

# Highlights

March 2009

of the Minnesota Reading Association, an International Reading Association affiliate



## Spring into Reading

by Maurna Rome



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Dear Colleagues,

Spring is in the air (at least I hope it is by the time you are reading this greeting)! Although it is not quite mid-February as I embark on the creation of my third President's letter for *Highlights*, I know it will be almost mid-March by the time this reaches you ... let's hope the longer days and warmer winds are finding their way to our doorsteps!

I am counting down the days until the first week of May when the IRA Convention breezes into town!

I can only hope and pray that you have found a way to work this spectacular opportunity into your schedule! A special Parent/Teacher reduced rate day at IRA is Monday, May 4th. This rate is \$140 for nonmembers as well as members; the rate for students attending that day is only \$80.00. Preregistration is the best way to attend the conference—the deadline is April 6th, but onsite registration is also available. Go to [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org) for more information!

It is likely no surprise that the tough economy is hitting all of us in one way or another. MRA is no exception. The rising costs of producing a newsletter such as this has led to a decision about modifying the delivery format of the newsletter a few times each year (see article on page 8). The MRA Executive Board and local council leaders are committed to offering meaningful membership benefits to each and every one of you because you are the heart of our organization. In March we will be coming together for our spring Leadership Meeting to discuss ideas about improving our fiscal responsibility while enhancing the reasons for your continued membership and involvement. If you have suggestions or ideas on how to improve the Minnesota Reading Association, I would greatly appreciate hearing them! Please send me an email at [m.rome@mnreading.org](mailto:m.rome@mnreading.org)!

I have written before about the passion I have for the MRA's mission and the affection I feel for my "MRA family." I was reminded last month that I am not the only one who has been impacted by this organization. Karen Lamb Johnson was an MRA leader holding numerous positions in the 1980's. Karen passed away in November but continues to share her legacy and commitment to literacy. The Minnesota Reading Association was designated in Karen's will as one of five beneficiaries and will receive a generous endowment. The MRA Executive Board is humbled by this kind and thoughtful gesture. As a lasting tribute to Ms. Johnson, MRA has established a Karen Lamb Johnson Memorial Scholarship to be awarded to the son or daughter of an MRA member (see page 8 for more information and criteria) each year.

In closing, once again I extend an invitation to each of you to consider joining the ranks of MRA leaders. I guarantee that your time and effort will bring a renewed sense of energy, purpose, and enjoyment to your work in the area of literacy. The friendships and networking that flourish from this level of involvement are well worth the volunteer effort.



Maurna Rome

Maurna

## Executive Committee

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Maurna Rome

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Ilene Rutten

### VICE-PRESIDENT

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Anne Redfern

### TREASURER

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Teresa Langton and Neva Stoebner

### MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF READING

Carolyn Gwin and Terri Christenson

### SECONDARY READING INTEREST COUNCIL

Julie Scullen

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### Minnesota Reading Association

13570 Grove Drive #280

Maple Grove MN 55311-4400

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

# Reading Councils

## Arrowhead Reading Council 2008-2009 Program

Celebrating its 26th year of recognition by the International Reading Association as an IRA Honor Council for outstanding literacy program and activities.

### Professional Development Night

MAR, TO BE ANNOUNCED

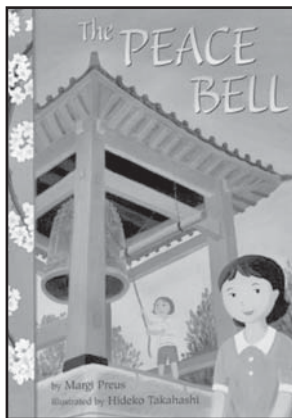
Enjoy an evening sponsored by Harcourt/Houghton. Credit: 2 hours.

### 22nd ARC Young Authors' Conference

TUES, MAR 19, 2009, SCHOOL DAY

Duluth author Margi Preus will share her latest book *The Peace Bell* about the bells taken from Japan during WWII.

Location: College of St. Scholastica



### An Evening of the Arts

MAY, 2009, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Arrowhead Reading Council wishes to honor many area artisans with an evening of sharing. Visit with members, enjoy the auction and meet the artists. Heavy hors d'oeuvres served with a cash wine bar. Advanced registration required. Fee: members, \$18; non-members, \$22. Location: Northland Country Club, 3901 E Superior St, Duluth. Credit: 2 hours.

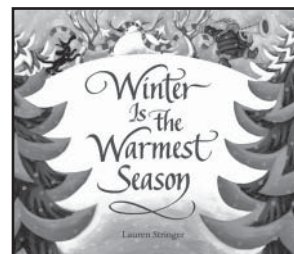
## Central Minnesota Reading Council

Make plans to attend the CMRC Winter Workshop in 2009!

### CMRC Author Dinner

THURS, APRIL 2, 2009, 5:30 PM  
SAUK RAPIDS-RICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Author of *Winter is the Warmest Season* coming to Sauk Rapids area! Lauren Stringer has illustrated a variety of picture books along with authoring *Winter is the Warmest Season*. Her



artistry appeals to the soft, tranquil nature of books such as *Snow*, written by Cynthia Rylant, and *Fold Me a Poem*, written by Kristine O'Connell George. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and adults to hear about the authoring process. Stringer is an accomplished illustrator who will share her art and music with dinner guests. Join CMRC members as we dine on Mexican Village catered items and hear her delightful, musically enhanced presentation.

## Minnesota Academy of Reading

To become a member of the Minnesota Academy of Reading, first join the Minnesota Reading Association and then identify MAR as your local council. Go to:

- [www.mnreading.org](http://www.mnreading.org)
- Click on "Membership."
- Click on "Join MRA."

A basic annual MRA membership is \$25. Membership for additional councils is \$12.

## ... Reading Councils

### Secondary Reading Interest Council

Secondary Reading Interest Council (SRIC) meets each month to collaborate, network, and share resources of interest to teachers of secondary students.

If you plan to attend, please contact Julie Scullen at [j.scullen@mnreading.org](mailto:j.scullen@mnreading.org) or 763.506.1580.

### MCA II Test Prep/IRA Convention Minneapolis

SUN, MAR 8, 2009

Location TBD

### Practical Use of Data in the Classroom

SUN, APR 19, 2009

Location TBD

### Southwest Minnesota Reading Council

#### Annual Spring Conference

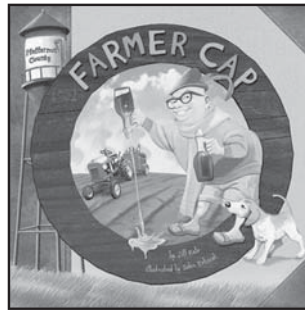
APRIL 23, 2009  
HOLIDAY INN, NEW ULM, MN



Jill Kalz is the author of nearly 50 children's books, including the picture book *Farmer Cap*, which was a finalist for the 2008 Minnesota Book

Award (Children's Literature category) and won the Reader's Choice Award. Jill has received additional awards from the Association of Educational Publishers and Bank Street College, and two individual artist grants from the PLRAC McKnight Foundation. A graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato (MFA in creative writing), Jill has also published work for adults in *Minnesota Monthly*, *The Nebraska Review*, *The Ohio Review* and other magazines.

She currently works as a senior editor at Picture Window Books in Mankato and lives in New Ulm with a charismatic Bichon named Tuckerbean.



### Congratulations Betty Uehling! 2009 Literacy Award for Southwest Minnesota Reading Council

Betty is the Early Childhood Family Education Director for District 88 in New Ulm. She originated the idea for "Project Red Book Shelf." This project will put books into the hands of children at no cost. Betty knows that a child who is read to and has books in his or her home is much more likely to begin school with the skills needed to learn to read and write. Thanks, Betty, for your dedication to promoting reading!

### Southwest Minnesota Reading Council Presents *Miss Alaineus* and *Fancy Nancy* Come to Worthington

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2009, 8:30 TO 3:00  
PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
1700 1ST AVENUE, WORTHINGTON, MN

Dr. Cindy Whaley, a professor of education at Martin Luther College and a member of the SWMRC Executive Board, will share ways to teach vocabulary using literature. Come prepared to find ideas to use with grades K-8.

8:30 - 9:00 Coffee, tea, juice, rolls  
9:00 - 12:00 Workshop  
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (included)  
1:00 - 3:00 Workshop

Send registration form and a check payable to SWMRC by June 15, 2009 to Yvonne Sieve, 617 Dugdale Avenue, Worthington, MN 56187 507.372.2543 (home) or 507.727.1250 (school).

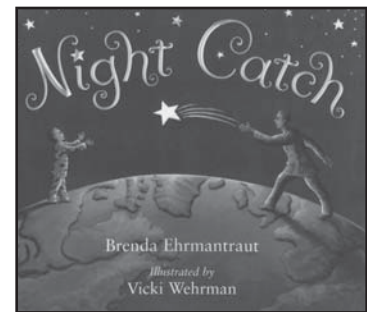
Include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. Please indicate whether or not you are a SWMRC member.

The cost is \$50 for SWMRC members, \$60 for non-members (no refunds after June 15).

### SWMRC Fall Conference

OCTOBER 8, 2009  
Featuring Author Brenda Ehrmantraut

Brenda will present ideas for parental involvement at our Fall Conference. She is the author of *Night Catch*, *I Want One Too*, *Reading at Home A-Z*, and *Hope Weavers* (available in June 2009.)



Brenda is available to do an author visit for a fee at a southwest Minnesota school on Friday, October 9th. Please contact Yvonne Sieve if you are interested: (507) 372-2543 or [Yvonne.sieve@isd518.net](mailto:Yvonne.sieve@isd518.net). Please visit [www.bubblegumpress.net](http://www.bubblegumpress.net) to find out more about Brenda, her books and her presentations.

### IRA Volunteers Needed

Plan to attend the IRA Convention in May? Please volunteer at the registration booth! Help is needed Sat. May 2-7. Go to [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org). Follow the links to the Mpls convention. Click on registration. Scroll down to find volunteer form. Or email Bobbi Douglas Gale at [rdgale1@comcast.net](mailto:rdgale1@comcast.net).

# Comprehension Corner

## “Is Today Book Club Day?”

### Choice Reading for Struggling Middle School Students

by Donna M. Johnson, EdD

*I often feel sorry for people who don't read good books; they are missing a chance to lead an extra life.*

—Scott Corbett



The students I see every day in my middle school special education resource room are reluctant readers. Most of them have basic word-solving skills, but they have not put those skills into practice and therefore have not gained the fluency needed to attend to comprehending and enjoying text. At the beginning of the school year, many of them had no interest in reading anything. It became my objective to build student interest and motivation so reading would become an activity of choice. Students who read frequently and widely by their own choice will become good comprehenders (Guthrie, 2002; Guthrie, Wigfield, Metsala, & Cox, 1999), while those who read infrequently will not.

I have followed a gradual step-by-step plan to build my students' reading comprehension. I started by thinking about Atwell's (1987) reading and writing workshop model. Students in a reading workshop have almost complete control over their reading choices. I knew this was probably not realistic for my students; they still require modeling and instructional support. Rather than every day choice reading, I adopted the idea of a once-a-week BookClub Day during which students would individually and silently read texts of their own choosing.

The first step was to increase student interest in, and motivation to read, stories and books. For the first few weeks of school, I read almost all our texts aloud. Reading aloud is a proven motivational strategy, even for older students (Ecroyd, 1991), and within a short time, my students were willing to read together in pairs with a teaching assistant and even before the whole group. As their interest

and motivation increased, so did their word solving skills, their reading expression, their fluency — and their confidence.

Next, I expanded our classroom library by accumulating books I knew would interest my students; I purchased some books and also borrowed from both the school and the city libraries. My choices included informational books about car and motorcycle racing, professional sports, and animals. I also provided graphic novels and books by authors we had read and enjoyed in class.

A few weeks into the semester, we tried our first BookClub Day. We talked about it ahead of time. On BookClub Day each student is expected to silently and independently read a book of their own choosing. Some bring books from home or the school library. Others, especially at first, chose a book from the classroom offerings, read a portion of it that day, and replaced it at the end of the class period. Our first BookClub reading time lasted only about 15 minutes. When students began to show signs of restlessness, I called the students — scattered comfortably around the room — back together. Each in turn read aloud a sentence or two from that day's reading and orally retold some of what they had read.

As the school year went on, more students brought their own chapter books, and our silent reading times increased in length. Now I allow my students to read as long as they are engaged. If they read until the end of class, we start the next day's class period by sharing and retelling.

In addition to retelling, we have begun to include other comprehension strategies such as clarifying, questioning, and

continued on page 7

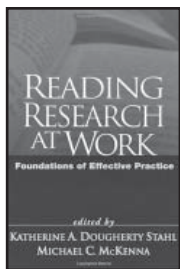
## The Bookshelf

This month, one of the preeminent reading researchers in the country, Dr. Michael Graves, shares what's on his bookshelf...

**Q: What book(s) are you currently reading?**

For fiction, I am currently reading *A Darkness More Than Night* by Michael Connelly. Most of the novels I read are mysteries, and many of them are series that feature the same protagonists from book to book. So I like Michael Connelly and his central character Hieronymus Bosch; Robert Parker and his central characters Spencer, Jesse Stone, and Sunny Randall; Minnesota author John Sandford and his Lucas Davenport; and James Patterson and his Alex Cross and Lindsay Boxer.

For nonfiction, I am currently reading *Reading Research at Work*.



This is a collection of articles and chapters by the late Steve Stahl along with commentaries on his work and chapters on topics related to his work by other scholars.

Edited by Steve's widow, Katherine Dougherty Stahl, and Michael McKenna, this book provides both an in-depth look at the work of this major contributor to reading research and a rich source of information on important topics in our field.

**Q: What are some favorite books from your childhood?**

When I was in elementary school, I enjoyed the Bobbsey Twins and the Hardy Boys books; it seems that I came by my interest in series books and mysteries early on. Later, I think in high school, I

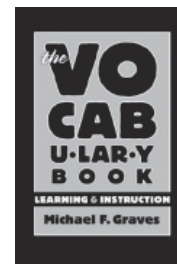
was captivated by Richard Henry Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*. I grew up in California and found the notion of exploring the almost untouched California coast by ship in the mid 1830s fascinating. My favorite read as a boy, however, was not a book but a short story, Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game." Even today, some 50 years later, I remember my excitement when reading about this macabre hunt.

**Q: Do you read any electronic books?**

I don't read electronic books. I don't have a Kindle or anything like that. However, I do listen to a lot of electronic material. I always have tapes or CDs in the car. Most of these come from the Hennepin County libraries, many of which have quite extensive collections of tapes and CDs. I also have books and lectures on my iPod that I listen to when I'm walking. Lectures I particularly recommend are those produced by The Teaching Company. These are hugely informative and often fascinating presentations on topics like history, philosophy, and music by some of the best lecturers in the US. Right now I am listening to a 36-lecture series on Western Civilization.

**Q: Every teacher should read . . .**

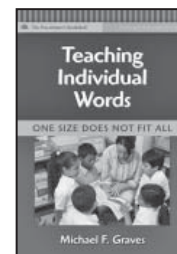
I don't know of any books that I believe every teacher should read, but I do have three books about vocabulary — my major emphasis these days — that I recommend strongly. The first is Hart and Risley's *Meaningful Differences in the Everyday Lives of Young American Children*. This brief book brings home like nothing else I have read the tragedy of how some children enter school with debilitatingly



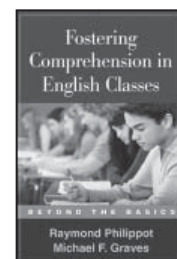
small vocabularies. The second is my *The Vocabulary Book*, which is my best effort at describing a comprehensive vocabulary program. The third is Stahl

and Nagy's *Teaching Meaning Vocabulary*. This reinforces many of the themes in my book and adds other important themes.

Michael Graves has several books in the works, either just published or soon to be released:



*Teaching Individual Words: One Size Does Not Fit All* (Teachers College Press and IRA, 2009) notes that different words present different word learning tasks and describes methods of teaching individual words.



*Fostering Comprehension in English Classes* (with Raymond Philippot, Guilford Press, 2009) describes research-based practices middle and secondary English teachers can use to foster comprehension in all their students.

*Essential Readings on Vocabulary Instruction* (IRA, in press) is a collection of articles and book chapters by various authors considering facets of the four-part vocabulary program I describe in *The Vocabulary Book* (Teachers College Press, IRA, and NCTE, 2006).

— Toni Cox

## In Memory of ... Karen Lamb Johnson

Karen Lamb Johnson, age 73, of Faribault, Minnesota, died on Friday, November 28, 2008.

Karen, the daughter of Delmar and Gladys (Nelson) Lamb was born

on December 20, 1934 in St. Peter, Minnesota. Karen graduated from St. Louis Park High School in 1952. She earned a bachelor's degree from Macalester College and a master's degree from the University of Minnesota. Karen taught kindergarten and third grade in St. Louis Park. She specialized in reading education and taught remedial reading in Minnetonka. Karen became reading director in North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale School District #622. In 1975, Karen became Director of Curriculum and Evaluation, in all subjects K-12.



Karen Lamb Johnson

Karen was active in professional organizations and served terms as president of the Minnesota Academy of Reading (MAR), the Minnesota Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NASD), Minnetonka Teacher Association (MTA), Twin Cities Area Reading Council (TCARC), and the Sigma Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, as well as participating in many others.

### Tributes

Karen made me laugh often. Her sense of humor and generosity glowed from her whole being. Karen's dedication to her job and to the field of reading makes her stand out as one of the "greats" in reading education in Minnesota.

—Gretchen Starks-Martin,  
former President, MRA

We are identical twins who were in Miss Lamb's kindergarten class in 1955. One of our favorite kindergarten memories was the day we made butter from cream by passing a mason

jar filled with whipping cream around a circle and each child took a turn shaking the jar. The butter that we spread on graham crackers that day was the best we have ever tasted. Sally was lucky enough to have her for a teacher a second time as Miss Lamb was also her third grade teacher. We have always remembered her with great affection. She was a very special lady.

—Sally Andresen Booth and  
Judi Andresen Jarnberg

I met Karen through the Peace Group that has been standing in vigil for peace in front of the Faribault Courthouse every Saturday since March 8, 2003. Karen was part of the group that organized the vigil, and was there pretty much every Saturday. She was such an inspiration. She would show up with her cane, then her walker, even in ice and snow. She was intelligent, indomitable, loving, and fun. In every context in which I saw her, she was an inspiring role model.

—Cynthia Wagner

## Successful Symposium Held in Walker

On Saturday, Jan. 24th, MRA President Maurina Rome, MRA Treasurer Neva Stoebner, and MRA member Toni Cox joined forces to present a morning workshop for 25 area educators. Despite the 20 degree below weather, several participants drove more than three hours to attend the session! The diverse group included first year teachers, a high school science teacher, a middle school English teacher, paraprofessionals, a homeschool parent, special education teachers, and elementary teachers. The topics of "6+1 Writing Traits" and "Motivating Reluctant Readers" were shared. It was obvious that this group was comprised of avid book lovers as they scooped up more than 350 brand new books for just \$1.00 each! Workshop evaluations revealed that the main problem with the symposium was that it wasn't long enough ... several people stated that they would have liked a longer workshop! One participant said it was "Worth getting out of bed for"! A special thanks to Toni and WHA Elementary for hosting the event.



Engaged participants enjoy the MRA Symposium in Walker

## About Membership

Greetings to all MRA members!

In the past eight months, I've learned many things about record-keeping as your MRA Director of Membership. I've learned to pull monthly reports about "new" and "renewing" members from our online database. I've also becoming quite familiar with organizing the database information to create membership cards, labels, and Excel spreadsheets. In July 2008 I created memberships packets for both types of membership and have since mailed one to each new and renewing MRA member.

Each month I contact local council leaders with updates about membership activity. I also receive requests from councils (often when they are organizing an event) for member mailing labels. I often answer emails

about membership protocol and it is this duty that has prompted me to remind you of a few things.

When becoming a member or renewing your MRA membership, there are two ways to do so. First you can do so electronically through PayPal on the MRA website ([www.mnreading.org](http://www.mnreading.org)) or second you can mail a hard copy membership form (also found on the website) to our Maple Grove address.

Minnesota Reading Association  
13570 Grove Drive #280  
Maple Grove, MN 55311-4400

Whether signing up online or through the mail, I encourage you to keep a copy of your MRA username and password in a safe place. In order to access many areas of the MRA website, you have to

login using the information you used to create your original MRA profile. If at any time you would like to edit information in your profile, just visit the MRA website and click on the Membership tab, then "Change Your Profile."

As Director of Membership I'd also like to inform you about a change being implemented. New and renewing members will no longer receive a membership packet or card in the mail. All information will now be emailed to members using the email address they've listed in their member profile. The MRA Executive Board feels this decision reflects our efforts to become more fiscally and environmentally responsible. We hope you support our plan to save a few trees.

—Kristen Thomas

### MRA Ice Cream for Books Grant Recipients Announced

After a blind review of 15 exceptional applications, four ICFB grant recipients have been chosen. Congratulations to the recipients and their schools:



- Tricia Oxley (South East Reading Council) & Riverside Elementary in Rochester
- MaryAnn Johnson (Twin Cities Area Reading Council) & Lincoln Elementary in Anoka
- Paula Henry (Central Minnesota Reading Council) & Madison Elementary in St. Cloud
- Lori Shouvieller (Twin Cities Reading Council) & Webster Elementary in North St. Paul

### Comprehension Corner (cont'd)

predicting (Palincsar & Brown, 1987), both on BookClub Days and days we read and learn together.

Comprehension instruction in a classroom is a long-term process that takes place over the course of semesters and even years (Pressley & El-Dinary, 1997). I would sometimes like to move faster, but know my students must set the pace. We are almost ready for our next step, which will be to add a more deliberate writing component to our class.

Each week on BookClub Day, it does my heart good to see my previously reluctant readers with their heads bent over their books! By taking these first steps as motivated, independent readers, my students are on the road to increased enjoyment of texts and improved comprehension and achievement.

### 2009-2010 MRA Executive Board Officer Ballot



#### Vice President

(4-year commitment)

Scott Voss

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Secretary

(2-year term)

Sarah Hasket Rutledge

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail to:

Minnesota Reading Association,  
13570 Grove Drive #280  
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Please cut out and mail before

**March 15, 2009**

## New Resources for MRA Members

### Where do your MRA membership dollars go?

A breakdown of the \$25 online membership fee from 2008:

\$ 9.00 - Newsletter design, printing, labeling and postage

\$ 10.00 - Local council reimbursement (to support active local council events and efforts)

\$ 1.00 - PayPal fee

\$ 5.00 - Website updates, tax filings, accounting services, MRA Grant, annual conference subsidy, insurance, Celebrate Literacy Reception, MRA Regional Symposiums, an IRA Convention scholarship, an Executive Board (6) and Leadership (3) Meetings, mailbox and phone service.

It is important to note that the cost of offering the member benefits listed above far exceed the \$5.00 remaining from the membership fee after newsletter and council support payments are made.

In the coming months, the Executive Board, along with local council leaders, will be looking for ways to continue to enhance member benefits while improving fiscal responsibility. MRA is fortunate to benefit from financial rebates provided from hosting IRA Regional and Annual Conventions. However, it is clear that changes in the way we run our volunteer-led organization are needed. In order to achieve a balanced budget, there are three options: increase the number of MRA members, increase the MRA membership fee, decrease the amount of spending. Please share your input on the benefits that mean the most to you by contacting President-elect Ilene Rutten at [i.rutten@mnreading.org](mailto:i.rutten@mnreading.org).

### Karen Lamb Johnson Memorial Scholarship Opportunity

A special message to MRA members who have a son or daughter majoring in education ...

Applications for the first MRA-sponsored education major scholarship, open to sons or daughters of MRA members, are now being taken! Please contact MRA President, Maurna Rome, at [m.rome@mnreading.org](mailto:m.rome@mnreading.org) for an application. Applications for a \$250 scholarship will be taken until April 20, 2009. One winner will be selected and announced on April 30th. To be eligible for the scholarship, the following criteria must be met:

- Applicant's parent is a current MRA member
- Applicant will be majoring in education as a college sophomore, junior, or senior in the fall of 2009
- Applicant has a current GPA of at least 3.0
- Applicant completes the application and submits it via email by April 20, 2009

### New Resources for MRA Members!

Log in to the MRA website to access a huge assortment of ideas to promote reading! Included are ideas to help you and your school create and enhance parent partnerships! Look for extensive resources and information about exciting family literacy themes and an event called "Ice Cream for Books." Everything you need to organize and implement successful programs designed to celebrate books and reading is provided. Please contact MRA President, Maurna Rome, for questions about any of the materials provided: [m.rome@mnreading.org](mailto:m.rome@mnreading.org).

### MRA Annual Grant Competition Open Until May 1, 2009

ALL MRA members are encouraged to apply for up to \$1,000 to fund a project designed to promote literacy! Online applications may be completed at [www.mnreading.org](http://www.mnreading.org). MRA Grant Selection Criteria includes a needs assessment, description of the target population, creativity, objectives, practicality, and dissemination. Additional guidelines for the grant program are on the MRA website.



### Update on Highlights Newsletter Distribution

MRA Executive Board is committed to regular communication with members via the *Highlights* newsletter. The cost of newsletter design, printing, labels, and postage is reaching \$2.50 per issue (per member!). The MRA Executive Board has decided to continue publishing four issues of *Highlights* per year but will transition to a schedule that includes two printed/mailed issues and two additional online issues per year. For the remainder of 2009, please watch for *Highlights* to arrive in your mailbox in June, with the fall (September) and winter (December) issues available online. An email with an easy-to-click-on link, will be sent to each MRA member when the online edition is available for viewing, downloading, and printing. In 2010, printed issues of *Highlights* will be mailed in February and again in the summer. MRA Executive Board members believe these changes in newsletter distribution are both fiscally and environmentally responsible. We hope you agree!



You are cordially invited to the 2009

*Celebrate Literacy*  
Dessert Reception

Presented by the Minnesota Reading Association

Please join us as we  
recognize and celebrate the work of  
Minnesota's finest literacy leaders.

Friday, March 20, 2009  
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Maple Grove Community Center  
12951 Weaver Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

For more information, contact Julie Scullen  
julie.scullen@anoka.k12.mn.us  
763-506-1580

The Minnesota Reading Association is sponsoring this event  
and it is being held free of charge.

Please RSVP to [www.mnreading.org](http://www.mnreading.org) in order to reserve space  
and refreshments for all attendees.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2009

# Making Connections

Minnesota Reading Association Conference 2009



## Keynote Speaker Greg Tang

Greg Tang has developed an intuitive approach to teaching math, one that combines problem-solving and arithmetic and integrates math with language and art.

His first book, *The Grapes of Math* was published in 2001, and since then he has written *Math For All Seasons*, *The Best of Times*, *Math Appeal*, *Math-terpieces*, *Math Fables*, *Math Potatoes*, and most recently, *Math Fables Too*."

## Ramada Mall of America

2300 East American  
Boulevard

To reserve a room, call Ramada Reservations at 1-800-272-6232 and refer to the group code MNRA, or call the hotel directly at 1-800-328-1931, and again use MNRA.

## Keynote Speaker Kelly Gallagher

In addition to teaching English full-time at Magnolia High School in Anaheim, California, Kelly has an extensive background in secondary literacy education. He served as the English Coordinator for the Anaheim Union High School District, an urban district comprised of 37,000 secondary students; a Co-Director of the South Basin Writing Project at California State University Long Beach; and an adjunct professor at California State University, Fullerton, where he taught secondary literacy courses.

Kelly is the author of *Reading Reasons: Motivational Mini-Lessons for Middle and High School* (Stenhouse 2003), *Deeper Reading: Comprehending Challenging Texts, 4-12* (Stenhouse 2004), *Teaching Adolescent Writers* (Stenhouse 2006), and, most recently, *Readicide: How Schools Are Killing Reading and What You Can Do About It* (Stenhouse 2009).





**Minnesota Reading Association  
Conference 2009**

Questions? Contact Julie Scullen, 2009 MRA Conference Chair  
j.scullen@mnreading.org

**Tentative Conference Schedule: August 13, 2009**

- 7:30 Registration, Continental Breakfast begins, exhibits open
- 8:00 Welcome
- 8:30 Morning Keynote: Kelly Gallagher  
*(Reading Reasons, Deeper Reading)*
- 10:00 Morning Breakout Sessions
- 11:00 "Making Connections" with Exhibitors
- 11:30 Luncheon Keynote: Greg Tang  
*(Grapes of Math, Math Potatoes)*
- 1:00 Afternoon Breakout Sessions
- 2:00 Afternoon Breakout Sessions
- 3:00 "Making Connections" Job-alike networking and collaboration, hors d'oeuvres in outdoor courtyard
- 5:00 Minnesota Reading Association Leadership Dinner

**Registration Fees**

**Current MRA member** (before June 15) \$ 125  
After June 15: \$ 145

Membership number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Membership must be current on conference date)

**New member** (before June 15) \$ 150  
(Includes registration and one year membership)  
After June 15: \$ 175

**Full time student** (before June 15) \$ 75  
(Includes registration and one year student membership)  
After June 15: \$95

**Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference registration includes two meals and afternoon hors d'oeuvres**

- Vegetarian meals requested
- ADA assistance required
- International Reading Assn member

**Mail your registration and payment to:**

Minnesota Reading Association  
13570 Grove Drive #280  
Maple Grove MN 55311-4400

**You may register and pay by credit card online at [www.mnreading.org](http://www.mnreading.org).**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Local Council \_\_\_\_\_ School District \_\_\_\_\_

**Full-time Student?**

Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply:**

- Elementary Teacher
- Title One
- College Student
- Content Area Teacher (Subject: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Secondary Teacher
- Retired
- Administrator
- College Professor
- Literacy Coach/Coordinator
- Reading Teacher/Specialist
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Adult Educator
- Library/Media Specialist

## Executive Board Attends CLN Books & Breakfast

On February 7th, the MRA Executive Board attended an extraordinary celebration of Minnesota authors and illustrators at Edinburgh Golf Course in Brooklyn Center. This wonderful event featured more than 30 literary talents, including Susan Marie Swanson, the 2009 Caldecott Medal-winning author of *The House in the Night*. Congratulations to Steve and Vicki Palmquist for organizing and offering this incredible event, continuing the tradition started by long-time MRA member and friend, Gertie Geck.



Maurna Rome with author Susan Marie Swanson

Many of the authors and illustrators who shared their books at the event are featured on the Children's Literature Network website. Be sure to visit [www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org](http://www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org) to learn more about the amazing work of Minnesota's finest authors and illustrators.



### MRA Mission

*The Minnesota Reading Association actively promotes lifelong literacy for all citizens. We encourage professional interaction among all organizations involved with literacy and provide resources for exemplary literacy practices and habits.*

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Highlights