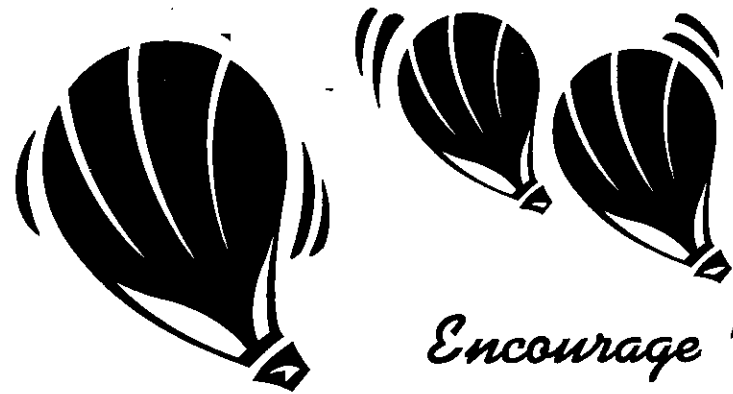


DATES TO REMEMBER

NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

January 21	Winter Brunch: "Spelling Strategies": with Dr. Richard Gentry, author of "Spel...Is A Four Letter Word." (See front page article.)
March 3 & 4	Delegates' Assembly; Albany, NY
April 29	Western Regional Meeting, Batavia, NY
April 29	Mall Exhibit, Walden Galleria, Buffalo, NY
June 2 & 3	Delegates' Assembly; Albany, NY
August 24 & 25	Third Annual "Lessons From Children"
January 21	Reading Rainbow Math Activity: Summit Park Mall; 12:00-4:00 p.m.
January 28	Reading Rainbow Math Activity: Olean Center Mall, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
February 4	Reading Rainbow Math Activity: Walden Galleria, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
February 11	Multi-Age Conference; (Orleans/Niagara Whole Language Support Group) Batavia, NY; Days Inn
March 11	Brod Baggart: "Poetry Workshop"; (Rochester Area Reading Council), St. Mary's School For the Deaf
March 11	Lois Benning: "Parents and Assessment"; (Orleans/Niagara Whole Language Support Group), Best Western, Lockport, NY
April 1	Lucy McCormick Caulkins: "Rethinking the Teaching of Reading and Writing"; (Rochester Area Reading Council)
May 6 & 7	Third Annual Chautauqua Institute; "Focus on Math"; (Orleans/Niagara Whole Language Support Group)
May 17	Jon Scieszka, author of "The Stinky Cheese Man"; (Rochester Area Reading Council)

SPOTLIGHT will publish upcoming events, both NFRC-sponsored and those sponsored by other groups which are pertinent to our readers. To have your event included, please contact the editors at the address shown on page two.



*Membership Is An
"Uplifting Experience"!*

*The Niagara Frontier Reading Council
is an organization with "lofty" goals!
Our active members reap the benefits
of all we have to offer...so be a
part of this "high-flying" team.*

Encourage Your Associates To Join!

SPOTLIGHT

Niagara Frontier Reading Council
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6801 Lilac Lane - Royal Gardens
Lockport, New York 14094

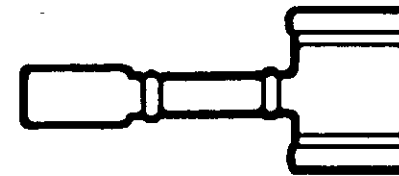
SPOTLIGHT



Volume XXXIV, No.2

Council # 35575

Winter 1995



President's Message

By Mary Shea

The holiday season appears to be a metaphor for "sharing time." Families, friends and colleagues share customs and traditions that are a part of their personal and/or common culture—a part of who they are. Good will prevails as people come to appreciate what brings them together as well as that which makes them unique.

Professional communities are also enriched by similar bonding experiences. Organizations within such communities serve to create "celebrations" that focus on their beliefs and purposes. With a dedication to literacy, NFRC continues to plan programs that draw western New York educators together to exchange ideas and grow in the process. NFRC's program for 1994-95 began with the fall conference, featuring Jack Prelutsky and workshops by local practitioners. In January, Richard Gentry will give us his rationale for why "Spel...Is a Four Letter Word" and a developmental process.

Join friends and colleagues at professional "celebrations." The intellectually stimulating atmosphere at these occasions stretches each of us both personally and professionally. It's truly "joyful learning"!

WINTER BRUNCH TO FEATURE "SPELLING STRATEGIES" WITH DR. J. RICHARD GENTRY

By Pam Johnson



Dr. J. Richard Gentry

On Saturday morning, January 21, Dr. J. Richard Gentry will present at the Niagara Frontier Reading Council's annual Winter Brunch being held at the Buffalo Marriott.

Dr. Gantner is professor of Elementary Education and Reading at Western Carolina University. An elementary education graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Gentry taught grades 3, 4 and 5 in Charlottesville, Virginia before completing his Ph.D. in Reading Education at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Gentry is series author of Zaner-Bloser's *Spelling Connections*, a spelling series for grades 1-8 and Zaner-Bloser's brand new spelling series, *Spell It-Write!* for grades K-8. He has written numerous articles and two celebrated books, *Spel...Is a Four Letter Word* and *Teaching Kids to Spell*. Dr. Gentry has been a consultant and conference speaker throughout the U.S. and the world.

Registration fee is \$17.50 for members; \$20.00 for non-members; and \$17.50 for students.

On Saturday morning, the breakfast buffet will be available starting at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Gentry's presentation will begin at 10:30 a.m. Trade books will be available, as well.

The winter brunch is co-sponsored by the Niagara Frontier Reading Council and Zaner-Bloser.

*"Warm Up To Some Great Ideas"
at the Winter Brunch!*

JANUARY 21st...DON'T DELAY!



In the Spotlight...

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1994 MINI-GRANT AWARDED

By Mary Georger

Niagara Frontier Reading Council presented the Mini-grant for 1994 to Michele Martin, reading specialist at Maple Elementary in Williamsville. The title of her grant is "Project READ—Empowering Parents." Michele has summarized the goals of her grant:

Project READ—Empowering Parents

During this time of change, as we embrace a holistic approach to literacy and utilize authentic assessment, we need to educate parents. "Parents READ—Empowering Parents" is designed to assist parents and to promote reading at home. It is our intent to strengthen the home-school connection at Maple Elementary School and thus benefit our children.

Project READ encompasses four main strands. Through this program, parents will be able to:

1. Review the holistic approach to reading
2. Explore ways to help their children at home.
3. Acquire information about authentic assessment.
4. Develop a home-school reading program.

Presentations, events and brochures will be used to accomplish these goals. In addition, a monthly newsletter article entitled: "The Literacy Life" will answer questions regarding literacy and authentic assessment.

During January and February, an exciting PARP program is planned. Kick-off activities will include a character dress-up day, guest readers from the community, and contests.

A parent committee is eagerly working on this project. The response has been exceptional, for parents want this education and truly want a strong home-school connection.

The Language Connection

The Language Connection—

Not the parts but the whole.

Reading, writing, listening, speaking
Communication is our goal.

The Language Connection—

A lifelong journey to know,

Parents, teachers and children
Joining together to grow.

—by Michele Martin

SPOTLIGHT

Volume XXXIV, No. Winter 1995

Cathleen March, Editor
Michael Crane, Co-Editor

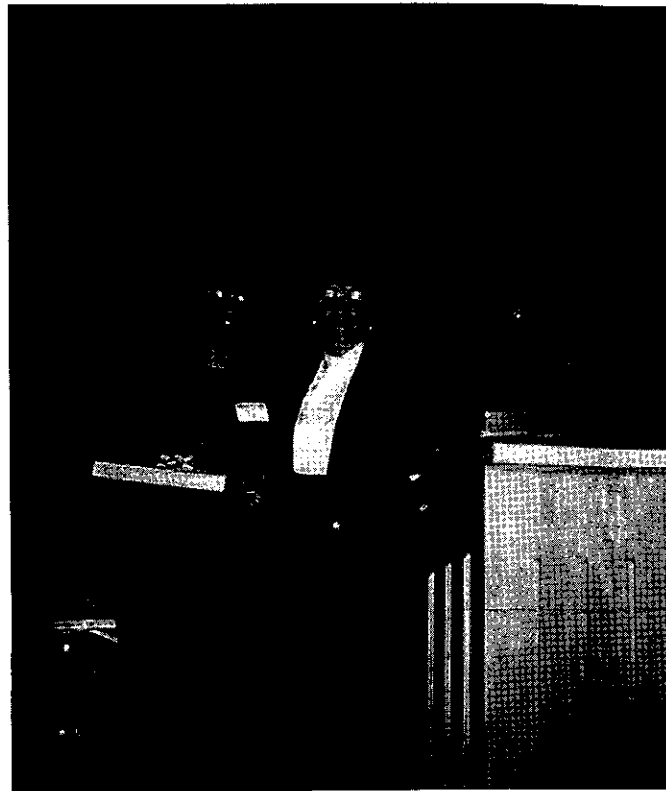
Please send any information about upcoming speakers or events that you would like included in the SPOTLIGHT to:

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Mary Georger (left) accepts award from Pauline Klosterman at October 1994 NFRC Fall Conference.

MARY GEORGER ACCEPTS AWARD

By Pauline Klosterman

Mary L. Georger has been awarded the prestigious Niagara Frontier Reading Council Service Award for her outstanding contributions to the activities and programs of the council. The award was presented at the 1994 Fall Conference in Tonawanda, N.Y. by Mrs. Pauline Klosterman, awards chairperson.

Mrs. Georger, a former President of the Niagara Frontier Reading Council, is a Reading Specialist for the Lancaster Central School District.

Mary's contributions to the NFRC include: 1987-88 President, Fall Conference Chairperson and Spring Mall Exhibit Chairperson. She currently serves as Historian, Chairperson of Mini-grant Program and Chairperson of Publishers Exhibit for our local conference.

Mary's dedication to NFRC is appreciated. NFRC was proud to present the 1994-1995 Council Service Award to Mary.

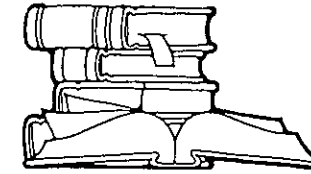
Outreach Project for Teen Parents

COUNCIL PLANS TO EXPAND ITS "GIFT OF READING"

By Pam Johnson

After successfully pilot-testing a series of "Family Reading" workshops for teen parents at the Center for Young Parents in Niagara Falls this past summer, members of the reading council's outreach subcommittee are preparing to refine and expand plans for a command performance in 1995.

Council members who would like to share the gift of reading with young parents should contact Pam Johnson at Ch. 17 (845-7000). The outreach planning group will need leads to special school/community programs for teen parents, book donations, and many talented people who would be willing to facilitate "activity stations" featuring literature-based learning activities for home.



AUTHOR CHARGES TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO FOSTER AVID READERS

By Bonnie Prunella

Mary Leonhardt builds a good argument for helping students become avid readers in her book, *Parents Who Love Reading, Kids Who Don't: How It Happens and What You Can Do About It*. Even though it is intended for parents, teachers would find the first few chapters of great interest. The text provides information, encouragement and practical suggestions for fostering students to become enthusiastic readers.

The best arguments for allowing students to read books of their own choosing, as outside reading assignments or as part of the reader's workshop in school, are developed in chapter one of this book. Among the variety of reasons Leonhardt details, the most important is that avid readers develop into fast, fluent and sophisticated readers. The strategies and skills teachers want students to develop are best developed when students read constantly. Leonhardt also states that good readers are also excellent writers. Zealous readers develop the ability to concentrate and thereby do better in school; not just in English classes, but in all classes.

In the subsequent chapters, Leonhardt accurately describes the situations that lead students to hate reading. She provides a practical plan for nurturing reading in students, and itemizes the various stages that a child will go through on the road to becoming an avid reader. Leonhardt, drawing from her own personal and professional experiences, presents a comprehensive discussion of the important role parents have in nurturing reading activities with their children.

The important concepts about nurturing avid readers, and extolling the importance of doing so, makes this book a worthy read. The text is arranged so that the significant ideas are up front and clearly written. Leonhardt ends this book with an annotated list of student-recommended books that serves as a useful resource for reading materials. *Parents Who Love Reading, Kids Who Don't* is published by Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, and sells for \$20.00.

BOOK TALKS

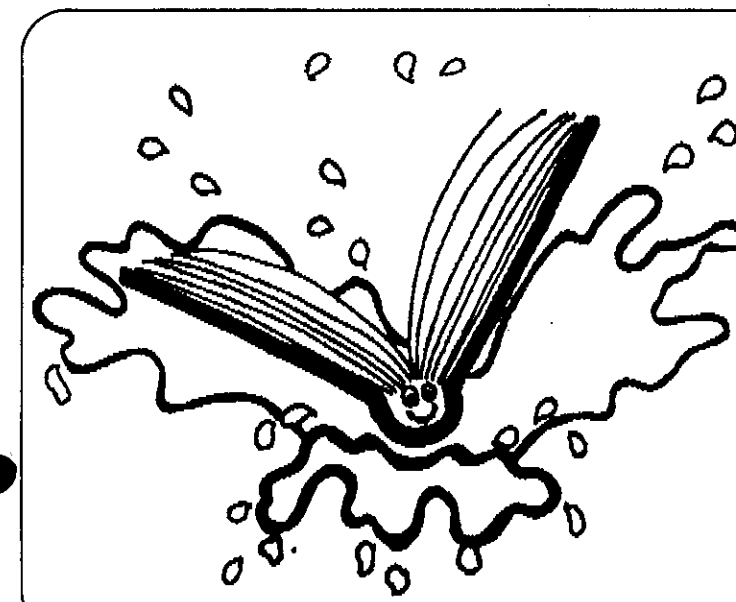
CHILDREN'S BOOK BY UPCOMING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

By Carol Eberhardt

An Armadillo From Amarillo is the most recently-published book authored and illustrated by Lynne Cherry, the featured speaker at the Niagara Frontier Reading Council Annual Fall Conference next October 21, 1995. In the story, an armadillo named Sasparillo wants to know where on earth he is and how big the earth and the universe might be. He leaves his home in San Antonio and travels north through the canyons and prairies, the bluebonnets and junipers of Texas. In Amarillo, he meets an eagle who helps him find the answers to his questions. As he travels from place to place, he sends postcards to his cousin armadillo, Brillo, who lives in the Children's Zoo in Philadelphia.

With growing interest in thematic teaching and integrated studies, this book is an excellent resource for combining reading, writing, science and geography concepts. Rich language, quality artwork, a story told in rhyme and enhanced with a series of postcards illustrating geographic and historic features and symbols of Texas offer the reader a clear picture of where in the world Sasparillo is. Texas bluebonnets, the Alamo, the endangered birds, significant landforms and native animals are beautifully presented in watercolor and oil pastel. Several maps with keys and globes and atlases appear throughout the story, as well as on the inside covers, as Sasparillo researches his questions. A bird's-eye view gives a global perspective to the armadillo's/reader's place in the universe.

The text and illustrations of this piece have much to offer to the teacher who wishes to pursue content and concepts through literature. The author's notes and acknowledgements give the reader a most complete explanation of her style, her research and her hopes of bringing a message of love and appreciation for the natural world to children.

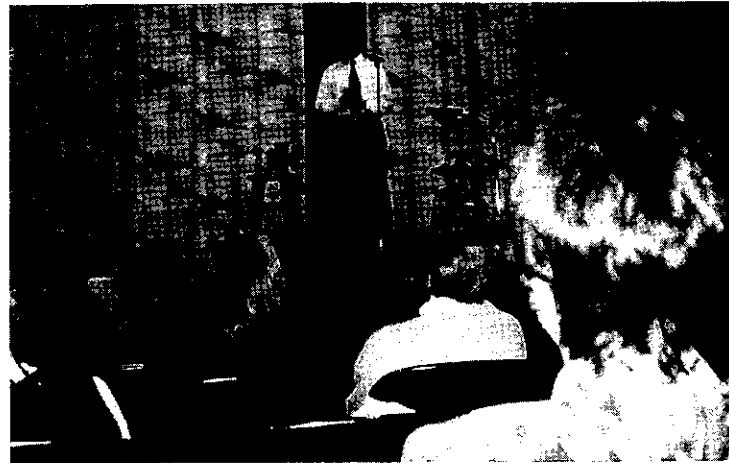


COMING THIS SPRING... 1995 NFRC MALL EXHIBIT

The annual mall exhibit is one way to promote summer reading in the community at large. Much help is needed to make this event a success. You can help by: saving student responses to literature for us to display (all work will be returned), volunteering to read to children, distributing information to parents for one hour at the mall, or volunteering to help orchestrate the event. Date and location to be announced. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Susan Hirsch at 834-9844.

*Make A Splash!
Read a Book!*

Niagara Frontier Reading Council's 1994 Fall Conference Highlights



Jack Prelutsky takes center stage to address an attentive audience at the fall conference.

By Jan Presser

Keynote speaker at our fall conference was popular poet, Jack Prelutsky. His presentation, entitled, "Chocolate Chips and Chopped Liver: Making Poetry Palatable For Children," was well received by an enthusiastic audience. In addition to reciting some of his poems, Prelutsky took us back to his coffee-house performing days by singing and playing several songs.

Local educators presented workshops on the theme of poetry before the keynote address. Practical ideas and hands-on activities were among the highlights of their presentations.

Conference Co-chairs Bonnie Prunella and Mary Vacanti did an outstanding job of organizing the conference. Hats off to both for a job well done!

Autumn Inspirations

FALL 1995 CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

By Carol Eberhardt

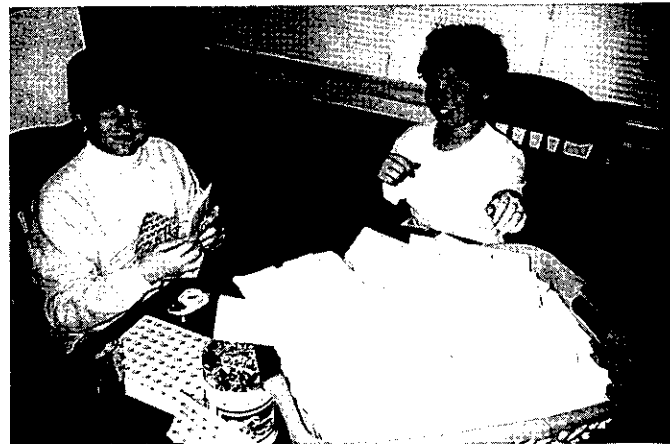
The Niagara Frontier Reading Council is pleased to announce the speaker for the Annual Fall Conference will be author and illustrator Lynne Cherry. The conference will take place on Saturday, October 21.

Lynne Cherry has a B.F.A. from the Tyler School of Art and an M.A. in history from Yale University. She authors her own environmental newsletter for children, is currently artist-in-residence at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and is the founder and director of the Orion Center for Children's Environmental Literature. The Orion Center sponsors programs to help writers and illustrators develop books that will instill in children a love and appreciation for the natural world.

Many of Ms. Cherry's books reflect her dedication to the message of caring for our planet. Lynne's best-selling rainforest legend, *The Great Kapok Tree*, was named a Reading Rainbow Review book, an American Bookseller's "Pick of the Lists" selection, an NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children, and an IRA Teacher's Choice Title in 1991. Another title, *A River Ran Wild*, weaves the remarkable story of the Nashua River into an ecological saga encompassing over 500 years of American history. Ms. Cherry's most recent piece, *An Armadillo from Amarillo*, challenges the reader to discover where in the world, on the continent, in the country, in the state, and in the city they are. This piece is also an American Bookseller's "Pick of the Lists" book. (See "Book Talk" on page 5 for a review of this book.)

Lynne Cherry has authored/illustrated many other pieces. We look forward to sharing her message and her talents next October.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS



By Cathleen March

Contributing a Saturday three times a year is routine for Medina Middle School students Jillian Bently and Jennifer Palone. Equipped with labels, stamps and hundreds of *Spotlights*, these volunteers begin early on the weekend day to ready our publication for the mail.

Avid readers and writers, these young women welcome the opportunity to advance the literacy movement by helping with the *Spotlight* mailing. Nineteen ninety-four/ninety-five marks the third year of their welcome contribution to the Niagara Frontier Reading Council.

We thank both Jillian and Jennifer for their time, effort and energy. Thanks to them, the *Spotlight* arrives upon our doorsteps with timely articles.

1993-94 NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL

Membership Has Its Privileges!

Membership Dues Include:

- ★ Registration Fee for the Fall NFRC Conference
- ★ Notification of all NFRC Activities
- ★ NFRC Newsletter "Spotlight"
- ★ New York State Reading Assn. (NYSRA) Membership
- ★ Reduced Registration at NYSRA Conference
- ★ Professional Networking

Membership Dues:	\$35.00 for 9/1/94 to 5/31/95
Undergraduate Students:	15.00
Other Reading Council Members:	15.00

Detach and save upper half for your records.
Mail completed section below with your check, payable to NFRC, to:

Dr. Barbara A. Iannarelli, 929 Creekside Dr., Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Membership Application

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Title (Mrs., Mr., Ms, Dr., Sister, etc.) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Work _____ Home _____

Position (Rdg/Eng/3rd gr tchr, princpl, student, professor, etc.) _____

Level (PK, Elem, Jr/Sr High, College) _____

District/University _____

YES NO

- I am a current member of the Int'l Reading Assn.
- I am interested in helping with NFRC Activities.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____

Check # _____

Membership # _____

DATES TO REMEMBER

NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

June 3	Summer Mall Reading Exhibit; Galleria Mall (See articles pg. 4)
July 19	Western Regional Summer Conference; Sheraton Inn; Walden Ave., Buffalo, NY
August 24 & 25	Third Annual "Lessons From Children"; (See article pg. 1 and ad and form pg. 3)
October 21	Niagara Frontier Reading Council Fall Conference; with Lynne Cherry, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District (See article pg. 2)
July 10-14	Author's Workshop for Teachers; "Bookworms and You"; Marriott Hotel, Amherst, NY (See ad pg. 5)
July 27-30	Whole Language Umbrella Conference; Windsor, Ontario, Canada (See ad pg. 8)

SPOTLIGHT will publish upcoming events, both NFRC-sponsored and those sponsored by other groups which are pertinent to our readers. To have your event included, please contact the editors at the address shown on page two.



INTERNATIONAL WHOLE LANGUAGE UMBRELLA CONFERENCE

"Celebrating Communities"

Meet, reflect and connect with whole language enthusiasts from around the world in historic Windsor, Ontario for the sixth annual Whole Language Umbrella Conference, to be held Thursday, July 27 though Sunday, July 30, 1995

Highlights of the conference include keynote speech by Robert Munsch, author of "Love You Forever."

A partial list of featured speakers include:

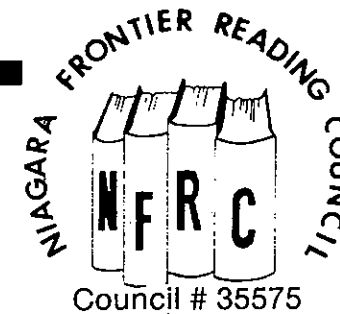
Bess Altwerger	Carolyn Burke	Kitty Copeland	Carol Gilles	Yetta Goodman	Lillian Katz	Dorothy Strickland
David Booth	Susan Church	Bobbie Fisher	Jerome Harste	Ken Goodman	Patrick Shannon	Dorothy Watson

For more information, please contact Cathleen March; telephone (716) 439-1992.

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Lockport, New York 14094

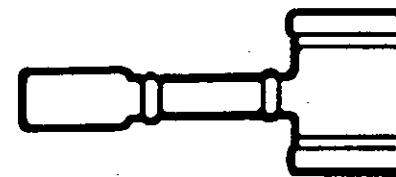
SPOTLIGHT



Volume XXXIV, No.3

Council # 35575

Spring 1995



President's Message

By Mary Shea

As the academic year comes to closure, I reflect on the challenge and responsibility experienced as President of NFRC. It is like finishing your stretch of a relay. I pass the gavel on to my colleague, Pat Parkinson, who will "run" with skill and heart as leader of this organization and its membership.

I would like to "voice" personal reflections on the power of literacy and *real* literature in my last *Spotlight* message. Some will recognize my words from our local TAWL group newsletter. As teachers we are in a position to nurture budding minds, watching them develop and assume a place in a world enriched by the contributions of each generation.

Literature enters our minds and hearts, enabling us to come to understand our world, others and ourselves. In creating meaning with text we construct and reconstruct values, perspectives and schemata on topics as well as connections across them.

The situational contexts (settings) in which these interactions with books take place must be supportive and democratic if readers are going to persist at building their own knowledge. Classrooms that provide basic needs such as time, choice, ownership and response foster literate communities where self-perpetuating engagement in learning is the norm. Books need to be tasted, enjoyed and savored in *personal* ways. "Those who use them to cross-examine children should in the words of Alfred North Whitehead, 'be prosecuted for soul-murder.'" (Trelease, 1989)

Multiple resources, including a wide range of genres and levels of difficulty, entice learners to explore inquiries from many points of view. Readers begin to compare facts and perspectives, evaluating the message and quality of presentation. Multiple sources also make information accessible to all.

"Whoever forms a reading habit will never lose it. It is a treasure that no one can take from him. It contains wealth that neither poverty, nor old age, or misery can tarnish. Thieves cannot steal it, nor storms destroy it, and like vintage wine, it can only improve with age." (Arthur Langle, 1977)

I look forward to working with NFRC in different capacities and to continue interaction with members at conferences and workshops. We all grow personally and professionally from such networking.

SWEET HOME TO HOST EDUCATION CONFERENCE

By Michelle Kavanaugh

The third annual whole language conference entitled, "Lessons From Children" for pre-K to 12 teachers, administrators, college professors, school board members, parents, students and anyone interested in children and learning, will be held at Sweet Home High School on August 24 and 25, 1995.

The focus of the conference is on children assuming the roles of teachers. Children will take part in a number of presentations and demonstrations during the workshop sessions. The conference themes are: interdisciplinary curriculum, assessment, meeting diverse student needs, the home/school/community connection, whole language, and multi-age classrooms.

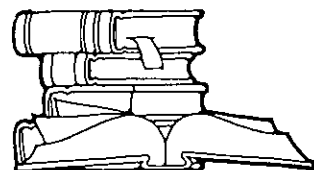
Among the keynote speakers are Jerry Harste of Indiana University; Jim Trelease, author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook*; and Quality Quinn Sharp, who is an author and national consultant for Scholastic Publishers. Trade book authors, such as Virginia Kroll, Timothy Burke and Paul Facklam, will also be presenting and autographing their books.

Dr. Harste is past president of the Whole Language Umbrella, and a member of the National Standards of Assessment team. He has also authored numerous books and articles, such as *Creating Classrooms for Authors* and *Language Stories and Literacy Lessons*. Jim Trelease is well known for his inspirational talks to parents and educators about the values of reading aloud to children of all ages. Quality Quinn Sharp, who has written *Evaluation: Whole Language Charts and Checklists for Your Child*, will focus on assessment.

The conference is sponsored by Sweet Home Schools and Buffalo Public Schools. For more information on registration and conference fees, please contact Michelle Kavanaugh at Maplemere Elementary at (716) 634-6260.



Dr. Jerome Harste receives hearty congratulations from Leigh Ann Hensal.



BOOK TALK

FROM OUR FALL CONFERENCE SPEAKER...

"A River Ran Wild"
by Lynne Cherry

Review by Carol Eberhardt

This book tells the inspiring story of a river that "ran wild" until pollution nearly killed it. About six hundred years ago, the Nashua, a group of Native Americans, settled by the river. The healthy harmony of the native Americans and the river was disrupted several centuries later as European settlers developed the river area as the Industrial Revolution evolved. Industrial waste from factories and mills polluted the Nashua River. In the 1960s, Marion Stoddart led a campaign for anti-pollution measures which eventually averted an ecological disaster. The river was slowly brought back to life.

Lynne Cherry's book documents what committed people can do to reverse man's damage to the environment and to restore nature's beauty.

Related pieces of literature which could develop the theme of responsibility for changing the physical world include: *Come Back, Salmon* by Molly Cone; *Riverkeeper* by George Ancona; *Shaker Lane* by Alice and Martin Provensen; and *Waterman's Boy* by Susan Sharpe. Each of these stories describes the activities of people who actively pursue a personal responsibility to fight pollution and keep an environmental watch on their surroundings.

SPOTLIGHT

Volume XXXIV, No. 3 Spring 1995

Cathleen March, Editor
Michael Crane, Co-Editor

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

Cathleen March
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Lockport, New York 14094
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Author/illustrator Lynne Cherry will present at NFRC Fall Conference in October.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NFRC FALL CONFERENCE

by Carol Eberhardt

On Saturday, October 21, NFRC welcomes author/illustrator Lynne Cherry to our annual fall conference. The conference will take place at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District.

Lynne Cherry was born in 1952 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She has been illustrating books—her own and other writers'—since 1973. In 1991, her book *The Great Kapok Tree*, was chosen as an International Reading Association Teachers' Choice. *A River Ran Wild* has been named both a Notable 1992 Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies and Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children. It was also chosen as an International Reading Association Teachers' Choice in 1993. Many of the books Cherry has been involved with have nature as the theme and picture animals, plants and the outdoor world. She says, "My philosophy of life is...trying to make the world a better place."

We look forward to a wonderful keynote address by Ms. Cherry, who will encourage us to make connections between literature, social studies, and the science and development of personal commitment to positive change in our environment.

Mark Your Calendars Now!
NFRC Fall Conference
October 21st, 1995

"Lessons From Children" Call for Street Performers

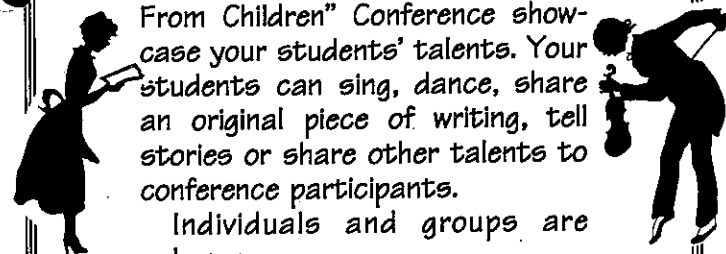
Let the third annual "Lessons From Children" Conference showcase your students' talents. Your students can sing, dance, share an original piece of writing, tell stories or share other talents to conference participants.

Individuals and groups are welcome.

This is a rare opportunity for children to share their talents with an audience of educators.

Send names of children (or call!) who would like to participate to:

Cathleen March, 6801-A Lilac Drive, Lockport, NY 14094, (716) 439-1992; or Michael Crane, 1020 West Center St., Medina, NY 14103, (716) 798-2645.



NYSRA PRESIDENT HAS HER ROOTS IN THE NFRC

By Suzanne Jacobs

Paula Costello is a visionary, but when she began her service in the Niagara Frontier Reading Council, even she never foresaw that it would lead to the presidency of the New York State Reading Association.

In the early eighties, Paula was "paying her dues", and getting a foothold in the Williamsville School District. As a Chapter I teacher, a kindergarten teacher, a primary grade teacher, she probably didn't envision that she would be the district's instructional specialist for English Language Arts.

A conversation with Paula can take one's breath away, for while she clearly lives and works in the present, there is always a new direction around the corner, a new project down the road. She has been a leader in the whole language movement, encouraging staff development and curriculum work in reading process, writing process and assessment. She has always advocated for outreach programs for our council, and is now implementing a plan to bring NYSRA's parent workshop to our area in the fall.

As Western New York reading educators, we are truly honored to have one of our own heading up our state organization. But when Paula has adjourned her final NYSRA meeting, we are sure she will return to her roots and continue her work in literacy here on the Niagara Frontier.

Thank you, Paula, for all you do!

"LESSONS FROM CHILDREN" Registration Form

Last Name _____ First _____ Name Tag: First _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
District _____ School _____
School Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
School Phone _____ Grade Level _____

Please one of the following:

Teacher Teacher Assistant Administrator Parent
 Board of Education College Professor Full-time Student Other _____

Conference Fees:

\$ _____ Registration \$50 by 7/1/95 \$80 after 7/1/95
 \$35 when 10 or more from your school attend
 \$5 parent (not an educator) \$10 full-time student
\$ _____ Box Lunch \$5.00 Each Day: Thursday Friday

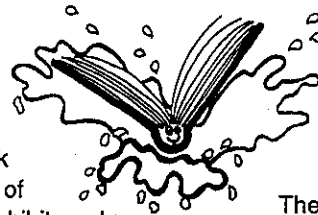
\$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT

Methods of Payment: Personal check (payable to Sweet Home Schools) Purchase Order - P.O. # _____
 Any other payment must have the signature of an authorized district official.

Authorized Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

Return the completed registration form with check or district authorization to: Michelle Kavanaugh, Lessons From Children, Maplemere Elementary School, 236 E. Maplemere Rd., Amherst, NY 14221; (716) 634-6260.

SHARE THE JOY OF BOOK OWNERSHIP



Don't you LOVE getting a new book, a book that's YOURS? We would like to share the joy of book ownership with boys and girls at the Mall Exhibit on June 3. You can help us by donating a book to be given away to a child at the exhibit. A book club selection book would be perfect. Perhaps others in your building would be willing to help out by donating a book, too. Please ask around. Please contact Susan Hirsch at 834-9844 to arrange to have books collected. We are still in need of volunteers to help at the Mall Exhibit on June 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call Susan at 834-9844 or Libby at 439-8819 to volunteer an hour of your time.

MAKE A SPLASH, READ A BOOK...AT THE MALL READING EXHIBIT

The NFRC annual mall exhibit will be held Saturday, June 3, 1995 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Galleria Mall. This year's theme is "Make A Splash, Read a Book." We will have a guest appearance by Clifford, The Big Red Dog. The exhibit features a reading center, response center and activity center, and displays of our children's work.

Many people have volunteered an hour of their time to help promote summer reading and literacy at this event. We are still in need of additional volunteers. Please contact Susan Hirsch at 834-9844 or Libby Leeds at 439-8819 if you can help in any form.

WINTER BRUNCH A SUCCESS

A sunny morning in mid-January found Niagara Frontier Reading Council members treated to a speech on the controversial topic of spelling. Following a delicious brunch, J. Richard Gentry, author of *Spel...Is A Four Letter Word*, suggested that good spelling isn't "caught" by good readers and writers. Rather good spelling must be taught. Teachers needn't choose between traditional or whole language methods. The solution he advocated is melding together the best aspects of both models to develop a spelling program based on sound "balanced" spelling theory. Dr. Gentry views the role of teachers as including goal setting in the program, as well as helping students achieve these goals and aiding parents in understanding them.

The trend in the last decade has changed to teach the process of spelling, and encourage active involvement from the student. Gentry affirmed that today's teachers have a better understanding of the developmental aspects of learning to spell.

He advised teachers to look at spelling development as a process children go through as they are engaged in learning language. Inventive spelling is a natural part of that process, and frees and empowers young children to write. Teachers must encourage children to become more aware of patterns in words and consistencies of conventional spelling. They must also provide resources that allow children to check the spelling of commonly used words.

Dr. Gentry summarized strategies for balancing the whole language and traditional spelling approaches as follows:

1. Teach spelling as a developmental process
2. Encourage young children to invent spelling
3. Encourage children to become word hunters and make them more responsible for correct spelling
4. Take time to teach spelling
5. Use word lists to organize and focus learning
6. Conduct a Spelling Workshop 75 minutes per week and teach strategies for learning words
7. Allow children to be actively involved in their own learning
8. Use mini-lessons to inspect the patterns and consistencies of English spelling
9. Teach kids to proofread
10. Make spelling consciousness the goal

Many thanks to Dr. Pamela Johnson and C. Ty Federick for organizing a most informative and enjoyable conference.

The New Advocate

CALL FOR CHILDREN'S RESPONSES TO LITERATURE

The *New Advocate* editorial team invites readers to submit children's responses to literature. We want to recognize and celebrate children's voices and thoughts about literature on a regular basis. Three to five responses will be selected to be published in each quarterly issue of *The New Advocate*.

These responses can take the form of children's written journal entries, typed quotes, and/or artwork. The responses will not be returned, so please send a high quality photocopy of the original.

Each response should include the complete bibliographic citation for the text to which the child is responding. In addition, a signed permission form must accompany each response. You may obtain a form by writing to the address below.

If we decide to publish a child's response, you will receive notification of the issue in which the response will appear. Please include your name, professional affiliation and address with any submissions.

Submit children's responses to: Kathy G. Short & Dana L. Fox, Co-Editors; *The New Advocate*, Dept. of Language, Reading and Culture, 512 College of Education, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

REMINDER:

The Title 1 committee of New York State Reading Association is compiling information from reading teachers. The Federal government will be working on reauthorization of Special Education Funding. The information will be compiled and sent to the legislative representatives of NYSRA. We feel that this information would be of some importance when Congress discusses the issue.

If you haven't completed a Title I Survey yet, or if you have not received one, please contact:

Bonnie Prunella
10 Diller Drive
Orchard Park, NY 14127

NYSRA Deals With Crucial Issues At March Meeting

By Bonnie Prunella

HIGHLIGHTS

Governmental Relations Committee Chair Maureen Goodwin presented information about state level budget proposals and Federal level changes that place the education of America's children in a precarious position. She emphasized a need to launch a campaign to write and visit federal representatives, stressing the negative impact these changes will have on education.

Samuel Corsi, a SED representative, also addressed the assembly about the issues of state and federal budget cuts. He raised the important issue of who will make the decisions concerning education in NYS - educators or politicians? Governor Pataki has a four-year plan to reduce government expenses. At present, some funds are frozen, affecting "fringe" programs; in subsequent years, his planned reductions will be substantial and impact programs in all districts. He warned that we must not become complacent in our thinking when we look at the budget now and think it doesn't matter because it doesn't affect us individually. It will affect all of education in New York State.

Jacqueline Marino, State Education Department liaison, outlined four reasons associations and school districts should continue to hold workshops related to the English and Language Arts Framework. The framework raises expectations in learning language. Secondly, the framework represents good informa-

tion. It can serve as a common lens to examine and view educational practice. Thirdly, the State Education Department will move ahead working to improve assessment, and this work will be driven by the new standards. Finally, educators need to work towards professional growth. SED will not be providing the training it has in the past, and therefore, they will be relying on organizations, such as NYSRA, to continue this professional growth.

NYSRA ISSUES

President Paula Costello charged the delegates to continue to develop their professionalism. She emphasized the importance of recognizing good work and exemplary service among our membership. NYSRA provides many opportunities for councils and individuals to be recognized, but the membership has to increase their participation in awarding these recognitions.

Throughout the meeting, delegates demonstrated their commitment to professional growth and service. The 1994 fall conference chair, Dorothy Troike, reported that the conference was a huge success and thanked all those who helped make it so. The 1995 fall conference is set to go and promises to be a dynamic educational experience. The spring Professional Colloquia was announced; contact NYSRA for more information. The Language and Literature Spectrum was distributed by Kathleen Gormley. She stated that this journal will be sent to all NYSRA members in the next month.

Jane Barber-Smith announced the slate of officers to be voted on at the June delegates assembly. David Berg, vice president-elect candidate; and John Thornton, treasurer candidate, are running unopposed. Jane received nominations from the floor for the position of secretary. Two candidates were nominated: Andrea Daniel from Central New York Council and Susan Bogdan, Eastern Regional Director.

The administrative endeavors of NYSRA were also addressed at this meeting. Membership Chair Mary Kline proposed the establishment of a \$35 at-large yearly membership for individuals who are not members of a local council. Some of the participants at the assembly, which is comprised of members of local councils, raised the issue that this move would hurt local council membership. Many participants continued the discussion until a motion was proposed and passed by the assembly to table this issue until the June delegates meeting.

Three resolutions were accepted by the assembly: The Right of All People To Be Literate, The Right To Have Access To Literary Materials, and The Right of All Students To High Quality Literacy Instruction.

Author's Workshop

(for teachers and graduate teachers-to-be)

Join Dr. Sharon Kulhanek and Dr. Monroe Whiting for a week of listening to and chatting informally with authors. This is an opportunity to share ideas with new friends about using pleasure reading books in the classroom.

When: July 10 to July 14, 1995

Time: Daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Marriott Hotel, Millersport Hwy., Amherst, NY

Participating authors:

Jan Cheripko: *Voices of the River** *Imitate the Tiger*

Clara Gillow Clark: *Annie's Choice**

Anise: *Girl of Canal Town*

Linda Rose: Activities Book Editor for *Highlights*

Ginny Kroll: *Naomi Knows It's Springtime**

Masai and I

Cynthia De Felice: *The Dancing Skeleton**

Weasel and Lostman's River

Mary Jane Auch: *The Latch Key Dog**

Monster Brother

Nancy Whitelaw: *A Beautiful Pearl**

Theodore Roosevelt Takes Charge

Monroe H. Whiting: *The Poetry Packet - Your Whole*

Language Helper

Frank Hodge: *HodgePodge Books (Books, Books and More Books)*

Three hours of graduate credit will be granted from Canisius College. For more information, please contact Canisius College.

Make Waves This Summer...



With NARC Participation!

Something for Summer: Authors, Books and the Classroom

By Bonnie Prunella

Calling all writers, aspiring writers, those who model writing, and those who use children's literature in the classroom. Come spend the day with the authors on July 19, 1995 at the Sheraton Inn, Walden Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. The Western Regional Councils of the New York State Reading Association in cooperation with *Highlights Magazine* Editor Kent Brown are planning a workshop in which two current children's literature writers will share their experiences and expertise about writing. Pam Conrad, author of many children's books, including *My Daniel*, *Prairie Songs*, and *Staying Nine*, will join forces with

Irene Smalls, author of *Jonathan and His Mommy*, *Louise's Gift*, and *Irene Jennie and the Christmas Masquerade*.

Each author will address their individual experiences and inspirations which have propelled them to fame among young readers. The afternoon will be devoted to a dialogue between authors and participants. This is a once-in-a-year opportunity to ask the author the behind-the-scene details that will enhance your next class book talk or instruction. Learn the insights that may inspire your students to read and perhaps create their own stories. See registration information below.

Something for Summer: Authors, Books and the Classroom

This summer workshop offers you the unique opportunity to hear and work with two authors from the 1995 Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop at Chautauqua. It is sponsored by the Western Regional Councils of NYSRA in cooperation with *Highlights Magazine* editor, Kent Brown. Lunch is included in the cost. Please use the registration form below. There will be no on-site registration.

Wednesday, July 19, 1995
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sheraton Inn, Walden Ave.
Buffalo, New York

Schedule for the day:

9:00 - 10:00	Registration/Coffee
10:00 - 11:00	Speaker: PAM CONRAD
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee
11:15 - 12:15	Speaker: Irene Smalls
12:15 - 1:30	Luncheon (included)
1:30 - 2:30	Focus Groups
2:30 - 3:00	Conversations and Conclusion

Directions: Take the NYS Thruway (I-90) to the Walden Ave. Exit East #52. Located near the Walden Galleria Mall.

CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL DISTRICT FOR POSSIBLE INSERVICE CREDIT

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print.

Name _____

Home Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Local Reading Council _____

COST: Before June 15, 1995.....\$30.00
After June 15, 1995 (By July 10).....\$35.00
NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION

Payment must be enclosed with registration. Make check or money order payable to:
 WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCILS

MAIL TO: Jacqueline Ruth
 2316 Smith Hill Road
 Walworth, New York 14568
Inquiries: 315-524-8965 or 716-662-5139

1995-96 NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL

Membership Has Its Privileges!

Membership Dues Include:

- ★ Registration Fee for the Fall NFRC Conference
- ★ Notification of all NFRC Activities
- ★ NFRC Newsletter "*Spotlight*"
- ★ New York State Reading Assn. (NYSRA) Membership
- ★ Reduced Registration at NYSRA Conference
- ★ Professional Networking

Membership Dues:	\$35.00 for 9/1/95 to 5/31/96
Undergraduate Students:	15.00
Other Reading Council Members:	15.00

Detach and save upper half for your records.
 Mail completed section below with your check, payable to NFRC, to:

Dr. Barbara A. Iannarelli, 929 Creekside Dr., Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Membership Application

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Title (Mrs., Mr., Ms, Dr., Sister, etc.) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Work _____ Home _____

Position (Rdg/Eng/3rd gr tchr, princpl, student, professor, etc.) _____

Level (PK, Elem, Jr/Sr High, College) _____

District/University _____

YES NO

- I am a current member of the Int'l Reading Assn.
- I am interested in helping with NFRC Activities.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____

Check # _____

Membership # _____

Cathleen March, *Editor*

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

Cathleen March
6801-A Lilac Drive - Royal Gardens
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 439-1992

NFRC OFFICERS 1995-96

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Patricia Parkinson

President-Elect

Carolyn Peszko-Flynn

Past President

Mary Shea

Co-Vice President

C. Ty Federick

Co-Vice President

Mary Shea

Vice President Elect

Cathleen March

Recording Secretary

Mary Vacanti

Corresponding Secretary

Susan Hirsch

Treasurer

Lois Bening

"Dates To Remember"

Niagara Frontier Reading Council Activities

- October 21** Fall Conference: Jim McKenna, literacy advocate and Lynne Cherry, author/illustrator (see article page 3). Franklin Elementary School, Kenmore, NY.
- October 31 - November 3** NYSRA Annual Conference: "Spanning Our World On The Wings Of Literacy"; Kiamesha Lake. (See article page 1).
- January 27** "Managing A Quality Classroom"; (Buffalo Region T.A.W.L. Group), Maryvale Primary School.
- February 10** "What Matters: Grassroot Conversations"; Whole Language Umbrella Teleconference.
- May 4 - May 5** Retreat: Chautauqua Institution; (Buffalo Region T.A.W.L. Group).

NFRC Promotes Family Literacy

By Bonnie Prunella

The NFRC Outreach Committee presented 50 books to the The Center For Young Parents in Niagara Falls for their circulation library. The Center for Young Parents provides a high school program for teenage parents that provides a curriculum which helps the students develop as parents and complete their high school education. Books about parenting, children's books and books for the teens were included in this gift to promote family literacy.

NFRC, in cooperation with The State University College at Buffalo, also provide over 100 books from the community project Books for Kids. Dr. Elizabeth J. Cappella, and Dr. Geraldine E. Bard, Co-directors of the Project FLIGHT at Buffalo State College, also assisted in this presentation. Donna Kuna, Director of The Center For Young Parents was pleased with the gifts and looks forward to continuing to work with NFRC to promote family literacy through this center.

Please help Outreach continue to promote family literacy by donating one book at the fall conference. A basket will be available near the registration desk so that you can drop off a book for this project. Outreach is looking for hard cover children's books, young adult books and books on parenting. Thank you in advance for your support for this project.

SPOTLIGHT

Niagara Frontier Reading Council
of the International Reading Association

6801 Lilac Lane - Royal Gardens
Lockport, New York 14094

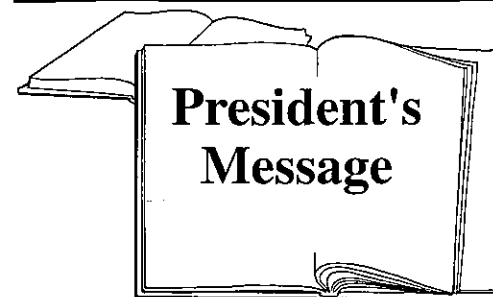
SPOTLIGHT



Volume XXXV No. 1

Council #35575

Fall 1995



Welcome to the Niagara Frontier Reading Council's 1995-96 academic school year, the 35th year of providing service to our members and the community. Much

has changed over the years, bringing new challenges for us personally and professionally. As reported in the spring edition of the Spotlight and as you have learned through your district, the state and federal levels have adopted reduced budgets which have impacted and will continue to affect schools and school district programs. We must take advantage of local organizations to continue our professional growth. NFRC can assist educators in supporting this effort.

Our goal for the coming year will be a more ACTIVE membership; more involvement in the organization from planning events to participating in the activities. Our council has much to offer its members during the year. The annual Fall Conference will be held at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda on Saturday, October 21, 1995 and will feature author/illustrator Lynne Cherry. Her remarks will address the connections between literature and social studies and the need for positive change in our environment. Our winter and spring brunches, while not yet confirmed, will focus on current issues in education and provide opportunities to meet and make connections with colleagues across western New York. Members of NFRC receive a year's subscription to our newsletter, Spotlight, which provides information on upcoming NFRC activities, current educational issues and literacy events in the area. In addition, members are afforded the opportunity to apply for one of our mini-grants which can be used to implement or enhance a school literacy program/activity. Automatic membership in New York State Reading Association is also a benefit.

Here are some ways you can be ACTIVE in NFRC. First, send in your membership form and ask a colleague to join. At the bottom of the form, indicate you are interested in helping out. Second, we are always looking for good speakers. If you have heard someone you would recommend, send your suggestion to Cathy March, Spotlight editor or me. Third, share a literacy event in your school or district by submitting an article for the Spotlight. Write a "book talk" on a children's book or a professional book/article. Send it to Cathy. Fourth, volunteer to assist with one of our community service projects. The annual Mall Exhibit held in June strives to promote literacy and encourage children to continue reading and writing in the summer months. Our new venture is the Outreach Program. This year, members will read to children in hospitals, create a video and provide books to teen mothers. More information about these projects will be available in the Spotlight and at upcoming events. Fifth, if you are interested in serving as a board member, an officer, a committee chairperson or as a committee member, notify me in writing or in person. Sixth, if you are not currently a member of the International Reading Association

(IRA), consider joining. You and your students will benefit greatly from the professional journals which keep you informed of research and practical classroom strategies. Finally, contact any board member or officer with any suggestions on how we can serve the needs of our membership/community. We are always open to fresh ideas.

I invite you to become more ACTIVE in the Niagara Frontier Reading Council, joining in the camaraderie necessary to face the challenge of the future.

Patricia Parkinson
1154 Pasadena Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Mall Exhibit, 1995 Made A Splash

By Susan Hirsch

Many N.F.R.C. members, their families and friends helped to make the mall exhibit, "Make A Splash ... Read A Book," a success.

Conference co-chairmen Susan Hirsch and Libby Leeds were most grateful to the many people who donated books, supplied student works for displays and read books to children at the Galleria Mall on June 3, 1995. Crowds of shoppers enjoyed the art work and literacy exhibits decorating the mall. Children listened attentively as N.F.R.C. members read and told stories. Each left with a book to keep forever!

"Spanning Our World On The Wings Of Literacy"

29th Annual Statewide Conference: NYSRA

The New York State Reading Association will present its annual Conference at the Concord Resort Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, New York from October 31 to November 3, 1995. The theme reflects the constant world-wide search for new paths to literacy for our youngest children through our adult community in a diverse multicultural society.

The conference program will focus on such relevant topics as strategies in a literature-based classroom, authentic assessment, early literacy intervention, multicultural education, integrated curriculum and literature for children and young adults. Presentations will vary in format and time schedule to meet the needs of all participants while interpreting the theme *Spanning Our World on the Wings of Literacy*

Conference 95 promises to be one of the most exciting conferences yet. Sessions have been developed to meet the widest possible audience of educators and parents on all levels from preschool through university. Classroom teachers, literacy specialists, parents, supervisors and administrators will find much of great interest as they delve into issues of current concern with noted speakers.

For registration information please contact Registration Chairpersons: Maryann Bassi at (716) 222-5121 or Michele Strauss at (516) 791-8488.

Lessons From Children

by
Judy Weidemann

On August 24 and 25, 1995 over 400 teachers, school administrators and parents attended the "Lessons from Children" conference at Sweet Home High School. The conference was sponsored by the Sweet Home School District and the Buffalo Public Schools. It was conceived several years ago by NFRC members Ardith Cole and Mary Shea and is one of the most successful literacy events held in the area. It is unique in that a critical part of the conference is demonstration lessons with children participating. Conference attendees then reflect upon the lessons learned from the demonstration. Teachers and children from a number of area school districts showed "Lessons From Children".

Jerome Harste, professor of education at Indiana University continued his presentation begun at the 1994 conference on the lessons he has learned from children in his research. Quality Quinn Sharpe, researcher and author spoke to intermediate grade teachers.

Several authors of children's books spoke about their work and their current publications. Authors included Sara Tasker and Eileen Hannah, Paul Flaclam, and Virginia Kroll. Autographing sessions followed the presentations.

The halls were filled with children's work- much of it procured and hung by NFRC members. During the lunch hour each day, children as street performers sang, danced, did dramatic presentations, and read from their original stories.

A highlight of the conference was the talk by Jim Trelease, author of The New Read Aloud Handbook. He spoke a powerful message to the parents and teachers on the importance and joy of sharing literature with children. He autographed copies of his anthologies and the fourth edition of his Read Aloud Handbook. He gave participants permission to copy the section from the Handbook on how Ben Carson's mother educated the famous pediatric surgeon. This story is one which can be profitably shared with parents. Plans are already begun for the August 1996 conference.

Spring Brunch A Success

by
Lani Snug



Julia Waterfield shares multiage literature with Buffalo City School teacher, Rene Brock.

Julia Waterfield, a teacher from Baltimore, Maryland and former multiage teacher from Gloucestershire, England, spoke at the May Brunch on "Organizing a Multiage Classroom." She gave examples of developmental report cards used elsewhere in the United States, ideas for thematic planning and activities such as collaborative writing and art extensions that would meet the developmental needs of students.

She also shared slides of multiage classrooms from England and New Zealand that demonstrated physical set-ups and management systems that are important aspects of the organization of a multiage concept. Ms. Waterfield discussed central book storage rooms used in New Zealand. Instead of each teacher having classroom sets or multiple copies of books, all multiple copies to be used in guided reading or in literature circles are kept in a central storage room. Each teacher signs out the number of books needed. The presentation was enthusiastically received by conference attendees.

Who's Visiting Today?

By
THIRD GRADE LIBRARY STUDENTS
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kenmore, New York
Based upon Who's Sick Today?
a poem by Lynne Cherry

Lynne Cherry -- Hooray! Hooray!
Wish she could stay,

At ten, she picked up a pen
Drew a wren instead of a hen,

She makes us aware
of what is there--

A world of green, we need to keep clean,
Rivers that run with sparkles from the sun,

Bees, stinging; robins, singing,
Trees to climb, if we keep them fine,

Don't let the tourists destroy the forests,
It isn't fair if you pollute the air,

Don't be a quitter,
Please pick up the litter,
Find a blue bin, toss your papers in,
Orange for the mass of cans, tins and glass,

What is the earth worth today?
A million dollars could not buy
Our earth with a bright blue sky,

To our children we shall leave
An earth in which we believe,

You and me--hand in hand
Shall keep our world peaceful and pure
All over the land.

Jan Presser Receives Council Award

by
Pauline Klostermann



Miss Jan Presser is the recipient of the New York State Reading Association (N.Y.S.R.A.) Council Service Award. This prestigious award for "Service To Reading" was presented at the New York State Reading Council's Assembly of Delegates meeting in Albany, NY.

Niagara Frontier Reading Council will honor Miss Presser at the 35th Annual Reading Conference to be held on October 21, 1995 at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, Kenmore, NY.

Jan's outstanding contributions to the activities and program of N.F.R.C. are well known. Jan served as president of N.F.R.C. in 1992 - 1993 and continues to serve on the Board of Directors. She shares her experience and enthusiasm with the teachers in North Tonawanda in her role as elementary school principal at Drake Elementary School.

Fall Conference

Journey to Literacy ... With Niagara Frontier Reading Council

Be sure to mark October 21 on your calendar. The Fall '95 Conference is a literacy event you won't want to miss as NFRC presents literary advocate Jim McKenna and author/illustrator Lynne Cherry. Franklin Elementary School in Kenmore will host the Saturday morning conference.

For those of you who want to become familiar with some of the latest in children's literature, Jim McKenna promises to share about one hundred titles and information about each as well as story reading techniques to help teachers bring life to the stories they share with children.

Lynne Cherry has authored and illustrated many pieces of literature well-known to classroom teachers. She writes about and speaks to us about environmental issues and how to use environmental studies to integrate curriculum. Her presentation will include slides of Amazon flora and fauna which she photographed while researching The Great Kapok Tree - A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest and slides of the Nashua River, the subject of A River Ran Wild. The "before" slides of the dirty river and the "after" slides are dramatic in their message. Lynne Cherry speaks passionately about environmental problems and how teachers can instill in children a respect for the earth as well as teach lessons about living in a Democracy. She strongly believes that children can rescue our planet.

The slide show also shows Lynne's home, how she draws from the natural world and how she does her research. Her work-in-progress, The Dragon and the Unicorn, is an allegory about the destruction of our National Forests. Her environmental and nature books are ideal for integrating curriculum and she has been very involved in the Whole Language movement. She shares suggestions for curriculum connections with her conference audiences. When I'm Sleepy (habitats), The Great Kapok Tree (destruction of tropical rain forests and ecosystems), Where Butterflies Grow (metamorphosis) and Harriet and William and the Terrible Creature (careful use of renewable resources) are some of the pieces for which she will discuss curriculum extensions.

Who's Sick Today, The Snail's Spell and Chipmunk Song are early pieces illustrated by Lynne Cherry. Archie, Follow Me can inspire children to write their own stories for it was originally written by Lynne Cherry at age ten! We expect that each of us will be inspired to share Mr. McKenna's love of literature and Lynne Cherry's message with our students, peers and families!

Carol C. Eberhardt, Conference Chairman

DIRECTIONS FOR FALL CONFERENCE: Franklin Elementary School

From 290 Youngman, Exit on Niagara Falls Blvd. South, Pass Sheridan Drive,
Turn Right onto Highland Avenue, Turn Left onto Parkhurst Blvd.

1995-96 NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL

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- ★ NFRC Newsletter "Spotlight"
- ★ Reduced Registration at NYSRA Conference
- ★ Notification of all NFRC Activities
- ★ New York State Reading Assn. (NYSRA) Membership
- ★ Professional Networking

Membership Dues: \$35.00 for 9/1/95 to 8/31/96 Undergraduate Students: 15.00 Other Reading Council Members: 15.00

Detach and save upper half for your records.

Mail completed section below with your check, payable to NFRC, to:
Dr. Barbara A. Iannarelli, 929 Creekside Dr., Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Membership Application

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Title (Mrs., Mr., Ms., Dr., Sister, etc.) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Position (Rdg/Eng/3rd gr tchr, princpl, student, professor, etc.) _____

Level (PK, Elem, Jr/Sr High, College) _____

District / University _____

Please answer the following questions:

- I am a current member of the International Reading Association. Yes No
- I am interested in helping with NFRC Activities. Yes No

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date _____

Check No. _____

Membership No. _____