Number 23 March 2013

'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 on Sunday, April 14

he Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) invites everyone to its eleventh annual Secret Garden Party on Sunday, April 14, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The 2013 Secret Garden Party
theme celebrates 65 years of Little
Golden Books and the Arne Nixon
Center's spring exhibition, "Golden
Threads: Journey through the
Picture Book." In a lush and tranquil
setting in Fresno's Old Fig Garden neighborhood,
recall your carefree childhood days as you enjoy
delicious tidbits and beverages, and stroll the grounds.

Funds raised at this event will be used to support the "Golden Threads" exhibition and related programs, including those for school children and seniors.

The party's location will be revealed to underwriters and ticket holders upon registration. 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; and Contributors, for \$250, receive up to four tickets. Individual tickets are also available for \$50 each. This is ANCA's major annual fundraising event; all profits benefit the Center.

Spend a golden afternoon with Poky Little Puppy, Saggy Baggy Elephant, and Shy Little Kitten. Contact Jami (559.278.8116 or jsanford@csufresnoedu) for information.

Michael Cart, author, reviewer, young adult literature expert, and Nixon Center Governing Board member, has once again made a major donation of books to the Center. In January (2013), Cart sent 27 boxes containing 766 books with an estimated value of \$11,832.00.

Thanks a million, Michael!

"Golden Threads: Journey through the Picture Book"

rom March 18 through May 24, the Arne Nixon Center will offer two coordinating exhibitions entitled "Golden Threads: Journey through the Picture Book" in the Madden Library. The Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery (2nd floor, North Wing) will feature the exhibition "Golden Legacy: 65 Years of Golden Books." Sixty original illustrations from one of the most recognized and best-loved series, the Little Golden Books, will be on loan from the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Abilene, Texas. A reception with Leonard Marcus, curator, children's literature historian, and author, will take place on March 19 (see article, page 5).

The Pete P. Peters Ellipse Balcony (3rd floor, North Wing) will showcase illustrations from fabric relief artist Salley Mavor (www.weefolkstudio.com). Twenty-five works from her picture book, *Pocketful of Posies*, will be on display, along with additional pieces of her textile art. Mavor has illustrated numerous books using her meticulous needle and thread techniques. A reception with Salley Mavor will be held on March 22 (see article, page 5).

A week of special events in the Library will launch the exhibitions. To help enrich the lives of Valley students in grades kindergarten through fourth, a number of local schools have been invited to participate in the exhibitions' Grand Opening Week. Chosen for availability and percentage of free and reduced lunch counts, these specially scheduled classes will arrive at Fresno State on rented school buses provided for them. They will be greeted by the Golden Legacy exhibition's mascot, the Poky Little

Puppy, and will be escorted by trained tour guides through both exhibitions. Afterwards, the children will be treated to a hands-on art activity conducted by Fresno State students enrolled in art education courses. Finally,

(See Golden Threads, next page)

Golden Threads, from page 1 -

each student will receive a copy of a Little Golden Book to take home. The expenses for these activities will be funded by our generous donors, whose names will appear on an introductory panel in the Golden Legacy exhibition.

Members of the Fresno FiberArts (FFA) Guild will demonstrate how to create a variety of fiber arts on Wednesday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibits of FFA members' works will be on display during the tenweek exhibition. Tours for assisted living facilities will be arranged on Wednesday, as well.

For more information, to make a contribution, or to book a tour, please send email to jsanford@csufresno.edu or call the Center at 559.278.8116.

Holiday surprise

Award-winning author Robert San Souci was the surprise guest at the Center's Holiday Volunteer Recognition party last December. Secretly invited by the Center's new curator, San Souci drove down from the Bay Area with friend and librarian Danny Apple to bring a number of large negatives from several of his books. Too big to be mailed, these negatives will be added to his growing collection of papers.

In addition to the negatives, San Souci donated a framed watercolor painting created by his illustrator brother, Daniel San Souci. The painting, an original illustration from the brothers' book Sootface: an Ojibwa Cinderella Story, depicts a Native American village.

The Center's volunteers, including ANCA Board members, and a number of donors were delighted to share a cup of hot cider and a plate of holiday goodies while visiting with the famous author. San Souci discussed his writings, books, and travels and told humorous stories from some of his class visits with grade school students.

Robert San Souci is the author of more than 100 books for young people and is known for spooky stories, such as his frightening series, Dare to Be Scared and Short and Shivery. Many of his other best-selling picture books are retellings of traditional tales. These include The Talking Eggs, Little Gold Star, Sister Tricksters, and Fa Mulan, a 2,000-year-old Chinese tale, which he also converted into a movie story for Disney studios.





Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

(Arne Nixon Center Advocates)

by Denise Sciandra, ANCA President

The world lost an advocate for children and I lost a friend when Joyce Huggins died in 2012 at 97. After a distinguished career at Fresno State, she was honored with the naming of the Joyce Huggins Early Childhood Center.

I shared Joyce's passions. She wrote me notes supporting and encouraging my efforts. In 2012, she wrote that she enjoyed my description of reading to my grandchild and that I have "captured a delightful understanding of the many benefits of reading to young children, but also ar awareness of the joy and responses of the child." I dedicate this column to Joyce.

My grandson, Sam, is 3½ now. He loves books and words. He knows his stories and corrects me if I happen to say the wrong word or leave something out. I was a little startled the first time this happened but now I look forward to it and smile when it happens.

Sam is getting the payoff from hearing the Mother Goose

rhymes since he was an infant. Now he can appreciate books that playfully parody Mother Goose, such as Jor Scieszka's *Trucktown Truckery Rhymes*. For example "Little Dan Dumper sat on his bumper, Taking his break for the day. Along came Pete Loader, who revved his loue motor, And frightened Dan Dumper away." This book is perfect for Sam who also loves cars and mighty machines.

He enjoys Rosemary Wells' Max & Ruby's Treasure
Hunt. Wells uses the Mother Goose rhymes in a guessing
game to find clues to the indoor treasure hunt created by
Grandma on a rainy day. Children lift a flap in the book to
read clues. For example, "Hickory Dickory Dock! The
mouse ran up the _____." Once they figure out the word
'clock', the children look under the clocks in the house
until they find the one with the next clue. Sam loves
lifting the flaps and he knows all the missing words.

Sam laughs out loud at other Max & Ruby stories. Wells lovingly depicts the rabbit siblings—a bossy, older sisten and a messy, little brother—whose grandmother loves their both. In Bunny Cakes, Grandma likes Max's icky, earthworm birthday cake just as much as Ruby's angel surprise cake with raspberry fluff frosting. Sam loves their interaction in the kitchen as Max keeps spilling ingredients and being sent to the store by Ruby to replace them. His favorite illustration is of Max longingly peeking in the front door.

I look forward to the next chapter of reading with Sam Who benefits more? Sam or Gram?

Correction to "Tales & Tidbits," September 2012. The Seven Little Postmen was written by Margaret Wise Brown and Edith Thacher Hurd, and illustrated by Tibor Gergely.

MAGIC MIRROR

Published by

The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature Henry Madden Library California State University, Fresno 5200 North Barton Ave. M/S ML34 Fresno CA 93740-8014

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Magic Mirror

Jennifer Crow, Editor Janet Bancroft, Co-editor & Designer

by Jennifer Crow

Picture this. A little girl in a blue cape skips through an apple orchard on her way to Grandma's house. Unbeknownst to her, a wolf is waiting behind a bush. It jumps out at her! She stares for a moment at its big round blue eyes, its smooth coat, cherryshaped nose, its smiling, dull, rounded teeth. "Aww, you're so cute," she cries, "I'm going to take you to Grandma's with me."



Best writing practices would frown upon the use of so many adjectives, but I've tried to paint a picture noticeably milder than the familiar story of Little Red Riding Hood. It has no strong colors, nor sharp and scary angles. The rounded images give a softer, friendlier connotation. Like the little girl in the story, we derive much of our information from visual cues. The ability to recognize, evaluate, and manipulate these cues is one way to understand visual literacy.

While we may traditionally think of literacy in only linguistic terms, the invention of new technologies, complete with viewing screens in all sizes, necessitates an expansion of our definition of literacy. This definition must now include an understanding of how images work and how they are integrated with text. Currently, many books in print form emulate the screen, both in the abundance of their images and their manipulated print layout.

The basic design elements that make up an image include the dot, line, shape, direction, tone, color, texture, dimension, scale, and movement. All of these components, used with varying emphasis, affect the message of an image. In her book, Picture This: How Pictures Work, Molly Bang uses the story of Little Red Riding Hood to show how treatment of basic design elements impacts the narrative. Published in 1991 and reprinted in 2000, the book presents a simple but detailed analysis of what we instinctually know about images but, unless we are initiated, cannot necessarily express.

Interpretation of design elements can be based on both cultural construction and biological reactions. Color, for instance, has both associative and symbolic meaning. We associate color with our environment, the plants, water sources, earth, and sky. We also use it to metaphorically represent such things as emotions, gender, and values. Close your eyes. What happens when you think "red"? "blue"? "white"? What do you see when those colors are combined?

Visual cues can also help children attain linguistic literacy. A few years ago, a graduate student used materials in the Nixon and Teacher Resource Centers to study whether visual cues may be lost when illustrations from trade picture books are cropped differently for inclusion in basal readers. She found that meaning was changed or lost, depending on what parts of the illustrations were cut.

The Nixon Center and the San Joaquin Valley Writing Project will present the last in a series of symposia for teachers and credential students. The topic will be visual literacy, and the session will feature author/illustrator Doug Hansen and K-12 literacy professor Joanne McKay. The first 40 people to sign up will receive a copy of Hansen's newly released book, *Aesop in California*. For more information or to register, please see http://sjvwp.org/open-programs.

Illustrations in this issue

(Illustrators listed first, then book title and author) Front page, (girl) Mary Blair (I can Fly, Ruth Krauss); (puppy) Gustaf Tenggren (The Poky Little Puppy, Janette Sebring Lowrey). Page 2, Garth Williams (The Friendly Book, Margaret Wise Brown). Page 3, Alice and Martin Provensen (The Color Kittens, Brown). Page 5, Tenggren (The Saggy Baggy Elephant, Kathryn and Byron Jackson). Page 6, Tenggren (Poky). Page 7, Williams (The Friendly Book). Back page, Tibor Gergely (Five Little Firemen, Brown).

Peace begins on the playground

by Kathee Godfrey

Wn January 26, the Arne Nixon Center and the San Joaquin Valley Writing Project (SJVWP) sponsored a workshop for local teachers titled "Embracing Diversity: The Question of Bullying." Our goal was to encourage teachers to develop a writing curriculum related to bullying.

The morning included two speakers. The first, Alexis O'Neill, shared a t-shirt she had designed emblazoned with the motto "Peace Begins on the Playground." O'Neill is the author of *The Recess Queen*, a picture book that features a bully and tells how a newcomer to the school changes the status quo there. O'Neill read it to us, explained the origin of the book, and talked about the power of writing. Some of the memorable points she made are:

- A book is an answer to a question.
- It took 7 years to write 584 words (The Recess Queen).
- We should try to promote kindness (the positive) at schools, rather than address bullying directly (the negative).
- According to Sonja Lyubomirska, author of The How of Happiness, success isn't what brings happiness, but kindness can yield all kinds of results that create a satisfying life.
- Peace begins on the playground.

Our second speaker, author and blogger of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) issues, Lee Wind, shared the stories of teens who have committed suicide, laying a foundation for why it's urgent that we create schools that are safe for every child. He suggested some schoolwide initiatives to help bring that about, like having a "Mix It Up Day" (students sit by someone they don't know during lunch) and inviting bullies to join a "Make a Difference Club" (each week members identify someone who does something good or kind and give that person an award). Wind also introduced a word new to many of those in attendance, "upstander," a term that points to our responsibility to address the problems in our communities. Being an upstander (not a bystander) means helping to make the world a better place.

Afternoon presenters were two teachers (and SJVWP Teacher Consultants) Marci Haas (Sierra Vista Elementary 4th grade) and Myndi Hardgrave (Hanford West High School), and Lee Wind. Each group focused on ways to embed writing about bullying in curriculum. In the group I attended (led by Wind), we used writing to "smash stereotypes" and to think our way beyond the stereotypes that might influence the way we see ourselves. It was a powerful experience to write a story that changed the lens too often used when viewing people, and another in which I possessed the qualities that I admire in others.

Wild About Books! second annual contest

Calling all students in grades 3–12 in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare counties! Get out your pencil and paper, paints and crayons, laptops and iPads. It's time for the second annual "Wild About Books! Writing and Illustrating Contest." The first contest was such a success that the Center is again joining with Channel 47, A Book Barn in Clovis, and other community sponsors to offer another opportunity to see your creative endeavors in print.

The contest theme is books. Yes, it's that simple! Write or draw anything related to books, choosing from the categories of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or illustration. (If you need ideas, some suggestions are listed on the entry form.)

Contest entry forms and rules can be picked up at one of the following locations: Arne Nixon Center in the Madden Library on the Fresno State campus, A Book Barn in Clovis, any branch of the Fresno County Library or KGPE CBS Channel 47. You can also download the forms at www.centralvalleyuritersprize.com.

Follow the contest rules and submission criteria and if your entry is chosen, you will win a cash prize. First prize for each category in every age division is \$50. Two honor awards of \$25 each may be given for each category in an age division. A grand prize of \$100 will be awarded for each age division. Award-winning submissions will be published in an anthology to be debuted at an awards ceremony in December.

Entries must be submitted April 1st through May 15th (by 5:00 p.m.), 2013. You may either drop off your submission at A Book Barn, 640 Clovis Avenue in Clovis, or upload it online at the URL listed above.

To promote the contest and to encourage young participants, Channel 47 will feature published Valley writers and illustrators on Zara Arboleda's morning show. The spots will air live every Thursday at approximately 6:30 a.m. for eight weeks, beginning February 28.



Winners of the first annual Wild About Books! contest, from left: Maya Vannini, Madelyn Knutson, and Sammy Iliff.



Leonard Marcus and Salley Mavor to visit

he Arne Nixon Center invites everyone to two separate receptions during the Grand Opening Week of its exhibition "Golden Threads: Journey through the Picture Book." The receptions will honor Leonard Marcus and Salley Mavor, who will talk about their work and their traveling exhibitions.

Leonard Marcus, children's literature historian and author, will speak in Room 2206 of the Madden Library on Tuesday, March 19. The evening program



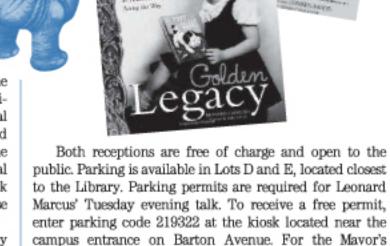
will begin at 6:00 p.m. with
the talk following at 7:00
p.m. Marcus is the curator
of "Golden Legacy: 65
Years of Little Golden Books," one
of the two "Golden Threads" exhibitions. On loan from the National
Center for Children's Illustrated
Literature in Abilene, Texas, the
exhibition will display 60 original
works from the Little Golden Book
series in the Leon S. Peters Ellipse
Gallery (2nd floor, North Wing).

A celebrated author, Marcus has written many highly acclaimed books about children's literature. These books include Show Me a Story!, Minders of Make-Believe, and Margaret Wise Brown: Awakened by the Moon. In his book Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children's Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became An American Icon Along the Way, Marcus takes an in-depth look at one of America's most widely recognized and best-loved series along with the publishing company and the talented writers and illustrators who created it.

Author and fabric relief artist Salley Mavor, creator of the "Golden Threads" coordinating exhibition, "Pocketful of Posies: The Worlds of Salley Mavor," will be honored at a reception held in Library Room 2206 at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 22. Mavor's slide presentation on the inspirations and processes for creating her artwork will

begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mavor, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, has illustrated many children's books using her unique blend of materials and sewing techniques. Twenty-five original illustrations from her award-winning book, Pocketful of Posies, will be on view in the Pete P. Peters Ellipse Balcony (3rd floor, North Wing). Additional pieces of her textile art will also be presented.



For more information, please contact Jami Sanford at jsanford@csufresno.edu or call the Center at 559.278.8116.

Friday evening program, no permits are needed.



Helping hands

We would like to thank our volunteers and interns who have helped to keep the Center in tip-top shape these past months. We have been very fortunate to have such diligent individuals working with us.

Interns

Three graduate students studying for their master's degrees in Library and Information Science (MLIS) from San Jose State University (SJSU) completed internships with us in the summer and fall of 2012.

Veronica Juarez-Carrillo worked for the Center cataloging books in Spanish donated by Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy. Her knowledge of the Spanish language allowed her to add precise subject headings and summary notes to the cataloging records. We were pleased to learn recently that Veronica was hired as a librarian at the Douglas [Arizona] Public Library managing the children's department.

Kathrym Whitehouse also cataloged books for the Center. Her extensive knowledge of children's literature from years of working in an elementary school library proved beneficial. Using the Library's three cataloging modules, she downloaded numerous records, helping to reduce a backlog of uncataloged books in the regular collection. Kathryn will graduate this spring.

Mai Soua Lee has volunteered in the Center since 2010. As an intern, she assisted with the writing symposium for teachers on dystopian literature by overseeing the registration process, compiling an annotated bibliography, and creating a display of dystopian books. She has also maintained the Center's research guide and has begun archiving authors' papers. An invaluable asset, Mai Soua is working part-time in the Center as a curatorial assistant this semester. She is due to graduate in May.

Current Volunteers

Jenna Shaeffer (below) received an MLIS from SJSU in 2010 with an emphasis in archives and archival administration. Since volunteering at the Center, she has finished



arranging and describing the collections of authors Linda Joy Singleton, Robin Rector Krupp, and Margarita Engle. She is currently working on the collection of Robert San Souci.

Nicole Settle also received an MLIS from SJSU, specializing in youth librarianship and archival studies. At the Center, she writes finding

aids and organizes authors' papers. She is currently working on finding aids for Michael Elsohn Ross and D. James Smith. In addition to working at the Nixon Center, she also volunteers at her local public library.

Please plan to join us!

March 18-May 24

Exhibition "Golden Threads: Journey through the Picture Book" Library galleries, floors 2 & 3, North Wing

March 19

Reception for Leonard Marcus 6:00 p.m., Room 2206 (2nd floor, South Wing)

March 20

Demonstrations of a variety of fiber arts by the Fresno FiberArts Guild 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., throughout Library

March 22

Reception for Salley Mavor 6:00 p.m., Library Room 2206

April 1-May 15

Entry submission period for the "Wild About Books! Writing & Illustration Contest"

April 14

Eleventh Annual Secret Garden Party

May 11

Writing Symposium
"New Perspectives through Illustration
and Visual Literacy"
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Fresno State Education Building Room 140

June 3-August 30 Exhibition "Aesop in California" Library galleries, North Wing



Jennifer Cha (at right) is a Fresno State student enrolled in TARGET, an adult transition program through the

Sanger Unified School District. Jennifer, whose interests include art and drawing, helps us by covering, labeling, and shelving books. She also makes copies and scans documents. We are happy to have her back for a second semester.

Mary Ann Latimer, a retired high school librarian, processes donations, completes accession forms, shelves and covers books, and helps with mailings. She recently donated a book to the Center that contained a note indicating it had once been a gift from Arne Nixon to a local parish priest.

Author donations

The Center continues to receive donations from authors and illustrators of their papers. Included items may be manuscripts, correspondence, galley proofs, original artwork, notebooks filled with ideas, promotional materials, fan mail, and unpublished materials. The papers provide researchers with an inside look at the processes involved in the creation of children's literature. We thank the following authors and illustrators for their recent contributions to the Center's archives:

Aliki, an internationally known writer and illustrator of numerous books for children, and designer of the Center's website artwork, donated four more boxes to add to her papers.

D. James Smith, poet and author of The Boys of San Joaquin, for which he won the Edgar Award, donated his papers, consisting of five boxes.

Michael Elsohn Ross, naturalist and author/illustrator of science and multicultural books for children, donated three more boxes to his established collection of papers.

Kathryn Otoshi, Bay Area publisher and award-winning author and illustrator of *One*, made her first donation of one box of papers.

Robert San Souci, Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Honor Book winner and writer of more than 100 books for children, donated 25 boxes to add to his existing archive.

Welcome, Jami!

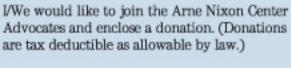
We welcome Jami Sanford, the Arne Nixon Center's newest employee, who transferred from the Library's User Services department at the end of January. Jami has been employed with the Library for ten years. She started out as a student assistant in the Circulation department in 2002 and was subsequently hired as a Library Services Specialist in 2007. During the Library's



reconstruction, Jami was actively involved in the move and transition of books to the temporary, off-site warehouse.

Jami received a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Fresno State in 2011. Her degree emphasis was on community recreation and youth services. In her spare time, Jami enjoys working on crafts and, like many others, she has recently been inspired by the online photo sharing site, Pinterest. Her favorite childhood books were Black Beauty, the Little House series, and Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever.

We are very excited to have Jami working in the Center and know she will continue to serve the Library, Fresno State, and the community to her fullest.



SIGN ME UP!

N	lew me	embership 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
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Answers to quiz

The Poky Little Puppy, by Janette Sebring Lowrey

The Saggy Baggy Elephant, by Kathryn Jackson and B. Jackson

> Scuffy the Tugboat and His Adventures Down the River, by Gertrude Crampton

Aesop in California, by Doug Hansen





- Five little puppies dug a hole under the fence and went for a walk in the wide, wide world.
- A happy little elephant was dancing through the jungle.
 - Scuffy was sad. Scuffy was cross. Scuffy sniffed his blue smokestack.
- Q⁴ Jackrabbit beat his feet on the sizzling sandy desert like a drummer thumping a drum.

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