

## **ReAD: The Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Reading Association**

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December, 2014 – January 2015

Co-Editors: Sandi Kurbiel and Dawn Montague

*Happy Holidays!*



*To share information in ReAD, please submit news by the first of the month, to be published the 10th of the month. Issues are published every month except for December-January and summer combined issues. For more information please contact Sandi Kurbiel at [skurbiel@nycap.rr.com](mailto:skurbiel@nycap.rr.com).*

Please click on each blue heading or text to lead you to an associated link. (If you have trouble bringing up a link in Internet Explorer or using certain email systems, you may need to also click on the “e” at the bottom of the screen if it is flashing.) (Above image from classroomclipart.com.)

Don't forget, now you can become a friend to NYSRA on Facebook! Have you?

Thanks to all who contributed their time and expertise to our issue this month!

In this edition: NYSRA & Legislative News: Sandi Kurbiel; NYSED News: Dawn Montague;  
Literacy News/Links of Interest: Sandi Kurbiel

### **NYSRA and Legislative News**

#### **NYSRA Charlotte Awards**

by Karen Kondrick

Have you read a good book lately? The 2016 Charlotte Award Committee has read hundreds. If you were able to attend the 2014 NYSRA Conference in Liverpool, in November, you would have had a chance to hear us talk about 50-60 of our favorites. If not, [follow this link](#) to read through our annotated bibliographies.

As this year comes to an end the endless supply of books arriving at our homes will come to an end. The first few months of the new year will see us narrowing the list of students' favorites to ten titles in each category. Look for the 2016 list of ballot books to arrive in your email in the spring.

Spend your winter curled up with a good book and keep warm!



Creating Classrooms Where All Students Can Succeed

**Join us at the Saratoga Hilton and Conference Center for the 2015 NYSRA Conference!**

**Diverse Learners, Diverse Literacies**

**November 9-11, 2015**

Confirmed speakers include the following:

Richard Allington  
Lucy Calkins  
Julie Coiro  
Harvey Daniels  
Andrea Honigsfeld  
Maria Dove  
Margaret Mckeown  
Maria Nichols  
Peter Johnston  
Ernest Morrell  
Pegeen Jensen  
Erik Sweet and Colleagues  
Angelica Infante Greene  
Donna Scanlon  
Jan Richardson  
Laura Robb  
Marvin Terban

Please submit a proposal to share your knowledge about meeting the needs of diverse readers and writers.

Deadline for 1-hour session proposals: April 15, 2015.

Deadline for poster session proposals: May 1, 2015.

Find more information at <http://www.nysreading.org/>

Questions? Contact Liz Yanoff, nysraconf2015 at gmail.com

## **News from the Brooklyn Reading Council**

by Shawn Kohn

On Friday, November 7, 2014, the Brooklyn Reading Council, in partnership with the Eta Theta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (International Education Honor Society) at Brooklyn College, sponsored a borough-wide professional learning conference.

The event opened with a welcome from the new Dean of the School of Education, Dr. April Bedford. There were 12 workshops, broken into two sessions of six each. Topics included reading in the content area, forging relationships with parents, the reluctant and struggling learners, and bullying, just to name a few. The presenters included teachers, professors, principals, and education students. Our featured author was Stephanie Calmenson. She autographed copies of one of her books, *Dinner at the Panda Palace*.

The highlight of the conference was the keynote speaker, Carmen Farena, Chancellor, of the New York City Department of Education. Mrs. Farena was given gift memberships in both Kappa Delta Pi and the Brooklyn Reading Council. She spoke, never seeming to forget her beginning as a classroom teacher. Her motto is "Literacy is Joy."

Special thanks go to the co-chairpersons, Dr. Victor Ramsey and Sharon Kohn, members of both organizations. Thanks also to Barbara Buchholz, President of Kappa Delta Pi, and Jennifer Hamilton -McKinnon, President of the Brooklyn Reading Council. This was a truly successful event. There are not enough thank yous to go around.

Ask your librarian about the Summer Reading  
**2015 Teen Video Challenge**

**UNMASK!**

Part of the 2015 Summer Reading Hero Theme

**Create a Summer  
Reading video**

and you could win \$150  
-and your library \$50

- Get national exposure—winning videos will be posted to the CSLP website and viewed across the country!
- Open to all New York State teens, aged 13-18.
- Videos of 30-90 seconds accepted.
- Include your interpretation of the 2015 CSLP teen slogan “Unmask” for the 2015 Summer Reading Hero theme.
- Promote public libraries and the fun of summer reading.

**Entry Deadline:  
February 25, 2015**



For more information and entry form, visit:  
[www.summerreadingnys.org](http://www.summerreadingnys.org)  
Or ask your public librarian for an entry form.

Summer Reading at New York Libraries is a program of the Office of Cultural Education in the New York State Education Department and is funded through the Federal Library Services and Technology Act, with funds awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## **New York State Reading Association AWARDS PACKET**

**Submit applications to** Eileen LaSpaluto – [ebalaspaluto@gmail.com](mailto:ebalaspaluto@gmail.com)  
OR [eileen.laspaluto@middleburghcsd.org](mailto:eileen.laspaluto@middleburghcsd.org)  
Award Chairperson  
New York State Reading Association  
NYSRA Professional Awards

The complete Awards Packet may be found at the following website:  
<http://nysreading.org/content/awards>.

Go to the *Professional Development* tab, click on it, then click on *Awards*.

**Please encourage colleagues and educators involved in promoting literacy to apply for the following awards for which they may be eligible:**

### **EDUCATORS, SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONAL LITERACY AWARDS:**

#### **NYSRA LITERATURE-BASED MINI-GRANT**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Teachers K-12

**GOALS:** To recognize teachers who are conducting programs that emphasize children's and young adult literature;  
To showcase model literature-based programs in NYS;  
To showcase mini-grants, and in so doing NYSRA's commitment to literacy.

**AWARD:** \$500.00

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** APRIL 30th

#### **NYSRA LITERACY AND TECHNOLOGY MINI-GRANT**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Teachers K-12

**GOALS:** To grant awards to teachers who are conducting programs emphasizing the use of technologies to support literacy learning;  
To showcase model programs that integrate literacy and technology in NY schools;  
To showcase NYSRA's commitment to literacy and technology.

The recipient of the award or their representative is expected to attend the annual NYSRA Conference to showcase their project. Recipients of the awards will be asked to participate in the review of the following year's mini-grant applications.

**AWARD:** \$500.00

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** APRIL 30th

#### **NYSRA LITERACY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Librarian/Media Specialists; Literacy Specialist/Coach or Reading teacher; Reading Administrator/Supervisor; Classroom Teacher nominees

**GOALS:** To promote excellence in the field of literacy instruction in New York State;  
To recognize individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy

instruction in New York State;

To recognize individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of children and adults.

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th**

#### **NYSRA FRIEND OF READING AWARD**

**ELIGIBILITY:** **Open to anyone who promotes literacy**

**GOALS:** To promote excellence in the field of literacy in New York State;

To recognize individuals who contribute to the improvement of literacy instruction in New York State;

To recognize individuals who promote the importance of reading in the daily lives of child and adults;

Affiliation with NYSRA.

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th**

#### **NYSRA WORLD TRADE CENTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

**ELIGIBILITY:** **New York State Educators, Members of NYS Reading Association**

**GOAL:** To honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center tragedy by encouraging anti-bias literacy programs throughout New York State.

**AWARD:** A plaque indicating that the educator(s) has received this honor.

The award recipient is encouraged to present the winning program at a future NYSRA Conference.

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th**

#### **NYSRA EXEMPLARY READING PROGRAM AWARD**

**ELIGIBILITY:** **Elementary and Secondary Schools (All Public, Private, and Parochial schools are eligible)**

**GOALS:** To improve literacy in our society;

To recognize school staff who demonstrate excellence in reading and literacy programs.

The award-winning school will be invited to present at NYSRA's Annual Conference and will receive a plaque from the Exemplary Reading Award Committee.

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE: NOVEMBER 15th**

#### **NYSRA LITERACY ADVOCATE AWARD**

**ELIGIBILITY:** **Organization, Institution or Individual (membership in NYSRA not required)**

**GOALS:** To recognize an organization, institution or individual having made a significant contribution to the New York State literacy effort.

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30th**

## **INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION EXEMPLARY READING PROGRAM AWARD**

### **Contact: Exemplary Reading Program Award**

**International Reading Association**

**800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139**

**Newark, DE 19741-8139, USA**

**GOALS:** This IRA Award recognizes outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (K-12). Its purpose is to call the public's attention to outstanding programs in schools throughout North America.

**GUIDELINES:** Each local council president was given a binder with the necessary guidelines and application forms, OR  
Contact the International Reading Association (IRA) for additional information about this award. A copy of the guidelines and application forms may be copied in PDF format from the IRA website, [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

## **NYSRA LITERACY OUTREACH AWARD**

**ELIGIBILITY:** NYSRA Local Reading Council

**GOALS:** To honor one or more NYSRA councils for outstanding service to its community and literacy.

**AWARD:** Recognition at the NYSRA Conference

**GUIDELINES:** (See NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** APRIL 30TH

## **NEW YORK STATE HIGHER LEARNING AWARDS:**

### **NYSRA RICHARD L. ALLINGTON RESEARCH GRANT**

**ELIGIBILITY:** New York State K-12 educator: Currently or formerly employed classroom teacher, librarian, resource teacher, Title 1 teacher, full-time or permanent half-time OR a faculty member of a New York State college or university in a literacy or related capacity and a current NYSRA council member

**GOALS:** To encourage the development of research projects related to the areas of reading, writing, and/or listening at levels K-12;  
To showcase the present winner of the Allington Research Grant at the New York State Reading Association Annual Conference.

**AWARD:** \$500.00

**GUIDELINES:** (See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

**APPLICATION DUE:** APRIL 30th

### **SENATOR DONOVAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**ELIGIBILITY:** College students pursuing a Career in Literacy Education/Member of NYSRA, Currently enrolled in a graduate program

**GOAL:** To recognize a college student who is pursuing a career in literacy.

**AWARD: \$500.00**

**Guidelines: Applicants will write an essay on this year's topic:**

***"Describe how a classroom teacher can use formative assessments to inform his/her literacy instruction?"***

(See above NYSRA website for additional information.)

Award winners are expected to serve on the following year's review committee and attend the NYSRA Conference, when possible.

**APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**

## ***New York State Education News***

### **November 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of News and Notes from Engage NY**

#### **[News and Notes: November 7, 2014](#)**

In Commissioner King's opening statement, he introduces the Social Studies Framework, Field Guide, and Toolkit. He also introduces the videos that are presented in this section on math and writing.

#### **[New York State K-12 Social Studies Field Guide](#)**

The field guide for the K-12 Social Studies curriculum has been reviewed and suggestions have been made.

#### **[Math Studio Talk Video Series Information](#)**

A math coach talks about Common Core Standards for elementary school math and introduces games, activities, and models for teachers and parents.

#### **[Education Week: A Parent Academy to Support Your Child](#)**

A video highlighting "A Parent Academy" hosted at Teachers College, Columbia University, teaches parents and families how to help their children.

#### **[Brooklyn Student Proud of His Progress](#)**

A student in Brooklyn feels great that his hard work is paying off in his writing.

#### **[High Quality and Easy-to-Use Resources Draw Educators from Around the Nation to EngageNY](#)**

An article from the Department of Education titled "Progress: Teachers, Leaders and Students Transforming Education" highlights how teachers from across the country are turning to EngageNY as a source for materials and information on the Common Core.

#### **[New York State Education Department and New York Attorney General Launch Review](#)**

New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Commissioner King, and Board of Regents Chancellor Merryl H. Tisch have stated that they will conduct a compliance review of school districts' enrollment policies.

### [Computer Science Education: Hour of Code](#)

A one-hour introduction tutorial to computer science is available at the above website.

## **November 24<sup>th</sup> Edition of News and Notes from Engage NY**

### [News and Notes: November 24th](#)

Commissioner King discusses the memo sent to educators about the role of research in the Common Core instruction. A list of resources is given to help educators and administrators implement the research skills in the Common Core Standards.

### [What is a Teacher Leader?](#)

A Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Grant has shown the impact of educator leadership.

### [New York State Summer School of the Arts](#)

A documentary shows the benefits of the summer program that gives youth the opportunity to develop their skills in the arts.

### [November is New York State History Month!](#)

A link to the website created by the New York State Museum highlights New York State History.

### [Available on EngageNY: Assessment Development Webinars](#)

NYSED is offering a series of assessment literacy webinars to help with assessment concepts and guidance on reviewing and developing assessments.

### [New York State Green Ribbon Schools Program](#)

The New York State Education Department is allowed to nominate up to four schools that have high standards and is in compliance with safety standards and regulations to receive recognition as a Green Ribbon School.

## **Literacy News and Links of Interest**

### [ReadWriteThink and Winter Activities](#)

Find some interesting winter-related lesson plan ideas and more on this website created by the International Reading Association.

### [Reading Rockets and Winter Holidays](#)

Find numerous lesson plan ideas about [Christmas](#), [Hanukkah](#), and [Kwanza](#) here.

### [Best Educational Literacy Apps](#)

Find Reading Rockets' compilation of the best educational literacy apps here.

**[ReadWorks.org](#)**

Check out this website by a non-profit agency dedicated to providing free Common Core-aligned reading comprehension materials.

**[Balanced Reading.com](#)**

Find free literacy instructional materials using the philosophy of “balanced reading” here.

**[Educational Technology and Mobile Learning](#)**

Check out one team of teachers’ best takes on teaching tools for educational technology and check out their main website here: <http://www.educatorstechnology.com/>