



# The Sampler

## CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Official Publication of the Council Fall 2010

### 2010 Fall Gala Featuring

Jacqueline Woodson

By Marianne D. Wallace

The 2010 Fall Gala, celebrating children's literature and the best from Southern California authors and illustrators, was held on Saturday, November 6 at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

After a brief welcome to the event by CLCSC President Laurie Reese, and a welcome to the venue by the Skirball Center staff, we helped ourselves to a delicious breakfast and caught up on each other's news with the authors, illustrators, librarians, educators, and guests at our individual tables. Then, it was on to the beautiful Magnin Auditorium, with its cushy, purple seats, where Reese introduced featured speaker Jacqueline Woodson, writer of over 30 books for young people.

From her home in Brooklyn, Woodson writes timeless tales about what everyone wants: to be loved, to have hope, to seek a better life

and be accepted for who you are. She shared passages from several books, often reciting from memory. One of the many books she quoted from was the beautifully illustrated, Caldecott Honor book, *Coming on Home Soon*, which tells the story of a little girl whose mother must leave to work in a different city while the girl stays behind with her grandmother. For older readers, Woodson shared a passage from her middle-grade novel, *Feathers*, where a sister's caring and acceptance of her older, deaf brother is an example of the many ways people find hope in the world. From Woodson's smart, humorous presentation and the captivating excerpts she shared, it's not surprising to learn her books have won numerous awards.

Following Woodson's enthralling speech was the 2010 Awards Presentation, and the chance to revel in the marvelous

and moving books created by our own Southern California authors and illustrators. The first award was presented to Andrew Smith, winner of **Distinguished Work of Fiction** for *In the Path of Falling Objects*, which tells the story of

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**2011**

**Spring Workshop**

**Saturday, May 7, 2011**

**Featuring**

**Wendelin Van Draanen**

**"Read the Movie? Using  
Movies Based on Books to  
Promote Literacy"**

**Mark Taper Auditorium**

**Los Angeles Public Library**

two brothers on a road trip that takes a turn for the worse. In his acceptance speech, Smith mentioned that the idea for the book began on an actual road trip, thankfully much less harrowing and violent, that he himself took many years ago. At the time, he thought, "I've got to write this down." Fortunately for us, he eventually did.

Kathleen Krull was presented the award for **Best Biography Duo** for *Albert Einstein* and *The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth*. She told us about the first time the Children's Literature Council honored her with an award – when money was so tight, she had to borrow a nice top to wear because she couldn't afford new clothes for the Gala. Since then, Krull's in-depth research and engaging writing style have brought her back many times as an award recipient.

This year's **Peggy Miller Award for Young Adult Literature** went to Mary E. Pearson for *The Miles Between*, a seventeen-year-old

girl's search for "one fair day." Pearson also won last year's **Distinguished Work of Fiction** for *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*.

The **Myra Cohn Livingston Award for Poetry** was presented to Hope Anita Smith for her book, *Mother Poems*, a moving collection of poems that chronicles a young girl's emotional struggle following the death of her mother. Another back-to-back award recipient, Smith also won this award in 2009 for *The Way a Door Closes*.

Marla Frazee received the **Most Magnificently Illustrated Picture Book Award** for *All the World*, a celebration in watercolor and pencil depicting both the details and larger scope of ordinary life. In accepting the award, Frazee reviewed the various and unusual ways the Children's Literature Council has named its awards over the years, such as her previous **Excellence and Exuberance in a Picture Book Award** received in 2004. She also gave an amusing history of the council's name. The

group was once known as the Southern California Council on Literature for Children and Young People, SCCLCYP, or as she dubbed it, the organization of the seven silly letters!

The **Dorothy C. McKenzie Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Field of Children's Literature** went to Maureen Wade, whose contributions include bringing literature to thousands of area kids through Los Angeles Public Library's program, Grandparents and Books.

Then, it was onto the outdoor patio to buy books, have them signed by Jacqueline Woodson and the Gala's Award winners, and enjoy free admission to the Skirball Museum...all of which ended a great morning celebrating young people and literature.

**Marianne D. Wallace is a writer and illustrator of children's middle grade non-fiction nature books. Her books include a series on America's Ecosystems.**



*Roller Coaster* by Marla Frazee  
0-15-204554-6 Harcourt, Inc.

# Meet the Illustrator Marla Frazee

Marla Frazee knew that she wanted to make picture books from the time she first saw *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. Her first award came in the third grade when she illustrated a book by her best friend. Since then she has illustrated many books by other authors, as well as ones she writes herself, and continues to receive awards and honors. *The Seven Silly Eaters* by Mary Ann Hoberman, *All the World* by Liz Garton Scanlon, and her own *Hush Little Baby: A Folk Song with Pictures, Roller Coaster*, and *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever* are just a few of her outstanding books.

She works in a small studio in her backyard, and as she has written, her ideas often come from the mundane situations of everyday life. "The challenge," she writes, "is to develop those ideas into a book that is exciting, unexpected and emotionally satisfying."

A native Los Angelino, she now lives in Pasadena with her family. For more information go to [www.marlafrazee.com](http://www.marlafrazee.com).



Color study for *The Seven Silly Eaters* written by Mary Ann Hoberman  
1-15-200096-8 Harcourt, Inc.



*New Baby Train* written by Woody Guthrie  
0-316-07203-6 Little, Brown & Company

# Wet Print

## Fiction

**Birney, Betty G.** (Los Angeles). *Summer According to Humphrey*. Putnam, 2010.

**Birney, Betty G.** Los Angeles). *Holidays According to Humphrey*. Faber Children's Books, 2010.

Fraser, Ian, illus. by **Mary Ann Fraser** (Simi Valley). *Life with Mammoth and Meet Mammoth*. Marshall Cavendish Children's Books, 2010.

**Grimes, Nikki** (Corona), illus. by R. Christie. *Almost Zero: A Dymond Daniel Book*. Putnam, 2010.

**Grimes, Nikki** (Corona). *A Girl Named Mister*. Zondervan, 2010.

**Koertge, Ron** (South Pasadena). *Shakespeare Makes the Playoffs*. Candlewick Press, 2010.

**Koss, Amy Goldman**

(Glendale). *The Not-So-Great Depression: In which the economy crashes, my mom goes broke, my sister's plans are ruined, my dad grows vegetables, and I do not get a hamster*. Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

**Silverman, Erica** (Los Angeles), illus. by Beth Lewin. *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Spring Babies*. Harcourt Children's Books, 2010.

**Smith, Andrew** (southern California). *Marbury Lens*. Feiwel & Friends, 2010.

**Trivas, Tracy** (Santa Monica). *The Wish Stealers*. Aladdin, 2010.

**Wardlaw, Lee** (Santa Barbara), illus. by **Eugene Yelchin** (Topanga). *Won Ton*. Henry Holt & Co., 2010.

**Stampler, Ann Redisch** (Los Angeles) and **Eugene Yelchin** (Topanga). *The*

*Rooster Prince of Breslov*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.

**Yee, Lisa** (South Pasadena), illus. by Dan Santat. *Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)*. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2010.

## Picture Books

**Bunting, Eve** (Pasadena). *Finn McCool and the Great Earth*. Sleeping Bear Press, 2010.

**Bunting, Eve** (Pasadena), illus. by **Beth Spiegel** (Altadena). *Will It Be a Baby Brother?* Boyds Mills Press, 2010.

**Ryan, Candace** (Los Angeles), illus. by Nathan Hale. *Animal House*. Walker Books for Young Readers, 2010.

## Non-Fiction

**Deutsch, Stacia** (Irvine) and Rhody Cohon, illus.

by Craig Orback. *Hot Pursuit: Murder in Mississippi*. Karben, 2010.

**Krull, Kathleen** (San Diego), illus. by **Kathryn Hewitt** (Santa Monica). *Lives of the Pirates: Swashbucklers, Scoundrels (Neighbors of Beware!)*. Harcourt Children's Books, 2010.

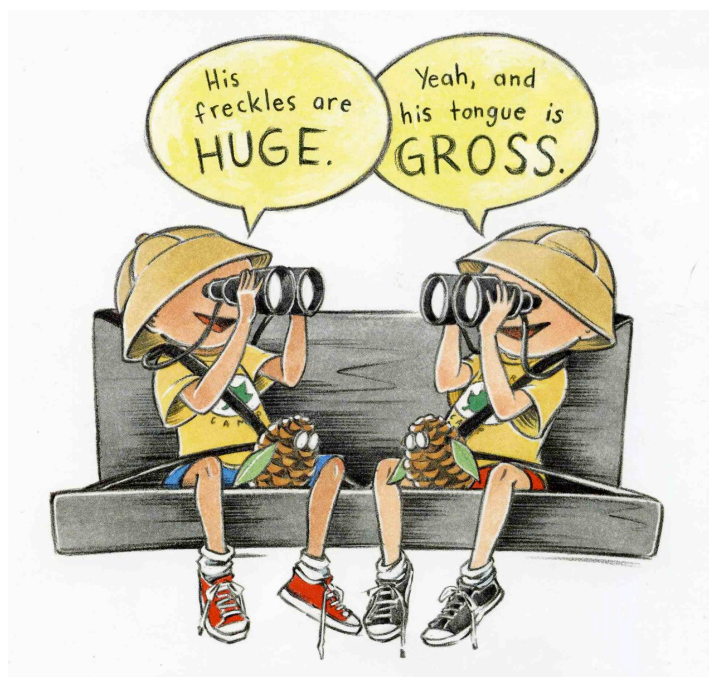
**Krull, Kathleen** (San Diego) and Paul Brewer, illus. by Stacy Innerst. *Lincoln Tells a Joke: How Laughter Saved the President (and the Country)*. Harcourt Children's Books, 2010.

**Krull, Kathleen** (San Diego), illus. by Robert Byrd. *Kubla Khan: The Emperor of Everything*. Viking Juvenile, 2010.

**Savage, Jeff** (southern California). *Brett Favre; Drew Brees; Adrian Peterson; Tony Romo; Dwight Howard; Danica Patrick* (series: Amazing Athletes). Lerner, 2010.

**Savage, Jeff** (southern California). *Tuner Cars*. Capstone, 2010.

**Savage, Jeff** (southern California). *Choppers*. Edge Books, 2010.



*A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever* by Marla Frazee  
978-0-15-206020-6 Harcourt, Inc.

## 2010 Children's Literature Council Awards

In January, 2010 the CLC Awards Committee began its mission – to find and read every book published in 2009 that was written and/or illustrated by a southern California author or illustrator. We began with a list of over 200 books, which we added to along the way as we found more books with 2010 publication dates by local authors and illustrators. The Committee members met five times over the next six months to discuss and nominate books that were distinguished works in children's literature. We also nominated several people for the Dorothy C. McKenzie Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Field of Children's Literature. In June, we had narrowed down our list to five books and one person.

The 2010 Awards Committee consisted of Alyson Beecher (Principal – San Rafael Elementary School, Pasadena), Pamela Greene (Librarian/Technology Teacher – Hollywood Schoolhouse), Jeanette Johnson (Librarian, Emperor Elementary School), Camille Keo (Young Adult Librarian – Los Angeles Public Library), Barbara Metzenbaum (Children's Librarian – Los Angeles Public Library), Rachel

Napper (Acting Senior Librarian – Los Angeles Public Library), and Diane Tellefsen (Special Education Coordinator – Pasadena Unified School District.)

"Distinguished Work of Fiction" was awarded to the book, *In the Path of Falling Objects* (Feiwei & Friends ) by Andrew Smith. The story, as awarded by Jeanette Johnson, is "an intense tale of two brothers, abandoned by their mother, who set out to cross the New Mexico desert, heading to Arizona where their father is in a penitentiary. With nothing more than a change of clothes, a stack of letters from their older brother in Vietnam, and a gun, the brothers march toward an unidentifiable future. Soon into their journey the brothers are offered a ride by a man and a beautiful blonde young woman...and so begins a bloody, violent, and disturbing road trip." The writing is not for the squeamish, but makes for a complex and compelling read, not to be missed by young adults.

Two engaging biographies were written by Kathleen Krull in 2009 who receives the award, "Best Biography Duo" for the

books, *Albert Einstein* (Viking) and *The Boy Who invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth* (Knopf Books for Young Readers). Award presenter Barbara Metzenbaum says that "both books are about precocious children who became great thinkers and who changed our world through their discoveries." Krull brings both men to life through her well-researched and straight-forward writing with great child appeal.

"The Most Magnificently Illustrated Picture Book" was awarded to Marla Frazee for the book, *All the World* (Beach Lane Books), written by Elizabeth Garton Scanlon. The richness and beauty of this book's illustrations are treasures to behold in thirty-two pages. The continuity of characters throughout the pages and their stories that are told in the pictures are wondrous and unforgettable.

The "Peggy Miller Award for Young Adult Literature" was given to author Mary E. Pearson for her book, *The Miles Between* (Henry Holt and Co.). As awarded by Alyson Beecher, the book is "the story of where the lines of coincidence, magic, and faith

blur together to create a journey that brings hope, redemption, friendship, and grace to all the characters but especially to Destiny Faraday” who, as Pearson writes, “sets out on a one-day road trip with three of her classmates searching for “one fair day – a day where their good guy wins and everything adds up to something just and right.”

Camille Keo presented the Myra Cohn Livingston Award for

Poetry this year to Hope Anita Smith for her book, **Mother Poems** (Henry Holt and Co.). Smith’s poems “portray the loving bond between a mother and her young daughter and the devastating loss the child faces when her mother dies all too early. The young girl has the ‘impossible task’ of putting herself back together. She now has to navigate her life without her mother all the while feeling anger, resentment, fear, regret, grief, disappointment, and, especially, longing.” This book is also the first book that Smith has illustrated with her own “stunning artwork of torn paper illustrations.” Smith fell

in love with poetry when she was a student of Livingston, who, no doubt, would be extremely proud of her mentee.

As the founding “mother” of the Children’s Literature

librarian in Children’s Services where she implemented and managed the “Grandparents and Books” program. Adult volunteers were recruited, trained, and placed into the 72 branch libraries and Central Library where they read to



Council of Southern California in 1961, Dorothy C. McKenzie was someone who personified what our organization was and continues to be about.

Authors and illustrators of children’s books who live in Southern California will always be celebrated but the men and women who put the good books into the hands of children also deserve to be recognized. The award named for McKenzie was given this year to Maureen Wade. Retired recently from the Los Angeles Public Library, Maureen worked as a children’s librarian and, later, as a senior

*Boss Baby* by Marla Frazee  
978-1-4424-0167-9 Beach Lane  
Books/Simon&Schuster

children after school and on the weekends. The program is extremely popular and has been duplicated at other libraries throughout the country and overseas (New South Wales, Australia). Maureen was a trailblazer with this program and, in that way, matches the spirit and tenacity of Dorothy C. McKenzie.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

The Arne Nixon Center  
for the Study of Children's Literature  
with the Friends of Freddy organization will  
celebrate the 125th anniversary of author  
Walter R. Brooks, by hosting the Friends of  
Freddy annual convention on  
March 19-20, 2011,  
in Fresno, California.

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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

50<sup>TH</sup> FALL GALA

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Featured Speaker

MEM FOX

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual**

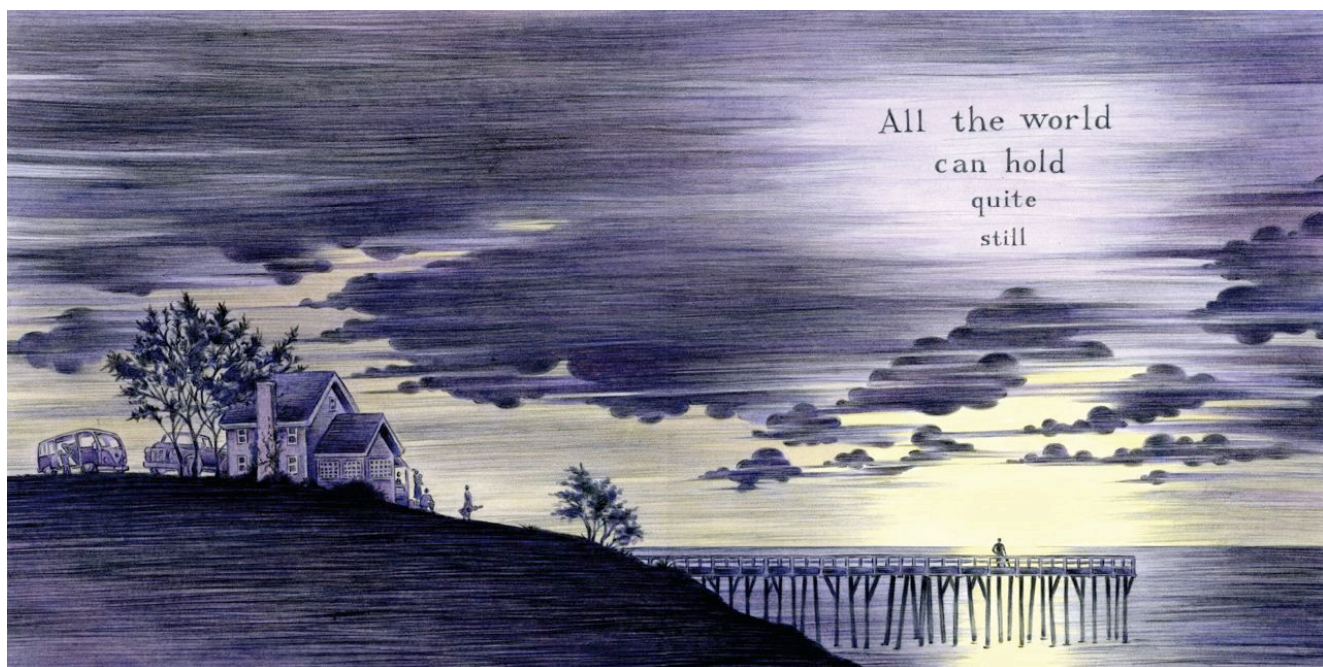


Charlotte S. Huck  
Children's Literature Festival

**March 4 & 5, 2011 ♦ University of Redlands**



*All the World* written by Liz Garton Scanlon  
978-1-4169-8580-8 Beach Lane Books/Simon&Schuster



*All the World* written by Liz Garton Scanlon  
978-1-4169-8580-8 Beach Lane Books/Simon&Schuster

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Charna Gross, School Librarian, Los Angeles

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

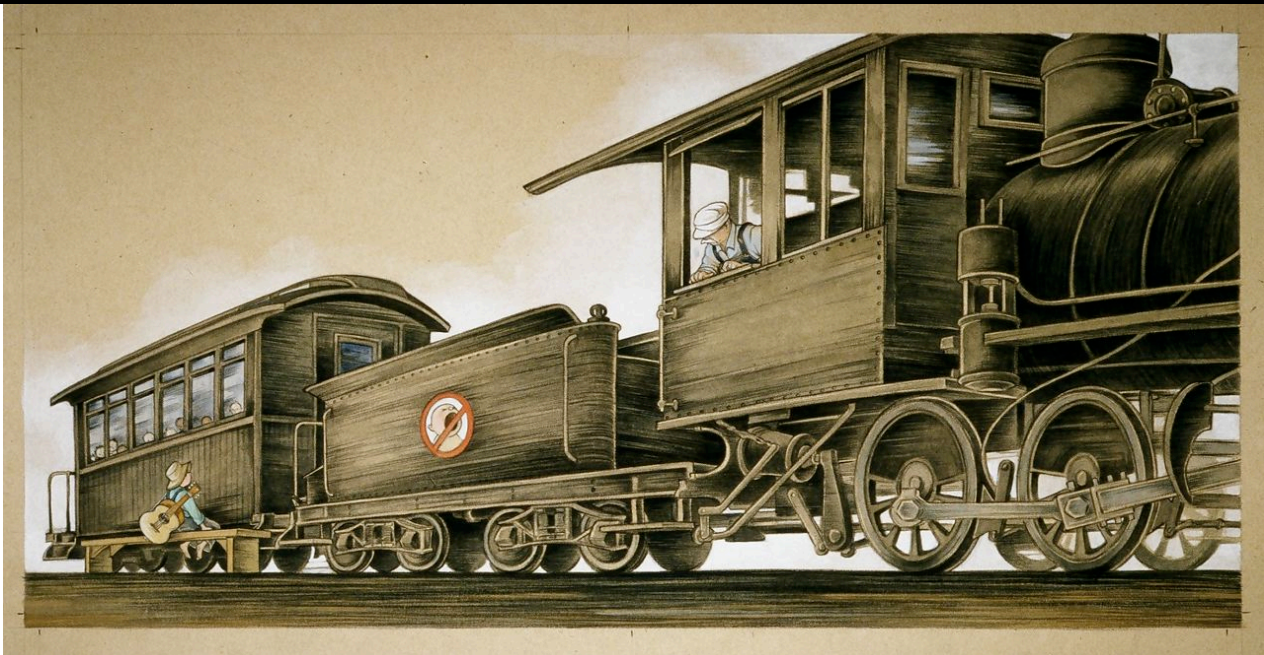
Membership is based on the calendar year. All dues are tax-deductible. Current members may use the renewal form sent to them in the fall of each year. New memberships or questions about existing membership status should be directed to:

The Children's Literature Council of Southern California c/o Jody Stefansson at  
[jstefansson@polytechnic.org](mailto:jstefansson@polytechnic.org)

Click [here](#) to become a member or renew your current membership. Print the page, complete, and with your check made payable to CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COUNCIL mail to: P. O. Box 573462 Tarzana, CA 91357.

## GET ON BOARD!

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*New Baby Train* written by Woody Guthrie  
0-316-07203-6 Little, Brown & Company