



Literacy: Unleash the Power

March 13-15, 2008

Conference Update

By Roxanne Owens

By now IRC members should have received the Preliminary Program in the mail and if you've had a chance to look through it, you probably found yourself utterly amazed and astounded at the range of talented speakers who will be joining us.

Can you believe that Regie Routman, David Booth, Richard Gentry, Kate Kinsella, Linda Labbo, Ruth Culham, Miriam Trehearne, Teri Lesesne, Bill Teale, Taffy Raphael, Christine Moen, Brian Selznick, Christopher Paul Curtis, Ralph Covert, Steve Jenkins, Judith St. George, April Pulley Sayre, Lisa Yee, Kay Winters, Steve Layne, Claire Rudolph Murphy, Laure Halse Anderson, Laurence Yep, Luis Rodriguez, and Ralph Fletcher (just to name a few) will all be gathered to-

gether in one place? Can you believe that you will have the opportunity to join over 50 Illinois authors and illustrators for lunch? Can you believe you'll be able to watch a Reader's Theatre presentation by Avi, Pam Munoz Ryan, Richard Peck, and Sarah Weeks? Can you believe you will laugh loud and long while being entertained by the nationally known comedy troupe Wavelength? Can you believe you'll have over 300 sessions to choose from between Thursday and Saturday? Can you believe you will feel renewed, energized, and enriched by your participation in the 2008 IRC Conference! Yes, you can believe it!

Send in your registration today, right now, before another moment passes!

Illinois Authors and Illustrators Luncheon

Don't miss the Illinois Authors and Illustrators Luncheon on Friday, March 14, 2008 at the IRC Conference in Springfield, Illinois. Attendees will be enlightened and entertained by our engaging Illinois talent and receive a free copy of one of their books. Attendees will also receive *From One Illinois Author to Another: 57 (Six Trait) Tips to Help You Tell Your Story*. Illinois authors grouped 57 writing tips according to the 6 Traits. They picked 57 because I 57 goes from the north part of the state to the south part. Space is limited, so send in your conference registration today!

Cheryl Bardoe
Andrea Beaty
Raymond Bial
Franny Billingsley
Marlene Targ Brill
Mary Chamberlin
Rich Chamberlin
Laura Crawford
Larry Day
Julia Durango
Jeffrey Ebbeler
Simone Elkeles
Brenda Ferber
Judith Fradin
Bonnie Geisert
Jan Spivey Gilchrist

Jamie Gilson
Barbara Gregorich
Stephanie Hale
Esther Hershenhorn
Carol Koeller
Sara Latta
Laurie Lawlor
Deborah Dover Layne
Steve Layne
Kevin Luthardt
Carmela Martino
Alice McGinty
Lorijo Metz
Laura Nyman Montenegro
W. Nikola-Lisa
Janet Nolan
Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu

Janie Lynn Panagopoulos
Gail Piernas-Davenport
Patricia Hruby Powell
Bob Raczka
Aaron Reynolds
Heidi Bee Roemer
Natalie Rompella
Laura Ruby
Deborah Ruddell
Barbara Santucci
Karen Halvorsen Schreck
Catherine Stier
Cynda Strong
Sally M. Walker
Darwin McBeth Walton
Jeff Weigel

An Invitation for Pre-service Teachers/Student Teachers

By Carol Owles

The Student Membership Committee of IRC extends an invitation to all pre-service teachers to join us at the Illinois Reading Council Conference on Friday evening, March 14, 2008, for our Pizza Party. It will be a fun evening of pizza and pop, sharing ideas with fellow students, learning more about our great professional literacy organizations, IRC and IRA, and just having fun. It is all free, too! Each attendee will also go home with a little gift for their future classroom, with our compliments. Mark your calendars for March 14, and be sure to come to the IRC Pre-service Teachers' Pizza Party!

College of Education Faculty, Cooperating Teachers, Supervisors, and Principals:

We need your help in getting this invitation to our pre-service teachers. If you have student teachers in your building or with whom you work, please extend this invitation to them about our Pizza Party. Also, please encourage them to register and come to the IRC Conference on March 13-15, 2008, in Springfield. **Better yet, bring them with you!!** Student Registration is only \$25.00 for the 3-day conference if they register by February 1, so help our future teachers take advantage of this great professional development opportunity. Our conference is one of the best in the country and a great bargain for the newest members of our profession.

IRC Councils and Members:

We need your help in making sure that every pre-service teacher who attends the conference and our Student Membership Pizza Party goes home with a gift for his/her future classroom. Please consider purchasing a classroom material, children's book, or game when you are at the Teachers' Store and bring it to the conference. A donation box at the conference registration desk will be available to collect your very generous gifts, or you can contact Carol Owles at csowles@ilstu.edu or phone (309)376-7031 for pick-up arrangements. Thank you so much to all who have already donated items and to those of you who will consider doing so!!

Lincoln Strand at the IRC Conference

To help educators prepare to celebrate the Bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009, we will offer a special Lincoln Strand. Presenters from the Abraham Lincoln Museum, the Library of Congress Digital Library Project, and other authors who have written about Lincoln will share insights, tips, and intriguing ideas. In the Final Program Book available at the IRC Conference, look for Lincoln's Hat to find these sessions.

Thursday, March 13, 2008

8:00 – 9:00

Abraham Lincoln Led with Pen and Sword (K-12)

Featured Speaker: Margo Tomaras

The Mystery of History: Finding Our Stories (K-8)

Featured Speaker: Kay Winters

Lincoln Tales and True (4-9)

Presenter: Brian "Fox" Ellis

9:15 – 10:15

Lincoln, Race and the 1908 Race Riots (All)

Featured Speaker: Erin Bishop

10:30 – 11:30

The Mystery of History: Finding Our Stories (K-8)

Featured Speaker: Kay Winters

1:45 – 2:45

The Research and Writing About Another Famous Person, Abraham Lincoln (All)

Featured Speaker: Judith St. George

Abraham Lincoln Led with Pen and Sword (K-12)

Featured Speaker: Margo Tomaras

3:00 – 4:00

History Comes Alive – One School at a Time (4-6)

Presenter: Betty Kay

Abraham Lincoln Led with Pen and Sword (K-12)

Featured Speaker: Margo Tomaras

The Mystery of History: Finding Our Stories (K-8)

Featured Speaker: Kay Winters