



Children's Literature Association NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2015

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Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Call for Nominations

The Anne Devereaux Jordan Award is intended to honor the lifetime achievement of an individual whose scholarship and service have had a significant impact on the field of children's literature scholarship. The award is not restricted to ChLA members or to those whose work has benefited the Association specifically. The award may be given posthumously. To nominate someone for the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award, send a letter that explains the person's accomplishments and contributions to children's literature scholarship to committee chair Martha Hixon (martha.hixon@mtsu.edu). If possible, include the nominee's current vita with the nomination letter. Nominations must be received no later than October 1, 2015. Although nominees are considered annually, there may be years in which no award is given.

President's Message

by Kara Keeling

I am sure I am not the only ChLA member who has thought about Laura Ingalls Wilder's *The Long Winter* this year. That interminable winter seemed an apt comparison for this year's while spring here in Virginia seemed endlessly delayed: I longed for a moment equivalent to when Laura wakes up, feels cool air rather than cold, and calls out, waking the whole family, "The Chinook is blowing!" She knows that winter's grip has been broken, and Pa confirms that "spring has come." Here, too, that is at long last happening: despite lingering cold temperatures, our campus daffodils bravely bloomed two weeks ago. They looked rather despondent in the frigid wind, but nonetheless they were doing their seasonal work, knowing that spring cannot be kept away forever and that warm weather must come soon. And finally it has, with a brilliant burst of cherry blossoms, tulips, and azaleas.

We ChLA members have all been doing our seasonal work too: election and award results have trickled in; committees have been meeting by phone and email, preparing their end-of-year reports. Spring is truly our season this year: our 2015 annual conference, June 18-20, ends the day before the solstice and the official beginning of summer.



This year we will gather in Richmond, Virginia, very near the spot where Patrick Henry declared 240 years ago, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" Together we will ponder the applicability of that ultimatum to children's and young adult literature of the past and present—its "High Stakes and Dark Sides"—in a wonderful program planned by Jennie Miskec and her splendid team from Longwood University. No doubt the papers we will hear will energize us just as Patrick Henry's great speech roused and electrified his eighteenth-century audience, for this

happens often at ChLA conferences. Those of us who have attended in the past can easily think of talks we have heard that introduced us to new children's and YA books for our "must read" lists, and others that suggested innovative approaches to stories that are long-time friends.

We have a particularly special anniversary this year to celebrate in the presentation of the 30th annual Phoenix Award, at a reception Friday evening that will be held at the University of Richmond. (Don't forget to pre-register for that!) This year's winner, Kyoko Mori, will attend to accept the Phoenix for her lovely novel, *One Bird*. We also have a stellar speaker in our Francelia Butler Lecturer for this year, Adrienne Kertzer.

If you haven't yet registered for the conference, please do so! Registration is easy on our new website, which debuted last summer. Take a little time to look around in its nooks and corners if you haven't had the chance. Make your travel plans and come join us in our annual reunion. Toast old friends and make new ones over the delicious meals in Richmond's large selection of restaurants. As I've said for a long time, ChLA is the best week of my year. Come make it one of the best of yours as well.



2015 ChLA CONFERENCE

“Give me liberty, or give me death!”: The High Stakes and Dark Sides of Children’s Literature” June 18-20, 2015 | Longwood University



LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY



Longwood University is honored to host the 42nd annual Children’s Literature Association Conference in Richmond, Virginia. The 2015 conference, held June 18-20 at the Omni Richmond Hotel in historic Shockoe Bottom, will host panels on a wide variety of topics. From serial killers and monsters to video games and family ties, the conference theme of “The High Stakes and Dark Sides of Children’s Literature” has been interpreted in exciting and fascinating ways that we never could have imagined!

Dr. Adrienne Kertzer, Professor of English at the University of Calgary and past president of the ChLA, will give this year’s Francelia Butler Lecture on the morning of Saturday, June 20. Dr. Kertzer’ book *My Mother’s Voice: Children, Literature, and the Holocaust* won the 2002 ChLA Honor Book Award and the 2003 Canadian Jewish Book Award. In addition to further work on Holocaust representation, she is currently engaged in a study of memory and trauma in young adult literature.



Dr. Adrienne Kertzer

Results of the 2015 ChLA Election of Officers, Board & Committee Members

President:

Annette Wannamaker

Vice President/ President-Elect:

Kenneth Kidd

Treasurer:

Roberta Seelinger Trites

Board of Directors:

Marah Gubar
Joe Sutliff Sanders
Gwen Athene Tarbox
Eric L. Tribunella

Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Committee:

Naomi Wood

Article Award Committee:

Matthew Prickett

Book Award Committee:

Jameela Lares
Ivy Linton Stabell

Diversity Committee:

Mary Couzelis

Edited Book Award Committee:

Kate Capshaw
Susan Louise Stewart

International Committee:

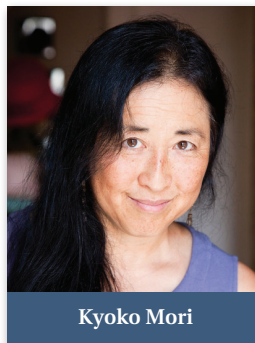
Erica Hateley
Vanessa Joosen
Tanja Nathanael

Phoenix Award Committee:

Sara K. Day
Claudia Mills

Phoenix Picture Book Award Committee:

Kevin Shortsleeve



Kyoko Mori

The University of Richmond has graciously volunteered to host a reception on Friday evening for Kyoko Mori, Professor of Creative Writing at George Mason University and winner of this year’s Phoenix Award, and transportation will be provided for those who register. Kyoko Mori will receive the Phoenix Award for *One Bird* (1995), the story of fifteen-year-old Megumi’s self-discovery after her mother leaves her with her philandering and mostly absent father and cranky grandmother.

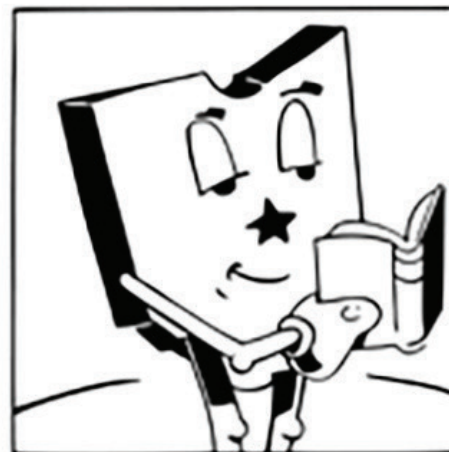
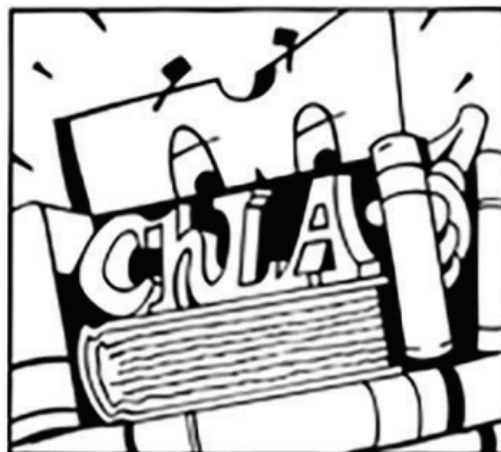
In addition to *One Bird*, Mori is the author of novels, essays, short stories, and a memoir, *Yarn: Remembering the Way Home*.

This year’s conference will once again offer Genre-Themed Group Lunches on Friday, June 19, as informal gatherings that allow participants to continue discussions of children’s literature outside individual panels. Additionally, the Membership Committee is launching a Mentorship Program that pairs new members with more established ChLA members and scholars to welcome them into both the organization and the discourse.

2016 ChLA CONFERENCE

"Animation"

June 9-11, 2016 | The Ohio State University



The Ohio State University is thrilled to host the 43rd annual Children's Literature Association Conference, June 9–11, 2016, at the Sheraton Hotel at Capitol Square in the magnificent Midwestern metropolis of Columbus, Ohio.

The conference theme is "Animation." This broad concept encompasses a wide array of possible topics, including:

- comics, graphic novels, and cartoons for young people
- toys coming to life in stories, anthropomorphized animals, etc.
- the animation of texts that occurs in classroom settings through activities like read-alouds
- electronic books and digital storytelling
- critical practice as an animating act, bringing historically neglected authors and texts to the attention of current readers
- children's media and transmedia storytelling: movies, video games, stage plays, book trailers, fandoms, etc.

The idea of "Animation" has a special significance for OSU, given the campus's well-known Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Comics Museum, its Wexner Center for the Arts, and its Advanced Computing Center for Art and Design (ACCAD).



Dr. Charles Hatfield

The Francelia Butler lecture will be co-presented by Dr. Charles Hatfield, of California State University-Northridge, and Dr. Joe Sutliff Sanders, of Kansas State University, on the topic of "Children's Comics, Past and Present." Professor Hatfield is the author of *Alternative Comics* (2005) and the Eisner Award-winning *Hand of Fire: The Comics Art of Jack Kirby* (2011) and co-editor of *The Superhero Reader* (2013). Professor Sanders has written on digital comics for young people, as well as on the generic distinctions between comics and picture

books. He is also the editor of a collection of essays about the Belgian cartoonist Hergé (University Press of Mississippi, 2016) and the author of new and forthcoming essays on manga, digital comics, and the history of children's comics.

Gene Luen Yang, the critically acclaimed and commercially successful graphic novelist, will be our special guest. He will deliver a talk about his Printz Award-winning book *American-Born Chinese* on Thursday night to



Gene Luen Yang

open the conference. Yang's address will be followed by a book signing.

The conference hotel is located in the heart of beautiful and bustling downtown Columbus. Accordingly, it is surrounded by a cornucopia of delicious restaurants, great bars, and fabulous coffee shops. A plethora of fun attractions also awaits you on the hotel's back doorstep, including the Ohio Theatre, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and the Columbus Commons Park with its band gazebo, Jeni's Ice Cream stand (so yummy...not to be missed), and frequent food trucks. The Columbus Arts Festival will be taking place the same weekend as ChLA, just a few blocks away from the hotel.

Submit to the conference via a link on the ChLA 2016 webpage. Please note the new window for submissions: the link will be live from July 1, 2015, to October 15, 2015. Notifications about paper acceptance or rejection will be sent out in January 2016.



Dr. Joe Sutliff Sanders

2015 ChLA Award Recipients



Anne Devereaux Jordan Award

Winner: Judith Plotz, Professor Emerita, George Washington University

Article Award (for an article published in 2013)

Winner: Zetta Elliott for "The Trouble with Magic: Conjuring the Past in New York City Parks," published in *Jeunesse*

Honor winner: Rachel Conrad for "'We Are Masters at Childhood': Time and Agency in Poetry by, for, and about Children," published in *Jeunesse*

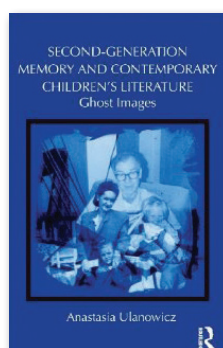
Honor winner: Marah Gubar, Robin Bernstein, Karin E. Westman, and Sara L. Schwebel for "Forum: Manifestos from the 2013 Children's Literature Association Conference," published in *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*

Book Award

(for a book published in 2013)

Winner: Anastasia Ulanowicz for *Second-Generation Memory and Contemporary Children's Literature*, Routledge

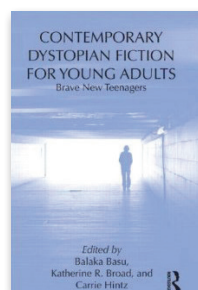
Honor book: Courtney Weikle-Mills for *Imaginary Citizens: Child Readers and the Limits of American Independence, 1640-1868*, Johns Hopkins University Press



Carol Gay Award

Winner: Alexandra Cathcart for "A Racialized Menagerie: Unpacking Race in Marc Brown's *Arthur* Series," sponsored by Courtney Weikle-Mills (University of Pittsburgh)

Honor essay: Claire Werkiser for "Visibility Invisibility: Socialization, Bodily Inscription, and Ideology in *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing*," sponsored by Anna Redcay (University of Pittsburgh)



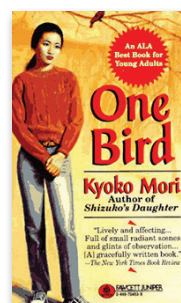
Edited Book Award

(for a book published in 2013)

Winner: Balaka Basu, Katherine R. Broad, and Carrie Hintz for *Contemporary Dystopian Fiction for Young Adults: Brave New Teenagers*, Routledge

Honor book: John Stephens for *Subjectivity in Asian Children's Literature: Global Theories and Implications*, Routledge

Honor book: Nora Maguire and Beth Rodgers for *Children's Literature on the Move: Nations, Translations, Migrations*, Four Courts Press



Phoenix Award

(for books published in 1995)

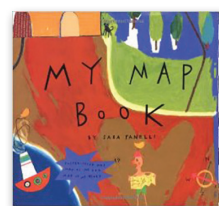
Winner: Kyoko Mori for *One Bird*, Henry Holt & Company

Graduate Student Essay Awards

Ph.D. level award: Clare Echterling for "Individualism, Environmentalism, and the Pastoral in the Children's Biographies of Wangari Maathai," sponsored by Giselle Anatol (The University of Kansas)

Master's level award: Meghan Radosevic for "Blood Money: The Commodification of Menstrual Education through American Girl's *The Care and Keeping of You* Series," sponsored by Ramona Caponegro (Eastern Michigan University)

Master's level Honor award: Holly Batty for "Picturing Animality in Emily Hughes' *Wild*," sponsored by Jackie Stallcup (California State University, Northridge)



Phoenix Picture Book Award

(for books published in 1995)

Winner: Sara Fanelli for *My Map Book*, HarperCollins

Honor book: Charlotte Zolotow and Stefano Vitale for *When the Wind Stops*, HarperCollins

Honor book: Kady MacDonald Denton for *Would They Love a Lion?*, Kingfisher

2015 Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Recipient: Judith Plotz



The Children's Literature Association is pleased to announce that Judith Plotz is the 2015 recipient of the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award, given in recognition of significant contributions in scholarship and/or service to the field of children's literature.

A highly respected nineteenth-century scholar with a long list of publications, presentations, and invited lectures to her credit, Plotz's work on Kipling and childhood has contributed in important ways to the current revival in Kipling scholarship, just as her discussions of the Romantic child have shaped our understanding of that field. Her interest in postcolonial studies, Kipling, and India came together in 1994-95 in a Fulbright Scholarship in New Delhi, and she has continued her international interests in her retirement through travels and continued research.

Now Professor Emerita from George Washington University, during her tenure as a university professor Judith mentored many a student, graduate and undergraduate, in children's literature, some of whom have gone on to make a name for themselves in their own right. One measure of Judith's success as a professor was "Plotzfest," a one-day conference at GWU honoring her upon retirement.

Judith has served our profession long and faithfully, having served on a number of ChLA committees and in the positions of Board member, Secretary, and Vice President/President/Past President, not to mention being an uplifting presence at the annual conference for decades, always with a warm welcome for new members and attendees from overseas as well as for old friends.

Judith Plotz has had a long and distinguished career as a scholar and a teacher. We congratulate her on this much deserved recognition, and we look forward to celebrating her accomplishments at the 2015 Children's Literature Association conference in Virginia.

2015 ChLA Grant Recipients

Faculty Research Grants

Daniel Feldman, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Project: Play in Children's Literature of the Holocaust

Michelle Beissel Heath, University of Nebraska, Kearney

Project: Dueling with Literary Legacies?: The Battle for Cultural Respectability and National Pride in U.S. and British 19th Century Card, Board, and Parlor Games

Deirdre H. McMahon, Drexel University

Project: Non-normative Gender Roles in Imperialist British Children's Fiction

Elizabeth A. Wheeler, University of Oregon

Project: HandiLand: Kids with Disabilities Infiltrate Public Culture

Diversity Research Grant

Clark Barwick, Indiana University, Bloomington

Project: Harry F. Liscomb's *The Prince of Washington Square* (1925), African American Children's Literature, and the Making of Black Authorship; and Harry F. Liscomb's *The Prince of Washington Square* and Other Stories

Hannah Beiter Graduate Student Research Grants

Mariko Turk, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Florida

Project: History Girls: Girlhood and Political Consciousness in Historical Fiction Series for Girls, 1913-2013

Taraneh Matloob, Ph.D. Candidate, Oakland University

Project: Toward Multicultural Narratology: A Narrative Approach to the Examination of Persian Authenticity in Multicultural Children's Literature

Bonnie Tulloch, M.A. Candidate, University of British Columbia

Project: The 'Billy Sooks' of Nonsense: Examining the Relationship between Nonsense Verse and Critical Literacy

International Sponsorship Grant

Distinguished scholars for a special focus panel on Italian children's literature:

Giorgia Grilli, University of Bologna, Italy

Maria Rosa Truglio, Pennsylvania State University

Lindsay Myers, The National University of Ireland, Galway



Guaranteed Children's Literature Sessions at the 2016 MLA Conference

The Afterlife of Popular Children's Culture Icons

Session Chair: Paul Cote,
University of Maryland, College Park

Paul Cote, University of Maryland, College Park,
"From Madcap to Mourning: The Muppets after Henson"

Carrie Sickman Han, Indiana University, "The Afterlife of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up"

Peter Kunze, University of Texas, Austin, "How do you Solve a Problem Like Mickey Mouse"

Alexandra Valint, University of Southern Mississippi, "'His active little crutch': The Adaptations and Influence of Tiny Tim"

The Verse Novel for Young Readers

Session Chair: Michelle Ann Abate, The Ohio State University

Mike Cadden, Missouri Western State University, "Drawing in and Pushing Back: The Verse Novel and the Problem of Distance"

Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University, "Why Aesthetics Matter: Discovering Poetry in the Verse Memoirs of Marilyn Nelson and Jacqueline Woodson"

Karen Coats, Illinois State University—Bloomington/Normal, "What Can Verse Novels Tell Us About the Aesthetics of Poetry for Young Readers"

The Anxious Publics of Literature for Young People

Session Chair: Derritt Mason, University of Alberta

Ashley Hope Pérez, The Ohio State University, "Against the Assumption of Guilty Pleasure: Excavating Adult Readers' Ethically Engaged Encounters with YA Fiction"

David Aitchison, North Central College, "Growth, Freedom, and Anxiety: The Displacement of Education in Contemporary School Stories for Young People"

Martin Woodside, Rutgers University—Camden, "Young Readers, Young Heroes, and Dime Novel Hysteria"



MLA Session Call January 5-8, 2017 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Each year, the Children's Literature Association is guaranteed one session at the MLA and can submit proposals for up to two more.* If you would like to propose a session topic, by June 14, please send the ChLA/MLA Liaison Kate Slater (slaterk@rowan.edu):

(1) a short description of your proposal idea, and, if relevant (2) the name of another MLA-affiliated entity (allied organization, division, or discussion group) you plan to seek as a co-sponsor.

The ChLA Board will examine the proposals and select the top three (one guaranteed, plus two additional**) for submission to the 2017 MLA Convention.

**If ChLA chooses to submit two additional sessions, one of those sessions must be a collaborative session with another entity (division, discussion group, allied organization, etc.).*

MLA divisions:

<http://www.mla.org/danddg>

MLA allied and affiliate divisions:

http://www.mla.org/orginfo_directory

MLA discussion groups:

http://www.mla.org/discussion_groups

******The proposals for the two additional sessions are not guaranteed and will be reviewed by the MLA Program Committee. Please see the Procedures for Organizing Meetings on the MLA Web site (http://mla.org/conv_procedures) for further details.



ChLAQ Calls for Papers

“Genre and Black Literature”

A Children’s Literature Association Quarterly Special Issue

Edited by Karen Chandler and Sara Austin

Deadline: November 1, 2015

Although critical attention to black American literature has until recently focused on social realism and vernacular expression, writers such as Victor LaValle and Charles Johnson have called for creative writers to experiment with a greater variety of genres. Scholars have also sought to explore the fuller range of black expression. In the field of children’s literature, however, study of a range of genres and expressive modes in black children’s literature is not a new endeavor. Since the *African American Review*’s special issue on black children’s literature in its spring 1998 issue, interest in racial identity and children’s and young adult literature has continued to grow. And the versatility of a writer such as Virginia Hamilton, while stunning in its breadth, can be seen as signaling the creative diversity of black literature for young readers. This special issue of *ChLAQ* seeks to foster scholarly and critical study of such texts. We are interested in scholarship on different genres of black children’s literature, the reception of such texts, the historical processes of distributing and marketing them, and related concerns including (but not limited to):

- Speculative and other genre fiction
- Regional and diasporic writing
- Prizing and prize winners
- Adaptations and re-imaginings
- Picture books, films, cartoons, comics, and graphic novels
- Representations of history
- Children’s poetry
- Banned books and controversy
- Alternative presses and the development of African American literature
- Historical conceptions of African American children as readers

Papers should conform to the MLA style and be between 5,000-7,000 words in length. Queries and completed essays should be sent to Karen Chandler (karen.chandler@louisville.edu) and Sara Austin (sara.austin@uconn.edu) by November 1, 2015. The selected articles will appear in ChLAQ vol. 41.

“The Intersection of Cartoons, Animation, and Youth Media”

A Children’s Literature Association Quarterly Special Issue

Edited by Joseph Michael Sommers

Deadline: November 1, 2016

In connection with the upcoming 2016 ChLA conference on Animation, this special issue of *ChLAQ* will focus broadly and widely on that multimodal and ever-expanding medium known as youth animation. From children’s cartoon shorts such as Walt Disney’s *Steamboat Willy* (1928) and Leon Schlesinger’s *Looney Tunes* (1930-1969); to full-length animated motion pictures such as the work of Studio Ghibli, Pixar, and Nickelodeon; to Homestar Runner, video games, and flip books, if it’s sequential art put into motion, it’s on the table for discussion.

The *Quarterly* invites papers that craft, extend, and/or disrupt existing discussions, including (but certainly not limited to):

- Histor(-ies) of children’s animation (from the Walt Disney, Fleischers, and Warners forward to the Hanna Barbera and Terrytoon Television era and all stops in between and beyond)
- The adoption of animation intended for other audiences and venues to an audience of children (*The Flintstones*, *Looney Tunes*, *The Simpsons*, etc.)
- New frontiers of animation (modes and media, interactivity, video games, etc.)
- The commodification and/or interaction between animated media and revenue streams (animation as product tie-in/ commercial for toys and games: Barbie, GI Joe, Transformers, Disney Princesses, etc.)
- Adaption of print media into animation and further transmedia
- Difference in animation (broadly from cultural and global perspectives, styles, historical perspectives, etc.)
- Stop motion, CGI, puppetry, and other operative modes in the creation of animation
- Sex(-ing) and gender(-ing) in animation for youth culture
- Close readings of animated properties

Papers should conform to the usual style of ChLAQ and be between 5,000-7,000 words in length. Queries and completed essays should be sent to Joseph Michael Sommers (somme1jm@cmich.edu with a re: line indicating “ChLAQ Essay”) by November 1, 2016. The selected articles will appear in ChLAQ in 2017.



Children's Literature Association
 1301 W. 22nd Street | Suite 202
 Oak Brook, IL 60523

www.childlitassn.org

New ChLA Website



The Children's Literature Association is excited to announce its new website. Members are able to develop detailed profiles and be part of a searchable membership directory. Forgotten if you've renewed your membership? Log in and look up your payment history. With streamlined and immediate processing, you'll get instant confirmation, and all charges—conference or membership—will remain connected to your member ID. Find conference information, professional resources, and award details quickly and easily with convenient navigation. Whether you're a ChLA "lifer" or a new member, working on a committee or looking for children's literature news, **childlitassn.org** will provide enhanced features and keep our members better connected.

Communicating with ChLA!

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