



## PROGRAM PROPOSALS BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE 2023 IRC CONFERENCE, MARCH 9-10, 2023

By the Illinois Reading Council

Mark your calendar now to join us at the [2023 IRC Conference](#), *Revolution: A Change is Gonna Come*, planned for March 9-10, 2023 in Springfield, Illinois.

The Preliminary Program, Registration and Housing will be available on the IRC Website by October 15th. We are currently finalizing plans with many of the award-winning authors, prominent literacy leaders, and dynamic speakers who will be joining us, including Derrick Barnes, Nikki Grimes, Tiffany D. Jackson, Gordon C. James, Blue Balliett, David Biedrzycki, Joelle Charbonneau, Lauren Tarshis, Jacob Grant, Lynne Dorfmann, Carol Jago, and many more!



At this time, we would like to share with you the [Call for Program Proposals](#) for the 2023 IRC Conference. Teachers, researchers, librarians, administrators, and others interested in promoting reading and related literacy areas are encouraged to submit program proposals. Please take a moment to review the 2023 Program Proposal format, general information, and criteria for selection that are available online.

Program proposals are being accepted online at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org) and due by **September 1, 2022**.

We hope to see you at 2023 IRC Conference!

## IRC OFFICE IS MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council is moving its office. After **July 25th**, please send your membership form and any other mail to **1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761**

The new IRC Office will be in the Normandy Villages just north of Uptown Normal and Illinois State University. The Normandy Villages is on the National Register of Historic Places and was originally called the Children's Village which was part of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School. The buildings have been repurposed into private offices with shared living, kitchen, and other work spaces.



Although the office will be much smaller, IRC is excited to be a part of this beautiful and peaceful work environment. We also look forward to continuing to bring the conference and many other professional development opportunities to our members from this location.

If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to email us at [trc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:trc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org).

## PD BOOK REVIEWS

By Nancy Oesterreich, IRC Treasurer

In my work with Title I, which inherently includes children of color and children in poverty, I have been introduced to and participated in several book studies this year. The two books I recommend below have been thought provoking and meaningful to my work, for vastly different reasons. Neither is particularly new, but both are worth a look if you work in schools.



**Oluo, I. (2020). *So you want to talk about race* Seal Press.**

In this New York Times Bestseller, Oluo tries to open up difficult discussions about race by including her opinions on intersectionality, affirmative action, White privilege, police brutality, and school to prison pipeline, to name a few. Oluo's style is very in your face, and very raw, but also important. She in turn "hopes that if parts of this book make you uncomfortable, you can sit with that discomfort for a while, to see if it has anything else to offer you." Racial oppression should be an emotional topic. Oluo describes being a person of color in white-dominated society... "like being in an abusive relationship with the world. Every day is a new little hurt, a new little dehumanization." The text is thought provoking, and an excellent choice for a book study with any group of people, of any race or gender.



**Parrett, W. H. and Budge K.M.(2020). *Turning high-poverty schools into high-performing schools*. ASCD.**

Parrett and Budge expand on their original framework to show how schools can focus on social, emotional and academic learning as the basic premise for action to transform schools into high performing schools, even while working with high poverty students. The framework leads with fundamental gears that must be present including Actions, School Culture, and Spheres of Influence, with all students learning to high standards being the critical reaction of all three gears. The authors show real world examples from actual high poverty high performing schools that they have visited and examined. Each school has the components present in the framework, because the framework is built around what works in

these schools. This book is applicable, "for every adult in the school community who is interested in better serving the needs of children and youth who live in poverty."

## FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

Summer and July have arrived with bright, sunny, and warm days. This month we celebrate the birth of our country on July 4th with parades, family picnics, and of course, the ooh and ahh fireworks show. July is National Parks Month. Be sure to have some hot dogs and some ice cream as July is also National Picnic, Hot Dog, and Ice Cream Month.



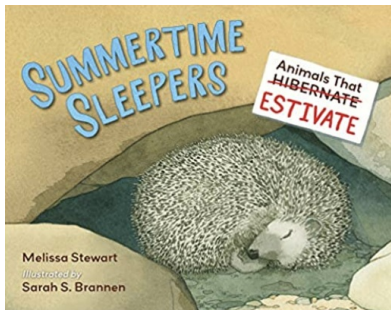
Did you know that a lady's name appears on the Declaration of Independence? To learn about who this lady was, read the biography ***Her Name Was Mary Katharine: The Only Woman Whose Name is on the Declaration of Independence*** by Ella Schwartz. This is a fascinating and informative story about an unknown historical figure who printed the Declaration of Independence. Mary Katharine Goddard grew up in colonial Connecticut while America was still under British rule. After her father died Mary and her mother moved to Providence, Rhode Island as her brother was serving an apprenticeship as a printer. William started several newspapers but was unorganized and abandoned them to pursue other interests.

Mary Katharine learned the printing business and took over the newspapers, often writing under her brother's name as publisher. Realizing the importance of newspapers and to keep the colonists informed, Mary Katharine changed the ownership of the newspaper and publisher to read as M.K. Goddard and continued to publish details and information about the American Revolution. Following her brother to Baltimore where he started a postal service which would serve the 13 colonies, Mary Katharine became the first woman postmaster of Baltimore in addition to running the newspaper. When the handwritten Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 it was eventually given to Mary Katharine "to design and print this official document." Taking a risk and being a loyal patriot Mary Katharine added her name, "printed by Mary Katharine Goddard" at the very bottom on the official copy of the Declaration of Independence." *Her Name Was Mary Katharine* is a great book for all libraries. It adds a different dimension to studying the Revolutionary War. The back of the book gives additional information about Mary Katharine in the author notes, a glossary, and additional resources for further reading.



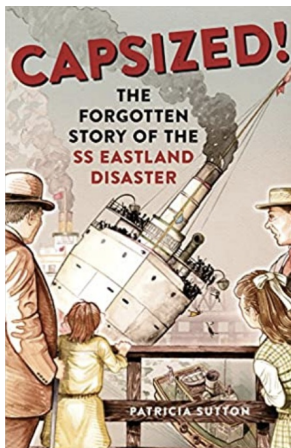
Every summer during the month of July the tennis courts at Wimbledon come alive with professional tennis players vying for the famous trophy. **Mixed Doubles: A Benchwarmers Novel (The Benchwarmers Series, 3)** by John Feinstein is a new book that addresses the subject of tennis. This is the story of two young athletes, Andi Carillo and Jeff Michaels, who are on their school's tennis team. Andi is very good at soccer and basketball but tennis is really where she shines as an athlete. Jeff is also a very good athlete and tennis player, even though he's been dropped to a lower level in spite of having a perfect record. Andi is nationally ranked even though she's only eleven years old. Watching her play for her school team are sports agents who are giving her business cards and offering her contracts. Jeff's dad is a sports journalist and suspects a possible story. In the meantime Andi and Jeff have been paired for the mixed doubles competition. Andi and Jeff's parents become suspicious of the agents and they begin to collect data, documents, and other pertinent materials that leads to the many unethical practices agents

inflict on families of a talented child, teen, or YA. Woven into the story are the jealous parents, the coach/teacher who might also be working a side job with the agent, and of course the promise of earning big money. Through all of this Andi and Jeff continue to play great mixed doubles matches in spite of a tough schedule. Will Andi and Jeff lead their team to win a trophy? You'll have to read *Mixed Doubles* to find out. This is an enjoyable summer read or for your students interested in tennis. Game. Set. Match.



We all know what it means to hibernate, but do you know what it means to estivate? Read **Summertime Sleepers: Animals That Estivate** by Melissa Stewart. So what is estivate? It is the term given to animals who sleep during the hot, dry, days of summer. Who are these animals that sleep during the summer? Some of the animals included are Morning Cloak Butterfly, West African Lungfish, Desert Hedgehog, and Spotted Turtle. Each animal is featured on its own page accompanied by a sketch pad illustration with additional information, along with beautiful watercolor illustrations that show the animal in its natural habitat and how it estivates. *Summertime Sleepers: Animals That Estivate* will make a wonderful addition to all libraries and can be read and enjoyed by

students of all ages. The book concludes with additional information about each animal, author and illustrator notes, websites, and books for further reading. Head over to Melissa Stewart's website [www.melissa-stewart.com](http://www.melissa-stewart.com) for additional ideas to incorporate the book into your curriculum.



The story of the Titanic has been well documented in books, magazines, and movies. Unlike the Titanic the story of the SS Eastland is not well known even though it took place on the Chicago River. To learn about this tragic disaster read **Capsized!: The Forgotten Story of the SS Eastland Disaster** by Patricia Sutton. The story begins on a sunny July day in 1915 when the employees from the Western Electric Company were given a day off to enjoy the company picnic across the lake in Michigan. The steamship Eastland, similar in design to the Titanic, was hired to take the employees across the lake. Heading to the dock and boarding the ship the excited employees were looking forward to a day of picnicking, games, and festivities. Unbeknownst to the passengers, the Eastland had been experiencing various engine and stability problems, including listing, while docked at the pier on this day. As the 2,500 passengers boarded the ship it continued to list, even though the engineer below tried to stabilize the ship. Unable to control the listing the ship capsized without ever leaving the dock. Hundreds of people on the outer decks were tossed into the water. Those

who were on the inside seeking shelter from the light rain that had started were trapped by falling debris as well as the influx of water rushing in. Despite all the necessary emergency assistance given to the passengers, over 800 people, mostly women and children, lost their lives. This book is a great read for middle school readers and fans of the Titanic. The back of the book contains additional information for further reading, websites, and extensive bibliography. *Capsized!* is also an Illinois Reads selection for this year.

**Looking Ahead:** The year 2022 seems to be the year of anniversaries.

- **Yellowstone National Park** is celebrating 150 years. National Geographic has a beautiful magazine devoted to Yellowstone's 150 years.
- **The Lincoln Memorial** is celebrating 100 years since it was officially dedicated on May 30, 1922 by President Warren G. Harding.
- **Battle for Midway** marks its 80th anniversary as the turning point in the Pacific during World War II.
- **The Diary of Anne Frank**—*History Magazine* highlighted the 75th anniversary of the publication of Anne Frank's diary.

**July 4: Independence Day** – Happy Birthday America!  
**July 9: National Sugar Cookie Day** – Read a book while enjoying a sugar cookie  
**July 11: Shark Week** – Do a Google search to learn more about sharks  
**July 14: Bastille Day** – Learn about this day and enjoy some French treats  
**July 19: Baseball All Star Game** Read about and cheer for a favorite player  
**July 20: National Ice Cream Soda Day** – Have a soda while reading an Illinois Reads Book  
**July 24: Parents Day** – Give your parents a hug and tell them Thank You for all the things they do!  
**July 26: Aunt and Uncle Day** – Make a card or give them a phone call to show your love!

---

## LITERACY LINKS

By Sheila Ruh, IRC Educational Media Committee Chair

Take a moment to review some of the Literacy Links provided by the IRC Educational Media Committee to help Illinois educators in today's classrooms.

### Reading Passage Resources

#### [Listenwise](#)

This online tool provides podcasts for the classroom including current events. It also works with Google Classroom for easy sharing with students.

### Interactive Resources

#### [Edji](#)

This collaborative annotation tool works on any device. Students and teachers can highlight portions of text and leave either emoji comments or text comments. The Heat Vision feature can be turned on when students are done to show common highlights and comments.

### Web 2.0 Resources

#### [Abcya!](#)

This free tool is an award-winning website for elementary students that offers hundreds of fun, engaging learning activities. There are games, crafts, videos and much more.

---

## UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

Don't forget to take advantage of some upcoming PD opportunities planned throughout Illinois.

- **September 7, 2022: IRC Webinar** with Ralph Fletcher from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **October 5, 2022: IRC Webinar** on *Creating Passionate Nonfiction Readers* with Melissa Stewart from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **October 23, 2022: IRC Book Clubs** will read, reflect on, and respond to *Textured Teaching: A Framework for Culturally Sustaining Practices* by Lorena Escoto Germán and/or a pairing of *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi along with *Stamped (For Kids)* adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul. Register by October 15th.
- **November 2, 2022: IRC Webinar** with Lisa Fipps from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar
- **December 7, 2022: IRC Webinar** with Candace Fleming from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **January 4, 2023: IRC Webinar** with Aimee Ellis from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **February 1, 2023: IRC Webinar** on the 2023 Illinois Reads Books with Becky Anderson from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **March 1, 2023: IRC Webinar** with Jasmine Warga from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **March 9-10, 2023: IRC Conference, *Revolution: A Change is Gonna Come***, is planned in Springfield, Illinois. Registration and Housing will open in October. Program Proposals are being accepted until September 1st.

- **April 5, 2023: IRC Webinar** on *The Impact of Anxiety on Children's Literacy: Practical Strategies That Support Children* with Beverly Holden Johns from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **May 3, 2023: IRC Webinar** on *Trauma 101* with Josh Carlson from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.

To view the full **IRC Events Calendar**, please visit the [IRC Website](#).

## QUICK LINKS

[Visit the IRC Website](#)

[Full IRC Events Calendar](#)

[Latest on the IRC Conference](#)

[Available IRC Awards and Grants](#)

[Bring IRC PD to your School District](#)

[Learn more about the Illinois Reads Program](#)

Questions? Please feel free to reach out to the Illinois Reading Council by email at [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org) or by phone at 309-454-1341.

See what's also happening on our social media sites:

