



You and I Care

September, 2007

MONTI'S MUSINGS

Greetings from ICARE!! "Summer is drawing to an end and I still have a huge stack of *must* read books by my bed." How often have you heard someone say this? For some folks summer is the time to slow down and finally get to read all those books they've postponed reading throughout the rest of the year. I just can't relate to this. I am not a seasonal reader - I'm a **compulsive** reader! In the dictionary under the heading "book addict," you'll find my photo. I inherited this love of reading. My first "book club" met on my front porch when I was in third and fourth grades. My parents are not highly educated people, but they too are ravenous readers. In fact, my father has been in a unique, multi-state book club for years! Here's how it works: Uncle Travis, in Alabama, will read a book and when he's finished, he'll write his name (lightly in pencil) inside the front cover and mail it to my dad. This book will then travel to Texas, California, and Illinois, but not always in that order. The traveling text is donated to a shelter or senior home when the last brother or sister has read the book. We are **book junkies** in our family! So when I excitedly tell my students about a great book I've just read, I don't have to manufacture my enthusiasm. It's the real thing. Speaking of great books, have you read Stephanie Meyer's new book *Eclipse*? Some others on my current "must read" list are: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *The Deathly Hallows*

(Harry, what will we do without you?, *Specials* (final book in the trilogy), *Adolescent Literacy* (a new one from Kylene Beers and friends), *Freedom Writers*, and the list goes on.

As your ICARE President, I am interested in your thoughts regarding new initiatives our members should know about. Please email me: icare@illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Donna Monti, President

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!!

ICARE is sponsoring a state-wide project in which your students can participate. Roxanne Owens, ICARE Vice President, is heading the project entitled: About the Beautiful Communities of Illinois.

The purpose of this project is to connect teachers and students from across Illinois through the creation of an alphabet book about their respective communities. Sharing in this literacy activity will have an impact on each individual class by creating an opportunity for students to write about their local community and to read about other communities across the state.

Timeline

September - November 15: Teachers and students create an original book about their community (according to the instructions listed on the next page)
November 15, 2007: Deadline for submitting book (electronically or hard

copy) to Roxanne.

November/December 2007: The ICARE Board of Directors will select manuscripts representative of various regions of Illinois to be included in the final book.

Mid-March 2008: The completed book and submitted manuscripts will be displayed at the IRC Annual Conference. Books will be distributed to all participating schools.

Instructions

- ABC Book must be on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper. Do not fold the paper!
- Use letter (not landscape) orientation for the page set-up.
- Leave a 1.5 inch border along the left margin to allow for binding. This is extremely important since the book will be bound along the **LONG** edge.
- **DO NOT** bind the book yourself. It will be bound by ICARE. If submitting a hard copy, please clip papers with a binder clip or paper clip. **DO NOT** staple or bind.
- The book should not exceed 30 pages.

ALL schools submitting an ABC manuscript of their community will receive a copy of the final book (even if their particular manuscript is not included in the final published book.) We would love to have participants from every region of Illinois. This would be a great collaborative project for upper and lower grade students to work on together. Or, it might be fun for schools within the same district to work on it together, or, for parents and children to work together, or.....

This is a great project for all grade levels: elementary, middle school or high school, individually or in collaboration with each other.

For more details, guidelines and templates for the first few pages, contact Roxanne Owens at: rowens@depaul.edu or 773.325.4329

BOOKS LET US INTO THEIR SOULS AND
LAY OPEN TO US THE SECRETS OF OUR
OWN.

-- William Hazlitt

ICARE AT THE IRC CONFERENCE

It may seem early to be thinking about the 40th Annual IRC Conference, but now is the time to begin talking with your district about attending. The Preliminary Program will be coming out in a few months but here is a heads-up on what ICARE will be doing at the conference.

On Thursday, March 13, ICARE will sponsor a full day of presentations. Included in that line-up will be Chris Moen (past president of ICARE and an IRC Featured Speaker), Boomer Crotty (be ready to laugh), Donna Monti (current ICARE president and also current IRC president) and Larry Pennie (humorous picture books are his specialty - look for some old favorites and a few new ones). In addition, Colleen Fleisher, last year's ICARE for Reading Award winner will be a part of the day. She is an exciting, motivated teacher working in a unique environment. Don't miss hearing her.

On Friday evening following the banquet, ICARE and IRC are co-sponsoring a new event. The nationally known comedy troupe "Wavelength" will have you laughing till you cry in the Hilton Ballroom starting about 9:00 PM. This award winning group presents comedic looks at teaching and education. Built into the program will be a bit of wisdom along with unending laughs.

The cost will be \$25 per person if purchased with registration and \$30 at the door. There will be a cash bar. This is a **DO NOT MISS** event so begin planning now!!!

NEW LOOK AND NEW EDITOR

Those of you that have been ICARE members for a few years will notice a new look for "You and ICARE." Along with the new look comes a new editor, Larry Pennie. We must give thanks to Laurie Luetscher for her years of service to ICARE as the Newsletter Editor.

Larry is looking forward to input from all the members with information about what is going on in affective reading across the state. Send your information by email to:

benfranklin@insightbb.com

YOUR ICARE OFFICERS

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DID'JA KNOW?

ICARE has a unique habit of producing officers for the Illinois Reading Council. We can go back to the beginnings of ICARE when Gene Cramer, a professor at UIC had an idea, no a passion to celebrate affect in reading. He along with several others got ICARE started at a meeting in the basement of the Normal Public Library. The rest is history. The following **current members of ICARE** have or are scheduled to hold the office IRC President:

Gene Cramer (deceased but always a member)

Larry Pennie - 1980 - 1981

Dale Downs - 1983 - 1984

Linda Fuller Faruggia - 1989 - 1990

Kathy Sweeney - 1990 - 1991

Mike Ellerman - 2001 - 2002

Steve Layne - 2005 - 2006

Donna Monti - 2007 - 2008

Roxanne Owens - 2008 - 2009

Chris Moen - 2009 - 2010

In addition to these presidents, ICARE members have been leaders in other IRC positions.

Pat Braun - Secretary

Marrietta Castle - Committee Chair

Boomer Crotty - Committee Chair

Wilma Deal - Committee Chair

Marjorie Hensler - *Communicator* Editor

Donna Soukup - Committee Chair

Several members that held the position of IRC President currently hold another IRC position.

Mike Ellerman - Committee Chair

Steve Layne - Committee Chair

Larry Pennie - Committee Chair

Kathy Sweeney - Comm. Chair/Reg. Director

AUTHOR FEATURE

In each addition of "You and ICARE," there will be an author feature. It is the hope of the editor of this newsletter that readers will send a short author feature to become a part of a future newsletter. Email such features to benfranklin@insightbb.com. Be sure to put Author Feature in the subject. This is a chance for you to let everyone know about a favorite author of yours.

Today, I'd like to acquaint you with Tedd Arnold, a unique author well known for his humorous picture books such as *Parts, More Parts, No Jumping on the Bed*, the *Super Fly* books, and many others. I had the chance to introduce Tedd at the Toronto IRA Convention. He is a lean, tall fellow with a wit and humor that is only exceeded by the twinkle in his eyes. He is one of the unusual author/illustrators in the market today with a special focus on picture books. In his spare time he sketches life and buildings around him in pencil. Some samples can be seen on his website: www.teddarnold.com

Tedd has recently published his first novel *Rat Life*, which debuted at the IRA Toronto Convention. Being a lover of Tedd's books, I purchased several for gifts and got them autographed. After starting to read the book, I found I couldn't put it down. What Tedd does with his illustrations comes though loud and clear in his style of writing. Just enough description to let your imagination picture characters and setting. He then mixes that with a couple of complex young men while focusing on several unusual events. Tedd has the ability in this thrilling tale, to force you to turn to the next page almost before you are done reading the first.

I highly recommend this book, especially for boys in grades 5 and up. I sent a copy of this to a friend in St. Louis who used to teach middle school and she said it is perfect for that level.

Larry Pennie

THEY'LL REMEMBER YOU IF YOU'RE THE BEST READER IN CLASS -- OR IF YOU THROW UP AT LUNCH. From *Really Important Stuff My Kids Have Taught Me*
by Cynthia Copeland Lewis