



Chapbook...

Volume 34 Winter 2000-01

**Quarterly Journal of the Children's Services Section
North Carolina Library Association**

A Message From The Chair

Welcome to the Winter Issue of Chapbook! It has been a very busy quarter for the Children's Services Section and we have lots to celebrate. First we welcome two new board members. **Loree Pennock**, the Children's Services Manager for the East Regional Branch of Cumberland County Public Libraries, will fill one of the Director Positions. **Marian Lytle**, the Children's Services Manager for the Rowan County Library System, will be our representative for North Carolina Libraries. Marian is not new to CSS. She served for many years as a Director and more recently was our Membership Representative.

We are also very excited about our new web page. Many thanks to **Diane Kester**, NCLA Treasurer, for creating this page for us. The address is www.nclaonline.org/css/. Take a look at the page and learn more about CSS.

We are planning for the Biennial Conference on October 2nd - 5th in Winston- Salem. This year we are very excited that **Mary Calhoun** will be our featured speaker at the Children's Services Breakfast. At our next meeting we will complete our planning for the Conference and we look forward to offering more sessions on subjects useful to all library staff working with youth.

Ann Burlingame



YOUTH SERVICES CONSULTANT ANNOUNCED

I am delighted to announce that **Jim Rosinia** will join the State Library staff on March 1st as the Youth Services Consultant. Jim brings a passion for youth services to his new position, and he will be a real asset in strengthening the visibility of North Carolina's library services to our state's young people. Jim will hit the floor running - making library visits and hosting Trade Secrets Workshops in March.

Jim's public library experience focused on service to young adults. ALA published the book he co-authored *Bare Bones: Young Adult Services Tips for Public Library Generalists*. He also worked on a national project supporting professionals who work with children.

Powerful Partners - the State Library's strategic plan for youth services - focuses on libraries as community partners and leaders, and it emphasizes the importance of library programs and services that respond to children's developmental needs:

At the Center for Early Adolescence in Chapel Hill, Jim worked with a wide range of professionals from across the nation - teachers, physicians, and other experts in service to young people - and this experience will serve him well as we build state and local partnerships to enhance the visibility of libraries in their communities. Jim's expertise in the developmental needs of children and adolescents will enable him to help libraries deliver services that are appropriate and responsive to youth of all ages.

We here at the State Library thank Ann Burlingame (Branch Head, East Regional Library, Knightdale), Rusty Taylor (Lead Library Media Specialist, Wake County Schools, Raleigh), and Marian Lytle (Children's Services Supervisor, Rowan Public Library, Salisbury) and their libraries for the time they spent helping us with the selection process.

In his letter of application, Jim wrote, "I have a personal belief in the potential of libraries to promote the healthy growth and development of young people and a professional commitment to help others improve the services of their libraries and to build collaborations with other agencies serving youth." And so does the State Library! Please join me in welcoming Jim Rosinia.

Sandra M. Cooper, State Librarian
State Library of North Carolina

POWERFUL PARTNERS



GRANTS

Hispanic Services Mini-Grant

The Hickory Public Library, in cooperation with the Catawba County Public Library, received a mini-grant in the amount of \$4500 to do a “needs” assessment of our Hispanic population. According to local government figures, Catawba County has 6,500 Hispanic residents. Our local economy is booming and many jobs do not require English. Hispanic families are already very visible in our libraries especially in the evenings and on Sunday after Mass. They come to use our computers, find materials for their children, and materials to learn English. Both library systems have a Smart-Start funded collection with materials aimed at children and families.

However, we also know that a large portion of the population has no idea where the library is or even what a library is. We have many requests for services we cannot provide: outreach, ESL classes in all library locations, more books and audio materials for learning English, self-paced computer programs, etc.

The contract person we have hired is just finishing up the needs assessment. We should know very shortly what our top priorities should be.

By Hannah Owen, Hickory Public Library



The **Zebulon Branch of Wake County Public Libraries** was the recipient of a Powerful Partners Grant from the State Library of North Carolina. The Library and **Zebulon Elementary School** were joint recipients in this grant of \$13,970. The grant was awarded to fulfill a vision of the partners that “young Hispanic/Latino children in the Zebulon area would learn to read, love to learn and have access to the world through the collaborative efforts of Zebulon area agencies with a special mission to children.”

Through a partnership with the **Eastern Wake Human Services Center** and **St. Eugene Catholic Church**, the public library and elementary school hope to put books in the hands of Latino children and their parents, as well as to introduce them to story times and other library services.

By Ann Burlingame, East Regional Library



THE COFFEE CREW

In July, 1998, I wanted to try to reach **teens** in the community. I did some PR, talked it up, bought some paperback books from a local bookstore to give away, set a date and ...**The Coffee Crew** was born.

The icebreaker for our very first get together was the paperback books that I gave away! I asked the teens to tell their friends, come back for bagels and coffee, and then we set another date.

We meet approximately every 6 weeks on a Saturday morning. Coffee, bagels and juice are served before we discuss books. Each teen is asked to bring a book of their choice that they really enjoyed and want to share with others. Friends are encouraged to come.

I give away a book or two every time we meet. Since 1998 the teens have started a **Teen to Teen** newsletter. This is written by and for the teens of the surrounding community. Book, movie, and song reviews are the biggest attraction to their quarterly newsletter.

After we discuss books, we have a guest from the community join us. Here is a sampling of the past two and a half years of our programs: Four author visits, an officer speaking on personal safety, Tae Kwon Do demonstrations, teens planned and presented science tricks and experiments for younger children, packing food for Meals-On-Wheels, several collaborating programs with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Raleigh, and body art (mehendi).

Two local coffeehouses have given us their "space" for Readers Theater and poetry readings. We turned our library into a coffeehouse in September of 99' and had an evening of fun til' the midnight hour in January 2001!

We are about books and having fun so stop by and be sure to bring a friend!

Sue Mellott, North Regional Library, Raleigh
Coffee Crew Coordinator

READ 'N CHAT



Even though we are in the throes of a technological era, there are still children who love to read and talk about what they read. A book discussion group gives children that opportunity. Each month all the children that have read the same book meet together to discuss it. Over the past six years, I have conducted discussion groups for the grade range of 3rd-5th grade.

A group of six to twelve children is the optimum number. Fewer than that and there is not enough discussion and more than that does not allow enough time for everyone to have their say. Have flyers and other publicity, but if you've worked at the library for any length of time, you'll recognize children that would be receptive to a promotion of the program. Talk to them individually when they are in the library and invite them to come. Have a supply of the next month's books ready to check out so that no one has to put a reserve on a book and wait for it.

Select the books from different genres so that the appeal is varied. The books should have some points to discuss. A sports book that tells how each game went doesn't work, but a sports book in which a girl wants to play on the boys' basketball team would work. Have some questions ready at the time of the program, however be prepared to add questions depending on the flow of the discussion.

Refreshments are nice to have, but recently we've decided to wait to put them out until closer to the end of the program to avoid distractions. Don't expect prim and proper behavior, and do expect enough courtesy so that everyone is not talking at once. All the children don't have to like each month's book. It makes for more interesting discussions sometimes if they disagree on the quality of the book. For more information on this topic, consult the April 1998, School Library Journal article, *Having Their Say*.

If you're successful at recruiting children who love reading, then you might get a response such as the comment stated by more than one child about *Class Clown*, "It was too short!"

By Mel Burton, Information Specialist, North Country Regional Library/PLCMC



Who Wants to be a Storybook Millionaire?

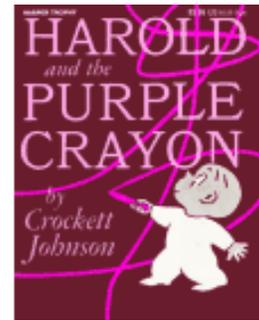
By Jim McGaha, Storyteller, Main Branch/PLCMC

This was a popular school age program developed by the Children's Staff at North County Regional Library. The program was a take-off and spoof of the very popular television game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" hosted by Regis Philbin.

The Children's Staff posed questions from some of their favorite storybook titles. These questions would have the answers in the format of either A, B, C, or D. The contestant then would try to answer the question by choosing the correct letter. An example of this type of questioning would be as follows.

Who is the little boy who went for a walk with a crayon and drew himself some wonderful adventures?

- A. Liang and the Magic Paint Brush**
 - B. Harold and the Purple Crayon**
 - C. Mel's Drawing Adventure**
 - D. Peggy in a Rainbow of My Own**
- B. *Harold and the Purple Crayon***



What helped to make the program more dynamic is that it was created on Microsoft's Power Point Presentation. The Power Point program allowed the presenter to control the flow of the text as well as the pace of the program. The question would be dropped from the top of the screen allowing the host to read the question. Then on cue the possible answers would appear from the right side of the screen A, B, C, or D. This allowed the children to also play by the rules of the television game show.

They could ask for the audience's help in which the host would read the question once again and ask the audience by a show of hands what they thought the answer may be. The contestant could ask for fifty-fifty in which the host would let them know two of the wrong answers leaving them a choice of two! The final "life line" was to be able to call on a friend. In the original show the contestant would phone a trusted friend. In our program the child usually would call on a friend in the audience. It was always mentioned that if you called upon a librarian in the audience you would certainly win.

A Cultural Journey Into the World of Opera

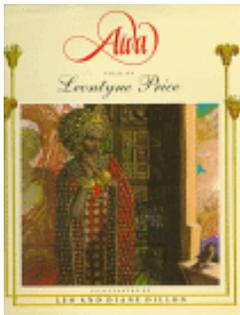
In our continuing quest to enrich the lives of children, we journey into the world of opera. That's right opera – that “scary, mysterious larger-than-life world of bearded men in togas and flying women with horns”(Pogue & Peck, 1997:xxvi). For many the prospect of attending the opera is indeed scary. They don't even sing in English and what's all the screaming about anyway?



Most of us, however, fail to realize that our daily lives are filled with opera references. Strains of classical music are used to sell everything from cars to breakfast cereal. Who hasn't heard of the “Three Tenors”? Even Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd get into the act in “Rabbit of Seville” and “What's Opera Doc?” and everyone knows that “it ain't over till the fat lady sings.”

An opera production is like a play with the actors singing their parts instead of speaking them. It contains the best of all possible worlds. The world's most beloved operas have much in common with its most beloved books - they tell creative and moving stories about life experiences and deep-seated universal emotions. You get great singing and acting, a fantastic orchestra, riveting drama, spectacular sets and costumes with awesome lighting and special effects. So what's not to like?

The members of the Children's Services Department at the North County Regional Public Library are endeavoring to make opera an intriguing and accessible cultural activity. Our two-part program, “Adventures in Arias,” is designed to introduce children to the joys of opera in an exciting and entertaining way.



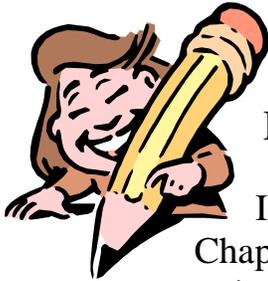
“Divas with Attitude: Aida and Her Sisters” will feature African- American women, such as Marian Anderson and Leontyne Price, who have made outstanding contributions to the world of opera. The program will highlight Price's award-winning picture book *Aida*, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Children will also have an opportunity to perform in a Reader's Theatre Operatic Melodrama entitled “A Delicate Opera-tion” or “That's the Chants You Take”. The finale will be a performance by **Dawn Anthony**, a soprano with the Carolina Opera Chorus.

Opera...Continued...

The second part of the series, "How Low Can They Go? - Men with Big Voices," will bring the men of opera to the center stage with performances by Willie the Operatic Whale and **Martin House**, a tenor with Carolina Opera Chorus.

Our goals for "Adventures in Arias" are to offer exposure to opera, a highly valued art form, to a group of culturally diverse children. We also hope to give children an opportunity to listen to and appreciate classical music as a balance for the popular music they hear everyday. Most importantly, we hope to nurture their intellectual and creative capabilities while reinforcing the concept that whatever subject they wish to explore, the library is "The Very Best Place to Start."

By Mary Wilkes-Dyette, LA II, at North County Regional Library/PLCMC



From the Editor:

I invite our readership to submit articles to the Chapbook. Please share interesting topics, current or upcoming events whereby all may be informed or even motivated to try something new. Chapbook is published quarterly. Also, it will be available at www.nclaonline.org/css

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Or:(preferably)...

www.ltalbert@plcmc.lib.nc.us ... as an attachment.

I will confirm as soon as I receive it. If you wish, you may contact me at the Children's Services Desk: 704-895-8178, between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 6:00p.m.

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