

Dear Florida Reading Association Members,

When did you catch the magic ... the absolute joy of reading? For me it was 25 years ago. Now wait minute you say, "Honey, there ain't no way you are in your early thirties!" No, I'm fifty-three. But while I was reading at five, I never really found the rapture of being caught up in a book. My mother was a passionate reader and read to both my brother and me. It wasn't that I was illiterate or didn't have ready access to books. It just didn't happen to me.

A friend told me about a book that both she and her daughter couldn't put down. It was about a twelve-year old orphan girl. In fact, they started separating part of it on their vacation so they could both read it at the same time. The book? *Anne of Green Gables*. Now I know that isn't the most intriguing or intense books, but I was swept away with Lucy Maud Montgomery's creation.

I started reading that book and couldn't put it down Michael, my husband, would go to bed without me and come in later to find me crying. "Matthew died," I sobbed. He just shook his head and went back to bed. As I continued with the series, he would come into the room where I was to find out what was so funny. "Oh, you're reading," he'd sigh. I'd share with him the humorous adventures of Anne, along with the tears that came with the death of Gilbert and Anne's first infant.

Thus began my adulterous relationship with books. I found that I was reading not just for pleasure or knowledge, but also to develop the deeper part of myself. I reinforced my values, broadened my thinking, understood more about others, and understood more about myself in the process. I'm not sure I would like a world without books. There is something about the written word that is magical. It quickens our mind and enriches our souls, adding more to the depth of who we are.



"Man cannot live without story any more than he can live without bread."

Dr. Warren Bennis

Pamela La Riviere
FRA President

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Florida Reading Association Colleagues,

We do hope you were able to attend the conference this year. It was awesome! Loads of wonderful nationally known speakers and authors, you'll see pictured in this newsletter, and much local talent from the Florida educational community who traveled to Single Creek in the throes of hurricane Fay and Ike to share their expertise with Florida's reading professionals. But, first the news:

1) *Florida Reading Quarterly* editor Katrina Hall announces these changes in the *Quarterly*:

- The journal is newly named the *Florida Reading Journal*
- The last page of the journal will be called "the last page" and will be for readers to submit anecdotes, jokes and other writings.
- Each article will have a "putting into practice" box so that readers can see the practical application contributions of the published article and hopefully distribute it to their school units and/or peers. In addition, each article will offer an author's bio.
- A new section on teaching/classroom ideas will be available.

2) *Survey on technology in education*, our FRA president Pam LaRiviere requests that our members participate in assistance with a national literacy study:

- The survey is questioning:
 - Would you like to know how other reading teachers in our state use technology in their classrooms?
 - What skills do they think are important to develop literacy online?
 - What obstacles do they face in integrating technology into their instruction?
 - These questions relate to important goals identified in IRA's 2002 position statement on integrating technology into language arts instruction.

Our state of Florida has been invited to participate in a national online survey that addresses these questions, and we are seeking your assistance. Your assistance will require only completing the 15-minute survey found at the following address: www.nationalliteracystudy.blogspot.com

If we assist in this project, the *Florida Reading Association* will receive a summary of the national results when it is available early next year.

Dr. David Reinking, editor of IRA's *Reading Research Quarterly* and a leading researcher in the area of technology and literacy is supervising this national survey. For any questions about the survey study, please contact Amy Hutchison, Dr. Reinking's assistant at Clemson University (arcarte@clemson.edu),

Finally, our photo-ethnographer outdid herself snapping shots during the conference. We thought it would be great to put these photos to use and let you connect faces with those familiar names you often see. In the next few pages, you will meet active current and past board members, presenters and authors, conference attendees and many more.



Dr. Joyce Warner, Editor



Dr. Nancy Masztal, Contributing

INTRODUCING!

Nominee for Vice President, Maria Callis:



Maria Callis has been an active member of the International Reading Association, Florida Reading Association and the Lee County Reading Council. She has served in various board positions and as a District Director for District 13 since 2003.

Maria presents at area, state, and national conferences and meetings. She has made numerous presentations including, but not limited to, the Florida Reading Model, Response to Intervention, her district's research on the correlation between students' oral reading fluency rates and FCAT achievement, and using a system's perspective to address students' reading needs at district and in school and classroom levels. Her current research interests include academic engagement strategies and developing the literacy of boys. Maria is also an avid adolescent literature and picture book fan.

Maria received her Masters in Reading from Rockford College. Although she has had the opportunity to enjoy teaching at the elementary, middle, high, and college level, the majority of her 15 years were spent teaching middle school reading. Maria has served as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, and reading coach. Maria is in her fourth year in her present position as the Secondary Reading Coordinator for Curriculum and Staff Development in the School District of Lee County. Here she designs, plans, and implements professional development and the creation of the district's reading plan while supporting the district's secondary reading teachers and secondary reading coaches.

Maria is passionate about meeting the needs of all students, empowering others, and working to be proactive in the intersection of education and government.

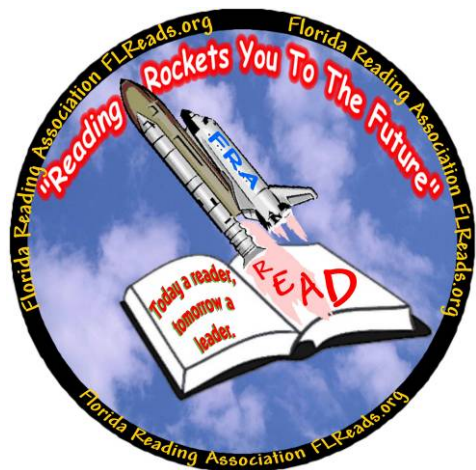
Sherida Weaver President Elect:

In addition to being the president elect, Sherida is the conference chair for the Florida Reading Association's 47th Annual Conference. See the proposal form in this issue :

FRA 2009

Rockets You to the Future!

September 10-13, 2009 at the Shingle Creek Resort



PRESENTING THE 46TH FRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
By Kathy Caputo and Ellen Supran conference co chairs and co vice presidents

The Florida Reading Association's 46th annual literacy conference, *Reading: Your Passport to the World*, presented an impressive group of literacy leaders and authors in one venue. Ellen and I felt immensely proud that the *Florida Reading Association* was able to offer such a wide variety of relevant professional development opportunities. Those in attendance were able to network, to hone their competencies, to relax and to enjoy the many conference activities. Pre-conference institutes were held on Thursday during the day. Afterward the exhibit hall was opened and attendees browsed and savored the food from the famous "martini mashed potato bar."

Friday and Saturday were filled with motivating featured speakers, varied concurrent sessions and author luncheons. FRA was honored to present Regie Routman, Pam Allyn, Linda Hoyt, The Two Sisters, Nell Duke, Brod Bagert, Michel Shoulders, Jerry Zutell, Donald Leu, Chris Soentpiet, Adrian Fogelin, Donald Bear, Alfred Tatum, Peter Afflerbach, Alex Flinn, Debra Frasier, Jeff Hicks, and many others. Throughout the day participants could speak with vendors and examine materials in the exhibit hall, all the while securing vendor stamps on their conference passports. The opportunity to win numerous door prizes added to the day's fun.

Friday evening participants enjoyed the President's Reception, hosted by the FRA President Pamela LaRiviere. The evening concluded with storytelling presented by Tales to Tell (Autumn Garick and Robin Schulte) and music and karaoke by D.J. Donny. Who knew that Michael Shoulders could sing as well as write?

Sunday, following a chance to "munch and mingle" with many of the authors who had been featured speakers, the conference concluded with an address by the current IRA Vice President and noted literacy leader, Patricia Edwards.

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's conference, *Reading... Rockets You to the Future*, which will be held at the luxurious Shingle Creek Resort on September 10-13, 2009. We hope to see you there!

General Conference Program Co-Chair and Vice President Ellen Supran



Co-Chair and Vice President Cathy Caputo was camera shy, but worked hard to put on this memorable 46th FRA conference.

PRESENTING THE 46TH FRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PHOTOS
By Lisa Schwartz, photo ethnographer

FRA Begins



Lela Anne Carroll, FRA recording secretary, can't resist buying books at the conference...



...or congratulating Ellen on the conference activities



**Past President Diane Reese and
Treasurer Adrien Helm ponder choices
at the martini mashed potato bar**



Co editors mingle



Others find their favorite toppings and enjoy the martini mashed potatoes, a FRA Friday night tradition !

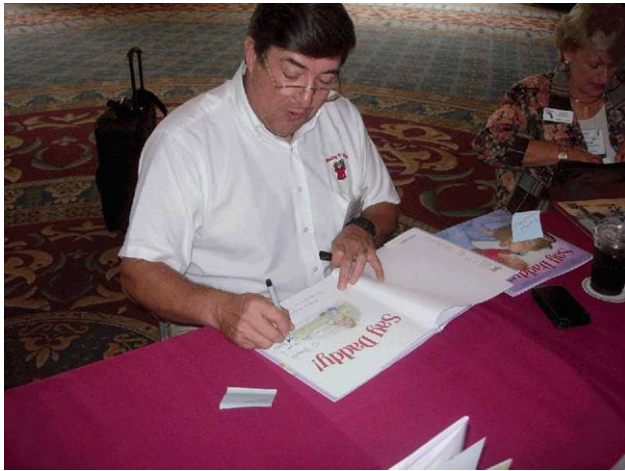
**Past Presidents shine at the 46th FRA conference:
Rose Ann Beason, Evelyn Florence and Margaret Janz**



**Ann Smith congratulates conference committee first chair and past president Andrea Rosenblatt
on a great 46th conference.**



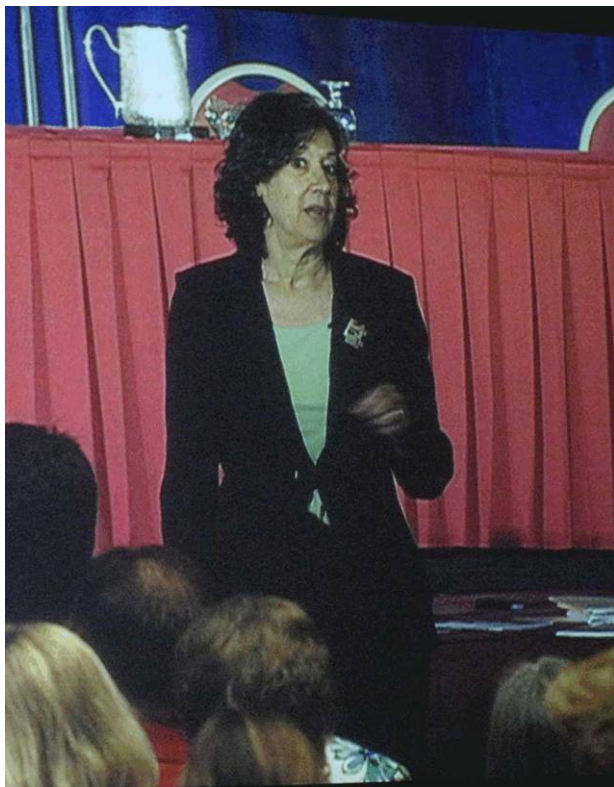
NATIONALLY KNOWN PRESENTERS AND AUTHORS



Say Daddy author, Michael Shoulders at book signing



Peter Afflerbach speaks on assessment and accountability and links those teachable moments to connect those teachable moments to assessment.



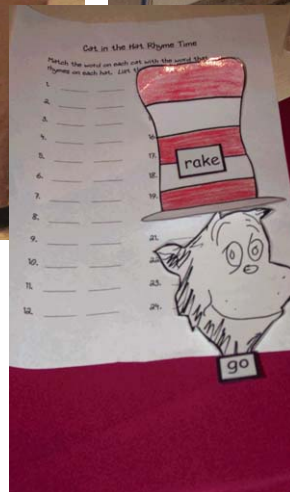
Regie Routman transforms teaching and changes students lives

Alfred Tatum reconnects African-American males with through reading and writing



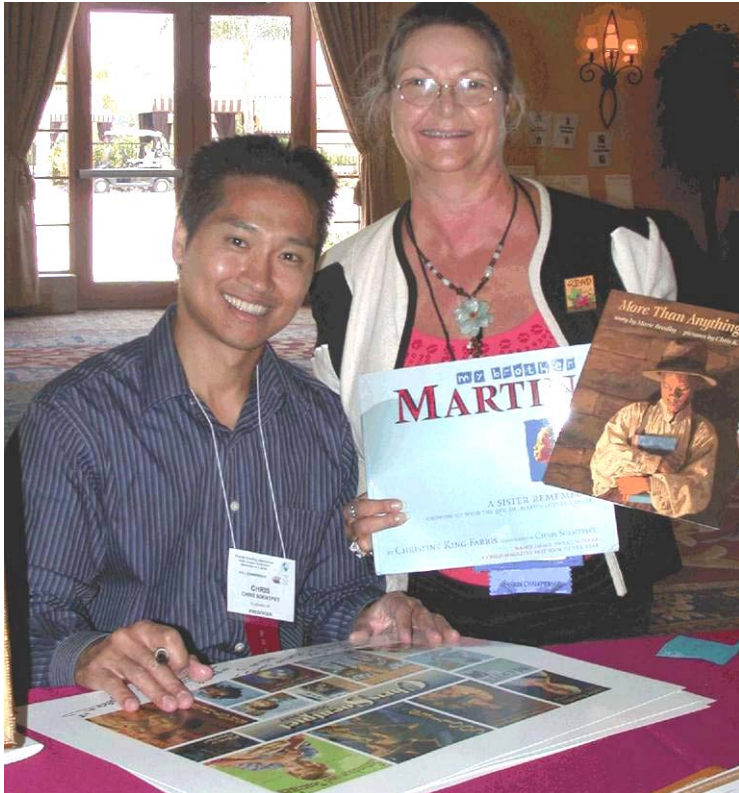
Linda Hoyt speaks on Wild About Words

MORE PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE



BOOK SIGNING

Chris Soentpiet



Suzanne Fisher Staples

Melissa & Rick Forney

Denise Fleming



Thanks !

FRA recognizes and thanks Harris Rosen for his support



Pamela LaRiviera, FRA President and Harris Rosen, Entrepreneur

Debra Wellman, Past President



Our Exhibitors and Vendors



And the Shingle Creek kitchen

JUST READ, FLORIDA! CORNER

Florida Receives International Reading Association Award

Florida was recently announced as one of only two states this year to receive a Five-Star Policy Award from the International Reading Association (IRA). Florida has completed stage one of the two stage process for adopting policies that support effective literacy instruction for all children. During stage two of the award process, an online survey will be sent to all IRA members in the state of Florida in October/November to determine whether those policies have been implemented. We encourage all IRA members within the state to complete the survey as Florida continues with the award process, highlighting our collective efforts to improve literacy in our K-12 public schools.

Just Read, Florida! 8th Annual Leadership Conference

We are pleased to announce the 8th Annual Just Read, Florida! K-12 Leadership Conference to be held Sunday, June 28 – Wednesday, July 1, 2009 in Orlando. We are expecting the conference next year to be the largest and best event ever. Registration is scheduled to open in January of 2009, so mark your calendars now! Each Florida school may send four educators who are members of the school's Reading Leadership Team that should include the principal, reading coach and two teacher leaders.

To once again ensure that essential information is provided to Florida's school and district leadership in the area of reading, and literacy broadly, we will invite schools and districts to submit proposals to present at the conference. The online proposal submission system is open but will close on November 14th. For more information or to submit a proposal, please go to the Just Read, Florida! Leadership Conference website at <http://www.justreadflorida.com/conference/>. The \$100 registration fee will be waived for all approved conference presenters.



**Evan Lefsky, Director, Just Read, Florida! and
Connie Cain, President, Secondary Reading Council of Florida.**

FRA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

August 2008

Florence Brainerd, Legislative Advocate

Summer Interim Projects

Both the House and Senate committee staffs research and prepare interim studies for their legislative members as directed. This year none have included direct Reading concerns.

This summer's projects have included:

- High School Grading;
- Impact of the General Appropriations Act on Pre-K-12 Education;
- Implementation of School District Virtual Instruction Programs;
- Class Size Reduction: Meeting the 2010 State Constitution Requirements; and
- 2009 Education FACT Sheets Book.

2008 Bills Signed by Governor

Twenty-one 2008 education-related bills were signed by the Governor, enacting them into law.

Of those reported to FRA members in May, six were signed:

- CS/SB 1908 - This bill became a 58-page comprehensive bill including language from The "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards".
- HB 5083 - Reduces bonus pay for national board certified teachers.
- CS/SB 242 - Establishes single-gender classes that are voluntary to districts.
- SB 642 - Allows classroom placement of multiple birth siblings.
- HB 669 - Prohibits bullying or harassment of any public K-12 student or employee.
- SB 1712 - Prohibits certain physical contact with public school children.

Constitutional Amendments 5, 7 and 9

Among the nine Constitutional Amendments originally on the November 2008 ballot were three that deal with education: Amendments 5, 7 and 9, sponsored by Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. By resolution adopted by the board, FRA stands in opposition to all three amendments.

Editor's note: All three amendments have been removed from the ballot.



Florence Brainerd, Legislative Advocate

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IDEAS !!!

Membership

Please see http://www.flreads.org/about_FRA/membersh.htm for the new membership application and information about the benefits of being a member of FRA.

Margaret Adams, Membership Chair, says the FRA membership has increased due to the interest at the 49th FRA conference.



News from the Local Reading Councils

You may contact any local council through marvannclark0011@aol.com
Or access through www.FLReads.org. Click on FRA Organizations, then click on Local Councils and Associations

District 3 – Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla

August 2008 – S. Hinsley

<http://lcrc.pbwiki.com/>

Leon Country Reading Association:

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:

E-Mail Notices: Wild Apricot On-line Memberships (<http://www.wildapricot.com/>) will be used this year to allow members to join on-line and send out notices to all. This site was developed for non-profit organizations to manage their membership. This is a valuable tool for communication! Members can keep up with LCRC news and events from their school or personal e-mail or ask the school's LCRC building representative.

Newsletters: LCRC will publish a fall 2008 edition. The current and past editions are in PDF format and can be viewed over the internet on our web site: <http://lcrc.pbwiki.com/>

District 5 – Baker, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Levy

August 2008 – D. N. Pedro

duvalreadingcouncil.org

Duval County Reading Council:

The Duval County Reading Council Board of Directors met to plan their budget and to discuss their programs for the 2008-2009 school.

This year, this Reading Council has chosen for its theme "Pawspport to Success". They will have some fun locating "Reading", the traveling cat. At each meeting, the members will have to solve clues to determine Reading's next adventure.

District 10 – Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk

August 2008 – M. Adams

Pinellas County Reading Council:

Highlights:

- Awarded a scholarship for a member to attend the IRA conference in Atlanta
- MacMillan sponsored end of the year dinner and presentation of Literacy Honor Award and a talk on "Think Clouds"

Polk County Reading Council

Highlights:

- March dinner and workshop with author Debra Wiles, children's book author
- -May workshop on "Humor in Literacy Instruction" with comedian Justin Fennell including dinner and "Make & Take" activities

District 11 – Sarasota, DeSoto, Highland, Hardee, Manatee

August 2008 - D. Nelson

Sarasota County Reading Council:

Highlights:

- During the summer, Greg's Hallmark in the Westfield Sarasota Square Mall held a book drive and donated over 100 books to our Books for Babes program. Fifty additional books were added at the summer end social.
- During the 2008 – 2009 school year, SRC will sponsor seven activities to promote life-long reading: Book Drives; One Day. One Book. For Children Everywhere.; Books for Babes; Valentine's Day Read Aloud; Project Comfort; Holiday Gift Wrap; and Books for Brazil.
- Expanded the *For Love of Reading* program to include book drives, donation of books to organizations where families gather and participation in *Jumpstart's Read for the Record* event on October 2.
 - SRC Members will bring national attention to the importance of early childhood education by participating in *Jumpstart's Read for the Record* Campaign and making it the largest shared reading experience ever. This event is part of *Jumpstart's Read for the Record*, a national campaign to break the world record for the number of adults and children reading this same book in a single day! The SRC has helped put *Corduroy* into the hands of many children by donating \$413 to the campaign. The SRC has also purchased a copy of *Corduroy* for 46 school site that committed to participating in the event on October 2, 2008
- Sarasota Reading Council and the Sarasota Council of Teachers of Mathematics teamed up to host this annual event on August 27.
- On September 17, SRC gathered to hear Jeff Anderson speak about writing and grammar for the 21st century student. Jeff Anderson's presentation was not only entertaining, but also full of useful insights into teaching writing and reading.

District 12 – Flagler, Lake, Marion, Sumter, Volusia

August 2008 – H. Maier

Volusia County Reading Council:

- Membership is growing
- A general meeting is planned for early November
- The council is actively working to maintain a cohesive organization
- For information specific to Volusia County, please contact President Kasey Lamb at: kmlamb@volusia.k12.fl.us

District 14 - Broward, Miami/Dade, Upper Keys

August 2008, V. Papier

www.dadereading.com

Dade Reading Council

Planned events for the 2008-2009 school year include:

- **Fall Activities:**
 - “**RAZZEL DAZZEL**” - September 27, 2008 was an extraordinary day. Two hundred forty-seven teachers, administrators and teacher trainers participated in Melissa Forney's workshop. Melissa kept her audience energized and engaged in creating tools to use in the classroom. The workshop was from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm and at its conclusion, many wanted to stay for more. Everyone left with exciting strategies to help their students

- become better writers and develop a passion for words. Melissa Forney will return February 21, 2009 for “Primary Pizzazz” and again fall 2009.
- **Hispanic Read In** - Once again Dade Reading Council members rolled out their big red reading beach towels and read to children from the South Dade community at Southland Mall. Children were given books with Hispanic Heritage content, stickers and pencils. The community looks forward to the various Read Ins held at the mall and greatly appreciates the books given to the children.
 - In February, the African American Read In will be held at the same location.



Velma Papier, District 14 Director and Artis Grey, Chair, Studies and Research Committee

Mary Ann Clark IRA Coordinator





AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION VOLUME XXVI, NO. 3

FALL 2008

Articles for the next *FRA Newsletter* should be sent to the newsletter editor:

Joyce VW Warner, Editor
 Barry University
 ADSOE
 Andreas 233
 11300 NE Second Ave.
 Miami Shores, Florida 33161
 E-mail: jvwarner@gate.net

NOTE: E-mailing articles allows the editor to cut and paste your information directly into the *FRA Newsletter*.

FRA Newsletter

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Deadlines for Upcoming Issues

Issue	Deadline
June/July	May 15
October	September 15
January	December 15
March	February 15

FLORIDA READING ASSOCIATION
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Lake Mary, FL 32746

Put
New Nonprofit
Indicia Here