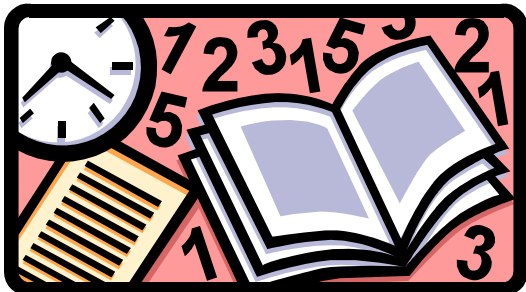


Briefings

Spring 2004
California Library Association
Children and Young Adult Services Section



Presidential Musings...

Lesley Farmer (lfarmer@csulb.edu)

PROMOTING READING

CYAS section members have mixed views about a statewide summer reading program. In general, small library systems like the idea and large systems prefer creating their own themes. Personally, I would like to see those large systems offer their services for a reasonable cost for others to use. MCLS has already begun to pursue this idea, but it could be done more systematically.

In any case, summer is a great time to promote reading, particularly since children need to continue the habit of reading in order to maintain their reading level the following school year. Here are some other ways to make reading appealing.

1. Provide a way for kids to share their reading: with book clubs, online discussion, index card "testimonials," reading buddies, chats with librarians and reading program volunteers, surveys.
2. Encourage kids to keep reading journals. The American Girls Collection sells such products; libraries can create their own forms.
3. Publicize mass media reading promotion efforts: *L. A. Times* reading page, KPCC's Air Book Club, TV's *Read Between the Lions* and other book shows.
4. Develop eye-catching book displays and booklists.
5. Work with daycare centers and senior centers to foster reading pals.

6. Write columns in local newspapers about reading.
7. Speak to community groups (e.g., Rotary Club, PTAs) about getting involved in children's reading.
8. See if local fast food centers, bookstores, and video stores will donate premiums for reading accomplishments.
9. Sponsor babysitting training that incorporates reading.
10. Link reading promotion sites on the library portal, preferably on Kids Only and Teen Read pages:

- Kidspace @Internet Public Library: <http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/browse/rzn0000/>
- Youth Recommended Reading Lists: http://www.st-charles.lib.il.us/youth_services/yrl/ythread.htm
- Reading Suggestions and Websites: http://www.lili.org/marshall/yd_read.html
- Canton Public Library (including ebooks): <http://www.cantonpl.org/kids/reading.html>
- International Children's Digital Library: <http://www.icdlbooks.org/>

Boys need special support in reading promotion. Here are some pointers to reach them:

- Show them Jon Scieszka's web site: <http://www.guysread.com/>
- Push non-fiction books, how-to books, graphic novels, magazines.
- Link technology and reading.
- Link movies/videos and reading.
- Establish guys only book clubs (maybe call it "check it out!")
- Have boys create web pages or reading blogs.
- Connect dads and sons.
- Give boys choices – and have them suggest good reads.

Briefings Contributors Needed!

All members are welcome to contribute to "Briefings." Just email co-editor Penny Peck at Pikly@aol.com two weeks **before** the first of February, May, August, and November. Also, thanks to assistant editor Marion Scichilone.



Meet the Author

Aaron Shepard is a well-known author of folktale adaptations, including Master Man: A Tall Tale Of Nigeria and The Legend of Slappy Hooper. He also has a new book of Readers' Theatre scripts. We recently talked to Mr. Shepard by email:

You have a new collection of Readers' Theatre scripts, *Folktales on Stage* (Shepard Publications, 2004, \$15, ISBN 0-938497-20-0), published in February. What have you included? Is there a "theme" or common thread running through these tales?

It has scripts of 16 of my own folktale retellings, mostly from my published picture books plus stories of mine in *Cricket* and other magazines. There are certainly a number of themes that run through my work, so you'll find them here: peace, generosity, strong women, tricksters, tall tales. I've also tried to balance the selection geographically, though I have definite leanings toward Asia, Scandinavia, and the Middle East.

Did you envision this collection for teachers and librarians? Or another audience?

All my reader's theater work is aimed primarily at teachers and librarians, as a way to get my stories to young people. Luckily, this dovetails with the goals of the teachers and librarians, since reader's theater is probably the most effective way to excite students about reading and literature.

Is your first collection, *Stories on Stage*, still available/in print? Where can people get either or both collections?

Folktales on Stage is available through both Ingram and Baker & Taylor. Or if you need it in a hurry, it's usually in stock at Amazon, and available within a few days from BN.com.

Stories on Stage—with scripts I adapted from works by Louis Sachar, Roald Dahl, Nancy Farmer, and many others—recently went out of print at H. W. Wilson. But I've obtained rights to reprint most of the original scripts, so there will be a second and much cheaper edition by late 2005. For notification, you can sign up for my email bulletin on my Web site.

And by the way, I'm just now finishing up a new reader's theater book, *Readers on Stage*. This one is made up of detailed tips, scripting worksheets, and other tools for bringing reader's theater right into the classroom or library. It will be available in paperback by September 2004, from the same places as *Folktales on Stage*.

When you visit schools to do author assemblies, do you often have students join in a Readers' Theatre staging of one of your scripts?

Not unless I get a special request. The truth is, I love reading my own stories so much, I'm loath to give up that part of my program for a different activity.

Also, my feeling is that many kids don't enjoy reading because they don't know how to draw feeling from the printed word. If you listen to them read, it's all deadpan, a monotone. And often the teachers aren't much better. So, part of my mission when I'm in front of kids is to "unlock" the printed page for them, to show them its potential. I want them to say, "Hey, I didn't know reading could be like that!" and then go try it themselves.

How many schools do you visit each month?

None at the moment. That pretty much dried up for me when I moved from northern California to the Los Angeles area, and especially after I stopped driving. But I don't mind, since I'm buried in work at home, and I reach many times more people through my Web site than I ever could through visits.

How can librarians or schools contact you for a school or library visit?

They can always contact me through my Web site at www.aaronshp.com. That's also where they'll find full information on my visits. But they might have to sweet-talk me to lure me out my door!

Do you have any new illustrated folktales coming out this year? What can we look forward to?

Possibly my best retelling ever will be out from Atheneum in August 2004: *King o' the Cats*. In its traditional form, this British tale is only a page or two long—a single scene—but in the first two-thirds of my book, I present an elaborate “prequel” of my own invention. By the way, the book is illustrated by a brilliant new artist, Kristin Sorra. I'll be posting a reader's theater script, printable color posters, and other extras on my Web site in time for the publication.

You have adapted folktales from a wide variety of cultures. Have you been able to travel to some of the countries to do your research?

Not for specific stories. But before I became a children's author, I spent some time in India—one of my favorite folktale settings. And it was while visiting Taiwan for a conference that I came across the ancient tale and Chinese opera I retold in my book *Lady White Snake*.

Besides the spirited “storytelling” narrative of your folktales, librarians also appreciate your thorough source notes. Are the source notes for teachers or librarians, for younger readers, for both?

Mostly for the grownups, with the idea that important points will trickle down to students. And also partly for me. My memory is so bad, it helps me to write things down in one place so I can refer to them quickly.

When you were a kid, did you have a favorite traditional tale or type of story?

I remember two of my favorite books being big Golden Book collections of *Myths and Legends* and *The Arabian Nights*. On long trips in the car, I used to retell these stories to my younger sister from memory.

Also, I had a record album called “Danny Kaye Tells 6 Stories from Faraway Places,” which I have since discovered was drawn from an excellent Random House folktale anthology bearing his name. I used to play that album daily and pretty much knew the stories word for word. And so did a lot of other people, as I learned after mentioning it on my Web site!

Anything else you would like our readers to know?

Yes! By the time you read this, my Web site will have passed the two-million-visitor mark, getting up to 20,000 visitors a week. If you haven't already visited, please come to www.aaronshp.com. You'll find resources for reader's theater, storytelling, folktale study, and more—including about 35 free, printable reader's theater scripts. And if you sign up for my email bulletin, I'll let you know when I add more. Please stop by!

Thanks so much!

Penny Peck,
San Leandro Public Library

Bay Area Storytelling Festival May 22 & 23
The 19th Annual Bay Area Storytelling Festival will be held May 22 and 23, 2004, at Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area in El Sobrante. The two-day event will host storytellers from around the United States and from diverse backgrounds. The festival is sponsored by the Storytelling Association of Alta California.

Scheduled to perform are Milbre Burch of Missouri, who performs both folktales and autobiographical stories, Vicki Juditz of Burbank who performs stories reflecting her urban life, Michael Parent of Maine who celebrates the Franco-American experience, Tim Tingle of Texas, who honors his Choctaw roots, and Gladys Coggsell of Missouri who will bring many of the call and response stories learned from her great-grandmother.

There will also be a showcase of California tellers called “California Gold,” featuring Clara Yen, Marilyn McPhie, and Tim Ereneta. There will also be two special workshops: Vicki Juditz will teach personal storytelling, and Michael Parent will teach a participatory workshop on how to get students to tell stories.

For all the registration information and fee schedule, go to www.bayareastorytelling.org or call (650) 952-3397.

Summer Reading Program Collaborative in California

California discovers new trails by joining 27 other States in the National Collaborative Summer Reading Program!

When Lewis and Clark launched the Corps of Discovery on to the trail west they took with them a knowledgeable guide and everything they could possibly need on their journey.

This year, many public and school libraries, The California Center for the Book, Huell Howser, Sunset Magazine, lii.org, and others have begun a journey of discovery guided by a 500 page manual and graphics CD, provisioned with the work of famed artist Mark Buehner and packed with everything needed (including Spanish materials and resources!) on the march to the "Discover New Trails" summer reading program.

Now is the time to plan your expedition to next year's summer reading program "Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds @ Your Library."

The journey begins at the California Summer Reading Program Collaborative Web site at <http://www.casummerreading.org>.

So lace up your boots, throw your pack over your shoulder (with the manual graphics CD inside) and hit the trail to a successful, fun and value-packed summer reading adventure for your library patrons.

The 2005 Manual/Graphics CD, Teen Manual, full color Product Brochures featuring 50 plus promotional materials and incentives will ship this August 2004.

Stephanie Stokes, Coordinator
California Summer Reading Program
Collaborative [CA-SRPC]
URL: <http://www.casummerreading.org>

Children's Literature Association comes to Fresno

The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature at California State University, Fresno, will host the 31st annual conference of the Children's Literature Association from June 10-12, 2004, on the Fresno State campus. The conference theme is "Dreams and Visions." About 200 people will travel to Fresno for this conference and local people are also invited. Optional university

credit will be available. For information about the Children's Literature Association, see its Web site at www.childlitassn.org. Information about the conference may be seen at the Arne Nixon Center's Web site at www.arnenixoncenter.org. Registration forms are available now.

Conference speakers will include Richard Peck, winner of the Newbery medal for *A Year Down Yonder*; Pam Muñoz Ryan, winner of the Pura Belpré Award for her novel *Esperanza Rising*; and British author Berlie Doherty, whose novel *White Peak Farm* will win the 2004 Phoenix award at the conference banquet. The Phoenix Award is given twenty years after publication to the author of a book for children published originally in English that did not win a major award when it first appeared. *White Peak Farm* has recently been republished in England as *Jeannie of White Peak Farm*.

Michael Cart, librarian, writer, lecturer, consultant, critic, and national expert in children's and young adult literature, will deliver the Francelia Butler Plenary Lecture. The invitation to give this lecture is issued annually to a prominent literary critic who specializes in children's literature. The lecture is named in honor of one of the founders of the Children's Literature Association. Cart's latest book is *Necessary Noise: Stories about Our Families as They Really Are*.

Conference plans include a sunset party in a beautiful garden overlooking the vineyards and orchards of the San Joaquin Valley, a presentation on Finnish children's literature in honor of Arne Nixon's heritage, a display of Finnish books, an exhibition of collector Pamela Harer's *Picture Books from Between the Wars*, a reception sponsored by ANCA (the Arne Nixon Center Advocates), and an Oz panel discussion. Full conference and one-day registrations will be offered and banquet tickets will be available separately if space allows. Optional university credit is available.

The Piccadilly Inn-University, just across the street from the campus, will be the site of some conference meetings. The hotel will offer a special rate to conference attendees of about \$85, single or double. For reservations, call (559) 224-4200. Early reservations are essential. A limited number of dormitory rooms are also available on campus for \$30 per night for a single room or \$20 per person per night in a double room.

For more information, contact the Arne Nixon Center by E-mail at anc@listserv.csufresno.edu or call (559) 278-8116.

Books Change Lives Award to Munoz Ryan

The California Center for the Book will present the first ever *Books Change Lives* award to an author whose work has inspired young readers to change their way of viewing the world and themselves.

The inaugural winner is Pam Muñoz Ryan, author of over twenty-five books for young people. These include the acclaimed novel *Esperanza Rising*, which is the recipient of several prizes and has been an ALA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults. The California Center for the Book picked Ms. Ryan to receive the award because her work has inspired so many young readers. Dr Natalie Cole, director of the California Center for the Book, said: "We wanted to honor a writer whose books have changed the way a child or teen views the world and themselves. The letters we have received from young people about Pam's books tell us that her work does just that. We are delighted that she is the first recipient of the *Books Change Lives* award."

Ms Ryan will be presented with the award at a celebration of books, reading and libraries at the Sacramento Galleria on May 20.

At the same event, the California Center for the Book will also honor young winners of *Letters About Literature*, its statewide letter writing competition for students in grades 4-12.

The winners of this year's *Letters About Literature* contest are: Alexandra Dwight, from Palo Alto (Level 1/Grades 4-6); Alex Bland, from Windsor (Level 2/Grades 7-8); and Altaf Saadi, from Irvine (Level 3/Grades 9-12).

This year over 6,000 students in 51 California counties took part in *Letters About Literature*. The contest invites students to write a letter to an author, living or dead, explaining how this author's book inspired them.

"Pam's writing, and *Esperanza Rising* in particular, has inspired many students to take part in *Letters about Literature*," said Dr Cole.

For further information about the *Books Change Lives Award*, or the *Letters About Literature* program, please visit www.calbook.com or call the California Center for the Book on (310) 206-9361.

The California Center for the Book is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Ezra Jack Keats Awards Announced

The New York Public Library and the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation are very pleased to announce that Gabi Swiatkowska is the winner of the 2004 Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Award for *My Name is Yoon* (written by Helen Recorvits and published by Frances Foster Books, Farrar, Straus and Giroux), and Jeron Ashford Frame has won the 2004 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award for *Yesterday I Had the Blues* (illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and published by Tricycle Press).

The awards will be presented on Thursday, April 29th, at 5:00pm, at a ceremony and reception open to the public in the Central Children's Room of the Donnell Library Center, 20 West 53rd Street, just west of Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Join us to meet and honor these talented newcomers to the world of children's picture books. Call (212) 340-0906 for reservations.

The awards recognize and celebrate new children's book authors and illustrators, in an effort to encourage talented artists and writers to address their efforts to books for children in the spirit and tradition of Ezra Jack Keats. The selection jury for the awards, chaired by Rita Auerbach, included author Cari Best; Karen Breen, Juvenile Book Review Editor for Kirkus Review; Sandra Kennedy Bright, Director, School Library Services, New York City Department of Education; author/illustrator Put Cummings; author/illustrator Brian Pinkney; Judith Rovenger, Youth Services Consultant for the Westchester Library System; scholar and author Leonard Marcus; and author/illustrator Paul Zelinsky. Margaret Tice, Coordinator of Children's Services, New York Public Library, is administrator of the awards.

Persian New Year book by San Jose Librarian

Jalali Yassaman has written a new children's book, *Celebrating Norouz – Persian New Year*, Saman Publishing, 2003, ISBN 0-9728020-0-2. With illustrations by Marjan Zamanian, it is a colorful book for primary graders on the Persian New Year. The book includes craft ideas. Yassaman is a librarian at the San Jose Public Library.

The 55th Annual Christopher Awards Announced

The 55th Annual Christopher Awards were presented in New York City on February 26th, 2004. First presented in 1949, the Christopher Awards salute media that remind audiences and readers, of all ages and faiths (and of no particular faith), of their worth, individuality, and power to positively impact and shape our world.

- **Books for Young People**
 - Iqbal (BeeWee 141550105X \$18.98 list, TR 0689854455 \$15.95 list) by Francesco D'Adamo (Ages 10-12)
 - The Silent Boy (BeeWee 1413133045 \$18.98, TR 0618282319 \$15.00 list) by Lois Lowry (Young Adult)
 - Little Bear's Little Boat (BeeWee 1413108903 \$15.98, RF 0395974623 \$12.00 list) by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Preschool)
 - The Dot (BeeWee 1413190731 \$17.98, TR 0763619612 \$14.00 list) written and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds (Ages 6-8)
 - Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez (BeeWee 1415508992 \$19.98, TR 0152014373 \$17.00 list) by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Yuyi Morales (Ages 8-10)

- **Feature Films:**
 - In America (not yet available on DVD or VHS)
 - Seabiscuit (DVD AV00002985 \$26.97 list, VHS AV00013154 \$22.98 list)
 - Secret Lives: Hidden Children & Their Rescuers During WWII (not available on DVD or VHS yet)
 - The Station Agent (not yet available on DVD or VHS)
 - Whale Rider (DVD 1404943722 \$26.95 list, VHS 1404943714 \$14.95 list)

IBBY ANNOUNCES ANDERSEN AWARD

The Andersen Jury of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) announces that Martin Waddell (Ireland) is the winner of the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Author Award and Max Velthuijs (The Netherlands) is the winner of the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration.

The Hans Christian Andersen Awards are the highest international recognition given to creators of children's books. They are presented every two years by IBBY to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important and lasting contribution to children's literature.

In choosing Martin Waddell as the winner of the author award, the jury has paid tribute to the remarkable perception, compassion and warmth of this prolific writer. Waddell writes for young people of all ages with simplicity, empathy and respect: he recognizes and articulates the complexities of ordinary lives and illustrates the need of those lives to be protected and understood.

Max Velthuijs is a brilliant storyteller and artist whose lifetime dedication to children's literature has been recognized by the jury. Velthuijs has proven many times over that he understands children: their doubts, fears and exhilarations. His books are little jewels of image and text that come together to comfort children and reassure them as they venture out into the world around them.

Martin Waddell was selected amongst 26 authors nominated for the award. The other finalists (in alphabetical order) were Barbro Lindgren (Sweden), Bjarne Reuter (Denmark), Joel Rufino dos Santos (Brazil) and Jürg Schubiger (Switzerland).

Max Velthuijs was selected amongst 27 illustrators nominated for the award. The other finalists were (in alphabetical order), Rotraut Susanne Berner (Germany), Roberto Innocenti (Italy), Javier Serrano (Spain), Grégoire Solotareff (France).

Jury President Jeff Garrett (U.S.A.) chaired the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury during its meetings at the IBBY Secretariat in Basel, 6 – 7 April 2004.

New Edition of “Valerie & Walter’s Best Books” Released

Lewis, Valerie V. and Mayes, Walter M. Valerie & Walter’s Best Books For Children: a Lively, Opinionated Guide – Revised and Updated. Quill:HarperResource, 2004. \$17.95. ISBN 0-06-052467-7.

Valerie V. Lewis and Walter M. Mayes have updated their popular book, used by parents and librarians, and selected more than 2,000 wonderful books for children from birth to age 12. Lewis is the co-founder of Hicklebee’s, a children’s bookstore in San Jose, CA. Mayes is known to many as Walter the Giant Storyteller, performing in hundreds of schools and libraries, and is also the librarian at a private middle school in Mountain View, CA. With candor, humor, and enthusiasm, this duo has created an entertaining and useful book, featuring in-depth reviews, concise ratings, tips for finding the perfect book for a child, and “mountains of essential hints and sound advice to help you pass along the gift of reading to the next generation.” This fully revised and updated edition includes:

- Reviews of the best new books for children
- More of Valerie and Walter's patented back-and-forth dialogue
- Handy cross-references by theme and interest
- And much, much more

Arranged into chapters by age groups, the book has a really useful index so you can find books by subject and genre. My favorite parts of the book are the small cartoon drawings of Valerie and Walter that appear next to special quotations on the topic at hand – many times this occurs when the two disagree, almost like the friendly rival movie reviewers we see on television.

Although both are Californians, I wouldn’t say there is a particular West Coast slant to their choices, although they include books on Gay and Lesbian topics and more multicultural books than I have seen in other collections aimed at parents. It is especially comforting to see Walter’s caricature reminding the reader to go to the library, “Uh, have I mentioned that libraries are free?” on many occasions in the book.

People who substitute at the children’s desk or work at a branch library will find this book especially useful; a one volume guide to readers’ advisory that is always handy when the children’s librarian is on vacation. You can look up a child’s favorite book, like Harry Potter, and find lots of suggestions for other books that will appeal to the same audience. There’s a nice mix of old favorites and newer titles, and books for babies as well as young teen readers.

Penny Peck,
San Leandro PL

Summer Reading Program 2005

Great news! MCLS has been asked by the California State Library to submit an LSTA application for a Statewide Summer Reading Program for Summer 2005. This grant will cover the cost of graphics for children and young adults, and provide some support for printed materials so that they may be made available to library programs throughout the State at a reasonable price.

In two of the last four years the children's and young adult graphics and materials have each won the CLA PR*excellence* award. Last year the award letter stated: "The judges consider your entry a model that other libraries should see and emulate." For 2005 Children and Young Adult Services Librarians from throughout Southern California have chosen the theme of Super Heroes and are designing children's graphics for *Super Readers = Super Heroes* and YA graphics for *Unleash Your Power . . . READ*.

Since 1994, libraries throughout Southern California have collaborated together to create themes and materials for Library Summer Reading Programs for children and young adults. This collaborative effort of four cooperative library systems under the administrative umbrella of MCLS has allowed libraries to maximize their purchasing power and to obtain high quality graphics and materials while retaining the flexibility to tailor the content of their individual programs to meet the needs of the local library patrons. Extended cooperation of libraries throughout the State under this grant will benefit all participating libraries in developing quality programs at a minimum cost.



BRIEFINGS

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