



# THE READER

A Publication of the Sacramento Area Reading Association



## WINTER 2019

From our California Reading Association, here is an idea: Why not read aloud 2018 CRA Eureka Award non-fiction books in your class?



### A Message from the President

Hello SARA Members and Prospective SARA Members:

The new year brings us to the realization that the months fly by so rapidly when teaching and trying to do EVERYTHING as “best practices” for our students that we often lose ourselves in the process. This is exactly the focus of our Spring Conference on March 23, 2019: how to care for ourselves and others in an effort to create synergy with our students in a calm and productive classroom setting as we value the contributions of others. We have titled the conference HAPPY TEACHERS, HAPPY STUDENTS: Nurture Your Mind, Body, and Spirit. This will be a half-day conference offering 4 PD hours.

Our first speaker will be Jeri Chase Ferris who is an award winning author (many, many awards) of historical biographies. Her writings often focus on female figures in history who have made enormous impacts on society through their courage and tenacity. Jeri’s journey to authorship is fascinating as well as the important figures about whom she writes.

Our second speaker is Bee Medders who has written the book, *Mindful Classroom Design: A guide to creating an ideal condition for teaching and learning*. Her presentation might be thought of as Feng Shui for the classroom. We are excited and honored to hear these local presenters who will be available for chatting (and book signing) before, during, and after their presentations.

As part of SARA’s mission to promote literacy, there are several upcoming events in Spring 2019. **Lighthouse for Literacy** honors teachers and other educational personnel who have been selected by peers or administrators as outstanding examples of excellence in their field. Think about someone on your faculty who you would consider nominating for this award. Next the annual **Writers’ Showcase** will take place on May 1st at the beautiful Rancho Cordova City Hall. Teachers are encouraged to submit student writings for this very popular standing-room-only event. Flyers for both of these spring “happenings” are in this newsletter and on the website: [sacareareading.com](http://sacareareading.com).

The board members of SARA look forward to seeing members again at our Spring events and hope you will invite your colleagues to join us. We will be offering raffle prizes at the Spring Conference of two free memberships as well as other splendid raffle items. See you then!

Christine Squires, President  
Sacramento Area Reading Association (SARA)

**SARA is now on Facebook!**  
**Like us on Facebook at:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/sacareareading/>



# Librarian's Corner

Featuring Kathy Chain  
Youth Services Librarian  
Sacramento Public Library, Carmichael Branch

Our featured librarian is Kathy Chain, a Youth Services Librarian for the Sacramento Public Library, Carmichael Branch. She mostly works with young people, aged infants to teens, and strives to help them discover that a library is a fun place to hang out and spend time together.

As a Youth Services Librarian, she has the opportunity to share her love for the Library and books far and wide. "Literacy is vital and it need not be dreary. On the contrary, it can be musical and joyous and goofy. I've given workshops to parents and their babies/preschoolers on how talking and learning about early concepts like letters, shapes, and yes, math and science will help prepare their child for reading and for school."

Kathy is part of many activities such as storytimes including sensory storytime for autistic/special needs kids, an After School Book Club with kids ranging from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to middle, craft days with families, special events to celebrate Dr. Seuss and Stars Wars. Also on Tuesdays, therapy dogs and their handlers come and children read to them. Performers sometimes come to entertain the children.

Outside the library, Kathy regularly visits classrooms and reads a story as well as letting students know that there are many resources available...such as database resources and DVDs in addition to books. She particularly loves field trips where she gets to go to local San Juan Unified schools and share information about the Library and its programs, and she helps those children to get Library cards so that they can check out "all the awesomeness themselves."

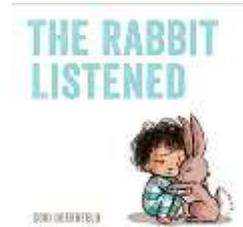
Sacramento Public Library just finished up its Summer Reading Program and it was the most successful one ever. She serves on the team that develops Summer Reading for the entire system, including the libraries that serve SJUSD. "This year it had the highest number of finishers ever, and this is huge." This means that people who signed up remained engaged, and read their 5 books to collect their fabulous prize: a free book for children and a sweet book bag for adults. There was a huge numbers of finishers who read 25 books to collect a summer reading medal. Kathy said, "I have the best job ever!"

\*Please call us or visit <http://www.saclibrary.org/Kids/Parents-Teachers/> and ask us to visit your classroom, share our resources, engage your students with this free resource with which they may not be familiar

## WINTER BOOK NOOK 2019

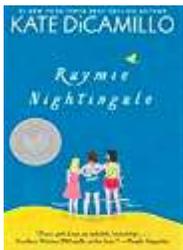
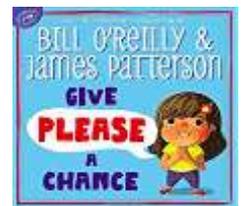
by Joanne Arellanes

Sweeping away the cobwebs and dust bunnies of yesteryear, Two-thousand-nineteen burst through the door with energy, good will, and positive intentions. Let's capitalize on those qualities with some thought provoking books. Selected as one of Best Children's Books of 2018 by the Wall Street Journal is *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld. A small child is trying to process strong emotions while everyone around him interprets, diagnoses and pre-empts his feelings. Animals stand in for the thinly disguised adults who are quick to counsel youngsters. "Let's talk, talk, talk about it" clucks the chicken; "I bet you feel so angry!" roars the bear. It is the rabbit who finally just quietly listens. In today's culture where we are bombarded with noisy demonstrations and "debates" where participants talk over one another, listening is becoming a lost art. Use *The Rabbit Listened* to brainstorm some phrases and strategies that encourage listening in your classroom, on the playground, and at home. Role play some listening skills that can be used both in and out of school. While we listen we are building relationships and vocabulary!

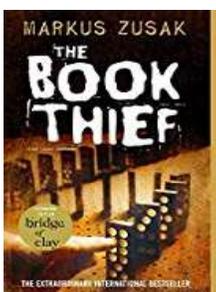
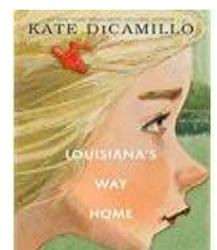


And while they are listening... the first pages of "*It Was So Quiet I Could Hear a Pin Drop*" invites children to conjure faint sounds, such as the buzz of a bee or the drip of a tap. Things get louder as we move through the book, and the typeface gets bigger as a train accelerates and finally a volcano explodes! Of course, the narrator comes to her senses on the endpapers and realizes... I'm sure you can guess.

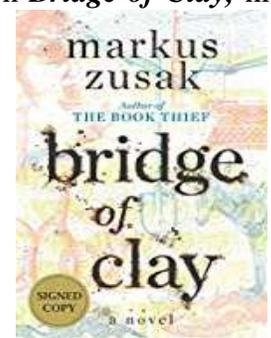
A book of few words, but many ideas is *Give Please a Chance* by Bill O'Reilly and James Patterson. Each page of the book pictures a typical situation when the word "Please!" should be used. Brainstorm and draw pictures of other times when *please* could or should be used. Have a rotating team of monitors who notice when someone uses *please* during the school day. Perhaps a pizza party could be the reward for generating a certain number of *pleases*. Civility could be fun!!



Have you read the heartwarming *Raymie Nightingale*, the 2016 novel by Kate DiCamillo, one of my favorite authors. *Louisiana's Way Home* reprises one of the beloved "three rancheros", Louisiana Elefante. Separated from her two buddies, Raymie and Beverly, Louisiana is roused from her bed in the middle of the night by her grandmother and forced to flee to a small Georgia town. There she encounters a surly motel owner, a walrus-like minister, and a mysterious boy with a crow on his shoulder. *Louisiana's Way Home* is about finding your place in the world, finding out who you are and what you want to be. Take some time to find out what your students want to be, what their dreams are. I see this as a perfect place to write some poetry, "I am, I wish, I wonder..." I stood in the aisle at Barnes and Noble reading the first chapter before I put the book down. I think I will have to go back ...



For teen readers, Markus Zusak, author of *The Book Thief*, has written *Bridge of Clay*, his first in 13 years. At 537 pages, this hefty and demanding book chronicles the dissolution and renewal of an Australian family. On second thought, who says only youth should read this book. Treat yourself this New Year by losing yourself in this chronicle of memorable and inventive prose before Hollywood turns it into a movie!





Sacramento Area Reading Association  
Presents

# Happy Teacher, Happy Students



*Guest Speakers:*

Jeri Chase Ferris – Award Winning Biographer of Children’s Books  
Bee Medders – Feng Shui for the Classroom

## March 23, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Sign-in is from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.)

Williamson Elementary School, 2275 Benita Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

**\$30.00 Registration Fee** includes continental brunch  
4 Hrs. PD honored by your district as directed

### *Raffle!*

Please send your check (payable to Sacramento Area Reading Association)  
along with the tear off below to:

**CHRISTINE SQUIRES c/o SARA P.O. BOX 60765 SACRAMENTO, CA 95860**



**I would like to register for the March 23, 2019 Conference**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **Names of attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

January 15, 2019



Dear Principal, Administrator, or Colleague,

Is there someone on your campus who, while implementing the Common Core Standards, **has embraced creativity and innovation to be the inspiration that shines the way for all readers!** If there is, we urge you to nominate him or her for the **Lighthouse for Literacy Award**.

This award, named in honor of the late Dr. Barbara Schmidt, Professor of Education at California State University, Sacramento, is presented each year by the **Sacramento Area Reading Association**. It recognizes those educators who, through personal example, as well as classroom and school practice, **are a Lighthouse for Literacy**. Each recipient will be honored, presented with a certificate and SARA membership at a complimentary dinner on **April 4, 2019**.

This year SARA is looking for nominees from all Sacramento County schools. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to celebrate a professional and deserving colleague, educator, or team with positive recognition. Take a few minutes to complete the enclosed application and return it to

#### **Lighthouse Nominations**

**Joanne Arellanes 2317 Pinturo Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

**FAX: 916-853-1446 Email: arellanesr@csus.edu**

*Not sure what to say? Tempted to bury this request in a pile of papers on your desk?*

Questions may be addressed to Joanne at (916) 635-6007, emailed to arellanesr@csus.edu , or text to (916)548-0410. **The deadline for submission is Thursday, February 28, 2019.**

Each year the personal stories told by the Lighthouse honorees at our dinner reflect the love and energy that fills their classrooms or instructional venues. **SARA** is eager to recognize someone from your school among those we celebrate on this joyous and inspirational evening!

Sincerely,

Joanne Arellanes, Co-chairperson

## 2018-2019 BARBARA SCHMIDT LIGHTHOUSE FOR LITERACY AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To nominate a candidate for this outstanding award, please complete this form, and attach your narrative addressing the described criteria and the questions asked. To guarantee consideration, nominations must be received by mail, email to:

Joanne Arellanes  
Sacramento Area Reading Association  
2317 Pinturo Way  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
arellanesr@csus.edu Phone: (916) 635-6007

CRITERIA – The rubric used to evaluate the nominations contains the following stated criteria. GIVE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES within a one-page narrative to show how the nominee meets these criteria.

- EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Through modeling, nominee inspires in children the love of reading and writing; moving beyond the adopted program.
- LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS/EXPERIENCES: Innovative, dedicated, shares knowledge and ideas, and inspires colleagues.
- EXEMPLARY CHARACTERISTICS: Demonstrates other unique abilities and/or considerations.

### NOMINATION DUE DATE: Thursday, February 28, 2019

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Years in Education \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Current Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name and Position \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Telephone(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Dr. Barbara Schmidt**  
**Lighthouse for Literacy Awards**

Join us for an evening of inspiration as SARA awards educators throughout the Sacramento region for their service as beacons of light in developing literacy and the love of reading in young people.

**When:** Thursday, April 4, 2019

**Time:**

Happy ½ Hour: 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Casa Garden Restaurant  
2760 Sutterville Road  
Sacramento, CA 95820  
(916) 452-2809



**Cost:** \$35.00

**Directions:** From Hwy 99 exit at 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Drive west  
on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave (Sutterville Road). Cross over Franklin Blvd., turn left into Casa Garden parking lot.

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Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of entrée:    Chicken \_\_\_\_\_                      Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form with a check payable to SARA by March 22, 2019**

**Send to SARA c/o**

Joanne Arellanes  
2317 Pinturo Way  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Need more information? Call 916 548-0410 or 916 635-6007 by March 22, 2019

## Spring Conference Speakers



Jeri Chase Ferris is an author of historical biographies who has won awards many times over. Primarily written for children, her books have a central theme of her subjects' courage. The courage of her characters inspires Jeri Ferris, which in turn, inspires her readers. Jeri Chase Ferris has a multi-faceted and talented life herself with an impressive body of work. We are honored to have her as our first speaker of the day at the Spring SARA conference.



Bee Medders will impart her research on how to create a productive environment for teachers as well as students. She has written about "Mindful Classroom Design," which is for teachers of all grade levels who want to create not only an inviting classroom where all students can thrive but also promote a teacher's sense of wellbeing by being mindful of their classroom design. Her ideas offer practical suggestions and tips and unique tools. She discusses simple guides to make any classroom (or office) a happy and ideal place to teach and learn.

## Writer's Showcase Author Visit



Joanna Rowland grew up in Sacramento, California where she still lives today with her husband and three children. She teaches Transitional Kindergarten by day and writes picture books at night. In the summer you'll find her at the pool helping at synchronizing swimming practice or cozing up with a book. She likes to write books on difficult subjects that tug at her heart. She's the author of *The Memory Box A Book About Grief*, *Always Mom*; *Forever Dad*, *Stay Through The Storm* and *The Monstructor*.

## Check Out These Apps!

EPIC!

FREE READING APPS FOR KIDS

Teach Your Monster to Read

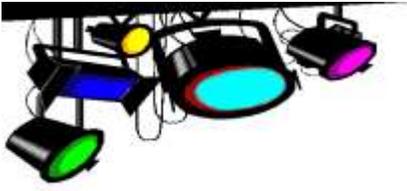


Toontastic  
<https://toontastic.withgoogle.com>

Seesaw  
<https://web.seesaw.me>

<https://sacareareading.com/>

SACRAMENTO AREA READING ASSOCIATION  
Presents



## **WRITERS' SHOWCASE 2019**

### **PRINCIPALS & TEACHERS**

**Celebrate your school's up-and-coming authors.**

We will exhibit poetry, mysteries, creative writing, historical fiction, and other pieces of "published" writing crafted by Elementary, Middle, and High School students living in our area.

Participating student authors, their families, teachers, and principals will be invited to our Writers' Showcase celebration on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The event will be hosted at the *Rancho Cordova City Hall* at 5:30 p.m. In addition to receiving the prestigious Writers' Showcase Award, participants will meet a local author and receive one of the author's books. Additionally, there will be a \$500 "Author Visit" drawing and all participating teachers and schools are automatically eligible to win. Cookies and a beverage will be served during the festivities. Follow the simple steps below and give your students a chance to showcase their writing!

#### **How to Submit Writing Entries to the Writers' Showcase:**

- Invite teachers at your school to save student writing. This isn't a special project or a competition; it is any writing done throughout the year that you and/or your student wants to showcase!
- Collect writing pieces as a staff, small group, or individually. Please HURRY because we would like to have entries right away.
- Mount the writing entries on colorful construction paper for exhibition.
- Attach a neatly printed and complete entry form on the back of the construction paper. (Student-generated books do not need to be mounted).

#### **SEND YOUR SCHOOL'S ENTRIES BY March 29, 2019 TO:**

Sacramento Area Reading Association  
P.O. BOX 60765  
Sacramento, CA 95860

QUESTIONS? CALL Christine Squires (916) 996-2108. (We will gladly pick up samples because of size or if you need your writing submissions to be picked up)

Entry Form Attached

Teachers: Please attach a copy of the entry form to the back of each student's submission. Also ensure that the student's name shows clearly on the front of the piece of writing.

**S.A.R.A. WRITERS' SHOWCASE ENTRY FORM 2019**

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_  
How to pronounce student's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's home address:  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
School name \_\_\_\_\_  
School address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's name \_\_\_\_\_  
School phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**S.A.R.A. WRITERS' SHOWCASE ENTRY FORM 2019**

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_  
How to pronounce student's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's home address:  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
School name \_\_\_\_\_  
School address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's name \_\_\_\_\_  
School phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**S.A.R.A. WRITERS' SHOWCASE ENTRY FORM 2019**

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_  
How to pronounce student's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's home address:  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
School name \_\_\_\_\_  
School address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's name \_\_\_\_\_  
School phone: \_\_\_\_\_