

35th Anniversary

Odyssey of the Spirit

Conference of the Living Tree/English

Providing Leadership for Educators and Teachers of Literature

January 10-12, 1997

Ojai Valley Inn

*Sponsored jointly by the Southland Council of Teachers of English
and the Los Angeles County Office of Education*

Conference of the Living Tree/English Past Conference Chairpersons

1962 Roger Hyndman	1798 Larry Walsh
1963 Loretta Scherer	1980 Joyce Bennett
1964 Barbara Hartsig	1981 Cynthia Takayama
1965 Kalman Rabkin	1982 Chuck Andrews
1966 Kalman Rabkin	1983 Anne Henke
1967 Joanne Dale	1984 Joan Martin
1968 Joanne Dale	1985 Mel Grubb
1969 Helen Blair	1986 Richard Battaglia
1970 Charles Schiller	1987 Malinda Gilchrist
1971 Louise Grindstaff	1989 David Jay & Sharon Hunter
1972 Jne Miller	1990 Diane Dawson
1973 Pat Piatek	1991 Al Leonard & Jane Murray
1974 David Doty	1992 Pat Abrams
1975 Julia Gottesman	1993 Joan Carter
1976 Reed Mathis	1994 Janet Hironaka
1977 Doug Blakely	1995 Daveda Shapiro & Mercedes MacMurray
1978 Judy Mayer	1996 Pam Lockman

Past Recipients of the Living Tree Award

1971 Helen Blair	1983 Nancy Wells
1972 Joanne Dale	1984 Barbara Hartsig
1973 Helen Lodge	1985 Robert Wylder
1974 Roger Hyndman	1986 Edna Jones/Loretta Scherer
1975 Marilyn Kahl	1987 Anne Henke
1976 Nancy McHugh	1989 Leni Cook
1977 Eric Nicolet	1990 Mel Grubb
1978 Julia Gottesman	1991 Marilyn Whirry
1979 Jim Day	1993 Jan Burke
1980 Louise Grindstaff	1994 Jane Murray
1981 Reed Mathis	1995 Al Leonard
1982 Joanna McKenzie	1996 Evaline Kruse/Barbara Zussman

1997 Planning Committee

Olga Kokino, Co-Chair, University High School, Los Angeles Unified School District
 Janet Colston-Day, Co-Chair, Bassett High School, Bassett Unified School District
 Barbara Farris, Buena Park High School, Fullerton Union High School District
 Bill Henke, Upland High School, Upland Unified School District
 Al Leonard, El Dorado High School, Placentia Unified School District
 Cista Leonard, Western High School, Anaheim Union School District
 Cynthia Menck, North Hollywood High School, LAUSD retired
 Marilyn Stalder-Burke, John Muir High School, Pasadena Unified School District
 Celia Trujillo, Budlong Elementary School, LAUSD

Conference of the Living Tree/English

PROGRAM

Friday, January 10, 1997

- 4:00-6:00 **REGISTRATION** Topa Hexagon
Bill Henke & Cynthia Menck
- 6:00-7:00 **WELCOMING RECEPTION** Topa Foyer

Welcoming Hosts, Past Recipients of the Living Tree Award, and
past and present Conference of the Living Tree Committee Members

Richard Allen, pianist
- 7:00 **DINNER**
- 8:15 **GENERAL SESSION**

PRESIDING Olga Kokino and Janet Coston-Day, Conference Co-Chairs
GREETING Joanna Exacoustos, SCTE President
RECOGNITION Olga Kokino and Celia Trujillo
INTRODUCTION Janet Colston-Day
SPEAKER "Marijo" the Storyteller

"Stories for the Spirit: Food for the Soul"
- 9:30 **NIGHT OWL COFFEE HOUSE POETRY** Neff Lounge

Saturday, January 11, 1997

- 8:00-9:00 **BREAKFAST BUFFET** Topa Ballroom
- 9:00-9:55 **SESSION I**
See workshop listings
- 9:55-10:15 **TWENTY MINUTE COFFEE BREAK** Topa Foyer
College Credit Coordinator, Anne Henke
- 10:15-11:10 **SESSION II**
See workshop listings
- 11:10-11:20 **TEN MINUTE BREAK**
- 11:20-12:15 **SESSION III**
See workshop listings

- 12:30 **LUNCH** (on your own)
*Lunch may be purchased in the restaurant
or snack bar on the north side of the pool house*
- 1:30 **OJAI WALKING TOUR**
Join Jan Burke by the Fountain to embark on a trek through the Ojai Valley
- 2:00-6:00 **SOUTHLAND ENGLISH FUND BOOKFAIRE** Topa Foyer
- 2:30 **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE**
Michelle Serros Bungalow P, Rm. 555
- 3:30-5:30 **AUTHORS' BOOK SIGNING** Topa Foyer
- 3:30-5:30 **SPECIAL SESSION** Bungalow P. Rm. 555
Meeting with Al Leonard and Past Conference Chairs,
and other interested participants
- 6:00-7:00 **CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION** Topa Center
- 7:00-8:00 **DINNER** Topa Ballroom
- 8:00 **GENERAL SESSION**
PRESIDING Olga Kokino
ANNIVERSARY TOAST Compliments of the Ojai Valley Inn
PRESENTATION *Living Tree Award* Al Leonard
INTRODUCTION Diane Dawson
SPEAKERS Neil and Judith Morgan, authors of *Dr. Seuss and Mr. Geisel*

"The Cat Who Launched Children's Rights"

*For an extended evening of poetry, repartee and refreshment,
please join the Living Tree community in the Neff Lounge.*

Sunday, January 12, 1997

- 8:00-9:00 **BREAKFAST**
- 9:00-10:30 **GENERAL SESSION**
- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Presiding | Janet Colston-Day |
| Trivia Contest Winners | Cista Leonard |
| Introduction | Olga Kokino |
| Speaker | Pat Morrison |
| Prizes, Awards & Gifts | Barbara Farris, Cista Leonard & Cynthia Menck |
| SEF Scholarship | Celia Trujillo |
| Closing | Olga Kokino |

*Return your plastic badge holder and completed conference evaluation form
and receive a complimentary Book Bag and posters,
courtesy of Holt, Rinehart and Winston & Scott Foresman*

WORKSHOPS

*In an effort to alleviate previous overcrowding and in order to maintain equity,
we ask that you preselect the workshops that you wish to attend.
Please obtain workshop tickets in the registration area.
Thank you for your cooperation.*

SESSION I, 9:00-9:55

Reading and Writing the Stories of Our Lives Through Memoirs

Canyon 1

Kathy Allen, Palos Verdes School District

Studying the genre of memoir allows students to live between the lines; reading and rereading their lives to find the threads that weave their personal stories. Recommended Gr. 6-12

Immigration: Our Personal Odysseys of the Spirit

Ridge 2

Kathy Benioff & Paula Golem, Conejo Valley Unified School District

Explore several core literature units involving immigration to the United States, leaving behind a beloved country and starting a new life; storyline techniques demonstrated in the process of making life-size, personal collages. Recommended Elementary

Celebrating Paradox: An Odyssey Over Time With Deepak Chopra & Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Canyon 3

Janet Hironaka, Instructional Consultant, Action Learning Systems

Link the works of Deepak Chopra and Ralph Waldo Emerson using a trans-historical or cross-temporal approach. Look for commonalities and apply strategies to help students make meaning with one writer to illuminate the other. Allow our collaboration together to synergize our own personal and collective odysseys. Recommended Gr. 8-12

Gabriel García Márquez in the Classroom: When Light Is Like Water*

Garden Room

Carol Jago, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District

Participants will experience the magical realism of García Márquez and discover how a text such as the short story "Light Is Like Water" requires specific reading skills. These skills will be compared and contrasted with those needed for reading informational texts. Recommended Gr. 7-12

Poetry is the Vessel Into the World of Literacy*

Ridge 3

Jane Murray, Torrance Unified School District

Poetry is the vessel for a journey into the world of literacy. Poetry helps us see beyond the literal meanings of words and ideas by asking us to imagine the possibilities. The words of poems hold symbols, images, and subtle meanings that entice us to seek layers of understanding that we want to share with others. Poetry is the means to capturing the minds and hearts of reluctant readers and language learners. Recommended ESL, Literacy, All Levels

The Curtain Rises*

Room 103

Charles Schiller, Laguna Beach Unified School District, retired

By thinking of authors, actors, and directors as colleagues, we can prepare students to think deeply about great plays presented in live theater. With Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" as a model, this section presents creative and practical preparation for getting the most from attending quality theater. Recommended High School and College

Dramatizing Folktales: Acting Out Stories*

Ridge 1

Anita Stern, Los Angeles Unified School District

Dramatizing folktales is a delightful way to improve comprehension, use of idiomatic language, and pronunciation. Tips will be given on how to change an ordinary folktale into a delightful play. Audience participation includes changing a story into a play and presenting it. Recommended Elementary, Secondary and Adult Education; ESL, Chapter 1 Reading, Literacy

***Workshop Repeated**

**Reduce Reluctance & Build Self-Esteem: Ways to Connect Remedial Students
With Reading & Writing**

Canyon 2

Judy Wenrick, Upland Unified School District

Participants will experience strategies which can be used to encourage active student involvement in reading and writing. Focus on planning a sequential writing unit around a theme in reading, how to model effective reading and writing strategies, and when to use collaborative grouping. Recommended Gr. 7-12

SESSION II, 10:15-11:10

On "Finding" a Poem: Words From the Spirit

Ridge 3

David Doty, Educational Consultant

Using various resources, we'll explore "found" poetry, creating original poems and relaxing the "spirit." A time to refresh and renew our self. Recommended reading: Mornings Like This, Found Poems by Annie Dillard. Recommended All Levels

The Odyssey of Composition

Room 103

Sharon Hunter, Fullerton College

Take a journey through an assortment of proven strategies to aid your students in recognizing and achieving good writing. Guaranteed to give you some activities to use immediately in the classroom. Recommended Secondary and College.

**Celebrating Paradox: An Odyssey Over Time With
Deepak Chopra & Ralph Waldo Emerson***

Canyon 3

Janet Hironaka, Instructional Consultant, Action Learning Systems

Link the works of Deepak Chopra and Ralph Waldo Emerson using a trans-historical or cross-temporal approach. Look for commonalities and apply strategies to help students make meaning with one writer to illuminate the other. Allow our collaboration together to synergize our own personal and collective odysseys. Recommended Gr. 8-12

The Odyssey of Cultural/Career Search

Ridge 2

Elaine Mulherin, Upland Unified School District

Through an I-Search paper, students examine the culture/religion or career/colleges of interest to them--ones they may know little of or ones they may wish to explore further. Ideas will be shared regarding how to adapt an I-Search paper, networking using community resources, displays and showcase portfolios. Recommended Secondary and College.

Siddharthic Journey*

Canyon 1

Richard Root, Los Angeles Unified School District

Siddhartha, the Herman Hesse novel, represents the archetypal search to find the source within one's own Self. Using Siddhartha as a model, we will explore various windows to self-awareness that you and your students might use to initiate and chart the journey to the source within one's own Self. Recommended High School Seniors, College

Don't Forget to Pack Laughter, Delight, and Curiosity*

Canyon 2

Elaine Sherman, National Language Arts Consultant, McDougal, Littel/Houghton Mifflin

A deck of cards, some music, bubbles, and thou...recapture the wonderment and whimsy of our language. Recommended Gr. 6 Through High School

Dramatizing Folktales: Acting Out Stories*

Ridge 1

Anita Stern, Los Angeles Unified School District

Dramatizing folktales is a delightful way to improve comprehension, use of idiomatic language, and pronunciation. Tips will be given on how to change an ordinary folktale into a delightful play. Audience participation includes changing a story into a play and presenting it. Recommended Elementary, Secondary and Adult Education; ESL, Chapter I Reading, Literacy

***Workshop Repeated**

The Poetry of Nobel Prize Winner Wislana Szymborska**Garden Room**

Marilyn Whirry, South Bay Union High School District

Wislana Szymborska, winner of this year's Nobel Prize in literature, tells us that poetry helps "the individual reader to think." Paradoxically both witty and serious, her work is a "tireless defense of individual subjectivity against collective thinking. Together we will read, discuss, make meaning from and think about Szymborska's poetry. Recommended Secondary and College.

SESSION III, 11:20-12:15**Frida Kahlo: Hispanic Artist and Woman of Courage****Canyon 3**

Beth Dalton, Azusa Unified School District

The quest for female role models is a fascinating journey which leads us to Frida Kahlo, a woman whose life is worthy of exploring. Her life was an odyssey of unending pain and enduring talent. In spite of numerous obstacles, she emerged as a courageous, independent woman. This presentation includes lesson plans, art prints, and student art work. Recommended Gr. 6 to College.

Writing a Book Means Rewriting Yourself--From the Inside Out**Ridge 1**

Montserrat Fontes, Los Angeles Unified School District

You think you have a good idea for a novel, right? What happens when the research begins? Pain; confusion about who your parents were--suddenly you have the same problems as Oedipus. The task of writing Dreams of the Centaur induced me to reassess my two countries, my family and most painfully, myself. Recommended Upper Secondary to College

Gabriel García Márquez in the Classroom: When Light Is Like Water***Garden Room**

Carol Jago, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District

Participants will experience the magical realism of García Márquez and discover how a text such as the short story "Light Is Like Water" requires specific reading skills. These skills will be compared and contrasted with those needed for reading informational texts. Recommended Gr. 7-12

Poetry is the Vessel Into the World of Literacy***Ridge 3**

Jane Murray, Torrance Unified School District

Poetry is the vessel for a journey into the world of literacy. Poetry helps us see beyond the literal meanings of words and ideas by asking us to imagine the possibilities. The words of poems hold symbols, images, and subtle meanings that entice us to seek layers of understanding that we want to share with others. Poetry is the means to capturing the minds and hearts of reluctant readers and language learners. Recommended ESL, Literacy, All Levels

Siddharthic Journey***Canyon 1**

Richard Root, Los Angeles Unified School District

Siddhartha, the Herman Hesse novel, represents the archetypal search to find the source within one's own Self. Using Siddhartha as a model, we will explore various windows to self-awareness that you and your students might use to initiate and chart the journey to the source within one's own Self. Recommended High School Seniors, College

The Curtain Rises***Room 103**

Charles Schiller, Laguna Beach Unified School District, retired

By thinking of authors, actors, and directors as colleagues, we can prepare students to think deeply about great plays presented in live theater. With Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" as a model, this section presents creative and practical preparation for getting the most from attending quality theater. Recommended High School and College

Don't Forget to Pack Laughter, Delight, and Curiosity***Canyon 2**

Elaine Sherman, National Language Arts Consultant, McDougal, Littel/Houghton Mifflin

A deck of cards, some music, bubbles, and thou...recapture the wonderment and whimsy of our language. Recommended Gr. 6 Through High School

***Workshop Repeated**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SESSION I, 9:00-9:55

Canyon 1	Reading & Writing the Stories of Our Lives Through Memoirs (M, H)
Ridge 2	Immigration: Our Personal Odysseys of the Spirit (E)
Canyon 3	Celebrating Paradox: An Odyssey Over Time With Chopra & Emmerson (H, A)
Garden Room	Gabriel García Márquez in the Classroom: When Light is Like Water (M, H, A)
Ridge 3	Poetry is the Vessel Into the World of Literacy (E, M, H)
Room 103	The Curtain Rises (H, A)
Ridge 1	Dramatizing Folktales: Acting Out Stories (E, M, H, A)
Canyon 2	Reduce Reluctance & Build Self-Esteem: Ways to Connect Remedial Students (M, H)

SESSION II, 10:15-11:10

Ridge 3	On "Finding" a Poem: Words From the Spirit (E, M, H, A)
Room 103	The Odyssey of Composition (M, H, A)
Canyon 3	Celebrating Paradox: An Odyssey Over Time With Chopra & Emmerson (H, A)
Ridge 2	The Odyssey of Cultural/Career Search (H, A)
Canyon 1	Siddharthic Journey (H, A)
Canyon 2	Don't Forget to Pack Laughter, Delight, and Curiosity (M, H)
Ridge 1	Dramatizing Folktales: Acting Out Stories (E, M, H, A)
Garden Room	The Poetry of Nobel Prize Winner Wislana Szymborska (H, A)

SESSION III, 11:20-12:15

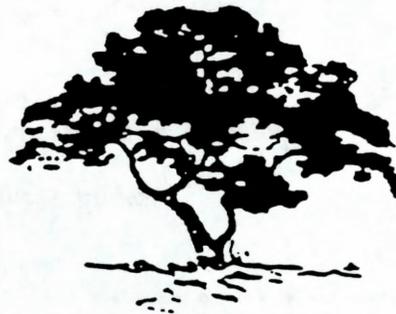
Canyon 3	Frida Kahlo: Hispanic Artist & Woman of Courage (M, H, A)
Ridge 1	Writing a Book Means Rewriting Yourself--From the Inside Out (H, A)
Garden Room	Gabriel García Márquez in the Classroom: When Light is Like Water (M, H, A)
Ridge 3	Poetry is the Vessel Into the World of Literacy (E, M, H)
Canyon 1	Siddharthic Journey (H, A)
Room 103	The Curtain Rises (H, A)
Canyon 2	Don't Forget to Pack Laughter, Delight, and Curiosity (M, H)

E Elementary
M Middle School
H High School
A Adult

Ojai Odyssey

*A road winds and weaves towards a mountaintop
A magical retreat becoming a Shangri La
A place and an opportunity to reflect and to renew.
Once we unfold ourselves from the world below
we untie a new existence,
take in new power and new thought
to be better than what we were
before we made our climb to Shangri La
and found new spirit,
new life
as teachers who have
the Odyssey of the Spirit.
For us, this Odyssey cleanses the soul,
washes away the cares,
refreshes us and leaves us sparkling-
just as dew-frost heavy on Ojai mountain
sides, we draw to us renewal
to carry us
on a rededicated Odyssey to Self,
to Soul, to uncover discovery
until next time,
we are made timeless
in Shangri La.*

--Elaine Mulherin



*The fruit of my tree of knowledge is plucked, and it is this:
"Adventures are to the adventurous."*

*--Benjamin Disraeli, *Ixion in Heaven**

*Constantly to seek the purpose of life is one of the oddest escapes of man.
If he finds what he seeks it will not be worth that pebble on the path.*

*--Krishnamurti, *The Only Revolution: California**

*Biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite:
"Fool," said my Muse to me, "look in thy heart, and write!"*

*--Philip Sidney, *Astrophel and Stella**

*Could Hamlet have been written by a committee, or the Mona Lisa painted by a club?
Could the New Testament have been composed as a conference report?
Creative ideas do not spring from groups. They spring from individuals.
The divine spark leaps from the finger of God to the finger of Adam.*

--A. Whitney Griswold (1957)

*Nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind as a steady purpose--
a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye.*

*--Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein**





Acknowledgements

- **Art Institute of Chicago for the Japanese woodcut bookmarks**
- **Holt, Rinehart and Winston for the book bags**
- **Josten's Yearbook Company for the calculator and pens**
- **McDougal Littell for sponsoring the Saturday workshop presenter**
 - **Merriam Webster for the pens**
 - **Permabound for the books**
 - **Prentice Hall for the highlighters**
 - **Scott, Foresman for the posters**
- **Southland Council Teachers of English for the Anniversary glasses**
- **Southland English Fund for the new teacher scholarship and the Ojai Valley Inn**

The committee also wishes to thank the Los Angeles County Office of Education for its assistance in printing and distributing the conference fliers.

Please Reserve

***January 16, 17 and 18, 1998
for the next Conference of the Living Tree/English.***