


Northwest Wisconsin   
**Children's Book Conference**

**September 27 & 28, 2007**

**Presenters, Bios and Workshops**

**Thursday, September 27, 2007**

*Northern Waters Library Service*

**Pre-Conference Workshop - 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM – Cost \$20 includes lunch**

**Register for the NWLS Pre-conference by contacting: Linda Stobbe**

[lstobbe@nwls.lib.wi.us](mailto:lstobbe@nwls.lib.wi.us)

**Susan Santner**

**Title of session: Puppetry in the Library**

**Description of presentation:** Have fun mastering the basic techniques of bringing a hand puppet to life. Learn finger, wrist and arm movements along with character voices, use of props and pantomime. Discover how to coordinate your voice and movements to make an articulated mouth puppet speak to the children in your library.

Susan Santner is the Outreach Program Manager for Continuing Education Services in the School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison. She combined her love of children's literature with her passion for the theatre during 17 years working in youth services.

*Northwest Wisconsin Children's Book Conference*

**Pre-Conference Workshop - 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Bob Kann**

**Title of session: Dynamic Ideas for Aspiring Writers, Teachers, and Students.**



**Description of presentation:** In this session, Dr. Bob Kann, author and Professor of Education, shares his favorite writing-related ideas gleaned from thirty years of writing, teaching, and training teachers. What are the major impediments to successful writing? How do you build the habit of writing to make it more enjoyable and productive? How and why is it valuable for writers to understand their work styles? What strategies can you employ when you're experiencing the inevitable "writer's block?"

How do you continually generate ideas for new writing projects? Why should you love your editor and make sure you have several? How do you teach all of the above to your students? Join Bob in this active, fun, and practical workshop. Anyone interested in some aspect of writing will benefit from this workshop.

## **Friday, September 28, 2007**

### **Faith Sullivan – Keynote Speaker**

**Title of session:** Reading Is a Life and Death Matter

**Description of presentation:** In the past thirty years, computers have come to dominate the way we learn, work, create, and communicate. But do they take the place of books? And if they do not, what are children missing when the book connection isn't established early in their lives – preferably in the cradle? We ought to be concerned, as the computer-addicted child is being short-changed in vital, even crucial, ways.



**Faith Sullivan** grew up in small town Minnesota (Lakefield and Pipestone) and graduated from Mankato State University. Though she has lived in St. Louis, New York, and Los Angeles, most of her life has been spent in Minnesota, currently Minneapolis.

In 1975 Sullivan began writing novels because she had a great idea for one and couldn't talk husband Dan, theater critic for the *Los Angeles Times*, into writing it. Since then she has published seven novels:

*Repent, Lanny Merkel; Watchdog; Mrs. Demming and the Mythical Beast; The Cape Ann; The Empress of One; What a Woman Must Do; and Gardenias.* She is currently at work on numbers 8, 9, and 10 tentatively titled *Goodnight, Mr. Wodehouse, The Woman on the Roof, and The Woman Who Tried to Be Somebody.*

The Sullivans have three grown children: Maggie, Ben, and Kate, all of them writers. Of writing Sullivan says, "The wonderful thing about it is that you're never too young or too old. I intend doing it until my pencil runs out of lead."

### **Joan Dungey**

**Title of session:** Reading Across the Curriculum, Teaching Science Using Children's Literature.

**Description of presentation:** Students need reading skills to understand subject content. Using children's literature that integrates with the current topic under study makes learning more meaningful and exciting. This session will describe hands-on science activities that relate directly to a reading book experience. Participants will receive a handout of sample activities and a list of books to use.



**Joan Dungey**, is a frequent presenter at teacher conferences and author of numerous journal articles. She has been involved in education at all levels for over twenty-five years and is a nationally recognized consultant in ESL

and outdoor education. She was most recently an assistant Professor of Education at Cedarville University and also taught in the graduate program at the MacGregor School at Antioch University. Her specialty is developing supplementary materials for the classroom, using newspapers and environmental print, bulletin boards and hand-on activities.

### **Cooperative Children's Book Center –**

**Large Group Presentation:** CCBC Choices 2008, **Workshop Session I:** Great New Books for Younger Children – Birth through Grade 5. **Workshop Session II:** Great New Books for Older Children and Teens.

CCBC librarians Merri Lindgren and Megan Schliesman will give a preview of CCBC Choices 2008, highlighting outstanding books for children and young adults, published to-date in 2008. The three sessions will focus on books for pre-K through high school age. All books will be available for hands-on display. In addition, the CCBC will bring additional books that have received starred reviews in 2008. Our sponsor Redbery Books will have books for sale.



**Merri Lindgren** is a librarian at the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She coauthored *CCBC Choices* during the years 1990-1993, and from 2002 to present. She edited *The Multicolored Mirror: Cultural Substance in Literature for Children and Young Adults* (Highsmith, 1991). She also compiled and edited the *CCBC Resource List for Appearances by Wisconsin Book Creators* (2nd edition, 1990, and 3rd edition, 1993). She is a regular contributor to the *Wisconsin State Journal*, writing about books for children and young adults. Merri has worked as a youth services

librarian at the Helen M. Plum Memorial Library in Lombard, Illinois, and as an instructor of Adolescent and Young Adult Literature at Edgewood College. She served on the 2001 Charlotte Zolotow Award Committee and chaired the 2002 Charlotte Zolotow Award Committee. Merri graduated from UW-Madison with a B.A. Degree in Psychology and has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Megan Schliesman is a librarian at the Cooperative Children's Book Center of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With Katy and Ginny Moore Kruse, Megan coauthored *Multicultural Literature for Children and Young Adults, 1991-1996*. She is currently a columnist for *Library Sparks* magazine, and contributes to the CCBC monthly column for the *Wisconsin State Journal*. Megan served on the 2005 Newbery Award Committee. She has also served on the 1998, 1999 and 2002 Charlotte

Zolotow Award committees and chaired the 2003 committee. She was a member of the committee that created the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Planning Curriculum in English Language Arts (DPI, 2001) and created the bibliography for DPI's *Teaching Character Education Using Children's Literature* (DPI, 2001). She has a B.A. degree in English from UW-Whitewater and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

## **Vicki Palmquist and Steve Palmquist**

**Title of session: “Where No Reader Has Gone Before”**

**Description of presentation:** When readers are looking for an out-of-this-world book experience, there are science fiction, science fantasy, and science fact choices that will capture their attention, from K through 12. Suspend your disbelief, don your anti-grav boots, and enjoy this look at books that “stay on target.”



Vicki and Steve Palmquist are children’s literature enthusiasts who work with authors and illustrators providing literary services in their company Winding Oak. In 2002, they began Children’s Literature Network, a national collaboration of teachers, librarians, authors, and illustrators who are dedicated to encouraging children of all ages to develop a passion for reading that will last a lifetime. Their love for reading science fiction and fantasy brought them together.

## **Stuart Stotts**

**Title of session: Storytelling 101 and Reading Comprehension**

**Description of presentation:** Storytelling skills are an essential part of sharing literature with children. Whether telling folk tales, presenting biographies, reading picture books, or giving general book talks, every librarian can benefit from enhancing an audience’s experience and enthusiasm for books through storytelling. Participants will engage in activities to explore story skills and will become familiar with relevant resources.

**Title of session: Lutie Stearns and Her Library Legacy**

**Description of presentation:** Lutie Stearns was a pioneer librarian from 1895 to 1914 in Wisconsin. Driven by a passion for social justice and sharing information, she single-handedly brought traveling libraries to hundreds of rural communities while working for the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. In this presentation, her story and the larger story of the role of traveling libraries in American history is told through anecdote, primary material, and slides.

This presentation includes a hands-on personal reflection about library work, and a brief discussion of the curriculum guide that accompanies her biography “Books in a Box.”



**Stuart Stotts** is a songwriter, storyteller and author from Madison, Wisconsin. He gives over 200 performances each year around the country and his recordings have won national awards. He has led workshops on storytelling for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and for conferences around the country. He is the author of “Books in a Box: Lutie Stearns and the Traveling Libraries of Wisconsin.”

**Consie Powell**

**Title of session: Something Remarkable, Every Day - Cancelled**

**Joleen Henneman**

**Title of session: Improving Literacy Through the Environment**

**Description of presentation:** The goal of an environmental education program is not only to teach students the base of scientific concepts, but also to increase their interest in the environment and help them develop critical thinking skills. Through environmentally themed children's literature and hands-on learning experiences, children learn to appreciate the environment and will hopefully become stewards of the earth. Participants will receive a list of environmentally themed children's books and sample activities.



Joleen Henneman is the Museum Educator at the Cable Natural History Museum. She plans and delivers education programs and assists with exhibit development and installation. She graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in Environmental Education and Interpretation. Joleen taught outdoor environmental education lessons at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in the fall of 2006 and taught summer classes at the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton, Wisconsin during 2003 and 2004.

**Katie McKay, Author**

**Title of session: "Where the Wild Things Should Be"**

**Description of presentation:** Wildness is the fuel for creativity, but many adults' desire for predictability and order can dampen the creative flame. This presentation will explore ways to balance the need for order and the power of creativity.



**Katie McKay** taught for 23 years and used storytelling in every subject. "Stories are how kids best understand their world," says Katie. One day, her principal said, "I know you love to teach. It's obvious that the kids love having you as their teacher, but as it is now, only kids in your room get to hear your stories. You should consider becoming a writer and professional storyteller."

So, after a stint at Harvard and working as the storyteller for Big Sister of Great Boston, Katie became an author. She has 4 published books and another 12 under contract. And as much as she loves traveling to schools in the Midwest and entertaining kids, she loves teaching writing even more.

“I love to see the most reluctant writer pick up a pencil and write with delight,” she says. Katie combines storytelling and writing workshops for students when she visits schools. Since she consulted for various Boston schools out of Harvard, she also does writing workshops for teachers and delivers in services on creativity for teachers.

### **Marsha Qualey**

**Title of session:** “I’ve Been Used! What one writer has learned after her books has been assigned in the classroom.”

#### **Description of presentation:**

Qualey, the author of award-winning YA novels (*Revolutions of the Heart*, *Thin Ice*, *Just Like That*) discusses what she has learned about fiction and writing from secondary students who have been assigned one of her novels for classroom reading. Gain insight into her perspective and the student perspective as you use novels with teens.



**Marsha Qualey’s** stories pick up where memories leave off. “I have no memory of where and when I was struck by the desire to write, so the story I usually tell when asked such a question (*Mrs. Qualey, have you always wanted to be a writer?*) is that while I began writing when I was in junior high, I only began to work at writing—making it part of my day-to-day life—when I was in my early twenties. I read a lot when I was growing up in Austin, Minnesota. I loved the public and the Summer School libraries. I can still picture the places on the shelves where favorite books belonged. This passion for reading stories eventually spilled over into a desire to write stories. After high school I left Austin for St. Paul, Minnesota and college. Decades later, I live in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, though I have lived other places—Texas, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Minnesota. My husband and I have four children and four pets.”

“I write novels for and about teenagers—YA fiction. Most of my novels are set in the upper Midwest and have a contemporary setting. My first novel grew out of a short story that was rejected by *Seventeen* magazine. The (then) fiction editor, Bonni Price, took the time to write me an encouraging rejection letter. Her letter was a turning point for me—I began thinking about writing novels instead of short stories. I have no idea now why her letter made me think “Eureka! I’ll write a novel!” but I know that it did. My first novel, *Everybody’s Daughter*, was published in 1991; the eighth and most recent, *Too Big a Storm*, came out in June of 2004 and *Just Like That* in June of 2005. I am hard at work at yet another.”

### **Susan Santner**

**Title of session:** “Story Time Techniques”

**Description of presentation:** Research has shown that story time is the perfect venue for demonstrating to parents and daycare providers the importance of reading out loud to their children. Learn how and why to incorporate the six early literacy techniques of print awareness, narrative skills, print motivation, letter knowledge, phonological awareness and enriched

vocabulary into your story time.

**Title of session:** “Storytelling Concert of Ideas”

**Description of presentation:** This workshop is an opportunity to pick up tips and techniques for sharing storytelling in schools and in libraries. Come prepared to participate in silly folktales. Take home a song, a finger play, a poem and a story to share.



*Susan Santner* developed into a master storyteller and puppeteer over the last 45 years while she was pursuing her passion as a regional theatre performer. She received a B.S. in Theatre and Literature with a minor in Oral Interpretation from Eastern Michigan University, and a Master's Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She combined her love of children's literature with her passion for the theatre and spent 17 years working in the field of youth services. Susan is currently employed as the Outreach Program Manager for Continuing Education Services in the School of

Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison. She is busy organizing CE projects, conferences, guest lecturing and teaching youth services classes online. As a former children's librarian, Susan still loves nothing better than sharing a good story.

### **Rob Reid**

**Title of session:** “Shake and Shout: Movement and Sound Effects Songs Connecting with Literature”

**Description of presentation:** Author Rob Reid will share story program lesson plans and activities centered around music and literature based on his three books published in 2007: *Children's Jukebox, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*; *Something Musical Happened at the Library*; *Shake and Shout: Children's Movement and Sound Effects Songs*. Entertaining and informative.



Rob Reid is a Lecturer for the Foundations of Education Department at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. His specialty is children's literature, literature for adolescents, and storytelling. He is the author of four ALA Editions books: *Cool Story Programs for the School Age Crowd*, *Something Funny Happened at the Library*, *Family Storytime*, and *Children's Jukebox*, as well as articles for *LibrarySparks*, *The Shy Librarian*, *School Library Journal*, and the Children's Literature Network.

Rob has previously served as a youth services and special needs consultant for the Indianhead Federated Library System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and as a children's librarian for the Eau Claire Public Library and the Pueblo (CO) Library District. He received his Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Minnesota and his Bachelor's Degree in English and Speech/Theater Education from Bemidji State University in northern Minnesota. In addition to teaching and writing, Rob visits schools and libraries as a

children's humorist. He also travels across the country and Canada speaking to library and school organizations about children's programming and making literature come alive for children. Rob was recently elected to the 2006 Newbery Award Committee and named as the 2004 Wisconsin Library Association's Librarian of the Year.

### **Bob Kann**

**Title of session presentation:** A Zillion Creative Writing Ideas

**Description of presentation:** In this session, Bob Kann provides teachers with a unique supply of story structures guaranteed to provide young writers' with innumerable ideas for getting started writing. Participants will play with such diverse writing techniques as clash-of-context, exaggeration, "get it wrong," and much more. They'll also examine different types of stories that are told throughout the world to expand their understanding of the varied possibilities for the tales they and their students can create.

Bob Kann was born on November 11, 1953 in Chicago, but it happened so long ago that he remembers nothing of the event. Bob grew up in Skokie, Illinois, a suburb which proudly proclaimed it to be "the largest village in the world." He had an uneventful childhood until a mild concussion resulting from an over spun back-flip off of a wing set changed the budding gymnast's mental outlook – permanently (but he thinks he still can do a back flip!) Bob attended UW-Madison, became a teacher, and eventually received his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from UW-Madison. He became a Professor of Education at UW-Parkside – a job he assumed would lead him to nirvana.

However, he quickly discovered that the 'pot-of-gold' at the end of the rainbow- being a professor- was not the right pot for him. Instead, he realized that making his students laugh was the right fit. Hence, in 1982 he began his career as a storytelling/juggling entertainer. Twenty-three years later, he is still performing, teaching, and consulting.

### **Damian Vraniak**

**Title of session presentation:** A New Paradigm: Developmental Appropriateness of Content in Children's Literature

**Description of presentation:** A new synthesis of developmental phases, stages and periods gives writers of children's literature a powerful tool to focus upon the most relevant sensory, emotional and cognitive elements for children of different ages.



Over the course of his career as a clinical psychologist, Dr. Vraniak held positions in a variety of arenas in his profession, including the academics, private practice, research, and consulting. He is known nationally and internationally. His work has included cross cultural studies, prevention and intervention programs for youth and mental health of families. Much of this work has been involved with American Indian groups. Dr. Vraniak now resides on his ancestral land near Hayward. His Mashkawis program for youth and adults involve four threads - creative art, music/dance/movement, outdoor adventure,

and traditional storytelling. He combines his love of the outdoors, stewardship for the land, and experience with family and youth in his life's work.

### **Paul Mitchell**

**Title of session presentation:** How to write a press release.

**Description of presentation:** You've written a book you're sure kids will love to read, but how do you get the word out about it? Newspaper editors are flooded by submissions and press releases, and only a fraction make it to print. In this workshop, get some tips on how to grab an editor's attention with your release, and how to decide which newspapers may actually be interested enough to publish something about your work.



Paul Mitchell is a writer and the managing editor of the Sawyer County Record based in Hayward, Wis., which also publishes a variety of special feature sections and magazines each year. He spends a great deal of time chucking submitted press releases into his recycle bin. He's also been known to publish a few.