



Newsletter

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President's Message Dr. Adrienne Kertzer

As I write this report, fall classes are starting at the University of Calgary and I have just met my Children's Literature students. Part of my course introduction was showing my class the ChLA website, explaining that while the organization of the website was currently under review and what is now called Links would soon have a more accurate heading, they should browse the listings so that they would be aware of the many electronic resources available. ChLA would not have these listings without the work of ChLA Treasurer, Mike Cadden. I single out Mike's contributions, but I do not want to minimize the contributions of other ChLA members who contributed to the development of the current website and those who have participated in conversations regarding its redesign. When I became President in June, I knew that I wanted to improve the website's organization and expand on its content. I set this goal knowing full well that I would need the advice of the Executive Board, Jackie Horne's Publicity Committee, and not least, Kathy Kiessling, our incredibly organized and helpful administrator. All have graciously and thoughtfully answered my many questions.

Much of the Executive Board's work since June has been exploratory. Lisa Rowe Fraustino, our Vice-President, announced at the General Membership Meeting that she is hoping to set up an electronic voting process by the 2009 elections. In addition to working on this, Lisa, along with Board member Leona Fisher, represented ChLA at a meeting this fall sponsored by Johns Hopkins UP that explored possible intersections between social media and ChLA. In extending this invitation to ChLA, Bill Breichner, Journals Publisher at JHUP, emphasized that ChLA was invited because of its significant presence on Project Muse; once we complete the digitization of the back issues of the *Quarterly* and *Children's Literature*, we will have an even stronger presence there. Clearly the benefits to our participation in Project Muse are not only financial.

But ChLA's Board discussions this summer have not all been technological. Creating a record of our organization's history and finding an institutional archive to house our papers are also drawing our attention. So too is the *Quarterly*. Richard Flynn's term as editor of the *Quarterly* is drawing to a close; even as we thank him for all his hard work, we are in the midst of seeking a new editor. Elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, you will see updates on the 2009 and 2010 conferences; even as we finalize details for those conferences, we invite proposals for hosting the conferences in 2011 and 2012.

Because of other teaching commitments, I do not teach children's literature every year. Too often at my institution people speak eloquently about how teaching and service take them away from their "real work." As someone overly familiar with tired binaries about children's literature vs. real literature, as someone who has spent much of her career doing service and "real work" in divergent areas, and as a President who benefits from the real hard work of so many, I welcome the opportunity to teach children's literature and serve ChLA professionally at the same time.

Have a great fall!



ReImagining NORMAL

ChLA Conference 2008 Wrap-Up

From June 12 to June 14, 2008, almost 300 people convened for the Thirty-Fifth Annual International Children's Literature Association conference, held this year in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. Hosted by the children's literature faculty and graduate students in the Department of English at Illinois State University, the conference theme was "ReImagining Normal." The topic lent itself to a broad range of discussions that included close to 225 presentations. Attendees joined the conference from Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the U.K, and the U.S.

Keynote speakers included University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Professor Emerita Betsy Hearne, who gave the Francelia Butler Lecture on "Researching and ReImagining Folklore in Children's Literature." Peter Dickinson, who received the Phoenix Award for his novel *Eva*, spoke at the banquet on Saturday, June 14, and author Janice Harrington spoke about "Chasing After Stories" and read from her award-winning picture book *The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County*.

Illinois State University's Milner Library and the Department of English hosted an event called "Back to Normal" to honor the more than thirty ISU alumni attending the conference, including ISU alumnus and Caldecott-winning illustrator Eric Rohmann. "Back to Normal" was staged in the lobby of Milner Library on the ISU campus on the evening of Friday, June 13. Pictures from the International Collection of Child Art, housed at Milner Library, were on display at the reception, and Rohmann spoke about how he develops ideas for his art.

The ISU conference organizing team was chaired by Roberta Seelinger Trites and included Karen Coats, Nathalie op de Beeck, Jan Susina, and Anita Tarr, all of whom are members of the faculty in the Department of English. Conference assistants were graduate students Courtney McKinney-Whitaker and Meg Sparling. Students in the Ph.D. program in English Studies at ISU served as Conference Ambassadors, volunteering their time to assist at the desk and give guidance to people from out of town. They included Hari Adhikari, Rebecca Anderson, Carey Applegate, Genevieve Baumann, Joseph Campbell, Liz Gillhouse, Melody Green, Ji-Yeon Hwang, Billie Jarvis-Freeman, Heidi Oldenburger, Benjamin Smallwood, Melissa Smith, Abbie Ventura, and Oren Whightsel.

President Martha Hixon presided at the General Membership Meeting, and Vice-president/President-elect Adrienne Kertzer assumed her role as the new ChLA president at the final Board meeting of the conference.

CHLA 2010: Children's Literature and Media

Eastern Michigan University - Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, Michigan

June 10-12, 2010

ChLA 2010 will be hosted by Eastern Michigan University in lovely Ann Arbor, MI, a quintessential college town filled with bookstores, coffee shops, restaurants, parks, and other attractions, all located 30 miles west of Detroit and five miles west of EMU's campus in Ypsilanti. EMU was founded as a normal school in 1849. In the late 1960s, the EMU English Department became one of the first in the U.S. to offer a Master's degree in Children's Literature. The conference theme will be "Children's Literature and Media," a theme that reflects the ways children's literature, as a genre and as a field of study, is evolving and expanding.

Many texts from various media now constitute children's culture: novels, picture books, and poetry as well as video games, text messages, Facebook, television shows, and films. It is important that we expand our understanding of these child-oriented cultural forms and media platforms. Doing so expands the way we define and analyze children's culture and, hopefully, provides new critical tools by which to understand children's books. This conference therefore seeks to illuminate the broader electronic children's culture within which children's literature exists and thus highlight the multivalent, dialectical relationship between literature and other media written for younger readers, viewers, and consumers.

For more information and conference updates:
www.chla2010.emuenglish.org

Children's Literature Association 36th Annual Conference

The Best of Three 3

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina

Conference participants are invited to submit papers and panel proposals that incorporate the number three in any way that appeals to them. For participants who are interested in writing papers that relate to the conference theme, here are some suggestions for possible approaches:

- Examine the inter-textual elements that run through three books by a children's or YA author;
- Discuss the literary merits of children's books that are published as trilogies (or in a series);
- Compare and contrast the works of three children's authors who deal with a common theme or who write in a similar fashion;
- Explore the ways in which certain number, such as three, take on almost magical significance in fairy tales and other stories for children;
- Select three children's books that in your view represent the best in a particular subgenre or category and explain why these works deserve recognition.

Participants are also invited to submit papers and panels that have nothing to do with the number three. In reality, this is an open call for papers and panels with the stipulation that participants should draw on their current research in the field of children's literature and submit their best work.

Please send abstracts of 250-500 words via email to Best3ChLA09@uncc.edu or by regular mail to:

Dr. Paula Connolly, Chair,
2009 ChLA Paper Selection Committee
Department of English, UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, North Carolina 28223-0001

Deadline

15 Jan 2009



www.english.uncc.edu/bestofthree/

MLA 2009: Call for Papers

The 2009 conference of the Modern Language Association will be held in Philadelphia, 27-30 December 2009. Five panels dedicated to children's literature will be featured at the conference, three by MLA's Children's Literature Division and two sponsored by ChLA. Please note that all panelists must be members of the MLA by April 1, 2009. For those panels directly sponsored by the ChLA, panelists must also be members of the ChLA.

ChLA Sponsored Sessions

DEADLINE: 1 March 2009

Malevolent Metafiction: Good Books Gone Bad

Children's literature includes abundant examples of heroes and heroines who seek knowledge, solace, and even friendship within the pages of books. Many authors, however, demonstrate the seductive lure and hidden dangers inherent in the reading process. Works like China Miéville's *Un Lun Dun* use metafiction to warn readers of the reality of reading as enculturation. This panel considers the role of metafiction in encouraging young readers to question authority figures, printed or otherwise, within these treacherous texts. Topics include metafiction as ineffective or threatening authority figures, metafiction as enculturation, and metafiction as subversion. Send one page abstracts to Jordana Hall, Literature and Languages, Texas A&M University - Commerce, P. O. Box 3011, Commerce, TX 75429. chlittamuc@yahoo.com

Teenaged Monsters

Why is adolescent development represented as monstrous in horror fiction and film for young adults? Possible topics include menstruation, sexuality, and gender role socialization as they are depicted by creatures such as werewolves, vampires, and witches, through tropes such as demonic possession or haunting, or specifically in teen genres such as the slasher film (a.k.a. the teenie kill pic). Send abstracts to June Pulliam, Dept. of English, Allen Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. jpullia@lsu.edu

MLA Children's Literature Division

DEADLINE: 1 March 2009

Spiritualities in Children's and Young Adult Literature

Because children's and young adult literature is concerned with the growth, development, and maturation of the self, it often addresses such spiritual concerns as questions about prayer/meditation, illness and death, and references to other religions. The chairs of this panel seek twenty minute papers that offer readings of representations of religion and spirituality from different scholarly and theoretical approaches, particularly including perspectives beside those of Christianity; genres can include realism, fantasy and science fiction, novels, picture books, non-fiction, and film. Send a 500-word abstract or inquiries and questions to Keith Dorwick: kdorwick@yahoo.com and Jameela Lares: Jameela.Lares@usm.edu

Screening Childhood

Should we ask special questions of children's films? While theorists and critics of filmic adaptations of literary texts have for many years called for us to move beyond the trope of fidelity, one might argue that when book-film textual 'pairs' have implied child audiences discourses of fidelity proliferate; fidelity to the literary text, fidelity to nostalgia, fidelity to childhood itself. Papers are invited which analyze primary literary and filmic texts with views beyond anxieties of fidelity. Theorized approaches particularly welcomed. Send one page abstracts to Erica Hateley, English Dept, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-6501. ehateley@ksu.edu

Romance and Young Adult Literature

This session will focus upon romance narratives for teenagers. Possible topics include the history and development of YA romance, gender and sexuality issues in YA romance, cultural and literary constructs of teen romance, the influence of adult genre romance on YA texts, multicultural romance for teens, romance narratives and cultural debates about teen sexuality, romances written by teens, and so forth. Send 250 word abstracts to Catherine Tosenberger, English Department, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9, Canada. ctosen@gmail.com

Diversity Committee - Call For Papers

Dialects and Dialogues: Linguistic Diversity in Children's and Young Adult Literature

Contemporary literature for young people often represents the multiplicity of cultural and linguistic practices within modern society. Historical texts have also narrated points of cultural contact through varieties in linguistic representation, whether in representations of dialect or in characters' interpretive conflicts. Linguistic diversity has been (and remains) a major creative component in children's and young adult literature.

We seek paper proposals on the topic of linguistic diversity in literature for young people. Papers might offer readings of particular representations of linguistic variety in literature, or theorize the role of diversity within narrative language. Papers could address bilingualism in literature for young people, or investigate "code switching" within texts. Essays might explore the politics of dialect within texts, or examine the way in which characters play with different linguistic modes. Tensions between languages of home and of public/school communities might interest essayists, as might the connection between a particular language and cultural memory, nostalgia, loss, or trauma.

The Diversity Committee's inaugural panel considered how diversity manifests itself in contemporary picture books, and last year's panel queried concepts of "insider" and "outsider." We are excited by the topic of linguistic diversity and encourage a range of approaches for the panel.

Send 1-2-page abstracts to Kenneth Kidd and Kate Capshaw Smith by **December 15, 2008**. Email submissions only (kkidd@english.ufl.edu and capshaw@uconn.edu). Please clearly label your abstract in the titles of attached documents. Be sure to include your contact information, including email address and phone number.

Deadline

15 Dec 2008

[Join the Diversity Committee's Listserv!](#)

This listserv allows Children's Literature Association members to share information and ideas related to the work of ChLA's Diversity Committee. You can subscribe to the listserv by emailing listserv@listserv.uconn.edu; if you like, you may email Kate Capshaw Smith (capshaw@uconn.edu) and she will subscribe you. Please also visit the Diversity Committee's new webpage: <http://childlit.uconn.edu/divcom.html> to find links to related organizations, conferences, publishers, bibliographies, awards and prizes, and university websites.

International Focus: Brazil

The International Committee of the Children's Literature Association is planning a special country focus panel on Brazil, to be presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference to be hosted by University of North Carolina, Charlotte, June 11-14, 2009. The committee invites papers that focus on any aspect of Brazilian children's literature. Three or four papers will be selected; the papers should be presented in English and not exceed the twenty-minute reading time. The Association will sponsor one scholar from Brazil to present a paper at this panel. The winner will receive up to US \$2,000 toward documented expenses in connection with the conference (to be given to the participant in US dollars during the conference). In addition to the grant, the participant will also receive a one-year gift membership to the Association. The participant must present his or her paper in person and in English. While the grant will be awarded only to an indigenous scholar, the committee strongly encourages ChLA members interested in Brazil to submit papers to this panel and all other scholars who would like to write on aspects of Brazilian children's literature, including diasporic literature for children and Brazilian folklore as children's texts, to submit papers for the session. The paper, with an accompanying cover letter, should be submitted to the International Committee, Children's Literature Association, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138, USA; fax +269-965-3568; or email: kkiessling@childlitassn.org.

Deadline

15 Jan 2009

2009 Anne Devereaux Jordan Award

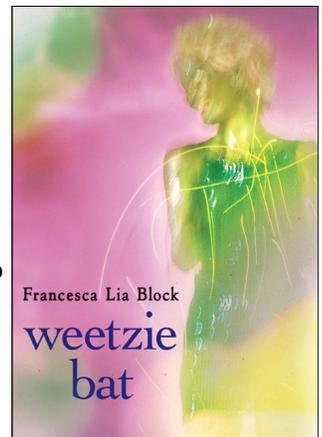
ChLA's Anne Devereaux Jordan Committee has announced its winner for 2009: Elizabeth Keyser, a distinguished scholar and teacher, as well as the editor of the annual *Children's Literature* from 1994 – 2002. The award is designed “to honor the lifetime achievement of an individual whose scholarship and service have had a significant impact on the field of children’s literature.”

Elizabeth Keyser began teaching at Hollins College in 1988 and was instrumental in organizing its innovative graduate program in children’s literature. Keyser is also well recognized for her scholarship with several key texts on Louisa May Alcott, numerous articles on feminist literary criticism and Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *The Secret Garden*, and her co-editorship of the *Cambridge Guide to Children’s Books in English*. As teacher, editor, and scholar, Keyser mentored numerous writers and teachers who would go on to make significant contributions in their own creative and critical writing and teaching. With graduate degrees in English as well as Librarianship, Keyser as a cultural historian and feminist scholar bridged disciplines and broke new ground. In recognition of her contributions to the field, Keyser was invited to give the Francelia Butler Lecture at the Children’s Literature Association annual conference in 2003.

Living in her childhood home, an eighty-acre farm in Oregon, Keyser is enjoying her retirement listening to music and reading books. She hopes to make the trip east in June to receive the award at the annual conference in Charlotte and visit old friends.

2009 Phoenix Award Winner

For her first novel, *Weetzie Bat* (HarperCollins), Francesca Lia Block has been selected as the 2009 Phoenix Award recipient. At the time of its publication in 1989, the book met with controversy; it has been both condemned and praised, not only for its subject matter but also for its writing style. Set in a magical and other-worldly version of Los Angeles, this postmodern, punk fairy tale features the eponymous Weetzie Bat, who is granted three wishes by a genie, all of which come true - more literally than she expects. At first, the quirky narration seems to jar oddly against Block’s exploration of challenging and controversial topics such as premarital sex, unconventional families, and AIDS. But the novel’s deeply poetic conclusion draws together the narrative style with the theme that it is our choice to, as Weetzie puts it, “plug into the love current.”



Other books in the *Dangerous Angels* series, also published by HarperCollins, include *Witch Baby* (1991), *Cherokee Bat and the Goat Guys* (1992), *Missing Angel Juan* (1993), and *Baby Be-Bop* (1995).

Lucie Babbidge’s House (Crowell) by Sylvia Cassedy, has been named, posthumously, the 2009 Phoenix Honor Book. At the private school she attends, Lucie is called Goosey-Loosey by her classmates and tormented both by them and her teacher. To avoid their taunts and scrutiny, she retreats to a storeroom that contains an abandoned dollhouse. There she lives out a more ideal life that has far-reaching effects on that of Delia Hornsby, her British pen pal.

The third book on the short list for the 1990 award was *Celine* (Farrar, Straus Giroux) by Brock Cole.

Host a future ChLA Conference!

ChLA invites proposals for hosting the Association's annual conference for 2011 and 2012. 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 in Charlotte, NC, in June 2009.

ChLA Graduate Student Essay Award

As announced at the General Membership Meeting in June, the ChLA Board has voted to split the ChLA Graduate Student Essay Award into two levels: **one award for a submission by a student at the master's level, and one for a student at the doctoral level.** The Board felt that this change will encourage more submissions by addressing concerns over equality in competing at the different graduate levels.

Submissions for the awards should demonstrate familiarity with previous scholarship, should contain original, distinctive ideas, and should conform to MLA style. For both levels, papers should be at least 10 pages in length and should not exceed 25 pages, including notes and works cited. Each nomination should be submitted on behalf of the graduate student author by a member of ChLA and must be accompanied by a cover letter from that member. Only two submissions per ChLA member will be accepted. Please include both the member's and the student's email and street addresses with submissions, and please note which award level the student is applying for.

Award winners will receive a \$100 prize, one year's free membership in the Association, and the opportunity to present the winning essay at the annual ChLA meeting. The deadline for submissions (for papers written in 2008) is February 1, 2009. Submissions should be sent to the following address: ChLA Graduate Student Essay Award Committee, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI, 49016-0138. Guidelines are also available online at www.childlitassn.org under the Awards and Grants link.

ChLA Research Grants - Faculty/Grad 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

The grants are awarded for proposals of original scholarship with the expectation that the undertaking will lead to publication or a conference presentation and contribute to the field of children's literature criticism. Beiter grant funds are not intended as income to assist in the completion of a graduate degree, but as support for research that may be related to the dissertation or master's thesis. The funding may be used to purchase supplies and materials (e.g., books, videos, equipment), as research support (photocopying, etc.), or to underwrite travel to special collections or libraries.

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

Individual awards in each category may range from \$500 to \$1,500, (maximum funding of \$3,000 per category) based on the number and needs of the winning applicants. Proposals may be sent by email or by regular mail but must be postmarked within the stated time frame. Winners must either be members of the ChLA or join the association before they receive any funds.

**Awards, Grants,
and Nominations
Deadline
1 Feb 2009**

Carol Gay Award Nominations

Submissions for the 2009 Carol Gay Award are now being accepted for outstanding papers on children's literature by undergraduate students. Nominations should be submitted on behalf of an undergraduate student by a member of ChLA and must be accompanied by a cover letter by that member. Please include both the member's and the student's email and street addresses with submissions. Papers must be original and show evidence of scholarly research and include a bibliography with more than the primary works included. They should conform to MLA style and 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 \$100 prize, a certificate, and a complimentary year's membership to the Association. The recipient is also offered 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 member will be accepted. The deadline is February 1, 2009 for a paper written during 2008. Submissions can be sent to: ChLA Carol Gay Award Committee, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138, USA or emailed to kkiessling@childlitassn.org.

ChLA Centennial Series Call for Papers

The Publication Committee invites proposals for critical studies in the field of children's literature and for further volumes in the ChLA Centennial Studies series.

The Centennial Studies series celebrates the hundredth anniversary of the publication of texts significant in the development of children's literature. We are considering proposals for texts published in 1909 or later. The following list has some suggestions, but we welcome additional suggestions.

- ◆ **1910:** Howard Pyle, *The Story of the Holy Grail and the Passing of Arthur*; Mary Grant Bruce, *A Little Bush Maid* (and the Billabong series)
- ◆ **1911:** Thornton Burgess, *Old Mother West Wind*; Lucy Fitch Perkins, *The Dutch Twins* (and subsequent Twins books)
- ◆ **1912:** Jean Webster, *Daddy-Long-Legs*; Dietrich Lange, *On the Trail of the Sioux*
- ◆ **1913:** Walter de la Mare, *Peacock Pie* (poetry)

Send inquiries to Teya Rosenberg, chair of the Publications Committee at tr11@txstate.edu or c/o Department of English, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666, USA.

Communicating with ChLA

ChLA Administration: **Kathy Kiessling**
(kkiessling@childlitassn.org)

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

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