



June, 2010

The official newsletter of the
Children's Librarians Association of Suffolk County

The Trumpet

Volume 28, Issue 1

President's Message

Linda Overton is the President of the Children's Librarians Association of Suffolk County. She is the Head of Children's Services at the Sachem Public Library.

Dear CLASC Members,

This last article for the Trumpet has been difficult for me to write. My apologies to our wonderful editor, Ann Burke who has had to prod and poke me with emails and phone messages to get it done. But how can I be sincere and so very thankful without sounding trite or predictable? I've decided, I can't avoid any of it. Ann is waiting and I am procrastinating and delaying the Trumpet getting out to all of you so here it goes.

My term as CLASC President has been one of the highlights of my career as a children's librarian. Thanks to those on the nominating committee who sought me out and encouraged me to give the office a try. If you recall, I ran unopposed so I never felt quite legitimate. Therefore, I thank our nominating committee, chaired by Past President, Lisa Kropp, and the members who stepped up to fill our ballot with candidates. No one ran unopposed in 2010, and to me that speaks volumes about the vigor of CLASC membership. Congratulations to the new officers: President Kristen Todd-Wurm, Treasurer Kerry Piraino, and Historian-Public Relations Chairperson Amy Johnston. May you each discover the rich spirit of friendship and collegiality that I found from the first meeting I attended.

To the outgoing officers, I thank you for your remarkable energy and hard work. I wish you all could know the details of Debbie Bush's hours of service to past and present members of CLASC as she organized our archives, ushered them to a new home in the upstairs of SCLS (who knew there was an upstairs?) and then searched for answers to our endless questions about the bold librarians who founded CLASC and how the organization evolved. We were founded in 1971 and next year will be our 40th Anniversary of supporting and promoting outstanding children's librarianship in Suffolk County. We wanted all the history Debbie could find as we plan for a splendid celebration in 2011. Please save the date, when it is announced and, if you can, get involved in the fun of planning.

Elaine Perez was a remarkable Treasurer who arrived with a meticulously prepared budget report for each month. Who can count the number of times she counted our money, studied the receipts and balanced the check book? She guided us financially and kept us in the black, even during the scary times when we have to make monetary commitments before all funds are received. She was a rock throughout it all and is a woman of great integrity.

Past President Lisa Kropp was very encouraging as I started my two year journey in office. She answered all my questions, entrusted me with boxes of materials and helped me through the predictable and not too predictable aspects of the job. Her advice was sound and experienced. I found my way but Lisa was kind enough to hold my hand in the beginning and to always be only one phone call away.

I'm pleased with all events planned and the changes made (from a new Post Office box address to the renaming of our scholarship award) during my term of office. Most of all; however, I am delighted to have gotten to know so many of you, not just the Board members, but the membership. I am proud to have served such a vibrant organization made up of talented professionals of the first order.

Have a wonderful summer! See all of you at our Fall Literature Conference. ***Linda Overton***



**CLASC 2010 Annual Dinner
And Membership Meeting**

By CLASC Vice-President Jane Drake

The CLASC Annual Dinner and Membership

Meeting was held on Thursday, April 29th, 2010 at the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook. Our guest speaker was children's author, Lauren Tarshis. She has written two books for children, *Emma Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree* and *Emma Jean Lazarus Fell in Love*. In 2007 the editor's of *School Library Journal* selected *Emma Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree* for their Best Books of the Year list. It was chosen from over 4,500 books reviewed during the year. This book is also the winner of the 2008 Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Golden Kite Award for fiction which recognizes excellence in children's literature.

Lauren also has a six book series of historical fiction books for young readers coming out in June. Titled, *I Survived*, the series features boys who have survived some of history's most thrilling and terrifying disasters. Ms. Tarshis is also the editor of *Storyworks Magazine*, a delightful literature and language arts magazine for elementary students. In addition to her very busy career, she is a wife and mother of four children.

Lauren told the audience how, as a child, she had a secret. She tried and succeeded very well in hiding the fact that she found reading extremely difficult. In fact, she didn't read a complete novel until she was in high school. She credits librarians through the years with helping her overcome her fear of reading. When she took a job with Scholastic, she decided that in order to perform her job well, she would need to read as many important books as possible. The three books that she said influenced her the most were *Walk Two Moons*, *The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods* and *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. She read and re-read these books many times in order to become a writer. Around the same time, she became an active member of a local writer's group. All of these events have led Lauren to where she is today!

**CLASC ANNUAL
DINNER
April 29, 2010**



CLASC Historian, Debbie Bush presents the Barbara Fleshcher scholarship award to the 2010 award recipient, Alexandra Hiam.



CLASC Committee members met Lauren Tarshis at the April CLASC dinner. L to R: Ann Burke, Lisa Kropp, Linda Overton, Author, Lauren Tarshis, Debbie Bush, Elaine Perez.



CLASC member Lisa Herskowitz won one of the great raffle baskets at the April CLASC dinner.

At the CLASC Annual Dinner and Membership Meeting, members of the Patchogue-Medford Children's Department and Young Adult Department spoke movingly about the retiring Head of Children's Services, Harriet Costello.

Here is the speech given by Jane Drake:

I have been frustrated trying to find the words as to why Harriet Costello should receive a CLASC pin. I wasn't frustrated because I couldn't think of reasons why she should receive one but because there are so many reasons why, I was having difficulty finding the words and putting them down on paper. So many words about her come to mind, in fact, that this letter would be a book if I were to write them all down. So, the other night on my way home from work, it suddenly became very clear to me. There are only three words that I need to describe her to you.

The first one is advocate. Harriet is an advocate for many. She is an advocate for the children and parents of the Patchogue-Medford community where she lives, raised her children and began her career with the PTA. She is an advocate for her staff, both pages and librarians. She is always thinking about what comes next and why and how and who and what we can do to make our library, our class visits, our programs, our collection, etc...Better and better! And believe me, she always has a very well thought out plan to present to either her staff or to Administration to support whatever it is she is trying to achieve. I swear, the woman never sits still and is always thinking!

The second word to describe Harriet is mentor. She has always been supportive with advice and guidance for everyone as a means to better themselves. She is very knowledgeable in the field of librarianship and is always looking for more "information." She always makes sure that her staff is informed from simple things like "make sure you take the test" to more complicated things like how to write a grant. She encourages us to attend meetings and conferences and supports us being involved in professional organizations. Just look at us, we are all here!

She has shared her love and knowledge of children's literature with aspiring students of teaching and librarianship from St. Joseph's College by teaching a class there. She makes sure that all staff members have tasks to do that are important and have real meaning in our community. Over the years, several of our pages have gone on to library school and I would swear that it is because of her guidance, influence and inspiration. I know that she has supported librarians in ways to change up their jobs to make them more interesting as well. Encouraging us to "do more differently" and guiding us in that direction is a mantra we live by.

The last word that I would use to describe Harriet is a friend because, truly, you couldn't find a better one. She is easy to talk to and fun to be with. She is dependable to a fault. She is honest even if it is something you don't want to hear. She is always willing to help if she is able. She is a problem solver. And no one keeps a secret better than Harriet. She has a great sense of humor and can take a joke. We have our annual "what can we do to Harriet?" for April Fool's Day fun. We also had a bit of fun with her this year when her office was flooding from the rain and snow melt; we left a plastic alligator swimming under her desk! And one of my personal favorites for her being a good friend is she is a fellow wine lover like me!

We will miss Harriet very much. In fact, I can't even imagine not being at work with her everyday. I guess there just comes a time when you get to be with your family and to do what you want. I wish her the best and happiest retirement she could possibly have. She certainly deserves it! Cheers!



CLASC President, Linda Overton conveys the well-wishes of all CLASC members to retiring member, Harriet Costello.

2010 Long Island Library Conference

CLASC Session:

Author Norah Dooley

**“Everybody Has a Story—How
Storytelling Made Me a Writer: The
Natural Connection between Oral and
Written Literacy”**

By CLASC Vice-President, Jane Drake

The Long Island Library Conference was held at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. The theme for the conference, **“Recipe for Success at Your Library”** was reflected in CLASC’S choice for a speaker, Norah Dooley. Ms. Dooley is the author of a series of children’s books that includes: *Everybody Cooks Rice, Everybody Bakes Bread, Everybody Brings Noodles, and Everyone Serves Soup.*

The author began her day before sunrise traveling from Cambridge, Massachusetts to spend the day with us. Upon arrival, she eagerly signed books while she grabbed a quick bite to eat before she addressed the audience of over 150 professionals, telling us how she would make up stories about her neighborhood to tell her young daughters at bedtime. She also spoke about her writing process and what she learned about the world of editors and publishing. Ms. Dooley talked about how she didn’t meet her illustrator for a long time, and the labor intensive process involved in getting her books published.

Norah was an engaging speaker. She passed around corrected manuscripts and galley’s of her books to give the audience a fascinating behind the scenes view of the writer’s world. She continued to sign copies of her books and chatted with conference attendees at the end of the session.

In addition to our literature program, the CLASC table in the Association room was a bustle of energy. We had Norah Dooley’s books for sale and handed out many raffle tickets for a basket of Ms. Dooley’s books. We also sold raffle tickets for two Jane Yolen baskets generously donated by Barbara Moon

To draw attention to our upcoming Fall Literature Conference on October 22 at the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge, the Jane Yolen baskets had a dinosaur and dragon theme; each was filled with titles by Jane Yolen and fun items any child, or — children’s librarian, would love! We also had reading pins for sale, lots of chocolate and, of course, membership applications! It was a fun, busy and worthwhile day and I can’t wait to do it again next year!



Author, Norah Dooley gave attendees a fascinating glimpse into the writing/publishing process.



Kristen Todd-Wurm, Kerry Piraino, Jane Drake, Joanne Adam and Elaine Perez met author, Norah Dooley.

CLASC's 40th Anniversary

A Message from incoming CLASC President Kristen Todd-Wurm

In *November 2011*, CLASC, Inc. will celebrate it's 40th Anniversary as an organization. The executive board discussed the idea of hosting an event in honor of this 40 year celebration.

We know that November 2011 seems so far away, but in reality, it will sneak up on us quickly!

I am looking to organize a planning committee of CLASC, Inc. Members who would like to participate on this committee to help us organize a wonderful event for our organization.

If you are interested, please contact me at todd-wurmkristen@mcp.lib.ny.us



Members of the most recent CLASC Committee include: Jane Drake; Past President, Lisa Kropp; Elaine Perez, Lisa Herskowitz; our most recent President, Linda Overton; Joanne Adam, Debbie Bush and Kim Giery.

READING

A GRAND ADVENTURE!



Fall Literature Conference Friday, October 22, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The Hyatt Regency Long Island

1717 Motor Parkway

Hauppauge, NY 11788

The Children's Librarians Association of Suffolk County (CLASC, Inc.) and the Youth Services Department of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System are pleased to announce our Fall Literature Conference.

For the Fall Literature Conference brochure, visit

<http://www.clascinc.org/readingagrandadventure.pdf>

Information about this, and all upcoming CLASC events can also be found on our website www.clascinc.org

BANNER PROGRAMMERS

Program: Green Meadow Farms
Recommended by: Lisa Herskowitz

Northport-East Northport Librarian Lisa Herskowitz has chosen a programmer her fellow CLASC Librarians might find interesting. If you would like to share a "Banner Programmer" with your colleagues for our next newsletter, send the information to aburke@suffolk.lib.ny.us



If you have a big room and patrons who love animals then **Frogs, Bugs & Animals** is the program for you. Jason Reilly from **Green Meadow Farms** in Floral Park has a wonderful traveling petting zoo. Kids and their parents meander around the room meeting and greeting such creatures as hedgehogs, tree frogs, snakes, bunnies, hissing cockroaches, pigs, and tortoises.

Each animal is in an open corral with easy access for little hands to explore. Jason pauses the "petting time" to share fascinating facts about specific animals. He is a high-energy educator who is very well versed in animal trivia. To liven up the program even more, he defines a space with a large floor target and gathers everyone together to do the chicken dance with a live fluffy chicken.

It takes Jason about an hour to set up and he even brings an automatic hand sanitizer dispenser. He'll take as many people in the program as can fit comfortably in your community room or outdoor area so you get a big bang for your buck.

Contact information: 631-286-0680 or <http://www.visitgreenmeadowsfarm.com/>

WELCOME NEW CLASC MEMBERS



- * **Marci Byrne**
Rogers Memorial Public Library
- * **Virginia Carroll**
Smithtown and Kings Park Public Libraries
- * **Lori Crimando**
Connetquot Public Library
- * **Emily Herrick**
Hampton Library in Bridgehampton
- * **Patricia Rose Richardson**
North Shore Public Library
- * **Joyce Thompson**
Patchogue-Medford Library
- * **Claudia Zack-Griffing**
Rogers Memorial Public Library

Member News

If you have CLASC member news or would like to contribute an article you think CLASC members would find interesting please contact me at: aburke@suffolk.lib.ny.us

The CLASC Interview

Jackie Narciewicz

CLASC Librarian Jackie Narciewicz

conducts great interviews. This time, we turned the tables and CLASC Newsletter Editor Ann Burke interviewed the interviewer!

Ann: How long have you been a Children's Librarian?

I have been a Children's Librarian since 2003. I graduated from St. John's University.

Ann: What's your favorite part of being a Children's Librarian?

I don't just have one part; but several:

- * **Getting the right information/materials for a patron.**
- * **Working with children and watching them grow up.**
- * **When the "aha" moment happens and the child/parent gets it.**
- * **Sharing my love of children's literature with others.**
- * **Building special relationships with families.**

Ann: If you were talking to someone who was thinking of becoming a Children's Librarian, how would you describe the career?

Being a children's librarian is great because it is different every day. You get to meet a variety of people from all walks of life and all parts of the globe. I find it exciting to go into the library every day because you never know what wonderful person you may meet or whose life you may touch.

Ann: What was your favorite book growing up?

I loved the Laura Ingalls Wilder Little House on the Prairie series. I was around the same age as "Half Pint" in most of the books.

Ann: What is your current favorite book (children's and/or adult)?

I think the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series is phenomenal. It appeals to younger children, reluctant boy readers (and we all know how hard it is to please them), and also adults. I think the character of Greg Heffley is hilarious and the portrayal of his "normal" life is perfect.

Ann: What do you like to do when you are not in the Children's Room?

I love to read (hey, that's shocking for a librarian!!!!)

I love meeting new people and socializing with my friends.

I'm addicted to Jazzercise and will break out in a Jazzercise routine at a moment's notice at work or in the mall with my children when I hear certain songs.

I really enjoy being with my family and spending time with my two daughters, Caitlin and Michele, when they are speaking to me and not asking me for money. And my significant other, Jay.

Ann: I know you have begun a career as a stand-up comedian. How did this come about and what is it like being a comedian? Could you tell us a joke that consistently "wows" the audience?

I have always enjoyed making people laugh and had thought about doing stand-up for a long time, but wasn't sure about how to go about becoming a comic. A friend told me about Comedy College, which is an intensive six-week comedy class that is offered at Governor's Comedy Club in Levittown and is taught by professional comics. They get you up on stage the first night of class to make sure you don't have stage fright and get you as comfortable as possible telling complete strangers about your personal life.

Continued...

I wrote all of my own material and re-worked it over the six weeks. We ended the class with two graduation shows. It was one of the scariest things I have ever done, but I was also so proud of myself for having done it. And the best part is: people actually laughed and thought I was funny (or maybe they were just feeling sorry for me).

Unfortunately, there is not one surefire joke that works every time. Sometimes you think material is going to go over great and it just dies in mid-air. Other times, your more mediocre material will kill! I find that talking about being a librarian and other things people can identify with—being a parent, dealing with an ex-husband, etc. make people laugh.

Ann: Have you ever dealt with hecklers (either as a comedian or a librarian?)

Ahhhh, hecklers. Yes, I have kicked unruly children out of storytime! There, I said it! There is only so much disruption a librarian can take before someone gets asked to leave. Children have such a short attention span and there are times that the parent doesn't step in to discipline the child and the librarian has to play "the heavy" because it's not fair to the other children who are paying attention. The worst time I was heckled as a comedian, was when I was doing a Variety Show and these really drunk women were in the back and they proceeded to talk through my entire act and even took/made a few cell phone calls! Unfortunately, it was a Thursday and there was no security working at the club that night, so I just had to deal with it and make merciless fun of how rude they were.

Thank you, Jackie, for a great interview! You can find Jackie at the Copiague Library as Head of Children's Services and catch her stand-up routine at various comedy clubs on Long Island.

If you would like to submit a CLASC member's name for an interview, contact Jackie at jackie@suffolk.lib.ny.us

Archive of Youth Literature

@

South Huntington Public Library

While you are weeding, please remember the Archive of Youth Literature at South Huntington Public Library. We are looking for books from 1961-1991, last copies or near to last and first editions of books from that time period to preserve and use for an historical and educational collection. We collect fiction, award-winning biography and non-fiction, fairy/folk tales, poetry, picture books and classics.

When you have books to send us that meet the above criteria, please package them in small boxes and send them to South Huntington Public Library c/o AYL 61-91, Marjorie Rosenthal, co-curator

If you would like more information on our collection or wish to volunteer to help us, please

contact:

Marjorie Rosenthal
mrosenth@suffolk.lib.ny.us

OR

Stump the Librarian!

This month, Kim Giery's trivia question isn't too easy or too hard but just right!

What was Goldilock's name when the hungry little girl was first introduced, over a hundred years ago, in the famous children's fairy tale,
The Three Little Bears?



As always, the first correct answer received by Kim at kgiery@suffolk.lib.ny.us wins a prize!

CLASC MEMBERS

Are you getting e-mails from CLASC?

If not, we may have an incorrect address for you. Please let us know by contacting BOTH CLASC secretaries -

Corresponding Secretary Joanne Adam at joadam@suffolk.lib.ny.us

AND Recording Secretary

Lisa Herskowitz at

lherskow@suffolk.lib.ny.us

CLASC Is Now on Facebook!

facebook

Visit the CLASC Facebook page for more information about what's going on!

For instance, right now there's an interesting conversation taking place about decorating ideas for the Summer Reading Club. Take part, or start a new conversation thread on your CLASC Facebook page.

Children's Department

Meeting @ SCLS

June, 2010

By CLASC member, Ann Gomez

Barbara Moon began our recent children's Librarian's meeting with a PowerPoint presentation inviting us into the lovely world of the Books of Wonder bookstore in New York City. The eye catching displays and engaging signage designed to attract children and their accompanying adults illustrated well our first topic for discussion, Environmental Print and Early Literacy. Before children are reading they are "reading" the world around them, interpreting signs, letters and symbols that are easily recognizable, including those they see in our children's department displays. We discussed our displays and various features used such as signage placement, fonts, color vs. black & white, clipart, posters and props to create an engaging setting in our children's departments, one that encourages our young patrons to "read" at their library and visit their favorite characters.

For more information about the Books of Wonder bookstore visit www.booksof wonder.com and if you are looking for an interesting day trip to New York City...consider the Books of Wonder Bookstore and treat yourself to a cupcake at The Cupcake Café.



The Trumpet

Children's Librarians Association of Suffolk County
c/o Connetquot Public Library
760 Ocean Avenue
Bohemia, NY 11716

Executive Board

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