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mirror

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FRESNO STATE

Arne Nixon Center for the Study
of Children's Literature

The Arne Nixon Center is a unit within the Special
Collections division of the Henry Madden Library



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Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature

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“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 Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature



The Arne Nixon Center is one of the West Coast's largest and most significant research centers for the study of children's literature. With an emphasis on diversity, the Center's collection includes more than 60,000 books, original artwork, letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, ceramics and other ephemera, including:

- The largest LGBTQ collection of books for young people in the United States.
- A World Languages collection of books in over 50 languages.
- Over 2,100 Spanish-language children's books.
- Over 2,100 editions by, about and inspired by the works of Lewis Carroll.
- The Helen Monette Amestory collection of 6,000 books on cats.
- Archives for Leo Politi, Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy, Margarita Engle, Michael Cart, Steven Mooser, Robert San Souci and more...

Remembering Shirley Harnish Brinker

The Arne Nixon Center mourns the passing of Shirley Harnish Brinker, a long-time friend and generous donor. Brinker was an influential businesswoman, a world traveler and a lover of animals. The Shirley Harnish Brinker Gallery, located just outside the Arne Nixon Center, features Leo Politi artwork and museum-quality glass cases with rotating displays of books and artifacts relating to children's literature. A genuine and rare individual, Brinker will be deeply missed.

Cover illustration by Maya Christina Gonzalez from her book, *Call Me Tree/Llámame árbol*.

Maya Christina Gonzalez

Awarded Arne Nixon Center Artist-in-Residence Fellowship

Maya Christina Gonzalez has been awarded the Arne Nixon Center Artist-in-Residence Fellowship for fall of 2017. Gonzalez is the second recipient of the award and will be on campus September 25 - 29. She will engage



in student learning by embedding in a variety of classes including those in the graphic arts, women's studies and early childhood education. The Artist-in-Residence program is made possible by a generous donation from an anonymous donor. Gonzalez is an illustrator, author, progressive educator and publisher. The largely self-taught artist has illustrated over 20 books including: *My Diary From Here to There/ Mi diario de aquí hasta allá* written by Amada Irma Pérez, *Fiesta Femenina: Celebrating Women in Mexican Folklore* written by Mary Joan Gerson and *Prietita and the Ghost Woman* written by Gloria Anzaldúa.

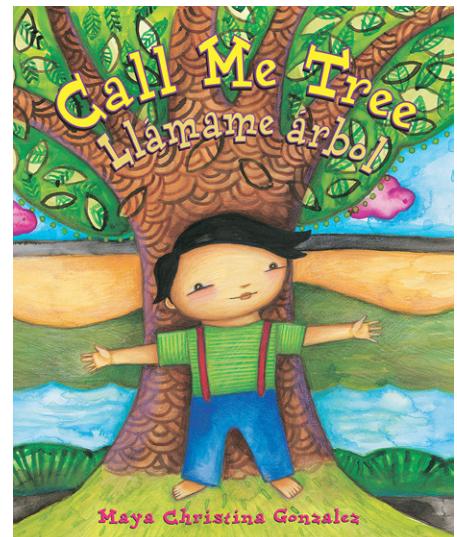
Her colorful and recognizable work has earned numerous awards. Among her many honors, she has received a Pura Belpré Honor Award, a Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award and an Américas Book Award. Gonzalez is both the author and illustrator of a number of books, including: *Mis colores, mi mundo/My Colors, My World, I Know the River Loves Me* and *Call Me Tree/ Llámame árbol*.

Since 1996, Gonzalez has presented to children and educators the importance of creativity as a personal empowerment tool. Her work with public school children has helped her develop several lines of curriculum that offer a holistic approach to learning and open doors to new ways of thinking and relating to the world.

To more extensively examine issues of gender and identity, Gonzalez founded a publishing company, Reflection Press, in 2009.

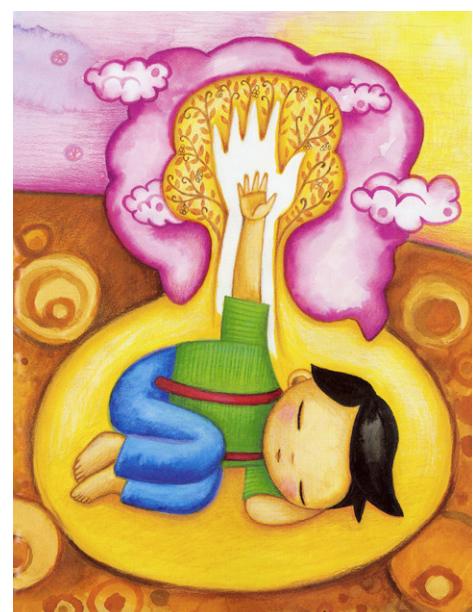
Her educational website, School of the Free Mind (www.schoolofthefreemind.com) offers six online courses with full video and workbook instruction for those interested in creating powerful books for children, attaining self-realization and living creatively.

A catered reception to welcome Gonzalez to Fresno State will be held on Monday, September 25 in the University Dining Hall from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. The public is invited and Gonzalez' books will be available for sale and autographing. The Arne Nixon Center will collaborate with Fresno State's Cross Cultural and Gender Center and the Center for Creativity and the Arts to offer a free workshop by Gonzalez on Friday, September 29 in the Kremen Education Building, room ED 140.



The workshop will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will last until 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be included. Seating is limited to 30 people.

For more information, including disability accommodations or physical access, or to sign up to attend these events, please email Jami Sanford at jsanford@csufresno.edu or contact the Arne Nixon Center at **559.278.8116**.





Attentive Reading and Research in the Arne Nixon Center

By Denise Dávila and Pat Enciso

This summer, as the co-recipients of a generous Arne Nixon Center Research Fellowship, we had the privilege of working with Curator Jennifer Crow, Library Services Specialist Jami Sanford and the staff of the Arne Nixon Center in the Henry Madden Library. We spent a week onsite to advance our textbook project, *Attentive Reading & Teaching with Critical Literature for Children*.

As teacher educators at two different universities, we applied for the Research Fellowship because we wanted to enhance our collaboration and writing process with direct access to the Arne Nixon Center's extraordinary resources, including the LGBTQ, Michael Cart, World Languages, multicultural and international books collections. We also yearned for the opportunity to meet and work together within the Fresno State campus community, which has long valued and promoted the inclusion of diverse children's literature in public school classrooms.

While we have access to many books at our different universities, nothing prepared us for the range and volume of the Arne Nixon Center's children's collection. We were astounded that the staff were able to pull, quite literally, several hundred titles from the collection that had won diverse book awards such as the Amelia Bloomer Award; Américas Award; American Indian Youth Literature Award; Asian Pacific American

Librarians Association Award; Coretta Scott King Award; Dolly Gray Award; Jane Addams Book Award; John Steptoe Award; Lambda Award for Children's Literature; Middle East Book Award; Pura Belpre Award; Schneider Family Book Award; Tomás Rivera Award; Stonewall Award and the Sydney Taylor Book Award. In our experience, it is rare for a library to have nearly complete sets of these award winners in a single location. Moreover, in addition to surrounding our worktable with piles and carts of award-winning literature, the staff also curated for us impressive collections of immigration and youth activism books from the stacks. Then, they directed us to a stunning set of books and resources associated with the Library's special exhibition (*9066: Japanese American Voices from the Inside*) about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. In short, we could not have imagined a more appropriate, let alone accommodating, venue to cultivate our project on diverse children's literature.

Being immersed in books that we could place side-by-side for comparison inspired us to re-conceptualize the arc and structure of our book project in a way that differs from the traditional children's literature textbooks currently on the market. Like many teachers, we know that

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

young people are deeply influenced by the literature they read. We know that they need to see themselves and others accurately represented, across many genres and themes. They also need to experience and discuss diverse literature, among peers, in ways that invite both critical analysis and open dialogue in relation to their own lives and the voices and images they encounter through the media, schooling and society. We engaged in discussions about these topics as we examined the diverse literature. Our book project is likewise informed by the seminal scholarship of Rudine Sims Bishop (1990) and her classic essay, *Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors*.

"When children cannot find themselves reflected in the books they read, or when the images they see are distorted, negative, or laughable, they learn a powerful lesson about how they are devalued in the society of which they are a part. Our classrooms need to be places where all the children...can find their mirrors. Children from dominant social groups have always found their mirrors in books, but they, too, have suffered from the lack of availability of books about others. In this country, where racism is still one of the major unresolved social problems, books may be one of the few places where children who are socially isolated and insulated from the larger world may meet people unlike themselves. If they see only reflections of themselves, they will group up with an exaggerated sense of their own importance and value in the world—a dangerous ethnocentrism."

We recognize that the persistent underrepresentation of diversity in children's literature adversely affects all children. Young people should

not be subjected to distorted views of themselves and others through the persistent presence of negative stereotypes and, conversely, the absences of positive histories, ordinary daily experiences and possible futures.

As teacher educators, we also know that teachers want to address the call to diversify the literature children read and study in school. We are aware of the many questions that arise when teachers select, introduce and discuss literature with young people. We recognize the complexity of these decisions and conversations, and want to provide guidance and resources for reading and teaching with students seeking narratives that reflect their lives as they also extend beyond their familiar experiences. At the same time, in classrooms and other school settings, youth struggle with unrelenting social and popular cultural messages about who and what counts as "normal." Literature and related discussions often reinforce limited and exclusive messages about being valued as a person, especially when only a few voices are heard, or the same distorted images and characters are introduced time and again.

As a response to young people's traditional experiences with literature in school, the aim of our book project is to show adults how to become more attentive to and capable of mediating story access and interpretation in the midst of multiple other stories about people's lives. Having access to the incomparable number of diverse books and stories at the Arne Nixon Center has provided a springboard for our work. We are grateful for their support and look forward to the opportunity to return in the upcoming year. It has been a privilege for us to become honorary members of the Fresno State community.

Arne Nixon Center Celebrates Literacy Award Winners



The Arne Nixon Center hosted a catered reception with the Fresno Area Council of English Teachers (FACET) on May 11th. The invitation-only event celebrated the 2017

winners of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) Classroom Award of Excellence and Award of Merit.

Jessica Galvan, a third-grade teacher at Jackson Elementary School in Selma and Arne Nixon Center Advocates Board Member, was the recipient of the Classroom Award of Excellence. Though she has faithfully served as a San Joaquin Valley Writing Project teacher leader, it was her exceptional work with children in the classroom for which she attained this honor. Galvan encourages her students not only to write papers for assignments, but more importantly, to write for pleasure and self-discovery.

Danay Ferguson, Reading Heart's founder and literacy advocate, received the CATE Award of

Merit. Ferguson was only 8-years-old when she started the Reading Heart book donation program in 2014. Her goal is to give a book to every student in Fresno County and Ferguson is well on her way, having collected over 500,000 books. Reading Heart book tours have given books to thousands of school children throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

The awards were originally presented at CATE's annual statewide convention in Santa Clara in February, but since many friends and family members were unable to attend, a local reception for the winners was held in the Arne Nixon Center.

For more information about Reading Heart, go to: www.readingheart.org

Doug Hansen's California and the Magic Archive

What did it take to create the book, *California: The Magic Island*? The author and illustrator, Doug Hansen, knows and he's sharing his behind-the-scenes secrets with everyone in a new donation that will grow his archive housed in the Arne Nixon Center.

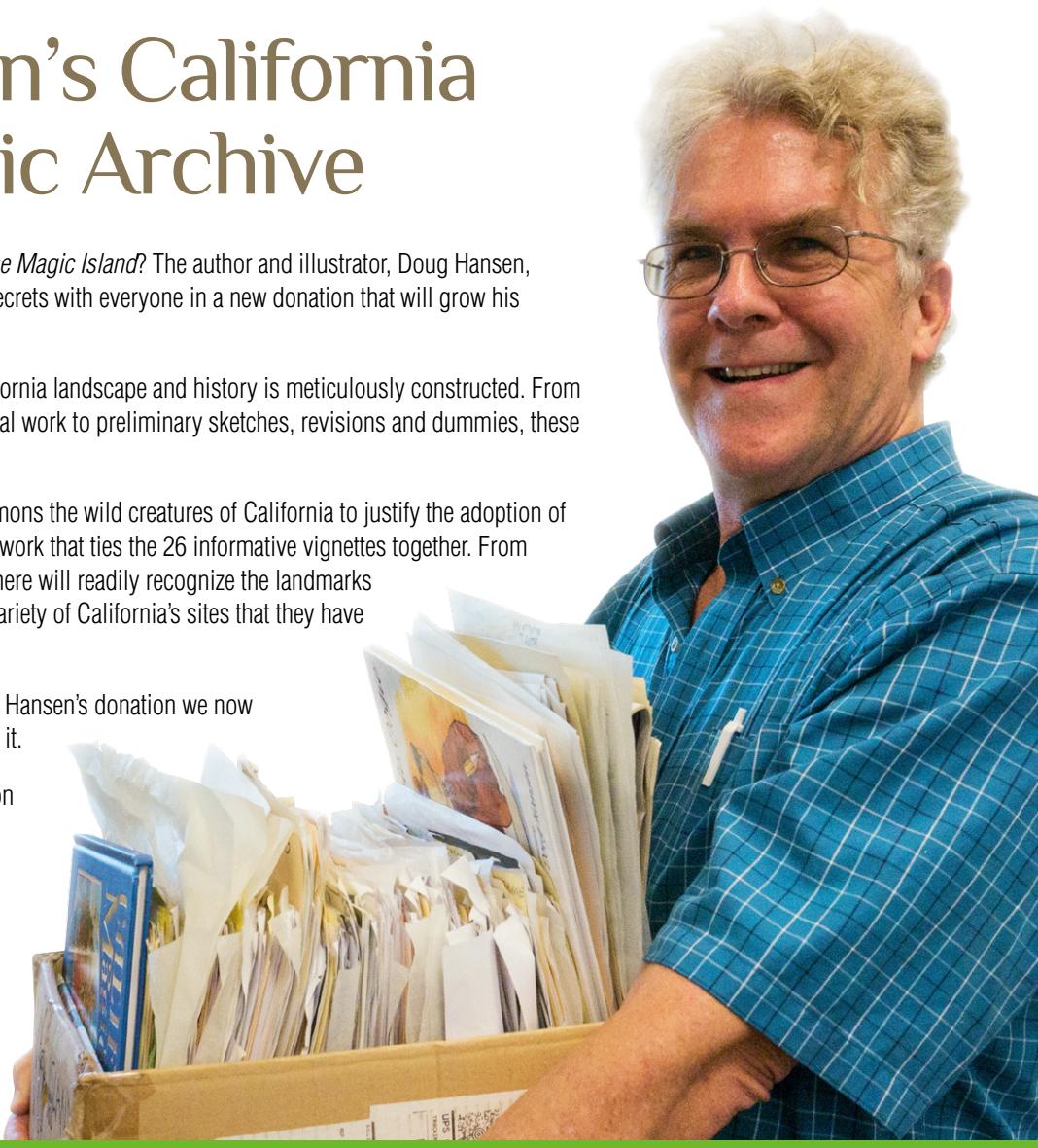
Hansen's fictional alphabet book describing California landscape and history is meticulously constructed. From the many iterations of tracing paper developmental work to preliminary sketches, revisions and dummies, these donated materials are a testament to his craft.

The imaginative story of Queen Califa, who summons the wild creatures of California to justify the adoption of her magical island's name by others, is the framework that ties the 26 informative vignettes together. From north to south, east to west, Californians everywhere will readily recognize the landmarks portrayed. Children will become familiar with a variety of California's sites that they have yet to experience.

The book is a visual and textual delight, and with Hansen's donation we now are able to peek at the care and effort poured into it.

Hansen's recent donation also includes illustration materials from the picture book, *Pen the Tale, Oogie* written by Karen Moore and published by HBE Publishing's Barn Owl Media.

A finding guide to Hansen's previous work can be found on the Arne Nixon Center's website at: www.tinyurl.com/HansenANC



Arne Nixon Center Offers Two Research Fellowships

The Arne Nixon Center is pleased to offer a new round of Research Fellowships to support scholars from outside the Fresno/Clovis area who are engaged in graduate-level, post-doctoral and independent research.

Two Fellowships of up to \$2,000 will be awarded to scholars. The award may be used for transportation to and from Fresno, living expenses while in residence and basic research materials and supplies needed to accomplish the research. Awards must be used within one year of notification.

Individuals interested in conducting on-site research to support projects pertaining to children's literature are encouraged to apply. A completed application form must be accompanied by a detailed project description with proposed budget, abbreviated CV and letter

of recommendation from a professional who knows the researcher's work.

The Arne Nixon Center is a leading resource for the study of literature for young people. It houses a collection of more than 60,000 books, periodicals, manuscripts, original art and papers of authors and illustrators. With an emphasis on diversity, the holdings include the largest LGBTQ collection of books for young people in the nation; a World Languages collection with books in over 50 different languages (more than 2,100 of these in Spanish); the Lewis Carroll collection (an extensive assemblage of international books and materials by, about and related to the iconic author); and the Helen Monette Amestoy collection of over 6,000 books on cats.

Additional information about the Arne Nixon Center and its collections, as well as a Research

Fellowship application form, may be found on its website at www.arnenixoncenter.org. Most materials owned by the Arne Nixon Center may be found in the Henry Madden Library catalog. For further information, please contact the Curator, Jennifer Crow at **559.278.8116** or email jcrow@csufresno.edu.

The deadline to apply is November 6, 2017. Submit applications by email to **jcrow@csufresno.edu**. Applications will be vetted by a committee. Chosen recipients will be notified in early January 2018.

Recipients must be willing to have their name, photo and title of their research promoted via publicity and marketing channels. They will also provide a lunch-time presentation about their findings to the Madden Library faculty and staff and other interested Fresno State personnel.

Summer Internship in the Archives



Meet Keaton Johanson, the Arne Nixon Center's 2017 summer intern. Johanson is a student earning his master's degree in library and information science from San José State University's iSchool. A full-time middle school library technician with Central

Unified School District and father of two young children, Johanson came to us with an extensive background in children's and young adult literature. He interned in the Arne Nixon Center's archives this summer, working with materials donated by award-winning, author and illustrator, Anna Grossnickle Hines. Before he left at the end of July, Johanson answered a few questions for us.

What is it you enjoy about working in the archives?

Since I was old enough to confer lasting value on objects, I've been a bit of a sentimentalist. I would hold on to things that reminded me of important memories or events, especially if they documented the event in some way. I came to find out this is the general premise of

archives (i.e. saving whatever documents the important things). Now I get to see what other people found important. It's fascinating!

What was the most interesting thing you found?

In the Arne Nixon Center archive I've seen old, well-loved books, original watercolors for beloved children's books and even a quilt; but, the most interesting thing I came across were the doodles. There are pages of scrap paper with to-do lists, notes and numbers written at odd angles parsed out by meandering doodles that, when you take a moment to really look at them, you can imagine the phone calls and conversations that sparked their collages. You can almost feel the flow of thought.

How did you come to work at the Arne Nixon Center?

I've been studying archival theory, but knew that tests, papers and book-learning would only get me so far. I went searching through the San José State Internship Database for an opportunity to practice what I've learned. I already work with children's literature, so the Arne Nixon Center's archives seemed like a perfect option to tie my experience and education together.

We thank Johanson for all his work and wish him luck!

The Arne Nixon Center gratefully acknowledges our new and renewing Arne Nixon Center Advocate members. Their gifts were received from April 2017 to July 2017.

New Members

Naomi Arabian
Sheryl Baer
Sandra Balderrama
Jill Barnard
Setty Bashian
Agnes Chielpegian
Muriel Feldshuh
Jessica Galvan
Janice Gillaspy
Geraldine Hawkins
Olivia King
Victoria King Thomas
Susan Medrano
Heather and Kristopher Paul
Jeanette Rivera
Dvera Saxton
Margaret Tynan
Ruth Velazquez
Kathleen Wosika

Renewing Members

Paula Ametjian
Jennifer Crow
Mary T. Degroot
Cherrill Gragg
Susanne Haffner
Sylvia Hart
Eileen and William Hennrikus
Mary Hung
Pamela Jue
Joyce and Bob Kierejczyk
Kelley Kitzmiller
Claribel Lagomarsino
Ann Lamb
Christina Lee
Susan Loucks
Arturo Mendoza
Anita and Randy Morris
Sharon Mullenix
Claire Noland
Marti and David Quadro
Mary Ann Gamegan Richardson and
Eugene Richardson
Joan Russell
Lisa Schoof
P. Susan Silveira
Sharon Smart
Tekla White

Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) *By Arturo Mendoza, ANCA President*

A Message of Gratitude

First of all, let me take a moment and begin with a simple phrase, "Thank you...."

Thank You: for the opportunity to lead as president of the Arne Nixon Center Advocates.

Thank You: to our friends of the Arne Nixon Center as well as our campus and community sponsors (past, present and future). Your friendships and support keep the Arne Nixon Center thriving and moving forward continuing Arne's legacy.

Thank You: to our Arne Nixon Center visitors, students, professors, community, scholarly research visitors (both domestic and internationally, becoming friends near and far), guest speakers, authors, illustrators and others.

Thank You: for the honor and the privilege of working with a board who is diverse in so many treasured ways, culturally, sharing a plethora of interests, passions,



talents and educational backgrounds, and just an overall great group of individuals.

Thank You: a heartfelt thank you to the dedication and hard work of our past friends and members of the board who supported and continue to support us.

Thank You: to our Curator Jennifer Crow for continuing to uphold the mission as well as the core value of the Arne Nixon Center—building our archival collection and network of friends, building upon community collaboration, branding the Arne Nixon Center as a global destination for the study of children's literature and sharing the message for what Arne treasured most, the art of a great story and storytelling.

It is with great gratitude for ALL the efforts and continued support of our friends that we continue the legacy of Arne Nixon and grow together to continue to share a great story!

Thank you,
Arturo Mendoza

In Memory of Shirley Harnish Brinker

Jennifer Crow
Denise and Sal Sciandra*

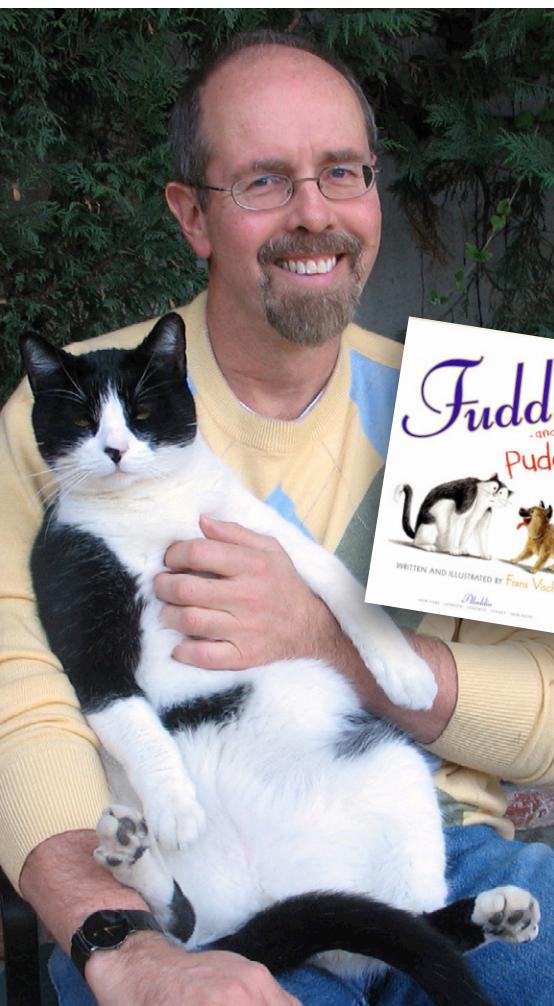
* Life Member



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Fuddles and Puddles and Frans, Oh My!

Who is that fat, pampered, spoiled cat dreaming of big adventures in the great outdoors and his little barking frenemy? Why it's Fuddles, of course!...and his family's dog, Puddles!

The Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) invite you to join Fuddles' creator, Frans Vischer (author, illustrator and animator) for an ANCA annual meeting presentation on Thursday, October 19 in the Fresno State University Dining Hall. A catered reception for the author begins at 5:30 p.m. with a talk to follow at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Vischer is the author and illustrator of the picture books, *Fuddles, A Very Fuddles Christmas* and *Fuddles and Puddles*, plus the middle-grade novel, *Jimmy Dabble*. He also works as an

animator for Disney Studios and has worked on such films as *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *Cats Don't Dance*, *The Road to El Dorado*, *The Princess and the Frog* and *Winnie the Pooh*.

During his stay in Fresno, Vischer will speak to Fresno State graphic design students about his animation work and will visit a local elementary school. To find out more about Vischer and Fuddles, visit: www.fransvischer.com

Please make a reservation for the event by visiting our Eventbrite site at www.fuddles.eventbrite.com or email Jami Sanford at jsanford@csufresno.edu or call the Arne Nixon Center at **559.278.8116**.

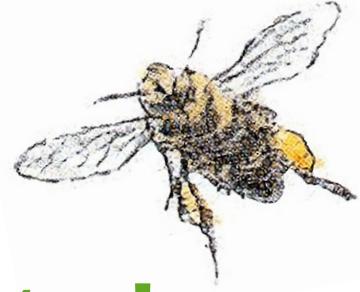
FRESNO STATE

Arne Nixon Center for the Study
of Children's Literature



**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Secret Garden Party!



A Child's Verse in the Garden!

**SUNDAY
APRIL 8
2018**

Come and enjoy a tranquil afternoon in a beautiful hidden garden in northwest Fresno! The location is a secret, but will be revealed when you accept our invitation.

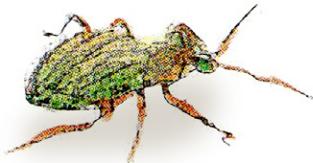
The Arne Nixon Center Advocates invite you to their 14th Secret Garden Party on Sunday, April 8, 2018 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Celebrate the joy of children's poetry in a lovely garden setting as we honor National Poetry Month in April and the new Young People's Poet Laureate, Margarita Engle.

This year's party supports the creation of a community mural designed by the award-winning illustrator, Rafael López. Come paint with us! Together, we will add beauty to a Fresno neighborhood.

For more information about the Secret Garden Party, including disability accommodations or physical access call 559.278.8116 or contact Jami Sanford at jsanford@csufresno.edu

Be an Underwriter for the Party!

You will receive free tickets and your gift will be acknowledged at both the party and in the Arne Nixon Center *Magic Mirror* newsletter.



\$1,000 Sponsor (includes 8 tickets)

\$500 Patron (includes 6 tickets)

\$250 Contributor (includes 4 tickets)

Please make checks payable to
Fresno State Foundation
and mail to this address:

Arne Nixon Center, Madden Library, Fresno State
5200 N. Barton Avenue, M/S ML 34
Fresno, CA 93740-8014



I would like to become an underwriter at the _____ level
or I would like to purchase individual tickets at \$65 each (\$40 is tax deductible.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____