

# Gateway Gazette

Gateway Reading Council



Gateway Reading Council is a local council of the California Reading Association and the International Literacy Association

Gateway website: [www.gatewayreadingcouncil.org](http://www.gatewayreadingcouncil.org)

**Gateway Reading Council Young Writers' Celebration**  
Spring 2017 - - Information will be sent to schools in January



## *President's Message* **Anne Seil**

*Photo: Anne with author  
Francie Aguilera at Holiday Tea*



Greetings to all of you reading this, whether you are Gateway members, educators or citizens with an interest in promoting literacy. We are well into the winter season now, having turned the page on another calendar year. For those of us in the classrooms, the academic year has turned the corner toward a successful finish.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as Council president this year. With the tremendous level of talent and energy in our ranks it is no surprise that each Gateway event shines brightly! Examples of this were our Fall Kick-off and our Holiday Tea, both of which demonstrated a comfortable blend of literary growth information and the social camaraderie that we all enjoy. Let me give a “thank you” to all who participated in the planning.

An almost-prescient discussion at the Kick-off concerned the children’s book **Fire Birds—Valuing Natural Wildfires and Burned Forests** by Sneed B. Collard III. As you are all aware, virtually every part of our state has been devastated by wildfire this fall—sadly accompanied by loss of life.

*Continued on next page*



*President's Message Continued...*

In Collard's book, the reader is re-introduced to the idea that natural wildfire is good for the environment in the long run (obviously in undeveloped areas). Additionally the book highlights those species of birds that actually thrive in those forests

which have burned and details the complex forest and wildlife relationship.

The target readership is upper elementary but many educators report using it in

classrooms from grade 2 to middle school (Reading Level said to be Grade 6).

In any event this work is a good example of non-fiction for our students and underscores the notion of learning through reading for pleasure.

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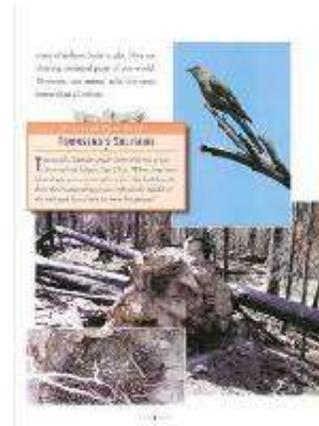
Looking ahead I would ask everyone to plan for the Young Writers' Awards in April. Right now is NOT too early to plant seeds of awareness among your colleagues in the various sites and districts of our county. Wishing continued success to all—and "Keep Reading!"

*Anne*

***Fire Birds—Valuing Natural Wildfires and Burned Forests***

**Use excerpts as mentor texts for informational and ARGUMENT writing**

This book has a lot of potential in the 3-5th grade classroom and even in middle school as a writing mentor for argument writing. It can be used as a mentor text for writing non-narrative nonfiction as well as opinion/argument writing. The author makes a clear case that while the media and many may think burnt forests are a bad thing, these forests are critical habitats, home to many kinds of birds.



Towards the end of the book, Collard addresses different viewpoints - those who believe letting forests burn is a bad thing, those who believe logging burnt forests is okay and so forth. This is something we want students to do in their own writing and close reading of excerpts from Collard's text to analyze his craft might be helpful to students.

The content is fresh, too. I knew that burnt forests were an opportunity for new growth, but I had no idea that many birds prefer this habitat to healthy forests. Worthy of reading for many purposes.

Sunday Cummins, Ph.D.  
Literacy Consultant and Author  
Eureka! Book Award Committee member



## Annual Holiday Tea Features Authors, Books, and Reader's Theater

Photo at left: Author Francie Aguilera shares her new book.  
 Photo below at right: Sebastopol author Teri Sloat shares about her writing and illustrating process.

Local children's authors Francie Aguilera and Teri Sloat spoke about their books, current projects, and their writing process. Francie is a San Francisco native who once resided in Sonoma County. Her story, *Edward the White Goose*, is set in Occidental. Gateway's great friend, Teri Sloat, who presented her book *Pablo in the Snow* at last year's Tea (it was so new last December that the book hadn't even been distributed to book stores!), joined us again this year to share about her writing and painting process, along with current projects.



Old Adobe School Librarian Marie Hinton, shared holiday and CYRM books. Marie led Reader's Theater for two books, *'Twas Nochebuena* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong and *The Kite That*

*Bridged Two Nations* by Alexis O'Neill.

Carla Peterson, a member of the CRA Eureka! Award Committee, presented the 2017 winners. Gateway President Anne Seil served as event MC.



Photos: Family Literacy Night workshop at Taylor Mountain School, presented by Nancy Rogers-Zegarra, December 2017.



## Books to Share with Students

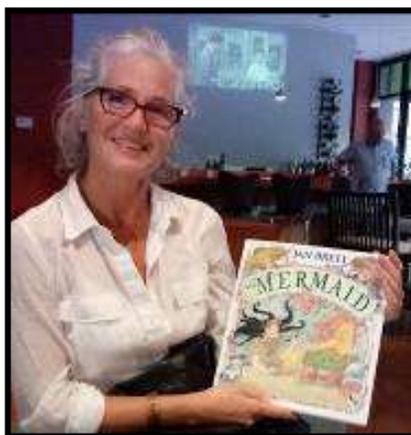


Photo at left: Katie Aja, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, shares Eric Carle's Have You Seen My Cat?

Photo at right: Stewart, right, with The Mermaid, Jan Brett's newest book.

Photos on page taken at GRC Fall Kick-off

### Marie's Book Shelf by Marie Hinton,

Librarian of the Marie Hinton Library at Old Adobe School, Petaluma

I always have books and love sharing... Here are some new books that I would love to share:

For Primary

***After the Fall*** by Dan Santat (a great book that follows Humpty Dumpty after he falls)

***The Bad Mood and the Stick*** by Lemony Snicket (everyone has days that they are in a bad mood)

***Bruce's Big Move*** by Ryan Higgins (Bruce the Bear has unexpected company)

***The Antlered Ship*** by Dashka Slater (a ship arrives in a harbor causing lots of questions from inhabitants)

***Creepy Pair of Underwear*** by Reynolds. (the students love it when you add the voice of Jasper the Rabbit)

For Intermediate

***The Magic Misfits*** by Neil Patrick Harris (that's right- the actor has a delightful book with friends and magic)

***The War I Finally Won*** by Kimberley Bradley (a follow up to *the War That Saved My Life-terrific*)

***The Witch Boy*** by Molly Ostertag (a graphic novel with a twist)

***Refugee*** by Alan Gratz (a multicultural novel set in the 1930's)

***The Last Kids on Earth*** by Max Brallier (a series that I can't keep on the shelf)

***Timeless*** by Armand Balthazar (a time travel with fantastic art) I had him come to Old Adobe (School) and he was fantastic. He brought his models and art to share with students- A really great presentation & he is local.

I also love ***Caroline*** by Dash for adult reading. It is the story of the mother from Little House on the Prairie. Dash has done great research and this book reinforces why I love all the Little House books.

Make sure to visit the CYRM Website and vote for your favorites before April 1<sup>st</sup>, and visit the CRA website for information on the Eureka list for 2017. It has so many good non-fiction titles that will catch your attention.



California Reading Association  
Professional Development Institute  
October 20 – 21, 2017  
Pacific Palms Resort, City of Industry



*Top photos: Gateway officers at Leadership; Leadership/Delegate's Assembly*

*Middle photos: CYRM Dinner with speaker illustrator Joe Cepeda; Session: Paper Son: The Musical*

*Bottom photos: Friday Keynote speaker Joanne Billingsley; Dr. Nancy Rogers-Zegarra with the Nancy Rogers-Zegarra Beginning Teacher award recipient*

## Books & Music for Your Classroom

Photo: Dr. Paul Boyd Batstone (at right), Lisa Bode Beard (at left), and Kurt Beard performs *Paper Son: The Musical* based on the book ***Paper Son: Lee's Journey to America*** by Helen Foster James and Virginia Shin-Mui Loh, at the 2017 CRA PDI.



Dr. Paul Boyd Batstone, a professor at CSU, Long Beach and editor of CRA's journal *The California Reader*, has written musicals based on popular children's books. Works include *The Kapok Musical* based on Lynne Cherry's book, *The Great Kapok Tree* and *The Flower Children's Musical* based on Ruth Heller's book, *The Reason for a Flower*. Musicals can be accessed by going to "iTunesU-CSU Long Beach". The first song of *Paper Son* can be viewed on YouTube.

## California Young Reader Medal

[www.californiayoungreadermedal.org](http://www.californiayoungreadermedal.org)



California students nominate, read, and vote for books used in the program. Categories include Primary, Intermediate, Middle School/Junior High, and Young Adult. CYRM award program information, current nominees, current and previous winners, and resources (such as Readers' Theater scripts, based on the books) are available for teachers and librarians the CYRM website.

## Eureka! Book Awards

[www.califoiareads.org](http://www.califoiareads.org)

The California Reading Association has created the Eureka! award to honor nonfiction children's books. All genre of non-fiction (so any book that is not fiction) is eligible for the award. The lists of current and previous winners are listed on the CRA website.



## Gateway Reading Council Officers 2017-2018

President: Anne Seil; President-Elect: Katie Aja; Vice President: Jamie Azevedo; Secretary: Paula Aja; Treasurer: Carla Peterson; Membership: Nancy Rogers-Zegarra; Member at Large: Marie Hinton

Photo: Members and friends of Gateway wish you great books

and **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**