

Illinois



Language and Literacy Council

“Proud Sponsor of the Young Authors’ Conference”

Newsletter

Spring, 2016

President’s Letter

On an extremely windy Saturday,

Not so long ago,

In a county far, far away from the big cities,

A celebration was held...

A celebration of Illinois authors and illustrators.

Brown County and the city of Mt. Sterling hosted the launch for Illinois Reads 2016 campaign. Sixteen of the current Illinois Reads authors attended in person, and two others attended via Skype. We also had four local area authors attend to share their works. We had over 300 members of the extended communities in attendance, including students who traveled almost two hours (each way) on schools buses to attend. The day was filled with celebrity appearances, published author appearances and student author appearances. We heard from four students from second grade to high school who shared their essays about why they like to read and from authors about their ideas and their writing and publishing processes. There were books to be purchased and autographed, caricatures to be drawn, and friends and memories to be made and shared. It was a wonderful day!

On a Saturday in the near future,

In a bigger city

A celebration will be held...

A celebration of young authors who just might be famous someday.

It will soon be time for the 42nd annual Illinois Young Authors’ Conference. We’ll celebrate these new authors and illustrators, we’ll visit with some published authors and illustrators and we’ll make new friends and memories. We hope to see you there!

Leslie Forsman, ILLC President

Join us for the 24th Annual Young Authors' Conference May 14th - Illinois State University

Thank you to all our volunteers. We couldn't have the conference without the many people who act as group leaders and assistants, author escorts, site coordinators, and who fill many other roles.

A special invitation is extended to all of our volunteers to attend a Wine/Cheese reception and Guest Author Panel on Friday evening, May 13th from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the bookstore in the Bone Center.

Early Check in for volunteers begins at 7:00 p.m.



In Memoriam - Dr. Jane Davidson Founder of Young Authors' Conference

Those of us who know Jane Davidson, former professor at Northern Illinois University, remember her as an advocate of best practice learning by the "whole language" approach. She started what we value today as the "Young Authors' Conference" by inviting a few children to gather together in DeKalb, meeting an author of children's literature, and sharing their own writing. This grew through the years until at one point there were over a thousand students coming to the conference.

Jane was instrumental in the formation of the "Language Experience" group. She saw many NIU students through their advanced degrees calling us her "Soaring Eagles." Jane will be missed, but her influence on our dedication to good literacy instruction lives on.

Jane passed away this winter after a courageous battle with lung cancer. A memorial will be held July 16 at the Douglas Winery in Onkama, Michigan.

By Doris Aimers-Voss

**GUEST AUTHORS/
STORYTELLERS**

**42nd ANNUAL YOUNG AUTHORS'
CONFERENCE
MAY 14, 2016**

Grades K-2

Jennifer Ward is an Illinois author with over twenty books published for children, including the 2016 Illinois Reads selection, *Mama Built a Little Nest*, illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Steve Jenkins. Her books have been translated into many languages and have been featured on national television, NPR, and in many publications.

Jennifer spent her childhood exploring the wild woods and prairies of Southern Illinois and spent her adult life tiptoeing over tarantulas and rattlesnakes in Southern Arizona. She now resides once again in IL where she writes full-time from her home.

Forthcoming books by Jennifer include *Feathers and Hair, What Animals Wear*, illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong, (Simon & Schuster), *What Will Grow? Seeds!*, illustrated by Susie Ghahremani, (Bloomsbury), *How to Find a Bird*, (Simon & Schuster), and *Wild About Birds! 52 Art, Science & Journaling Activities for Families Who Love Feathered Friends*.

Visit her website to learn more!
jenniferwardbooks.com

Lori Degman is the award-winning author of two rhyming picture books, 1

Zany Zoo (Simon & Schuster, 2010), which won the Cheerios New Author Contest and *Cock-a-Doodle Oops!* (Creston Books, 2014), which was a 2015 International Literacy Association Honor Book. Her first picture book in prose, *Norbert's Big Dream* (Sleeping Bear Press) will be published August 1, 2016. She is a teacher of Deaf & Hard of Hearing students and lives in a northern suburb of Chicago.

Grades 3-4

Patricia Hruby Powell danced throughout the Americas and Europe with her dance company, *One Plus One*, before becoming a writer of children's books. She has marveled at the spirit, courage, and beauty of Josephine Baker for a long time. While visiting schools as a storyteller/ author and working as a librarian, she realized what a great role model Josephine Baker could be to young people. Her picture book *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* has garnered various Honors including the Robert F. Sibert, Coretta Scott King (for Illustration), Boston Globe Horn Book for Nonfiction, Bologna Ragazzi Nonfiction; and Parent's Choice Gold for Poetry. Her other picture books are *Blossom Tales*, *Zinnia*, and *Frog Brings Rain*. Her documentary novel *Loving vs. Virginia* (Chronicle 2017) for young adults is a Junior Library Guild Selection for 2017 and her middle grade nonfiction *Struttin' With Some Barbecue* (Charlesbridge) is forthcoming in 2017. She feels honored to be the 2016 Nonfiction Mentor for We Need Diverse Books as well the 2016 SCBWI-Michigan

Grades 5-6

Writing Mentor. You can visit Patricia online at talesforallages.com.

Jennifer Allison's illustrated novel *IGGY LOOMIS: SUPERKID IN TRAINING* has been selected by the Illinois Reading Council for the 2015 Illinois state reading list. The *Iggy Loomis* books are fast-paced, humorous adventures that focus on sibling rivalry and how to handle an "annoying" little brother with superpowers. Ms. Allison is best known for her five *Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator* mysteries for middle-grade readers, which have received numerous starred reviews and an Edgar Award nomination from Mystery Writers of America. A former news reporter and high school English teacher, Jennifer Allison teaches writing workshops at K-12 schools throughout the country. She currently resides in Chicago, IL with her husband and three children. Contact Jennifer at www.iggyloomis.com or www.gildajoyce.com.

Nancy J. Cavanaugh is the award-winning author of *This Journal Belongs to Ratchet* and *Always, Abigail*. She has been an elementary and middle school teacher, as well as a school library media specialist. Her latest middle grade novel, *Just Like Me*, is a funny, uplifting summer camp story about unlikely friendships and finding your place in the world. She and her husband and daughter enjoy winters in sunny Florida and eat pizza in Chicago the rest of the year.

A former newspaper journalist, **Kate Hannigan** writes fiction and non-fiction for young readers. Her historical fiction *The Detective's Assistant* earned starred reviews and was named to Booklist and Chicago Public Library's "Best of 2015" lists, as well as an Amelia Bloomer Project pick for 2015. Her early middle-grade series with Disney-Hyperion, *Cupcake Cousins*, continues this fall with Book 3 publishing in September. Kate has found her passion in researching about women forgotten by the history books, and she will have two new picture book biographies publishing in the coming years with Calkins Creek. When she's not writing, Kate can be found taking long walks with a nervous Australian shepherd in her neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. Visit her online at KateHannigan.com.

Andrew Brumbach grew up square in the hippie community of Eugene, Oregon, surrounded by artists and musicians and storytellers. He studied art in Texas, traded bond options in Chicago, and spent a few years lost in the neon neighborhoods of Tokyo. Somewhere along the way, he married the girl of his dreams and had four practically perfect kids, but he never overcame his weakness for the power and transport of story. Now he lives in suburban Illinois but secretly daydreams about chasing bandits across the desert with Lawrence of Arabia and Gertrude Bell under cloudless, starry skies. *The Eye of Midnight* is his first novel.

Ted Sanders is the author of *The Keepers*, a middle grade fantasy series from HarperCollins Children's Books. The second novel, *The Harp and the Ravenvine*, debuts in March 2016. His first book was the short story collection *No Animals We Could Name* (Graywolf 2012), winner of the 2011 Bakeless Prize for Fiction. His stories and essays have appeared in many publications, including *The Southern Review*, *Georgia Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, and the *O. Henry Prize Stories* Anthology. A recipient of a 2012 National Endowment for the Arts literature fellowship, he lives with his family in Urbana, Illinois and teaches at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Visit him online at www.tedsanders.net to learn more about The Keepers.

Grades 7-8

Brianna DuMont is author of the Changed History series, which makes history come alive by exposing its murky underbelly. The first book in the series, *Famous Phonies: Legends, Fakes and Frauds Who Changed History*, includes gems about "I-must-not-tell-a-lie" George Washington and school-less Shakespeare. Starting in June 2017, her National Geographic spin-off series *Weird But True: Extra Credit* will debut with U.S. Presidents. When she's not writing quirky books, Brianna travels the world in search of great museums and historical sites. When she's at home, she is a full-time writer and researcher who is quickly becoming best friends with her local

librarian. She and her family live in Chicago, Illinois.

Peter Kujawinski is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Nightfall*, a young adult thriller published in 2015 by Putnam/Penguin. Previous books, also with co-author Jake Halpern, include *Shadow Tree* (2013), *World's End* (2012) and *Dormia* (2010). In addition, Peter writes nonfiction – most recently, his piece on a road being built in Canada's Arctic was the lead travel article in the Sunday, February 14 edition of the *New York Times*. Previously, Peter was an American diplomat, on assignment in places like Israel, Haiti, France, and the United Nations in New York. From 2012-2015, he was the U.S. Consul General in western Canada, based in Calgary. Peter now lives in Chicago with his family.



Storytellers and Parent Speaker

Chris Fascione performs his fun, participatory show, “Bringing Literature to Life,” in which he acts out library books, for school assemblies, Reading Knights, libraries and other family venues annually. Chris is a “Storytelling World” award winner, has been featured through “Reading is Fundamental” and highlighted at the Connecticut and Illinois Storytelling Festivals. As a professional storyteller/actor, Chris incorporates his acting, mime, juggling, and comedic skills to both entertain and lead children into the world of books, promoting literacy and a love of reading.

www.ChrisFascione.com

Jeff Miller is a tall drink of water from Kent, Ohio. He is a big fan of snow, camping, taking steps two at a time, and LeBron James—but he likes writing books best. He lives and performs in Chicago, where he tells stories about working at summer camps, building houses in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and drinking far too much lake water as a child. Visit him at

www.jeffmillerbooks.com.

Parent Speaker

Janet Nolan is the author of fiction, non-fiction, and historical fiction picture books. *Her titles include: Seven and a Half Tons of Steel (Fall, 2016), PB&J Hooray! Your Sandwich’s Amazing Journey from Farm to Table, The Firehouse Light, A Father’s Day Thank You, and The St. Patrick’s Day Shillelagh.*

Janet’s engaging and interactive school

workshops and presentations include: Packing a Writer’s Toolbox, Growing a Book – From Idea to Publication and Non-Fiction Fun! Janet would love to come to your school and talk about her favorite subject, writing! You can learn more about Janet at her website:

www.janetnolan.com.



Photos are from previous Young Authors’ Conferences

Keep the Illinois Young Authors' Conference Going!!

Like many organizations in the state of Illinois, the Illinois Young Authors' Conference lost state funding several years ago. The Illinois Language and Literacy Council has been able to continue sponsoring the Conference due to the financial reserves we had built over the years, but that is rapidly coming to an end and without further outside funding sources, this could be the last year for the Illinois Young Authors' Conference.

How can you help? First of all, you can make a donation yourself to the Conference by submitting the form below with your check. Your donation will be tax deductible and with the end of the tax year approaching, this could be doubly advantageous! Secondly, you can get the word out to your community, your PTAs, and any corporations, businesses or organizations that you know of that would be interested in supporting our Conference. Ideally, we would love to partner with a corporation, business, or organization for ongoing sponsorship. Their name would be featured prominently in everything related to the Young Authors' Conference. For further information about sponsorship for the Conference, please contact Dr. Sue Anderson at anderbrose@aol.com.

**ILLINOIS YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE
DONATION/SPONSORSHIP FORM**

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I would like to sponsor the Illinois Young Authors' Conference in the amount of

_____.

_____ **Enclosed is my check made payable to the Illinois Language and Literacy Council (ILLC).**

_____ **I am interested in being contacted about ongoing sponsorship, please contact me.**

**Mail to: Dr. Sue Anderson
537 South Oak Avenue
Westmont, IL 60559**

The Squirrel's Nest Party

One morning, Emery saw three squirrels building a nest.

We named one Hoppy because she hops a lot. Hoppy hops a lot. She hops from branch to branch. Hoppy goes round and round and gathers sticks for her nest. She hops off branches with her sticks to make her nest.

We named one Joanna because she does a lot of things just because. Joanna helps Hoppy build her nest. She gathers sticks and she runs from branch to branch helping Hoppy make her nest. She helps Lazy get back to the tree, not to be lazy and do his work.

We named one Lazy because he lays around and doesn't build a nest. Lazy is really tired. He lays in the sun instead of helping. Lazy doesn't like to build the nest. Lazy also ran into a big tree somewhere. So Joanna, helped him get back to the tree.

The tree had two nests in it and Hoppy was still working on the nest.

The next morning, Lazy & Hoppy & Joanna went back to work and Lazy did the same thing over again.

They were building two nests. One for Joanna & Lazy and one for Hoppy. So they were building their nests big. We think that they are their homes. Hoppy helped Joanna and Joanna helped Hoppy.

Hoppy liked helping Joanna and Joanna liked helping Hoppy. I like the way they were so friendly to each other. The way that they played was so funny.

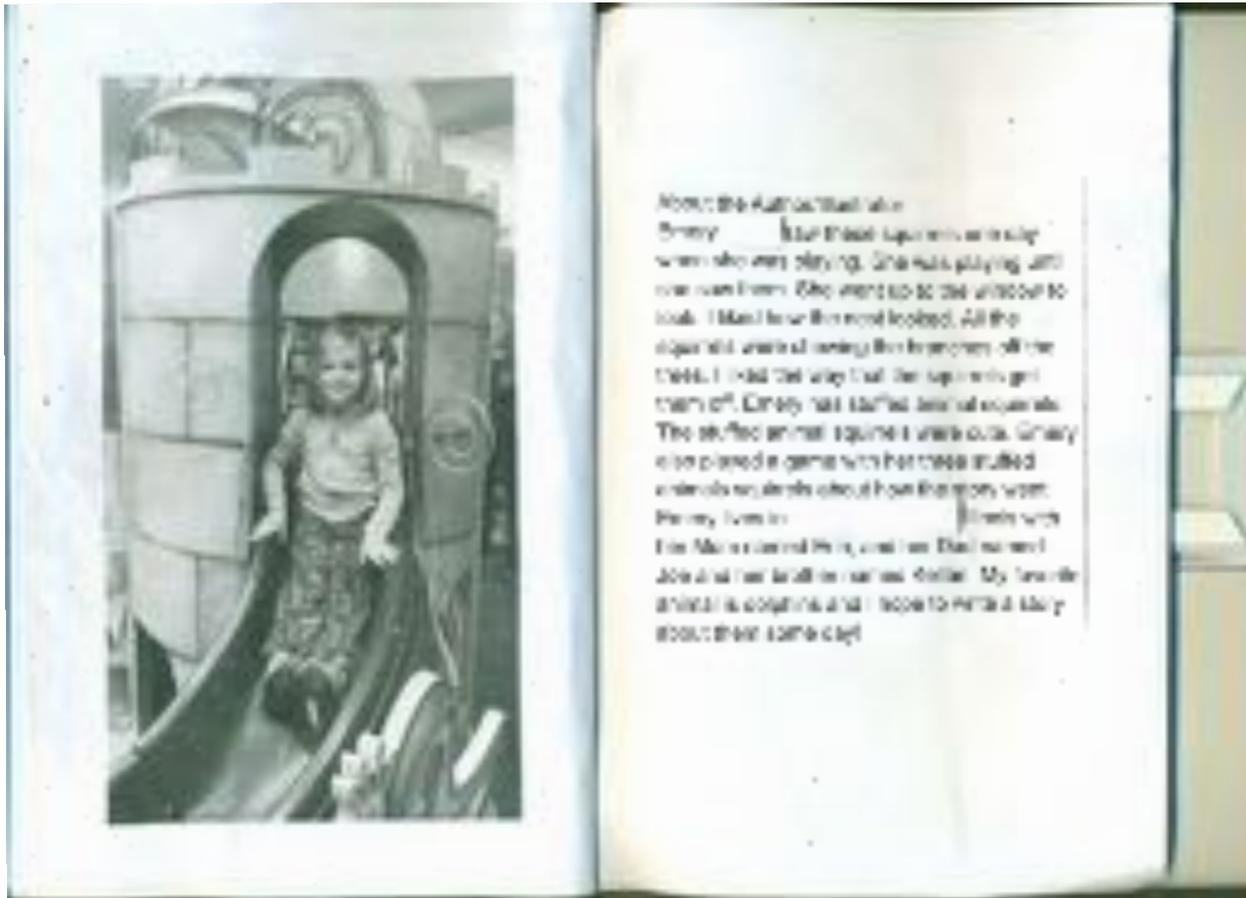
Hoppy was the best one. I thought that maybe Hoppy was the best builder. And she was the master nest builder and helped her friends. The End



About the Author/Illustrator

Emery saw these squirrels one day when she was playing. She was playing until she saw them. She went up to the window to look. I liked how the nest looked. All the squirrels were chewing the branches off the trees. I liked the way that the squirrels get them off. Emery has stuffed animal squirrels. The stuffed animal squirrels were cute. Emery also played a game with her three stuffed animals squirrels about how the story went.

Emery lives in Illinois with her Mom named Erin, and her Dad named Joe and her brother named Kellan. My favorite animal is dolphins and I hope to write a story about them some day!



2016 USBBY OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL BOOKS

December 2015

GRADES	AUTHOR	TITLE	ILLUSTRATOR	PUBLISHER	ORIGIN
Grades PreK-2					
PreK-2	Daly, Niki	<i>Thank You, Jackson: How one little boy makes a BIG difference</i>	Jude Daly	Quarto/Frances Lincoln	UK
PreK-2	De Kinder, Jan	<i>Red</i>		Eerdmans	Belgium
PreK-2	Deacon, Alexis	<i>I Am Henry Finch</i>	Viviane Schwartz	Candlewick	UK
PreK-2	Dubuc, Marianne	<i>The Bus Ride</i>		Kids Can	Canada
PreK-2	Dumont, Jean-François	<i>I Am a Bear</i>		Eerdmans	France
PreK-2	Elschner, Géraldine	<i>Like a Wolf</i>	Antoine Guilloppé	minedition	Hong Kong
PreK-2	Kobald, Irena	<i>My Two Blankets</i>	Freya Blackwood	Houghton Mifflin	Australia
PreK-2	Lawson, JonArno	<i>Sidewalk Flowers</i>	Sydney Smith	Groundwood	Canada
PreK-2	Lee, JiHyeon	<i>Pool</i>		Chronicle	Korea
PreK-2	Meschenmoser, Sebastian	<i>Mr. Squirrel and the Moon</i>		NorthSouth	Germany
PreK-2	Oral, Feridun	<i>The Red Apple</i>		minedition	Hong Kong
PreK-2	Roberton, Fiona	<i>A Tale of Two Beasts</i>		Kane Miller	UK
PreK-2	Steven, Kenneth	<i>Why Dogs Have Wet Noses</i>	Øyvind Torseter	Enchanted Lion	Norway
Grades 3-5					
3-5	Amnesty International UK: individual authors as named	<i>Dreams of Freedom in Words and Pictures</i>	Various artists	Quarto/Frances Lincoln	UK
3-5	Barman, Adrienne	<i>Creaturepedia: Welcome to the Greatest Show on Earth</i>		Quarto/Wide Eyed Editions	Switzerland
3-5	Buitrago, Jairo	<i>Two White Rabbits</i>	Rafael Yockteng	Groundwood	Canada/set in Mexico
3-5	Chanchani, Vishakha	<i>The House That Sonabai Built</i>	Stephen P. Huyler	Tulika	India
3-5	Foreman, Michael	<i>The Tortoise and the Soldier: The Story of Courage and Friendship in WWI</i>		Macmillan/Henry Holt	UK
3-5	Isabella, Jude	<i>The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle</i>	Simone Shin	Kids Can	Canada
3-5	Niimi, Nankichi	<i>Gon, The Little Fox</i>	Genjiro Mita	Museyon	Japan
3-5	Parr, Maria	<i>Adventures with Waffles</i>	Kate Forrester	Candlewick	Norway
3-5	Prévo, Franck	<i>Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees</i>	Aurélia Fronty	Charlesbridge	France/set in Kenya

Grades 6-8					
6-8	Agard, John	<i>BOOK: My Autobiography</i>	Neil Packer	Candlewick	UK
6-8	Almond, David et. al.	<i>The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War</i>	Jim Kay	Candlewick	UK
6-8	Cohen-Janca, Irène	<i>Mister Doctor: Janusz Korczak & the Orphans of the Warsaw Ghetto</i>	Maurizio A.C. Quarello	Annick	Italy/set in Poland
6-8	Crossan, Sarah	<i>Apple and Rain: A Story to Fix a Broken Heart</i>		Bloomsbury	UK
6-8	Kreller, Susan	<i>You Can't See the Elephants</i>		Penguin Group/Putnam	Germany/set in US
6-8	Lewis, Gill	<i>Moon Bear</i>	Alessandro Gottardo	Simon & Schuster/Atheneum	UK/set in Laos
6-8	Mahé, Vincent	<i>750 Years in Paris</i>		Nobrow	UK/set in France
6-8	Morpurgo, Michael	<i>Half a Man</i>	Gemma O'Callaghan	Candlewick	UK
6-8	Nielsen, Susin	<i>We Are All Made of Molecules</i>		Tundra	Canada
6-8	Powers, J.L.	<i>Amina (Through My Eyes series)</i>		Allen & Unwin (distributed by IPG)	Australia/set in Somalia
6-8	Smith, Dan	<i>My Brother's Secret</i>		Scholastic/Chicken House	UK/set in Germany
6-8	Thor, Annika	<i>Deep Sea</i>		Random	Sweden
6-8	Tolstikova, Dasha	<i>A Year without Mom</i>		Groundwood	Canada
Grades 9-12					
9-12	Arnaktauyok, Germaine and Gyu Oh	<i>My Name is Arnaktauyok: The Life and Art of Germaine Arnaktauyok</i>	Germaine Arnaktauyok	Inhabit Media	Canada
9-12	Benwell, Sarah	<i>The Last Leaves Falling</i>		Simon & Schuster	UK/set in Japan
9-12	de Heer, Margreet	<i>Religion: A Discovery in Comics</i>		NBM	Netherlands
9-12	Dragt, Tonke	<i>The Letter for a King</i>		Scholastic/David	Netherlands
9-12	LaBoucane-Benson, Patti	<i>The Outside Circle: A Graphic Novel</i>	Kelly Mellings	House of Anansi	Canada
9-12	McKay, Sharon E.	<i>Prison Boy</i>		Annick/Firefly	Canada
9-12	Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk	<i>Dance of the Banished</i>		Pajama	Canada/set in Turkey and Canada



Announcing the 2015 Middle East Book Awards

A thousand year old eco-fable, a story of migration from Oman, and realities faced by children growing up in war zones all are found in the 2015 Middle East Book Awards recipients. Many books recognized in this year's awards focus on serious and complicated issues in ways appropriate for K-12 students. The Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC) made 10 awards and honorable mentions in Picture Book, Youth Literature, and Youth Non-Fiction categories. Winners were announced at the MEOC annual meeting at the Middle East Studies Association Conference held in Denver on November 21, 2015.

Since 2000, the MEOC Middle East Book Awards have recognized exemplary books for children and young adults that contribute meaningfully to an understanding of the Middle East and its component societies and cultures. Books are judged on the authenticity of the portrayal of a Middle Eastern subject, as well as on their characterization, plot, and appeal for the intended audience. For these awards, the "Middle East" is defined as the Arab World, Afghanistan, Iran, Israel, and Turkey.

Nominations for the MEOC Middle East Book Awards are made by educators, publishers, librarians, and the general public. Eligible books for the 2015 awards were published in the period from January 1, 2014—June 1, 2015. The Book Awards Committee is comprised of MEOC members with experience in elementary, secondary, and higher education and Middle East-related outreach.

For more information about the awards or to nominate a book for future consideration, contact Dr. Lisa Adeli, Book Awards Chair, adeli@email.arizona.edu.

For more information about MEOC, contact President Chris Rose, csrose@austin.utexas.edu or go to www.meoc.us.

2015 Middle East Book Award Winners

2015 Middle East Book Award Winners Picture Book Category—Award Winner

When the Animals Saved Earth: An Eco-Fable retold by Alexis York Lumbard, illustrator Demi. Wisdom Tales, 2015.

In the retelling of this timely 1000-year-old fable found in Muslim, Christian, and Jewish traditions, only animals lived on an island in complete harmony. When humans entered the peaceful setting, all changed negatively for the animals and the environment. A wise boy, a talkative lion, and a spirit leader find a peaceful solution to the conflict and endangerment of the animals and natural world. The well-written story will raise many discussion topics for students. Stunning and colorful illustrations by award-winning illustrator Demi will engage and appeal to lower and upper elementary level students, their teachers, and parents.

Picture Book Category—Honorable Mentions

New Month/New Moon by Allison Ofanansky, photographs by Eliyahu Alpern, Kar-Ben Publishing (imprint of Lerner Publishing Group), 2014

Part of a series on Jewish holidays and nature in Israel, *New Month/New Moon* focuses on the *Rosh Chodesh* which celebrates the arrival of each new moon. An Israeli family goes into the desert to learn about introductory level astronomy and the desert environment. Elementary level readers will learn about the movement of the moon and the lunar calendar which is significant to both Jews and Muslims. Young readers will enjoy and learn from photographs of a simple science demonstration, interaction among family members, and animal life. The author also included directions for extended learning in the classroom or at home, words in Hebrew, and background information on *Rosh Chodesh*.

The Olive Tree by Elsa Marston, illustrator Claire Ewart, Wisdom Tales, 2014.

Set in Lebanon, *The Olive Tree* tells the story of Samir and Muna, young neighbors who have disagreement over who has rights to olives from an old tree that grows on one side of a fence but drops olives onto the other side. In this poignant and uplifting story, the children show compassion and broadened understanding in the lovely conclusion. Younger readers will easily relate to the lessons in the story and will enjoy the sensitive and colorful portrayal of the characters and setting by illustrator Claire Ewart. This is the fourth Middle East Book Award or honorable mention for author Elsa Marston with previous awards in the fiction and non-fiction categories.

The Story of Hurry by Emma Williams, illustrated by Ibrahim Quraishi, Seven Stories Press, 2014.

The Story of Hurry presents the perspective of a funny young donkey set against the backdrop of the many challenges and difficulties faced by Gaza Strip residents, especially children. Based on a true story, a creative zookeeper adds joy to children's lives by transforming a donkey into a "zebra". Illustrator Ibrahim Quraishi's compelling mix of photography, painting, and collage images could be used to engage students in discussion of the living conditions presented and consequences of the long-term Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Author Williams provides extensive background information that will be helpful for teachers and parents who share this thought-provoking book with younger readers.

Youth Literature Category—Award Winner

The Turtle of Oman by Naomi Shihab Nye. New York: Greenwillow Books (HarperCollins), 2014.

Simply told yet rich with detail and charm, this novel for intermediate elementary level readers is by the acclaimed poet and National Book Award finalist Naomi Shihab Nye. Young Aref must say good-bye to everything and everyone he loves in Oman as his family prepares to move to the U.S. where his parents will continue their studies. Before departing, Aref joins his beloved grandfather Siddi on many adventures that cover Oman's historical, natural, and cultural heritage. This accessible, exquisite novel shines with gentle humor and explores themes of family, nature, and immigration. The author's warmth and belief in the power of empathy and connection make this an exceptional addition to youth literature.

Youth Literature Category—Honorable Mentions

Like Water on Stone by Dana Walrath. New York: Delacorte Press (imprint of Random House Children's Publishing), 2014.

Written in lyrical free verse that reveals horrific but brief glimpses of the traumatic events of the Armenian genocide of 1915, *Like Water on Stone* is an intense survival story narrated in distinct voices of three siblings and a mythic guardian. This beautiful but also, at times, vividly brutal historical novel brings a tragic period to life for high school readers. A list of characters, a glossary, and author's note with historical context are valuable additions, and the author includes enlightening glimpses into Armenian customs and culture. Young adult readers may require guided support from teachers for greater historical context, and to work through and understand graphic or disturbing scenes.

Rebels by Accident by Patricia Dunn. Sourcebooks, Inc., 2014.

Egyptian-American teenager Mariam resists her protective parents' rules and restrictions and a family heritage that makes her feel like an outsider at school. After pushing the limits, she is sent to Egypt to live with her notoriously strict grandmother. The trip coincides with the events of the Arab Spring, including youth protests in Tahrir Square. Mariam learns about friendship, family, and Arab culture. Key figures in the 2011 uprisings in Egypt are mentioned, making those events tangible and accessible to young readers. It is an engaging, fast-paced book that will provoke discussion of personal growth, protest movements, and differences in fictional and non-fictional depictions of events.

Youth Non-Fiction Category—Award Winner

Children Growing Up with War by Jenny Matthews, Candlewick Press, 2014.

Children Growing Up with War addresses issues and situations of children affected by war in the Middle East region and elsewhere. Matthews, a photojournalist, describes her experiences and reactions to what she has observed of children in conflict areas and addresses the issue of privilege. She presents this timely topic in a respectful way that balances the horrors of war with hope, agency, and a discussion of the Rights of the Child. The book could be used in high school journalism, social studies, and photography classes although the writing style and photographs also make it accessible to younger students if guided by an adult who could help in discussing the difficult issues.

Youth Non-Fiction Honorable Mentions

Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land by Sandy Tolan, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015.

Children of the Stone is the story of Ramzi Aburedwan. Growing up in a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank, Ramzi was the subject of an iconic photograph of a boy throwing a stone at Israeli troops during the intifada. As a teenager, he discovered the power of music, studied at a music conservatory in France, and years later, went on to found a music program to inspire Palestinian young people. The book is well-researched by author Tolan as well as poignant in presenting a story of personal inspiration and commitment. Its focus on music and the experiences of children and youth makes it a story that to which Western young people will relate and find compelling.

Opposing Viewpoints: Egypt, edited by Margaret Haerens, Greenhaven Press (imprint of Cengage), 2015.

Part of the Opposing Viewpoints series, this timely book focuses on Egypt's transformation after the Arab Spring. Short excerpts by prominent Arab and Western Middle East specialists are grouped into sections based on big issues, for example: "What is the Impact of Recent Political and Social Upheaval in Egypt?" and "What Should U.S. Foreign Policy Be?". Provided in addition to an individual viewpoint are the author's credentials, a statement of his/her thesis, and questions to consider while reading. The book encourages critical thinking by high school students as it guides them to a nuanced understanding of complex, contemporary issues.

NEWS from USBBY ABOUT GLOBAL BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS:
The 2016 IBBY Congress in Auckland, New Zealand (August 18-21) is now open for early bird

registration. www.ibbycongress2016.org

USBBY Co-sponsored session at National Council of Teachers of English: Pura Belpre Award-winning author, Meg Medina, will share her insights as a writer and advocate for cultural diversity, intercultural understanding, and youth empowerment. The session is Sunday, November 22 from 10:30-11:45 a.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

New York Times 2015 Best Illustrated Books: This year's list features several books with international settings or global themes. The 10 Best Illustrated books are:

Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower, written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli (Viking)

The Tiger Who Would Be King, written by James Thurber and illustrated by JooHee Yoon (Enchanted Lion) *The Only Child*, written and illustrated by Guojing (Schwartz & Wade)

Leo: A Ghost Story, written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Christian Robinson (Chronicle)

The Skunk written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Patrick McDonnell (Roaring Brook)

Funny Bones Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams)

Madame Eiffel: The Love Story of the Eiffel Tower, written by Alice Briere-Haquet and Illustrated by Csil (Little Gestalten)

Sidewalk Flowers written by JonArno Lawson and illustrated by Sydney Smith (Greenwood)

Fine Dessert: Four Centuries, Four Families, One Delicious Treat, written by Emily Jenkins and illustrated by Sophie Blackall (Schwartz & Wade)

Big Bear Little Chair, written and illustrated by Lizi Boyd (Chronicle)

2015 German Children's Literature Award: Two books by U.S. authors, recently translated into German, have received the German Children's Literature Award.

Picture Book: *Mr. Wuffles*, written and illustrated by David Wiesner (Clarion, 2013)

Children's Book: *The Dreamer*, written by Pam Muñoz Ryan and illustrated by Peter Sis (Scholastic, 2010).

USBBY News...

NEWS from USBBY ABOUT GLOBAL BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS:

The 2016 IBBY Congress in Auckland, New Zealand (August 18-21) is now open for early bird registration.

www.ibbycongress2016.org

New International Children's Literature Resource:

The National Collection of Children's Books (NCCB) is a website with a catalog and database that allows the user to search over 250,000 children's books in over 90 languages from five libraries in Dublin, Ireland (<https://nccb.tcd.ie>)

2016 International Children's Book Day: International Children's Book Day is April 2, 201 and this year sponsored by Brazil. The USBBY website has suggestions and resources (usbbby.org).

American Pacific American Library Association Awards: The 2015 Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature have been announced.

Young Adult Category:

The winner: *P.S. I Still Love You* by Jenny Han (Simon and Schuster)

Honor Book: *Ink and Ashes* by Valynne E. Maetani (Tu Books/Lee & Low)

Children's Category:

The winner: *Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton (Dial Books/Penguin Random House)

Honor Book: *Blackbird Fly* by Erin Entrada Kelly (Greenwillow/HarperCollins)

Picture Book Category:

The winner: *Juna's Jar* by Jane Bahk and illustrated by Felicia Hoshino (Lee & Low)

Honor Book: *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music* by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael Lopez

American Indian Library Association Awards: The American Indian Library Association (AILA), an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), has announced these awards:

2016 Best Picture Book: *Little You* (2013), published by Orca Book Publishers, written by Richard Van Camp and illustrated by Julie Flett

2016 Best Middle School Book: *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* (2015), published by Amulet Books and written by Joseph Marshall

2016 Best Young Adult Book: *House of Purple Cedar* (2014) Cinco Puntos Press, written by Tim Tingle
2016 Honor Picture Book: *Sitting Bull Sioux Warrior and Defender of his People* by S.D. Nelson (2015) Abrams Books for Young Readers

2016 Honor Middle Grade Book: *Dreaming in Indian Contemporary Native Voices* edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale (2014) Annick Press

2016 Honor Young Adult Book: *Her Land, Her Love* by Evangeline Parsons Yazzie (2016) Salina Bookshelf Inc.

Call for Papers: The International Research Society for Children's Literature is inviting paper proposals for the 2017 Congress to be held in Toronto, Canada July 29-August 2, 2017. The congress theme is "Possible & Impossible Children: Intersections of Children's Literature and Childhood Studies." Proposals are due by November 15, 2016. Visit the website for further details regarding how to submit a proposal.

Submissions: www.irscl.com/conferences.html

**ILLC Board and Committee
Members
2015-2016**



Leslie Forsman, *President*
lforsman@hotmail.com

Meg Pyterek, *Historian, University
Rep*
peterborough48@gmail.com

Sharon Ball, *Secretary*
sharonb277@aol.com

Ruth Quiroa, *University Rep*
rquiroa@nl.edu

Stacey Keleher, *Treasurer*
stacey.keleher@gmail.com

Doris Aimers-Voss, *Young Author
Consultant*
aimers-voss@live.com

Lara Handsfield, *Past President*
lhandsf@ilstu.edu

Elaine Taylor, *Co-Fundraising Chair*
eete@comcast.net

Christina Podraza, *Young Author
Coordinator*
cpodraza@naperville203.org

Kathleen Jesukaitis, *Member-at-Large*
kjesukaitis@comcast.net

Sue Anderson, *Young Author Anchor*
anderbrose@aol.com

Ruth Stevig, *Membership Chair,
Co-Fundraising Chair, Newsletter
Editor*
stevig@sbcglobal.net

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 28

Lou Malnati's Naperville

11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**1:00 p.m. - Possible book talk at
Anderson's Book Store**

**All members welcome. Before
attending, please contact Sharon Ball
at sharonb277@aol.com for updated
information.**