

# Golden Heart Reading Council Fall Newsletter



Volume 2012 Issue 1

August 2012

## Attend the ASLA confer- ence in Gird- wood

- Mark your calendar to attend Alaska's State Literacy Conference in Girdwood, October 19-20 at Hotel Aleska. Apply for a \$250 stipend to attend this conference. See <http://ghrc.weebly.com/index.html> for more information.

## Welcome Back/Luncheon Update

Welcome back to school. For those of you new to Golden Heart, this organization is here to support teachers with professional development in the area of literacy.

Around 70 members attended our annual fall luncheon on August 15th. For those of you who could not attend, here is an update.

Golden Heart has a new web-site:

<http://ghrc.weebly.com/index.html>

A big THANK YOU to Barb Ragan for her work on our site.



### 2012-2013 Goals and Focus

- Delightful Desserts & Beverages, September 21st, Well Street Art Gallery. (See more information below)
- Up-coming member book exchange(s)
- Library Media Services partnership event(s)
- Offer high interest literacy professional development classes

• Increase membership; gain insights from members on needs & wants

• Assist literacy needs of the Fairbanks Youth Advocates teen emergency shelter

For more information on the Success At The Core see below. GHRC membership allows you to register, view and use these resources.

<http://www.successatthecore.com>



### GHRC Officers

Co-Presidents:  
Molly Sherman and Ronda Schlumbohm

Treasurer:  
Sue McIntosh

Membership:  
Katherine Petersen

Recording Secretary:  
Lesa Meath

Delightful Desserts Sept. 21st at Well Street Art Gallery, 4:30 - 8:00 pm.

Join us for delightful desserts, sparkling sips and an enjoyable evening. We will get together to visit and relax on this early out day in the charming

atmosphere of Well Street Art Company's gallery. Interested folks will share fun, successful literacy and art lessons from their classrooms. Treat yourself to some time to reconnect and rejuvenate after our first busy month. This free event is

to show our appreciation to our members. Bring someone new to join and get an extra chance to win one of our door prizes. Can't wait to see you there!

## Join Us for Delightful Desserts September 21

# Luncheon Winners

W  
O  
R  
L  
D  
R  
E  
A  
D  
I  
N  
G  
C  
O  
N  
G  
R  
E  
S  
S



All our luncheon attendees were winners, but some were a bit more lucky than others!

Our luckiest member was Patricia Carosso who won the iPad for her

classroom! Congratulations Patricia!

Kate Ortega won the awesome zucchini from the Schlumbohm garden, and a great book from Molly entitled Gnawed Bones.

Four fortunate members won a \$20 used book certificate donated from Gulliver's

Books. These members are Susan Peterson (not pictured), Pat Tellep, Jessica Weber and Michelle Lammers. We hope you find something for your classroom library!

Finally, Heidi Imhof won an IRA membership! Congratulations to all our members!



## IRA in San Antonio 2013

This year, the International Reading Association's conference will be held on April 19-22, 2013 in beautiful San Antonio. Attending an international conference is an amazing experience.

There are authors galore, thousands of teachers and inspiring speakers. So be thinking about this conference. Golden Heart will be giving a stipend to one person to attend. Another option

would be to apply for an ASLA travel grant for \$500. See the information about this grant below.



## Grants!

Check out these & more ASLA GRANTS, open to all current GHRC members:

<http://akliteracy.org/grants.html>

### October 31 Deadline:

- Mini-grant – Two (2) grants will be awarded. Amount \$500.00.
- Teen Literacy– One grant will be awarded. Amount \$500.00.

### November 15th Deadline:

- Teacher As Researcher – One grant will be awarded. Amount \$500.00.

### November 30th Deadline:

- Mentor Grant Two (2) grants will be awarded. Amount \$500.00.

Please consider applying. Sometimes there aren't any applicants!

# *Celebrating Teachers: Honoring Effective Literacy Instruction in a Changing World*

By Stacy Foshee

Recently I had the opportunity to attend my first International Reading Association conference in Chicago, IL. Like the scrumptious restaurants we visited, the presenters, workshops, institutes, authors, and exhibit hall gave me endless food for thought. I left Chicago not only with a new found respect for the city, but the conference also cemented my belief that there is no substitute for great professional development!

A few of my FNSBSD colleagues, Lesa Meath, Ronda Schlumbohm, and Molly Sherman were my guides along the way. “If you’ve never heard Regie Routman, you must go to that session,” suggested Lesa as we all sat in our beds pouring over the offerings and scanning the catalog for what intrigued us most. We knew our time to explore the city was limited, so after flying in on the red-eye and checking into the hotel, we stashed our luggage, freshened up, and grabbed a taxi downtown to see the *Blue Man Group*. It was an amazing mix of technology, music, and humor. Overall a great theatric show, which we all agreed, was the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries equivalent to the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.



A Blue Man with Lesa Meath

I spent my first day in an institute, The Reading-Spelling-Meaning Connection through Dynamic Word presented in part by Donald Bear & Shane Templeton, co authors of the *Words Their Way* series. This institute gave insightful information about pulling parents into our world of word study, doing qualitative assessment 3 times a year along with a writing analysis, and demonstrated how to make word study exciting through word games.

Regie Routman, international author and teacher, moved me with her words, “*“The only way all teachers will develop deep understanding about what it means to teach and assess responsively is to engage in on-going, school-based professional development where viewing, discussing, analyzing, and applying highly effective practices become the norm.”* Mrs. Routman highlighted these points in order to achieve “Exemplary Reading and Writing Practices”

- *Celebrate strengths*- All learners
- *Put the Common Core State Standards in Perspective*- Focus on the student first
- *Focus at the universal level*- Excellent first teaching for all...
- *Establish a strong foundation*-Ongoing professional development, professional reading, and shared beliefs...
- *Seek authenticity*- Engage students’ hearts and minds; write for real world audiences & purposes
- *Provide choices with structure*-Choices are ones students know how to do well.
- *Assess all we do*- Teach responsively, this is, instruction and assessment continuously inform each other...
- *Bring it all together*-Capitalize on the reading/writing connection..
- *Celebrate strengths*-“We can do it!”

I splurged on a luncheon with Peter Reynolds, author of *Ish*, *The Dot*, and illustrator of the *Judy Moody Series* and more. He presented with his twin brother and their genuine love for literature captivated everyone. “If you’re going to be creative drag your tools with you,” Reynolds insisted. One of the great benefits to conferences is networking. I happened to be sitting next to a teacher from New York who had Liv Tyler’s daughter in her classroom! When she found out where I was from she immediately asked if we could exchange information and become pen pals next year. I can hardly wait for our students to share their experiences with each other. Reynolds also illustrated *Guyku-A Year of Haiku for Boys* and it was one purchase I couldn’t pass up. Who wouldn’t want to try writing a haiku after listening to its delightfully simplistic prose? “If this puddle could talk, I think it would tell me to splash my sister.”



Stacy with author Peter Reynolds, author of *Ish*.

Richard Allington's session on Why Summers Matter: Closing the Achievement Gap presented research that "indicated that roughly 80% of rich/poor reading achievement gap accumulates during the summer months rather than the school year." He also stated "low income students lose 3 months in the summer while middle income students gain a month." Allington attributed this to poor children having limited access to books and the fact that they don't read much during the summer. His words echoed in my head as my colleagues and I discuss ways we could prevent the "summer slide." Giving students books to read over the summer, having some type of response sheet, organizing a family book exchange night and partnering with organizations to provide "good fit books" were among the ideas we brainstormed.

One of the sessions that inspired me the most was Transforming Literacy Instruction with iPads and Web 2.0 Technology in the Elementary and Middle Grade Classroom, a group presentation from teachers at Burley Magnet School, north of Chicago. The school has a literature and technology focus based on current research. The school is anchored by professional development from innovators like Smokey Daniels, Stephanie Harvey, and Apple. The school began its journey into iPad use five years ago and now uses one-to-one iPads in meaningful, authentic, and interactive ways, transforming their students into global citizens. Kristin Ziemke showed a video of her classroom while she read aloud a poem. Then she instructed the students to "Infer what Eloise Greenfield meant in her poem." Students immediately began to draw and sketch on their iPads, having rich conversations with their fellow students and teacher. The group also demonstrated the power of *Edmodo*, a safe teacher monitored social network that allows everyone to respond, no wait time. Students were so engaged!

Other examples of iPad use were using google docs to survey what type of pet should be purchased for the classroom, wondering with Wonderopolis, skyping with authors, using quick response (QR) codes, and so much more.

I was excited to get back to my classroom and share my knowledge with students, who enjoyed a slideshow of my excursion and listened as I read several books from Peter Reynolds. We laughed at how Jerry Pallotta signed his *Who would Win* books with a talk bubble coming from the lion's mouth saying, "I ate Mrs. Foshee". The IRA conference filled me with excitement, inspiring me to implement new techniques, read books from distinguished instructional leaders, and attend the next conference in San Antonio, TX. I hope you'll join me! ~Stacy



## Chicago Reflections

The 57<sup>th</sup> International Reading Association conference was inspirational and informative. The choices as always were overwhelming. Though I couldn't possibly see all the speakers I would have liked to, I came away with new ideas, scores of books and websites on my "to read/visit" list, and thought provoking conversations with fellow educators in my mind. The theme of student choice was a strong thread in many of the sessions I attended. Dr. Steve Perry stated, "Teaching is the single greatest act of defiance." He reminded us that our students come in with big dreams and our job is to fill them up with more as we make the profession better than when we entered it.

A team of teachers from the Burley Magnet School of Chicago shared cutting edge practices in classrooms with 1:1 ipads. Beginning in kindergarten, students are immersed in technology and use tools to personalize and differentiate their own learning. Students capture their thinking during the process using writing and drawing apps, create image files to add to inquiry units, interact with and respond to text, Skype with favorite authors and share their learning by email, through blogs or wikis. The primary learners were offered a choice of ipad or traditional tools and the teachers modeled both, illustrating the importance of individualizing for the task purpose, audience and learner style. By posting to the class websites, ibook shelf or creating Google docs and QR codes, these young children are experiencing being global citizens. They witness how their thinking and learning travels and as one student commented, "Others are learning from us. What we're doing matters!"

~Lesa Meath