

A newsletter of the Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts
www.matelamt.com

MEA-MFT CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

'We Are the Difference' Highlights 30+ ELA Sessions

By Curt Bobbitt



MATELA's 37 sessions at the 2016 MEA/MFT Educators' Conference Oct. 20-21 in Helena offer educators in Montana myriad ELA choices.

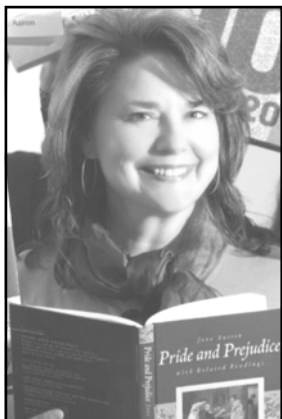
The breadth of the sessions complements the theme: *We Are the Difference*. The panoply includes a pre-conference dinner and session, two keynote speakers, over 20 50-minute sectionals, and seven two-hour workshops.

MATELA kicks off the conference Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. for a no-host dinner at Bert and Ernie's, 361 North Last Chance Gulch. The after-dinner gathering features a CURT talk—"Difference in 3D: Dichotomies, Dimensions, and Diversity" by Curt Bobbitt, past-president of MATELA.

Shanna Peeples, 2015 National Teacher of the Year and high-school English teacher from Amarillo, Texas, will speak in the Little Theater of Helena High Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. Her keynote address, "A Pen and a Path," covers multiple dimensions of teaching writing in secondary schools.

She will also offer a breakout session at 4 p.m. in room 206. At the 2015 NCTE Annual Convention in Minneapolis, she gave two sessions: "Thinking Like Socrates" and "Warriors of Hope."

The other featured speaker, Candace Fleming, will speak Friday morning at 8 a.m. in the Little Theater. She wrote *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*. Writing biography for young adults occupies her creative energies.



"One of my students asked me: 'Have you tried to do this homework?' The question stung because no, I had not. I assumed that the role was: I assign and you do. But her question completely changed my teaching."

Shanna Peeples, Keynoter
Teacher of the Year 2015



Candace Fleming,
Keynote Speaker

Giant Squid, a collaboration with Eric Rohmann, is her most recent book. Her blog reports work on a forthcoming biography of William "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Fleming will host a breakout session at 9:00 in room 206.

A schedule of MATELA's other sessions appears on the next page. MATELA favorites will speak throughout the conference, including Beverly Chin, Donna Miller, Jeff Ross, Joyce Herbeck, Rob Petrone, and Caitlin Chiller.

MATELA's annual business meeting at noon Oct 21 will include an election of the slate of officers for the 2016-2017 academic year and reports of the organizations projects, meetings, and partnerships.

MATELA's hospitality room in room 29 of Helena High will have snacks during Thursday and Friday. This year, MATELA and the Montana Writing Projects will share the room and welcome all ELA teachers.

Registration is open at the MEA/MFT Educators' Conference site www.mea-mft.org/educators_conference.aspx.

The site allows paying dues for MATELA (please note the new combined membership with math and science) and other curriculum groups, ordering conference T-shirts and donating to

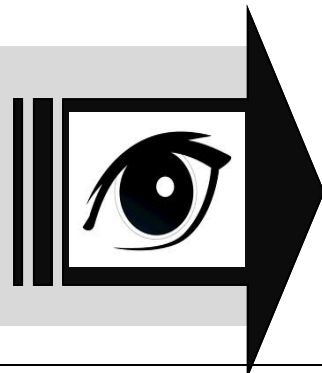
the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation.

The registration process includes access to a complete list of sessions and creating a personal itinerary for the conference.

For a table of sessions (day, time, speaker, title, room), see MEA SCHEDULE page 2

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MEA SCHEDULE from Page 1

Sessions Range from Shakespeare to Senioritis

(featured speakers listed in gray)

Day	Time	Title	Speaker(s)	Location
W	7-9 p.m.	Difference in 3D: Dichotomies, Dimensions, Diversity	Curt Bobbitt	Bert&Ernie's
Th	8-9 a.m.	Building Bridges with Cultural Identity Literature	Donna Miller	HHS 202
Th	8-9 a.m.	Introduction to Poetry Out Loud	Jonna Schwartz & Margaret Belisie	HHS 12
Th	9-10 a.m.	More Than a Text Message: Teens Reading Books	Leanne Deschamps	HHS 205
Th	9-10 a.m.	Teaching Dystopian Young Adult Literature	Beverly Chin	HHS 203
Th	9-10 a.m.	Visual Phonics	Arle Lohof	HHS 31
Th	10-11 a.m.	Diverse Children's Literature	Donna Bulatowicz	HHS 31
Th	10-11 a.m.	Whooping Cranes, Electric Sheep, and Ecocriticism	Jeff Ross	HHS 203
Th	10-N	Go Figure—Meta-Fortunate Wording	Curt Bobbitt, Stephanie Cotton, Carli Morris	HHS 201
Th	10-N	Teaching with Poetry Out Loud	Jonna Schwartz	HHS 206
Th	11-N	Sentences as Mentor Texts: The Art of Imitation	Donna Miller	HHS 205
Th	11-N	The Newest of the Newbery Awards 2007-16	Joyce Herbeck	HHS 31
Th	N-1 p.m.	Nonfiction Books Tell It Like It Is	Joyce Herbeck	HHS 203
Th	N-1 p.m.	Reading about Art & War with Families	Priscilla Lund	HHS 205
Th	N-1 p.m.	Taking the "itis" out of "Senioritis"	Brynn Cadigan	HHS 31
Th	N-2 p.m.	Much To Do about These Things	Becky Cox	HHS 206
Th	1-2 p.m.	Differentiated Instruction in English Classes	Tami O'Neill	HHS 205
Th	1-2 p.m.	Diverse Young Adult Literature	Donna Bulatowicz	HHS 31

See MEA page 3

Have Lunch on MATELA; Vote for, Meet the MATELA Officers

All MATELA members are invited to attend the annual business meeting, which will take place at noon Oct. 21, at the MEA/MFT Conference in Room 29 of Helena High School.

Members may come for a free lunch and to vote for the slate of officers for the 2016-2017 school year.

The meeting provides a chance to question members of the board and suggest projects for the organization.

The meeting also provides a way for members from around the state to get to know one another and network.

This year, members have the opportunity to enroll as a combined member of MATELA, MCTM (math) and NSTA (science) for the low price of \$51 per year. This membership option is especially for elementary teachers and those who teach more than one subject area.

The business meeting is an easy way to renew your membership. New members and renewals are also offered on our website: www.matelamt.com Credit cards are accepted.

WANTED: Secretary for MATELA

We need a secretary. Duties include keeping the minutes at each of the three annual board meetings, keeping all records, including the treasurer's report, attending MEA-AFT, being a MATELA member in good standing and writing for the newsletter.

Slate of Executive Officers

Approval of the minutes of the meeting from October 2015

Vote for the slate of officers for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Caitlin Chiller, President
- Sue Stolp, First Vice President and Conference Chair
- Donna Bulatowicz, Second Vice President, Membership
- Secretary—nominations open
- Dana Hering, Treasurer

New appointed position:

- Communications Chair: Sara Hagen Hull

MEA from page 2: MEA-AFT Sessions, Keynote Schedule Continued

Th	1-3 p.m.	Go Figure—Meta-Fortunate Wording	Curt Bobbitt, Stephanie Cotton, Carli Morris	HHS 201
Th	1-3 p.m.	Stop Searching; Start Finding	Katie Kotynski	HHS 4
Th	2-3 p.m.	Online Mentoring and Teaching Surprises	Allison Wynhoff Olsen, Annie Marshall, Kimberly Rasmussen, Darci Peterson	HHS 203
Th	2-3 p.m.	Paideia Seminar: From Annotation to Analysis	Dana Haring	HHS 31
Th	2-3 p.m.	Teaching Media Literacy about Depictions of Youth	Cassidy Brooks, Robert Petrone	HHS 205
Th	3-4 p.m.	A Pen and A Path	Shanna Peebles	Little Theater
Th	4-5 p.m.	A Pen and A Path Breakout	Shanna Peebles	HHS 206
F	8-10 a.m.	OneNote for Writing and Digital Textbooks	Katie Kotynski	HHS 4
F	8-9 a.m.	Candace Fleming Keynote	Candace Fleming	Little Theater
F	9-10 a.m.	Candace Fleming Breakout	Candace Fleming	HHS 206
F	10-11 a.m.	“Waves care not for Kings!” Shakespeare in GR 2-5	William Kinderwater, Jake Gochis	HHS 31
F	10-11 a.m.	Envisioning Rural: Valuing Place in the Classroom	Alli Behrens, Elizabeth Reirson	HHS 203
F	10-N	But Why? Reasons of Effective Speech Creation	David Airne	HHS 201
F	11-N	Student Responses to a Social Justice Curriculum	Melissa Horner, Robert Petrone	HHS 205
F	N-1 p.m.	Building Arguments with Nonfiction Texts	Joel Iverson	HHS 201
F	N-1 p.m.	MATELA Business Meeting	Caitlin Chiller	HHS 29
F	N-2 p.m.	Better Questions Mean Better Responses	Lorrie Henrie-Koski	HHS 205
F	1-2 p.m.	Designing Meaningful Writing Assessments	Jean O’Connor	HHS 31
F	2-3 p.m.	Meet the Giants of Young Adult Literature	Joyce Herbeck	HHS 31

MATELA Membership Form for 2016-2017

Please join/renew by filling out this form, making out a check, and mailing both to MATELA’s treasurer at the address on the bottom of this form.

Name _____

Street/Box _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____

School _____

Grade Level _____

Phone (w) _____ (h) _____

(c) _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

Student membership: \$10 ____

Retired membership: \$10 ____

Regular yearly membership: \$25 ____

Special 3-year membership: \$65 ____

Special combined membership \$51 ____
(includes MCTM, MSTa)

New member: ____ Renewal: ____

Mail your check and this form to:

Dana Haring, MATELA Treasurer
620 First Avenue West, Kalispell, MT 59901

Or sign up online at www.matelamt.com
Credit cards accepted online only

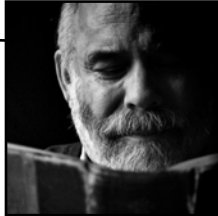
NCTE CONFERENCE

Newsletter, Journal, Miller, Ross to Receive NCTE Awards

Five MATELA Members to Facilitate at NCTE Convention in Atlanta

By Curt Bobbitt

Several MATELA members will present at the annual



NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) in Atlanta Nov. 17-20.

MATELA President Caitlin Chiller, along with Christy Mock-Stutz from the Montana Office of Public Instruction, will be presenting a session on creating teacher leaders in Montana. University of Montana English Chair Beverly Chin will introduce the duo while MATELA First Vice President Sue Stolp will respond to the panel discussion.

"Attending a national conference is inspiring and full of invaluable information for you to take back to your classroom," Mock-Stutz said.

Chin will play multiple roles at the conference, facilitating the following sessions: "Teacher Leaders: Advocates for Students and Communities" and "Storytelling and Advocacy: Empowering Our Students and Ourselves through Writing."

She also will be chairing "Creating Advocacy through Mentorship in English Education" and attending the Writing Project workshops.

As a member of the Standing Committee on Affiliates, University of Great Falls Professor and MATELA Immediate Past President Curt Bobbitt will attend the meeting of the NCTE Executive Committee Nov. 16, the day before the convention.

For the second year, the leadership team has invited SCOA's input about how NCTE can help affiliates and vice versa. Bobbitt will also take part in SCOA's open session for affiliate leaders, an annual feature of the convention Friday afternoon.

Two MATELA member have earned national awards: Jeff Ross and Donna Miller. Ross will be among recipients of the High School Teacher of Excellence Award at the Secondary Section Luncheon Nov. 19.

The list of honorees appears at www.ncte.org/second/awards/hste/winners.



Photo by Christy Mock-Stutz

At last year's convention held in Minneapolis, MSU students (pre-service teachers) presented at a roundtable discussion. This year's convention will be in Atlanta, Nov. 17-20.

At the same luncheon, Miller will receive her award for "Cultivating Creativity" (July 2015), which has been named an honorable mention article by the 2016 NCTE English Journal Edwin M. Hopkins Award committee. The Edwin M. Hopkins Award recognizes outstanding articles published by someone other than a high-school teacher during the previous school year in *English Journal*.

MATELA will take home two more awards at the conference: Honorable Mention for Newsletter and Honorable Mention for Journal, for the *Update* and *MEJ* (Montana English Journal) respectively.

The *Update* is a triannual publication, featuring news about the local organization, while *MEJ* is a once-per-year journal featuring peer-reviewed researched articles as well as creative works.

Besides MATELA speakers, the NCTE conference has many other reasons to attend. It will "be home to more than 6,000 dynamic authors, advocates, and literacy educators from across the country," according to the website.

"It will leave teachers with the motivation they 'need to inspire change.'"

The keynote speakers will be Diane Ravitch, Doug Hesse, Ta-Nehisi Coates,

and Brad Meltzer. All four are nationally known for their work and speaking skills.

The event will also feature an Authors as Advocates panel, which will be moderated by Joan Kaywell. The authors will discuss how they use their art to advocate for change:

From the website: "Jason Reynolds publishes a beautiful and thought-provoking poem each day for National Poetry Month in April. Meg Medina works on community projects that support girls like *Girls of Summer*, a blog that highlights 'amazing books for amazing girls.'"

"Greg Neri is profiled as a 'voice for urban teens' and e.E. Charlton-Trujillo is the founder of Never Counted Out, 'a creative revolution to empower at risk youth.' Her film *At Risk Summer* was screened at the 2015 Annual Convention."

The panel also includes Sharon Draper who is an award-winning author and educator (and former National Teacher of the Year) whose books tackle challenging topics. Her most recent publication, *Stella by Starlight*, won the 2016 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children.

This sectional will take place at the Friday General Session.

Two MATELA Members Earn National Recognition



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR: Belt High School Teacher Jeff Ross (front left) poses with his cast of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

Belt Teacher Jeff Ross to Receive High School Teacher of Excellence Award

By Donna Miller

Belt school teacher Jeff Ross has been named the national recipient of the 2016 High School Teacher of Excellence Award, sponsored by the Secondary Section of the NCTE.

Ross will accept his award during the Secondary Section Luncheon Nov. 19, during the NCTE Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

During his seven years teaching, Ross has taught English, Honors English, creative writing, and drama. His colleagues consider him a passionate professional with a high expectations and an intense desire to drive students to reach their academic potential. They also say he shares his knowledge, inspires his students to greatness, and allows a place for students who are interested in more than sports.

In addition, Belt High School Principal Kyle Paulson wrote in Ross's support: "Mr. Ross has made a tremendous impact on the students in our district. . . . Through creative use of technology, structured peer-to-peer collaboration, and creative design of assignments and assessments, Mr. Ross is always looking for activities that challenge and push students to engage in higher-level thinking."

A further testament to his commitment to the profession, Ross is a regular contributor to the broader professional community, offering workshops at state, regional, and national conferences to share his innovative ideas. Also the founder and director of Belt Valley Shakespeare Players, a community acting troupe, Ross returned in mid-August from a trip to Scotland, where he was preparing for several student-theater performances next year in Edinburgh.

As a consequence of these contributions, Ross's résumé enumerates multiple achievements to which he also added in 2015: MATELA's Distinguished Educator Award and now will add 2016 NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence.

Miller's Article Named Honorable Mention by NCTE *English Journal*

By MATELA Staff

MATELA Award Chair and Writing Liaison Donna Miller received a congratulatory letter from Debbie Zagorski, Program Support Specialist for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), announcing

that her article "Cultivating Creativity" (July 2015) has been named an honorable mention article by the 2016 NCTE *English Journal* Edwin M. Hopkins Award committee. The award recognizes outstanding articles published by someone other than a high-school teacher during the previous school year in *English Journal*.



**Writing Project Liaison/
Project Chair Donna Miller**

Miller, who currently directs the teacher training program at Aaniiih Nakoda College on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, has published articles in *English Journal*, *Phi Delta Kappan*, *The ALAN Review*, and *Tribal College Journal*. Her research interests, which revolve around young adult literature and issues of literacy sponsorship, find their way into her written work.

In "Cultivating Creativity," Miller writes, "Nurturing creativity will require time not only to revise cultural archetypes and to operationalize social beliefs but time for educators and students to better understand the complexities of creativity. . . ." (27).

The article also asserts the need to honor innovation and individuality and suggests how "English teachers can lead the charge by nurturing the actions of the creating mind as described by [Howard] Gardner by designing curriculum that facilitates the five steps in the creative process outlined by Csikszentmihalyi, and by reading and discussing books that disrupt and subvert mainstream definitions of creativity" (30).

"I am passionate about writing," Miller said. "I am happiest when I am twisting, twirling, and tinkering with words. The writing craft is always alive with possibility, with discovery, with learning. To win an award for something I love is a bonus!"

In 2014, Miller won both the Nilsen-Donelson Award for Best Article in *The Allen Review* with her article "Building Bridges with Cultural Identity Literature" and the Virginia Hamilton Essay Honor Award for "Literature Opens Doors for All Children" (*Phi Delta Kappan*, January 2013).

Because Miller was in the midst of mentoring and teaching her cohort of preservice teachers, she did not travel to accept either award. "Those six teachers are all in classrooms now, so I have less of a draw on my time and a little more freedom," Miller said.

The Edwin M. Hopkins Honorable Mention presentation will take place during the NCTE Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Secondary Section Luncheon Nov. 19. During this time, Miller will be recognized and presented with a certificate.

A REVIEW OF 'DEFENDER'

*Brands of Horror: 'Never Tell'
Not a Good Way to Live Life*

by Donna L. Miller

Graham McNamee's latest book and Edgar Award winner, *Defender* (Wendy Lamb Books, 2016), features a mystery plot, but McNamee also performs some genre-blending to create a sports story with some psychological thriller elements, as well.



With its focus on the ugly effects of anger and on hiding family secrets, *Defender* may remind readers of *Hidden Roots* by Joseph Bruchac. Although Bruchac's book doesn't carry the sports angle and McNamee's doesn't develop the theme of awareness of ancestral heritage as a key in shaping identity, both novels feature protagonists who learn that life doesn't work well lived in hiding and that "never tell" is not a healthy family motto.

As the terrible, unbelievable parts of their pasts, carefully hidden for years begin to unfold, both Howard Camp from *Hidden Roots* and Tyne Greer from *Defender* learn the value of family, that family grounds us, supports us, and helps us stand against life's turbulence.

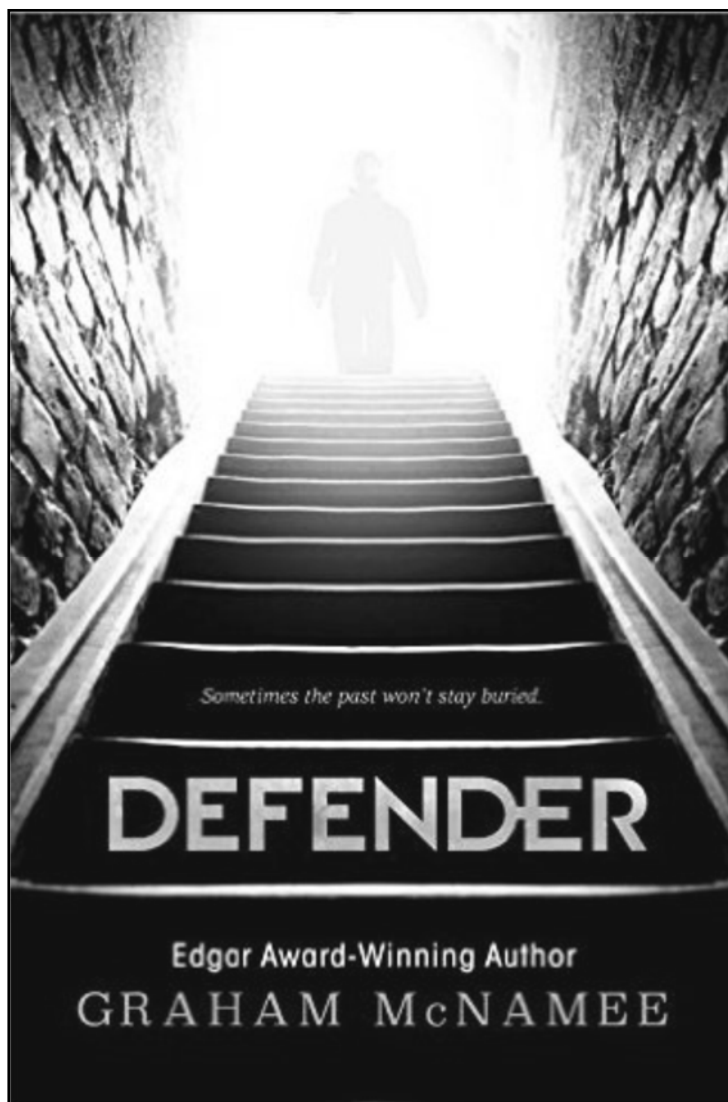
Defender's protagonist, Tyne is a 6'6" senior whose nickname is Girlzilla because she has "the bone structure of a Viking giant" (9). Although she doesn't like the stares she gets or being mistaken for a guy, she likes being on the basketball court where her size matters, where she can defend her team by shot blocking, rebounding, and muscling opponents out of the way.

During a particularly tense game against a private school, Tyne goes up for a slam dunk; she has the speed, the jump, and the elevation perfect, but when she lands off-balance on a court slippery with sweat, her right leg buckles; she hyperextends her knee, shredding her MCL. She rehabilitates the injury with vigor because she sees basketball as her way out, her escape from the family business which she does not want to inherit.

Although Tyne's dad, Ted Greer, is her trainer, motivator, and super-fan, he is also the superintendent of their high-rise housing complex in Toronto. In this slum tower called the Zoo—where Tyne lives with her climbing, pouncing, bouncing little brother, Squirrel, and with her protective, feisty mother—every floor has its dramas, scandals, and heartbreaks.

The building's previous superintendent, Mad Dog Doug, was Ted's father, a "beautiful, rotten, miserable man [who] was wired wrong in his head, more than just violent" (164).

So, when Tyne discovers the mummified body of a dead girl in the basement of the building while she's helping her dad during Christmas break, she isn't sure who is responsible: her violent grandfather, who beat his



own wife and children; Sam Savard, the building's owner; her teddy bear of a father; or some other murderer.

Her curiosity spikes when her dad tells her there was no body, that her pain medication must have induced hallucinations.

With the help of her boyfriend, Ricky—aka Stick—Tyne embarks on a detective mission asking questions and chasing answers and to solve the mystery of the girl's murder.

Celia, the oldest resident in the Zoo, warns her: "Sometimes it's better to be left with questions. Because you might not like the answers" (117).

As the answers come, Tyne and Stick realize that solving mysteries is "not like the movies. When it's for real, sometimes the bad guy wins" (205).

Although Tyne is not tiny, she realizes her towering frame isn't enough to guard against bullies, and her vow to be a defender of those smaller and in need of protection may in fact compromise her own safety.

Despite her limitations, Tyne is dedicated to providing an ally and to giving a voice to the voiceless. She inspires readers to strive for justice.

“Sometimes
it's better
to be left with
questions.”

~Celia

Susag to Receive Governor's Humanities Award Jan. 26

By Katie Kotynski

Mark your calendars for Jan. 26 when MATELA member Dorothea "Dottie" Susag will be awarded the Governor's Humanity award in the Capitol Rotunda at 3 p.m. She is one of six Montanans who will be recognized.

Susag, an award-winning high-school teacher, was nominated for the award by fellow teachers and is being recognized for her help with implementation of the Indian Education-for-All initiative.

She holds a bachelor degree in English and speech from Montana State University-Bozeman, and master's degrees in English literature and English teaching from the University of Montana – Missoula.

Her studies led her to a love of Native American studies and Native American literature, which she used to produce publications to help teachers incorporate Native American themes into their curriculum.

The other recipients of the award are

Chere Jiusto, John Murray, Hal and Sheila Stearns and Karen Aspevig Stevenson.

"We are lucky to have such wonderful individuals across the state who ensure that Montanans have access to and engage in art, literature, and our unique cultural heritage," Gov. Steve Bullock said.

"Congratulations to these awardees for devoting decades of their lives to supporting and promoting the humanities," he said.

Although retired from teaching in Fairfield, Susag is still presenting. Her current project is teaching a session entitled *Keeping Family History Alive* which will be presented Oct. 20 7:30 p.m. in the Belgrade library.

Her course description reads: "Using video and recorded family interviews, primary documents including photographs, and examples of PowerPoint and print final products, participants are introduced to the basics of research and interviewing skills, organizational strategies, and possi-



Dorothea "Dottie" Susag

ble products to keep family history alive. This can be a classroom presentation as well one supported by a local historical society or community group."

A banquet follows the ceremony, with no-host cocktails at 6 p.m. and a dinner and program at 7 p.m. at the Radisson Colonial Inn.

To learn more, visit www.humanitiesmontana.org

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Printing courtesy University of Great Falls

Caldecott Awards Honor Five Unique Illustrators

Winner Robinson to Keynote Festival of Book in Bozeman

By Joyce Herbeck



The Caldecott Awards, given to the best illustrated books, have been announced: Congratulations go to Sophie Blackall (*Finding Winnie*), Bryan Collier (*Trombone Shorty*), Kevin Henkes (*Waiting*), Ekua Holmes (*Voice of Freedom*), and Christian Robinson (*Last Stop on Market Street*). Below is an overview of each book:

Finding Winnie

Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear, Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. The story begins in Canada in 1914, as Harry Colebourn, a young veterinarian, is preparing to leave Winnipeg to join other Canadian soldiers to fight in WWI.

When the train of soldiers stops in White River, Harry, on impulse, buys a bear cub from a trapper at the station. He names the cub Winnipeg, Winnie for short.

Winnie travels with Harry to England, but when the troops are ready to ship out to the battleground in France, Harry sadly takes Winnie to the London zoo. At the zoo, a boy named Christopher Robin and his father, Alan Alexander Milne, visit Winnie often. Christopher Robin can tell Winnie is special.

He names his stuffed animal bear Winnie-the-Pooh, after Winnie. Christopher's father writes stories about Winnie-the-Pooh.

Finding Winnie, although an endearing story, won the Caldecott award because of Sophie Blackall's illustrations. The book tells two stories at once: a mother responding to the request from her son for a true bedtime story, and the story of Harry Colebourn and Winnie.

The mother/son bedtime story is depicted mostly in pen and ink sketches in the margins of the watercolor illustrations of the Harry/Winnie story. All pictures have a soft and cuddly feel.

The book ends with an illustrated family tree that shows that the author Lindsay Matlick is the great granddaughter of Captain Harry Colebourn.

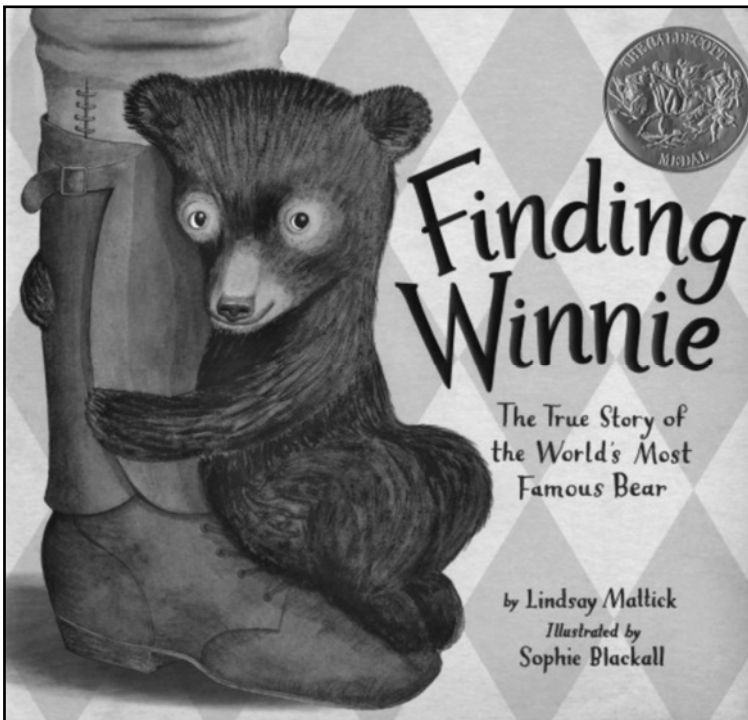
Photographs, from 1914, provide the real Harry and Winnie as well as the page of Harry's diary when he bought the bear cub. A 1925 photo shows Christopher Robin in the zoo enclosure playing with Winnie.

Clearly, *Finding Winnie* meets all the Caldecott criteria but especially "appropriateness of style of illustration to the story, theme, or concept." Blackall's excellent pastel watercolors create a dreamy, cozy effect, while the photographs document the true story, right out of the family photo album. *Finding Winnie* definitely deserves to wear the gold Caldecott Medal.

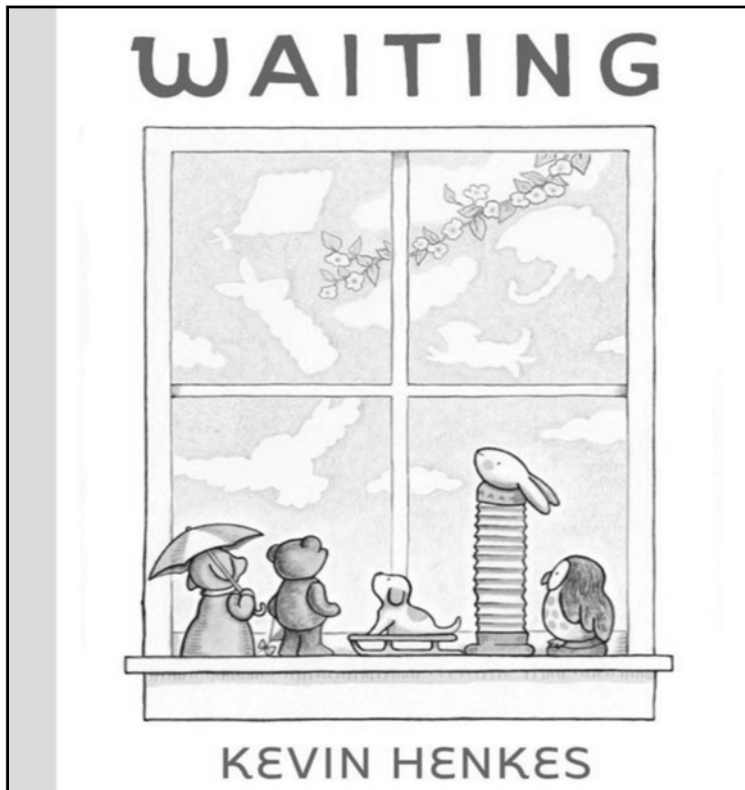


Trombone Shorty

Trombone Shorty is the autobiography of Troy Andrews, a native of New Orleans who teaches himself to play the trombone at the age of four and starts his own band at six. Nicknamed



CALDECOTT Continued: Mississippi Spirit Recounts Racially-Charged Tale in 'Voices of Freedom'



Trombone Shorty by his older brother, Troy describes his music as a gumbo of jazz, blues, gospel, rock and roll, funk, and hip-hop. His band, Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue, travels the world, but Troy always loves coming home to New Orleans.

Bryan Collier's illustrations of watercolor, pen and ink, and collage exude the power of music in Trombone Shorty's life.

In an Illustrator's Note, Collier says, "I felt it was important to depict the sound of the music as beautiful colors and shapes that swirl out of Troy's trombone. Even the balloons that you see dancing throughout the book represent music always being around and floating through the air."

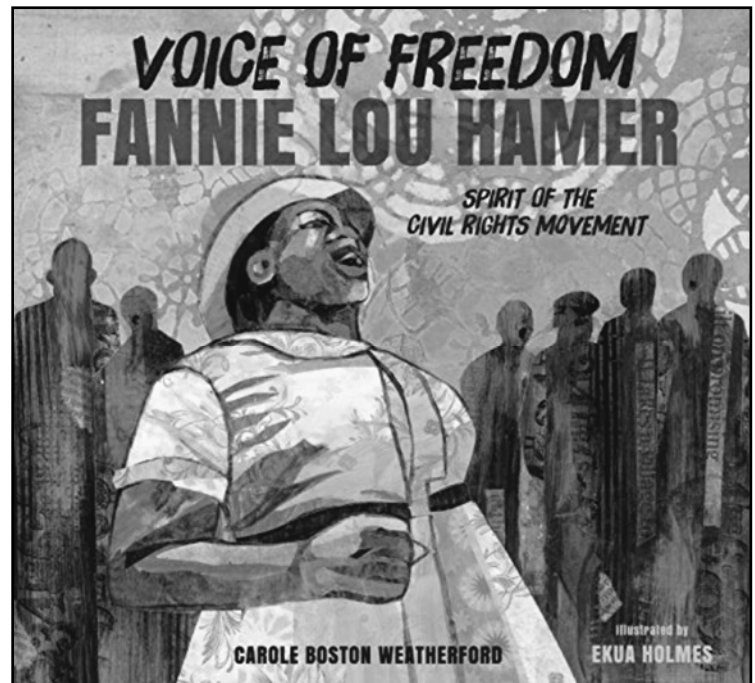
To open this book is to hear the music. Collier nails the Caldecott criterion of "excellence of pictorial interpretation of story, theme, or concept."

His watercolor interpretations of the blasts of brass instruments make readers start tapping their feet.

Waiting

Kevin Henkes is both author and illustrator of *Waiting*, the story of five animal knickknacks on a windowsill, watching out the window. Each is waiting for something.

The quiet feeling of patience and calm is encouraged by soft pastels and the rounded shapes of the characters. Henkes uses



brown ink, watercolor paint, and colored pencils to create a soothing environment where the readers are content to gaze out the window to see what happens next.

Waiting clearly demonstrates the Caldecott criterion of "delineation of plot, theme, characters, setting, mood or information through the pictures." This pleasant, upbeat, and amiable group of animal trinkets, depicted in warm colors, standing at a white-frame, spotless panes and looking out at the changing seasons emits serenity and peace and hope.

Voice of Freedom

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement documents the life and relentless spirit of this Mississippi native who made her voice heard in support of a range of social justice issues.

Told in a first-person, verse format, both the immediacy of cation and the generous amount make the pages turn quickly. graphic details and the racially-charged vocabulary make the book more appropriate for older school children, the personal feel of the narration invites the reader to experience the 1960s from a black perspective.

The experience is often brutal, but Ekua Holmes's dynamic illustrations manage to maintain an upbeat and hopeful mood.

Whether picking cotton during her childhood, keeping worker times and pounds picked as an adult, being beaten by police after eating at a whites-only lunch counter, or speaking at a government

“Picture books are no longer just for story time: three true stories among the winners this year show that picture books are also appropriate for the content areas.”

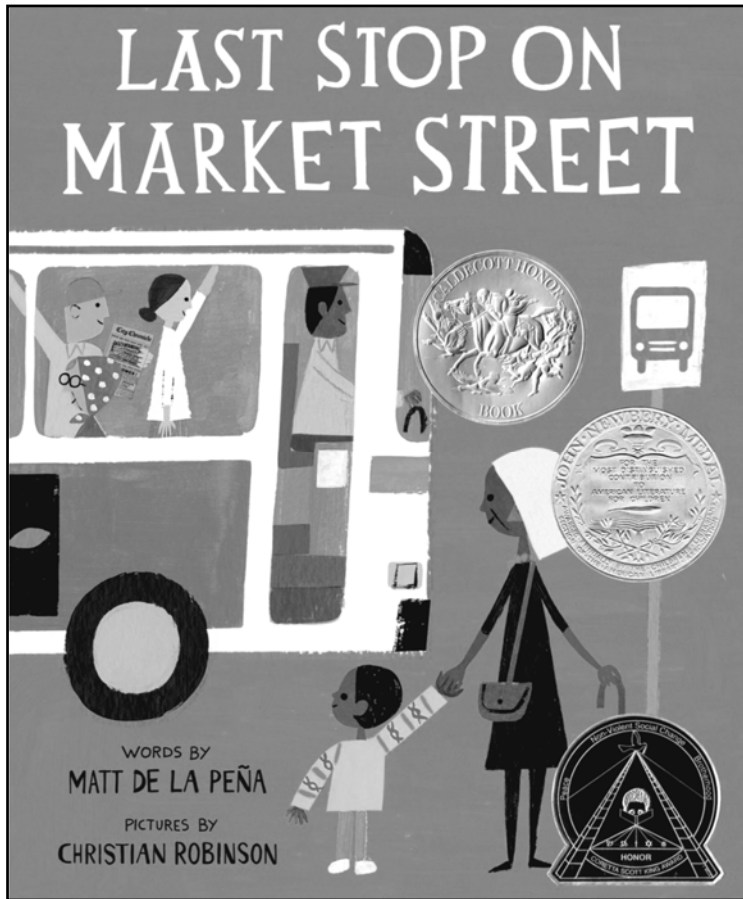
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See CALDECOTT Page 10

CALDECOTT: From Page 9

Robinson's Tale Teaches to Serve Those Less Fortunate

'Last Stop on Market Street' Addresses Topics of Poverty, Civic Duty



hearing in Washington, D.C., Hamer appears in Holmes's collage illustrations in sunshine yellow textured dresses. A sunburst background on most pages warms even the saddest text.

The fine details of phrasing combine to resemble accomplished oil paintings.

These stunning illustrations exemplify the Caldecott criterion of "excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed." This is Ekua Holmes's picture-book debut, but we will surely see much more from this talented artist.

Last Stop on Market Street

Last Stop on Market Street is the story of CJ and his grandmother and their Sunday after-church ritual. Although CJ is not excited about the afternoon, Nana is relentlessly positive, seeing the good in every situation as they board a bus and ride through the city.

Their destination is a soup kitchen on the poor side of town, where CJ and his grandmother will serve less fortunate people. By the time they arrive, CJ catches Nana's upbeat perspective and tells her, "I'm glad we came."

Christian Robinson's colorful illustrations are created with acrylic paint, collage, and some digital manipulation. Although

the pictures at first seem simple and straightforward, the art includes numerous details that bring the urban landscape to life: Graffiti, barbed-wire, and fire escapes mingle with birds, a cheerful bus driver, and a bus-riding musician to immerse the reader in city sights.

In the last, double-page illustration, Robinson reveals the soup kitchen community: grateful diners enjoying eating while chatting with friends and CJ, smiling with Nana behind the serving table filling bowls.

Last Stop on Market Street addresses the concepts of poverty and civic duty. These are challenging topics for any demographic. Robinson's illustrations succeed beautifully in achieving the Caldecott criterion of "excellence of presentation in recognition of a child audience."

Robinson will be the keynote speaker and guest of honor at the Children's Festival of the Book at the Bozeman Public Library, Nov. 5.

The 2016 Caldecott Committee has recognized five outstanding artists for their talent in illustrating picture books for children. The variety of artistic technique – pen and ink, watercolor, collage, colored pencils, acrylic paint, and digital manipulation – as well as the diversity of themes demonstrate what a magnificent resource this award is for parents, teachers, and librarians who strive to provide quality literature for their children.

Art teachers especially can depend on the Caldecott Award for excellent examples of current art. Picture books are no longer just for story time: the three true stories among the winners this year show that picture books are also appropriate for the content areas.

The Caldecott Award is given each year to the *illustrator* of the best picture book for children. Although for some books the author and illustrator is the same person, most of the time this is not the case. The Caldecott Award honors only the artist. The Caldecott Award website (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal>) lists criteria for the award, including

- a. Excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed;
- c. Appropriateness of style of illustration to the story, theme, or
- d. Delineation of plot, theme, characters, setting, mood or information through the pictures;
- e. Excellence of presentation in recognition of a child audience."

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President Attends Conference on Every Student Succeeds Act

By Caitlin Chiller

I just returned a three-day conference at NEA in Washington, D.C., that focused on the new ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and its impact on our state. I am excited about the new provisions in ESSA which give teachers more of a voice and which can provide MATELA with opportunities to better serve our members and grow membership.

I look forward to talking with members regarding the new law, and I would like to thank Dana Haring for serving on the ESSA Work Group. This transition away from NCLB (No Child Left Behind) to a more teacher-empowering model will positively impact our students on many levels.

My first big takeaway from the NEA Alumni Academy is that when you put teachers at the decision-making table, decisions are made not with policy or organizations in mind but with students in mind.



At the conference, teachers came up with ideas that made the work we do easier, not more difficult. Ideas from a checklist for using lesson plans off the web to a directory of experts in a building, teachers were creating ways to better support themselves and each other.

They designed tools that new and veteran teachers could use to make more informed, quicker decisions about teaching. I wonder what a similar meeting specific to Montana teachers might look like. What kind of Montana-based tools might our teachers craft?

My other big takeaway was the level of

cooperation between MEA-MFT, OPI and SAM. In Montana, we are able to discuss teacher leadership, mentorship, and student achievement as a collaborative effort; each entity has resources

This transition away from NCLB to a more teacher-empowering model will positively impact our students on many levels.

~ Caitlin Chiller

available, and we are mostly working toward the same goals.

MEA-MFT's training of teacher leaders through the TLI program is an example of a program that reaches beyond the asso-

ciation and encourages this cooperation. Honestly, not every teacher will want to be a teacher leader in his or her school, but every teacher needs to know what a teacher leader is and what it means to have teacher leaders in the school.

All Montana teachers need to know how well their union, OPI and SAM work together, and they need to know what these entities can do for them. Marco's idea of regional teacher leaders sounds very similar to OPI and various curriculum groups' effort to create content-area teacher leaders.

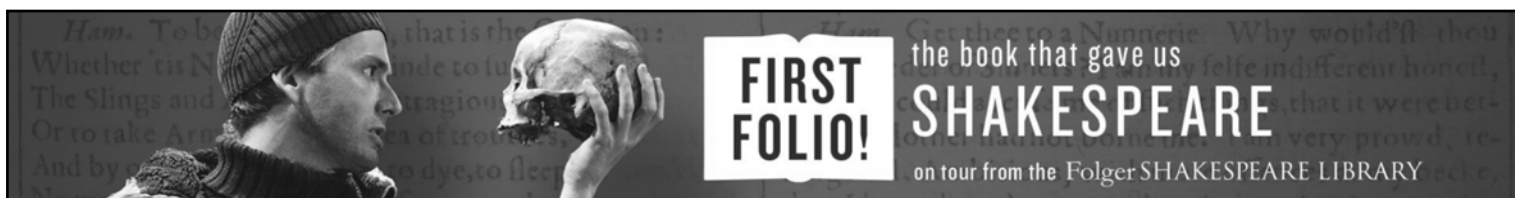
OPI, MATELA and MCTM are already exploring teacher leadership projects that will develop content-specific experts who can deliver customized professional development.

Common Core writing experts are in Sidney; Richey, Scobey, Plentywood, and Wolf Point teachers should know that someone is close by who can deliver excellent writing workshops.

Perhaps this person can act as an online mentor and offer suggestions for teaching writing to staff. Similarly, projects like STREAM for math teachers could be seen as a way to grow math teacher leaders.

Much of my time spent at the Alumni Academy focused on thinking of ways MATELA can take an active role in teacher mentorship and how we can assist rural and remote schools in mentorship that is not onerous or time-burdensome.

If anything else, partnering with OPI, curriculum groups and co-operatives can offer personalized mentorship and professional development. We are all doing similar work; why not do it together?



MATELA, UM-Missoula Celebrate Shakespeare's First Folio

by Beverly Ann Chin

In May 2016, MATELA sponsored two special events in celebration of the "First Folio! The Book that Gave Us



Shakespeare."

The University of Montana in Missoula was the state site of this traveling exhibit from the Folger Shakespeare Library.

On May 20, three high schools participated in "Student Performances of Shakespeare." Florence-Carlton High School students (coached by Derk Schmidt) per-

formed scenes from Romeo and Juliet.

Glacier High School students (coached by Marcy Maroney and Ivanna Fritz) performed scenes from *Much A do about Nothing*.

Belt High School students (coached by Jeff Ross) performed scenes from *Henry IV, Part 1*.

See SHAKESPEARE Page 12

MATELA Honors Herbeck as Distinguished Educator

By Donna L. Miller

MATELA will present its Distinguished Educator Award to MSU-Bozeman's Associate Professor of Education, Joyce Herbeck during the MEA/MFT Convention in Helena, Oct. 20-21.



In making the selection, the MATELA Board considered the candidate's professional qualities, teaching effectiveness, and impact on the learning community.

With 29 years of service as a professional educator, Herbeck consistently received outstanding marks for knowledge of content, positive voice in education, and motivation/seriousness of purpose.

Furthermore, she has repeatedly presented at national and state conventions and conferences and served on national committees. For four years, she served on the National Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (NCTE) Orbis Pictus Committee.

The Orbis Pictus Award was established in 1989 for promoting and recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children. Herbeck currently serves on the NCTE Charlotte Huck Committee, whose charge is to select the recipient of the annual Charlotte Huck Award and up to five honor books with both authors and illustrators receiving recognition.

Herbeck's colleagues refer to her as an exemplary educator, one who is articulate and engaging and who inspires as she instructs. In Bozeman, she is known as a collaborator with children's librarians and media specialists throughout Montana.

The Bozeman Public Library, for instance, values her support with their Children's Festival of the Book every November. A former student describes Joyce as "engaging, collaborative, and challenging," adding that "she showed a passion for the topics we discussed, as well as an impressive breadth of knowledge. Joyce is truly an expert."

Another honoree, Denton school teacher Mrs. Linda Hassinger,

will receive an Honorable Mention Award for her 50 years of service to the teaching profession. Hassinger, who teaches English, speech, and drama for the Denton School District, shared several student testimonials with her application, proving she has touched many lives.

These two women will receive their awards at MATELA's Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon Oct. 21 at noon in room 29 at Helena High School. They will also be honored during a no-host dinner Oct. 19, 6 p.m. at Bert and Ernie's. All members and interested others are invited to both events.

MATELA's Distinguished Educator award is intended to honor or language arts teachers who exemplify excellence in teaching and professional involvement.

Anyone interested in nominating a deserving colleague for the 2016-2017 year can send nominations to Donna L. Miller, Awards Chair: donnamiller@itstriangle.com. Nomination forms will also be available at MATELA's Membership Table at the Educators' Conference in October.



Joyce Herbeck will receive her award at the MATELA Board meeting during MEA-AFT Convention, Oct. 21, at noon.

SHAKESPEARE From Page 11

SHAKESPEARE: Students Perform at First Folio Exhibit Held at UM

Through their lines, pacing, and movement, all the students did a superb job of portraying the characters and conflicts in these plays.

At the end of each performance, the audience asked students questions about their interpretation of the play, their rehearsal routines, and the benefits of studying and performing Shakespeare.

The audience heartily applauded and enjoyed these students' fine performances of Shakespeare.

On May 21, outstanding middle school, high school, and college English educators presented workshops at "Best Practices for Teaching Shakespeare."

In each session, educators shared successful strategies for helping students read, understand, enact, and enjoy Shakespeare.

The organizers were particularly pleased to have two presentations by Julia Perlowski, a Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library Master Teacher and National Corps member.

Jean O'Connor (Helena HS) with April Jackson and Miles Duffey of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks showed teachers how

to bring to life the richness of Shakespeare's themes and language.

Other presenters included Jeff Ross (Belt HS), John DeBoer (UM—Theater & Dance), Dana Haring (Kalispell MS), Kelly Bouma (UM—Theater & Dance), Caitlin Chiller (Whitehall HS), Beverly Williams (Loyola HS), Mary Dea (Great Falls HS), Ivanna Fritz (Glacier HS), Marcy Maroney (Glacier HS), Rob Brown-ing (UM--English), Margaret Johnson (Sentinel HS), and Christopher Knight (UM-English).

The organizing committee members are grateful for all of the presenters for sharing their practical and creative ways of making Shakespeare relevant to today's students.

Both of these special events were made possible by MATELA's Membership Enhancement Grant and by a donation from the UM Mansfield Library.

Beverly Ann Chin (UM—English) served as the program chair.

For more information about the Folger's Library and the teaching resources available, please visit www.folger.edu.

OPI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Free Courses Offered to Enhance ELA Community

By Christy Mock-Stutz

As we kick off another school year, OPI offers a host of opportunities to engage in the English Language Arts community. As educators, it is important to maintain relationships and build communities of practice with fellow educators in order to continue our growth as teachers.

In addition, we can keep our own skills sharp by writing for our own purposes and enjoyment. We are lucky here in Montana to have many opportunities to share, collaborate, and grow together as professionals, writers, and educators.

Montana Writing Teachers Online Professional Learning Community (PLC). This PLC happens monthly, on the second Wednesday at 3:45 p.m. It is an online gathering of educators from all curricular areas who share best-practices for writing instruction.

This PLC provides an online forum for discussion, questions, answers and reflection. Each PLC has a writing component and online discussion.

Simply go to the Teacher Learning Hub (opi.mt.gov/learninghub), search for Montana Writing PLC, and enroll in the course. All the log-in information for the live webinar will be listed, as well as recordings of past PLC's for you to review. For each PLC session, you can earn a renewal unit.

Another way to build community is to participate in professional learning opportunities in the state and on the national level. The



Learning Opportunities Portal (mtpportal.org) is the calendar of professional learning opportunities in Montana.

These include face-to-face workshops and conferences, as well as online learning opportunities. There is a catalog to search specific events or to find a provider for a specific topic area.

MEA/MFT 2016 is in Helena this year. The conference is full of wonderful sessions and opportunities to build relationships with teachers from across Montana.

I will be co-presenting "BFFL: Best Friends for Learning" with Colet Bartow, Library Specialist at OPI. This session is about building positive and productive collaborative relationships. The session is scheduled for Oct. 20 at 3p.m. Hope to see you there!

On the national level, the 2016 NCTE Annual Convention will take place this November in Atlanta. This is an annual

gathering of educators from across the country.

I will be presenting, along with MATELA president Caitlin Chiller, on creating teacher leaders in Montana. Dr. Beverly Chin will introduce us, and Sue Stolp will respond to this panel discussion.

Attending a national conference is inspiring and full of valuable information for you to take back to your classroom. Follow me on twitter [@cmackstutz](https://twitter.com/cmackstutz) for up-to-the-minute conference information.

"We are lucky in Montana to have many opportunities to share, collaborate, and grow together as professionals, writers, and educators."

Christy Mock-Stutz

DEADLINE DEC. 2

Humanities Montana Sponsors Letter-Writing Contest

By Sarah Kahn

Montana Center for the Book, a Humanities Montana program, is excited to bring the Letters about Literature contest back to Montana schools this year.

Letters About Literature (LAL) is a national competition that invites students to submit letters written to the authors of their favorite books.

Students in grades 4-12 can submit letters to the competition; there will be state and national winners.

LAL is a great way to get students engaged in literature; the Library of Congress provides schools with a teaching guide (which can be found online and on page) to help get kids writing.

Students can enter themselves, or teachers can send in their submissions using the guidelines, which can also be found on the LAL site.

Entry deadline for **grades 9-12 is Dec. 2**. Entry deadline for **grades 4-8 is Jan. 9**.

See pages 14-15 for entry form and guidelines

24th
Annual Writing
CONTEST

2016 - 2017

Read.

Be inspired.

Write Back.

A Library of Congress National Reading
and Writing Promotion Program



Letters About Literature

This annual writing contest for young readers has been made possible by a generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and by gifts to the Library of Congress Fund and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which promotes the contest through its affiliate Centers for the Book, state libraries and other organizations.

Competition
Levels:

Level 1 Grades 4 - 6
Level 2 Grades 7 - 8
Level 3 Grades 9 - 12

THEME

How did an author's
work change your
view of the world or
yourself?

*How to
Enter*

READ

Select a fiction or nonfiction book, a poem or play you have read and about which you have strong feelings. (Sorry, no song lyrics!) It might be a book that helped you through a difficult time or it might be a book that simply touched your heart or inspired you.

REFLECT

Think before you write. How did this author's work change you or your view of the world? How do you know it did? How and why are you different now than you were before you read this work?

Persuade

Write a personal letter to the author, stating how reading his or her work changed you. Be personal but also persuasive! Support your ideas with specific details, including details from the work itself. This is not a fan letter but rather a reflection on how an author influenced you.

WRITE

Type your entry in letter format – do not send handwritten letters. Your name and complete return address (either school or home) must appear in the upper right corner of the first page of the letter.

SEND

Mail your letter with the required entry coupon by the deadline date.

Need some tips to get started? Not sure how to write a personal letter? Visit read.gov/letters to read winning letters from past competitions and to access the Letters About Literature Teaching Guide.



For updates on the program, please refer to the contest website, read.gov/letters.

Letters About Literature



Deadlines

Entries will be accepted beginning November 2, 2016

Entries must be postmarked by the following dates



LEVEL 3
Grades 9 - 12



LEVEL 2
Grades 7 - 8



LEVEL 1
Grades 4 - 6

ASSESSMENT. All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

Round 1

Audience. Is the essay in letter format and does it address the author of the work? Entries that are not in letter format and are written about the author, rather than to the author, will be eliminated.

Purpose. Does the essay address the contest theme of how an author's work changed the reader's view of self or the world? Is personal reflection evident in the letter? Entries that are book summaries or fan letters will be eliminated.

Letters that meet these criteria advance to Round 2.

Round 2

Grammatical conventions. Is the essay written in a clear and organized way with specific details to support the essay's main ideas? Single paragraph letters with significant grammatical errors will be eliminated.

Originality. Does the essay express ideas creatively, communicating a unique or powerful point of view? Letters that are formulaic without evidence of a writer's voice will be eliminated.

Letters that meet these criteria advance to state level judging.

Judges selected by affiliate Centers for the Book choose the top letters in each competition level for their state and coordinate recognition ceremonies and awards. The first-place state-level winners advance to the national level judging.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress selects a panel of judges to award National Winners and National Honor Winners.



Awards

Each state recognizes and awards prizes to winning participants.

The Library of Congress will announce all National and National Honor Winners and awards and will list all state-level winners on its website.

National Winners in each competition level will receive a \$1,000 cash award

National Honor Winners in each competition level will receive a \$200 cash award

Check read.gov/letters for details on state awards and ceremonies.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR LETTERS AND ENTRY COUPON

Entry Coupon. Each letter must be accompanied by an entry coupon. Staple the coupon to the last page of the letter. Affiliate Centers for the Book will contact State Winners using this information, so be sure entry coupons are complete and legible! Letters without a coupon will be eliminated.

Class Set of Letters. Teachers must submit their name and contact information with a list of the names of each student submitting a letter. This list does not take the place of entry coupons.

Each student's letter must have its own entry coupon. Mail class sets in a flat envelope - 8x10 or larger.

Ownership. All letters become the property of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Please keep a copy of your entries, as no letters will be returned.

Mailing Address. Indicate the competition level - 1, 2 or 3 - on the envelope. Include a complete return address on your mailing envelope. Mail to:

Letters About Literature
Competition Level
(Indicate level 1, 2 or 3 on the envelope)
c/o C. Gourley, Project Manager
81 Oliver Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705

Letters About Literature Entry Coupon for 2016 - 2017

Please complete the form, cut and staple to your letter!



LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Book / Story Title _____ Author _____

School / Library _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School / Library Phone _____ School / Library Email _____

Teacher / Librarian (signature required) _____ Email _____

Fill out ONLY if you are submitting a letter individually. Otherwise, this section is optional.

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent's Signature (required) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please consider sharing your talent and expertise with **MATELA!**

Upcoming publication deadlines:

Winter UPDATE: Dec. 1
Spring UPDATE: March 1
MEJ 2014: June 1
Fall UPDATE: Sept. 1

Printing courtesy of University of Great Falls

Submit articles for consideration via our website at www.matelamt.com/publications

All submissions must be in RTF or .docx format, no columns or extra spaces between paragraphs, and without embedded graphics or photos. **Include a byline** with your name the way you would like it to appear at the beginning of your copy.



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