

Illinois Language & Literacy Council

“Proud Sponsor of the Young Authors’ Conference”



NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2010

Happy Fall to ILLC Members,

The Illinois Language & Literacy Council is expecting an exciting year in 2010-2011 as preparations for the Young Authors’ Conference in May are well underway! This 37-year-old conference has become a tradition across the state of Illinois, with school leaders, parents, and over 500 students in grades K-8 making the trek to Illinois State University each May where children are empowered to view themselves as writers and authors.

The Young Authors’ Conference is always a success because of the intensive preparation work of ILLC board members starting as early as June each year, together with the army of parents and teachers who volunteer to work with students. The images of the 2010 YAC conference in this newsletter capture the joy that workers and students experienced on this special day. One particular memory that stays with me this year is the petition table where lines of parents and teachers patiently filled out postcards to send to their state representatives to request continued monetary support for YAC. Unfortunately, difficult economic times resulted in state budget cuts, including its strong support for our conference.

HOWEVER, ILLC is moving forward with preparations for Young Author’s Conference 2011 despite such a setback (HYPERLINK "<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/localcouncils/illc.html>" <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/localcouncils/illc.html>). This is possible because the Council has maintained a strong commitment to fiscally responsible practices over the years and subsequently has emergency funds to ensure the continuation of the conference without passing significant cost increases on to students and their families. Please know that ILLC board members are dedicated to ensure that YAC continues for years to come and are actively seeking donations to support future Young Authors’ conferences, as well as expertise to assist in an exploration of alternative funding sources. Should you be in a position to send a tax-deductible donation for YAC, or to volunteer time and expertise toward procuring funding, please complete the form included in this newsletter.

On a final note, ILLC is partnering with the Illinois Writing Project and National-Louis University to sponsor a conference on February 24-25 titled “Time to Write: Creating Authors, Not Just Test-Takers” with keynote speaker Harvey “Smokey” Daniels. Please see the conference flier in this newsletter. We hope to see you all at this wonderful event!

Sincerely, Ruth E. Quiroa

GET YOUR YOUNG AUTHORS WRITING!

2011 Illinois Young Authors' Conference
Saturday, May 21
Illinois State University

Volunteers Needed - Contact Christina Podraza at
cpodraza@lisle202.org
CPDU's available

Details will be posted no later than Nov. 15 at www.isbe.state.il.us. Search under Young Authors Conference. Please encourage your teachers and students to participate. If you have further questions, contact Christina Podraza at the above e-mail address. We hope to see you and your students at the conference.

***Important change - late fees will be charged for anyone registering after the March deadline.**

KUDOS TO OUR ILLINOIS AUTHORS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

We want to thank all of the talented Illinois Authors who attended our 36th Annual Young Author Conference in May 2010. The sharing of your talents was a wonderful inspiration to our students. Many thanks to our great volunteers who made our conference a success. We appreciated the families and students who attended. With everyone's continued support, our Young Authors' program will benefit the students of Illinois for many years to come.

ILLC GONE GREEN

With this Fall 2010 issue, we are officially green. We don't want anyone to miss an issue, so please make sure that ILLC has your current E-mail address. If for some reason you are not able to receive the newsletter via the internet, please contact our representative. Updated E-mail addresses should also be sent to our representative, Gina Orazi at gto215@yahoo.com. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues.

Friday Night Scenes from 2010 Young Authors' Conference



ILLC board members prepare for Friday night events. Volunteer materials are ready for pick-up at registration in Old Main at Illinois State University.



A highlight of the conference is the Friday night Authors' Panel and Reception where volunteers, parents, and young author participants listen to the guest authors and storytellers talk about writing. Afterwards attendees have the opportunity to meet the authors and get their autographs.





Our distinguished Illinois Authors at Friday night's Author Panel and Reception

Pictured: Top row: Beverly Patt; Penny Blubaugh, Cynthia Liu, Julia Durango; Kim Sheahan with young authors

Middle row: Ilene Cooper (seated) speaking with ILLC Past Pres. Melanie Koss; Carolyn Crimi, Beverly Patt, Andrea Beaty, Esther Hershenhorn; Esther Hershenhorn

Bottom Row: Marianne Malone (seated) speaking with volunteer: Larry Day speaking with a volunteer and Esther Hershenhorn; Kat Falls

Saturday - The 2010 Young Authors' Conference Begins!



Saturday starts with volunteer orientation.



Students register and meet their group leaders.



T Shirts and bags are great souvenirs.



Board members help students and parents find their way to activities.



Everyone is welcomed at the opening ceremony.

Young Author Parents Appeal to Legislators for Continued Funding



The Heart of the Conference: Students And Authors Together



Carolyn Crimi reads her book to students.



Illustrator Larry Day explains his art.



Marianne Malone talks about the writing process.



Kat Falls sits down with 7th and 8th graders.



A volunteer group leader interacts with students.

At Right: Julia Durango, Marianne Malone, and Cynthia Liu participate in the 5th - 6th grade author panel at Braden Auditorium.

Below Right: Storyteller Dan Keding entertains kindergarteners, 1st and 2nd graders.

Below Left: Students receive a book from an author at the Recognition/Closing ceremony.



Book Reviews

Two Exceptional Realistic Fiction Novels about Exceptional Children~

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper (2010, Atheneum Books) for students, grades 3-7.

Sharon Draper has again written a compelling story about young people dealing with real issues in their lives. Melody is an eleven-year old with a great mind but no one knows how capable she is. At times, she has difficulty controlling her body because of her cerebral palsy but she knows that the work she does in school is too easy for her but she is unable to let others know about her intelligence or emotional needs. A new computer system helps her show her knowledge and leads her to be part of a team heading for the "Quiz Championship." The reader grows with Melody as she deals with the challenges of her life in this endearing story by a Coretta Scott King award-winning author.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (2010, Philomel Books) for students, grades 3-7.

A glimpse into Caitlin's world shows us a ten year-old girl with Asperger's Syndrome who is locked in her own mind. She is dealing with the death of her older brother who was her mentor in dealing with the outside world. Her father is not coping with his son's death as well as Caitlin. This story follows the awakening senses of Caitlin as she tries to help her father through his grief. The character study of this special girl is heart-warming. We are given a lens to see and understand this girl as she grows emotionally and socially after a tragic event.

Reviewed by Meg Pyterek

Encouraging Family Involvement - Let the Memories Live On!

The school year has begun and memories are being created 24/7. A fun way to get families involved is to suggest that each child write their thoughts about the school year in a journal or in a scrapbook.

The arrival of weekly or monthly newsletters is a good time to suggest that parents have their child dictate or write down their thoughts on the activities. This could be done on a computer and digital photos of the child and the pieces they may have written or created could be added. The family could create a unique time capsule of the child's grade in school.

For older students, progress report times would be a good time for them to think back and journal their thoughts about how the year is progressing. They could set goals for themselves and even do a bit of self evaluation if they disagree how they are being graded.

At the end of the school year in the elementary grades a celebration involving families and students could be held. Students could share their presentations with a PowerPoint presentation or bring in their journals or scrapbooks to share with classmates.

The years K-12 will go by faster than we realize, and a treasure chest of the child's perceptions of each school year will be a valuable keepsake for many years to come.

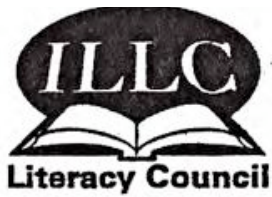
Gina Teresa Orazi

Mark Your Calendars!

31st Annual Children's Literature Conference
at Northern Illinois University
Literature 3.1: The Book and Beyond

March 11, 2011

<http://cedu.niu.edu/oep/conferences/childrenslit/index.html>



**The Illinois Language and Literacy Council (ILLC),
The Illinois Writing Project (IWP)
and National-Louis University (NLU)**

Invite You and Your Fellow Educators to

**Time to Write:
Creating Authors, Not Just Test-Takers**

February 24-25, 2011

Thursday, February 24th at Whitney Young High School

211 South Laflin Street, Chicago, 60607-- 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.

(just east of Ashland at Jackson, 2 blocks north of the Ike & Blue Line El)

Friday, February 25th at National-Louis University, 850 Warrenville Road; Lisle
8:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Keynote Presentation by

Harvey "Smokey" Daniels



Popular author of:

- ***Comprehension and Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action*** (with Stephanie Harvey)
- ***Content Area Writing: Every Teacher's Guide*** (with Steven Zemelman and Nancy Steineke)
- ***Best Practice: New Standards for Teaching and Learning*** (with Steven Zemelman and Arthur Hyde)
- ***Subjects Matter: Every Teacher's Guide to Content-Area Reading***
- ***Teaching the Best Practice Way*** (with Marilyn Bizar)
- ***Literature Circles***
- And many more

PLUS: Breakout workshops by experienced classroom teachers, facilitators and professors on various writing and literacy topics (Writing Workshop, Technology and Writing, ELL's, Assessment, Writing Circles, Writing to Learn, Creative Writing in H.S., Reluctant Writers, etc).

Come one or both days: \$20 for Thursday, \$25 for Friday, \$40 for both days. On-site registration: add \$5 per day.

Refreshments, light meals and CPDU credits are included and one semester hour of NLU graduate-level coursework will be available for an extra tuition and a few extra class hours. (More info forthcoming on this, or contact Ruth Quiroa, RQuiroa@nl.edu)

Please print and mail in your registration form and fee (checks as soon as possible to: *Illinois Writing Project*, to Dr. Steven Zemelman, 9423 Lincolnwood Drive, Evanston, IL 60203. Deadline: February 10, 2011; after that date, please use on-site registration.

Please print this page and mail it in with your registration fee:
\$20 for Thursday, \$25 for Friday, \$40 for both days. On-site registration: add \$5 per day.
Postmark date deadline: By or before February 10, 2011



REGISTRATION

Time to Write:

Creating Authors, Not Just Test-Takers

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____

School's Town _____

Grade or Position _____ Email _____

Evening Phone () _____

Do you have any special dietary needs (veggie, etc.)? _____

OPTIONAL:

_____ I plan to take the grad credit course (includes additional class time).
Registration forms available at the event. Details forthcoming via email when you
check this option. Questions on grad credit: RQuiroa@nl.edu

Please complete this registration form and mail with the registration fee
(Checks made payable to *Illinois Writing Project*) by or before February 10, 2010 to:

Dr. Steven Zemelman
Illinois Writing Project,
9423 Lincolnwood Drive, Evanston, IL 60203

ILLC Board and Committee Members 2010-2011



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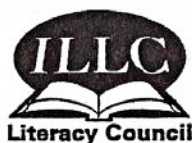
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Newsletter Editors: Heather Van Meenen,
Gina Orazi, Ruth Stevig

Next Board Meeting -

**Saturday, January 22
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

**NLU campus, Skokie
Check with Secretary for updated information**

YES! I would like to support the Young Authors' Conference sponsored by the Illinois Language & Literacy Council.

Enclosed is my/our check payable to the ILLC for \$ _____

Name: _____

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Yes, please contact me to determine how I can best assist ILLC to seek alternative funding for future Young Authors' Conferences.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please complete and return this form to:

**Heather Van Meenen
1 Patriot Court
Cary, IL
60013**

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ILLC Welcomes New Members!

If you have a friend or colleague who might be interested in joining ILLC, encourage them to join IRC and ILLC. Once they’ve joined, please notify Membership Chair, Ruth Stevig, at stevig@sbcglobal.net. Include your name and their name. We will enter you in a drawing for a free renewal of your IRC/ILLC membership. The drawing will be held at our next meeting.

You can join IRC and ILLC online by going to www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org or you can print a copy of the membership form. Be sure to check ILLC as one of your council choices!

To read is to empower
To empower is to write
To write is to influence
To influence is to change
To change is to live

-Jane Evershed