

NEWSLETTER

Second & Third Quarters 2012



**CENTER
FOR
THE BOOK**
IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

www.Read.gov

The Center for the Book's networks of state centers and reading promotion partners extend the reach of the national center far beyond the programs it sponsors in the Washington area. The national center in the Library of Congress has established this newsletter to serve as a forum for all Center for the Book activities. We want to tell you what we are doing in Washington and around the country to support our mission of promoting books, reading, libraries and literacy.

And we want to hear about all the innovative ways you call attention to the importance of reading and literacy. Your updates can serve as year-round "idea exchanges" that augment our two in-person Idea Exchange meetings, held at the Library of Congress.

Please send your submissions to glam@loc.gov.

National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest Winners Announced at Library

Center for the Book Is One of Event's Co-Sponsors

The Center for the Book and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America and the Fellowship of American Bibliographic Societies on Oct. 19 announced the winners of the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest. The organizations assumed leadership of the contest in 2010 with support from the Jay I. Kislak Foundation.

Established in 2005 by Fine Books & Collections magazine to recognize outstanding book collecting efforts by college and university students, the program aims to encourage young collectors to become accomplished lifetime bibliophiles.



All photos: John Herrington

Prior to the awards ceremony, winners and guests were fascinated by a discussion of some of the treasures in the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division, given by Mark Dimunation, the division's chief.

The magazine conducted the annual competition before turning over leadership to the new institutional partners.

The winners received their awards during a ceremony at the Library. They were preceded by Earle Havens of Johns Hopkins University, who delivered an illustrated talk, "How to Build the World's Most Comprehensive Rare Book and Manuscript Collection of Literary and Historical Forgery."

The winners are:

- First Prize: Jordan Haug, University of California at San Diego, for "Mormon Fundamentalism & Polygamy"
- Second Prize: Jessica Anne Kahan, University of Michigan, for "Romance Novels in DJ, 1925-1935"

(Story continues on next page)

(National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest, from page 1)

- Third Prize: Andrew Ferguson, University of Virginia, for “Bibliography & Puzzle of R.A. Lafferty”
- Essay Prize: Kevin Baggot Roberts, Johns Hopkins University, “Cheap Thrills: Sex in American Publishing, 1924-1970”

The prizes, generously underwritten by the Jay I. Kislak Foundation, were awarded both to the students and to the libraries of their respective institutions.

In 1815, the Library of Congress acquired the personal library of Thomas Jefferson, the basis of its future development. Later collectors such as Lessing J. Rosenwald, John Boyd Thacher and Otto H. Vollbehre, among many others, conveyed their book collections to the Library, where they are conserved and made available in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. More recently, the Library received the gift of the Jay I. Kislak Collection of rare books, manuscripts and other early American materials. The reconstructed library of Thomas Jefferson and selections from the Kislak collection are on view in the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building.

The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) is a trade association of more than 450 professionals who

specialize in fine and rare books, maps, documents, autographs, illuminated manuscripts, ephemera and prints that span the

economic spectrum. Its members are united in their passion for books and related material and are bound by a code of ethics. ABAA sponsors three antiquarian book fairs each year.

Mark Dimunation talks to Kevin Roberts about Roberts’s award-winning essay, “Cheap Thrills: Sex in American Publishing.”

The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) is an association of collecting organizations whose mission is to communicate, share and support bibliographic activities, experience and ideas among member clubs for mutual benefit and pleasure.

The Jay I. Kislak Foundation, based in Miami, is engaged in the collection, conservation, research and interpretation of rare books, manuscripts, maps and cultural artifacts.



Earle Havens of Johns Hopkins University Libraries spoke on “Caveat Emptor! How to Build the World’s Most Comprehensive Rare Book and Manuscript Collection of Literary and Historical Forgery.”



First-prize winner Jordan Haug accepts his certificate from Paula Kislak. The awards are made possible with the support of the Jay I. Kislak Foundation.



(Additional photos on next page)



Center for the Book Director John Cole introduces Jessica Kahan, who won second prize.



Cole also congratulated third-place winner Andrew Ferguson.



Americas Award for Children and Young Adult Literature Presented at the Library of Congress



Mark Hartsell

Margarita Engle (from left), Julie Paschkis and Monica Brown received the Americas Award for Children and Young Adult Literature during a ceremony at the Library on Oct. 5. Brown and Paschkis were honored for their book, “My Name Is Celia: The Life of Celiz Cruz.” Engle received the award for “Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck.”

Authors Monica Brown, Margarita Engle and illustrator Julie Paschkis received the Americas Award for Children and Young Adult Literature during a special awards presentation on Oct. 5 at the Library of Congress.

As it has in the past, the Center for the Book was one of the event’s co-hosts, with the Hispanic Division. The award is administered by the Consortium of the Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP) at Vanderbilt University and jointly sponsored by the Tulane University Stone Center.

Monica Brown, whose roots are Peruvian, was honored for her book “Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People,” along with illustrator Julie Paschkis. Brown is an award-winning author of children’s books, including “My Name Is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz.” Several of Paschkis’s previous books have won awards, including “Night Garden.”

Cuban-American novelist Margarita Engle was previously an Americas Award honoree for “The Surrender Tree” in 2007 and winner of several Pura Belpré awards. This year, she received the Americas Award for “Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck.”

The Americas Award recognizes outstanding U.S. works of fiction, poetry, folklore or selected nonfiction published in the previous year. The work must “authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean or Latinos in the United States.” More information about the Americas Award and CLASP can be found at www.claspprograms.org.

The Hispanic Division, established in 1939, is the Library’s center for the study of the culture and societies of Latin America, the Caribbean, the Iberian Peninsula,

(Americas Award, from previous page)

Hispanic/Latinos in the United States and other areas of the world where Spanish or Portuguese influence exists. For more information about the Hispanic Reading Room and the Hispanic collections of the Library visit www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/.



National Book Festival Features Record Number of Authors

Center for the Book Plays Key Role in Author Selection

By Guy Lamolinara

The 12th annual National Book Festival, held Sept. 22-23 on the National Mall, featured a record number of authors (125), poets and illustrators in a program coordinated by the Center for the Book.

One of the Center's primary roles is to invite authors as participants and then to determine their schedules: when they make their presentations and hold their book-signings – a task complicated by the authors' personal requirements and sometimes last-minute schedule change requests.

“We started planning this year's festival in January, and for 2013, we have decided to start even earlier, perhaps in November, in order to lock in authors we have been trying to get for years and those who were unable to make the 2012 festival,” said John Y. Cole, Center for the Book director and National Book Festival author coordinator.

“I have been keeping a record of those authors we wanted this year and were unable to participate, as well as a list of authors we have asked repeatedly,” said this writer, the Center for the Book's communications officer and assistant author coordinator.

This year's festival featured such star power authors as mystery writer Patricia Cornwell (Kay Scarpetta series), Nobel Prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa, biographer Walter Isaacson (“Steve Jobs”), New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman (“This Used to Be Us”), Charlaine Harris (Sookie Stackhouse series) and National Book Award winner Nikky Finney (“Head Off & Split”).

On Saturday, seven pavilions (History & Biography, Fiction & Mystery, Contemporary Life, Poetry & Prose, Children, Teens & Children and Family Storytelling Stage) hosted the presentations. On Sunday, two more pavilions, Special Programs and Sci Fi, Fantasy & Graphic Novels, were added.

The most-visited pavilion, the Pavilion of the States, which is organized by the Center for the Book, attracted thousands of visitors who wanted to learn more about the literary heritage of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories, all of which had representatives there. Young people are encouraged to visit all the tables to get a unique stamp or sticker from each of the 52 tables (plus the Center for

(Story continues on next page)

All photos by Patricia Fisher except where noted



These representatives came from the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the Center for the Book has its newest affiliate.

(National Book Festival, from previous page)



Above and below: These young readers had a great time collecting unique state stamps for their “Discover Great Places Through Reading” map and reading list.

the Book table). The brochure, “Discover Great Places Through Reading” contains a map for affixing the stamps and, on the back, a list of “Great Reads About Great Places,” a reading list of 52 books representative of each location.

The Pavilion of the States is primarily supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a National Book Festival charter sponsor, as well as the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The representatives at the table for New Jersey were especially pleased to welcome National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Walter Dean Myers, since the well-known author of books for young people calls Jersey City his home. “It’s great to see you,” said Mary Chute, state librarian, who showed Myers the display honoring his book “Jazz” that had been mounted especially for his visit. Myers spoke later in the day in the Teens & Children pavilion about his work and why he has devoted his life’s work to urging young people to read.



Later, during Myers’s one-hour book-signing, where some fans waited nearly an hour to have their books signed, a schoolteacher said, “Thank you for being a writer. I could not get my kids to read until I had them read your books.” Others in the line expressed similar sentiments.

The award for longest signing line went to John Green, who stayed beyond the normal one hour and signed the books of every last person in line – 3 ½ hours later.

The more than 200,000 book lovers who crowded into tents over the late-September weekend were a testament to the theme that Walter Dean Myers has chosen for his ambassadorial platform: “Reading is not optional.”



Walter Dean Myers signs “Jazz” for New Jersey State Librarian Mary Chute.



New Jersey representatives were thrilled to have a visit from National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature and New Jersey resident Walter Dean Myers; a display highlighting Myers’s book “Jazz” was a feature at the table.

(Book Festival photos continue on next page)

Around the 2012 Book Festival



At the Louisiana table, state representatives told visitors about the origins of the purple, green and gold beads that festival-goers collect during Mardi Gras.



The Cat in the Hat bonds with an adoring fan.



Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole shares a laugh with Mandlakayise Matyumza, executive head of the Centre for the Book at the National Library of South Africa in Capetown, in the authors pavilion.

Photo by Nancy Alfaro



Rep. John Lewis, a major figure in the civil rights movement, discussed his new book, "Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change" and signed autographs afterward.

Photo by Nancy Alfaro



Librarian of Congress James H. Billington read from "Where the Wild Things Are" to a crowd of enthusiastic kids in the Family Storytelling Stage pavilion.

Photo by Amanda Lucidon



Mystery writer Patricia Cornwell attracted legions of fans who wanted to hear her talk about her enormously popular series of novels featuring crime scene investigator Kay Scarpetta.

Photo by Ashley Jones



Maggie Stiefvater (left) was another author who visited her home state's table of Virginia for an appreciative Susan Coleman, head of the Virginia Center for the Book.



The Massachusetts Center for the Book offered visitors a selection of "must-read" books that reflect the state's rich literary heritage.

“Words to the Wise”: Download the New Aesop’s Fables App

Available from Read.gov Website

The Center for the Book is now offering a new app for users of the iPhone and iPad, with a version for Android to come soon. The app can be downloaded at www.read.gov, the Library’s website devoted to reading and literacy.

“Words to the Wise: The Aesop’s Fables e-Book,” is an interactive version of 147 classic Aesop tales, featuring the colorful illustrations of artist Milo Winter. For those who do not have an iPhone or iPad, the fables can be enjoyed online from the website.

“Aesop’s Fables” is an ancient collection of stories designed to teach moral lessons. Their authorship is credited to Aesop, a Greek slave and storyteller thought to have lived between 620 and 560 B.C. The fables are some of the world’s best known and have been translated into multiple languages and become popular in hundreds of cultures. They have been told and retold in a variety of media, from oral tradition to written storybooks, and they have been adapted for the stage, film and animated cartoon versions.

The fables remain a popular choice for moral education of young people today. Scholars young and old will be able to trace the origin of aphorisms such as “sour grapes” and “a bird in the hand.”

This version of the classic Aesop stories contains the text of selected fables, color illustrations, video and interactive animations, and will be enjoyed by readers of any age.

The interactive e-book is adapted from the 1919 book “The Aesop for Children: With Pictures by Milo Winter,” published by Rand, McNally & Co.

Winter’s pictures have been transformed for this e-book, and now readers can interact with the charming illustrations to see and hear them move: a choosy heron eyes the fish swimming at his feet, a sly fox swishes his tail, a mouse chews a rope and frees a lion in straits.



Serial Online Story Created for the Library of Congress Relaunches

“The Exquisite Corpse Adventure” Goes Online

In 2009, 20 celebrated authors wrote a serial adventure story for initial exclusive publication on the Library of Congress’s Read.gov website. Co-sponsored by the Center for the Book and the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance (www.thencbla.org), “The Exquisite Corpse Adventure” is a rollicking family entertainment available for free on the web and for download at iTunesU.

This madcap adventure was created by authors and illustrators M.T. Anderson, Natalie Babbitt, Calef Brown, Susan Cooper, Kate DiCamillo, Timothy Basil Ering, Jack Gantos, Nikki Grimes, Shannon Hale, Steven Kellogg, Gregory

(Continued on next page)

The Aesop for CHILDREN

WITH ORIGINAL PICTURES BY
MILO WINTER



*A new app of illustrated
Aesop’s Fables is now
available from Read.gov.*

(Exquisite Corpse Adventure, from previous page)

Maguire, Megan McDonald, Patricia and Fredrick McKissack, Linda Sue Park, Katherine Paterson, James Ransome, Jon Scieszka, Lemony Snicket and Chris Van Dusen.

The story was so successful that it was later published as a book (still available) by Candlewick Press in 2011.

Episode 1, by Jon Scieszka, begins:

This story starts with a train rushing through the night.

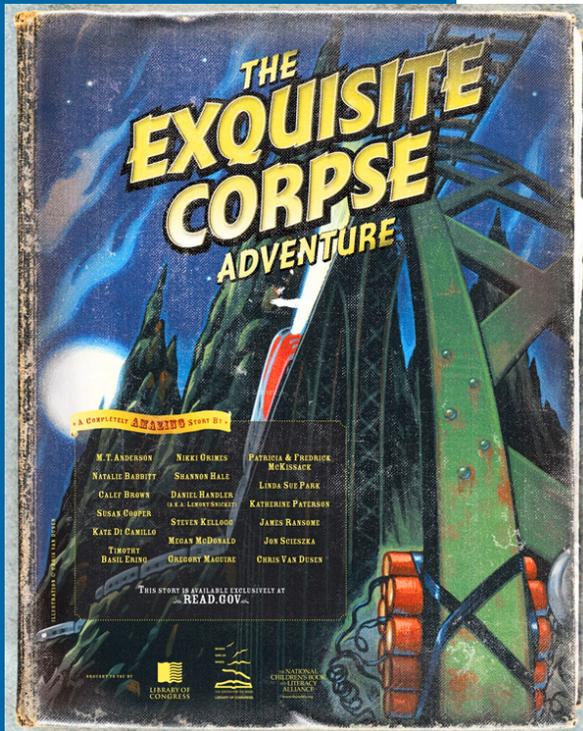
The full moon lights the silver rails winding around dark mountains, through deep woods, and over steep gorges of jagged rock and one freezing cold rushing black mountain river.

I wish there was enough time to describe all of the funny (and touching) twists and turns – especially the Elephant Clown Party – that led up to now. But there isn't. Enough time. Because there is a ticking clock. And the two passengers we care most about don't know anything about it. ...

“Exquisite Corpse” educational support materials for families, teachers, librarians and community leaders will be provided throughout the year on both the Library’s Read.gov website and The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance (NCBLA) website at www.thencbla.org.

In addition, Reading Rockets, a national multimedia literacy initiative offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle and how caring adults can help, will offer “The Exquisite Prompt: Classroom Writing Resources, at www.readingrockets.org/books/fun/exquisiteprompt/writing_resources/.

The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit education and advocacy organization created in 1997 by award-winning children’s book authors and illustrators. The NCBLA acts as a freelance, nonpartisan advocate, creating and developing special projects and events that promote literacy, literature, libraries, humanities and the arts; educating the public about practical literacy and education solutions; and ensuring young people’s right to read. The NCBLA believes that literacy is essential to the development of responsible citizens in a democracy. The NCBLA’s latest project, “Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out,” is an award-winning book for young people designed as an engaging solution to help confront historical illiteracy. Through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the NCBLA has also created a companion educational website for “Our White House” at www.ourwhitehouse.org. For more information about the NCBLA, go to www.thencbla.org.



The popular “Exquisite Corpse Adventure” returns to Read.gov.



Lubuto Library Project Awarded Grant for Innovative Literacy Solutions

One of 32 Such Awards Granted by USAID and Partners

The Lubuto Library Project, a Center for the Book reading promotion partner, was one of 32 winners of a grant on Sept. 20 supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its partners World Vision and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) for innovative programs to improve child literacy. The competition to create innovative solutions to improve early-grade reading

Lubuto Library Project® 
Bringing knowledge and enlightenment to Africa's street kids and other vulnerable children

in the developing world elicited more than 450 submissions from more than 75 countries. The winners of the [All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development](#) grant competition were announced during an International Literacy Day celebration at USAID headquarters in Washington, earlier in the month.

“We are honored to receive this prestigious grant,” said Jane Meyers, president of the Lubuto Library Project. “It is an important affirmation of the work Lubuto is doing in Zambia, utilizing technology in a public library context to enhance literacy, particularly among the most disenfranchised children. Through the hard work of the Lubuto staff and many volunteers in Zambia and worldwide, we have demonstrated the success of our approach. This generous grant will allow us to improve and extend Lubuto literacy programs throughout the country and provide an effective model for other countries and regions.”

In announcing the award, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah said, “Today, on International Literacy Day, we have the opportunity to celebrate an initiative designed to generate game-changing ideas to help children around the world improve their reading skills. The ability to read is central to all aspects of a child’s life and future. Yet, 61 million boys and girls are out of school. And just as troubling, schooling doesn’t always translate into learning.”

All Children Reading, launched in November 2011, is a multiyear partnership to find and fund groundbreaking solutions for illiteracy and to inspire global action around this critical issue. Lubuto’s winning proposal is funded by World Vision. “Our work in communities around the world over the past 60 years has taught us that education, particularly for young girls, is absolutely foundational to the future success of a country,” said Kent Hill, senior vice president of international programs at World Vision. “By seeking innovative new ideas for reading and education, we are focusing our efforts on one of the areas of community development that brings the greatest dividends for the future.”

Lubuto*Literacy* is a pioneering program creating high-quality mother-tongue materials to teach children to read on an accessible, low-cost digital platform. The materials are deployed throughout Zambia in partnership with government and other stakeholders. The interactive materials are developed locally by teachers and youth in line with the national curriculum. They leverage the open-access learning environment and outreach of Lubuto Libraries to particularly benefit highly vulnerable and out-of-school children. The project builds on the lessons of Lubuto’s unique pilot program in its two libraries in Lusaka, the nation’s capital.

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(Lubuto Library Project, from previous page)

The Lubuto Library Project Inc. (www.Lubuto.org) is an innovative development organization that builds the capacity of public libraries to create opportunities for equitable education and poverty reduction. Its mission is to enrich the lives of street children, orphans and other vulnerable and out-of-school youth in sub-Saharan Africa.

Lubuto constructs beautiful, indigenously styled open-access libraries stocked with comprehensive collections of well-chosen books and appropriate technology. These libraries serve as safe havens and are the center for Lubuto's programs, which offer education, psychosocial support and self-expression through reading, music, art, drama, computers, mentoring and other activities.



Center for the Book Hosts International Literacy Day Events

Program Includes Common Core Standards Discussion and Awards Ceremony

The Center for the Book hosted a Sept. 7 program in recognition of International Literacy Day that included a discussion on preparing teachers for Common Core excellence in the classroom.

The event also included an awards ceremony for communities that sponsor outstanding literacy programs. The awards are supported by the International Reading Association, Rotary International and the Pearson Foundation to recognize International Literacy Day. The International Reading Association and Rotary International encourage their members to work together to further literacy at the local and international level.

The awards went to:

- The Rockford Rotary Club of Michigan, partnering with the Kent Reading Council in Rockford, Mich., for the project Reading Rocks in Rockford. This summer festival promotes the joy of reading to all ages by focusing on community interaction with Michigan authors who share their time, talent and publications. The festival motivates children and families to read for enjoyment over the summer, replacing the so-called “summer reading slide” with an opportunity to improve reading skills. The Rotary Club and the Reading Council will each receive \$2,500 awards from the Pearson Foundation as well as a donation of books through the Pearson Foundation We Give Books Initiative. More details are at www.rockfordmirotary.com/Reading_Festival.html
- The Salem Oregon Rotary Club with the Oregon's Vineyards Valley Reading Council for the project Guatemala Bookmaking. Within a Mayan community in Guatemala, this project offers quality culturally appropriate books that promote early literacy in the indigenous language and increased success in second-language acquisition. It serves 130 preschool through sixth-grade Mayan children, all of whom speak Cozal Ixil as their first language. Their Mayan teachers write the books, debating, questioning and working through the

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(International Literacy Day, from previous page)

issues of standardizing their first language. International Reading Association coordinators lead the writing workshops with the Mayan teachers, and volunteers from Rotary and Vineyard Valleys Reading council support the project in many ways, including assembling the books. More details are at <https://sites.google.com/site/vineyardvalleysreadingcouncil/>.

- Honorable mention goes to the Ellensburg (Wash.) Morning Rotary, partnering with CentralWORD, the IRA affiliate at Central Washington University for the project Clothe the Body, Feed the Mind. This project provides clothing, books and scholarships to orphans in Juba, South Sudan. More details are at www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/story/StoryDetail.aspx?accountid=848&sid=276183&stid=Club/.

About Rotary International

Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary club members are volunteers who work locally, regionally and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace and eradicate polio under the motto Service Above Self.

About the International Reading Association

Since 1956, the International Reading Association, a community of professionals with 70,000 members in 100 countries, has been promoting higher achievement levels in literacy, reading and communication by continually advancing the quality of instruction worldwide.

About the Pearson Foundation

The Pearson Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that aims to make a difference by promoting literacy, learning and great teaching. The foundation collaborates with leading businesses, nonprofits and education experts to share good practice, foster innovation and find workable solutions to the educational disadvantages facing young people and adults across the globe. More information on the Pearson Foundation can be found at www.pearsonfoundation.org.



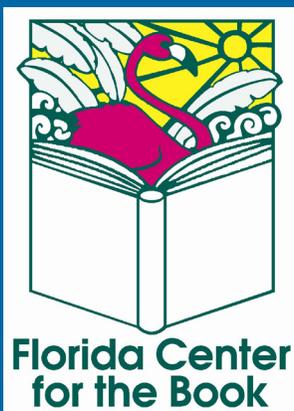
Florida Center for the Book Celebrates Syd Hoff's Centennial

By Dina Weinstein

The Florida Center for the Book marked Sept. 4, the centennial of the birth of children's book author Syd Hoff (1912-2004), with an event for emerging readers in Miami Beach, just blocks from where Hoff created his classic books.

Miami-based journalist and curator Dina Weinstein organized the event with North Beach Elementary School staff and parent volunteers to celebrate the milestone. Hoff was born in the Bronx, New York. He began his career as a cartoonist as an 18-year-old art student at the National Academy of Design in 1931. He moved

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(Florida Center, from previous page)

to Miami Beach in the 1950s with his family. There, Hoff wrote, illustrated and drew cartoons prolifically while enjoying the ocean, handball and cultural life of Miami Beach. His books were made exactly for the first graders at North Beach Elementary school.

Hoff is best known for his I Can Read books published by HarperCollins. More than a dozen of them, such as “Danny and the Dinosaur” (1958) and “Sammy the Seal” (1959) are still in print and voraciously consumed by parents and emerging



Miami Beach Mayor Herrera Bower, holding a copy of “Danny and the Dinosaur,” which she read to the children.

readers. Hoff’s books continue to circulate in libraries and fly off bookstore shelves. Hoff’s simple language, humorous images and adventurous storylines are a timeless draw for parents and children alike.

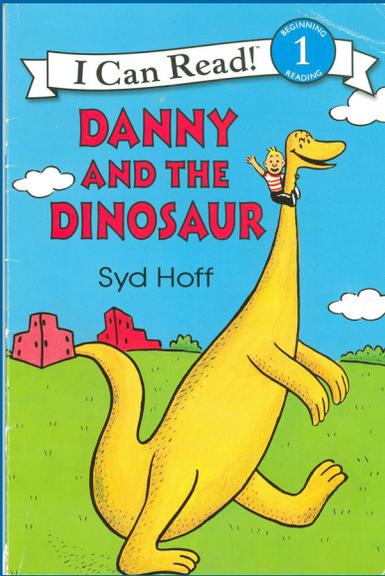
Weinstein’s exhibit, “Syd Hoff: Finding Home,” is so named because of Hoff’s characters’ quests for belonging. The exhibit, which will travel to a number of Florida libraries, traces Hoff’s life and achievements. Before connecting with HarperCollins, Hoff drew cartoons for many publications. He depicted the economic crisis for leftist publications during the Depression under the pen name A. Redfield. Hoff focused on outer borough immigrants and strivers in the pages of *The New Yorker*. Between 1930 and 1970, King Features Syndicate distributed a Syd Hoff comic strip called “Tuffy” and one-frame gag cartoon called “Laugh It Off.”

On Hoff’s centennial, Weinstein, with the Florida Center for the Book and the American Library Association’s Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (now United for Libraries) designated Hoff’s house as a literary landmark.

“Syd Hoff was committed to literacy and creativity as he connected creatively to the childhood experience of the search for belonging,” Miami Beach Mayor Matti

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(Florida Center, from previous page)



Bower told the North Beach Elementary School students in an assembly. “He actively encouraged doodlers in classroom visits and through his how-to-draw cartoon books.

The event acknowledged Hoff’s contribution to comics, cartoons and children’s literature. The occasion honored Hoff as an inspiration for aspiring writers and artists.

Mayor Bower, Miami Dade County School Board member Dr. Martin Karp and Miami Book Fair International Executive Director Alina Interian read Hoff classics to students. The celebration was complete with a festive cake donated by Miami bakery Joanna’s Marketplace graced with a brilliant replica of the cover of “Danny and the Dinosaur.”

The naming of Hoff’s house as a literary landmark demonstrates that books for children matter.



River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest Winners Receive Awards at Library of Congress

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass Emcees 17th Annual Ceremony

By Guy Lamolinara

Ten remarkable young poets and artists, ranging in age from 7 to 16, and more than a dozen national finalists, were honored at the 17th annual River of Words International Youth Creativity Awards on April 23 at the Library of Congress.

Conducted in affiliation with the Center for the Book, the annual River of Words contest, which celebrates both National Poetry Month and Earth Day, is the largest youth poetry and art competition in the world. The River of Words International Youth Creativity Awards features award-winning children’s poetry and art from around the world and recognizes educational leadership in environmental literacy. This year’s event also featured a special musical performance of River of Words poems set to music.

“The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress has co-sponsored River of Words since its inception in 1995, as part of the center’s mission of promoting books, reading, libraries and literacy,” said John Y. Cole, the center’s director. “The contest is one of our most important and beloved programs.”

Award winners included young people from across the country, as well as the International Art Prize winner: an Afghan refugee living in Pakistan, who attended the event.



Kristina Yu, age 6

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(River of Words, from previous page)

“We have a wonderful roster of kids to honor today,” said Pamela Michael, co-founder of River of Words and director of the Center for Environmental Literacy at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, Calif.



Bill Hi Li, age 16

River of Words’ other co-founder, former Poet Laureate Robert Hass, said, “The idea for River of Words was to give kids the opportunity to reflect back to this country your creativity and your energy. ... We have all these amazing voices with us here tonight.”

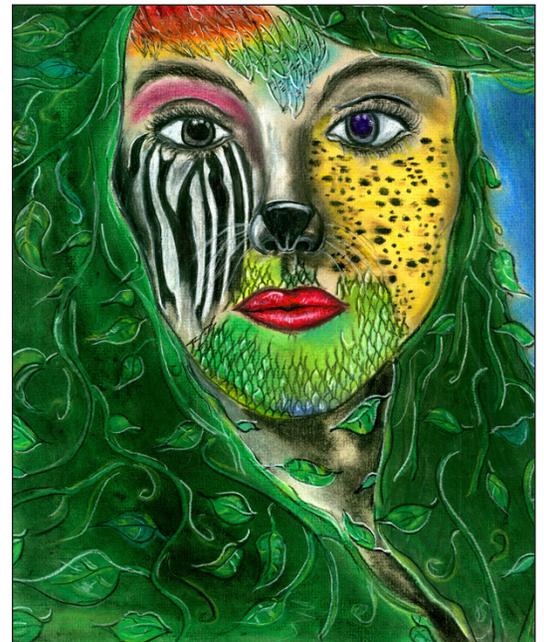
River of Words is a project of the Center for Environmental Literacy at Saint Mary’s College of California, which promotes educational initiatives that integrate nature and the arts into K-12 classrooms. The program inspires children and youth to translate their observations about their local watersheds and environment into creative expressions in poems and paintings. It also trains educators around the world on how to incorporate nature exploration, science

and the arts into their work with young people.

The 2012 winners and finalists were selected from thousands of entries from around the world by Hass and Michael and renowned children’s book author and illustrator Thacher Hurd.

“The mission of River of Words is to promote literacy, the arts and environmental awareness. Our goal is to help children fall in love with the Earth, and you can see in the works of these young artists a deep and respectful love of the world around them,” said Hass.

In addition to recognizing extraordinary art and poetry by talented young people, the ceremony honored the first recipient of the River of Words/Saint Mary’s College Kalmanovitz School of Education’s 2012 Teacher of the Year, Harriet Maher of Lafayette, La.



Allison Chang, age 15

“River of Words not only recognizes the talent of some truly amazing young poets and artists, it also fosters environmental awareness and creativity among children and teachers and their communities,” said Michael.

Attendees were treated to a musical performance of the “River of Words Song Cycle” by Southwestern University Music Professors David Asbury and Bruce Cain. On tour across the nation (including a concert at Kennedy Center), the song cycle takes poems selected from past River of Words winners and sets them to music.

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(River of Words, from previous page)

2012 River of Words Youth Creativity Award Winners include:

International Art Prize

Rohullah Hassani Age 16 Quetta, Pakistan (Afghan refugee)

Poetry Grand Prizes

Blakely Berryhill	Age 7	Vestavia Hills, Alabama	Category I: Grades K-2
Xavier Mendoza	Age 9	Lancaster, Pennsylvania	Category II: Grades 3-6
Pi'ikea Lopes	Age 12	Honolulu, Hawaii	Category III: Grades 7-9
Cathy Guo	Age 15	Madison, Connecticut	Category IV: Grades 10-12

Art Grand Prizes

Kristina Yu	Age 6	Suwanee, Georgia	Category I: Grades K-2
Jack Colin Robertson	Age 8	Cumming, Georgia	Category II: Grades 3-6
Morgan Rozek	Age 13	Madison, Alabama	Category III: Grades 7-9
Bill He Li	Age 16	Bayside Hills, New York	Category IV: Grades 10-12

Special Prizes

Mitchell Oberfoell	Age 8	West Des Moines, Iowa	Monkey's Raincoat Haiku Prize
Allison Chang	Age 15	Sunnyvale, California	Shasta Bioregion Prize
Julian Dixon	Age 11	Washington, D.C.	Anacostia Watershed Prize

Teacher of the Year

Harriet Maher Lafayette Parish School System Lafayette, Louisiana

This year's finalists hail from: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, Australia, Canada, Chile and the Philippines.

The student experience at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, which is 23 miles east of San Francisco, inspires learning that lasts a lifetime. For nearly 150 years, the college has provided students with a rigorous education that engages their intellect and spirit, and awakens a desire to transform society. Guided by the Christian Brothers, the Catholic Church's oldest order dedicated exclusively to teaching, the college enrolls more than 3,800 students in undergraduate and graduate liberal arts and business programs. For more information, visit Saint Mary's College at stmarys-ca.edu. 

Calendar of Events

Nov. 27 – (Tuesday) noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Henry T. Gallagher will discuss and sign his new book, "James Meredith and the Ole Miss Riot: A Soldier's Story" (University Press of Mississippi, 2012). Co-sponsored with the Publishing Office.

Dec. 4 (Tuesday) noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Christel Schmidt will discuss and sign her new book, "Mary Pickford: The Queen of the Movies (University Press of Kentucky, 2012). Co-sponsored with the Publishing Office.

Dec. 10 (Monday), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Novelist William Martin will discuss and sign his new book "The Lincoln Letter: A Peter Fallon Novel" (Forge/Tor, 2012).

Dec. 11 (Tuesday), Pickford Theater, Madison Building

Panel Discussion on "Perspectives on the Hebraic Book: The Myron M. Weinstein Memorial Lectures at the Library of Congress," edited by Peggy Pearlstein (Library of Congress, 2012). Co-sponsored with the Hebraic Section, African and Middle Eastern Division.



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