

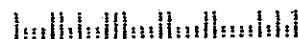
## DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1, 1989	Dinner Meeting Richard Luftig speaking on self-esteem
November 7-10, 1989	"Freedom Through Literacy" - New York  State Reading Association Conference at Concord.
March 3, 1990	Saturday Brunch Priscilla Lynch (Whole Language)
May 1990	Peter Johnston, Spring Banquet (Assessment)
October 1 & 2, 1991	3rd Annual Whole Language Conference Rochester, New York

**NOVEMBER 15 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS  
THE DAY OF THE YOUNG READER.**

**SPOTLIGHT**  
Niagara Frontier Reading Council  
of the International Reading Association  
803 Castlebar Drive  
No. Tonawanda, NY 14120

NFRC-405-89-90  
DR SHARON KULHANEK  
[REDACTED]



# SPOT

Volume XXX, No. 2

## ENDEAVORS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE: THEME OF CALKINS' TALK

by Ardith Gole



Before a crowd of 600 educators stood a tiny, yet powerful woman. One could feel the anticipation in the audience. Most had read her works. Many were implementing her philosophy. We expected the 'enthusiasm' we experienced as we lived with her through the pages of her texts. We knew that she must maintain a high level of energy to accomplish so much at such a young age. We searched for inspiration and new understandings. And we weren't disappointed!

Amidst transparencies of children's work, stories of her family, tales of her cohorts, quotes from authorities in the field, wonderful warm pieces of children's writing, and classroom ideas and insights Lucy Calkins shared her message: "Kids work hard on projects they deem significant."

To our surprise she likened the teacher in the reading-writing workshop to the plate-spinner in a circus. "Are we going anywhere?" she asked. "Our job is to launch students on endeavors of great importance."

"Reading and writing take time," she warned. "Don't shoehorn writing into a cha-cha-cha curriculum...It must be significant."

Lucy reaffirmed that the door to good writing is unlocked through literature. "Be sure that they're reading a variety of literature," she said. Then go on and use this literature for genre-based projects.

She suggested we, "Get a group of teachers together and do a project on memoir." It is a new way of thinking about personal narrative - the "project of our time."

However, her real focus for the day was picture book writing, using it as a way to look at genre studies in general. Teachers have a special feeling for this genre for, "as teachers of picture books we are co-creators of them." They "...may have written the words, but we have provided the lyrics." These are not intimidating books. We've shared them with generations of kids, and "we know the things that work in picture books." We know about endings, quality of language, refrains. We have a feel for picture book writing so "we can imagine ourselves writing the text"; "...our words would be put with the beautiful artwork."

"If writing picture books calls for the quickening of spirit in us, how much more so for our kids, because this is their genre." We try to fool our kids, believing that they are writing like authors. However, they are reading full-length novels, yet writing one or two-page stories. "The problem is not that they're failing to write literature, but that they're not intending to write literature." "The crucial thing about writing picture books is that what they write and what they read are so similar."

# LIGHT

*SAMPLES*

November 1989

"If you want to learn to write, you have to keep your eye on where you want to go, and picture books help kids to do that." Lucy suggested that teachers have a BYOB (Bring Your Own Books) party where they bring their favorite picture books.

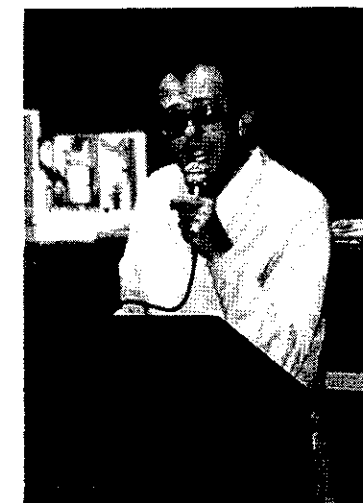
Reading workshop will then take on a new dimension also, for students will be reading books aloud, over and over and to each other. After this immersion students will want to develop their own real purposes for these books.

One group collects lists of books for the vet so that he might share them with children who have lost a pet. Or they collect them for kids who have just learned to ride a bike or just lost their first tooth. "This means their reading is purposeful."

However, the "most important thing that picture books can do for kids is to help them fall in love with a single book." Lucy tells us, "It's the books that we read over and over again that becomes a part of us." She relates how real reasons are developed for students to share books with others. She suggests sending the older students to the lower grades to read aloud. (Cont'd on Page 2)

## LET THE READING BEGIN: FRANK HODGE SHARES BOOKS

By Denise David



Paula Costello introduced him as the man who has the job all of us would like to have when we retire. Frank Hodge owns a bookstore. He came to the Niagara Frontier Reading Council with book after book to share with the Saturday morning crowd. Frank shared title after title that we ought to track down to read, but he also taught us about how to read to our students. Frank was unabashed in his delight with Bill Martin's latest book, *Chica, Chica Boom Boom*. No one needed to be reminded of the power of rhythm and word choice.

*Earthlets* by Gene Willis brought laughter to the group and probably was noted on not a few Christmas lists. Judy Delton's *Pee Wee Scout* books sound like a good choice for grades one and two. Tomie de Paola fans were pleased to hear about *The Art Lesson* de Paola's latest book. Hodge told the group of the autobiographical elements in the book. Hodge switched the pace as he read from Jeanne Dixon's *The Tempered Wind*, a moving story about a girl who is a dwarf and whose knowledge of life comes from her reading.

Both Calkins and Hodge point to the importance of picture books in our programs if we are truly interested in helping children develop a love of literature. Let the reading begin.

(Cont'd from Page 1)

"We need to create an environment of intimacy in reading-writing workshop," she implored. The atmosphere in the city by pushing the desks to gathering together in the middle for storytellin setting "kids can define what it means to be whoe

After storytelling she would encourage kids to notebook. "The gist of a writer's workbook is not making a rough draft of a piece, but because you don't want to walk around unwritten."

It's the language of great literature that's important. "You're not just writing about 'My Grandfather' - you've got a line, you've got a beat, you've got a melody and you go with it." She continued, "How do you get inside of yourself and go with the voice, the beat?"

"Part of the fun is that you play with language a little bit." Lucy does a lot with choral reading, drama and storytelling.

Picture books have an architecture, too. It's enjoyable just working "with the shape of picture books." In so doing, we begin to realize that "the crucial act in making picture books is taking away - not adding on."

Before a very inspired audience Lucy brought her talk to an end reminding us that, "Teachers, too, need the chance to work hard on endeavors we deem significant."

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK SET FOR NOVEMBER 13-19

The Children's Book Council has selected "Ready, Set, Read!" as the theme for the 70th annual observance of National Book Week, November 13-19, 1989. The Council has prepared two sets of materials for Book Week, one for younger and new readers, and a second for young adults.

Materials designed for children include a full-color 17"x22" poster by Caldecott Medalist Richard Egielski, featuring feathered creatures lined up for a reading marathon. Other materials are a frieze by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey, streamers by Gail Gibbons, bookmarks illustrated by Lynn Munsinger and featuring a poem by Charlotte Zolotow, and an illustrated 34"x22" sheet by Denys Cazet to be colored in by young readers. These items are included in a Book Week Bargain Kit that costs US \$25.00. The Egielski poster alone is US \$6.00.

Romance highlights the pictures by Bruce Emmett for the 25 1/2"x11" Young Adult Book Week poster. The poster is featured in the YA Book Week Kit along with other items designed to stimulate young adults' interest in reading. The kit is available for US \$23.50; the poster alone is US \$6.25.

A brochure that pictures these and other items is available for a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope sent to: Book Week Brochure, Children's Book Council, PO Box 706, New York, New York 10276-0706, USA.

SPOTLIGHT

Vol. XXX, No. 2 November 1989

Denise David, Editor 135 Smallwood Drive Snyder, NY 14226

Publication Deadlines: February 1, April 24

Please send any information about upcoming speakers or events that you would like included in SPOTLIGHT to the editor.

MENT'S MESSAGE

Pauline Klosterman



Once again the frost was on the pumpkin on a beautiful Saturday morning drive to the NFRC conference. I wish all of you could have joined us.

A team effort extraordinaire! Our Orchard Park teachers were such gracious hostesses. Kudos to our Past President, Paula Costello (not enough can be said of Paula's dedication to NFRC), to our Membership chairman Dr. Barbara Bundy and to our Exhibits Chairman, Mary Georger. A

special note of appreciation to all members who contributed so richly of their time.

To all our conferees, I know that you returned home energized by the message of Lucy Calkins and warmed through the special story interpretations of Frank Hodge. There is still more to come. You will be warmed many times over at our future planned programs for this year.

Keep in mind our two member participation events where we need you. Year of Young Reader, Saturday, October 21st Buffalo Zoo and Boulevard Mall Exhibit on Friday and Saturday, May Contact me please. We need readers.

As with all our NFRC projects our goal is to be of service to administrators, teachers, parents and students in Western New York.

To date, our efforts have provided a membership over 600. With all your help, I look forward to continued success providing vital support for a vital subject...Reading.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Our Niagara Frontier Reading Council was recognized nationally as an Honor Council for our well-rounded programs serving both the council members and the community.

We also were named to the membership honor roll.



NFRC OFFICERS 1989-90

- President ..... Pauline Klosterman
Advisor ..... Paula Costello
President-elect ..... Dr. Sharon Kulhanek
Vice President ..... C. Ty Federick
Vice President Elect ..... Dr. Sam Weintraub
Recording Secy. .... Grace Flannigan
Corresponding Secy. .... Mary Alice Waltz
Treasurer ..... Jim Oliverio



MOTT'S NAMES WINNERS OF APPLE AWARDS

Winners have been named for "The Mott's Apple Awards: Recognizing America's Young Readers and the Teachers Who Inspire Them." The response to the contest was overwhelming, with some 70,000 entries being received. Twenty-one grade school students won awards for their essays or pictures depicting why they love reading and books. Their teachers, reading specialists, or school librarians - whoever most motivated them to love reading - also have been singled out for an award.

Each Mott's Apple Award carries with it a US \$1,000 savings bond earmarked for the student's future education, a special Mott's Apple Award certificate, and a US \$500 grant to the nominated educator for reading materials for his or her school.

In addition, six children and their corresponding teachers will represent all 21 at a special awards celebration at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., in September 1989, as part of the Year of the Young Reader celebration.

One of our NFRC members, Betty Lynch, reading specialist from South Davis Elementary school was named alson with ther student Amanda Lohiser-Broseman, age 5, of Orchard Park, New York.



CLIFFORD, THE BIG RED DOG GIVES HUGS AT MALL

Our annual mall exhibit was held in May at the Boulevard Mall. Over 400 children took part in the fun. Clifford, the big red dog was a major drawing card. Children were invited to choose a story which was then read by volunteers. Our reading council so presented children with a pencil, a summer journal and a book mark. For parents, we provided book lists of children's books and ideas for parents to use in promoting reading and writing at home. Karen Weber and her committee did a wonderful job. Karen will be looking for volunteers again this year. The Mall Exhibit will be at Boulevard Mall on May 18th and May 19th. Please consider helping out. Call Karen Weber at 688-6159.

BOOK TALK

Review by Denise David

Birches by Robert Frost Henry Holt and Company
Illustrated by Ed Young New York \$13.95 (hardcover)

"One could do worse than be a swinger of birches." Indeed. Robert Frost's poem "Birches" has been published for the first time in picture book form. Ed Young has been chosed to do the illustrations. His paintings are extraordinary. If you have always been a swinger of birches, you'll be delighted with this version. If you have not, this might be your chance to renew acquaint-ance with a fine Frost poem.

The book is in the tradition of Stopping By Woods, the Frost poem illustrated so beautifully by Susan Jeffers. Students grade three and above will find that this book invites them into poetry as the Jeffers book did. With Christmas approaching, think about this book as a gift for someone you know who "has fallen in love with language."



WESTERN NEW YORK CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE YOUNG READER

by Paula Costello

The Niagara Frontier Reading Council sponsored "story stops" at the zoo on Saturday, October 21 with members bringing "fact and fiction" books dealing with particular inhabitants. Curious George met "the real thing" at the monkey house. Leo, the Late Bloomer was found in the lions' den and parents were encouraged to "make the reading connections" throughout their visit.

Our council, in conjunction with the Western N.Y. Committee for the Year of the Young Reader, will be honoring people and organizations who have worked very hard in coordinating activities and encouraging community participation in this wonderful celebration of literacy! Susan Bain and Empire State News, WNED-TV, Channel 17, Canisius College and will be presented plaques acknowledging their contributions.

Remember, we have two more months of special focus on our Youth as Readers. November 15 has been specifically chosen. This is meant to be a springboard for enthusiasm and interest to the greater opportunities books hold for us for all of our lives! A special thanks to all our members who so generously have given of their time at the story stops and to Donna Phillips, Chairperson, and all the members of the Western New York Committee on the Year of the Young Reader for their enormous efforts for this literacy celebration!

NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL - MINIGRANT PROJECT BUDGET

Title of Project \_\_\_\_\_

School District and Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Project Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Enter all Budget items on this page. Enter only whole dollar amounts.

Funding For	Description	Quantity	Total # of Hours	Rate of Pay	Total Cost
Professional Salaries					
Non-Professional Salaries					
Supplies					
Travel					
Contracted Services					
Equipment Purchases (over \$50)					
Other					

Signature here indicates approval:  
 Applicant's Typed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 AND  
 Building Administrator's Typed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Building Administrator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 OR  
 Superintendent's Typed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Superintendent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



TO: Members of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council

RE: The FIRST Annual Presentation of Mini-grants

The Niagara Frontier Reading Council has often deliberated how to best meet the needs of its membership and at the same time serve the Western New York community. A recommendation that the Board of Directors award mini-grants was unanimously passed this year. The presentation of mini-grants will subsidize our membership's innovative ideas for the students of Western New York.

Applicants must be members of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council. The amount of each grant will depend on the project and will not exceed \$500.00. When reviewing the applications, the Committee may recommend a lower funding amount than that requested. The projects should directly impact students in areas of reading, writing, listening and/or speaking.

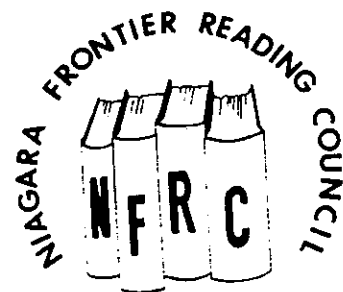
The Board of Directors requests that your building principal or superintendent approve the application by signing the budget page. Recipients will be asked to submit a final report by August 30, 1991. A short presentation or an article in **Spotlight** will be scheduled during the school year.

An application for a mini-grant can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to :

Mary L. Georger  
 240 North Autumn  
 Williamsville, New York 14221

The typed application should be returned to the above address by July 15, 1990. Recipients will be notified following the September 11, 1990 Board meeting. Formal presentations will take place at the 30th Annual Fall Conference for N.F.R.C. on October 13, 1990.

*Mary L. Georger*  
 Mary L. Georger  
 Award Chairperson



NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL  
MINIGRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students to be involved \_\_\_\_\_ Grade levels \_\_\_\_\_

Project Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Total Dollar Amount Requested \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the (1) local educational need this project will address; and (2) its benefit to students, the school or district.

2. State objectives of observable outcomes.

3. SOLUTION PROPOSED - Using a time line, include the activities you will implement to satisfy the objectives. All activities should be justified in the budget.

4. EVALUATION DESIGN - Indicate what measures you will use to determine the success of your project. List tests to be used, if any, or indicate how you plan to develop your own evaluative instrument or other evaluative mechanism.

## CALENDAR - NFRC

Activities sponsored by NFRC and/of interest to professionals.

**March 3, 1990 (Saturday)**  
 Brunch  
 Priscilla Lynch, Specialist Whole Language  
 9:00 A.M.  
**Buffalo Marriott**  
 Millersport Highway, Buffalo, N.Y.  
 Contact C. TY Federick - 839-0260  
**Members \$11.25 Non-Members \$13.25**

**Feb. 26, 1990**  
 A Day of Whole Language  
**Ramada Renaissance**  
 with  
 Jan Turbill  
 Dr. Brian Cambourne  
 Andrea Butler  
 Contact - Mr. Mike Ford 716-526-6420  
 Sponsored by BOCES/Wayne Finger Lakes

**May, 1990**  
 NFRC Dinner Meeting  
 Peter Johnston, Speaker  
 State University at Albany  
**Holiday Inn**  
 Genesee Street, Buffalo, N.Y.  
 Contact - C. TY Federick - 839-0260

**August 14, 15, 16, 1990**  
 Rensselaerville, N.Y.  
**Summer Institute N.Y.S.R.A.**  
 Contact Camille Coulborn  
 11 Cornwallis Road, Setauket, N.Y. 11733  
**(Limited to 80 people)**

Community Service Project 1990 Mall Exhibit  
**May 18-19**  
**Boulevard Mall**  
 Contact Karen Weber

Thirteenth World Congress on Reading  
**July 1-16, 1990**  
 Stockholm  
 Phone 800-252-3932 for details-tour package

5th Annual Language Institute  
 Extending the Whole Language Curriculum  
**July 23-26, 1990**  
 State University of NY at Geneseo  
 716-245-5647 - Office of Conference Planning

**May 6-11 IRA 35th Annual Convention**  
 Atlanta Georgia  
**CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS**  
 Atlantic City - 8th Eastern IRA Regional Conference  
 Next Year **March 17-20 1991**

**SPOTLIGHT**  
 Niagara Frontier Reading Council  
 of the International Reading Association  
 803 Castlebar Drive  
 No. Tonawanda, NY 14120

NFRC-405-89-90  
 DR SHARON KULHANEK  
 210 SPRINGVILLE AVENUE  
 AMHERST, NY 14226

# SPOT



# LIGHT

Volume XXX, No. 3

February 1990

## SPRING BRUNCH FEATURES PRISCILLA LYNCH

What does March mean in Buffalo? It seems to be a turning point in the year. The weather has begun to change. Even if winter has not yet passed, there is the promise of spring in the wind.

In our classrooms also it is a time for new life. By this time of the year, we have questions about how to refine some of the new approaches we started in September. It is a time for renewal. March is the right time to hear an informed, practical, feisty speaker and share a lunch with colleagues. It is the right time for the NFRC Annual Spring Brunch.

Priscilla Lynch is our speaker for this year's March 3rd Brunch. Dr. Lynch is a specialist in Whole Language. While she was instrumental in bringing Big Books to the United States, she will be the first to caution that Big Books are only a small part of a Whole Language Program.

You will enjoy Dr. Lynch's honest and provocative comments. She does not want the literature that we all love ruined with excessive worksheets and tests and she does not hesitate to say so. You will find her a delight. Join Priscilla Lynch at the Buffalo Marriott on Saturday, March 3rd.



He received the *Albert J. Harris Award* in 1987 for his contributions to research on reading disability.

Plan to join Dr. Johnston on May 16 at the Airport Holiday Inn. Registration is at 6:00 with the banquet beginning at 6:30.

## ANNUAL MINI GRANTS TO BE AWARDED

by Mary Georger

How can we best answer the needs of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council's membership and the Western New York Community? The Board of Directors of NFRC responded by unanimously supporting the presentations of annual mini grants. A steering committee chaired by Mary Georger discussed the plans and the first mini grants will be awarded at the 1990 Fall Convention.

The Steering Committee includes Carol Hodges, Sue Jacobs, Jim Oliverio and Pat Parkinson. The forms for the minigrants will be available in the May Spotlight. All members of NFRC are encouraged to apply for one of these grants. The Board will grant three to five awards with a maximum of \$500.00 per award. More information will be available in the upcoming Spotlight. We ask you to be thinking of projects that would directly impact students in the areas of language development. We look forward to our FIRST annual presentation of mini grants.

## SEARCH FOR ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS OPENS

Do you know someone who has, over a period of years, made remarkable contributions to the field of reading? If so Phyllis Schneider wants to hear from you.

Each year, the Niagara Frontier Reading Council presents its prestigious "Service to Reading Award" to a person who has demonstrated competence and devotion to advancing reading. The Council's Awards Committee is charged with selecting the recipient of this Award. Selection is made from among the people or groups proposed by the Council membership.

Dr. Phyllis L. Schneider, who chairs the Awards Committee, has announced that the Committee is seeking names for consideration for the Service to Reading Award. Since its inception, the Award has been given to classroom teachers, reading teachers, administrators, college teachers and, in 1989, to Channel 17 for its contributions to reading.

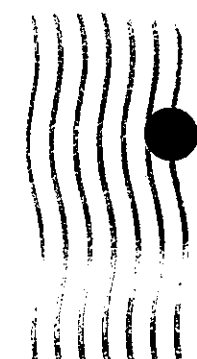
"We are not looking for Superpeople," said Schneider when announcing the search. "We are trying to locate and honor people or groups who have evidenced a long-term devotion and competence which advances the cause of reading."

The Awards Committee will be accepting suggestions for the 1990 Service to Reading Award until March 5. Please Contact Phyllis Schneider, 611 Girdle Road, East Aurora, NY, 14052; or call her at 716-681-8449 (office) or 716-652-7390 (home).

## MAY BANQUET BRINGS PETER JOHNSTON TO BUFFALO

Peter Johnston, widely recognized for his work in evaluation and assessment, will be our final speaker for this school year. Although Dr. Johnston is originally from New Zealand, he has distinguished himself in his twelve years in the United States. His 1983 book, *Reading Comprehension Assessment: A Cognitive Basis* has sold very well in the United States and is currently being translated into Portuguese and Spanish.

Johnston is currently an associate professor at the State University of New York at Albany. He has taught at all levels from first grade through university in his native New Zealand. His teaching and research interests include evaluating teaching and learning and the psychology and politics of becoming or failing to become.







**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear N.F.R.C. Members,

Can you believe that we have begun a new decade? Welcome to the 90's!

We have watched N.F.R.C. grow and mature and change in the past 30+ years. You have played a major role in its growth and stability.

Our membership has hit an all time high, 690 members.

I am very excited about our May 3rd Brunch. Looking at recent fees for N.Y. State Conference, this is a bargain. Brunch at the Buffalo Marriott and Priscilla Lynch, both for \$11.25!



Our Community Service Project for Reading 1990 will be the Boulevard Mall Exhibit, Fri.-Sat. May 18-19th. We need you as a volunteer to read. I am pleased to announce Karen Weber is Chairperson. Contact her if you can donate paperbacks or spend one hour volunteering to read. This project will require a great deal of cooperation and help from you as a member.

There is a truism that if you want something done, ask busy people. Your new slate of officers (named in this issue) are action oriented individuals — their dedication is apparent. They are on track. As members can you volunteer to help them? Board Meetings are held at the Medaille College.

The N.F.R.C. has made a lasting impart on thousands of teachers and our collective excellence has made a difference in the quality of reading education for our students in Western New York.

*With a commitment to excellence as we make our entry into the 1990's*

*Sincerely,  
Paulene Kosterman*

**PHYLLIS SCHNEIDER CONFERENCE CHAIR FOR NYSRA**

Judith P. Staples, NYSRA Vice President Elect has named Phyllis Schneider as Conference Chairman for the NYSRA Fall Conference in November, 1991. Western New York will once again have a major impact on the statewide conference, as it did in 1987 when Schneider was NYSRA President and Judy Staples was Conference Chair. Conference Management will be primarily done by people from Western New York, while the initial planning will be a statewide effort. We shall be looking for people who are willing to work on the 1991 Conference. At this time, no theme has been chosen. For further information on the conference you may contact Dr. Schneider at 681-8449.

**SPOTLIGHT**

Vol. XXX, No. 3 February 1990

Denise David, Editor  
135 Smallwood Drive  
Snyder, NY 14226

Publication Deadline:  
April 24

Please send any information about upcoming speakers or events that you would like included in SPOTLIGHT to the editor.

**SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1990-91 NFRC**

*by Ellie McConnell*

The Nominating Committee of the NFRC has formed a slate of officers for the 1990-91 school year. The slate will be voted upon by the membership at the March 3 brunch meeting, to be held at the Buffalo Marriott Hotel. The following names will be submitted at that time:

**OFFICERS — 1990-91**

**President** — Dr. Sharon Kulhanek, Director of Medaille-Canisius Graduate Reading Program.

**Past President** — Pauline Klosterman, Classroom teacher in North Tonawanda, NY

**President-Elect** — Ardith Cole, Classroom teacher in Lockport, NY.

**Vice President** — Dr. Sam Weintraub, Professor, SUNY at Buffalo.

**Vice-President-Elect** — Janet Presser, Classroom teacher in North Tonawanda, NY.

**Recording Secretary** — Mary Alice Walz, Classroom teacher, West Seneca, NY.

**Corresponding Secretary** — Eleanor McConnell, Reading teacher, Tonawanda, NY.

**Treasurer** — James Oliverio, Reading teacher, Grand Island, NY.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1990-92**

Jan Bermel - Reading teacher, Williamsville, NY

C. Ty Federick - Administrator, Kenmore, NY

Mary Shea - Classroom teacher, Lyndonville, NY

Judy Tucholski - Classroom teacher, Depew, NY

The slate of proposed officers was prepared by the members of the Nominating Committee: Paula Costello, Mary Georger, Pauline Klosterman, Dr. Phyllis Schneider, and Eleanor McConnell, chair.

**NOTE**

Members please use your identifying code on all correspondence with IRA Headquarters so N.F.R.C. gets credit for individual membership.

NYSRA CODE #24  
IRA CODE #35575



**NFRC OFFICERS 1989-90**

- President ..... Pauline Klosterman
- Advisor ..... Paula Costello
- President-elect ..... Dr. Sharon Kulhanek
- Vice President ..... C. Ty Federick
- Vice President Elect ..... Dr. Sam Weintraub
- Recording Secy. .... Grace Flannigan
- Corresponding Secy. .... Mary Alice Waltz
- Treasurer ..... Jim Oliverio



**BOOK TALK**

**Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening** by Robert Frost  
Illustrated by Susan Jeffers

*Review by Madonna Doney, Frontier Central Schools*

We've been reading Robert Frost's *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* for many years. Recently it's causing a new excitement among poetry lovers because of its combination with Susan Jeffers' interpretive illustrations — soft, delicate sketches of wintry scenes. Whether it's the quiet fun of the sleigh driver making snow angels on the ground, or the woodland creatures curiously watching his activities, the illustrator has captured the beauty that can make winter magical. Soft pencil colors highlight important details against the whiteness of new-fallen snow. Since the 1920's, adult readers have admired the rhyme and rhythm of this well-known work. Through her outstanding artwork, Susan Jeffers has extended the appeal to children as well. Now adults and children alike delight with each new page. It's a book that draws oohs and aahs with each reading.

**Stone Fox** by John Reynolds Gardiner

Illustrated by Marcia Sewall. 1980. Harper & Row Publishers, New York. \$2.95.

*Recommended by: F. William Balcom, Amherst Central School*

This is a superb piece of storytelling set in rural Wyoming early in this century. Little Willy lives with his grandfather on his potato farm. As grandfather becomes ill, Willy is determined to keep the farm going with the help of his dog and best friend, Searchlight. The potatoes are harvested, but Willy still needs five hundred dollars to pay off ten years of back taxes. Willy has one last hope. If he and Searchlight can win first place in the local dogsled race against the unbeaten Indian, Stone Fox, the farm will be saved and Grandpa will get better.

I won't spoil the ending of the book for you, but I must tell you that there is a death at the end of this book and you should read it yourself before you read it to your class. They will not want you to put it down once you start reading it. In fact, the first year I read it to my second grade class one little fella, who had lost his father, asked to take the book home so his mother could read it to him. It helped them both talk about a tough subject.

**BOULEVARD MALL BOOKS ANNOUNCEMENT**

To help make our Mall Exhibit bigger and better we ask for contributions.

Each N.F.R.C. member is asked to contribute a paperback as a donation to build a collection for use at The Mall Exhibit to be held in May 1990.

Contributions will be received at the registration table at March 3rd Brunch, or contact Karen Weber, Service Project 1990.

**JIM TRELEASE TO SPEAK**

Judy Weidemann, Principal of Parkdale School, East Aurora, N.Y. has invited members of NFRC to attend a presentation by Jim Trelease, author of the **Read-Aloud Handbook** to be held at:

**East Aurora Senior High School**

1003 Center Road, East Aurora, N.Y.

on: **April 26, 1990** from: **7:30-9:00** cost: **\$2.00**

There are also autographed copies of **The Little** by John Peterson available for \$2.50.

Contact Judy Weidemann if you have further questions.

**Call for Program Proposals**



The decade of the 1980s will be recalled as a time of educational reform at all levels: elementary, secondary, college, and university. In the area of reading, new perspectives on developing literacy through an integrated language arts approach replaced earlier practices that focused on teaching each of the arts as a discrete entity. The reform movement is young. During the 1990s the foundation of a language curriculum will be set for the next century. Thus, it is appropriate that the focus of this conference is "Building a Language Curriculum for the Twenty-first Century: Apopt, Revise, or Design."

At the conference, presenters will discuss techniques, approaches, or programs that they consider noteworthy. Some will describe existing integrated reading programs that they have adopted. Others will describe how they have revised their reading curriculum to integrate the language arts. Additional presentations will focus on a new program or techniques designed to teach reading through an integrated approach. When submitting a proposal, consider the three-pronged theme: Adopt, Revise, or Design.

- Janice Lake Betts, General Conference Chairperson
- Margaret Cagney and Carol Satz, Program Chairpersons
- Kathleen Moreland, Local Arrangements Chairperson
- Albert Mazurkiewicz, Finance Chairperson
- Jane Sullivan, Program Support Chairperson
- Nancy Evans, Meal Functions Chairperson
- Maureen Buono and Marie elena Sgrambiglia, Registration Chairpersons
- Nicholas DiObilda, Publicity Chairperson
- Barbara Marciano, Hospitality Chairperson
- Michael Labuda and Richard Shepherd, VIP Hospitality Chairpersons

New Jersey Reading Association  
Council of the International Reading Association

**INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**

Atlanta May 6-10, 1990

**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR: Celebration, Inspiration, Dedication**

The 1990 IRA Annual Convention, being planned by President Dale D. Johnson and the Program Committee, will offer a rich variety of topics to meet the needs of all reading professionals.

Convention activities will take place May 6-10. The convention will include general sessions, institutes, research presentations, Chapter 1 meetings, special interest group meetings and joint meetings with other educational and governmental organizations. In addition to the professional meetings, there will be more than 550 exhibits of educational material and equipment as well as numerous social functions.

The December 1989 issue of *Reading Today* which will be sent to all IRA members will contain a special Atlanta Convention section including preregistration and housing forms.

In January all IRA members will receive a copy of the preliminary program which will contain preregistration and housing forms.

These materials will also be available upon request from IRA Headquarters, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, Delaware 19714-8139.

## 1991 FALL CONFERENCE: "Lead the Band to Lifelong Reading"

Phyllis L. Schneider, 1991 conference coordinator, has announced that plans for the New York State Reading Association's Fall Conference are proceeding well. The annual conference will be held November 5th through 8th, 1991 at the Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, NY.

In early January, the 1991 Conference Planning Committee met in Buffalo to review the proposals submitted for presentations and programs at the conference. The proposals were of exceptionally high quality, and nearly 180 were accepted.

Meanwhile, contacts are being made for Major Session presentations, and the four General Session speakers are assured. Dr. Priscilla Lynch, well known to Western New Yorkers, will be the speaker at the Opening General Session on Wednesday, November 6. Dr. Dorothy Strickland, former president of NRA and

NCTE, will be a General Session presenter on Thursday. Friday's closing session will feature Mr. Wally Amos, better known as Famous Amos, the cookie king. Mr. Amos is a well-known literacy advocate who delivers a meaningful and entertaining message. The second Thursday speaker will be announced shortly.

The Management Committee for the conference has begun meeting, and the group is working hard on Book and Author Events, Major Sessions, special sessions and events, and the myriad of other details necessary for a successful conference.

The 1991 conference, in addition to highlighting expected sessions, author events and the increasingly popular bookstore, will feature a new strand dealing with Chapter 1 programs. More details on this and other conference news, as well as identification of additional speakers will be announced in the next *Spotlight*.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

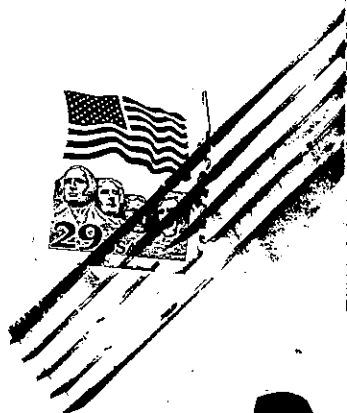
### NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| April 27   | "Books Are Big Fun" Mall Exhibit. Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Eastern Hills Mall, Transit Road, Buffalo. For information call Sally Moehlau, 634-5055 (eves.) or 741-2891 (days).  |
| May 21     | NFRC Banquet. Tuesday evening; Sheraton Inn, Buffalo. Speaker: Dr. Judith Thelen, "What's Holy About Whole Language."  |
| April 11   | Practitioners' Workshop. 4:00-7:00 p.m.; Kenan Site, Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center, Lockport. Speakers: Kathleen March and Mike Crane, "Integrating the Language Arts." For more information call 439-4331.                                     |
| April 18   | Book Fair. See what's upcoming in children's and teachers' books. Sponsored by Orleans/Niagara Whole Language Support Group. Thursday, 4:30-7:00 p.m.; Kenan Site, Orleans/Niagara Teacher Center, Lockport. Call 439-4331 for more information. |
| April 20   | Dorothy Watson, president of Whole Language Umbrella - U. of Missouri. Speaking at Geneseo Central School; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Fee: \$9.00. To register call Tri-County Teacher Center, 658-3825.                                      |
| April 25   | Practitioners' Workshop. Thursday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Kenan Site, Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center, Lockport. Speakers: Linda Bastedo and Marilyn Crawford, "Is This Reading or Is This Writing?" For more information call 439-4331.                 |
| August 1-4 | 2nd Annual Whole Language Conference. "Many Cultures—Many Voices", Phoenix, Arizona. For registration form call Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center, 439-4331.  |

## SPOTLIGHT

Niagara Frontier Reading Council  
of the International Reading Association  
210 Springville Avenue  
Egbertsville, NY 14226

NFRC-013-90-91  
MRS CATHLEEN MARCH  
81 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
MIDDLEPORT, NY 14105



# SPOTLIGHT



Volume XXXI, No. 2

April 1991

## PRESIDENT THELEN BANQUETS WITH NFRC IN MAY



Niagara Frontier Reading Council takes great pride in announcing that its featured speaker at the May banquet will be Dr. Judith Thelen. At the end of the 36th Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Dr. Thelen will assume the presidency of IRA. Her appearance with NFRC, then, will be one of her first public presentations as IRA's president.

Dr. Thelen is professor of education at Frostburg State University in Maryland. She received her Ph.D. from Syracuse University. Her classroom teaching experiences include primary grades, secondary reading, and adult basic education levels. In addition, she served as the K-12 Reading Consultant for the Falls Church, Virginia, Public Schools. Along with her teaching at Frostburg State University, her present involvements include serving as a consultant to the Department of Defense Dependent Schools and to *Learning* magazine. She also serves as a consultant for Staff Development Workshops in Reading in states from every section of the United States.

Dr. Thelen's presentation, "What's Holy About Whole Language," promises to be both provocative and entertaining. Plan to attend, because this is a *must-not-be-missed event!*

The banquet is scheduled for Tuesday evening, May 21, at the Sheraton Inn adjacent to the Walden Galleria. There is easy access off the New York State Thruway.

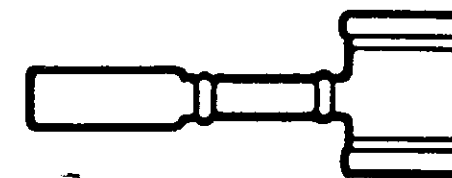
## 1991 NOMINATIONS FOR NFRC OFFICE

The slate chairman of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council, 1991 nominating committee, announces the slate of officers and board of directors which was presented at the March 9th business meeting. The election will take place preceding the banquet on May 21st, at the Sheraton Inn, adjacent to Walden Galleria, Buffalo.

Mrs. Ardith Cole, a teacher in Lockport City School System, will serve as the council's 1991-1992 president. President-elect will be Miss Janet Presser, a teacher in the North Tonawanda School District.

Vice President of program will be Mrs. Donna Phillips, an associate professor at Canisius College. Other nominees are Ty Frederick, supervisor in the Kenmore School System, as Niagara County Community College, as recording secretary; Eleanor McConnell, reading teacher in the Tonawanda City Schools, as corresponding secretary; James Oliverio, reading teacher in the Grand Island School District, as treasurer.

The following members are nominated to serve on the board of directors from 1991-1993: Dr. Don O'Brien, professor at the State College at Buffalo; Bonnie Prunella, a reading teacher at Orchard Park Schools; Carolyn Pesko, a book representative; and Mary Alice Walz, a teacher in the West Seneca School System.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NFRC Members,

It is hard to believe that 1990-91 year is going so quickly. It has been a busy time for the Niagara Frontier Reading Council.

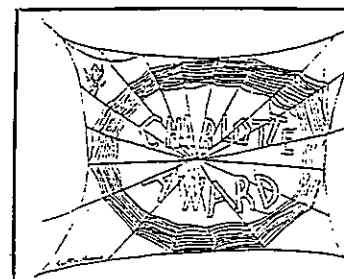
Since last writing to you, the Council and its members have been able to participate in several fine activities. Our Fall Conference featuring Shelley Harwayne and Bernice Cullinan was well received. We thank both of the outstanding educators for sharing their time with us. We also want to extend a thank you to the Lockport School District as the Host District for the conference.

November brought the Workshop with Roger Farr, Patricia Rus-savage and Barbara Eddy. It has been a very long time since I have seen so many teachers, so enthusiastic, so late in the day. You could hear the bustle of "what I'm going to do in the morning" as you went to your car.

March is the time to deal with technology. We are looking forward to learning and seeing what's new in computer technology.

As May approaches, please plan to attend our May Banquet with Dr. Judith Thelen, 1991 IRA president.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Kulhanek



## New York State Reading Association

### 1990 Charlotte Award Winners

These awards were given at the  
1990 NYRA Conference  
K-2

**The Magic School Bus:  
At the Waterworks**

Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen  
(Scholastic Inc., 1986)

Grades 3-5

**Piggins**

Jane Yolen

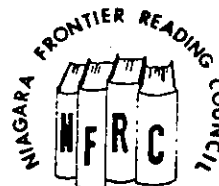
(Harcourt Brace & Jovanovich, 1987)

Grades 6-8

**The Way Things Work**

David Macaulay

(Houghton Mifflin, 1988)



## New York State Classroom Teacher Mini-Grants for 1991

The New York State Classroom Teacher Mini-Grants for 1991 are now available. We had a very good response last year, and are looking forward to an even larger response this year.

Please make your membership aware of the grants through copying and dissemination of the guidelines. There will be eight grants in the amount of \$250 each available this year.

The Mini-Grant is available to classroom teachers, librarians and reading teachers in New York State. Recipients must be members of the New York State Reading Association. Also, grants are intended to assist teachers in expanding and/or complementing an already existing literature-based program. The grant is not intended to start up a literature-based program.

Applicants should follow the grant proposal guidelines carefully and forward their completed proposals to: Miss Deborah Galley, KL Rutherford School, 9 Patricia Place, Monticello, NY 12701.

Questions can be directed to Debbie Galley by calling (914) 794-4240 daytime, or (914) 794-6683 evenings.

All applicants will be notified of their status as of June 15, 1991. Applicants will receive a response from the committee whether they are selected to be a grant recipient or not.

Please encourage council members to strongly consider this avenue as a great resource for their classroom literature programs.

It will be interesting to see what great things are happening in classrooms all over New York State in the world of literature!

### 1991 MINI-GRANT APPLICATIONS

With dwindling budgets looming for many districts, remember that the NYSRA Mini-Grants are an avenue to supplement those new ideas you want to incorporate in your literature program.

The grants are designed to assist you in further development of your children's or young adult literature program. Grants are available to classroom teachers, reading teachers and librarians who are teaching in New York State, and are NYSRA members. Recipients of grants will be showcased during the NYSRA Conference in 1991. Awards of \$250 each will be presented to eight exemplary proposals this year.

The proposal format is outlined below:

- 1. Statement of Purpose:** Provide a brief rationale for your program, including the educational benefits derived by your students. (Value 10 Points)
- 2. Program Objectives:** List program goals and specific objectives. (Value 10 Points)
- 3. Procedures/Activities:** Specify the steps conducted in implementing the program. Identify/discuss student activities. List children's literature, with authors that served as a basis for the program. (Value 40 Points)
- 4. Program Effectiveness:** Describe the results of the program. Include the outcome objectives achieved. (Value 30 Points)
- 5. Replication:** Indicate how your program can be shared with other professionals, and describe how it can be used by other teachers in their classrooms. (Value 10 Points)
- 6. Budget:** Specify how the proposed grant money will enhance your program. Be specific.

**FORMAT:** Type your proposal, keeping it to a maximum of three pages. Submit 2 copies of your proposal by May 18, 1991.

Please include your full name, business and home address, and telephone numbers in your grant proposal. Proposal deadline is **May 18, 1991**. Grant recipients will be notified of their award by June 15, 1991. Once you have completed your proposal, you may forward it to:

Miss Deborah Galley, Mini-Grant Chairperson  
K.L. Rutherford School  
9 Patricia Place, Monticello, N.Y. 12701

### Roger Farr Brings Atlanta to NFRC

## "THINK-ALONGS: MODELING READING COMPREHENSION"

On November 4, 1990, Dr. Roger Farr presented to the Niagara Frontier Reading Council the "Think-Alongs: Modeling Reading Comprehension." Presenting with Dr. Farr were Dr. Patricia Russavage and Ms. Barbara Eddy.

Think-Alongs are one of the newest procedures for improving comprehension. The teacher models for the students what he or she does as a mature reader while reading aloud. Dr. Farr discussed the theory and research as well as giving a modeling demonstration. Dr. Russavage and Ms. Eddy demonstrated practical applications that they have used successfully for years in the Lettie Marshall Dent School in Mechanicsville, Maryland.

Council members enjoyed the demonstrations and were most eager to try some of the think-along strategies for increasing comprehension from K-12 as well as college.

## SPOTLIGHT

Vol. XXXI, No. 2

April 1991

Cathleen March, Editor

Please send any information about upcoming speakers or events that you would like included in *SPOTLIGHT* to:

Dr. Sharon Kulhanek  
210 Springville Avenue  
Amherst, NY 14226

### NFRC OFFICERS 1990-01

President ..... Dr. Sharon Kulhanek  
Past President ..... Pauline Klosterman  
President-Elect ..... Ardithe Cole  
Vice President ..... Dr. Sam Weintraub  
Vice-President-Elect ..... Janet Presser  
Recording Secretary ..... Mary Alice Walz  
Corresponding Secretary ..... Eleanor McConnell  
Treasurer ..... James Oliverio



## SEARCH OPENS FOR ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Do you know someone who has, over a period of years, made remarkable contributions to the field of reading? If so, Phyllis Schneider wants to hear from you.

Each year, the Niagara Frontier Reading Council presents its prestigious "Service to Reading Award" to a person who has demonstrated competence and devotion to advancing reading. The award winner may have demonstrated "service to reading" on a local, state or national level. The Council's Awards Committee is made from among the people or groups proposed by the council membership.

Dr. Phyllis L. Schneider, who chairs the Awards Committee, has announced that the committee is seeking names for consideration for the Service to Reading Award. Since its inception, the award has been given to classroom teachers, reading teachers, adminis-

trators, college teachers and, in 1989, to Channel 17 for its contributions to reading.

"We are not looking for Superpeople," said Schneider when announcing the search. "We are trying to locate and honor people or groups who have evidenced a long-term devotion and competence in some areas which advances the cause of reading."

The Awards Committee will be accepting recommendations for the 1991 Service to Reading Award until April 1st. Persons recommending potential award recipients should be prepared to provide a brief summary of the nominee's accomplishments. Please contact Phyllis Schneider, 611 Girdle Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052; or call her at 716-652-7390 (home) evenings or weekends.

## "BOOKS ARE BIG FUN"

Plans are well underway for this year's Mall Exhibit, "Books Are Big Fun!". The purpose of the mall exhibit is to provide parents with suggestions and ideas that will encourage children to read and write during the summer months. There will be several centers where parents will receive brochures, booklists, and book-making and writing ideas. Applications for library cards will be available. Clifford, the big red dog, will also be there. A storytelling area will be provided to allow children to listen to stories while parents are talking with teachers. After listening to a story, children will receive a bookmark, pencil and summer journal. We would also like to affle a book hourly.

This year our exhibit will be at the Eastern Hills Mall, Transit Road, Buffalo. It will be on Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We encourage all to notify students of this event.

Volunteers are needed to read stories, talk with parents, and to wear the Clifford costume. If you can volunteer to help, please call Sally Moehlau, 634-5055 (home), 741-2891 (Ledgeview Elementary School); or Sue Powers, 632-7724 (home), 741-2886 (Clarence Center Elementary School). Hope to see all of you at the mall!



### Attention Librarians and Classroom Teachers —

Please take a few minutes to have your students participate in NYSRA's Children's Choices. The rules are very simple:

- All children in your school may vote
- There are no specific criteria for choices, only a child's favorite book.

It would be extremely helpful if one person in your building would tally the votes and forward the results. For further information, contact

Dr. Susan Lehr  
Department of Education  
Skidmore College  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

### 1991 CHILDREN'S CHOICES BALLOT

NEW YORK STATE READING ASSOCIATION

Please circle your grade and the category in which you are voting. Include the title and author of the book on this ballot. Thank you for your participation.

Category:      fiction      non-fiction  
Grade Level:    K      1      2      3      4      5

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by May 1, 1991, to:

Dr. Susan Lehr  
Department of Education  
Skidmore College  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866