



*The Literacy and Social Responsibility
Special Interest Group
Of the
International Reading Association
Spring 2012 Newsletter*

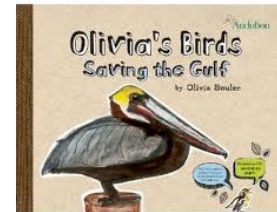
**IRA Program: Tue, May 1, 2012, 3:00- 5:45 PM
Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Room: CC21**

Welcome: 3:00 PM

Looking Through a Socially Responsible Literacy Kaleidoscope

Welcome: Patricia Dean, President & Beth Breneman, Secretary
Program Coordinators: Andrea Karlin & Melanie Goodman, Co-Chairs

Presentation of 2012 Literacy and Service Award by
Denise Stuart & Alma Flor Ada to Olivia Bouler for her work
on preserving wildlife, particularly the gulf coast through her
book *Olivia's Birds: Saving the Gulf*.



Keynote: 3:20 PM



David Geister, Sleeping Bear Press
**Memories and Stories From the Past: Historically
Responsible Books for the Present and Future**

Roundtable Discussions: 4:00-4:20, 4:25-4:45 PM

A Social Justice Approach to the Writing Process. Thandeka K Chapman,
University of Wisconsin, Nikola Hobbel, Humboldt State University, Nora
Alvarado

**Wiki Writers: Students and Teachers Making Connections Across
Communities.** Laurie Andes, Salisbury University & Becky Claggett, Wicomico
County Public Schools

Literacy by the Bay: A Coaching Model That Works! Kathy Fontaine & Jenne
Palmer

**Selecting and Using Quality Multicultural Literature to Inspire Literacy
Engagement.** Ruth Oswald & Lynn Smolen, The University of Akron

Putting it into Practice: Ecological Literacies for Classroom Instruction.
Margaret Hagood, College of Charleston

Cyber Discussions as Catalysts for Authentic Literacy Engagement.
Joy Bowers-Campbell, Gainesville State College

Fostering Social Responsibility Through Inquiry.
Lindsey Guccione, University of Northern Colorado

Not Just Dead White Guys: Using Multi-Genre Writing to Study Overlooked Heroes. Kathy Danielson, University of Nebraska at Omaha & Jan LaBonty, University of Montana

What ARE the Gaps? ELs in Mainstream English Classrooms.
Ann A. Kennedy, Arlington County Public Schools

Cinderella's Prince Who? Looking at Resourceful Females in Multicultural Folk Literature. Andrea Karlin, Jean Andrews, Zanthia Smith, Stacey Bumstead, & Cheryl Nelson, Lamar University

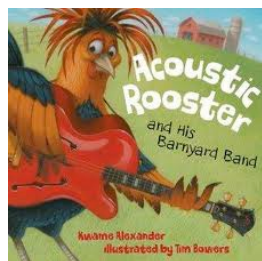
Reading Children's Literature with the Vision of Louise Rosenblatt.
Melanie Goodman, Chestnut Hill College

Decriminalizing School Discipline: A Bibliotherapeutic Approach. Dr. Virginia H. Howard and Dr. James A. Fox, University of the District of Columbia

Illustrating Social Justice. Susan Roth (Dial Books, Salisbury University, MD)

Keynote: 4:50 PM

Kwame Alexander, Sleeping Bear Press
Words Changing Worlds



Reprint from Reading Today Online

Featured Special Interest Group: Literacy and Social Responsibility

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

by Melanie Cohen Goodman, Chestnut Hill College

The Mission of IRA's Literacy and Social Responsibility Special Interest Group (L-SR SIG) is to study, understand, and advocate for high quality programs which integrate community service, participatory citizenship, social responsibility, appreciation for diversity, environmental stewardship, character education, and/or caring behavior into the development of literacy across the curriculum. LSR Past President and Membership Chair, Melanie Goodman, shares what makes the SIG unique and fun.

1. Are you especially proud of any of your SIG's projects?

Members of the L-SR SIG are proud of all our activities including our consistently engaging sessions at IRA's annual convention dedicated to introducing conference attendees to top-notch key note speakers and interactive round table presenters, our new special service award for students, informative newsletter, creative website, and most recent professional venue—the *LSR e-journal*. We work to build community at our sessions and leadership dinners, and online now via Facebook. We should also mention our newest award under development is for books that address—you guessed it!—literacy and social responsibility. Our newest project just unveiled last year is the Literacy and Service Recognition Award. This annual award celebrates the work of students (K-16+) who have been nominated by teachers and librarians for exemplary community service involving some form of literacy. Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy inspired this award, provided seed funds, and serve on the award committee chaired by Denise Stuart. Award winners are presented with an engraved plaque and certificate of recognition and invited to showcase their work at IRA's annual convention as part of the L-SR SIG program. The inaugural first place winner was a team of third-grade students in an advanced literacy class at the Columbus School for Girls, who traveled to Orlando to present their service project last year. The work of Ahlam Jallaq, Aubrey Lanham, Ailis Rees, Leslie Robins, and Evelyn Stuntz was celebrated for developing and expanding Project S.O.A.R. (Save Our Albatross Research). Visit the L-SR website for submission details and information about our first award recipients.

2. What does your SIG program look like at the Annual IRA Convention?

Our Literacy and Social Responsibility (L-SR) SIG conference program has always engaged the most dynamic keynote speakers. Children's literature is the vehicle of choice through which Opening Keynoters and noted children's book authors Eve Bunting (*The Terrible Things: An Allegory on the Holocaust*) and Lynne Cherry (*The Great Kapok Tree*) have addressed issues of social justice. On more than one occasion, praise for the talent and courage of our keynoters has drawn high praise and much appreciation from a room filled to capacity with conferees.

In various conference venues, L-SR SIG conferees have tapped to the lyrics and songs of singer, songwriter, and Grammy Award winner John McCutcheon; waxed poetic with Dixie Goswami; and were ready to march to the Capitol with literacy advocate Patrick Shannon. A more recent keynote address was offered by authors and educational consultants, Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy (our very own!), whose "transformative education" practice suggests that teacher practitioners incorporate reflection to "give voice to life experiences." A potpourri of Roundtable discussions at the L-SR SIG sessions continues to add an authentically interactive component to an already lively SIG session. The Closing Keynote address has been a welcome addition to the L-SR SIG program and well received by conference attendees, many of whom remain in the conference room for our business meeting (organized and run by L-SR President, Patricia Dean) at which point they are invited to become active members and perhaps consider a leadership role in our SIG. Unique to IRA and truly a wonderful moment in the life of our Literacy and Social Responsibility SIG was the inclusion of students as recipients of the Literacy and Service Recognition Award in Orlando in May 2011.



Photo caption: Evelyn Stuntz, Leslie Robins, Ahlam Jallaq, Ailis Rees, and Aubrey Lanham along with teacher Debbie Charna display the service award and certificate at their school library.



Photo caption: Denise Stuart, Awards Chair of L-SR SIG, presents Literacy and Service Award certificates to the 2011 winners from Columbus School for Girls for Project S.O.A.R. (Save Our Albatross Research) at the L-SR SIG session. Ahlam Jallaq, Aubrey Lanham, Ailis Rees and Leslie Robins, traveled to Orlando with nominating teacher Debbie Charna and Director of Lower School Joan Hill.

3. Are there other benefits to joining your SIG?

As a member of the L-SR SIG you will benefit from the opportunity to dialog and exchange ideas with colleagues who are interested in social responsibility and literacy. Under the leadership of ejournal editor, Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell, we offer a peer-reviewed journal and each year, accept submissions for that journal. Reviewers represent a diverse geographical board with a wide variety of expertise, interests, and experience. The submission process is becoming increasingly competitive. Last year, we received 16 submissions and published five manuscripts, approximately a 33% acceptance rate. The most recent call and submission requirements can be downloaded from the link above.

Members also benefit from the opportunity to serve fellow educators by creating strands for display on the L-SR website. For example, Best Literacy Practices with Pro-social Twists is a new instructional strategies project under development

as a website strand this year. At least five research-based and highly regarded literacy strategies appropriate for grades four through 12 will be presented in a user friendly format including: Definition, Goals, Teacher Preparation, Instructional Procedures, Prosocial Enhancements, Relevant Common Core Standards, and Further Resources. Please contact L-SR Secretary, Beth Breneman, at bethbreneman@comcast.net for information about the web-based strategies project.

Also, keep in mind that we're on Facebook! Members can benefit by using Facebook for building their professional communities and for publicizing their publications and projects to a broader audience. Please join us on [Facebook](#) and search for "Literacy Responsibility." Our Communications Chair, Ernie Bond, set up the site specifically for our LSR SIG. Log on, check it out, and add your own comments and connections. Not sure how to join Facebook? It's easy...just go to the website above and follow the instructions. You'll need an email address and a password. It's lots of fun!

4. Is there a way to find out more information about your SIG?

All those interested in the IRA Literacy and Social Responsibility SIG are invited to visit the [LSR website](#), created by Web-manager, Kaye West, at www.csulb.edu/misc/l-sr to learn more about the organization. The website includes information about our SIG: past and upcoming programs, resources including reviews of professional and juvenile literature, a list of websites related to the mission of the L-SR SIG, and ways to get involved in our Special Interest Group.

In addition, every spring prior to the [IRA Convention](#) members receive an electronic copy of the L-SR program and update of SIG activities in the annual "Literacy & Social Responsibility Newsletter" thanks to our Newsletter Editor, Susan Speer-Powers.

Currently, there are no dues for the L-SR SIG, but you must be an up-to-date member of IRA. Please contact Melanie Cohen Goodman, Membership Chair, goodmanm@chc.edu to become a member and learn about volunteer opportunities.

5. What presenters and topics will be featured at your session in Chicago?

Program Chair Andrea Karlin has announced two keynote presentations, one by innovative author/illustrator David Geister titled, "Memories and Stories from the Past: Historically Responsible Books for the Present and Future," and the other by dynamic author/poet Kwame Alexander, "Words Changing Worlds." In addition, round table discussions will include these topics: "What ARE the Gaps: ELs in Mainstream English Classrooms;" "Not Just Dead White Guys: Using Multi-Genre Writings to Study Overlooked Heros;" "Cinderella's Prince Who? Looking at Resourceful Females in Multicultural Folk Literature;" "Putting Into Practice: Ecological Literacies for Classroom Instruction;" "Fostering Social Responsibility Through Inquiry;" and "Wiki Writers: Students and Teachers Making Connections Across Communities."

Please join us in [Chicago](#) on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, CC21, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.!



Photo caption: Patrick Shannon presents as keynote speaker at the L-SR SIG session in Orlando, 2011.



Photo caption: John McCutcheon performs as he discusses Literacy and Social Responsibility at the L-SR SIG session at Chicago 2010.

**CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS FOR:
58th Annual IRA Convention—San Antonio Texas (April 21-24, 2013)**

IRA's Literacy and Social Responsibility Special Interest Group (SIG) invites you to complete this form if you would like to present a project which successfully integrates literacy and social responsibility.

Please Note:

SIG Purpose: *To study, understand, and promote high-quality programs which foster community service, participatory citizenship, social responsibility, appreciation for diversity, environmental stewardship, and caring behavior that occurs within the development of literacy across the curriculum.* Areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

**Classroom Communities of Inquiry
Literacy & Character Education
Language Arts & the Natural World
Literacy & Service Learning
Authentic Contexts for Language Arts
Community-Based Writing**

**Fostering Social, Emotional, & Academic Growth
Literacy & Civic/Social/Environmental Engagement
Reading, Writing, Critical Thinking, and Citizenship
Literacy & Respecting Diverse Cultures
Best Literacy Practices + Pro-social Enhancements
Closing the Gap for At-Risk Students**

Literacy & Social Responsibility SIG Session (Wednesday am, April 24, 2013)

Note : Roundtable sessions are 25 minutes in length.

Name of Contact (Organizing) Speaker _____

Professional Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____ W Phone _____ H Phone _____

Member of IRA ? Check one: Yes ___ No ___ IRA # _____ Expiration Date _____

Title of Presentation _____

Brief Description of Session --50 Words or Less (Continue on separate page or on back, if needed.)

See Page 2 for additional presenters and reply information.

Names, Contact Information, Membership Status for All Presenters:

(IRA Membership not required for presenters) Continue on separate page or on back, as needed.

Name of Speaker _____

Professional Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____ W Phone _____ H Phone _____

Member of IRA ? Check one: Yes ___ No ___ IRA # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name of Speaker _____

Professional Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____ W Phone _____ H Phone _____

Member of IRA ? Check one: Yes ___ No ___ IRA # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name of Speaker _____

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Mailing Address _____

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Professional Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____ W Phone _____ H Phone _____

Member of IRA ? Check one: Yes ___ No ___ IRA # _____ Expiration Date _____

Please return no later than Friday, June 1, 2012 to LSR SIG Program Co-Chair, Andrea Karlin, Lamar University, P.O. Box 10034, Beaumont, TX 77710-0034 karlinar@lamar.edu

or to Co-Chair Melanie Cohen Goodman, 7900 Glen Oak Road Elkins Park, PA 19027 goodmanm@chc.edu