

Illinois



Language and Literacy Council

“Proud Sponsor of the Young Authors’ Conference”

Newsletter

Spring, 2015

President’s Letter

41...a prime, but not a beef cut, not an interest rate, a prime number (and the sum of the first six prime numbers, or of the fifth through seventh prime numbers). 41, the atomic number of Niobium, the jersey number for Eddie Matthews (Braves), Tom Seavers (Mets), and Brian Piccolo (Bears) and George H. W. Bush’s Presidential number. 41, a number near and dear to ILLC this year because it is the number of this year’s Young Authors’ Conference.

1974...a busy year including (among many other events): the “rumble in the jungle” in which George Foreman and Muhammad Ali fought, the 55 mile per hour speed limit was imposed nationwide to conserve fuel, “Lucy”—a 3 million year old hominid—was discovered in Ethiopia, President Gerald Ford pardoned former President Richard Nixon and granted amnesty to Viet Nam deserters and draft dodgers, and the Sears Tower became the world’s tallest building. In the world of technology, pocket calculators hit the stores along with UPC scanners, and primitive word processors were beginning to catch on in offices.

Also in 1974, we began hosting student authors from across the state, providing them with recognition and with an opportunity to visit with published authors. Many things have changed in the last 41 years, but our love of matching young authors with published authors, of giving young authors the recognition they so richly deserve has not. In this era of increased testing and other demands on our teaching time, it can be difficult to carve out time for creative endeavors with our students. We greatly appreciate the time and efforts of all who help to encourage and support these young authors and their counterparts across the state. Please join with us in celebrating 41 years of Illinois Young Authors!!

Leslie Forsman, ILLC President

Join us at the Young Authors' Conference May 16th at Illinois State University



Volunteers Still Needed and Appreciated:

This conference is only possible with the help of many adult volunteers who lead or assist small groups, escort authors, or perform other necessary tasks throughout the day. We welcome your participation! CPDU's available.

**Please contact Christina Podraza at
cpodraza@naperville203.org**

Special Invitation

As a special thank you, all volunteers are invited to meet the authors at a wine and cheese reception/book-signing Friday night, May 15th, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.



GUEST AUTHORS/ STORYTELLERS

41ST ANNUAL YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE MAY 16, 2015

Grades K-2

Miriam Busch

Miriam Busch is the author of Lion, Lion (Balzer+Bray), and Storms (National Geographic). She received her MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University. She is the recipient of Kate DiCamillo's Herman W. Block award (2012), and the Jane Resh Thomas prize (2013). Miriam (occasionally together with illustrator Larry Day) leads dynamic, participatory classroom discussions and workshops on everything story-related, no matter the age or genre. Miriam tailors presentations to the particular classroom concerns of individual educators. Presentations include: visual literacy, reading as writer/writing as reader, point of view, word choice, revision (revision, revision!), and the writing process.

Larry Day

Larry Day is the award-winning illustrator of both fiction and non-fiction. His new release: Lion Lion, by Miriam Busch (NPR's Best Books For 2014, an Indie Bound Next List and Junior Library Guild Selection). Larry engages children in visual storytelling, tailoring his visits to each grade level. Larry leads groups through their own story creations as he draws everything from simple subjects to rough "thumbnail" story sketches. Students learn to more fully "read" illustrations as they experience the process of melding words with pictures. Through Larry's

approach, students gain visual literacy and have a blast in the process.

Grades 3-4

Jim Aylesworth

Jim Aylesworth was a first grade teacher for twenty-five years. During that time, he read to his children nearly every single day, and he grew to love the books himself every bit as much as the children did. Jim credits those years as a teacher and reader for gradually changing him into the author of more than thirty children's books. Jim's newest title, My Grandfather's Coat, has just won the 2015 Sydney Taylor Book Award from Association of Jewish Libraries.

Jennifer Allison

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.

Gayle Rosengren

Gayle grew up in Chicago, attended Knox College, and worked first as an advertising copywriter and later as a Young Adult Librarian at Fountaindale Library in Bolingbrook, Illinois, enthusiastically sharing her love of books with young patrons. Eventually, she moved to Wisconsin and worked in children's publishing. Now she lives just outside of Madison and is thrilled to write full time. Her debut book, What the Moon Said, historical fiction for ages 8-12, was a Junior Library Guild Selection. Her second book, Cold War on Maplewood Street, will launch on August 4, 2015. Both are published by GP Putnam's Sons.

Grades 5-6

Todd Hasak-Lowy

Todd Hasak-Lowy's 33 Minutes, his first book for children, was recently selected as an Illinois Reads title for 2015. His first young adult novel, Me Being Me is Exactly as Insane as You Being You, will be published this spring and is written entirely in lists. He will publish his second middle grade book, Somewhere There is Still a Sun, a memoir co-written with Holocaust survivor Michael Gruenbaum, later this year. Before writing for a younger audience, Todd published two works of fiction for adults, a short story collection (The Task of This Translator, 2005) and a novel (Captives, 2008).

Marianne Malone

When I married and began raising my three children, I discovered so many of the great books for kids that I'd been too busy to read when I was young. I finally started to love reading and began to understand the freedom that writers must feel. I learned that writing – and reading – a story can take you into an imaginary world just as being way up in a tree takes you away from everyday life on the

ground, and just as creating a dollhouse takes you into miniature imagined worlds.

When my oldest daughter entered middle school her best friend's mother and I tried a little experiment; we wondered if we could start a school for girls. Our little experiment worked and for the next decade I worked as the Art Teacher at Campus Middle School for Girls. I enjoyed working with this age group. It was then that I decided to write a book that my students might enjoy. (Marianne's books include: The Sixty-Eight Rooms, Stealing Magic, The Pirate's Coin, and The Secret of the Key)

Leanne Statland Ellis

Leanne Statland Ellis teaches third to fifth graders in the Chicago area. She was inspired to write The Ugly One by her travels in Peru, including two visits to Machu Picchu. She lives near Chicago with her husband and daughter, and given her reaction to the winter we have been having, she is not at all surprised that the main character of her book worships the sun. You can learn more about her and her books at <http://www.LeanneStatlandEllis.com>.

Grades 7-8

Jaleigh Johnson

Jaleigh Johnson is a fantasy author born and raised in the Midwest. Her novels for the Dungeons and Dragons Forgotten Realms fiction line include The Howling Delve, Mistshore, Unbroken Chain, Unbroken Chain: The Darker Road, and Spider and Stone. Her first book for middle grade readers is The Mark of the Dragonfly, from Delacorte Press. In her spare time, she enjoys gaming, gardening, and going to movies with her husband. Visit her online at www.jaleighjohnson.com.

James Klise

James Klise lives in Chicago. His short fiction has appeared in literary journals like StoryQuarterly, New Orleans Review, Ascent, Sou'wester and Southern Humanities Review. His essays and reviews have appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times, Booklist, the Readerville Journal and elsewhere. By day, he works as a high school librarian. His first book is entitled LOVE DRUGGED. His most recent novel, THE ART OF SECRETS, has received the following awards: ALA Booklist Editors' Choice 2014, Chicago Public Library "Best of the Best" 2014, Christian Science Monitor "Best 25 Middle Grade Novels of 2014."

Storytellers

Chris Fascione

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

Kim Sheahan

Kim Sheahan has been a central Illinois educator and storyteller for over 20 years. As the Assistant Director of Education at the Spurlock Museum, a museum of world cultures at the University of Illinois (Urbana), she incorporates oral traditions into a wide variety of multicultural and historical programs. As a freelance teller, she adds to her folktale shows two one-woman

performances: "She Outranks Me," celebrating Civil War nurse Mary Ann Bickerdyke, and "A Place to Live," which honors civil rights Anne Braden. Kim has performed at the National Storytelling Conference, the Northlands Storytelling Network Conference, the Big Grove Storytelling Festival, and Illinois State Fair, as well as school assemblies, city-wide celebrations, personal parties and gatherings of all kinds. Her enthusiasm is both unmistakable and contagious. Let her share the joy and power of the tale with you in your classrooms or at your next special event.
www.kimsheahan.com

Parent Speaker

Dr. Debra Gurvitz

Speaking at many conferences, Dr. Debra Gurvitz focuses on urban education, diversity among learners, and school-based professional learning. She taught kindergarten, first, and multi-age groups, mentored classroom teachers as a reading coach and served as a K--8 district reading specialist. After completing a doctorate from National Louis University, she served as an Associate Professor in Reading and Language, taught graduate clinical reading specialist courses, and continues to direct the Urban Summer Reading Program. Publications include Complete Guide to Tutoring Struggling Readers: Mapping Interventions to Purpose and CCSS (Fisher, Bates, Gurvitz, 2014) and a chapter in Partnering for Content Reading (Ogle, 2010).



Student Registration Information

Young Authors' Conference

Registration Packets for this year's Young Authors' Conference are due by April 3rd.

Please send to Sue Anderson

537 S. Oak Avenue

Westmont, IL 60559

For more information, you can contact Sue at

(630) 988-9833 or e-mail at anderbrose@aol.com

Student packets can be found on the IRC or ISBE websites.

<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/yac.html>

<http://www.isbe.net/young-authors/>

Haiku

from Leslie Forsman's Students

1st grade Haiku:

Police by Kristian

They have a puppy

They are cool and I like them

They have handcuffs too

Summer by Alyssa

Summer is hot and fun

You can go play baseball and

Pick pretty flowers

Summer by Grant

You can ride a bike

You can have fun in the sun

Summer is so fun!

School by Faith

I like math a lot

Reading is so very fun

Art is very fun

School by Anna

I will work today

I will play a lot at school

School is very fun

2nd grade Haiku

The hissing cat by Olivia

I hiss all the time

It drives my owner crazy

I think I should run away

The hissing cockroach by Nate

The hissing cockroach

Is very tough and strong yes

It is, yes, it is

Dog by Charlie

The dog is smelly
The dog is chewing a bone
The dog is happy

Pug by Daivlynn

The pug's tongue sticks out
The pug has a wiggly tail
The pug's cheeks hang out

Ocean by Ashton

Play in the ocean
Waves flap in the wind like birds
Sunset by the sea

Star Wars Clone Wars by Braden

The Clones have blasters
The Jedi have light sabers
Jedi have the Force

6th grade Haiku

Black Baldy Cattle by Mason

Black Baldy cattle are
Black and white, they're Angus
And Hereford crossbreed

Summer by Daniel

During summer time
All the children run and play
School has gone away

Basketball by Michael

Basketball is cool
Basketball is fun to play
It's my favorite

The Sky is the Limit by Aurora (4 stanzas)

I climb a tall tree
Climbing makes me feel alive
I can feel the wind
 My hand grips the branch
 I can see everything here!
 It's so amazing
I can touch the sky
I am so far from the ground
I begin to fly!
 Goodbye forest floor
 You can't see me anymore
 Sky's the limit now

Baseball by Payton

Baseball fields are cool
The dirt infields and the grass
Outfields, I love it



**ILLC Board and Committee
Members
2014 -2015**



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NEXT BOARD MEETING

June 11, 2015

Please contact Sharon Ball at
sharonb277@aol.com for details