



Newsletter

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President's Message

Mike Cadden

As a department chair, I am asked to find ways to cut things from the budget and do “more with less.” As president of ChLA I have the opposite “problem” of trying to find ways to spend a surplus of funds in the best ways to satisfy our mission. I like the opposite problem. Kathy Kiessling in our home office has received many fine ideas from you about ways to spend money in the service of our mission, and for that we thank you. Her favorite is the request for funding “exciting adventures.” Be careful what you wish for. There will be some good news by June about how the board and our committees plan on putting those ideas into action, including improved funding for those visible manifestations of the Association (website, journals, and conferences) as well as for the less visible work that we do far away from those sites (grants and publication support). The Strategic Planning Report on Finances was also completed just prior to the conference, and I thank Jackie Stallcup and Roberta Trites for their help in constructing a plan for our finances that will guide the new plans for spending that we devise.

That was one great “visible manifestation” of the mission, otherwise known as the ChLA conference, last June. Annette Wannamaker, Ian Wojcik-Andrews, and the entire crew from Eastern Michigan University showed what we can enjoy when we couple sufficient resources with hard-working planners. We’ve heard nothing but praise for the job they did, and it has us all eager for a return to Virginia next year.

More thanks to heap on busy and productive members: the ad hoc committee on publications, chaired by Adrienne Kertzer, concluded its work this summer. They’ve provided some very fine groundwork for us as we consider ChLA’s publications future. I thank Teya Roseberg, Libby Gruner, Liz Goodenough, and Jackie Horne for their service. Jennie Miskec and Tammy Mielke here take on an extra year (their fourth as a team) of caring for the Newsletter, which has never looked better. Kathy Kiessling undergoes the unenviable task of compiling the archive material in her office to be taken to DeGrummond, the new home of ChLA history.

Another great response from the membership came in the form of volunteers to serve on our two new award committees. I am pleased, though not surprised, at the response by the membership. I thanked all who volunteered this summer and encouraged them to nominate themselves and/or each other (or YOU) for committees this coming year, which I now encourage all of you to do as well. Fern Kory will head up the new award committee for edited books, and Linnea Hendrickson will chair the new picture book award committee. Fern’s crew plans on giving the first award this next summer to a 2009 volume; the picture book award committee will make its inaugural announcement the next year.

This past summer we lost two of our past presidents: Malcolm Usrey and J.D. Stahl. I was never fortunate enough to meet Malcolm, however J.D. was the single most important influence in my choice of academic career. As different as my knowledge of these two men is, I’m sure that neither was ever thanked sufficiently for their efforts on the part of the Association, so I use this forum as a place to thank those who owned a ChLA membership card (yes, we used to be “card-carrying members”) during our Association’s first twenty years and did the yeoman’s work of building its foundations. These last twenty years have been characterized by amazing growth in the group’s and profession’s reputation and influence, and we continue to plan, build, and work so that the next twenty years will be equally remarkable.



ChLA 2010, Children's Literature and Media, Conference Wrap-Up

From June 10 to June 12, children's literature scholars from around the world gathered in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area in Michigan for the Thirty-Seventh Annual Children's Literature Association Conference. The conference theme was Children's Literature and Media.

The conference itself was a resounding success and was extremely well attended. There were 79 panels and about 300 participants from countries such as England, Cyprus, Taiwan, Poland, and China as well as the United States and Canada. The *ChLA Quarterly* is publishing a selection of papers from the conference.

There were two excellent speakers at the conference, though there were other exciting and engaging events planned as well. Margaret Mackey, a Professor in the School of Library Information Studies at the University of Alberta in Canada, presented the 2010 Francelia Butler Lecture on Saturday morning. Linda Simensky, Vice President of Children's Programming for PBS, presented the keynote address on Saturday evening. Both talks were very well received. Other events during the conference included a Thursday night performance by the Volume Youth Poetry Project of Ann Arbor and a Friday night screening and discussion of *Son of Rambow*.

Annette Wannamaker served as the co-director of the conference. Ian Wojcik-Andrews served as co-director and chaired the Paper Selection Committee that also included Susan Stan, Sarah Fabian, Walter Hogan, Gina Boldman, and Jennifer Rose. Steven Krause designed the conference web page.

A special mention goes to all the EMU Ambassadors, students and alumni of our Masters Program in Children's Literature who worked behind the scenes before, during and after the conference. President Lisa Fraustino presided at the General meeting and Vice-President/President elect Mike Cadden assumed his role as President of the ChLA at the final Board meeting of the conference.

ChLA 2012

"Literary Slipstreams"

June 14-16, 2012

Simmons College -- Boston, Massachusetts

Located next door to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, a short walk from those infamous ducklings, and just a subway ride away from The Horn Book, Inc. and a host of children's book publishers, archival and historical collections, Simmons College welcomes ChLA 2012 to Boston for its 39th Annual Conference. Simmons is also close to literary points of interest in Concord, and we're a day-trip from The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.

Simmons is noted for its M.A. in Children's Literature, begun in 1977 with a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Simmons also offers the M.F.A in Writing for Children, an M.A. in English, and one of three M.A. in Gender/Cultural Studies programs in the nation. Innovative dual degree programs combine the Master's degrees in Children's Literature and Writing for Children with professional studies in the highly ranked Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

The conference theme, "Literary Slipstreams," will explore the ways children's literature at the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century straddles, crosses, confuses, even redefines genre boundaries. We will revisit Bruce Sterling's use of the term *slipstream* to mean a "fiction of strangeness" and "a parody of mainstream," and we will consider the literal definition of the term (the partial vacuum created in the wake of a moving vehicle, often used by other vehicles to assist in passing) to consider how revisions, re-versions, and retellings challenge the historical record. How do children's and young adult literature -- as well as scholarship interrogating these works -- invoke hybridity of and beyond literary conventions? How does the notion of transition mark both the literature and the scholarship? The conference logo by David Macaulay captures the physical movement, possible irreverence, and spirited playfulness of "Literary Slipstreams."



Revolution, upheaval, protest, and cultural change have swept over the world in repeating cycles since civilization began. Literature for children has encouraged those changes or deplored them, but always recorded them in its pages. We will look at the way and speed at which our world is changing, through the lens of children's literature and consider how children's literature and characters in children's literature, in all media from books to video games, institute change, transgress the norm, protest the status quo or seek to protect it.

June 23-25, 2011

Revolt, Rebellion, Protest: Change and Insurrection in Children's Literature
Hollins University — Roanoke, Virginia



Some suggested topics follow, but other ideas are welcome and encouraged:

The idealization of the past in children's literature
Patriotism and children's literature
The "red diaper babies," children of leftist or radical parents
Historical fiction vs. works written during the revolution itself
The trickster figure in children's literature
The American Revolution, the French Revolution, or the English Civil War
Children's Literature as a mirror of changing social values and norms
Explorations of racial and gender discrimination in children's literature
The use of fantastic worlds and settings to explore traditionally taboo topics
Historical context and changing social values
Competing historical visions (*Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Disney's *Song of the South* for instance)
Visions of society in series such as "Dear America" and the "American Girl" books
Depictions of the civil rights, anti-war, and women's movements of the last century
Censorship and children's literature
The "problem book" and championing a cause
Literature of the immigrant child
Chicano and Latino children's literature
The work of Virginia Euwer Wolff,
winner of the 2011 Phoenix Award for *The Mozart Season*

Send 300-500 word presentation proposals to Kathryn Graham, Paper Selection Committee Chair at chla2011@vt.edu

Deadline

15 Jan 2011

Ellen Kushner, Hollins summer writer-in-residence, and **Delia Sherman**, co-authors of *The Fall of the Kings*, will also give a joint keynote speech on fantasy, traditionally a genre of change and protest. Phoenix winner **Virginia Euwer Wolff**, will speak at the Saturday banquet.

Located on the picturesque campus of Hollins University, where Margaret Wise Brown, author of "Goodnight Moon," studied.

Minutes from Roanoke's historic downtown and the Blue Ridge Parkway.



2011 Francelia Butler Lecture: Julia Mickenberg and Philip Nel

Co-editors of *Tales for Little Rebels: A Collection of Radical Children's Literature*

Julia Mickenberg is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of *Learning from the Left: Children's Literature, the Cold War, and Radical Politics in the United States*, which won the 2008 ChLA Book Award. *The Oxford Handbook of Children's Literature*, which she co-edited with Lynne Vallone, will be published later this year.

Philip Nel is Professor of English and Director of the Program in Children's Literature at Kansas State University. His most recent books also include *The Annotated Cat: Under the Hats of Seuss and His Cats* and *Dr. Seuss: American Icon*. Forthcoming are a biography of Crockett Johnson and Ruth Krauss (2012), and *Keywords for Children's Literature* (co-edited with Lissa Paul, 2011).

For more information and conference updates go to:

www.hollins.edu/chla2011

All presenters must be members of ChLA or join in order to present.

MLA 2012: Call for Papers

The 2012 conference of the Modern Language Association will be held in Seattle, January 5-8, 2012. Three panels are guaranteed this year since MLA has changed the number of sponsored panels. Three panels dedicated to children's literature will be featured at the conference; two by MLA's Children's Literature Division and one sponsored by ChLA. Please note that all panelists must be members of MLA by April 7, 2011. For those panels sponsored by ChLA, panelists must also be current ChLA members by April 7, 2011.

ChLA Sponsored Sessions DEADLINE: 1 March 2011

No(bodies): Ghost Children in Juvenile Literature

This panel seeks to explore the figure of the ghost child in children's and young adult literature. Trapped in a permanent state of childhood/adolescence, the ghost child, through its lack of body, does not physically grow up, a stasis that is both tragic and frightening; however, in many texts the ghost child undergoes some type of transformation that allows it to "grow up" in perhaps alternative ways. Papers might consider what the ghost child suggests about identity development (or lack thereof), the status of the outsider, death, and/or childhood. Submit 500 word abstracts by to Elizabeth Talafuse, Texas A&M University: talafuse@tamu.edu

MLA Children's Literature Division

DEADLINE: 1 March 2011

Eco-criticism and Young Readers

How does literature for children assess the value—and definition—of nature? How does it represent the labor and resources of agricultural production? To what extent does it imagine nature and human culture as separate or intertwined? What questions does it raise, and what answers does it complicate, about personal and wide-spread use of resources? This session invites papers that avoid a simple celebration of nature but insist on attending to the connection between how literature imagines environment and the real-world consequences of such imaginings. Send 250 word proposals to Kassie Clark, University of Texas at Austin: kclark@mail.utexas.edu

Self-Destruction in Children's and Young Adult Literature

The problem novel is a staple in young adult literature, where protagonists abuse themselves--through drug use, promiscuity, self-mutilation, food issues, etc. --until they are "fixed" by an adult. Recent novels and literary scholarship, however, have begun to offer more nuanced considerations of these self-destructive images, which begs the question: Can these young adult literary images be seen as anything other than detrimental? We invite critical, theoretical examinations of the topic of self-destruction in young adult literature for the 2012 MLA conference in Seattle. Preference will be given to those who offer alternative considerations of problem novels. Send one-page abstracts to Melanie Goss, Illinois State University: mkgoss@ilstu.edu

ChLA Newsletter Co- Editor Search

The *ChLA Newsletter* is a semiannual publication for the members of the Children's Literature Association. It reports information pertinent to the activities of ChLA, such as ChLA election results and awards, ChLA Board actions, conference information, MLA sessions on children's literature, and so forth. The Newsletter editor(s) are appointed by the ChLA President, with approval of the ChLA Executive Board, for a 3 year term, renewable with Board approval.

Currently, two editors work together to share the following responsibilities: coordinating with the ChLA Administrator, ChLA President, committee chairs and others to collect information to go into the Newsletter in a timely manner; soliciting and/or writing and editing items that will be published in the newsletter; putting items into standard newsletter format (layout); sending the final version of the newsletter and sending a PDF to the ChLA Administrator for posting to the ChLA website; and reporting to the ChLA Board on newsletter actions taken.

The current newsletter editors' terms expire in June of 2011; thus, the Association is soliciting ChLA members who would like to serve in this capacity. The new editor(s) will be responsible for producing the Fall 2011 issue. Interested parties should send a letter of interest to the ChLA Board identifying qualifications for the position by December 31, 2010. Letters to the Board may be sent electronically to kkiessling@childlitassn.org or by mail to ChLA office.

Diversity Committee - Call For Papers

Resisting “Americanization” in Literature for Young People

In the past, children’s and young adult narratives have focused on the assimilation of marginalized populations into U.S. culture, often through a character’s attempts to take on aspects of identity traditionally privileged by members of the dominant culture. In recent years, this “melting pot” mentality has been interrogated by authors, and current narratives frequently depict characters who resist or complicate this process of “Americanization,” choosing instead to retain their cultural and self-identities.

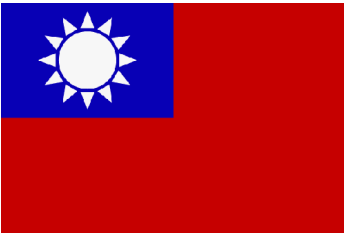
This year, the Diversity Committee seeks paper proposals on the topic of resisting “Americanization.” Papers might examine how authors complicate discourse about what it means to be(come) “American” or consider how narratives resist or reinscribe traditional conceptions of “Americanization.” Essays could address issues of language, naming, and traditions, or explore how sexual identity, gender, class, religion, or family structure factor into representations of what it means and looks like to be considered “American.”

Contact co-chairs Thomas Crisp (tcrisp@sar.usf.edu) or Sarah Park (spark@stkate.edu), with questions. Email a 500-word abstract and a 2-page CV only to spark@stkate.edu by **December 15, 2010**. Please label your abstract in the titles of attached documents, and include contact information (email and phone number).

Deadline

15 Dec 2010

International Focus:



The International Committee of the Children's Literature Association is planning a special country focus panel on Taiwan, to be presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference to be held at Hollins University, Roanoke, VA, June 23-25, 2011. The committee invites papers that focus on any aspect of

children's literature in Taiwan. Two or three papers will be selected for the panel and will accompany a presentation by a Taiwan scholar invited by the committee.

The papers should be presented in English and not exceed the twenty-minute reading time. The committee strongly encourages ChLA members interested in children’s literature from this region, including discussion of diasporic literature for children and folklore as children's texts, to submit papers to this panel. The paper, with accompanying cover letter, should be submitted to the International Committee, Children's Literature Association, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138, USA; or electronically to kkiessling@childlitassn.org.



Deadline

15 Jan 2011

Host a future ChLA Conference!

ChLA invites proposals for hosting the Association's forthcoming annual conferences. If interested in obtaining information about serving as a host site, please contact ChLA Administrator, Kathy Kiessling (kkiessling@childlitassn.org). The ChLA Executive Board would like to begin reviewing proposals, with formal presentations to the Board to be made at the annual conference at Hollins University, in June 2011.

2011 Phoenix Award Winner



The 2011 Phoenix Award is granted to Virginia Euwer Wolff for her 1991 novel *The Mozart Season* (Henry Holt and Company). Twelve-year-old Allegra Shapiro, daughter of musician parents, has been selected as a finalist and the youngest competitor in a local violin competition. The summer before the competition is literally Allegra Shapiro's "Mozart Season," the time she must practice the competition piece, Mozart's Fourth Violin Concerto. In a larger sense, however, the "Mozart Season" is the period in which Allegra—not a prodigy like Mozart but nevertheless a child who is very gifted in a plausible American middle-class way—acquires a conscious identity both as a musician and as the heiress of her mixed ancestry. With a rare seriousness about childhood vocation, Wolff's book explores the ways in which many aspects of Allegra's experiences play into her understanding of and commitment to music.

As Allegra prepares to perform the complex classical work, she struggles in many ways with being both faithful to a tradition and also working things out for herself. Her ability to interpret Mozart's music ever more richly is subtly linked to a range of encounters with family (especially her Holocaust-haunted grandmother), with professional musicians (especially the eccentric, tormented, but loving Deirdre), with the odd "dancing man" who appears at concerts, and with friends her own age who share Allegra's joy in and seriousness about music.



ChLA Research Grants - Faculty/Graduate Student

Faculty Research Grants

These grants are awarded for proposals dealing with criticism or original scholarship in children's literature with the expectation that the undertaking will lead to publication and make a significant contribution to the field. Applications will be evaluated based upon the quality of the proposal and the potential of the project to enhance or advance Children's Literature studies. Funds may be used for—but are not restricted to—research-related expenses such as travel to special collections or purchasing materials and supplies. The awards may not be used for obtaining advanced degrees, for researching or writing a thesis or dissertation, for textbook writing, or for pedagogical projects.

Hannah Beiter Graduate Student Research Grants

These grants are intended as support for research that may be related to the dissertation or master's thesis and are not to be used for tuition. The funding may be used to purchase supplies and materials (e.g., books, videos, photocopies, equipment) or to underwrite travel to special collections or libraries.

Grants Deadline

1 Feb 2011

Individual awards in each category typically range from \$500 to \$1,500 based on the number and needs of the winning applicants. Up to \$5,000 per category is available to be awarded this year. **Applications will be accepted from January 1, 2011, through February 1, 2011.** Proposals must be sent by email and dated within the stated time frame. Application guidelines are posted online at www.childlitassn.org (under Professional Opportunities); if clarification is needed, you may contact the ChLA office at info@childlitassn.org or Susan Stan, chair of the 2011 Grants Committee, at stanlsm@cmich.edu. Winners must either be members of the ChLA or join the association before they receive any funds.

Call for Nominations

Carol Gay Award Nominations

ChLA is now accepting submissions for the 2010 Carol Gay Award for outstanding undergraduate essays on children's literature. Faculty members should submit nominations on behalf of the undergraduate student author. A cover letter accompanying the submission must provide an endorsement of the paper and explain the faculty member's familiarity with the student's work. Please include both the member's and the student's email and street addresses on the cover letter only. Submissions will be forwarded from the ChLA office to the members of the Carol Gay Award Committee for blind review. Papers must be original, show evidence of scholarly research and must include a bibliography with more than the primary works included. Written in MLA documentation style, essays should be no fewer than 8 pages and no more than 15 pages including notes and works cited. Senior theses are not eligible. Award winners will receive a \$200 prize, a certificate, and a complimentary year's membership to the Association. With the author's permission, the award winning essay may also be posted on the ChLA web site. The recipient will receive the opportunity to present the winning essay during a session at the annual ChLA conference and to receive his/her award during the awards banquet. If the winner attends the conference, a complimentary banquet ticket is also awarded, and conference registration is waived. Only two submissions per ChLA faculty member will be accepted.

ChLA Graduate Student Essay Award Nominations

Submissions from ChLA members for the 2010 ChLA Graduate Student Essay Awards are now being accepted. Submissions should demonstrate familiarity with previous scholarship, contain original, distinctive ideas, and conform to MLA style.

They should be at least 10 pages in length and should not exceed 25 pages, including notes and works cited. The awards are comprised of both a Ph.D. level award and a separate master's level award. Award winners receive a \$200 prize, a certificate, and a complimentary year's membership to the Association. Recipients are also offered the opportunity to present their winning essays during a

session at the annual ChLA conference and to receive their awards during the awards banquet. If the winner attends the conference, a complimentary banquet ticket is also awarded, and conference registration is waived.

Nominations should be submitted by a faculty member on behalf of the graduate student author. Graduate students may not nominate themselves or other graduate students. A cover letter must accompany the submission and provide an endorsement of the paper and explain the faculty member's familiarity with the student's work. Please include both the member's and the student's e-mail and street addresses and indicate if the student is a Ph.D. or Master's level student in the cover letter only. Submissions will be forwarded from the ChLA office to the members of the ChLA Graduate Student Essay Awards Committee and read blind (without cover letter). Only two, whether MA or Ph.D. student, submissions per ChLA member will be accepted.

Nominations Deadline

1 Feb 2011

All application guidelines are posted on the ChLA web site www.childlitassn.org, or you may contact the ChLA office.

In Memoriam

Dr. Jacqueline L. Gmuca, University of Texas at El Paso, ChLA conference organizer 2003

Dr. J.D. Stahl, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, ChLA President, 2001 - 2002

Dr. Malcolm Usrey, Clemson University, ChLA President, 1985 - 1986

Interested in becoming more actively involved in the Association? The ChLA Elections and Nominations Committee invites nominations for the 2011 elections, which will be held electronically. Candidates are needed for Vice President/President-Elect and Executive Board, in addition to the Association's elected committees: Article Award, Book Award, Diversity, Grants, International, and Phoenix Award. We are also seeking committee members for the two new awards, the picture book and edited book award. Elections will be held in early February with service for those elected beginning in June 2011 following the conference. **Watch your e-mail in February for an invitation to vote.**

Send nominations to Kathy Kiessling by e-mail (kkiessling@childlitassn.org) or to the ChLA office: ChLA Nominations and Elections Committee, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138.

Communicating with ChLA

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Check out the latest on the ChLA Website!
www.childlitassn.org

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