



The Sampler

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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CLCSC Fall Gala 2014 Is "A Room Full of Love"

by Rita Zobayan



Keynote Speaker Bryan Collier shared how his love of books and stories began at a very young age.

The 53rd Fall Gala of the Children's Literature Council of Southern California took place on October 11's beautiful morning in La Canada-Flintridge's Descanso Gardens. Librarians, educators, authors, illustrators, and book lovers met in the lovely environs for the annual Awards for Authors and Illustrators of Southern California. CLCSC First Vice President, Dr. Marjorie Arnett, introduced keynote speaker Bryan Collier. Mr. Collier has won numerous awards, including the Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration and the 2002 Caldecott Honor Award. Dr. Arnett described Mr. Collier's interest in art—shapes, colors, textures—as having derived partly from his grandmother's quilts.

Mr. Collier explained how his love of books started at a young age with the influence of his mother, a Head Start teacher. Two books from his childhood stand out especially: Ezra Jack Keat's *The Snowy Day* and Crockett Johnson's *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. Mr. Collier described that the character in *Snowy Day* "looked back at me. I had the same pajamas," and how reading that particular book and seeing that character "said something to me beyond any other book. I couldn't articulate what it was, but I felt it." *Harold* prompted thoughts on pies and on journeying home.

In what can be characterized as an incredible demonstration of perseverance, Mr. Collier haunted the publishing houses of New York City once a week for seven years. In addressing whether he became discouraged during that lengthy job search period, Mr. Collier replied, "It's always been bigger than about just a book. It's about being connected." As if to confirm this belief, a young girl told Mr. Collier, "You need purpose" when, during a school visit, he asked students what is needed in order to make a book. This young girl's words resonated with Mr. Collier, as did the directive from Henry Holt Publishing, who hired him, to "tell me what you know." In that continual process of expanding what he knows, Mr. Collier believes that research helps find truths to bring to light. It is a process of "talking and looking at history up close" and is a part of the work ethic that goes into making a book. Mr. Collier explained that "history is a chain and it's connected. Picture books are the perfect vehicles to celebrate history."



Kadir Nelson received the Most Distinguished Nonfiction Picture Book Award for *Mandela* from Katherine Loeser.



Dan Santat, winner of the award for Excellence in Picture Book Illustration, owes his love of comics to his librarian.



Holly Goldberg Sloan received her second award from Children's Literature Council of Southern California for Excellence in Juvenile Fiction.

As part of his research for the picture book *Rosa*, Mr. Collier met with Mrs. Johnnie Carr, a friend of Rosa Parks. She told him the stories behind *the* story, such as the threats leveled against Ms. Parks' church members, friends, and family. For authenticity's sake, Mr. Collier tried the process of getting on and off the bus from the back, to try to understand what that must have felt like.

For *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*, Mr. Collier visited the plantation in South Carolina where David Drake, a slave, added short poems on the approximately 40,000 clay storage pots he made. This plantation was in Edgefield, Strom Thurmond's hometown, where Mr. Collier described meeting some "good ol' boys" who helped with his research and shared what they knew.

Research and connection with the books' subjects have influenced Mr. Collier's artistic style, helping him to add details in his art. The *School Library Journal* notes that "alert readers [of *Dave the Potter*] will find hidden messages in some of the collages, but what stands out in these pictures are Dave's hands and eyes, and the strength of his body, reflected in the shape and size of his legendary jars and pots." The *Kirkus Review* of *Rosa* states "the art complements and extends the text, with visual references to Emmett Till, the Edmund Pettus Bridge and Martin Luther King, Jr. The yellowish hue of the illustrations represents the Alabama heat, the light emanating from Rosa Parks's face a shining beacon to all who would stand up for what's right." Mr. Collier's love of art and books is fully evident in his speech, and the audience was lucky to share in it with him. It was, as Mr. Collier noted, "a room full of love" that morning.

Andrew Smith was not present to accept the Peggy Miller Award for Young Adult Literature. He sent word that he is "deeply honored" by this recognition of *Winger*, especially as he had been told that "*Winger* wasn't the right thing" for his career.

Holly Goldberg Sloan, a second-time honoree, stated just how very much being recognized by librarians and educators means to her. The Excellence in Juvenile Fiction awardee, Ms. Goldberg Sloan wrote *Counting by 7s* about a girl who likes math and science because she feels that girls are discouraged in pursuing these fields and wants that to change.

Most-Distinguished Juvenile Non-Fiction Book Award recipient, Kadir Nelson thanked the CLCSC for acknowledging his work *Nelson Mandela*, the namesake of which is one of Mr. Nelson's heroes. Mr. Nelson went on to describe how distilling Nelson Mandela's autobiography into a picture book was a difficult process. With it, he strived to amplify beauty and harmony, which is what Nelson Mandela worked toward.

Dan Santat was influenced by Smurfs cartoons and a librarian who surreptitiously gave him a copy of *How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way* because she knew that although his parents wanted him to become a doctor, he loved art. Mr. Santat has passed it along to his children. When this Excellence in Picture Book Illustration winner gave a speech at his alma mater, UCSD, he spoke about doing what he loves as a career instead of what he was expected to do.

Winner of the Best Narrative Voice in a Picture Book Award, Drew Daywalt discussed his process of writing and publishing *The Day the Crayons Quit*. He acknowledged the team effort needed over an



President Betsy Kahn gives the Dorothy Mackenzie Award to Dr. Claudette S. McLinn.

eleven-year period from writing the manuscript to getting the book on shelves. His humorously described revelation that the manuscript took six years to sell is a rallying cry for aspiring authors to persevere. The much-anticipated sequel, *The Day the Crayons Came Home*, is in the works.

Recipient of the Dorothy C. McKenzie Award, Dr. Claudette S. McLinn is an inspiration. This busy “retiree” described how “retirement is a continuation of your life’s passion” and that the “enticement of the literary world became even stronger” after her retirement. Currently the Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature, Dr. McLinn has been a passionate advocate for multicultural children’s literature throughout her distinguished career.

Southern California Authors Spotted at Las Vegas Book Festival

By Susan Dubin



Several Southern California authors and members of Children’s Literature Council were featured on panels at the 2014 Las Vegas Book Festival. Billed as the largest gathering of Young Adult authors, the festival was held at the historic 5th Street School.

Several tents housed multiple panels on YA literature as well as sessions on graphic novels, poetry, picture books, and books for tweens.



Speaking at the festival were Ann Stampler, Scott Bly, Greg Pincus, Bruce Hale, D.J. Mchale, and many others.

The event was attended by more than 20,000 visitors.

Look for information on our Spring Workshop coming soon!



THE NAKED TRUTH
ABOUT CENSORED LITERATURE
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Arne
Study

Conference
Nixon Center for the
of Children’s Literature

Henry Madden Library at California State University, Fresno
April 10-12, 2015

General
Information

While most people are familiar with attempts to censor children’s and young adult literature, the problem of censorship continues to provoke many who believe that children and adolescents benefit from considering diverse viewpoints and cultural experiences. In recent years, many examples of children’s and young adult literature—including *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *And Tango Makes Three*, and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*—have been challenged in schools and libraries. This conference seeks to explore the ways in which censorship affects young readers whose parents, teachers, and civic leaders attempt to navigate thorny terrains of identity in a world in which information circulates more freely than ever before.

Location

Friday and Sunday programs will be held on the Fresno State campus, in the Residence Dining Hall and the Library. Saturday programs will be held at the University Square Hotel, across from the campus.

Call for
Proposals

The Arne Nixon Center is seeking scholarly presentations for the conference. Presentations may highlight creative work, community engagement, pedagogy, or scholarship. Sessions will last 75 minutes (15-20 minutes per presenter). Proposals for individual presentations should be 250-300 words, while proposals for entire sessions should be no more than 500 words. Please include two- to three-sentence biographies for each participant and indicate any audio-visual/media needs.

Deadline for proposals for both individual and panel submissions is **November 26, 2014**. Submit electronically to Dr. Kathleen Godfrey, English Department, Fresno State, kgodfrey@csufresno.edu.

Topics could
include:

- Suppressed or silenced histories
- International contexts for censorship
- Technology, digital literacies
- Fan fiction as a response to banned texts
- Twitter and the use of social media
- History of censorship and banned book lists
- LGBTQ+ literature
- Bibliotherapy and censorship
- Recent attempts to ban books based on cultural empowerment movements
- Multiculturalism & diversity
- Sex and Censorship
- Self-censorship
- Creating curriculum that supports the use of banned books
- "Artivism" and subtext in illustrations
- Graphic novels, novels in verse and experimentation with form
- Libraries (school/community/archives) and closed reference cases
- Publishing or Pre-Censorship
- Schools (K-12, public/private)
- Religion, spirituality, and mysticism in banned books
- Authorial politics and the reception of Young Adult literature
- Recommended age ratings for books

Confirmed
Speakers

- Joan Bertin
- Michael Cart
- Leslèa Newman
- Matt de la Peña
- Leonard Marcus

Activities

Fresno State Theatre production of “And Then Came Tango”
Book Sales and Autographing Sessions

Registration &
Information

www.outlawed2015.com

Awards and Honors

If you are a member of the Children's Literature Council of Southern California and have recently received an honor or an award, please share your good news by emailing TheSampler@childrensliteraturecouncil.org

“Wet Print”

A list of books published in 2013 and 2014 by authors and illustrators living in Southern California can be found at the following links:

[2013 Wet Print](#)

[2014 Wet Print](#)

If you are an author or illustrator and have had or will have a book published in 2014, please let our Wet Print editor know: WetPrint@childrensliteraturecouncil.org.

Like Us on Facebook Follow Us on Twitter

Learn more about us from our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. We also want to know more about you. Are you a member of CLCSC with something to celebrate? If so, send us a message on Facebook, tweet us, or drop us an email so we can also recognize your wonderful accomplishments.

Membership Information

Membership is based on the calendar year. All dues are tax-deductible. New memberships or questions about existing membership status should be directed to:

membership@childrensliteraturecouncil.org

If you would like to update your member profile, please click [here](#)

If you would like to join or renew your membership in the Children's Literature Council by registering online, please click [here](#)

If you would like to become a member or renew your current membership by mail, please click [here](#). Print the page, fill it out, and with your check made payable to CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COUNCIL, mail to:

Membership Chair Children's Literature Council of Southern California P.O. Box 573462 Tarzana, CA 91357
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