

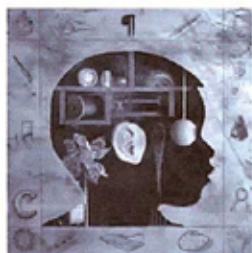


Number 19  
(January 2011)

*"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*

## "Library of the Early Mind" exclusive showing

The public is invited to an exclusive Central Valley showing of a new film, "Library of the Early Mind: A Grown-up Look at the Art of Children's Literature." The 85-minute movie explores the art and impact of children's literature on our kids, our culture, and ourselves. From the first stories told to us to the childhood heroes who stay with us for a lifetime, the impact on our culture runs deeper than



we think. The film features 40 prominent authors and illustrators, including Gregory Maguire, Lemony Snicket, Jerry Pinkney, Nancy Garden, Brian Selznick, and more.

The film will be shown Thursday, February 3, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 2206 in the south wing of the Henry Madden Library. Light refreshments will be served in that same room starting at 6 p.m. Admission is free, but seating is limited to 100 on a first-come, first-served basis. Older children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. The program is cosponsored by Cineculture.

Free parking is available. Please enter the campus on Barton Avenue from Shaw, then look for the parking permit dispenser on your right: enter code 11200033. Park in lots E or D, south and east of the Library, but not in the metered spaces.

## Robert Louis Stevenson's poems set to music

Join us for a recital of Robert Louis Stevenson's poems set to music and performed by pianist Hatem Nadim and Fresno State vocal students (including the Arne Nixon Center's student assistant Joshua Bear) from the Voice Studio of Professor Emerita Helene Joseph-Weil. Dr. Joseph-Weil did some research for this program at the Arne Nixon Center. *A Child's Garden of Verses* features music

*See Recital on page 2*

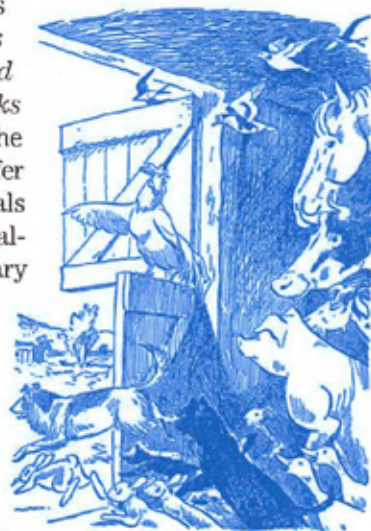
## Friends of Freddy to gather in Fresno

The Friends of Freddy will gather in Fresno March 26 and 27 (a week later than previously announced) to celebrate that pig o' their hearts, Freddy, the talking animal hero of 25 children's books written by the late Walter R. Brooks. The books were published by Alfred A. Knopf from 1927 to 1958, the year of the author's death.

Brooks was also the author of more than 200 short stories for adults, 20 of them featuring Ed the Talking Horse, whose adventures formed the basis of the kitsch classic TV show of the 1960s, *Mr. Ed*.

Founded by Toronto playwright Dave Carley in 1984, The Friends of Freddy literary fan club has grown from a stalwart three or four to more than 600 members throughout the U.S., Canada, and England. The original whimsical purpose of the club was to "spread the names and fame of Walter R. Brooks and Freddy the Pig throughout the known universe." Thanks to club efforts, the Freddy books are back in print, with new paperback editions coming out this spring.

The Fresno gathering will celebrate the gift of Michael Cart's collection of Freddy books and related materials as well as Brooks's personal files and Cart's, as well. The latter is Brooks's biographer; his book *Talking Animals and Others: The Life and Work of Walter R. Brooks* was published in 2009. The Arne Nixon Center will offer an exhibition of materials related to Freddy and Walter R. Brooks from February 1 through March 31. ANCA, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, will sponsor a reception for Freddy guests on Saturday evening, March 26.



*See Freddy on page 2*



## Recital, from front page

by composers Seymour Barab, Renaldo Hahn, Carlisle Floyd, and Malcolm Williamson and projections of the 1906 illustrations by Jesse Willcox Smith.

The recital will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 10, in the Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery of the Henry Madden Library, and it will feature the Library's Centennial grand piano, from 1876. There is no charge for admission. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

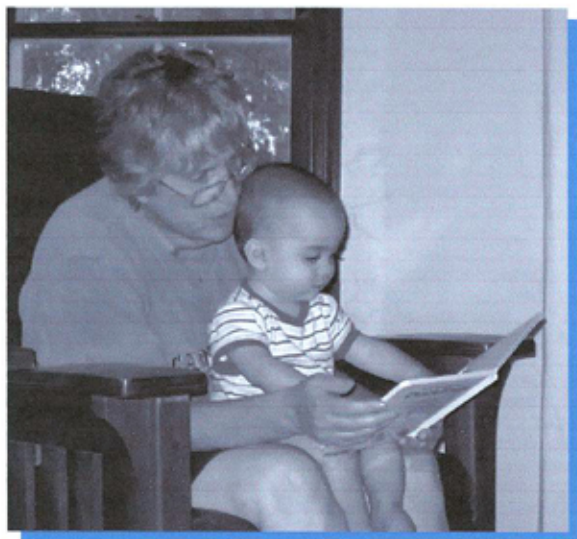
Free parking is available. Please enter the campus on Barton Avenue from Shaw, then look for the parking permit dispenser on your right: enter code 11200033. Park in lots E or D, south and east of the Library, but not in the metered spaces.

## Freddy, from front page

Travel to Fresno is convenient by plane (the Fresno Yosemite airport code is FAT), Amtrak, Greyhound, or automobile. Fresno is about a four-hour drive from either San Francisco or Los Angeles.

The Piccadilly Inn-University, 4961 North Cedar Avenue, Fresno, will offer a "Friends of Freddy" rate of \$89 (includes tax) for up to four people in a room. The hotel is located across the street from the Fresno State campus, about a 15-minute walk from the Library, where meetings will be held. The room rate will increase on March 10th. Call (800) HOTEL-US or 559.224.4200 for reservations.

Registration is free for members (membership is \$25 a year), \$25 for non-members, and is limited to 100 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Older children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required; for more information see [www.freddythebig.org](http://www.freddythebig.org). The Friends of Freddy will sell books, t-shirts, and other Freddy materials. For more information call 559.278.8116 or send email to [mrianto@csufresno.edu](mailto:mrianto@csufresno.edu).



Denise Sciandra and grandson Samuel

## Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

(Arne Nixon Center Advocates)

by Denise Sciandra, ANCA President



"Tender." "Heartwarming." "Touching." "Your best yet." "Keep us updated." That's a sampling of the comments I received about the previous *Tales & Tidbits* column in which I wrote about reading to my one-year-old grandson, Samuel. So, back by popular demand...

Now that he's 16 months old, Sam wants to know the word for everything. He loves his Baby Einstein First Words book. We pore over every page, often lingering on the transportation page. Is he going to be a car guy like his grandpa and great grandpa?

I brought back Todd Parr's *The 'I Love You' Book* from a trip. This book is illustrated in bright, primary colors and toddler-appealing drawings. It tells the story of unconditional love. I love you when you're sad, silly, scared, brave, when you sleep, when you don't sleep, and it ends with, "Most of all, I love you just the way you are." My daughter said to me, "Mom, he loves that book so much I had to hide it."

The warm and rhythmical *Baby Cakes*, by Karma Wilson, is another favorite. "Bouncy-bounce Baby Cakes On my lap. You're my little Baby Cakes. Clap, clap, clap!" (Sam is clapping by the time I say "lap.") "Hide from little Baby Cakes, Peek-a-boo!" (Sam's hands are covering his eyes by the time I say "hide.") "Baby Cakes, Baby Cakes, I love you! Baby Cakes, Baby Cakes. Yes, I do!"

Sam loves the *Eyeline Nature* series of board books. He loves collecting leaves in my yard and he loves his *Leaves* book. It has sparse text and is illustrated with photographs of children enjoying leaves in many different ways. There is no reading it once. We get to the end and Sam flips the book back to the beginning—at least six times.

Sam laughed hysterically at the "yawning yellow yaks" in Dr. Seuss' *ABC An Amazing Alphabet Book*. When Sam yawns now, I say, "Are you a yawning yellow yak?" And he gets a big grin on his face.

Interactive books can be so clever and engaging. Sam loves the *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* book/finger puppet. Did you know that there is a snake on the farm? That is because Sam loves to hiss. In *My Little Noisy Book of Ducklings*, illustrated with photographs of ducklings, the text is superfluous. What Sam loves is the green button that makes a quacking sound when he pushes it.

I'll never get tired of snuggling up in the rocking chair and reading with Sam. And it's a cheerful thought knowing that we'll never run out of interesting, comforting, and entertaining books to share.



## Published by

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by Angelica Carpenter

CURATOR'S

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Last August I attended the Los Angeles conference of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. This organization has 22,000+ members around the world, 1,139 of whom came to the conference. The group included 596 writers, 284 artists or illustrators, 57 editors, and assorted agents, filmmakers, librarians, and others.

Executive director and co-founder Lin Oliver asked the 80 speakers to introduce themselves by name and by each saying just one well-chosen word. "They hate this!" she reported cheerfully. Some of the words were *nail-biter*, *pirate*, *wishful thinker* (some people cheated and gave two words), and *zombie cheerleader*. David Diaz said "Troublemaker." Ashley Bryan said "Freedom." Somebody, whose name I have forgotten, said "My word is 'final'!"

Jon Scieszka led off with a talk about do's and don'ts—things he wished that he had known before he started publishing. "Cut your manuscript in half," he advised. "Read good books and read bad ones, too." He suggested some specific titles in the latter category: *Curious George and the High-Voltage Fence*, *Ten Fun Activities with Fire*, and *The Magic World inside the Abandoned Refrigerator*. He forbade the group to write any more books in genres that he felt were over-represented, but then he urged us to be storytellers and break his rules. "You might just write the best rhyming, vampire, princess, fart book ever!"

Elizabeth Partridge confessed to being an "archive rat," when writing her award-winning biographies of people like Woody Guthrie and John Lennon. "Any story needs multiple layers," she said. "I like creative jerks with an edge. A ragged personality in interesting political times adds layers."

Novelist M.T. Anderson talked about leaving home and coming back to see familiar things in a new light. As a boy he had planned someday to trek through other countries and to write adventure books, but when he tried this, there were problems: he's not good at foreign languages and he is "a drab and fussy eater." So he took a new look at his own surroundings and wrote a science fiction adventure, *The Suburb Beyond the Stars*, set in an alternative Delaware that has been cut off from the rest of the United States.

"Take something known," he advised, "and twist it, and it's more effective than pure fantasy. Literature restores the sense of the unknown to what we already know. Children are always looking for new ways to see."

Adults, too, can find new ways to see at conferences and workshops sponsored by the SCBWI ([www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org)). The Arne Nixon Center is working with northern California's co-regional advisors, Erin Dealey and Patti Newman, to plan some co-sponsored programs.

Happy reading!

## Answers to quiz

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i><br>by Scott O'Dell | 3 <i>Freddy and the Bean Home</i><br>News by Walter R. Brooks |
| 2 <i>The Lion and the Puppy</i><br>by Leo Tolstoy       | 4 <i>Beautiful Blackbird</i><br>by Ashley Bryan               |



## Ashley Bryan donates art

Mornings are usually sunny in Fresno, but on Monday, August 30, the day turned dazzling when a large Priority Mail package arrived in the Arne Nixon Center. Inside were 12 pieces of original art for six picture books, donated by their creator, Ashley Bryan.

The gift included two glowing tempera paintings from *The House with No Doors* and two more from *The Story of the Three Kingdoms*. Watercolors from *The Story of Lightning and Thunder* and *All Night, All Day* lit up the reading room. Pen and ink studies and paintings for *The Dancing Granny* were so dynamic that the dancers depicted seemed about to shimmy right off the paper. The gift also included a brown crayon pencil sketch from *The Cat's Purr*, selected by the artist in honor of the Center's Helen Monnette Amestoy Collection of Books on Cats.

Bryan, who writes most of the books he illustrates, is the winner of three Coretta Scott King awards for illustration. In 2009 he won the American Library Association's Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, a lifetime achievement award for substantial and lasting donations to children's literature. In 2010 he won a Golden Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators for the best non-fiction book of the year, for his amazing and unusual picture book autobiography *Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life's Song*.

Bryan was born in New York in 1923 to parents who had moved there from Antigua, in the British West Indies. Even when he was denied a chance to study art because of the color of his skin, he kept drawing and painting until he found a school (Cooper Union) that was more interested in the colors on his canvases. He lives now on Cranberry Island, off the coast of Maine, in a house filled with art, sea glass, puppets, and stained glass windows.

The artist, who was a longtime friend of Arne Nixon's, sent a letter with his art to curator Angelica Carpenter: "Dear Angelica, ... I have always thought of Arne Nixon and am donating some of my work to his Center. It was the news of my friend Alik's donation that inspired me to act NOW... I send you ... Sweet Summer Songs of Peace and Love, Ashley."

Earlier this year, Alik paid a tribute to Bryan in her new picture book *Push Button*. Thanks now to Ashley Bryan for these wonderful pictures and for the tribute to his friends, Alik and Arne Nixon.

## Centennial Secret Garden Party

ANCA, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, invites everyone to its ninth annual Secret Garden Party on Sunday, April 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. Join us for champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and an afternoon of historical fashions in a jewel box garden in Old Fig Garden. This is definitely the year to wear a fancy hat!

For a Centennial fashion show, ANCA seeks one outfit to represent each decade of Fresno State's first 100 years. Do you have a slinky dress from the '30s, a poodle skirt from the '50s, or a shoulder-padded power suit from the '80s that you could lend for the show? If yes, please email [mrrianto@csufresno.edu](mailto:mrrianto@csufresno.edu) or call Mila Rianto at 559.278.8116. A panel of distinguished judges will be chosen to make the hard decisions, as in, which mini-skirt will represent the '60s?

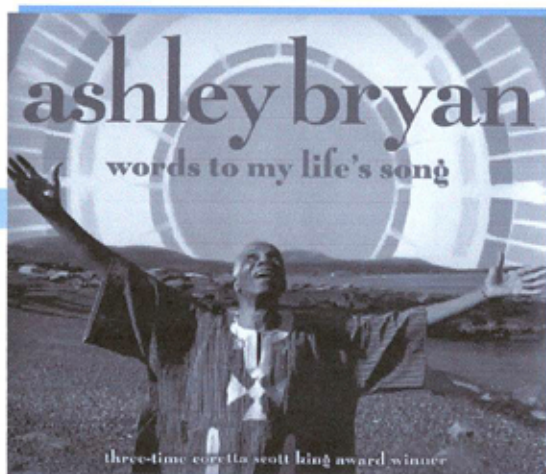
2011 is also the centennial of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel, *The Secret Garden*, a book that has been important to the Arne Nixon Center. Funds raised this year will support the programs and collections of the Center. The party's exact location will be revealed to underwriters and ticket 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; Contributors, for \$250, receive up to four tickets. Individual tickets are available for \$50. The garden party is ANCA's major annual fundraising event; all profits benefit the Arne Nixon Center.

For information call Kellie at 559.278.5790 or send email to [kelliew@csufresno.edu](mailto:kelliew@csufresno.edu).

## Lewis Carroll and Leonard Weisgard exhibition

The Arne Nixon Center will offer two coordinating exhibitions from September 14-October 26, 2011. The Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery will display Lewis Carroll materials from the Arne Nixon Center's collection and on loan from others. The exhibit will feature original art by Leonard Weisgard for his 1949 *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*. The Pete P. Peters Ellipse Balcony will showcase additional art by Weisgard, on loan from his family. Leonard Weisgard won the 1947 Caldecott medal for illustration for his pictures for Golden MacDonald's book *The Little Island*.

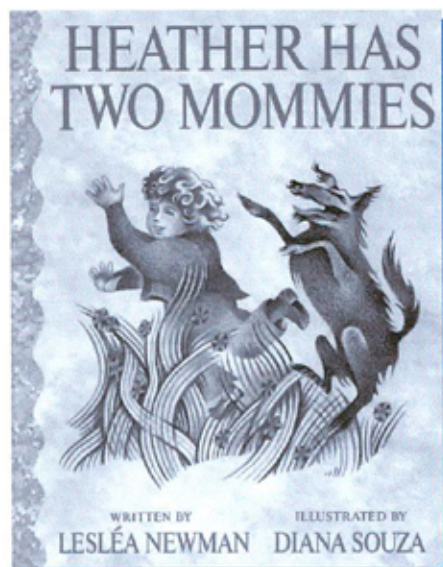




## Kathleen Horning donates GLBTQ books

Thanks to Kathleen Horning for donating 144 GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) themed books to the Arne Nixon Center. Her gift was inspired by previous donations of similar books from Michael Cart. At a time when bullying, suicides, and the debate over "Don't ask, don't tell" are affecting the GLBTQ teen community and mainstream society alike, these books offer hope and understanding that "It gets better." They are not always available in school or public libraries.

This new gift includes picture books, young adult novels, non-fiction, graphic novels, board books, anthologies, advance reading copies, and some bilingual and translated titles. The first book for children to depict GLBTQ issues appeared in 1967. Horning's gift includes *Jesse's Dream*

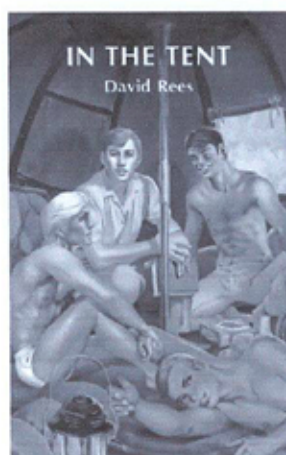


*Skirt* (1979), the first picture book about a transgendered child, and the 1989 self-published edition of *Heather has Two Mommies*, which went on to trade publication and controversy. The 1980 picture book *Oh, Boy! Babies!*, which shows boys caring for babies, comes with recommendations from Dr.

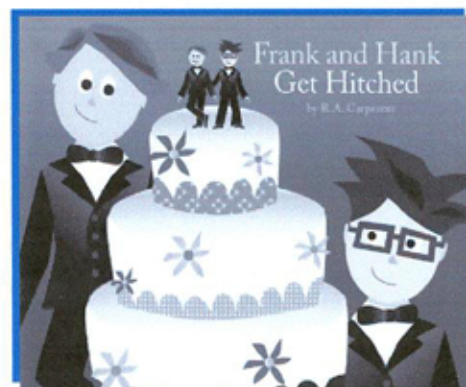
Spock and Abigail Van Buren, presumably to help adults cope with this revolutionary concept. *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride* and *How Would You Feel if Your Dad was Gay?*, both from 1991, are early picture books about lesbian and gay families. Newer titles include *A Really Nice Prom Mess*, *Prima: What's a PROM without a little DRAMA?*, and *Fat Hoochie Prom Queen*.

The gift includes a collection of articles and early bibliographies on GLBTQ subjects. Thanks go to librarian volunteer Tom Ebert, who is working on a bibliography of these titles to post online in the near future. The Center also seeks the papers of authors, illustrators, and publishers of GLBTQ literature for young people. Please contact the Center if you would like to donate papers or to help with this project, making the Arne Nixon Center the primary national repository for GLBTQ books for young people.

Kathleen Horning is director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the author of *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's*



Books and many other books and articles. She is a past president of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) of the American Library Association, and a past president of the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP). She has served on many book award and evaluation committees, including the Newbery Committee, and has won a multitude of honors. She donated these books from her personal collection as she packed to move to a new house, and then, as she moved, she found still more to give. Thanks to her in advance for a second round of these rare and important books.



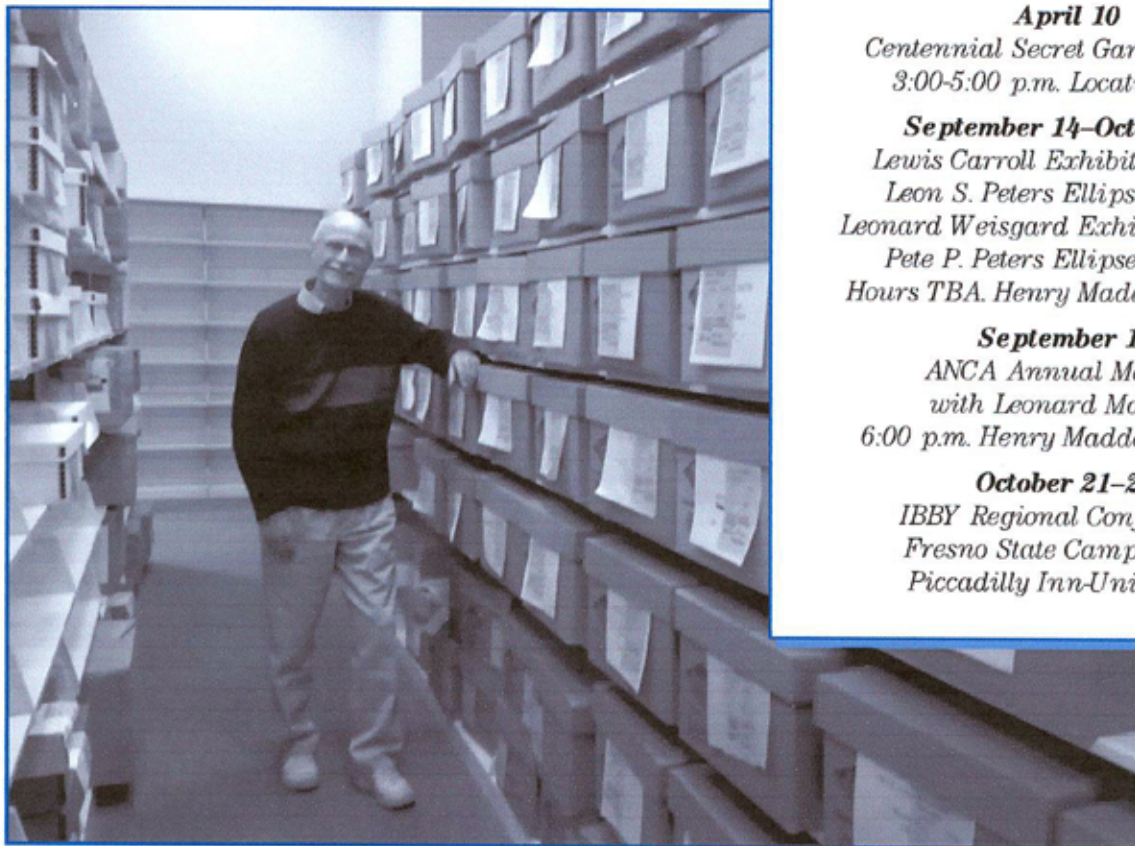
## Children's literature book club for adults

Teachers, librarians, student teachers, and community members are invited to a monthly book discussion group at Petunia's Place Bookstore in the Opus I Shopping Center at 6027 North Palm Avenue (northwest corner of Bullard and Palm) on the first Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The Good Books, Good Friends group focuses on books to enrich the use of literature at home and in the classroom. This book club is co-sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center and the California Reading and Literature Project, part of the Literacy and Early Education Department of Fresno State's Kremen School of Education. Each month the group will discuss two titles, a picture book and a book for older children or young adults, connected by a theme or a topic. For a list of titles, see "Connections" at [www.arnenixoncenter.org](http://www.arnenixoncenter.org). Upcoming meeting dates are February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2.





Congratulations and thanks to Christy Hicks, the Library's rare books cataloguer, who recently completed cataloguing the Lewis Carroll Collection of more than 2,500 items. Christy is holding a photo of Hilda Bohem, who sold her 1,800-item Carroll collection to the Center in 2002. The Center continues to add to the collection with purchases and donations.



Thanks to Michael Cart for his latest donation of 31 boxes of books and papers. The donations included 322 new young adult novels and many papers, books, and even a typewriter that once belonged to Walter R. Brooks, author of the *Freddy the Pig* series. Cart, who is Brooks's biographer, is also donating his own papers to the Center: he is shown here with some of them. A finding aid for materials donated is available under "Research" at [www.arnenixoncenter.org](http://www.arnenixoncenter.org).

## Please plan to join us!

### February 3

Movie "Library of the Early Mind,"  
Refreshments, 6:00 p.m., film 6:30 p.m.  
Henry Madden Library.

### February 10

Recital, "A Child's Garden of Verses,"  
12:30 p.m., Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery,  
Henry Madden Library.

### February 23

ANCA Life Members' Tea,  
4:00-6:00 p.m. Location TBA.

### February 1-March 31

Walter R. Brooks Exhibition,  
weekdays 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,  
Shirley Brinker Gallery and  
Arne Nixon Center Reading Room,  
Henry Madden Library.

### March 26, 27

Friends of Freddy Meeting,  
Henry Madden Library.

### April 10

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

### September 14-October 26

Lewis Carroll Exhibition in the  
Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery.  
Leonard Weisgard Exhibition in the  
Pete P. Peters Ellipse Balcony.  
Hours TBA. Henry Madden Library.

### September 16

ANCA Annual Meeting  
with Leonard Marcus,  
6:00 p.m. Henry Madden Library.

### October 21-23

IBBY Regional Conference,  
Fresno State Campus and  
Piccadilly Inn-University.



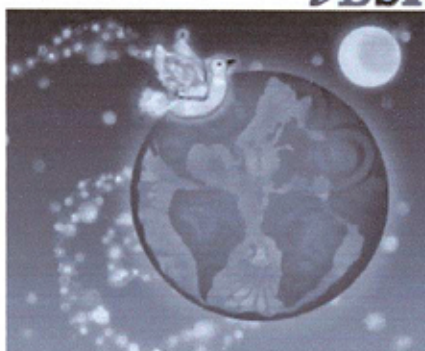
## IBBY comes to Fresno

The International Board on Books for Young People will hold its ninth United States Regional Conference, co-sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center, on the Fresno State campus, October 21-23, 2011. The conference theme is "Peace the World Together with Children's Books." About 250 people—professors, librarians, teachers, authors, illustrators, publishers, collectors, and fans from many countries—are expected to attend.

This three-day conference is a rare opportunity to interact with internationally known authors and illustrators. Speakers will include Michael Cart, David Diaz, Jehan Helou, Grace Lin, Roger Mello, Beverly Naidoo, Pam Muñoz Ryan, Peter Sis, and our own Cuban-American author from Clovis, Margarita Engle! The conference will also include exhibitions, book discussion groups, and appearances by 20 California authors and illustrators; tentatively scheduled are Alma Flor Ada, Paul Brewer, Shirin Bridges, F. Isabel Campoy, Angelica Carpenter, Beverly Gherman, Doug Hansen, Tommy Kovac, Elisa Kleven, Kathleen Krull, Janet Lynch, Patricia Newman, Cynthia Jaynes Omolulu, Alexis O'Neill, Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff, Virginia Walton Pilegard, Joan Schoettler, John Sierra, D. James Smith and more. Petunia's Place Bookstore will sell books at the conference.

Additional, optional activities are available to people who stay on beyond the conference closing after lunch on Sunday, October 23. Later that afternoon the group will tour the Shinzen Japanese Garden in Fresno and on Monday, a one-day bus trip to Yosemite National Park will be offered.

For information about IBBY and the conference, visit [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org). For information about the California authors who will attend, see "Events" at [www.arnenixoncenter.org](http://www.arnenixoncenter.org).



## 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.)

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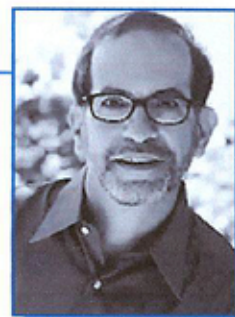
Phone: 559.278.8116

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Email: [angelica@csufresno.edu](mailto:angelica@csufresno.edu)

## Leonard Marcus to speak at Annual Meeting

ANCA's annual meeting, to be held on September 16, 2011, will feature an evening talk by Leonard Marcus on the art of Leonard Weisgard. Marcus is a renowned author, children's book expert and historian. He has written many highly acclaimed books about children's literature and the authors and artists who create it, including Margaret Wise Brown and Ursula Nordstrom. His lavishly illustrated *Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children's Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became an American Icon Along the Way* was published to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Little Golden Books.





# Can you identify book titles from these first lines?

(Answers on page 3)

Q<sup>1</sup> I remember the day the Aleut ship came to our island. At first it seemed like a small shell afloat on the sea. Then it grew larger and was a gull with folded wings.

Q<sup>2</sup> There was once a zoo in London that took stray cats and dogs to feed its wild animals. One time, a visitor to the zoo picked up a puppy from the street and took it along with him. Handing it over at the gate, he watched the keeper throw the hapless puppy into the lion's cage.

Q<sup>3</sup> Charles the rooster was asleep on his perch in the warm, dark henhouse. His head was tucked snugly under his wing, and he was dreaming. He dreamt that he was giving his wife Henrietta her orders for the day.

Q<sup>4</sup> A long, long time ago, the birds of Africa were all colors of the rainbow . . . clean, clear colors from head to tail. Oh so pretty, pretty, pretty!

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