

Gateway Gazette

Gateway Reading Council

A local council of California Reading Association & International Literacy Association

Spring 2015

Gateway Reading Council, a local council of the International Literacy Association honored Marissa Moss, popular children's author, and Mr. Matthew Harris, principal at Mc Kinley School in Petaluma, for their active support and promotion of literacy efforts that focus on children and teens. Presentation of the award took place at the Young Writers celebration on April 20th at the Old Adobe School in Petaluma.



Celebrate Literacy honorees

Marissa Moss

Matthew Harris

In the photos above, Marissa Moss (at far left) receives her award from Gateway Immediate Past President Dr. Nancy Rogers-Zegarra, Education Specialist at the Mendocino County Office of Education; Matthew Harris receives his award from Anne Seil, Gateway Reading Council Secretary and Reading Specialist at McKinley School.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“AN AJA MOMENT”

By Paula Aja, Gateway President

I have a new professional hero...Dr. Steven Layne. After listening to his speech at the CRA conference last year and reading his book *Igniting A Passion For Reading* I became a fan. So I read his newest book with an air of excitement. *In Defense of Read-Aloud, Sustaining Best Practices* is for all teachers and administrators who believe in the power of a story and the importance to reading to our students. This book goes beyond the “touchy-feely, warm cuddly” reading. His premise that the read aloud is an important part of the school curriculum is based on reading research. The book is grounded in solid, extensive research that shows the positive effect on student engagement, thinking, and reading achievement. One example is the concept of “listening up”. The listening level of a child (the level at which he hears and comprehends text) is significantly higher than his silent reading level. Thus, the average first grader can actually comprehend a written text written at the third grade level. Imagine the language and vocabulary we can expose to our students with this simple idea!

Dr. Layne also includes position statements and conversations from people well known in the literacy field. AND... he includes a list of good read-aloud books for all ages, kindergarten through high school.

Do yourself a favor this summer. Take some time to read Dr. Layne's books. And who knows, he may become your professional hero too.



Share the Joy of Literacy

CA Reading Association

**Professional Development
Institute**

October 23 & 24, 2015

Riverside Convention Center

Keynote Speakers:

Lori Oczkus

Dr. MaryEllen Vogt

Jana Echevarria

Lucy Calkins

STUDENT BOOK REVIEWS

Cinnabar students in grades Kindergarten through sixth composed book reviews to be displayed at Copperfield's Books store in Petaluma. The reviews were on display from February 13th -23rd. Students had to select a book they had recently read. Students provided the title of the book, the author, the setting, and the plot. At the end of the review they gave a recommendation. Along with the recommendation, the students were encouraged to give a cliff hanger in order to convince someone to read their book. Many classes participated in this exciting event which caused an abundance of reviews at Copperfield's. Due to the number of reviews, many were not displayed because there was a lack of room for the display. This is our second time participating in this event. Many of the students and teachers were proud of their final product.

-Jamie Azevedo, Cinnabar School Teacher & Vice President, Gateway Reading Council

Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman is a funny and interesting book. The main characters are George and Harold, they're kids who make the comic book, Principal Krupp, who gets transformed into Captain Underpants, and Wicked Wedgie Woman, the villain. The story takes place in a school. In the story George and Harold come up with a comic book describing Captain Underpants. In their book Principal Krupp got transformed into Captain Underpants by drinking super power juice. Then their teacher gets turned

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into Wicked Wedgie Woman. Captain Underpants tries to defeat her by making her wedgie herself.

One example of the book being funny is that the boys get in trouble a lot in dumb ways, like they change the menu of the cafeteria to say funny things and they write "Will you marry me?" on a letter, so the principal takes it from them and gives it to the teacher without looking at it.

The book is interesting because the characters do complicated things, like making replicas of George and Arnold so no one will know they are missing, so Mr. Krupp doesn't get transformed into Captain Underpants.

I recommend reading this book if you are looking for a good laugh.

- 4th Grader

I Survived the Nazi Invasion is a historical fiction book written by Laren Tashis. It is a serious historical book that is unbelievable to read. It starts on August 10, 1944 in Loda Forest eastern Poland. During this time, it was dangerous for Jewish people because of a man named Adolf Hitler. Adolf Hitler started the Nazi Invasion. In the book Max and Zena are two fictional characters who lost their father to the Nazis. What will happen to Maz and Zena? To find out read **I Survived the Nazi Invasion**. - 4th Grader

BOOK REVIEW



These Hands by Margaret H. Mason

Submitted by Katie
Aja, McDowell
School, Petaluma, and
VP, Gateway Reading
Council

The book These Hands by Margaret H. Mason is an engaging informational picture book for older readers which opens the doors of communication for in depth discussion about segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and as a precursor or follow up to learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This book is most appropriate for 3-6 graders. Lower grades might enjoy the story as well.

These Hands was a 2014-2015 California Young Reader medal nominee. The story is narrated by a grandfather talking to his grandson about what his hands are capable of doing and what they were forbidden from doing historically. Our narrator once

worked at the Wonder Bread factory, where he was not allowed to touch the dough. He was only allowed menial cleaning jobs. Once those hands joined with others during the Civil Rights Movement change manifested.

The juxtaposition of what the grandfather can do and teach his grandson and what those hands were forbidden from doing in the past is very compelling. The beautiful pictures by illustrator Floyd Cooper highlight this message as well. The pictures are done in brown scale which gives them a more historical, photograph like feeling. The simple joy and love is transmitted through the pictures as well, strengthens the author's message. The overall message that today hands of any color can do anything is very positive and powerful; an important lesson for all our young learners.

These Hands, by Margaret H. Mason is a powerful, beautifully crafted informational text with provides a good springboard for discussion. I hope you check it out and enjoy it!

For more information on the **California Young Reader Medal** (CYRM), including 2014-2015 winners, 2015-2016 nominees, and resources (including resource guides, bookmarks and readers theater scripts), go to the CYRM website www.californiayoungreader.org or the California Reading Association website at www.californiareads.org.

Information about **California Reading Association** events and resources, along with PDI information, registration and hotel materials and information are available at the CRA website: californiareads.org

GATEWAY: A YEAR IN REVIEW



Holiday Tea-
December:
Napa County
author Mary Jo
Johnston
shares her
books. The tea

featured holiday books, reader's theater and learning strategies to enhance students' oral language skills with picture books.



Young Writers Celebration – April: GRC members with children's author Marissa Moss. Sonoma County K -12 student authors shared their original works and learned about writing from Ms. Moss.



ELA/ ELD Framework Overview Workshop – March: Led by Dr. Nancy Rogers-Zegarra, CRA Immediate Past President

Gateway Reading Council Vice Presidents – Katie & Jamie

Thank you...

Marie Hinton, Young Writers' Celebration coordinator; Old Adobe School, Marissa Moss, and participating Young Writers' students and their teachers and parents.

Nancy Rogers-Zegarra, High Council coordinator; Paula Aja, Professional Development workshop coordinator; Carla Peterson (editor) & Anne Seil, Newsletter

Rincon Valley Christian School, McDowell School, Old Adobe School and Rohnert Park Public Library – you were welcoming and gracious hosts for our events, meetings and workshops.

2014-2015 GRC Officers: Paula Aja (Pres.). Nancy Rogers-Zegarra (IPP), Katie Aja, & Jamie Azevedo (VP), Anne Seil (Sec.), Carla Peterson (Treas./Mem.) and Marie Hinton (Corr. Sec.).

