



Number 2
(May 2002)

"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 J. Nixon taught children's literature and storytelling for many years at California State University, Fresno. In 1995 he gave 22,000 children's books to the Madden Library and when he died, in 1997, he left the Library a generous bequest to endow the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature.

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Richard Peck to visit Fresno

Richard Peck will be the guest of honor at a luncheon sponsored by ANCA, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, on October 12. Peck is one of America's most highly respected writers for young people. President George W. Bush has presented him with a National Humanities Medal for the body of his work. In 2001 he won the Newbery Medal, awarded by the American Library Association to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. The medal was presented for *A Year Down Yonder*, a novel about a city girl from Chicago who visits her grandmother in downstate Illinois in the 1930s. Peck's 2002 book, *Fair Weather*, reverses the situation as he brings three farm children to visit the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. His titles, too numerous to list, include *Are You in the House Alone?*, *Secrets of the Shopping Mall*, *Father Figure*, and *A Long Way from Chicago*.

ANCA members will receive priority notice of the event and registration information, and a discounted admission fee. The program will be opened later to non-member registration. Peck's books will be available for sale and autographing at the luncheon.

From September 16 to October 25, the Madden Library will offer exhibits of Peck's books and materials related to the Chicago World's Fair from the Library's Donald G. Larson Collection on International Expositions and Fairs, 1851-1940.



*Newbery Medalist
Richard Peck*

Festival wins rave reviews

One hundred twenty-five people attended the Arne Nixon Children's Literature Festival on March 8 and 9. The event was held at the Residence Dining Hall at California State University, Fresno, co-sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature and ANCA, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates.

Evaluations from those who attended the Festival were highly favorable, calling the Festival enriching, informative, interesting, and fun. Many people were glad to see this tradition, begun by the late Arne Nixon, being revived. Others said they had never before heard the creators of children's books talk about their work. Almost every evaluation requested more programs of this nature.

Artist/author Daniel San Souci showed slides of his illustrations and described his childhood as the messy younger brother (and roommate) of a very neat and organized future famous author, Robert San Souci.

See Festival, page 6

Answers to quiz:

1. *Where the Wild Things Are* 2. *The Fellowship of the Ring*
3. *The Tailor of Gloucester* 4. *Charlotte's Web* 5. *Madeline*



The Arne Nixon Center wishes to acquire a unique research collection of materials related to Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. The 1,900 items, primarily books, were collected by Hilda Bohem, Los Angeles rare books librarian and scholar and bibliographer of Carroll's work. Bohem, now in her 80s, hopes that the collection will stay together, in a library with access for researchers.

The Bohem collection, including hundreds of editions, illustrations by 300 artists, 100 foreign language translations, 250 imitations of Alice, and many other rare items, is of international importance. Carroll's great classics and characters—Alice, the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat—are instantly recognizable the world over.

The collection is valued at \$150,000. Development efforts have resulted in pledges totaling \$55,100. The Center needs your generous support to acquire this outstanding collection. To help bring Alice to Fresno, contact the Library's Development Officer, Marcie Morrison, at (559) 278-7177 or by E-mail at marciamo@csufresno.edu.



*Give Alice
a hand —
help bring
her to
Fresno!*

Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

By Denise Sciandra,
ANCA President



ANCA, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, has had an exciting and productive infancy. Its first 11 months have produced 180 members, including 13 Life Members and \$24,000 in revenue. ANCA has helped plan and host three programs. It contributes financially to the Arne Nixon Center.

In September, ANCA hosted African-American author Evelyn Coleman, who came from Atlanta to speak at our first annual meeting. Her audience was riveted as she read aloud from her picture book, *White Socks Only*, a story about a young girl in the 1960s South based on an incident from her own childhood. I'm still hearing comments and chuckles about "the chicken man." Did he get what he deserved?

In keeping with the multicultural theme of the Arne Nixon Center collection, ANCA co-sponsored a luncheon in October with the Armenian Community School Women's League.

The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature and ANCA were pleased and proud to co-host the Arne Nixon Children's Literature Festival on March 8 and 9. This festival was the first in ten years to duplicate those hosted by Professor Nixon in the 1970s and 80s. As I talked to potential speakers at the American Library Association annual conference last June, I encountered friends of Arne who were happy to come to Fresno and willing to accept reduced honoraria for the privilege of doing so. Brothers Robert San Souci and Daniel San Souci agreed to speak on Friday night, knowing they had to speak in Santa Clara early the following morning. Thacher Hurd, following in the footsteps of his famous parents Clement Hurd and Edith Thacher Hurd, said he'd "love" to come to Fresno. Elder statesman, magician, and octogenarian Sid Fleischman, a good friend of Arne's, was the star of the show. Our own Angelica Carpenter made us proud as she spoke, bringing tears to some in the audience.

We made an effort to follow Arne's lead to pamper our authors. Sid tells us in a note, "I thought your festival was quite wonderful. You took good care of your authors and that's important." He also indicated that he'd had a good time, and that he has the photo of himself and the belly dancer on his desk, to prove this fact. I think Arne would have been proud of this first effort that left many participants asking when the next festival will be held.

Many worthwhile programs are planned through spring 2004. Members of ANCA will receive the earliest notice of all of these. How do we join, you ask? Just complete and return the form in this newsletter.

Are we having fun yet? I think so!

MAGIC MIRROR

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Magic Mirror

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Audry Hanson, Reporter

by Angelica Carpenter

On April 28, 2002, the Arne Nixon Center celebrated its first anniversary. Paper is the traditional gift for this occasion, so I am pleased to report on some fabulous paper gifts. Tony Johnston, the distinguished author of more than 100 children's books, is donating her books and papers. Arne Nixon first invited her to give these materials, shortly before his death. We are delighted that she waited for the Center to open in order to fulfill his request.

Stephen Mooser, President of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and the author of more than 30 books for young people, has also donated his books and papers. Having grown up in Fresno, he was especially pleased to have the Arne Nixon Center founded here. These gifts join an earlier donation of papers and original art by author/illustrator Diane Iverson, and we expect to receive many similar donations in the years to come.

The Center's successes reflect the generosity of our donors and volunteers like the above-mentioned authors, ANCA President Denise Sciandra, and Karen Dennison, who has volunteered to chair the Center's Grant-Writing Committee. The ANCA Board, the ANCA Programming Committee, and the Burnett Steering Committee all work hard and laugh a lot.

Space constraints limit volunteer opportunities within the Center itself. Some ANCA members help from home or out in the community. All 180 of them are invaluable to our public relations effort. Many ANCA members are on call for special projects.

We still need more help: the Center seeks one coordinator at each area school to help distribute information about upcoming events. This volunteer will receive mailings to share with colleagues. If you can photocopy, stuff mail boxes, or post fliers, please let us know by E-mailing your name, mailing address, phone number, E-mail address, and the name of your school to jcrow@csufresno.edu.

We also seek schools to host visits from authors and illustrators. Please let us know if your school has funding available for travel expenses and honoraria. We will send out E-mail notices of upcoming visits, which sometimes occur on short notice. Schools and speakers are responsible for negotiating their own terms. If your school is interested, please respond by E-mail to jcrow@csufresno.edu with a contact name, E-mail address, and the name and address of the school.

Finally, we need more good quotations from your favorite children's books to add to our ongoing quiz. Please keep those E-mails, cards, and letters coming, preferably with checks enclosed, to help bring Alice to Fresno!

CURATOR'S CORNER



Happy reading!

¡Viva Pam Muñoz Ryan!

The Arne Nixon Center Advocates will sponsor a reception for author Pam Muñoz Ryan at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 17. This event will be held at Arte Americas, 1630 Van Ness Avenue, in Fresno. Admission is free; all ages are welcome. Ryan won the 2002 Pura Belpré Award, presented by the American Library Association to a Latino/Latina writer whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latin cultural experience and is an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. Ryan won for *Esperanza Rising*, a novel set in the 1930s, about a rich girl from Mexico who becomes a poor farm worker in the San Joaquin Valley. She is also the author of *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*, a picture book about Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt, and *Riding Freedom*, a novel about a real-life heroine. Her newest book, *Mice and Beans*, is a picture book based on her own family's gatherings.

ANCA members as of April 1, 2002 (those joining before January 1, 2002, are considered Charter Members)

\$1,000 Life Membership

Laurel & Jeff Ashlock
Michael Cart
Fresno Area Reading Council +
Carmen Farr Gregory +
Nancy Hill
Pat Hillman +
Rosellen Kershaw
Helen Jane McKee
Bette Peterson *
Betty Jo Peterson +
Jim & Kay Provost
Salvatore & Denise Sciandra +
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\$250 Patron Membership

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\$100 Sponsor Membership

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Lucille Carnahan
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Virginia Dix
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Stephanie Horal
Gary & Dorothy Hughes
Daniel & Jessica Kaiser
Elizabeth Knapp +
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Marcie Morrison
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Kathie Reid
Tom & Louise Richardson
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Edward & Jackie Sarkisian
Lisa Schoof
Ronald & Patricia Shein +
Amy Sherman Smith
Dennis & Sandy Stubblefield +
John & Patricia Taylor
Robert & Shirley Valett
Paul & Jane Worsley

\$50 Advocate Membership

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Nazik Arisian
William & Shirley Armbruster
Benjamin W. Bakkegard
R. W. & Elaine Bender
Ernest & Jeanne Berry
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Joan Bishop *
Hal & Janet Bochin
Ron & Megan Bohigian
Bev Broughton
Ronald & Cecelia Byrd
Elizabeth G. Calderwood
Jesus & Mary Lou Carillo
Janet W. Claasen
William and Carmen Clanin
Ginny Colver
Paul & Martha Connor
Kent & Betty Cornelison
Jennifer Crow
Neil and Linnea Edwards
Bill & Jane Fischer
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Esther Franklin
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Cecelia Svenson
Jerry and Geraldine Tahajian
Morva Taylor
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Kristene Vaux
Keith and Ione Waite
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Anne Wick *
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Sue Alexander
American Association of University Women,
Hanford/ Lemoore Branch *
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Mary F. Bailey
Jean Beardsley
Marcia Becker
Stephen & Sharon Blumberg
Augie & Cheryl Caldera
Wendy Costa
Robbie Cranch & Richard Moats
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John & Mary Slater
Britta O. Smith
Paul & Lorraine Smith *
Francis & Mary Anne Wells *
Tekla White
Wendell & Phyllis Wilson
Lorna Zurilger

\$10 Student Membership and Other Members

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M. Jeannie DeGroot
Karen Dennison
Jeri Chase Ferris
Catherine D. Hopson
Barbara McColm
Heidi Pretzer *
Andrew & Carroll Rippey
Lynn Gwyneth Smith
Susan I. Smith *
Susan M. Wickham

Donations of materials

August 2001–March 2002

Nazik Arisian: 10 Armenian language books
Baldwin Collection of Historical Children's Literature: 15 books
Borders Books: 11 books
California Pistachio Commission: refreshments for program
Heather Carter: 4 books
Lilyan Choolijian: 6 Armenian language books
Linda Clark: 43 "Big Little" books
Karen Cushman: 27 books
Doug-Out Cookies: refreshments for program
Pamela Harer: 32 facsimile editions from The Osborne
Collection of Early Children's Books
Henry Holt and Co.: 16 books
Holiday House: 40 books
Dorothy Hughes: 61 books
Houghton-Mifflin: 37 books
Tony Johnston: signed Leo Politi endpaper from her book,
Lorenzo, the Naughty Parrot, 19 books
Stephen Mosser: papers and books not yet sorted
Zarohi Der Mugrdechian: 11 Armenian language books
National Raisin Company: refreshments for program
Oakland Public Library: 501 books, 263 periodicals
Betty Jo Peterson: The Horn Book Magazine (ongoing)
Random House: 123 books
Richmond Public Library: 8 books
Bertina Richter: 18 books
Scholastic: 240 books
Aaron Sciandra: ANCA logo design
Sciandra Family: 11 books, hospitality for authors
John and Patricia Taylor: 5 books
Mai Vang: 2 handmade dolls in Hmong costumes
Carolyn Yacowitz: 45 periodicals

The value of materials donated to the Arne Nixon Center since its opening is estimated at more than \$64,000! To list every gift would overflow this newsletter. Thanks to all our donors!

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

Make check payable to CSUF Foundation.

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E-mail _____

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Oz comes to Fresno

The Arne Nixon Center Advocates will sponsor a talk by Peter E. Hanff, President of the International Wizard of Oz Club, at 10 a.m., Saturday, November 16, at the Smittcamp Alumni House on the campus of California State University, Fresno. Hanff's slide-illustrated lecture, "L. Frank Baum, the Wonderful World of Oz, and the Novelty Book," will describe the innovative design of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, published in 1900, its sequels, and other fantasy realms explored by Baum. In civilian life, Hanff, a respected scholar and rare books librarian, is Deputy Director of the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. The Arne Nixon Center will offer an exhibit of Oz materials in its reading room during the fall semester of 2002.

This program is free to members of ANCA and the Oz Club; for non-members, admission will be \$4. The talk is suitable for all ages; children are welcome. Reservations are required: by phone at (559) 278-8116 or by E-mail to jcrow@csufresno.edu.

The International Wizard of Oz Club has 2,000 members from countries around the world. Western U.S. Oz fans (called Winkies, of course) meet at Asilomar each August.

Summer Arts activities

Novelist Alexandria LaFaye will teach a CSU Summer Arts course, "Cultures of Childhood: Writing for Young Readers," at Fresno State, from July 14-27. The course will feature guest appearances by well-known children's authors. Some authors will speak at public events, such as the reception for Pam Muñoz Ryan (see article on page 3). National Book Award winner Joyce Carol Thomas, author of numerous books, including *Cherish Me*, *Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea*, and *You Are My Perfect Baby*, will speak at the African American Museum on Monday, July 15, at 7 p.m. Bruce Coville, author of *There's an Alien in My Backpack*, *Sarah's Unicorn*, and *The Dinosaur that Followed Me Home*, will speak at the Wahlberg Recital Hall on the Fresno State campus on Wednesday, July 24, at 7 p.m.

CSU Summer Arts will also offer a concurrent course, "Storytelling through the Integrated Arts." In connection with this class, children's author/illustrator Charles van Sandwyk will describe his work on Tuesday, July 16, at 8 p.m. at the Fresno Art Museum. Students and teachers in the class will perform around the community from July 14-27. Evening events are free and open to the public. Children are welcome. Call (559) 241-6090 for more information.

Festival, from page 1

Robert's slides demonstrated how he gathers ideas and stories from many countries and adapts them into best-selling books.

Angelica Carpenter's slide-illustrated lecture explained how her mother and the Oz books inspired her to become a writer.

Newbery medalist Sid Fleischman described himself as a "free-floating plotter" who starts his prize-winning novels with just an idea and not even a clue as to how the story will turn out.

Thacher Hurd modeled animal hats and drew cartoons, which were raffled to the crowd at the end of the day. He had spoken the day before to 1,200 children in the Visalia Unified School District and to 30 members of the Madera Area Reading Council in visits coordinated through the Center.

Other activities included a tour of the Arne Nixon Center and a multimedia presentation on the Center's services, programs, and collections.

About half of the attendees turned in evaluations, identifying themselves as teachers (31), library staff members (17), fans (15), writers (12), collectors (6), and students (5). In this unscientific survey, respondents could select more than one category.



*Thacher Hurd autographs
one of his books.*



Denise Sciandra and Sid Fleischman



*Robert and Daniel San Souci with Angelica
Carpenter at the Children's Literature Festival*

Frances Hodgson Burnett conference planned

Call for Papers announced

The Arne Nixon Center will host a conference, "Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond The Secret Garden," in April 2003. Planned for academics who study children's literature, historians of the Victorian period, teachers, librarians, Anglo-philosophes, book collectors, and fans, the conference will be based at the campus of California State University, Fresno. The conference hotel is the neighboring Piccadilly Inn–University.



Speakers will include Alison Lurie, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who teaches children's literature at Cornell; Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, Professor of English at Vassar, whose biography of Burnett will soon be published by Rutgers University Press; Michael Cart, nationally known librarian and expert on literature for children and young adults; Angelica Carpenter, author of *Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond the Secret Garden*; film historian Paul Frobose; and Penny Deupree, Frances Hodgson Burnett's great-granddaughter. Plans are still being developed for this event.

The Arne Nixon Center seeks scholarly presentations for the conference. Papers could include analyses of Burnett's influence on copyright issues; the importance of her trans-nationalism; Burnett and imperialism; Burnett and her editors/publishers; teaching Burnett to children/adolescents; teaching Burnett in the university setting; collecting Burnett; plays and films based on Burnett's works, etc. Analyses of texts other than *The Secret Garden*, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, and *A Little Princess* are welcome. The conference will be held at California State University, Fresno, April 25–27, 2003. Send abstracts of no more than 500 words and vita by September 30, 2002, to:

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CALENDAR CONTENDERS

2002

July 17

Pam Muñoz Ryan, 7 p.m. at
Arte Americas, Fresno.

October 12

Richard Peck. Details to be announced.

November 16

Peter E. Hanff, 10 a.m. at
the Smittcamp Alumni House.

2003

April 25–27

Conference "Frances Hodgson Burnett:
Beyond the Secret Garden."

May

Literary Gardens tour to England.

October

Society of Children's Book Writers and
Illustrators regional workshop.

2004

June

Children's Literature Association
National Conference



*When she stepped to the wall and
lifted the hanging ivy he started.
There was a door and Mary
pushed it slowly open and
they passed in together, and
then Mary stood and waved
her hand round defiantly.
"It's this," she said. "It's a
secret garden, and I'm the
only one in the world who
wants it to be alive."*

From *The Secret Garden*,
by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
Illustration by Graham Rust.

Literary Gardens Tour to England

The Arne Nixon Center will sponsor a ten-day Literary Gardens Tour to England in May, 2003. The tour, still in the planning stages, will include stays in Oxford and London. Sites to be visited will include Lewis Carroll locations in Oxford and Frances Hodgson Burnett's walled garden in Kent (she based *The Secret Garden* on her experiences there).

Can you identify book titles from these famous lines?

(Answers on page 2)

Q1

"And now," cried Max, "let the wild rumpus start!"

Q2

One Ring to rule them all,
One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all
and in the darkness bind them.

Q3

No more twist! no more twist!

Q4

There, in the center of the web, neatly woven in
block letters, was a message. It said: SOME PIG!

Q5

In an old house in Paris that was covered with vines
lived twelve little girls in two straight lines.

Read to your children
Twenty minutes a day;
You have the time,
And so do they.

Read while the laundry is in the machine;
Read while the dinner cooks;
Tuck a child in the crook of your arm
And reach for the library books.

Hide the remote,
Let the computer games cool,
For one day your children will be off to school;
"Remedial?" "Gifted?" You have the choice;
Let them hear their first tales
In the sound of your voice.

Read in the morning;
Read over noon;
Read by the light of
Goodnight Moon.

Turn the pages together,
Sitting close as you'll fit,
Till a small voice beside you says,
"Hey, don't quit."

20 Minutes a Day

by Richard Stock



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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