

SPOT



LIGHT

VOLUME LVIII, NO. 1

IRA HONOR COUNCIL - #35575

FALL 2016



President's Message by Dana Comas-Baez

Happy 2016-2017 academic year and welcome to what I envision will be another great year for the Niagara Frontier Reading Council. I am beyond ecstatic to serve as the president and work as a team with such amazing members

and officers. With a new year comes great excitement, new beginnings and changes.

Changes can be exciting and uncomfortable, yet necessary to be successful. As educators we are asked to be reflective; to ask ourselves constantly how can I do this better? So, we make changes and sometimes those changes may not always be better- however we try, reflect, and readjust. It doesn't mean we go back to our old ways (because that was comfortable). It means we push forward, set more goals, and persevere towards greater success. "The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but building the new." -Socrates.

As educators and as a council we need to harness our will to succeed, avoid driving through life with our breaks on, rather embrace change and adapt.



As John Dewey said: "If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow." The same is true of our organization.

The Council believes that the strength of any association is premised on the level of participation by its members. One of the council's goals this year is to offer more opportunities for our general membership to get involved. With that in mind, each of you are encouraged to attend our events, sign up for volunteer opportunities and seize the

opportunity to help structure the programs and services we offer.

New this year we will be hosting several free social events. I encourage everyone to attend at least one or all of them and invite other educators as well! These will be opportunities to learn more about the NFRC and ways to get more involved, connect with educators from other districts and take away lots of freebies! Our first social event will be held at the Buffalo Irish Center on September 22 from 4:30 - 7:30pm.

In addition, please join us for the professional book study of Writers are Readers, which will begin at our fall kick-off event on Saturday, October 1st at Clarence High School following a presentation by Jeanne Tribuzzi: "Growing Strong Writers."



Also, please save the dates for the winter and spring brunches: the Winter Brunch will be Saturday, February 4, 2017 with speaker Amy Vanderwater presenting "Poems Are Teachers: How Poetry Helps Strengthen Our Writing in all Genres." The Spring Brunch will be Saturday, April 29, 2017 with speaker Lester L. Laminack, author of Writers ARE Readers, our Professional Development Book Study Book.

While I have the pleasure of serving as the council President for 2016-2017, the success of the council would be impossible without the active support of our members, outstanding committees and Board of Directors. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all of you for your prior and continued service to the NFRC. I look forward to reconnecting with current members and meeting many new ones. I wish everyone the best as we begin the new year.



NFRC Mini Grants 2016-2017

Is there a literacy project that you've always wanted to complete but couldn't afford? Let us help you! The Niagara Frontier Reading Council is pleased to announce it will award several mini grants for amounts up to \$500. Applications will be mailed to members in September and will also be available on our website <http://www.thenfrc.org>

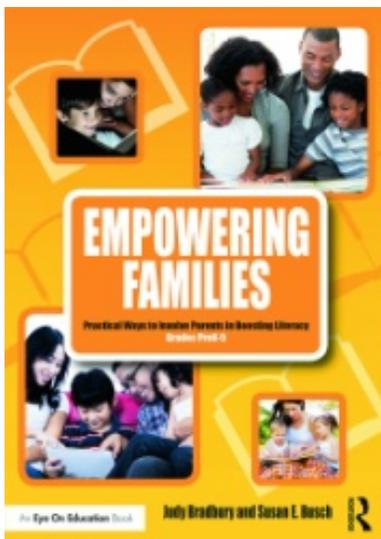
Applicant must have been an NFRC member for at least two years. (You can include this year's membership so don't forget to renew your membership.)

Proposals will be due November 30th, 2016 and winners will be notified and receive their awards by the end of December. Don't let this wonderful opportunity pass you by!

Name Change Proposed for NFRC Professional Development Committee

Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) has replaced the term Professional Development at NYSED. The NFRC proposes to amend the name of the Professional Development Committee to the Continuing Teacher and Leader Education Committee to reflect the change in verbiage at the state level.

For CTLE/Professional Development news, information, and resources compiled by Judy Bradbury for the NFRC, please visit the CTLE/Professional Development page on the NFRC website at www.thenfrc.org. Contact Judy at judyreads@bluefrog.com with professional news you'd like to share with colleagues in our organization.



Going to the NYSRA Conference in November?

NFRC board members and authors Judy Bradbury and Susan E. Busch will be Featured Authors at the upcoming **NYSRA 2016 Annual State Conference** being held in Rochester on November 13-14. They will be speaking on Monday, November 14th at 9:30 am. The title of their presentation is *Empowering Families: An Introduction to Providing Dynamic Family Literacy Programming*.

Other NFRC members, including current president Dana Comas-Baez, will be presenting too! It's a great conference, we hope you will join us there!

OUTREACH NEWS!

Dear Ms. Busch,
What a surprise and pleasure to meet you - and to be able to thank you personally for the wonderful supply of books sent for the children in Nicaragua's mission. The teachers - the students are thrilled to have storybooks and reference books in the classroom.
Here are some photos to reflect the impact that the Niagara Frontier Reading Council is making on so many lives. Thank you so much for including us in your projects - It means a lot - God bless your work -
Ann Marie Fox



Nicaraguan Outreach Project

Thank you to the many NFRC members who continue to support our International Outreach Project impacting the Cristo Rey School in Nicaragua. Your donations of new and used school supplies are greatly appreciated by the students and teachers of this school greatly in need of resources.

Additionally, through your membership in NFRC and raffle donations made at NFRC-sponsored events, our organization has been able to purchase and donate seven boxes of children's books written in Spanish for the

Cristo Rey schoolchildren.

Thanks to your ongoing support, the NFRC has contributed a variety of materials that further the literacy of children in this community, thereby impacting lives for the better for many years to come. Please continue to support this worthwhile international literacy initiative throughout the school year.

Remember!

Donations for the NFRC Nicaragua Outreach Mission Project will be accepted at all NFRC meetings. School supplies, new and used, are welcome and appreciated! For more on this successful ongoing initiative, visit the NFRC website: www.nfrc.org.

2016 SERVICE TO READING AWARD RECIPIENTS



NFRC Professional Book Discussion Group... Year 4 Promises To Be Awesome!



Year 4 of the NFRC Professional Book Discussion Group will officially begin at the Fall Mini-Conference on October 1st. This year we will discuss ***Writers ARE Readers: Flipping Reading Instruction Into Writing Opportunities*** by Lester L. Laminack and Reba M. Wadsworth (Heinemann; 2015), an inviting resource that focuses on the connections between reading and writing. The book will be included in the price of the Fall Mini-Conference **for the first 100 who register for the event**—a \$25.00 value! Also, we're pleased to announce that Mr. Laminack will be our keynote speaker at the Spring Brunch on April 29th!

The first book professional discussion group meeting will be held on **November 19th** at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 875 Eggert Rd. (off Walck Rd. near Nash Rd.) in North Tonawanda from 9AM-11AM. Discussion of Section 1 of the text will be co-led by Kathleen Montesanti and Patty Oliphant. Mark your calendar now and plan to join in! NFRC is an NYSED-approved provider of CTLE/PD credit, and a certificate of attendance will be provided to all attendees. Thanks to NFRC member Lisa Insalaco for again securing a comfortable and welcoming space for two of our meetings—free of charge!

Please refer to the schedule of the 2016-17 NFRC Professional Book Discussion Group meetings for a complete listing of dates, times, locations, and leaders. The information is also available on the NFRC website (www.nfrc.org).

We look forward to seeing you on November 19th at:
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
875 Eggert Rd. (off Walck Rd. near Nash Rd.)
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

*Please use the bell entrance (not the school entrance).

Questions? Contact Judy Bradbury at judyreads@bluefrog.com.

NFRC Outreach & WCHOB NICU:

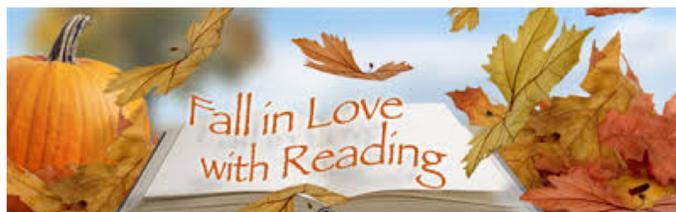
Parents Read to Comfort and Soothe

The Niagara Frontier Reading Council began a new outreach initiative this summer. Collaborating with the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Women and Children's Hospital to encourage parents of newborns to read with their infants, NFRC provided the hospital with 130 new books, including Spanish and wordless titles. The Unit will have parents or caregivers record a favorite book. When a parent or caregiver is unable to be in attendance at the hospital and the infant is in distress, the nurses will be able to play back the recording, calming and soothing the baby. Research has shown the comforting effect this has on the infant, leading to quicker healing and recovery. The books will be given to the parents when the child is released from the hospital.

Sara Agugliaro Tasca, PA at WCHOB, contacted our Outreach Committee and Lisa LaTrovato, Sr. Development Associate of WCHOB Foundation arranged for a meeting in the NICU at the end of June. The staff enjoyed perusing the many books donated.



Shown in the photo are Susan Busch and Judy Bradbury, NFRC Outreach Committee, Dr. Anne Marie Reynolds, Medical Director of the NICU, and Michele Inglut, Nurse Manager of the NICU.



Mark Your Calendars! Dates to Remember...

September Soiree

A new, FREE event for educators and students
Buffalo Irish Center – Emerald Room
245 Abbott Road, Buffalo NY 14220
Thursday, September 22, 2016
4:30-7:30pm

NFRC Fall Mini-Conference: “Growing Strong Writers from Kindergarten through High School”
Speaker: Jeanne Tribuzzi, Columbia Teacher’s College Reading and Writing Project
Clarence High School, Clarence NY
Saturday October 1, 2016
8am-12:15pm

Detailed information can be found here:
<https://www.smore.com/6bf86>

WNY Children’s Book Expo

Kleinhans Music Hall
Buffalo, NY
November 6th, 2016
10am-3pm

NYSRA Conference

Rochester, NY
November 13 & 14, 2016

NFRC Winter Brunch: “Poems Are Teachers: How Poetry Helps Strengthen Our Writing in All Genres”
Speaker: Amy Vanderwater
Saturday, February 4, 2017

NFRC Spring Brunch: “Writers are Readers”
Speaker: Lester L. Laminack, author of our Professional Book Study selection
Saturday, April 29, 2017

2016 SPRING BRUNCH PHOTOS



A special thank you to the Medaille College M.S.Ed. Elementary Education students for their poster presentations on "There's an App for That." Students presented on apps that promote digital literacies for their Technology for the Elementary Classroom Teacher under the guidance of their instructor, Mary Beth Scumaci.



Save the Date & Join Us at the
2nd Annual



WNY
Children's Book Expo
founded by Monkey See, Monkey Do...Children's Bookstore

Sunday, November 6, 2016
10 am – 3 pm
Kleinhans Music Hall • Buffalo

- Meet Authors & Illustrators
- Book Signings • Story Readings
- Interactive Presentations
- Free Community Event for All Ages

Dream. Inspire.

www.WNYcbe.com • 716-204-8417 • Facebook.com/MonkeysRead

Join us for the FREE 2nd Annual Children's Book Expo

The second annual WNY Children's Book Expo will take place on Sunday, November 6, 2016 from 10am-3pm at Kleinhans Music Hall! This FREE family literacy event offers our community an opportunity to become immersed in the wonderful world of books. Participants can meet, greet, and interact with 36 local, national, and international children's authors! For complete details on the event and a schedule of activities throughout the day, visit <http://www.monkeysread.com/#!/the-story/cyqf>.

New this year at the WNY Children's Book Expo is an exciting opportunity for educators! From 1–2 PM, authors and educators Judy Bradbury and Susan E. Busch will lead a **free one-hour NYSED-approved CTLE** (professional development) workshop, a capsule version of their 6-hour workshop. Those who register in advance will receive a 30% discount on *Empowering Families*, the professional resource for educators filled with ideas and step-by-step plans for planning and executing vibrant parent programming. MiddleWeb calls *Empowering Families* "the most useful tool in promoting student literacy at home that I have ever come across." Join Judy and Sue for an informative hour exploring ways to build literacy awareness in parents and caregivers in your school community. For complete details, to register for the free CTLE workshop, and to pre-order your discounted book, go to: <http://www.monkeysread.com/#!/2016-free-ctle-workshop/tmipo>. Space is limited; early registration is advised.

NFRC Officers 2016-2017

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Amy Bartell

President Elect

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Kathleen Montesanti

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Jack Agugliaro

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Judy Bradbury

Wendy Huss

Jeanne Cummings

Pamela Garabedian

Board Members 2015-2017

Jeanne Komoroske

Mary Beth Scumaci

Susan Busch

Christan O'Leary

About the NFRC:

- We are non-profit educational organization chartered by The International Reading Association since 1958.
- We are dedicated to the professional development and enhancement of literacy in our community.
- We are involved in professional issues affecting literacy.

NFRC Mission:

Our mission is to promote literacy education, encourage professional development, and provide community service, which fosters literacy within Western New York. We hope to instill a passion for lifelong learning and encourage readers to build a vision of the future.

Find us on Twitter & Facebook! Click on links below:



Please send any items of interest or information about upcoming speakers/events that you would like to include in the next SPOTLIGHT to:

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