primarily the sound effects. Here's his telling of it. "Trash day! Smash day!" "Gotcha!" "Vroom! Vroom! Vroom!" "Watch me fly." "Crash! Smash!" "Dump!" "Honk! Honk!" "Crunch!!!"

Sam also provides the sound effects in Virginia Lee Burton's classic, *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*. "Clang! Clang! Clang!" "Bing! Bang! Crash! Louder and Louder, Faster and Faster!"

One of the most significant pages to Sam in Don Freeman's *Corduroy* is "Pop!", when Corduroy yanks the button off the mattress and the floor lamp crashes to the floor.

Sam can shift seamlessly from a loud, raucous story to a soft, gentle one.

A favorite bedtime story is *On Mother's Lap*, by Ann Herbert Scott. This warm, soothing story shows how many things can share mother's lap with Michael in the rocking chair—including baby sister. Sam's favorite illustration is of Michael alone in the chair entirely covered by his reindeer blanket. On the final page are these words: "His mother gave him a squeeze," at which time I give Sam a squeeze. In anticipation, he pulls my arms a little snugger around him.

Another bedtime favorite is *Baby Dear*, by Eloise Wilkin. Daddy brings Mother and Baby home from the hospital with a baby doll for big sister. Both "mothers" care for their babies. Sam anxiously asks for this story over and over. He knows that there is a baby in his mother's tummy. Does he see himself in this story?

Sam will become a big brother in March. Lucky me, I'll have two little ones to read to!

# MAGIC MIRROR MAGIC LIBRARY

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by Angelica Carpenter

Greetings from a recent retiree with a new title, Curator Emerita. It was a difficult decision to retire at the end of 2011, as I absolutely loved my job, which I consider to be the best in the world. However it could be tiring (largely because I make it that way) and I was ready for a rest and a change.

So now when I am at the Library, I'm there as a patron instead of a librarian. I'm writing a new biography for young adults, about Matilda Joslyn Gage, who was L. Frank Baum's mother-in-law. That's how she came onto my radar, through my interest in Baum and Oz, but she was a famous feminist and author in her own right. After she was widowed she spent winters with the Baums—her daughter Maud, Maud's husband Frank, and their four sons. She encouraged Frank to write down the stories he told his sons, and to submit them to a publisher. I don't think that it is a coincidence that Baum's Oz is a feminist utopia, ruled by women.

The Henry Madden Library is a terrific resource for authors. Before moving here, I wrote three books in a Florida city with minimal library resources. In Fresno I wrote two more, a much easier task with access to an outstanding academic library. My habit of writing about Victorians means that I need to read many books published in the Victorian era. It always surprises me how many of these are in the Madden collection. And if they are not, I can get them through Interlibrary Lending. A million books, dazzling databases, and specialist librarians who have helped me to track down all kinds of elusive information (such as, what year did bustles go out of style?)—research is fun here and wonderfully productive. While writing this book, I will stay involved with the Arne Nixon Center, as a volunteer and a Life Member of ANCA.

I have also signed up to FERP, as part of the Faculty Early Retirement Program, starting next fall. This program allows retired faculty members to work part-time. My plan is to catalog, or help with exhibitions, or process the papers of authors or illustrators, or to do anything else that is needed. But not full-time and not early in the morning!

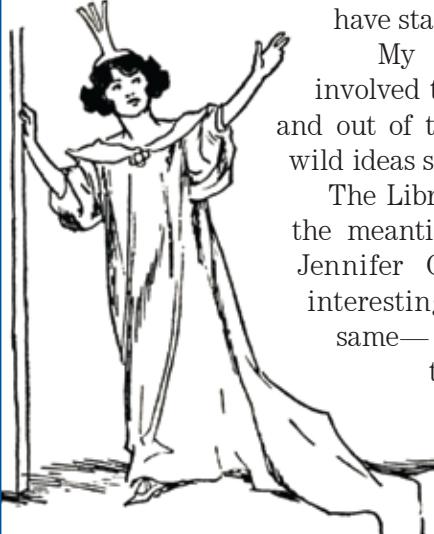
It's a wonderful job when you get to do anything you can dream of. If anyone had told me when I was eight years old that someday I would get to put on a national Oz conference, my daughter says that I would have started planning it right then.

My plans were not accomplished alone—they involved the help and support of many other people, in and out of the Library. I thank all of you for taking my wild ideas seriously.

The Library plans a national search to fill my job. In the meantime, the Arne Nixon Center will be led by Jennifer Crow, who is already working on some interesting new projects. My email will still be the same—[angelica@csufresno.edu](mailto:angelica@csufresno.edu)—and I look forward to hearing from friends and colleagues as I continue to work in children's literature, in a slightly new capacity.



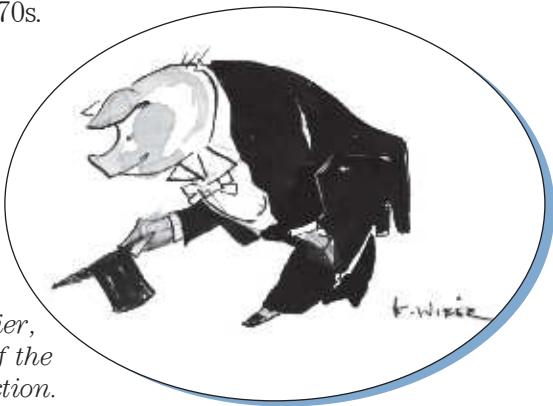
CURATOR'S  
CORNER



## Center receives major Brooks donation

Thanks to Jim Frazier for his recent donation of materials related to Walter R. Brooks, author of the Freddy the Pig series. His gift included original art by Kurt Wiese, letters to Frazier from Brooks's widow, Brooks's 1930 passport, photographs, rare books that had belonged to Brooks, an unpublished manuscript, newspaper clippings, and more. Frazier, a childhood Freddy fan, got on a bus in his native Springfield, Missouri, when he was just 13 (and his mother let him do this!), and made a pilgrimage to upstate New York to the home of his favorite author, Walter R. Brooks. Brooks had passed away, but Frazier received a warm welcome from his widow, Dorothy. Later she gave him many of the materials that he donated to the Center.

Michael Cart, past president of the Friends of Freddy fan club and a founding member of the Center's Governing Committee, came from his home in Indiana to welcome a previously unmet fellow Freddy fan, and to see just what was being given. Frazier, who teaches Spanish at Baker University in Kansas, drove the materials to California. It was only as he asked for directions to Fresno State that he and curator Angelica Carpenter realized that they used to work together at a branch of the Springfield-Greene County Library in Springfield, Missouri, in the late 1970s.



Original sketch of Freddy the Pig done by Kurt Wiese for Jim Frazier, now a part of the Center's collection.

Jim Frazier and Michael Cart in the Arne Nixon Center.



## IBBY comes to Fresno and wins rave reviews!

IBBY, the International Board on Books for Young People, attracted 250 people from six continents to its ninth U.S. Regional Conference co-sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center on October 21-23, 2011. The record-breaking attendance was boosted by a donation from ANCA member Bette Peterson, who funded scholarships for 18 students, most of them teachers enrolled in graduate courses. Accompanying these photographs taken at the conference are reports from a few of the winners, presented anonymously and edited slightly for clarity.

*"The weekend started with the General Session at the hotel ballroom . . . [we] randomly sat at a table and five authors from California happened to be seated with us . . . I felt as if I were at the Academy Awards and there were celebrities right at my table."*



Pam Muñoz Ryan

*"I especially enjoyed the sessions with the authors. I related to Pam Muñoz Ryan's description of her life as a child and how the 'benevolent neglect' she experienced allowed her to pedal her bike to the library where a cool, air-conditioned room and a book were her escape from the Bakersfield heat."*



*"I found the first Filipino children's book I have ever seen, Cora Cooks Pancit. Luckily the author, Dorina Lazo Gilmore, was at the conference and I had the opportunity to speak with her. My husband was surprised to see a book about pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. It was the first he had read with a reference to his culture."*

Dorina Lazo Gilmore

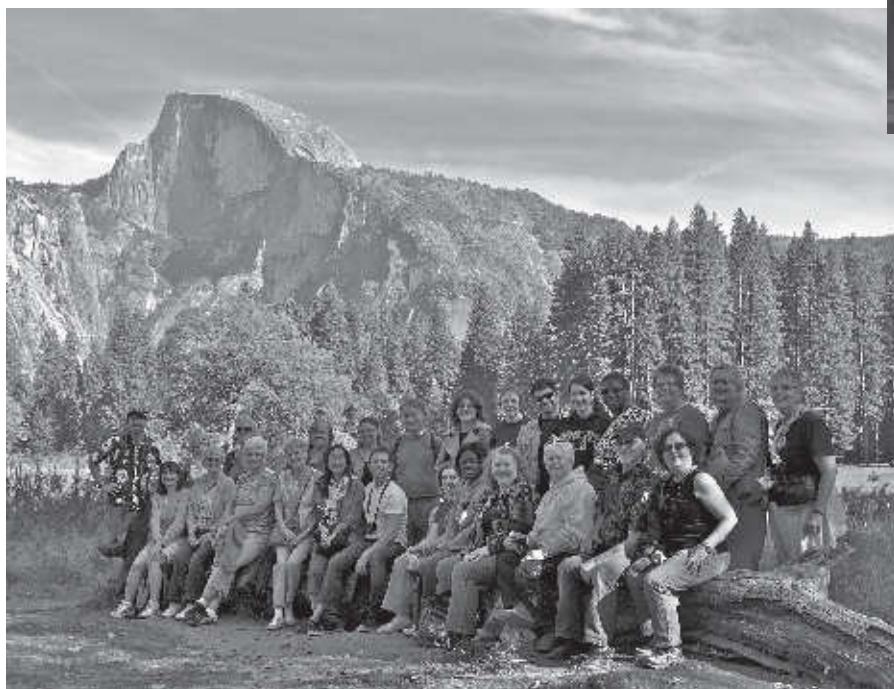
*"The IBBY conference offered me the opportunity to fraternize with other teachers and with authors and illustrators of children's books who believe that we can peacefully bridge the gap between nations and people. In essence, the conference stressed the belief that although we are made of many "bits of fabric," we can come together and create a single vision of the world."*



Above: Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy

Right: Alexis O'Neill

*"One of [the California authors], Alexis O'Neill, was very familiar to me. I use her anti-bullying children's literature on a frequent basis in my classroom. We had a very engaging and informative conversation at our table with the authors. They were so gracious and friendly."*



Some of the IBBY group visited Yosemite (Half Dome is seen in the distance).

*"Overall it was a great weekend. Hearing about world peace through literature was fantastic and a goal everyone should focus on."*



Virginia Pilegard and Grace Lin

*"I am a fan of Grace Lin's books because of the personal connection I hold with the books that describe her childhood memories. These types of books did not exist when I was young. The joy of reading something similar to my own childhood . . . is extraordinary."*

Adwoa Badoe, Beverly Naidoo, and Roger Mello



*"I met Adwoa Badoe. She grew up in Ghana, West Africa, and now lives in Guelph, Ontario. Adwoa was so down to earth and easy to talk to. We talked about her flight from Canada and her celebrity status, of which she said, "No, I am just Adwoa and I am enjoying my life."*

*"The highlight for me was meeting illustrator David Diaz. I learned three new rules for life: Get Up, Dress Up, Show Up!"*

*"I never expected this conference to broaden my horizons as an educator the way that it did. It made me aware that I must continue to strive to make my students open and inclusive of the world around them. Location may limit us but literature opens and expands our world."*

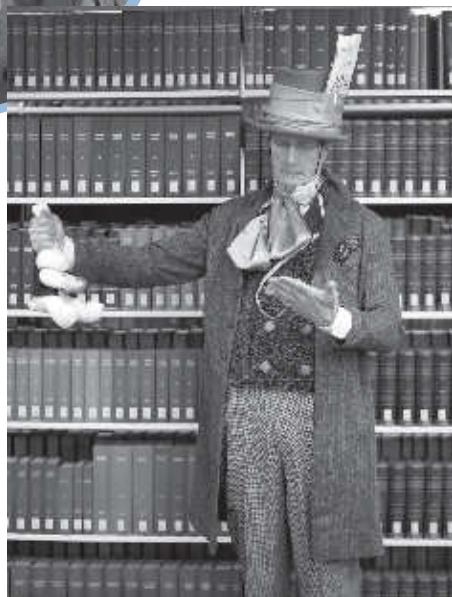
## “Down the Rabbit Hole” exhibition

“Down the Rabbit Hole with Lewis Carroll and Leonard Weisgard” was held last September 16–October 26 in the Library’s Ellipse galleries. Leonard Weisgard’s daughters traveled from Denmark to view the Center’s exhibition of their father’s artwork lent by their cousin, Peter Roos. Speaker Leonard Marcus discussed Weisgard’s work and the history of the Little Golden Books.



*Left to right:  
Abby Weisgard,  
Peter Roos, Chrissy  
Weisgard, and  
Leonard Marcus.*

*Right:  
The Mad Hatter  
(aka Dean Peter  
McDonald), kicks  
off the grand  
opening of the  
exhibition.*



*Far right: Cheryl Caldera examines an anamorphic bronze table created by sculptor Karen Mortillaro.*

## Politi family donates original lithographs

In order to help fund the completion of the Leo Politi Garden at Fresno State, Paul Politi and Suzanne Politi Bischof, Leo Politi’s children, have generously given the Arne Nixon Center a set of original lithographs of their father’s wonderful artwork. The 12 different lithographs, illustrated in both black and white and color, depict various scenes of children dancing, playing, and reading, as well as scenes of Politi’s favorite panoramas. The sizes of the pieces vary; the largest is 26” x 20”, and can be viewed at [www.arne-nixoncenter.org](http://www.arne-nixoncenter.org). For a gift of \$1,000, donors will receive a lithograph. Selections and numbers are limited, so choices will be fulfilled on a first-come, first-served basis.



Phase I of the Leo Politi Garden was completed in 2010 and celebrated with a dedication ceremony. Hardscape walkways, seating areas, garden lighting, a tiled water fountain, and lush plantings were installed. Phase II will complete the garden by adding pieces of Leo Politi’s artwork. Two of Politi’s sculptures, originally carved in wood, will be cast in bronze and set atop previously created concrete pedestals. Reproductions of his colorful mosaic sidewalk tiles will also be added to highlight the garden. Completing this project will provide an appropriate tribute to Leo Politi and his friendship with Arne Nixon. If you would like to make a donation to help complete the garden, please contact Marcie Morrison at [marciamo@csufresno.edu](mailto:marciamo@csufresno.edu) or at 559.278.7177.



# Student empowerment project

Major book donations from such outstanding children's literature experts as Michael Cart, K.T. Horning, and others have resulted in quick growth of the Center's LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) collection, making it one of the largest such collections of LGBTQ literature for young people in the country. As a special collection, the Center's books do not circulate: they are here for research and may be viewed in our reading room.

In order to make these titles more accessible to students who would greatly benefit from their use, the Center is proposing to reach out to local area high schools and their libraries to donate copies of the top 20 best titles listed in the Center's holdings. These titles will be chosen by experts in the field of LGBTQ literature for young adults. In addition to the initial donations, the Center will work with the GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) clubs on the campuses, along with their librarians, to choose another 20 titles to add to their libraries.

To highlight the book donations, a fascinating speaker from southern California, Lee Wind, will make a presentation to each of the schools. His message of empowerment and acceptance addresses how to overcome prejudice, homophobia, and misogyny. He also talks about respect, caring, and love.

A traveling exhibit will create excitement and showcase the books. This exhibit will include not only the books and related ephemera, but also videotaped messages from prominent people discussing the books and how their lives have been impacted by the literature.

The final component of the proposal is the creation of a monitored website that will enable viewers to participate in the project. It will display the core collection of books and the accompanying videos. Users will be able to add their own comments and video messages, creating an interactive exchange of anecdotes, impressions, and conversations about the books.

We believe this enlightening project will reach out to our high school students and, through literature, help to reduce incidents of harassment and bullying and to increase a greater acceptance of diversity.

For more information about the project, please contact Jennifer Crow at the Center. If you are interested in donating to this project, please contact Marcie Morrison by email at [marciamo@csufresno.edu](mailto:marciamo@csufresno.edu) or by telephone at 559.278.7177.

Please plan to join us!

**March 31**

*Big Read Program with Bobbie Pyron  
2:00 p.m., Woodward Branch Library*

**April 15**

*Secret Garden Party  
3:00-5:00 p.m., Location TBA*

## 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 *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

2 *My Uncle's Wedding* by Eric Ross

3 *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos

4 *Welcome Home Mouse* by Elisa Kleven

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

(Answers on page 7)

**Q<sup>1</sup>** Buck did not read the newspapers or he would have known that trouble was brewing, not alone for himself, but for every tidewater dog, strong of muscle and with warm, long hair, from Puget Sound to San Diego.

**Q<sup>2</sup>** One day Uncle Mike and his boyfriend Steve came by to tell us the big news.

**Q<sup>3</sup>** School was finally out and I was standing on a picnic table in our backyard getting ready for a great summer vacation when my mother walked up to me and ruined it.

**Q<sup>4</sup>** Stanley was trying to help Mom make pizza, but SLOSH he spilled the oil, SPLOOF he sprayed the flour, SPLAT he tipped over the bowl of tomato sauce.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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