

California Readers



December 2011

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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"Whatever you are, be a good one." Why do I quote my favorite president, Abraham Lincoln? Whether professionally or personally, shouldn't we strive to be "good" at what we do?

As California Readers President, Library Professional, wife, mother or friend, being a "good" one is important to me. As I am personally

bounced around my school district from library to library due to budget cuts, my hope is that I will still be "good" at imparting a love of reading to the kids I touch.

California Readers' sentiment is the same. As a non-profit organization, we feel the impact of economic pressures and the need to find schools to apply for our awards and interested people to become members of our organization. We continue to look at what we can do to be "good" at what we do.

With this in mind, we have added two amazing people to our board: Members At Large, Arlene Mickley, president of EdTex, representing leading publishers of educational textbooks and media, and Heather Biggs, Regional Key Manager for Scholastic. Both have already proven to be "great" choices.

We are grateful for our recent partnership with L.A.'s Best. California authors are presenting in elementary school after-school programs, motivating kids to become authors too! Our Authors & Awards Chair, Bonnie O'Brian, has e-mailed our authors who are members and have an interview on our website. If you are interested in being selected for our next round of author selections, contact Bonnie at bobrian@lafn.org. The application is on our website. I look forward to seeing you at our luncheon in February and until then be a "good" one in whatever you do.

P. O. Box 33225 Granada Hills, CA 91394
californiareaders.org

Editors: Bonnie O'Brian & Laura Graff

BOOK CORNER



This Book Corner features a review of a book submitted for consideration for the California Collections by an author who is a member of California Readers. The Committee members evaluate books all through the year.

[Lauri S. Friedman](#)
San Diego



CYBERBULLYING

ISBN: 0737751178Greehaven 011 114p. Illus.
Reading level, gr. 8-9 Interest level, gr. 8-12

Part of the Introducing Issues With Opposing Viewpoints series. This volume explores the issue of cyberbullying by placing expert opinions from a wide range of sources in a unique pro/con format. This anthology features useful charts, graphs and cartoons, and engaging fact boxes that provide at-a-glance information and questions that focus on vocabulary and reading comprehension. Further research is encouraged through annotated bibliographies, web sites and organizations to contact. Excellent resource for issue awareness and critical thinking.



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BEST OF BOTH
By
Candy Dardarian
Retired Teacher

**SCHEDULE OF AUTHOR VISITS
LA'SBEST SCHOOLS**

- NOV. 2, 2011
ALBION - Randi Barrow 3pm
ROSEMONT - Ann Stalcup 4pm
- NOV. 3, 2011
ELYSIAN HEIGHTS - Ann Stalcup 4pm
- NOV. 4, 2011
ALLESANDRO - Rene Colato Lainez 4:30pm
CHAVEZ - Mark London Williams 3pm
GRIFFIN - Randi Barrow 3pm
- NOV. 8, 2011
SECOND - Jason Silva 1:45pm
- NOV. 10, 2011
DORRIS PLACE - Rene Colato Lainez 3:30pm
LOCKWOOD - Derek Taylor Kent 4pm
- NOV. 14, 2011
ANNANDALE - Mary Ann Fraser 4pm
SUNRISE - Ann Stalcup 2:45pm
- NOV. 15, 2011
HILLSIDE - Rozanne Williams 2:40pm
LOS FELIZ - Derek Taylor Kent 4pm
- NOV. 16, 2011
BUCHANAN - Mary Ann Fraser 3:20pm
GRATTS - Amy Goldman Koss 3pm
LOS ANGELES - Caroline Arnold 3:30pm
- NOV. 17, 2011
HOOVER - Amy Goldman Koss 4:40pm
KINGSLEY - Diane Greenseid
MAGNOLIA - Caroline Arnold 4:30pm
- NOV. 18, 2011
EL SERENO - Mark London Williams 3:30pm
KIM - Diane Greenseid 4pm
LORETO - Rozanne Williams 4pm

LAsBEST, the after-school program in elementary schools across LAUSD has teamed with California Readers on a grant from Target to connect students with authors. Sixty-six schools offer LAsBEST's Young Author's Club to students who want to write and illustrate their own books. Authors who are members of California Readers and have an interview on the California Readers' website will visit each club at their school for one hour and share tips on how to write a book.

The clubs meet in three geographic regions of Los Angeles (San Fernando Valley, South Los Angeles, and Central Los Angeles). The students will create their very own age-appropriate books by working with trained staff over three to four months to develop their stories. One of the first sessions will be devoted to meeting an author who will read them one of their own books and then donate an autographed copy to the school library. They will then discuss the writing process, why they became an author, and encourage students in their own writing.

The club grew out of the Young Authors Program based on the work of authors Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy (both California Reader members) on Transformative Education. The goal is to have students translate their own experience, feelings and/or imaginative creations into words.

Bonnie O'Brian, Authors & Awards Chair for California Readers, is coordinating the assignment of authors to the school sites. Authors must be members of California Readers and have an interview posted on the California Readers' website. The first 11 authors have been selected and will be presenting at 22 Young Author sites in November in Central Los Angeles. The second round of author visits will be in March 2012. Authors will be paid \$400 for the two author visits. Interested authors may contact Bonnie O'Brian at bobrian@lafn.org.

LISA YOUNT: LET'S HEAR IT FOR SCIENCE!

By Candy Dardarian
Retired Teacher

The Leo Politi Golden Author Award Recipient for 2012 is non-fiction writer Lisa Yount who lives in El Cerrito, California with her husband Harry Henderson, also a writer.



She has had 10 titles in 38 California Collections during the past 14 years.

- A TO Z OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND MATH
- ANTOINE LAVOISIER
- ANTONI VAN LEEUWENHOEK
- BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GENETIC ENGINEERING
- CANCER
- FORENSIC SCIENCE
- MODERN ASTRONOMY
- MODERN GENETICS
- PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA
- TWENTIETH-CENTURY WOMEN SCIENTISTS

Looking over the list of titles reveals her interest in science, women scientists, and scientists who belong to minority groups. "I usually write about biology and medicine rather than the physical sciences. I'm fascinated by living things," Lisa says.

She can remember wanting a toy doctor kit " (NOT a nurse kit – boring!)" She would check stacks of books out of the library to read about dinosaurs, strange creatures that live in the deep sea, stars, and everything on medicine that she could find. She also kept a file of newspaper articles on medicine and wrote little summaries of them.

Lisa also writes poetry. Many of her poems have appeared in a variety of magazines and she has self-published two books of poems. "I like to write funny fantasy stories in which my friends and I go on adventures and someday I hope to write a fantasy or a murder mystery for the general audience."

Photography is also a big interest of Lisa's (she even has a name for her camera — "Emilia") and she has combined her pictures with computer technology to create visions of the way she sees nature. Her pictures can be viewed on her website <http://www.lionlight.com> as well as jewelry that she makes.



Lisa Yount

Lisa Yount, a multi-faceted, talented person will be receiving the Leo Politi Golden Author Award at the annual "We Love California Authors and Artists" Luncheon on February 25, 2012 at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank, California. The students at Lockhurst Elementary are designing puppets that illustrate the people and science concepts described in her books, and their artwork will be on display at the luncheon.

2012 CALIFORNIA COLLECTIONS	
New authors added to each collection:	
Elementary	23
Middle	15
High	19
Total	57
New titles added to each collection:	
Elementary	74
Middle	54
High	61
Total	189

HEADLINE: THE PLAY'S THE THING

By Candy Dardarian
Retired Teacher

Lights, camera, action! All the parents had their cameras at the ready as the children of 59th Street School performed stories from the California Collection. There was a coyote that swallowed a flea, a tortoise in trouble, a beckoning cat, a school pet, a forest of animals, a kid with too many toys, and a snake seeking artistic inspiration.



Ann Whitford Paul

Dressed in costumes fashioned by parent volunteers, scenery painted by the students, scripts written based on each of the seven books, and narrators who were comfortable speaking into a microphone, the students produced and performed plays as the culminating project for their Ed Pert Award.

Authors Ann Whitford Paul and Barney Saltzberg were in the audience to view their books transformed into live theater. "It was thrilling to see what the kids created," said Ann Paul, who posed for many pictures with the cast and then visited each first grade classroom to talk about her writing. Barney Saltzberg brought his father with him to see the show and commented, "I have heard, after the fact, that students have done something with my books, but this is the first time I have been invited to see for myself."

The event was coordinated by Library Aide Karen Isreal and supported by a hard working, very creative team of teachers under the leadership of Principal Patricia Williams. The students will have another opportunity to meet and greet an author because the school won the President's Award for best school display at the "We Love California Authors and Artists" Luncheon in February. Author Alexis O'Neill will be giving this presentation in the fall.

ED PERT GRANTS

APPLICATIONS
FOR THE 2012
ED PERT GRANTS
ARE AVAILABLE NOW
ON THE
CALIFORNIA READERS'
WEBSITE

Was the event a success? Well, let's put it this way. Students GAVE UP THEIR RECESS! to seek an autograph from Mr. Saltzberg.

This Ed Pert Award was sponsored by
The Winnick Family Foundation.



REGISTER NOW!
By printing this form.

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while shopping at Ralphs
you must take this form to a
Ralph's store and register.