



March 2008

Spring Issue

News from . . .

Lewis & Clark Reading Council

An affiliate of the Illinois Reading Council

A message from our President:

This year's Illinois Reading Conference was a real treat with the presence of Brian Selznick, author of the 2008 Caldecott-winning book. Check out his website at http://www.theinventionofhugocabret.com/about_hugo_intro.htm (and there is an animation of the introductory sketches of Hugo Cabret you can share with students to get them interested in reading the book). There is also information on Georges Mieles, and you can watch the movie *A Trip to the Moon*, which Brian used as inspiration for the book.

Additionally, Lawrence Yepp, author of the Golden Mountain Chronicles, spoke of his Chinese-American heritage, and how it has impacted his writing and drive to preserve the history of the Chinese in America, all thanks to his Grandmother and her gift of Chinese candy wafers.

Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *The Watsons go to Birmingham , Bud not Buddy* and a new Newbery Honor Book *Elijah of Buxton*, came and spoke at the Saturday banquet of his history working in an auto factory in Detroit and how his wife influenced him to give up the factory to become a writer! Mr. Curtis even posed for a picture with everyone from Lewis and Clark during the book signing after lunch!

This year we also saw the return of the Illinois Authors' luncheon, in which I participated. I was privileged to sit with Bonnie Geisert. She specializes in writing about small town life in the United States. Her picture books include *Prairie Town, Mountain Town, River Town, Prairie Summer, Desert Town, and Haystack*. She also has a novel for upper elementary and middle school students titled *Lessons*. It is about a girl named Rachel, and her family's challenges to come to terms with the loss of a child, set in small town South Dakota in 1954. You can find all of her books on Amazon by searching her name.

All in all, it was a wonderful conference! Thanks to all those teachers who took the time to share great information and strategies for improving reading instruction in the everyday classroom! Please check out the information on our upcoming Spring Banquet. We look forward to seeing you then!

—*Lee-Alison Friedrich*
Lewis & Clark President



Lewis & Clark Reading Council 2008 Calendar of Events:

Tuesday, April 22—Spring Banquet—Fischer's Restaurant-Belleville, Illinois

Tuesday, June 3—6 p.m. Board Meeting at **Panera/St. Louis Bread Company at Collinsville Crossing, off IL Rt. 157.**

Illinois Reading Council Events:

Saturday, April 19—Board Meeting-The Chateau Hotel, Bloomington

Wednesday, June 18-Friday, June 20—IRC Leadership Retreat at Grand Bear Resort

Information about grants and deadlines is available at :

www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org



ITS TIME TO . . .

SPRING FORWARD WITH LEWIS & CLARK READING COUNCIL

Now is the time to join us at our annual Spring Banquet on Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. Your membership with Lewis & Clark Reading Council and the Illinois Reading Council offers many great benefits and opportunities to help unleash the power of literacy:

- *Professional development opportunities
- *Ways to promote literacy in our schools and local community organizations through service
- *Subscriptions to the Illinois Reading Council Journal, state and local council newsletters
- *Free or discounted rates for council-sponsored events

At this year's spring banquet, professional storyteller Sheneatha Frison will be our guest speaker. She has been performing as a singer since childhood. After teaching music classes for children and providing reading intervention for 9th graders, she had the opportunity to nurture her love for music and reading at the St. Louis Public Library. She currently works as a storyteller and youth services provider, combining her speaking and musical talents to inspire young people. She also continues to perform with her band, the Righteous Mind Project, weaving both humorous anecdotes and heartfelt songs to entertain audiences.

For more information about performances and her upcoming CD: www.myspace.com/sheneathamusic. Paperbacks autographed by Patricia McKissack will also be given as door prizes—spring out for an evening of fun! Check out our flyer inside and make your reservation today!

CHECK OUT THE 2009 REBECCA CAUDILL AWARD NOMINEES!

The Illinois Reading Council, the Illinois School Library Media Association and the Illinois Association of Teachers of English presents this Illinois award to one book each year. Honoring outstanding literature for young people, the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award encourages children and young adults to read for personal satisfaction. Children in grades four through eight nominate books and the top twenty titles are reviewed and voted on by students in participating middle and elementary schools. Each year, students vote in February and the winning title is announced each March. The following is a list of next year's 20 nominees:

- ◆ *Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters* by Lesley M.M. Blume
- ◆ *Blood on the River: James Town 1607* by Elisa Carbone
- ◆ *shug* by Jenny Han
- ◆ *Penny from Heaven* by Jennifer L. Holm
- ◆ *Alabama Moon* by Watt Key
- ◆ *The Green Glass Sea* by Ellen Klages
- ◆ *Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson
- ◆ *Black Duck* by Janet Taylor Lisle
- ◆ *Rules* by Cynthia Lord
- ◆ *Gossamer* by Lois Lowry
- ◆ *Heat* by Mike Lupica
- ◆ *Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People* by Albert Marrin
- ◆ *Project Mulberry* by Linda Sue Park
- ◆ *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver
- ◆ *Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer
- ◆ *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- ◆ *A Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama* by Laura Amy Schlitz
- ◆ *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick
- ◆ *Letters From Wolfie* by Patti Sherlock
- ◆ *Black Storm Comin'* by Diane Lee Wilson

The 2008 Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award was presented for *Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick. Second place went to *The Old Willis Place* by Mary Downing Hahn and *MVP*: *Magellan Voyage Project* by Douglas Evans received third place honors. For more information, teacher resources like screen savers and cover displays, student reviews and more, check out www.rebeccacaudill.org

Lewis & Clark Reading Council Awarded \$500 Adult & Family Literacy Grant

For the second consecutive year, our council has been awarded a \$500 grant from the IRC Adult & Family Literacy Committee. The funding matches our council's \$500 commitment to support our Adult & Family Literacy Program, which purchased 56 magazine subscriptions for four area shelters for abused women and their children. Shelters served are the Violence Prevention Center (Belleville), Holy Angels (East St. Louis), Phoenix (Granite City), and Oasis (Alton).

PROPOSED 2008 SLATE OF OFFICERS

Lewis & Clark Reading Council is accepting nominations to complete our slate of officers and serve as committee chairs and co-chairs for 2008-2009. Contact us for more information!

President: Kim Winter
President Elect: Barb Jatcko
Vice President: still needed
Secretary: Elyse Coyne
Treasurer: Cheryl Walker
Membership: Denise Oliveria

Notification of By-Laws Changes

Margie Wright has been busy updating the Lewis & Clark by-laws. This has not been done for many years. IRA has recently charged the state councils with keeping individual council by-laws and monitoring changes that need to be made to keep current. With the assistance of a rubric developed by the IRC Council By-Laws Committee, Margie has made those necessary changes, along with updating other areas that were out of date. In accordance with our current by-laws, the new by-laws will be posted on the IRC website, under our council. Please check them out and come to the spring banquet prepared to discuss and vote for them. This is your organization, so make your voice heard.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST PARTICIPANTS TIFFANY MONTIVILLE OF MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY AND NICOLE MUELLER OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE, WHO WON THE 2008 IRC CONFERENCE AND HOTEL STAY.

Lewis & Clark Reading Council Spring Banquet



*Featuring Our Guest Speaker,
Storyteller Sheneatha Frison*

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008
6:30 p.m.*



*2100 West Main Street
Belleville, IL*

For directions, go to Fischer's web site: www.fischersrestaurant.com

*Lewis & Clark Reading Council Members: \$17 per person
Non-Members: \$20 per person*

For questions, contact Lee-Alison Friedrich at 618-616-6676 or friedrichl@mascoutah19.k12.il.us

I _____ will attend the Lewis & Clark Reading Council Spring
Banquet on Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

Please check one: _____ Member (\$17) _____ Non-Member (\$20)

My check for \$_____ is enclosed. **Reservations are due no later than April 15, 2008.**

Mail reservation/payment to: Cheryl Walker
8908 South Prairie Road
Evansville, Illinois 62242

Contact Information:
Name _____
Phone _____
Email: _____

Lewis & Clark Reading Council
President: Lee-Allison Friedrich
President Elect: Kim Winter
Vice President: Barbara Jatcko
Secretary: Elyse Coyne
Treasurer: Cheryl Walker
Membership: Denise Oliveria
Region 7 Director: Adrienne Evans

**We're on the web:
www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org**



Lewis & Clark Reading Council
Cheryl Walker
8908 S. Prairie Road
Evansville, IL 62242