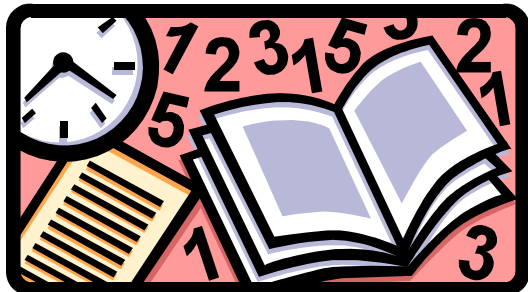


Briefings

Winter 2005

California Library Association

Children and Young Adult Services Section



Presidential Musings...

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

by Jeanine Asche

San Mateo County Library

We all get caught up in the hustle and bustle of our everyday jobs. For youth services librarians the day never stops. There are books to buy, story times to do, class visits to prepare, homework assignments to gather books for and summer reading programs to plan. It's endless. But, why do we do all this? What do we really want to accomplish? I think the bottom line, the very foundation, the key reason for every task and activity that we do is, simply put, **READING**.

Youth literacy is my passion and I believe that ensuring that children in our communities develop a lifelong relationship with reading should be the underpinning of all of our services.

Let me tell you some statistics*:

- ◆ A lack of reading skills limits a child's chance to succeed in life.
- ◆ Just half of all infants and toddlers are routinely read to by their parents.
- ◆ 60% of the kindergartners in neighborhoods where children did poorly in school did not own a single book.
- ◆ A typical middle-class child enters first grade with approximately 1,000 hours of being read to, while the corresponding child

from a low-income family averages just 25 of those hours.

- ◆ Children spend more time watching television than they spend in their classrooms.
- ◆ 60% of American adult inmates and 85% of juvenile offenders are illiterate.
- ◆ 70% of mothers on welfare have reading skills in the lowest two proficiency levels.
- ◆ Over one million children drop out of school each year, costing the nation over \$240 billion in lost earnings, forgone tax revenues, and expenditures for social services.
- ◆ Illiteracy correlates with poor health choices, costing \$73 billion in the form of longer hospital stays, emergency room visits, more doctor visits, and increased medication.

Though the above is depressing, just consider this: our profession has the power to change this bleak picture. Our efforts and services can help to raise readers who can acquire information, make better life choices and become healthy, happy, contributing members of our society.

So, next time you're planning that story time or preparing that teen booktalk, stop and take a moment to remember why you do what you do. We do it to ensure a community of readers. Is there anything better?

* statistic sources are available by request; email asche@plsinfo.org

Briefings Contributors Needed!

All members are welcome to contribute to "Briefings." Just email editor Penny Peck at Pikly@aol.com two weeks **before** the first of February, May, August, and November.

Also, thanks to assistant editor Sharon Nicola, Youth Services Manager of the Anaheim Public Library for proofreading, and thanks to all our contributors.

BRIEFINGS

California Library Association

Children's and Young Adult Services Section

Penny Peck, Editor

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San Leandro, CA 94577

Meet the Author



Author Joyce Carol Thomas, winner of several Coretta Scott King Honor Awards and the National Book Award, joined “Briefings” for an interview. Her warm, friendly manner really brightened up a winter day! Originally from Oklahoma, Ms. Thomas has lived in the Bay Area since childhood, so she is as close to being a native Californian as one can get without actually being born here, and is a graduate of Stanford University. She joined “Briefings” for an interview after returning from a trip to New York City, where she was working on a musical version of her book, *Marked by Fire*. Ms. Thomas writes picture books, poetry for children, young adult novels – her work has a wide age appeal and is often used by schools during Black History Month.

*You have a new picture book out, **The Gospel Cinderella**, illustrated by David Diaz. What inspired you? Is there any place in the Bay Area you visit to hear great gospel music? I’m a fan of Glide Memorial Church’s choir.*

Penny, I have always loved gospel music. From the choir stand, I feel the majesty of the alto, soprano, and bass voices. Also the drums, the organ, and the trembling piano notes swoop over me and I’m joyously mesmerized. The gospel music heard at Glide Memorial Church; at the Churches of God in Christ ~ the fastest growing church in America, are always moving and memorable events. And on B.E.T (The Black Entertainment Television) on Sunday mornings there’s always an array of gospel royalty, including Shirley Caesar, some vintage Aretha Franklin, The Five Blind Boys of Alabama. Any concert where the world-renowned Steven Robert has prepared the choir is not to be missed.

When I wrote *The Gospel Cinderella* my heart was right there. And my hand just followed old memories, old sounds, and new recollections. I have always enjoyed Cinderella stories. I knew I wanted this one to be different. Not about a slipper! But about a gift. Our Cinderella’s gift is the gift of song. What song? Gospel, of course.

You are unique in that you write for all ages – adults, teens, and children. Do you find that publishers and reviewers are open to that or do they try to “pigeon-hole” you?

I enjoy writing for all ages. It’s heart-warming to find adult readers who come up to me at a book signing or an event to tell me they still have their copy of *Marked by Fire* from 20 years ago!

Mothers, fathers, and grandparents have mentioned that the children’s poetry books (such as *Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea*) and the music collection (*Hush Songs*) that they read to babies also touch the child in them. They know the books have hit home when it becomes the child’s favorite bedtime, story time, or naptime book.

My editors are wonderful. They always ask what I’d like to do next. One editor calls the books “ageless”. I think she’s on to something here.

Any other new books coming out this Spring or Fall 2005 you can tell us about?

Please look for *The Six Fools*: Adapted by Joyce Carol Thomas; illustrated by Ann Tanksley; and collected by Zora Neale Hurston; publisher HarperCollins

*Your very first book, **Marked by Fire**, won the National Book Award. Did that surprise you?*

Yes, Penny, the award did surprise me. I was astonished with the NBA nomination and of course, bowled over when my agent called to tell me that *Marked By Fire* had won the National Book Award. I also think the award was a nod to what was then called Young Adult Literature. My editors, at the time, Jean Feiwel and Joanna Cotler, were also present at the New York ceremony. I had asked my young son to go with me, but he wasn’t interested. When actor Christopher Reeve read his lovely statement about the book and the importance literature plays in our lives and handed me my award, I

was in tears. When I called home to check on my son, he said, “Superman gave you your award! If I’d have known that I would’ve come!” Children help us keep our modesty!



Marked by Fire was adapted into a musical play, and will be performed Fall 2005. Any talk of it going to Broadway or to the opera in New York?

Penny, I just returned from New York City. I’m still recovering from that wonderful trip. In NYC, I was thrilled that the musical “Abyssinia,” based on *Marked by Fire*, will be revived at the premiere theatre for shows going to Broadway. I had seen the announcement headlined in *Variety Magazine* a few weeks ago.

Since the National Book Award, you have won numerous other awards, including several Coretta Scott King honors. Was there any Coretta Scott King breakfast that stands out in your mind? For me, it was the year Rosa Parks was there, and even though she didn’t give a speech, just seeing her brought me to tears!

All the Coretta Scott King breakfasts are packed, so there’s a special quality that draws people from all places, publishing companies, libraries, and of course there’s the amazing Coretta Scott King herself. She, along with Rosa Parks, is one of my heroines! From the singing of the National Negro Anthem (“Lift Every Voice and Sing”) to the prayer and presentation of the awards, there’s a sense of respect and pageantry. The award years that stand out in my mind include Coretta Scott King praising my work as well as the year when *Brown Honey* won and my granddaughter, to whom I had dedicated the book, enjoyed the ceremony in Florida. It was her first time ever on an airplane. She wrote an essay about the trip. Her greatest fear was how such a big plane could stay up in the sky.

Do you visit schools and public libraries to talk to kids about your books? If so, how do librarians contact you for visits?

Yes, I visit schools and public libraries to talk with kids about my books. Librarians contact me by e-mailing an inquiry to jctauthor@aol.com, or sometimes librarians go through one of the publishers.

Any funny experiences at a school or library visit? Nearly every author or illustrator has a story about the visit that went awry!

One funny experience had to do with a cute little boy, so young that his feet barely touched the floor. He was engrossed with *The Gospel Cinderella* book. When we talked about the mean twins, Hennie and Minnie, someone pointed out that they were so mean that the illustrator (David Diaz) had painted their teeth yellow. The young boy piped up and added, “Yes, and they need to practice dental hygiene.” I was so tickled. I wanted to laugh but did not want the child to think I was laughing at him. I somehow found the words to acknowledge his accurate assessment and said, “Let’s all laugh together.” And we did.

Another funny experience had to do with a darling little girl who saw me read at the National Urban League’s Read & Rise event in Tulsa. The sponsor had a drawing for *The Gospel Cinderella*. The little girl was one of the winners, but we ran out of books. She wanted to know when the book would come. The sponsor said, we’ll order them and call your mother and let her know when to bring you down to pick up

the book. Well, the presentation was on a Saturday. On Sunday morning, she called the event giver to ask, "Is my *Gospel Cinderella* there yet?" She called every day for two weeks, without fail, until the book got there. Of course, she knew nothing about how long it takes the mail to get any place. She just wanted HER book! I admire her perseverance!

When you were a kid, did you have a favorite book?

I read everything, from the Bible to every book in the library. I continue to enjoy reading a wide range of subjects from novels, to non-fiction, to children's books, to adult ones.

As a long-time Californian, any thoughts on the current state of libraries in our State?

Libraries are as necessary as the food we give our children. California is a State that has always enjoyed an awareness in how important education is to our youth. Libraries make up a valuable wing of education, as a place to stimulate the minds of our young, and citizens of all ages. Up with the Libraries. It's a sad day when a library is forced to close. The opposite of close is open. Open minds. Open Libraries. That's what I always think. A "Closed Library" sign is a sad day for all of us in this State and in this country.

"Briefings" thanks Joyce Carol Thomas for her wonderful interview and the time she spent with us!

Penny Peck,
San Leandro Public Library

Around Our State:

Reading the World VII Scheduled for March 12&13

The University of San Francisco will once again host the annual "Reading the World" conference, "celebrating multicultural literature for children and young adults." Set for the weekend of March 12 & 13, 2005, the conference will take place at Presentation

Theatre and is sponsored by USF's School of Education.

The conference will feature workshops on art, folklore, cultural identity, gender issues, poetry, and many other topics, as well as have book sales and author and illustrator autograph sessions. The many well-known speakers scheduled include Arnold and Jaime Adoff, Pat and Fred McKissack, Nancy Garden, Suzanne Fisher Staples, Nikki Grimes, F. Isabel Campoy, and Alma Flor Ada.

This popular annual event is always a sell-out so check out the registration information and fees at www.soe.usfca.edu/institutes/childlit.

NCCBA OTTER DINNER

The 18th Annual Northern California Children's Booksellers Dinner will be held on March 12, 2005, at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco. For tickets, which cost \$50, contact your local independent children's bookseller.

Guest speakers for the event include Cornelia Funke, author of *The Thief Lord*, *Inkheart*, and *Dragon Rider*, and Joe Cepeda, illustrator of *Mice and Beans*, *Gracias the Thanksgiving Turkey*, and several other picture books.

At the event, the recipients of the 2005 Literacy Grants will be announced, Kay Goines will be honored, and more than 50 children's authors and illustrators will be in attendance.

"Set the Stage For Reading"

The Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California (ACL) announces its annual Institute:

Set the Stage for Reading: Theater and Puppetry in the Library, to be held Thursday, April 14, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro, California.

Scheduled to perform or lead interactive workshops are:

Janet Keller, award-winning Bay area actress, communications trainer and professional coach, is a member of Actors' Equity. She teaches communications classes derived from her theater training and experience for both UC Extension and the Small Business Administration, and has trained or coached numerous educators and professionals in a variety of fields and industries. Her opening session will introduce Institute

participants to vocal and physical warm-up techniques intended to free the voice, body and spirit, inspire the imagination, increase energy and explore vocal variety. Her opening morning workshop is sure to be a delightful, refreshing experience.

Willy Claflin, the Bay area's nationally acclaimed puppeteer, storyteller, and songwriter will then lead warmed up participants in an easy-to-follow puppet workshop in which they will learn to create their own original puppet character, to lip-synch with their puppet's mouth (or beak) and to find its voice. *Please bring your favorite hand puppet to use during the workshop*, or you can buy one of the Folkmanis® puppets that will be on sale from Linden Tree throughout the day. In addition, local puppeteer Pam Brown will teach participants to make an instant paper-puppet mouth just prior to Willy's session, and as a special treat, Folkmanis® will raffle off several of their popular hand puppets.

Willy's tapes and CDs, including *The Wolf Under the Bed* (1996), which was honored by ALA as a Notable Children's Recording, and *The Uglified Ducky*, which received the Parents' Choice Gold Award in 2002, will be for sale, along with his many other recordings from Linden Tree.

Oakland Public Theater (OPT), a local company devoted to producing theater reflecting the diversity of our community will debut "The Open Road," the latest chapter in their ongoing "ReStorying" project of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. This series of verbatim, word-for-word style performances has been enjoyed by children throughout the Bay area in libraries, schools, recreation centers and at Mills College, where the company was in residence. After the performance, Artistic Director Norman Gee, (also a veteran actor with San Francisco's Word-For-Word Company), will introduce participants to the process of staging prose text.

Gracie Woodard, the branch manager of Oakland Public Library's Golden Gate Branch and former children's librarian, has vast experience in both puppetry and readers theater. In a workshop modeled after one she once presented at CLA, Gracie will coach participants in a performance from a children's readers theater script.

Advanced registration cost is \$50 for members of ACL, \$60 for non-members, and \$25 for students; and \$70 for all categories at the door. The price includes a comprehensive bibliography related to the subject and a boxed lunch. Related

books, puppets and recordings will be available for purchase. Note that non-members can save \$10 on an ACL membership by joining now (and receiving 11 issues of *BayViews* per year) with their Institute registration for a total of \$90.

To register in advance, please send checks, made out to "ACL" to Sherrill Kumler, ACL Treasurer, Hayward Public Library, 835 C Street, Hayward, CA 94541.

For more information about the Institute contact: Jane Courant at the Asian Branch, Oakland Public Library: jcourant@oaklandlibrary.org or 510-238-3400.

The **Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California** was founded in the 1930s by a group of public and school librarians. Members meet monthly at the Oakland Public Library to review books for young people and discuss related issues. ACL reviews are published in *BayViews*, a journal of book reviews and opinions with a western perspective, and a list of *Distinguished Books Reviewed* is published annually. The 2004 list will be available for purchase for \$5.00 at the Institute.

OBITUARIES

Poet Nancy Larrick Dies

Nancy Larrick died on Sunday, November 14th at age 93 at the Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, VA. A former editor of children's books, Larrick was a national authority on children's literature. Among her many accomplishments as an author, poet, educator, children's literature specialist, and the second president of the International Reading Association, Nancy Larrick is remembered for her article "The All-White World of Children's Books," which appeared in the September 1965 issue of the *Saturday Review*. This article continues to influence the multicultural movement in children's literature.

Illustrator Trina Schart Hyman Dies at 65

Trina Schart Hyman, who illustrated an entire shelf of children's books and inspired many others who worked in the genre, died in November, 2004, in Lebanon, N.H. She was 65 and lived in Lyme, N.H. The cause was complications of breast cancer, said Jean Aull, her partner.

She won the Caldecott Medal, the highest award for authors and artists in her field, for Margaret Hodges's *St. George and the Dragon*:

A Golden Legend Adapted From Edmund Spenser's 'Faerie Queen' (Little, Brown: 1984). She won Caldecott honors three times, for *Little Red Riding Hood*; *A Child's Calendar*, with text by John Updike; and *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* by Eric A. Kimmel (Holiday House, 1989).

Author Miriam Schlein Dies at 78

Author Miriam Schlein died on Nov. 23 in New York. She was 78 and lived in Manhattan. Ms. Schlein wrote to educate while also entertaining her readers. She found new ways of telling them about bats and skunks and porcupines and their behavior even as she cleared up myths about them. Some of her recent books were about dinosaurs, and four are currently in print: *Before the Dinosaurs* (1996), illustrated by Michael Rothman; *The Dino Quiz Book* (1995), illustrated by Nate Evans; *Let's Go Dinosaur Tracking!* (1991), illustrated by Kate Duke; and *Discovering Dinosaur Babies* (1991), illustrated by Margaret Colbert. She first appeared in print in 1951 with *A Day at the Playground* from Golden Books, where she worked as a secretary.

Ms. Schlein was born in Brooklyn. She received a B.A. in English and psychology from Brooklyn College in 1947 and then held a number of jobs in advertising and publishing.

Call for Conference Programs

Preparations for the 2005 CLA Conference are underway. Librarians, authors and consultants are submitting their ideas for Conference programs to be held November 4-7 in Pasadena. It is exciting to hear from you and learn what issues are of concern.

If you want to be a part of this adventure, then please send your ideas through the application found on the CLA website. Programs with a new twist or issues that are relevant and have not been addressed are especially desirable. This process is competitive so if you don't get a chance this year, then re-submit your idea for 2006.

Thanks so much to all of you for your interest and enthusiasm!

Ilene Abramson, Vice President
213-228-7481.

DAD & ME @ THE LIBRARY AWARD

The Fatherhood Collaborative of San Mateo County held its sixth annual awards breakfast recently and Jeanine Asche, Youth, Family and Literacy Services Manager for the San Mateo County Library and our CYAS president received the "Fatherhood Advocate of the Year" award.



The mission of the

Fatherhood Collaborative of San Mateo County is to engage parents, providers, employers and the broader community to better understand the importance of men and fathers as they relate to children. The Collaborative serves as an incubator for initiatives and activities improving the lives of children, fathers, and families in San Mateo County by recognizing the unique needs of fathers and men.

Jeanine was nominated for her collaborative efforts and promotion of the popular Dad & Me @ the Library programs. This program, now held at all libraries throughout San Mateo County, is a special story time that is designed to encourage dads to bring their children to the library and then read to their children on a regular basis.

ALSC announces new children's book award named for Theodor Seuss Geisel

(CHICAGO) The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is delighted to announce the creation of a new award for outstanding children's literature. Named for the world-renowned children's author, the **Theodor Seuss Geisel Award** joins ALSC's prestigious family of awards recognizing the most distinguished children's literature published each year.

The Theodor Seuss Geisel Award will be presented annually to both the author(s) and illustrator(s) of an outstanding book for beginning readers published in the past calendar year. The winning author(s) and illustrator(s) must demonstrate great creativity to engage children in reading. The first winner(s) of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award will be announced during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January 2006.

"There is a true magic to Geisel's work, which is clear in the enduring power of such classics as 'The Cat in the Hat' and 'Green Eggs and Ham,'" said ALSC President Gretchen Wronka. "This new award honors that spirit and the authors and illustrators that delight and engage children in reading."

"This is such a wonderful tribute to my husband," said Audrey Geisel, president of Dr. Seuss Enterprises. "Librarians are critical to instilling a love of reading in young people, and I'm so pleased the ALA and children's librarians will be selecting the best of the best in Dr. Seuss' name." Dr. Seuss would say, "A person's a person no matter how small. Children want the same things we want: to laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained and delighted." Brilliant, playful and always respectful of children, Dr. Seuss charmed his way into the consciousness of four generations of youngsters and parents. In the process, he helped them to read.

The award committee held its inaugural meeting at the 2005 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston, January 14-19. Caroline Ward, Ferguson Public Library (Conn.), chaired the committee, which also includes: Carole D. Fiore, State Library and Archives of Florida; Barbara Genco, Brooklyn Public Library (N.Y.); Nancy Green, Grand Canyon School (Ariz.); Leslie Holt, library

consultant; Lynne Russo, National City Public Library (San Diego, Calif.); and Marilyn Sobotincic, Medina County District Library (Ohio).

ALSC is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of service to children in all types of libraries. ALSC sets the agenda for the future of children's library service and acts as a children's advocate urging policy makers to support library service for children.

PROFESSIONAL READING

Shepard, Aaron. Readers On Stage: Resources for Reader's Theater (or Readers Theatre), With Tips, Play Scripts, and Worksheets. Shepard Publications, 2004. \$12. ISBN 0-938497-21-9.

Teachers, recreation leaders, and librarians will find Shepard's newest book on Readers Theatre just as useful (and fun!) as his previous books *Stories on Stage* and *Folktales on Stage*. Even people inexperienced in drama or theatre can lead a group of kids in a Readers Theatre project, bringing stories to life and encouraging reading. As Shepard describes, Readers Theatre is a basically a bare-bones performance of a script, usually without sets, props or costumes. And very often the "actors" don't even memorize their roles, but read from a script held in a binder. This manual shows you how to convert a favorite story into a Readers Theatre script, how to direct and perform a Readers Theatre piece, and how to empower children to create their own scripts and perform them.

After a brief introduction describing Readers Theatre, Shepard starts off with three finished scripts: "The Legend of Lightning Larry," "Peddler Polly and the Story Stealer," and "The Baker's Dozen," all adapted from Shepard's own stories. Like all the scripts in the book and on his website, readers are allowed to use these for noncommercial performances in classrooms and libraries.

Next, Shepard outlines how to turn a story into a Readers Theatre script. He explains that stories with a lot of dialogue often work well, and he gives tips on what to cut and how to formulate the roles (including having several narrators). The following chapter explains how to stage, or do simple blocking, for the

performances. Many teachers will also appreciate the concise and clear chapter on how to perform the scripts (basically, explaining to the kids how to read loud and clear, and not to rush). He included reproducible handouts that teachers can give to students, listing these tips.

The book also includes 25 scripting worksheets, most based on folktales Shepard has adapted into picture book form. There is a long list of articles, books, and websites on Readers Theatre, and a list of suppliers and an index. Show this book to reading teachers who may be inspired to use it with their students!

Readers On Stage is available from all the customary library vendors, or contact www.shepardpub.com for more information.

Yo Ho, Yo Ho, A Reader's Life for Me

Activities:

Choose a pirate name using the sample list from Lichtenheld's *Everything I Know About Pirates*. Write the names on name tags.

If you are dividing into teams, they may want to name their pirate ship. List the teams on a board if keeping score during games.

Make pirate bandanas from crepe paper streamers or fabric.

Dig for treasure. Hide small carnival prizes in a plastic blanket box filled with rice. Players have to dig them out with wooden spoons.

Treasure boxes: Decorate small gift boxes with sequins and glitter.

Games:

Walk the plank. This is musical chairs with the chairs serving as the plank. Use pirate-y music or perhaps the soundtrack from "Pirates of the Caribbean".

Hook the treasure chest. Cut several hook shape from tag board and cover them with foil. Cut a slit in the bottoms of sturdy plastic cups. Slide the non-hook end through the slit to form a handle within the cup. Tape it securely. Use the hook cups to capture paper pirate chests. Cut treasure chest shapes from brown construction paper. Bend a chenille stem into a circle and attach one to each treasure chest. Pirates hook the chests with their cups. This may be an individual or team game. If playing by teams, use different colored stems and see which team can pick theirs up first.

Cannonball firing. Toss black rubber balls into a black paper colored box with cannon shaped opening).

Cannonball bounce: Blow up black balloons and see how long individuals or teams can keep them in the air.

Snacks:

Maggoty bread - sourdough with gummy worms. Shipmates Snacks* - dark bread with soft cheese squeezed on in the shape of a skull and crossbones.

Cut-throat Kebabs* - cut-up pieces of fruit on kebab sticks

Grog - ginger ale

* from *Pirate Cook Book* by Mary Ling, DK, 1997

Treasure:

Everyone receives a pirate flag purchased from Oriental Trading Company, an eye patch (made by one of the mothers), a stack of plastic gold coins, and a few chocolate gold coins. If you have a large facility, you may want to create a treasure map ahead of time for the pirates to follow.

Books to share:

Roger, the Jolly Pirate - Brett Helquist

Pirates - C. Drew Lamm

Everything I Know About Pirates - Tom Lichtenheld

How I Became a Pirate - Melinda Long

Edward and the Pirates - David McPhail

Pam Carlson, Los Altos Neighborhood Library
Long Beach Public Library

2005 American Library Association Award Winners in Children's and Young Adult Literature

Newbery Medal

Kira-Kira, by Cynthia Kadohata, Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster

Newbery Honor Books

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, by Gary D. Schmidt, Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Company

Al Capone Does My Shirts, by Gennifer Choldenko, G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group

The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights, by Russell Freedman, Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Company

Caldecott Medal

Kitten's First Full Moon, by Kevin Henkes, Greenwillow Books/HarperCollinsPublishers

Caldecott Honor Books

The Red Book, by Barbara Lehman, Houghton Mifflin Company

Coming on Home Soon, by illustrated by E.B. Lewis, written by Jacqueline Woodson, G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale, by Mo Willems, Hyperion Books for Children

Batchelder Award (Honoring a Translated Work)

Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books, publisher of *The Shadows of Ghadames* by Joëlle Stolz, translated from the French by Catherine Temerson

Batchelder Honor Book

Farrar Straus Giroux, publisher of *The Crow-Girl: The Children of Crow Cove*, by Bodil Bredsdorff, translated from the Danish by Faith Ingwersen

A Richard Jackson Book, Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, publisher of *Daniel Half Human and the Good Nazi*, by David Chotjewitz, translated from the German by Doris Orgel

Sibert Medal (Honoring a Non-Fiction Work)

The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights, by

Russell Freedman, Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Company

Sibert Honor Books

Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing, by James Rumford, translated into Cherokee by Anna Sixkiller Huckaby, Houghton Mifflin Company

The Tarantula Scientist, by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop, Houghton Mifflin Company

Walt Whitman: Words for America, by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Brian Selznick, Scholastic Press/Scholastic Inc.

Wilder Medal (Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Children's Literature)

Laurence Yep, award-winning author of books for young people

Carnegie Medal (Media Award)

Paul R. Gagne and Melissa Reilly of Weston Woods Studios, producers of "The Dot," in association with FableVision, based on the book by Peter H. Reynolds

2006 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecturer

Russell Freedman, renowned author of outstanding nonfiction books for children and adults

2005 Michael L. Printz Award (for Excellence in Young Adult Literature)

how I live now by Meg Rosoff, Wendy Lamb Books

Printz Honor Books

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel, EOS/Harper Collins

Chanda's Secrets by Allan Stratton, Annick Press

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt, Clarion Books

Maragaret A. Edwards Award (Lifetime Achievement in Young Adult Literature)

Francesca Lia Block

Coretta Scott King Award (For an author recognizing the African-American Experience)

Remember: The Journey to School Integration by Toni Morrison, Houghton Mifflin

Coretta Scott King Award, Author Honor Books

The Legend of Buddy Bush by Sheila P. Moses, Margaret K. McElderry

Who Am I Without Him? By Sharon G. Flake, Jump at the Sun/Hyperion

Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem by Marilyn Nelson, Front Street

Coretta Scott King Award (For an Illustrator recognizing the African-American Experience)

Ellington Was Not a Street illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Notzake Shange, Simon and Schuster

Coretta Scott King, Illustrator Honor Books

God Bless the Child, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, written by Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog Jr., Amistad/Harper Collins

The People Could Fly: The Picture Book, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon, written by Virginia Hamilton, Alfred A. Knopf

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award

Missy Violet and Me, by Barbara Hathaway, Houghton Mifflin (author)

Jazzy Miz Mozetta, illustrated by Frank Morrison, written by Brenda Roberts, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (illustrator)

2004 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARDS

Pnina Moed Kass, author of *Real Time*, is the 2004 winner of the prestigious Sydney Taylor Book Award. Eric A. Kimmel is the winner of the 2004 Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award for his overall contribution to the genre of Jewish children's literature.

Kass and Kimmel were among the winners announced on January 10 at the Midwinter Meeting of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Manhattan. AJL's Sydney Taylor Book Awards honor new books for children and teens that exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience. The award memorializes Sydney Taylor, author of the classic All-of-a-Kind Family series. The winners will receive their awards at the Association of Jewish Libraries convention in Oakland, CA this June.

Kass, who lives in Israel, won the 2004 Sydney Taylor Book Award for *Real Time* published by Clarion. Hour by hour, the novel chronicles the events surrounding a bus bombing outside of Jerusalem. The story is told by a diverse cast of characters, including kibbutzniks, tourists, soldiers, and the Palestinian teenager who bombs the bus. Remarkably insightful and even-handed, this thoughtful book is a riveting read that, as the publisher says, "could be the backstory behind yesterday's - or tomorrow's - news." The book is recommended for grades 8-12.

"*Real Time* is a stunning portrait of modern Israeli life," said Heidi Estrin, chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. "It is both frightening and hopeful, drawing readers into the complexity of life in the Middle East without offering easy answers. As one character says, everyone is part of the story, and 'like a tangled string when you pull it, it gets tighter.' The book will fascinate teen readers, and help them connect to the human side of what they see on the news."

Kimmel, of Portland, Oregon, won the 2004 Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award, which is presented every few years to an author who has made a substantial contribution to the genre of Jewish children's literature. Past winners include Barbara Diamond Goldin, Miriam Chaikin, and Isaac Bashevis Singer. Kimmel, the author of over fifty children's books, has written more than

twenty books of Jewish interest during his illustrious career, including the recent book ***Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion***, winner of the National Jewish Book Award and a 2004 Sydney Taylor Honor Book. He won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in 2000 for ***Gershon's Monster*** and in 1990 for ***The Chanukah Guest***.

"Eric Kimmel's books are loved by children, not just by teachers or librarians," explained Estrin. "He brings a sense of joy to his storytelling. His humor, sense of adventure, inclusion of scary monsters, and pride in his Jewish heritage are all features that help him forge a strong bond with readers."

Six Sydney Taylor Honor Books were named for 2004: five in the Older Readers' Category and one in the Younger Readers' Category. For Older Readers, the Honor Books are: ***Daniel Half-Human and the Good Nazi*** by David Chotjewitz, published by Simon & Schuster; ***Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*** by Anne Dublin, published by Second Story Press; ***The Cats in Krasinski Square*** by Karen Hesse and illustrated by Wendy Watson, published by Scholastic; ***Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion*** by Eric A. Kimmel, published by Scholastic; and ***My Guardian Angel*** by Sylvie Weil, published by Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic. For Younger Readers, the Honor Book is ***Daniel in the Lions' Den*** by Jean Marzollo and illustrated by the author, published by Little Brown.

In addition to the medal-winners, the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee designated thirty-one Notable Children's Books of Jewish Content for 2004: twenty in the Older Readers' Category and eleven in the Younger Readers' Category. Notable titles, and more information about the Sydney Taylor Book Award, may be found online at www.jewishlibraries.org.