

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

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Winter 2017

President's Message **Anne Seil**



Hello to all of you in the Literacy Community and to any others reading the Gateway Gazette — as we have turned the page on the calendars we continue to move forward with our shared efforts.

It was wonderful to see the excellent turnout for the Author's Tea on December 9th, featuring author Teri Sloat. We are fortunate to live in the midst of such talented writers and to be treated to their presence. Also, I must mention the excellent participation from our Council at the California Reading Association annual event in Visalia in November. It is always rewarding—both personally and professionally—to greet colleagues and to make new acquaintances in this rich environment.

As we look ahead we must focus our attention on the Young Writers' Awards program coming up in the Spring. David Schwartz has agreed to be our author for this event. As possible, please reach out to fellow teachers at other schools and promote the program and encourage participation. This truly is our pinnacle event and is a most significant achievement for all the students who are recognized.

President's Message continued on page 2.

Gateway Reading Council invites you to the first annual...

Milly Lee Memorial Author Celebration



**Friday, March 10, 2017
Petaluma Community Center
320 North McDowell Blvd., Petaluma
4:30-6:30 PM
\$25 per person**

Milly Lee, children's author and librarian and "forever" Gateway Reading Council member, valued books, literacy and friendships. Join us for a special evening with authors!



Meet children's authors Jeri Ferris, Matthew Gollub, Jonathan London, Patricia Newman, Travis Nichols and Teri Sloat. Guests will be able to chat with the authors, enjoy wine and light refreshments, purchase books and have them autographed.

Send RSVP and money to event coordinator Paula Aja, 2012 Clelia Lane, Petaluma, CA 94954. Checks should be made out to Gateway Reading Council. Questions?? Email Paula at pdaja48@gmail.com or call (707) 763-5705.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Finally I must gratefully acknowledge the congratulations and good wishes from all my fellows in the profession on my receipt of an annual Literacy award. The fact that Council members were on hand to share the moment was the highlight of my year!

Please continue to reach out and invite potential members and other newcomers to our get-togethers—as we all know there is no limit to our successes if we stay focused!

Keep on reading and writing!

Anne

"I read my eyes out and can't read half enough. The more one reads the more one sees we have to read."

- John Adams



Petaluma Teacher Anne Seil Receives Literacy Award from American Literacy Corporation



Anne Seil, the Reading Specialist at McKinley School in Petaluma, has been awarded one of the 2015-2016 “Outstanding Contributions to Literacy” awards by the American Literacy Corporation. This award was presented to Anne at a ceremony held in Visalia CA on

November 5, 2016.

The American Literacy Corporation (ALC), a non-profit organization, annually grants awards to selected California teachers and certificated support personnel in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. These are enthusiastic teachers who create an environment of success, where students are excited and motivated to learn. These outstanding teachers serve as leaders in their own schools, districts and communities. The winner’s school also receives a \$500 stipend to be used for a school-wide literacy event, with “Author's Presentation/parent education”.

ALC was founded in 1992 by the late Dr. Jo Stanchfield, Professor Emeritus at Occidental College, to recognize and reward outstanding teachers who significantly increase the literacy level of their students. More than 195 California teachers have received this award since that time.

Anne sincerely encourages all literacy professionals to apply for this award, and she adds that the recognition “is genuinely a reflection on the caliber of my colleagues in the North Bay and particularly in Gateway.”

(Photos: Above left - Anne with ALC Board member Nancy Bowman; at right - Anne with husband, John.)



Gateway Reading Council, made up of educators in Sonoma County, is recognized as an International Literacy Association “Honor Council” for its efforts in promoting literacy. Membership is open to educators, paraprofessionals, parents and others interested in literacy. For membership information, go to: www.gatewayreadingcouncil.org

Officers 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.

Recent Honors: **Torchlighter Program Award** from California Reading Association for Gateway’s family literacy workshops. *(Photo: GRC receives Torchlighter Award at CRA)*

Nancy Rogers-Zegarra Honored By California Reading Association



Dr. Nancy Rogers-Zegarra has received the 2016 John Martin Distinguished Service Award from the California Reading Association. Nancy received the award in November at the annual CRA Professional Development Institute in Visalia. Nancy has served as CRA President, Vice President, Immediate Past President/Comptroller, Area Director, and a member of the PDI /Conference local arrangements committee. She has

created CRA displays which have been exhibited at International Literacy Association conferences and is a frequent presenter at the state-wide CRA PDI. Nancy established the Nancy Rogers-Zegarra Beginning Teacher Scholarship Award that is awarded annually to new teachers, allowing educators to attend the CRA PDI.

The John Martin Distinguished Service Award was established in 1977 to honor the late Dr. Martin, a past president of CRA. The award is presented to a member who has provided outstanding service to the organization.

We congratulate Nancy. She is truly deserving of this honor!

Gateway Reading Council's

Young Writers' Celebration April 28, 2017

David Schwartz to Speak

Sonoma County K – 12 students are invited to participate in the annual Young Writers' Celebration that celebrates young authors. Students use and develop language arts skills as they craft an original work of fiction or non-fiction.

Each school may select a representative to participate. The event will take place on April 28, 2017 from 3:30 – 5:30 PM at Old Adobe School, Petaluma.

Children's author David Schwartz will be the special guest speaker at the 2017 Young Writer's Celebration. Schwartz, an "Ambassador for Math", writes on the topics of nature and math. He has written almost fifty books and also writes for

magazines. Schwartz has written popular children's books such *How Much Is a Million?* *G is for Google*, *Super Grandpa*, and *Rotten Pumpkin*.

Information will be sent to schools in January by event organizer Marie Hinton, Old Adobe School Librarian. Entries are due March 31st to Marie.

For more information:
gatewayreadingcouncil.org

Author Spotlight: Teri Sloat

Teri Sloat grew up in Salem, Oregon and attended college to become a teacher. She and her husband, Bob, moved to Alaska where they lived and worked for many years in a Yup'ik villages. During that time, Teri began writing and illustrating. Now they live in Sebastopol, where she continues to write fabulous children's books and create beautiful original paintings. Teri has written books, been an author/illustrator, and has illustrated books for other authors. Some of Teri's books include *Patty's Pumpkin Patch*, *The Hungry Giant of the Tundra*, *There Was an Old Man Who Painted the Sky*, and *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Trout!* Teri claims she is still a teacher at heart, and enjoys telling a story where children learn something at the same time. (Photo: Teri with artwork on display at the Sebastopol Gallery, December 2016.) For more about Teri, go to www.terisloat.com



Gateway Reading Council Annual Holiday Tea Brings Cheer



Author Teri Sloat shared about writing and illustrating, and read aloud her brand new book, *Pablo in the Snow*. The book will be distributed in January to bookstores.



Paula Aja shared about the Milly Lee Memorial Author Celebration (see page 2 for more information), and Nancy Rogers-Zegarra announced Gateway received an "Honor Council" recognition from ILA.

Readers' Theater: Attendees performed Teri Sloat's *Pieces of Christmas*.

**Very special thanks to:
Teri Sloat**

**Rohnert Park Public Library
(& children's librarian Kate Drewieske)**

Marie Hinton, Old Adobe School Librarian, shared holiday books and California Young Reader Medal books. (Go to www.californiareads.org for information on CYRM books.)





CRA Professional Development Institute 2016



Friday Keynote speaker **Donalyn Miller** (left)

At right: **Nancy Rogers-Zegarra** (center) with **Genieve Walker** (right), recipient of the Nancy Rogers-Zegarra Beginning Teacher Scholarship



Authors at Author Meet & Greet - **Alexis O'Neill** (right)



Author **Angelica Carpenter** (left) with Gateway Board member **Marie Hinton**, Old Adobe School Librarian



CRA President Cheri Benefield (left) & Immediate Past President **Kathy Langham** at Leadership

At Leadership, **Anne Seil** shares about Gateway and Area 1 council activities



Saturday Keynote Speaker **Regi Routman**



Paula Aja and **Nancy Rogers-Zegarra** with literacy expert **Regie Routman**



Gateway Officers at Leadership

49th CRA PDI
November 4th & 5th
Visalia Convention Center



Go to www.californiareads.org

To join or renew membership in Gateway Reading Council and CRA
View archived issues of *The California Reader*
Get information for local CRA councils
Learn about CRA activities and events