

November, 2022

Dear friends and colleagues,

We write with the hope that you are healthy and safe and that you are able to find moments of peace and happiness, even as conflicts and protests continue across the world and as episodes of wild weather remind us of our need to act as stewards for the environment. It is at moments like these that our work as critics, teachers, researchers, and professionals in the world of youth literature can seem unimportant; however, it is also such moments that remind us how the work we do can encourage shifting perspectives and new practices.

This coming Tuesday is “Giving Tuesday,” an international day of giving meant to encourage a spirit of generosity and individual philanthropy with the goal of supporting and affecting change. Last year, efforts spearheaded by the Communications Committee resulted in nearly \$4,000.00 in donations and we hope to exceed that amount this year! Please consider supporting us again (or for the first time), by donating to ChLA on Tuesday, November 29. You can contribute to the General Fund, and/or designate where you’d like your contribution to go - the options include funding for International Sponsorship, Diversity Research and Travel, and (a new initiative) Graduate Student Mutual Aid. Here’s the link to the Giving Tuesday page, and you can also just click on “Donate Today” on the front page of the website. (And if you’d rather donate on a Wednesday or Friday, that works too. ☺)

[ChLA – Giving Tuesday](#)

In other news, as we indicated in our last letter to the membership, ChLA is currently in a process of management transition as our contract with Meeting Expectations (ME) ends this coming December 31st. As an all-volunteer organization, ChLA requires the guidance of professionals, particularly where expert tasks (like tax preparation and budget reconciling) are involved. As we consider the direction our association will take as we part from ME, we are now interviewing potential service providers and moving toward a sustainable solution that will also involve changes to our own processes. Board members, for instance, are now working in groups to learn the major areas of our organization and provide more active coordination. We are grateful for the support and labor of the Board and Executive Committee as we consider management options, reimagine our own roles, and find new ways to demonstrate our stated values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Thanks also to Steve Gigantiello and our other ME colleagues who are working to ensure a smooth transition. We will continue to provide updates as we move through this process.

Meanwhile, the broader work of ChLA goes on, with some exciting developments. We're happy to report that Joseph Michael Sommers has agreed to step into the role of Editor of the *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* (after service as Associate Editor), with Balaka Basu and Sonya Sawyer Fritz continuing as Associate Editors and with Mark West remaining a legend as Book Review Editor. A huge thanks to the team, whose term runs through 2028-2029, and also to Sara K. Day for her terrific leadership as Editor (and Associate Editor before that!). We're thrilled to share too that the International Committee is launching an online Global South Speaker Series with the generous support of Lara Saguisag, Georgiou Chair in Children's Literature and Literacy Department of Teaching and Learning at NYU. The Series is a collaboration between NYU and ChLA and we appreciate the initiative of Lara, Nithya Sivashankar, and all others involved. Our awards and other committees are likewise working overtime. None of this would be happening without the time and labor that so many contribute.

Speaking of such, as you know, we are now seeking nominations for the ChLA Elections, to be held this coming February. Please help us nominate candidates - and please nominate yourself. We are asking for all recommendations by **December 1, 2022**. Click the link below or log into your ChLA account to find the nomination form.

[ChLA 2023 Nominations](#)

Thank you so much! We hope to see you at this coming summer's meeting in Washington. In closing we'd be remiss not to thank Michelle Martin and her team who are putting together a fantastic conference. We hope you can join us there, and if not, we hope you can participate in and support ChLA in whatever ways are appropriate to your situation. We also still welcome expressions of interest in hosting the 2024 ChLA conference (we begin the online conference rotation in 2025).

And happy holidays!

Sincerely,



Kenneth Kidd, Co-President



Amy Pattee, Co-President