



# Newsletter

Volume XV | Issue 2

Autumn 2009

## Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Conferences: ChLA 2009 Wrap-Up and ChLA 2011 Preview</i>	2
<i>ChLA Conference 2010 Ann Arbor, MI</i>	3
<i>MLA 2011 Call for Papers</i>	4
<i>Diversity Committee CFP International Focus CFP</i>	5
<i>Awards 2010 Anne Devereaux Jordan and The Phoenix Award</i>	6
<i>Awards and Grants</i>	7
<i>Announcements and Contact Information</i>	8

## President's Message

Dr. Lisa Rowe Fraustino

After seven years in a windowless office, I have returned from a year of sabbatical to move my thousands of books and files into a room with a window. Happily, I'll spend my time as ChLA President in natural light, along with a little pothos plant acquired at the grocery store for three dollars. I hope that both the plant and the ChLA will remain strong and healthy this year.

The long-term health of any organization depends partly on attracting new members who will contribute their energies and ideas. At our wonderful June conference in Charlotte, I was excited to learn from Mike Cadden that our student memberships have doubled in the last decade. I hope that you new members will find the ChLA a welcoming place, and I encourage you to participate in the organization. Be sure to submit a paper to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (see page 3). If you'd like to serve the organization, don't be shy—let us know which of our many committees best match your skills and interests. You can learn more about ChLA committees at our web site, and feel free to ask me, Mike, administrator Kathy Kiessling, or the pertinent committee chair.

One way the ChLA encourages new scholars is through our student essay awards. I'm pleased to report that the Board has approved the publication of past Carol Gay Award winners on our web site. The Board has also approved several improvements to our submission procedures, including blind readings for the Carol Gay and Graduate Student Essay Awards. Please see the revised guidelines posted at [www.childlitassn.org](http://www.childlitassn.org).

For those of you who missed the annual business meeting on June 13, I'd like to announce some exciting news. The Board has chosen a repository for our organizational archives: The de Grummond Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi. I'm delighted to have our papers join the likes of

Ezra Jack Keats and Curious George. The ChLA is grateful for the efforts of Martha Hixon, who put long hours into leading the search team.

I also wish to update you on the status of our organizational response to the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, which could result in the removal of children's library books printed before 1986. Over the summer, a committee of ChLA volunteers has been brainstorming and researching a public statement to assist the American Library Association in its attempts to protect ordinary children's books, and we hope to gain Board approval for posting it to our web site in Oct.

On August 19, in its *Final Rule on Children's Products Containing Lead; Determinations Regarding Lead Content Limits on Certain Materials or Products*, the Consumer Product Safety Commission ruled that it is "unable to make a determination that the components of all older children's books fall under the lead content limits." Hence, "the Commission intends to issue a separate Statement of Policy addressing the treatment of older children's books." What we as ChLA members can do now is try to influence this policy. ALA spokesperson Emily Sheketoff told me on Sept 14, "Congress has made clear that it wants the Commission to deal with the issue. The best thing we can do at this point is keep pressure on the Commission to keep the books on the shelves." So rather than contacting your congressional representative, contact the new Chair of the CPSC, Inez Tenenbaum, telephone (301) 504-7896, fax (301) 504-0768, or go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/commissionertenenbaum.aspx>

Finally, if you missed the business meeting, you missed the chance to participate in a standing ovation in recognition of Kathy Kiessling's twenty years as our office administrator. Please stand up and applaud her now.



**37th Annual  
Children's  
Literature  
Association  
Conference**

**"Children's  
Literature  
and  
Media"**

**Hosted By  
Eastern Michigan  
University**

**Ann Arbor, MI  
June 10-12, 2010**

*Children's Literature Association 36th Annual Conference*

# The Best of Three 3

## **ChLA Conference 2009 Wrap-Up**

From June 11 to June 14, children's literature scholars from around the world gathered in Charlotte, NC, for the Thirty-Sixth Annual Children's Literature Association Conference. For the third time in the history of the Association, UNC Charlotte's Department of English hosted the conference. Hence, the conference theme was "The Best of Three."

The conference attracted a large number of participants. The overall attendance for the conference was 307, and the participants came from eleven countries. There were 249 papers or panel presentations delivered over the course of the conference.

The two keynote speakers were Daniel Shealy and Dianne Johnson. Shealy delivered the Francelia Butler Lecture on "The Three Sisters of Louisa May Alcott." Johnson gave a presentation titled "My Three Interwoven Worlds: Creativity as Writer/Teacher/Mother."

Mark I. West served as the director of the conference. Paula Connolly served as co-director and chaired the Paper Selection Committee. Elizabeth Gargano, Michelle Martin, and Lauren Tedesco served on this committee. Tammy Mielke served as the publication and Web site designer for the conference.

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

## **ChLA 2011**

### **"Revolt, Rebellion, Protest: Change and Insurrection in Children's Literature" Hollins University — Roanoke, Virginia June 23-25**



ChLA 2011 will be hosted by Hollins University on its historic 475-acre campus in Roanoke, Virginia, with easy access to a regional airport, the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, the Appalachian Trail, and Roanoke's historic downtown and City Market, offering shops, galleries and multi-ethnic restaurants. Founded in 1842, Hollins enrolls undergraduate women and students in seven coed graduate programs, including M.A. and M.F.A. degrees in Children's Literature. The library possesses many original papers and manuscripts of Margaret Wise Brown '32, possibly Hollins' most widely known and read alumna.

The conference theme will be "Revolt, Rebellion, Protest: Change and Insurrection in Children's Literature," reflecting the cultural changes that have swept over the world in repeating cycles since civilization began. We will look at the way and speed at which our world is changing, and has changed in the past, through the lens of children's literature, considering how children's literature institutes change, transgresses the norm, and protests (or attempts to protect) the status quo.

**For more information and conference updates:  
[www.hollins.edu/chla2011](http://www.hollins.edu/chla2011)**



## **CHLA 2010: Children's Literature and Media**

Eastern Michigan University - Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, Michigan  
June 10-12, 2010

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, the 37th Annual Children's Literature Association 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.

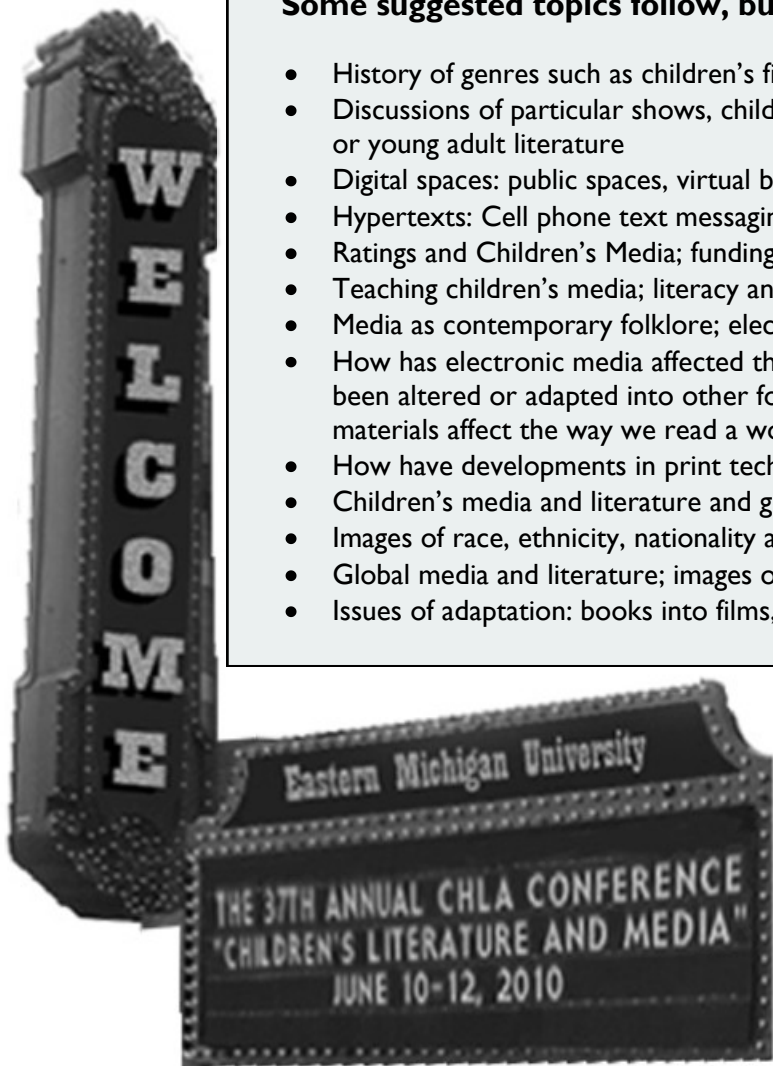
### **Some suggested topics follow, but other ideas are welcome and encouraged:**

- History of genres such as children's film, television, video games, computers, picture books
- Discussions of particular shows, child stars, games, films, web texts, or works of children's or young adult literature
- Digital spaces: public spaces, virtual bodies, the on-line child/the child on-line
- Hypertexts: Cell phone text messaging, Youtube, Myspace, Facebook, blogs, web sites
- Ratings and Children's Media; funding for children's television; censorship of children's media
- Teaching children's media; literacy and the media
- Media as contemporary folklore; electronic orality; the urban myth on-line
- How has electronic media affected the form and content of children's books? How have books been altered or adapted into other forms? How do author web sites or other ancillary materials affect the way we read a work of literature?
- How have developments in print technology affected children's texts?
- Children's media and literature and gender and/or sexuality
- Images of race, ethnicity, nationality and/or social class in children's media and literature
- Global media and literature; images of children around the world
- Issues of adaptation: books into films, games and toys; or films, games and toys into books

**Deadline**

**15 Jan 2010**

Send 300-500 word presentation proposals to  
Annette Wannamaker  
and  
Ian Wojcik-Andrews  
at [chla2010@emuenglish.org](mailto:chla2010@emuenglish.org).



## MLA 2010: Call for Papers

The 2010 conference of the Modern Language Association will be held in Los Angeles, December 2011. 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, 2010. For those panels directly sponsored by the ChLA, panelists must also be members of the ChLA.

### MLA Children's Literature Division

**DEADLINE: 15 March 2010**

#### Theorizing the Early Reader Chapter Book

Early readers, such as \*Junie B. Jones\*, \*The Great Brain\*, \*Amelia Bedelia\*, and \*Ruby Lu, Brave and True\*, are often designed as a young reader's first multi-chapter, independent reading experience. Frequently written as series and representative of a variety of genres, these novels too often fly below the critical radar. We invite papers invested in a critical, theoretical analysis of the literature, past and present, created as early readers. Send one-page abstracts by **March 1, 2010**, to Abbye Meyer, University of Connecticut: [abbyemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:abbyemeyer@gmail.com).

#### The End(s) of Theory in Children's Literature Studies.

Reports of theory's death have been widespread and perhaps exaggerated. Many children's literature scholars, such as Perry Nodelman, have recently discussed both the anxieties surrounding theory and the usefulness of theory in the practice of children's literature scholarship. Please send abstracts exploring the current "ends"—state or uses—of theory in children's literature studies to Craig Svonkin: [csvonkin@mscd.edu](mailto:csvonkin@mscd.edu).

#### Nostalgia and Children's Literature.

From the turn of the twentieth century's reverence for nostalgia to contemporary criticism's concern with the way it distorts, nostalgia has been a central part of children's literature and theory. Is nostalgia critically productive? To what ends does nostalgia work? Papers examining nostalgia's role in criticism or using nostalgia as the theoretical lens through which to read specific works of children's literature from any era are welcome. Please send 500 word proposals to Lee Talley at [talleyl@rowan.edu](mailto:talleyl@rowan.edu).

## ChLA Sponsored Sessions

**DEADLINE: 15 March 2010**

#### Visions of the West: California in Children's and Adolescent Literature

Gold, Glitter, Growth and Grunge...California dreaming embraces the whole range of our cultural imagination. In the 21st century, California has one of the largest economies in the world and a multicultural, polyglot state with numerous immigrant populations, including Armenians, British, El Salvadoreans, Hmong, Koreans, Mexicans, Russians, Vietnamese and many, many more.... Dreams and visions of a better life—sometimes achieved, sometimes remaining just out of reach—have powered native-born and immigrant Californians for decades.

However, this often is not the California that outsiders see. Media images imply that every Californian is a Baywatch babe or surfer dude. Hollywood in particular is mythologized as "The Dream Factory"—the place where miraculous transformations can take place. A young girl may be discovered in a malt shop and transformed into a movie star. An abused and abandoned child may become a blonde bombshell. A young punk can wish on a genie's lamp and cruise through a glittering fairy tale vision of Los Angeles.

As MLA is returning to Los Angeles after many years, it seems particularly appropriate to consider how our conceptions of California are generated and explore some of the (mis)perceptions of California in children's/adolescent literature. Submit a 100-200 word abstract for a 15-20 minute paper to Jackie Stallcup ([jstallcup@juno.com](mailto:jstallcup@juno.com)) and Michelle Pagni Stewart ([mstewart@msjc.edu](mailto:mstewart@msjc.edu))

#### A Century of the Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* has come to dominate its author's literary reputation. This session represents an opportunity for both reflection and redirection. How has *The Secret Garden* served the field of children's literature in recent decades? What have traditional readings missed? Is there any way that *The Secret Garden* can lead us to investigate other aspects of Burnett's life and career, such as her insistent self-identification as both British and American, her receding importance as a writer for adults, or her mixed emotions about times and places lost? Please send 250-word proposals to Joe Sutliff Sanders, [SecretGarden2011@gmail.com](mailto:SecretGarden2011@gmail.com)



## Diversity Committee - Call For Papers

### Diversity Panel: Cultural Translation in Young Persons' Literature

With the increasing fluidity of national boundaries, children's and young adult literature and film about cultures other than the dominant American culture are more available than ever and serve as important means of cross-cultural understanding. As scholars of children's literature, we need to consider how the culturally other is brought into the frames of reference of U.S. culture. How do children's texts bridge what can be enormous cultural gaps of knowledge, from linguistic difference to conflicting worldviews? How are connections between different cultures forged through children's and young adult texts? How is one culture's experiences translated for another? How do texts use common bases of knowledge to present difference? How do artists respond to barriers to responsible "translation"?

Papers for the panel might concern the treatment of cultural nuances, concepts of the familiar and foreign, linguistic difference, or representations of gender, class, or religion.

Send 1-2-page abstracts by e-mail to Michelle Pagni Stewart ([mstewart@msjc.edu](mailto:mstewart@msjc.edu)) or Karen Chandler ([kmchan01@louisville.edu](mailto:kmchan01@louisville.edu)) by December 15, 2009, including your e-mail address and phone number.

**Deadline**

**15 Dec 2009**

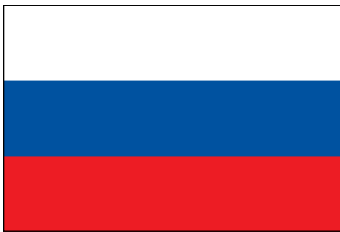
### Join the Diversity Committee's Listserv!

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](mailto:listserv@listserv.uconn.edu); if you like, you may email Kate Capshaw Smith ([capshaw@uconn.edu](mailto: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: Russian Children's Literature

The International Committee of the Children's Literature Association is planning a special country focus panel on Russia, to be presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference to be held at Eastern Michigan University, Ann Arbor MI, June 10-12, 2010. The committee invites papers that focus on any aspect of Russian children's literature. Two or three papers will be selected; the papers should be presented in English and not exceed the twenty-minute reading time. The committee strongly encourages ChLA members interested in Russia to submit papers to this panel and all other scholars who would like to write on aspects of Russian children's literature, including diasporic literature for children and Russian 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 electronically to

[kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto:kkiessling@childlitassn.org).



**Deadline**

**1 Feb 2010**



### Host a future ChLA Conference!

ChLA invites proposals for hosting the Association's annual conference for 2012. If interested in obtaining information about serving as a host site, please contact ChLA Administrator, Kathy Kiessling ([kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto: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 Ann Arbor, MI, in June 2010.

## 2010 Anne Devereaux Jordan Award

Betsy Hearne, professor emerita at the University of Illinois School of Information, will be the 2010 winner of The Anne Devereaux Jordan Award. Betsy Hearne's long and distinguished career in the field of children's literature crosses disciplines of library science, folklore, art history, and women's studies. The award will be given on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the annual conference, held this year at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Hearne's scholarly work in folk and fairy tales was seminal in extending modern critical focus beyond the traditional texts toward a continuum of fairy-tale retellings. *Beauty and the Beast; Visions and Revisions of an Old Tale* (1989) was the first full-length study to consider contemporary and popular retellings of a fairy tale, serving as a model for subsequent studies of how culture continues to shape and retell classic tales.

Her publications include two authored academic books, seven edited collections, over three dozen articles in various journals and essay collections, including *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *Horn Book*, *Book Bird*, *Marvels and Tales*; several dozen book reviews in scholarly journals (not counting the reviews of children's books that she contributed for over forty years to *Horn Book*); and a small but impressive body of fiction and poetry.

One of Hearne's most powerful contributions has been in the reviewing of books for children. She began reviewing for ALA's *Booklist* in 1968 and served as its editor in the formative years of 1973 to 1985. She was instrumental in establishing the Center for Children's Books at the University of Chicago, serving as editor of the *Bulletin* from 1985 to 1999, remaining as a consulting editor.



## 2010 Phoenix Award Winner



The 2010 Phoenix Award is posthumously granted to Rosemary Sutcliff for her 1990 novel *The Shining Company* (Bodley Head and Farrar/Straus/Giroux). The renowned author of more than fifty works of historical fiction for children, Sutcliff is best known for her novels of Roman Britain, Arthurian Britain, and "Dark Age" Britain. *The Shining Company* a somber work of a dark historical moment, is clearly colored by Sutcliff's experience in World War II Britain. Set in early 7<sup>th</sup> century Britain, *The Shining Company* depicts Celtic resistance to Saxon invasion and is based on a particular tragic historical episode. The novel is tragic in its depiction of the irrevocable past: "I do not think that you can be changing the end or a song or a story. . . as though it were quite separate from the rest. I think the end of a story is part of it from the beginning." Around 600 AD three hundred picked Celtic warriors spent a year training and feasting at Edinburgh along with their three hundred shield bearers. This was King Mynyddog's "shining company" that was sent out to repel a much superior force of invading Saxons. Except for one, all of the company died in battle. From this heroic disaster came "The Great Song" or "Y Gododdin", a famous medieval poem by the Welsh bard

Aneirin in which the deeds of every single one of the three hundred are set forth. Rosemary Sutcliff's *Shining Company* is a novelistic retelling of Aneirin's "Y Gododdin" in the voice of a boy, Prosper, a young shield bearer, whose life begins in a narrow Welsh valley and ends, though the dislocations of history, in Constantinople. One of the last of Rosemary Sutcliff's more than fifty historical novels, *The Shining Company* evinces her characteristic awareness of the fragility of human culture.

## ChLA Graduate Student Essay Award

Submissions from ChLA members for the 2009 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 \$100 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 the accompanying cover letter).

Only two submissions per ChLA member will be accepted. The deadline for submissions is **February 1, 2010** for a paper written during 2009. Submissions may be sent to: ChLA Graduate Student Essay Awards Committee, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138 USA or electronically to [kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto:kkiessling@childlitassn.org).

## 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](http://www.childlitassn.org), or you may contact the ChLA office.

Individual awards in each category may range from \$500 to \$1,500, (max 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 be members of the ChLA (or join) before they receive any funds.

**Awards, Grants,  
and Nominations  
Deadline  
1 Feb 2010**

## Carol Gay Award Nominations

Submissions for the Carol Gay Award are now being accepted for outstanding papers on children's literature by undergraduate students. Nominations should be submitted by a faculty member on behalf of the undergraduate student author. 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 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 and read blind. 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. With the author's permission, the award winning essay may also be posted on the ChLA website. 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 faculty member will be accepted. Send submissions to: ChLA Carol Gay Award Committee, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138 or electronically to [kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto:kkiessling@childlitassn.org)

Interested in becoming more actively involved in the Association? The ChLA Elections and Nominations Committee invites nominations for the 2010 elections. Candidates are needed for Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, and Executive Board, in addition to the Association's elected committees: Anne Devereaux Jordan Award, Article Award, Book Award, Diversity, Grants, and International. Elections will be held in early February with service for those elected beginning in June 2010 following the conference. Send nominations to Kathy Kiessling by e-mail ([kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto: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

**ChLA Administration: Kathy Kiessling**  
([kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto:kkiessling@childlitassn.org))  
ChLA, P.O. Box 138,  
Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138.  
Phone: 269-965-8180, fax: 269-965-3568

On the Internet: [www.childlitassn.org](http://www.childlitassn.org)

In Print:

*ChLA Quarterly* Editor: **Catherine Capshaw Smith**  
([rflynn@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:rflynn@georgiasouthern.edu))  
Department of Literature and Philosophy,  
Georgia Southern University,  
Statesboro, GA 30460-8023

*Children's Literature* Editor: **Julie Pfeiffer**  
([jpfeiffer@hollins.edu](mailto:jpfeiffer@hollins.edu)),  
Department of English,  
Hollins University, Roanoke, VT 24040

*ChLA Newsletter* Co-Editors:  
**Tammy Mielke** ([tmielke@uncc.edu](mailto:tmielke@uncc.edu))  
**Jennifer Miskec** ([miskecjm@longwood.edu](mailto:miskecjm@longwood.edu))

Check out the latest on the ChLA Website!  
[www.childlitassn.org](http://www.childlitassn.org)

Children's Literature Association  
P.O. Box 138  
Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138

