

## The Sacramento Area Reading Association



# The Reader



[www.sacramentoreads.org](http://www.sacramentoreads.org)

August, 2009

Volume 1

### **Board of Directors** **2009-2010:**

Kathy Davalos  
President

Marianne Rayburn  
President-Elect

Terri McGarvey  
Vice President

Veronica Schwalbach  
Recording Secretary

Judy Miranda  
Treasurer

Alanna Butterworth  
Membership

Rafael Prado  
Publicity

Members at large

Meg Gillman

Judy Grimshaw

Rita Jones

Penny Kastanis

Terri McGarvey

Marianne Rayburn

Pat Sayer-Handley

Connie Strand

Alicia Jaffe

Carolyn Claridge

## From the President's Desk

### TOGETHER WE CAN!

There is an often quoted story about Oliver Wendell Holmes who when traveling by train, was asked by the conductor for his ticket. When Mr. Holmes couldn't find the ticket, the conductor, recognizing his famous passenger, said, "That's all right Mr. Supreme Court Justice, I'm sure the railroad can trust you to mail it in when you find it." "My good man," replied the exasperated Mr. Holmes, "The question is not where is my ticket: the question is where am I going?"

At this time, the California Reading Association is confronted with a similar question. It was recently announced that the CRA Conference has been cancelled this year due to the budget. A letter regarding the conference cancellation

will go out to the membership, as well as to conference speakers and authors.

It is against this back drop that we should ask, not where have we been, but where are we going now? The decade has proven to be a turning point and we look forward to hearing from the CRA leadership in the future.

As for the Sacramento Area Reading Association I am extremely humbled and honored to lead our organization. I realize that I have large shoes to fill from the initiative of past exemplary leadership. I am excited about new opportunities to meet the needs of children and teachers in literacy development this year, and I know with SARA that no one ever leads alone.

Enjoy reading about our exciting annual events and extraordinary new activi-



ties for the 2009-2010 year from the event's chairmen. Have a wonderful new school year and I hope you will make all our SARA events a "not-be-missed" priority!

Tell your friends to visit our website for an application, [www.sacramentoreads.org](http://www.sacramentoreads.org). I look forward to seeing you at the events.

*Together We Can...*

Sincerely,  
Kathy Davalos

*THE READER is published quarterly. For additional information or to join SARA please contact:*

*Alanna Butterworth, [alannab@surewest.net](mailto:alannab@surewest.net) (916) 457-6445*

## Save these Dates

### Sept. 21

Wine and Wisdom  
RAFT, 4:30-6:30 pm

### Oct. 8

Read for the Record  
[www.readfortherecord.org](http://www.readfortherecord.org)

### Nov. 7

SARA Writing/Vocabulary  
Mini-conference  
Del Dayo Elementary, 8:30 am-3:30 pm

### Mar. 1

Read Across America  
Mission Oaks/Gibbons Community  
Center, 6:30-8 pm

### Apr. 22

Writer's Showcase  
Smythe Academy, 5:30-7 pm

### May 20

Barbara Schmidt  
Lighthouse for Literacy  
Casa Gardens Restaurant, 5:30-8 pm

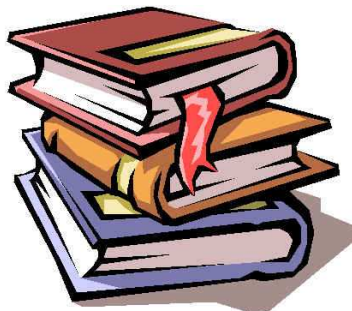
## Welcome New Members

### What is SARA?

For those of you who are new to SARA, we would like to provide you with some background information on the history and goals of the Sacramento Area Reading Association.

SARA was established in 1956 and is composed of teachers, administrators, parents, librarians and

community members interested in promoting literacy for all. Over the past 53 years, SARA has engaged our community with a variety of events, including Wine and Wisdom, a social networking and professional development event, Writer's Showcase, a writing contest for local students, Lighthouse for Literacy, a celebration to honor the work



of teachers and community members, as well as mini-conferences. In addition, SARA has helped organizations that support literacy efforts in the developing world.

SARA is an affiliate of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the California Reading Association (CRA). For the past 27 years SARA has been awarded the distinction of "Honor Council" by IRA.

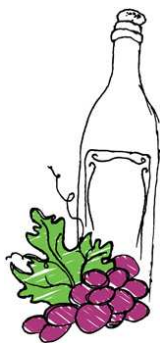
For more information on SARA or to view our upcoming events please visit our website at [www.sacramentoreads.org](http://www.sacramentoreads.org). We enthusiastically welcome all of our new members and we encourage all community members to join SARA now! We look forward to having a great year.

*Carolyn Claridge*  
Editor, *The Reader*

## Come Visit Us for Wine and Wisdom

SARA is kicking off the school year with it's Wine and Wisdom event on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The evening will take place from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT). RAFT is a non-profit organization that provides hands-on activities, educational resources, workshops, and inexpensive materials to enrich pre K-12 education programs. Members include teachers and community group leaders that work with children of all ages. If you have been to RAFT before, you are aware of the

wealth of ideas they offer to enhance Math, Science, and Art programs.



At Wine and Wisdom, SARA is aiming to expand the "hands-on" strategies to the English Language Arts curriculum. During the event participants will tour the facility, share ideas for activities that support the ELA standards, and enjoy wine and finger foods in a relaxed educational setting. One of the greatest benefits of SARA is the social networking with colleagues from different dis-

tricts. In these troubled times the fabulous materials and ridiculously low prices offered at RAFT, make it a hidden jewel in an educator's tool bag. In addition to the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to shop, as well as join RAFT at the group price of only \$20.00. Be sure to visit SARA's website to view the flyer and share it with all your colleagues. The collection of Mrs. Grossman's stickers is reason alone to attend!!

# An Invitation to Honor *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR*

Do you agree with so many people that *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is one of your favorite books from childhood, from teaching, for sharing, for artwork? Author Eric Carle's best loved book turns 40 years old this year and is being honored as the Read for the Record selection for 2009.



How would you like to help break a world record with this story? You're invited to join people all over the country on October 8, 2009 and read the book to one child, a classroom, a school and/or join in a local community event to celebrate Read for the Record. The goal is

to set a new world record for the greatest number of people reading the same book on the same day. Wouldn't you have fun being one of those record-breakers!! Jumpstarts' Read For the Record is our chance to support and share the powerful work Jumpstart does in preschools all over the country. Publisher Pearson offers an official Campaign version of the book. When you and your colleagues buy this special Campaign edition for only \$8.99, be assured that 100% of the profits go directly to support Jumpstart's efforts to connect young adults with at-risk preschoolers to

prepare the children to succeed in school. What if you donated a book to a child or a family for their personal libraries? Get involved and prepare to have a lot of fun! There are so many possibilities! Go to [www.readfortherecord.org](http://www.readfortherecord.org). There you'll find all the information you need to be ready to be one of the record breakers on October, 8th and to share with children the joy of reading. For Family Activity kits in both English and Spanish, go to <http://www.readingrockets.org>. Let us know what other ideas you have to make Oct. 8th a *Very Hungry Caterpillar* Day!!

## SARA Presents a Writing/Vocabulary Mini Conference

On November 7, 2009, the SARA, supported by the San Juan Teachers Association and the San Juan Unified School District will be presenting an all day conference, entitled "Vocabulary and Writing - Making The Connection". The 6 hour conference will be held at Del Dayo School in Carmichael. All teachers and administrators are welcome. You do not have to be a member of SARA to attend. All

those attending will be eligible for 6 hours of professional development credit contingent on their district's approval.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Francie Alexander and breakout sessions will be presented by prominent authors and researchers - Dr. Isabel Beck, Dr. Adrian Klein, Dr. Armin Schulz and Dr. John Shefelbine. Cost of the all day conference is \$25. The

cost includes breakfast and lunch. Checks are to be made out to SARA. Please forward any questions to Rosemary Rankin at [r.c.rankin@worldnet.att.net](mailto:r.c.rankin@worldnet.att.net)

Space will be limited. For Registration please forward your name, address, school, contact phone number and check to SARA, PO. Box 191584, Sacramento, Ca. 95819

## Membership Update

SARA received a congratulations from Kathy Anderson, the Director of CRA Membership Development, for its successful efforts to reach out to expand membership during the recent Membership Campaign in February, 2009. Our membership increased by 11 from 124 to 135. Thank you Susan Hammond for chairing Membership

during this time. Go Girls!

SARA has found it necessary to increase membership dues from \$30 to \$40 this year as part of the general increase in operating costs related to the economy. While the cost has increased, the benefits of belonging to SARA are many, includ-

ing automatically being a member of CRA and receiving their journal *The California Reader*.

**FYI:**

**SARA membership fees have increased from \$30 to \$40**

# Recap of the ETS/Assessment Training Conference

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual ETS/Assessment Training Institute Conference in Portland, Oregon July 13-15 was an inspiring symposium bursting with assessment gurus from all over the world! Imagine attending sessions with Thomas Guskey, Dylan Wiliam, Rick Stiggins, Judy Arter, Jan Chapuis, Ken O'Connor, Anne Davies, and Heidi Hayes Jacobs as they shared their latest discoveries, theories, and ideas with enthusiastic educators for three glorious days. Wonderfully thought-provoking doesn't even begin to describe the experience for the attendees. This year's sessions all centered on how essential it is to collaborate with other professionals to use assessment to define, plan for, promote, and document learning success for each of our students.

Rick Stiggins, a leader in formative assessment strategies and original founder of the Assessment Training Institute, lead the conference. *Student-Involved Assessment for Learning* (2005) is one of his many books on the subject. A consistent advocate for students, Rick believes students should be asking: Where am I going? Where am I now? How do I close the gap? Teachers, too, should be asking and answering these questions for each learner.

Heidi Hayes Jacobs (*Active Literacy Across the Curriculum* 2006) asserted that most teachers are using classroom systems and strategies developed in 1892. She then shared pithy remarks about why and how teachers can update their pedagogy. For example, educators can capture reading and speaking performances with the tiny Flip video cameras to show growth over time. Ms. Jacobs also stressed that educators are part of a global community who can easily collaborate with teachers in many

countries. These are just two ways to bring our classrooms into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thomas Guskey elaborated on the need to develop support systems whenever we make changes to our teaching strategies. Professional development in a single shot doesn't work. Repeated opportunities to revisit, discuss with colleagues, develop new ideas, and enough time to try them out are critical to making any kind of changes to our teaching strategies.



"Reaching your goals means having a clear sense of where you are," and, "Change is an individual and organizational process," are two of Guskey's key points at his presentation. Teachers need teams and the support of our districts to implement critical changes in our teaching so that formative assessment becomes a comfortable part of every lesson.

Dylan Wiliam, co-author of "Inside the Black Box," and in many ways responsible for the recent surge in using assessment for learning, also spoke about the need to incorporate formative assessment practices regularly in classroom activities. "Change in teachers' day-to-day practice is what makes the greatest difference in student learning." His extensive research in the U.K. revealed that a key component of student learning is feedback. In fact, timely, precise

feedback with suggestions for specific improvement is a huge part of formative assessment. Currently implementing *Keeping Learning on Track* (KLT) in a number of U.S. districts, including Chico, CA, Dylan Wiliam has developed a systematic program to help teachers implement changes in their daily practice. Teachers select the formative assessment strategies they want to use, and KLT systems foster success through consistent feedback, peer observation, discussions and planning with colleagues, and specific goal setting. An observation day is within driving distance if you would like to see teachers actively using assessment for learning.

By bringing teaching practices in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we can help students ask those three critical questions: Where am I going? Where am I now? How do I close the gap? Aren't those the questions that every lifelong learner asks? Contact the ETS/Assessment Training Institute at [www.assessmentinst.com](http://www.assessmentinst.com) for updates on their conferences scheduled throughout the year. In the meantime, begin finding grant money to fund a terrific experience in July 2010 at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual ETS/ATI Assessment for Learning Conference!

## **SARA's Top Clicks**

- Placer Area Reading Council events  
<http://www.placerareareadingcouncil.org/events.html>
- National Education Association  
<http://www.nea.org/freetech>  
<http://www.nea.org/p4p>
- Target Field Trip Grant Money  
<https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com/>

Sacramento Area Reading Association  
PO Box 191584  
Sacramento, CA 95819