



## Celebrating Books and Reading in the Granite State

By Michael York  
State Librarian

Established to promote books, reading, libraries and literacy the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress celebrates the importance of books and the printed word. The national Center has affiliate state centers for the book, many of which are part of their state library, while others are attached to public libraries or state humanities councils. Wanting to be part of this heritage, New Hampshire joined with the other affiliates in 2002 as a member of this wonderful consortium. Although people now get information in many formats other than printed on paper, the book still plays a vital role and the New Hampshire State Library recognized this when we created our own Center for the Book. The Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library became the New Hampshire affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in 2002.

When Katie McDonough, who was at the time a member of the Library Development section staff here at the State Library, made our application for affiliate status to the national Center she indicated that we would partner with like-minded New Hampshire organizations to provide programs on books and reading of interest to the citizens of New Hampshire. The Advisory Board for our Center includes representatives from a number of these organizations including the New Hampshire Humanities Council, the

New Hampshire Writers Project, the Poetry Society of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association, and the New Hampshire Library Association.

There are of course a number of places in New Hampshire that the Center for the Book could have ended up, but the State Library, which is committed to the development of the Center for the Book — we see it as offering great benefits for New Hampshire — seems like a perfect fit. The State library has in the past worked closely with a wide variety of organizations, like those on the Center's Advisory Board on projects that offered mutual benefit to everyone involved. Of course the State Library also works closely with public and school libraries throughout the state. Because of our experience and our ties to so many New Hampshire organizations, the State Library is a place where the Center for the Book will do very well. We have a very talented director of the Center for the Book, Mary Russell. She has great ideas and the energy and passion to turn those ideas into great programs.

Our current programs include participation in the national Letters About Literature competition, sponsorship of the Ladybug Picture Book Award, nominating books for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and involvement with the Granite State Reads

program. Future projects may include sponsoring a statewide book award, and perhaps working with our various partners to co-sponsor a book festival. Recently, we launched a membership program which we hope will connect us with New Hampshire's readers and generate support for the development of new projects and programs.

Given the talent and enthusiasm present in our state, I am confident that the Center will do very well and will act as a catalyst for programs centered on books and literacy. The people of New Hampshire who are interested in literature and literacy now have an organization they can rely on to keep them informed and entertained. We hope that this inaugural issue of *Book Notes* will provide you with an introduction to the Center and what we do.

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## Letters About Literature

Letters About Literature (LAL) is a reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, presented in partnership with Target Stores. To enter, young readers wrote a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers selected authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. There were three competition levels in the program: upper elementary, middle school, and secondary. The contest theme encouraged young readers to explore their personal response to a book and then express that response in a creative, original way.

Three hundred elementary and middle school students from New Hampshire sent letters for the 2005 LAL competition. Unfortunately, no semifinalist quality essays were received from New Hampshire high school students this year. Two groups of readers working on behalf of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress read the 45,500 essays from students throughout the United States and selected semifinalists for each participating state. There were thirty essays selected as New Hampshire's semifinalists.

From the tragic story of hockey player Travis Roy to the hilarious exploits of Donna Ciocca's Harley and Homer, the books that inspired the students' semifinalist letters cover a range of topics and genres.

The complete list of titles that inspired 2005 LAL entries is available on our web site.

In recognition of their accomplishment, each student who wrote a semifinalist letter received a certificate and a bookmark depicting the 2005 inspirational titles at their competition level. There were two competition levels in New Hampshire this year: level I included students in grades 4-6 and level II included 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The semifinalist essays at each level were sent to a panel of New Hampshire judges who will select a state winner at each level. The essays of these state winners will be sent on for the national competition. The 2005 New Hampshire winners will be announced in early April on our web site.



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New Hampshire first participated in this national reading and writing competition in 2004. Last year's New Hampshire winners were:

- Samantha Lo, a fourth grader at Thorntons Ferry School in Merrimack who wrote to Candace Goldapper, author of the story *Daddy's Girl . . .* at Long Last, from *Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul*.
- Helen H. Aki, a homeschooled eighth grader from Weare, who wrote to Tamora Pierce, author of the *Protector of the Small* series.
- Zoe Cannon, a homeschooled eleventh grader from Nottingham, who wrote to Stephanie S. Tolan, author of *Welcome to the Ark*.

**Congratulations  
to the  
LAL 2005 NH  
Semifinalists!**

Shannon Barrett  
Hannah Benson  
Nathan Berardi  
Stephanie Brady  
Evelyn Bulkeley  
Shauna Casey  
Aaron Crosby  
Madison Doucette  
Britta Haley  
Danielle Hirshberg  
Sarah D. Huckins  
Liz Kendall  
Sammi Landino  
Spenser LaRosa  
Karissa Layden  
Tommy Lynch  
Gunnar Nelson  
Stephanie Ann Parisi  
Ashley C. Repp  
Katherine Rice  
Nick Salafia  
Emily Smith  
Zachary B. Smith  
Matthew W. Strabone  
Madeleine Whitaker  
David White  
David Willson  
Kaitlin Winn  
Emily Wood  
Pia Yarnell

**New Hampshire's Literary Community**

**The Poetry Society  
of New Hampshire**

*By Pat Frisella,  
President, PSNH*

The Poetry Society of New Hampshire (PSNH) has been noodling around the fringes of the literary community since the early 1960's when it first got its corporate charter, complete with a logo of Pegasus touching down on the stone -- hence the title of our quarterly publication, *The Poet's Touchstone*. The magazine includes poems, reviews, articles about poetry, and art. We sponsor quarterly national contests offering \$1000 in prize money, members-only contests, and youth contests. Winning poems are published in the magazine. In addition to our quarterly magazine, we occasionally publish books of poetry, the most recent being *Images from Ruin*. We are working on one on war and peace, due out at the end of this year, and then will begin in earnest working on a book of poems of place, the place being New Hampshire.

We charge modest membership dues, so the success of major projects depends entirely on our ability to raise funds in the form of grants and donations for specific projects. And, finally, the society is responsible for assisting the Governor and Executive Council in selecting the State Poet Laureate, who serves a five-year term.

Like most volunteer-run organizations, the society has gone through many changes, including near-death experiences when memberships lagged and board members ran out of steam. However, we have worked hard to develop a solid, energetic board of directors committed to the organization and to tackle membership development.

I am happy to report the PSNH seems to be on solid footing now with over 200 members and non-profit status.

From a sleepy social club we have become a dynamic organization sponsoring readers, hosting open mics, and most recently programming a monthly spoken-word radio program. This past year we offered readings by Pulitzer Prize winner Maxine Kumin and a performance program featuring the works of Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson and Langston Hughes. Our radio show is on the first Sunday of the month from 5 to 7pm on WSCA-LP (106.1), Portsmouth Community Radio. A recent show featured Rodger Martin, members of the Highway Poets Motorcycle Club, and musicians. Each month we host an open mic at Borders Books on Ft. Eddy Road in Concord following featured readers.

We are building a community of poets and re-introducing poetry to the community at large.

*One of the goals of the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library is to promote the many organizations throughout the state whose work supports our mission of celebrating and promoting reading, books, literacy, and the literary heritage of New Hampshire. The Poetry Society of New Hampshire is one of these organizations and this profile, written by their President, is the first in a series of articles on members of New Hampshire's literary community.*

# The IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

## The NH Connection

by Alice Nye

The New Hampshire State Library's nomination panel for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award is moving into the end stretch before finalizing its choices for the 2006 award. The State Library is one among 185 library systems representing 129 cities from 51 countries that are charged with making nominations for this prestigious award.

With a May nomination deadline looming, the eleven-member group — a committee of the NH Center for the Book — will soon be narrowing its choices down to a maximum of three. Books eligible for the 2006 award must be published in English in 2004 or, if first translated into English in 2004, published in their original language between 2000 and 2004. At present the following titles are being considered for nomination



The International  
**IMPAC**  
Dublin  
Literary Award

by the New Hampshire group: *The Amateur Marriage* by Ann Tyler; *There is Room for You* by Charlotte Bacon; *The Man in My Basement* by Walter Mosley; *Little Children* by Tom Perrotta; *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult; *My Nine Lives: Chapters of a Possible Past* by Ruth Praver Jhabvala; *The Siege of Salt Cove* by Anthony Weller;

*The Preservationist* by David Maine; *Banishing Verona* by Margot Livesey; *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon; *The Zigzag Way* by Anita Desai; *The Art of Mending* by Elizabeth Berg and *Four Souls* by Louise Erdrich.

The rules of nomination dictate that an eligible book be of "high literary merit." Group members will have the opportunity to advocate for their favorites before a vote by the full group will determine our nominees. A panel of international judges based in Dublin, Ireland will then narrow the nominations, first to a shortlist of nominees typically announced in March. The winner will be revealed in June 2006. With the award comes a prize of 100,000 pounds, the largest literary prize in the world today.

## Award Notes

New Hampshire is home to several book awards and details about each of them are included on the Center's web site at <http://www.state.nh.us/nhsl/bookcenter/literacy/awards.html>

### Great Stone Face Award

The annual Great Stone Face Book Award was established to promote reading enjoyment among New Hampshire's fourth through sixth graders, to increase awareness of quality contemporary writing and to allow children a chance to honor a favorite author. It is sponsored by CHILIS (Children's Librarians of NH), a section of the New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA). The Great Stone Face Committee compiles a list of 25 recently published titles, which children then use as a guide for voting each April during National Library Week. The winner is announced in May at the NHLA conference. Every vote counts, so please encourage young readers, grades 4-6 to visit their li-

braries and vote! The deadline for votes to be sent is May 6, 2005.

### Isinglass Award

The Isinglass Award is a statewide reading award for students in grades 7 & 8, developed by the Barrington Public Library and the Barrington Middle School to promote the creation of a well balanced reading list by adolescents for their peers. Voting for the winner from each year's list is coordinated by local libraries who may obtain voting slips and tally sheets by sending an e-mail to [blibrary@metrocast.net](mailto:blibrary@metrocast.net). Votes are due by May 1st of each year.

### NH Literary Awards

The New Hampshire Literary

Awards, sponsored by the New Hampshire Writers Project (NHWP), are presented every other year and honor outstanding literary achievements and recognize emerging NH writers. The 2005 awards will be given out this fall for work published between July 15, 2003 and July 15, 2005.

Check the web site at [www.nhwritersproject.org](http://www.nhwritersproject.org) for details as they become available.

Authors who are NH natives, NH residents, or whose work is inherently about NH are eligible for these awards which are given for fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's literature. Anyone can make nominations — including self-nominations — by completing the nomination form, which will be available on the

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## New Hampshire Books

By Donna Gilbreth

Welcome to this inaugural column about New Hampshire books and authors. The editor says I may write about anything regarding New Hampshire authors or books.

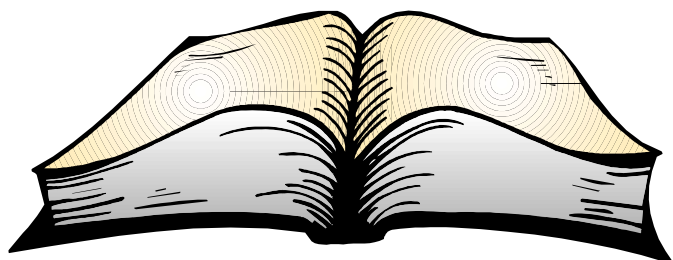
I thought about author Dan Brown, whose book *The Da Vinci Code* is still wildly popular and will soon be a major motion picture with Tom Hanks (although I can't quite visualize Mr. Hanks as the Harvard professor Robert Langdon). I considered telling you the anecdote about how Exeter librarian Pam Gjettum became a character in *The Da Vinci Code*, or exploring the question of why Mr. Brown used my uncommon surname (Ventresca) for a character in *Angels and Demons*. But you don't need me to tell you that Dan Brown is probably the hottest New Hampshire author at the moment.

Instead, I have decided to write about another New Hampshire author writing exciting mysteries. He hasn't achieved the fame or wealth of Mr. Brown yet, but there is promise. I'm referring to author Tom Eslick, author of four mystery novels set in the mountains of New Hampshire. Mr. Eslick is a teacher at Proctor Academy in Andover, and also an experienced hiker and musician. His many talents and interests are all brought together in his first novel *Tracked in*

*the Whites* (Write Way Publishing, 1997). Readers are introduced to Will Buchanan, a beloved teacher at a New Hampshire prep school who is an avid hiker and woodsman. When not scaling high peaks or tossing axes at trees, Will is relaxing with a good Scotch, which he shares with his cat Butch. But Will has some unresolved issues from his past, and a few anger management issues, which get him in trouble with his girlfriend Laurie, the local police chief. Will then becomes the chief suspect in the sensational murder of a student he was chaperoning, and he must use all his outdoor skills and wit to prove his innocence and catch the real killer. The mystery is well done, and it's fun to read about hiking in the White Mountains.

Eslick's third novel, *Deadly Kin* (Viking, 2003) brings back the multi-talented Will Buchanan to solve another murder in the mountains. And his latest book in the series *Mountain Peril* (Viking, 2005) was recently published.

I look forward to reading the further adventures of New Hampshire hero Will Buchanan, and hopefully author Tom Eslick will find some of the same success that has come to that other New Hampshire author on the seacoast.



### Become a Founding Member and Support the Center for the Book at the NHSL

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State:      Zip:

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The Park Street Foundation serves as the fiscal agent of the Center for the Book at the NH State Library and is a tax-exempt 501c(3) organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Center for the Book  
at the New Hampshire  
State Library**  
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Concord, NH 03301

# Granite State Readers Recommend

We recently invited readers from around the state to tell us about a book that they would recommend to others. Here is a selection of the recommendations that we received. Please check out the complete list of Granite State readers' recommendations and tell us about a book that you would recommend by visiting our web site at [www.state.nh.us/nhsl/bookcenter/programs](http://www.state.nh.us/nhsl/bookcenter/programs)

Campton, NH

## **Robin DeRosa**

Assistant Professor of English,  
Plymouth State University  
*Geek Love* by Katherine Dunn.  
In our current time, in which "morality" decides elections and sets policy, here's a novel that makes us all question exactly what the definition of the word really is. A moving story of alienation and family loyalty against the lively backdrop of the circus freak show, this is a novel that provokes, amuses, and astonishes at every turn.

Canterbury, NH

## **Hope Jordan**

Avid reader  
I recommend *Mary and O'Neil* by Justin Cronin. It won the PEN/Hemingway award and it's beautifully written without being sentimental or sappy. It made me cry. It's pure and simple, good literature that belongs in the pantheon of work by Russell Banks, Margaret Atwood, and John Irving.

Center Barnstead, NH

## **John Reed**

*Pattern Recognition*, William Gibson.  
The future is now . . . and it's a little scarier than we thought! Gibson is a superb writer, and his tale of newsgroups, 9/11, marketing, and a heroine who can only trust her online friend "Parkaboy" is poignant and compelling.

Concord, NH

## **Don Kimball**

Poet / Retired family therapist  
I strongly recommend Rhina P. Espaillat's first book of poems, *Where Horizons Go* - for it includes some of the finest sonnets I've ever read; several short narrative poems in rhyming couplets; three villanelles and a sestina - all written in a contemporary vernacular, about concerns of the heart and mind, all with breath-taking artistry!

Farmington, NH

## **Pat Frisella**

President, Poetry Society of NH  
*Poetry 180, A Turning Back to Poetry* by Billy Collins. It is a great collection of fairly contemporary poetry meant to entice people back to the joy of reading poetry. As Collins said somewhere or other, "High School is the place where poetry goes to die." This collection could bring it back to life for a lot of people.

Hanover, NH

## **Jodi Picoult**

NYT bestselling novelist  
of *My Sister's Keeper* and *Vanishing Acts*  
Jaqueline Mitchard's *The Breakdown Lane*. I was fortunate enough to read a galley of this book (which arrives in April) and was completely moved by the plight of a woman who has it all, and who sees her life falling apart bit by bit. It's every bit as good as *The Deep End of the Ocean*, her first book...and the first Oprah pick ever. Enjoy!

Manchester, NH

## **Katie Goodman**

Executive Director,  
New Hampshire Writers' Project  
I recommend *This Day: Diaries from American Women*. This book answers the question . . . What is a day in the life really like for a CEO, an at-home mom, a refugee, a rodeo rider, a young executive, an actress, a congresswoman, a widow - indeed any woman. Editors Joni B. Cole, Rebecca Joffrey, and B.K. Rakhra invited hundreds of women across America to keep a "day diary" on the same day in October of 2002. (Joni Cole recently taught a workshop at the NHWP's Upper Valley Writers' Conference and lives in Vermont.) The result is an extraordinary collection of intimate details, real-life drama, and laugh-out-loud moments all the good stuff of real life. This book will have universal appeal to any woman who has ever woken up and had to face an ordinary or extraordinary day!

Nashua, NH

## **Umang Kumar**

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. A lucid and poignant portrayal of a story partly set in Afghanistan. Touted as the first Afghan novel in English. Very fluent read.

Portsmouth, NH

## **Katherine Towler**

Novelist and freelance writer.  
*No Great Mischief* by Alistair MacLeod. This novel is beautifully written and tells the moving story of a mining family from Cape Breton. MacLeod, a Canadian, is a superb writer, truly one of the greats writing in English today.

Rye, NH

## **Mimi White**

Poet, teacher  
*Next-To-Last-Things*, Stanley Kunitz.  
I read this for the first time in 1987 and I return to it often, so often in fact that it is now two worn covers and several loose-leaf, dog-eared pages. Stanley Kunitz will be one hundred in July 2005. He has a rare combination of poetic wisdom, humility, and energy that teaches me over and over again what it means to be human. The book is a collection of poems, interviews and journal entries.

Somersworth, NH

## **Cynthia G. Riley**

Librarian, Somersworth HS  
*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. The book is rich and complex, woven with personal, historical and political detail, set in the south of India. Imagery is vivid and emotion powerful. It's a gem.

## Award Notes

(continued from p. 4)

web site in May, and submitting it with a \$25 nomination fee. As part of the NH Literary Awards the NHWP Board of Trustees also gives a lifetime achievement award.

### NH Teen Book Award

Under the sponsorship of the NHLA, a committee of librarians established the New Hampshire Teen Book Award in the fall of 2004. High school students were invited to make nominations for the award and to suggest names for it. When nominations closed in mid-January, students had submitted 130 different titles including works of both nonfiction and fiction. Librarians around the state are now busy reading the nominated titles and will distribute a final list of 13 books at the NH Libraries Conference in May. In April of 2006, high school students will cast their votes for the winner of the first NH Teen Book Award.

### Sarah Josepha Hale Award

Grace Paley is the Sarah Josepha Hale Award winner for 2005. Ms. Paley is an acclaimed writer of short stories, a poet, and an activist. She has taught at Columbia University, Syracuse University and Sarah Lawrence College. She is a founding member of the Greenwich Village Peace Center and a former columnist for *Seven Days*. The Sarah Josepha Hale Award, presented annually by the Trustees of the Richards Free Library since 1956, goes to a writer who, through his or her life work, maintains a connection to New England. Named for Sarah Josepha Hale the award honors the contribution of one of 19th century America's most powerful women.

## Keiko Kasza wins 2004 Ladybug Picture Book Award



New Hampshire children from preschoolers to those in third grade selected *My Lucky Day* by Keiko Kasza, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, as the winner of the 2004 Ladybug Picture Book Award.

With 14,313 children casting ballots for their favorite picture book from among 10 titles, *My Lucky Day* won with 2,445 votes.

Last year *I Stink!* by Kate and Jim McMullan (published by Joanne Cotler Books) was the winner with 2,034 votes. A six-inch crystal piece, featuring the NH Center for the Book Ladybug, was created by Pepi Herrmann Crystal and was sent to the McMullans. Ms. Kasza will receive a similar award.

The Ladybug Picture Book Award is sponsored by the Center for the

Book at the New Hampshire State Library and was established in 2003 to promote early literacy and honor the best in recent children's picture books.

A committee of children's librarians from around New Hampshire selects 10 picture book titles each winter. Throughout the summer and fall librarians share the books with children at storytimes, develop colorful displays of the titles, and encourage families to borrow and read the books at home. Then, during Children's Book Week in November, New Hampshire preschools, elementary schools and public libraries serve as polling places where the children can vote to select the award winner. More than 100 schools and libraries around the state participated in 2004. Financial support for the 2004 Ladybug Picture Book Award was provided by Toadstool Bookshops of Keene, Milford, and Peterborough.

The nominated titles for 2005 were announced in February and will be voted on in November 2005. Ballots and tally sheets will be available later in the spring on our website.

### 2005 Ladybug Nominees

*Absolutely Not* by Matthew McElligott

*The Big Trip* by Valeri Gorbachev

*Gator Gumbo: A Spicy-hot Tale*

by Candace Fleming; pictures by Sally Anne Lambert

*I Wanna Iguana*

by Karen Kaufman Orloff; illustrated by David Catrow

*Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale* by Mo Willems

*Moo Who?* by Margie Palatini; illustrated by Keith Graves

*My Little Sister Hugged an Ape*

by Bill Grossman; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

*Skippyjon Jones* by Judith Byron Schachner

*Snakes!* by David Greenberg; illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

*Winter Woes* by Marty Kelley

## Trina Schart Hyman

by Mary A. Russell

Trina Schart Hyman believed that it was important to know what the dragon was thinking. In creating the illustrations for over 150 books throughout her life she began each project not with sketches or preliminaries, but by thinking about the story. "I think about the characters and what makes them tick and where they're coming from and where they might be going to. Who are these people? What do they like to eat for breakfast?" (Horn Book July/Aug 1985, p. 417.) When she illustrated *Saint George and the Dragon: A Golden Legend*, adapted from Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queen* by Margaret Hodges, Ms. Hyman researched and considered every aspect of the story: the time period, the flowers, what Una and George wore and thought and ate, and how the dragon felt about it all. Then all these things went into the pictures, making them rich and interesting and beautiful no matter how many times you read the book.

In 1966 Ms. Hyman moved to Lyme, New Hampshire where she lived until her death. In 1981 she described her life in *Self-Portrait: Trina Schart Hyman* (Addison-Wesley). She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and lived twenty miles outside the city in one of the first housing developments built during WWII. The first book that Trina could read was *Little Red Riding Hood* and for a year that story became so much a part of Trina's life that she dressed in a red cape nearly every day. It was the beginning of a lifelong love of books. "I have this consuming, fatal passion for books—the books themselves, the way they look and smell, the feel of them, and of course the stories that they have to tell. When I'm upset or depressed or unhappy, I go to a bookstore for

comfort, the way other people go to a church or to a therapist. Books and illustrations are a part of me: they're not just what I do: they're what I am." (Horn Book July/Aug 1985, p. 413.)

Besides books, she loved visits to the Philadelphia Art Museum, making up games and stories, creating fairies with her sister, and listening to music. What she did not love was school, and after eleven years—she skipped first grade—she came out of the public school system believing she "was a hopelessly stupid little

New York City. In 1966 Ms. Hyman separated from her husband, and she and her daughter moved to an old stone house on the banks of the Connecticut River in Lyme, New Hampshire along with Trina's lover Nancie and her twin daughters. Looking back on the early years in New Hampshire, Katrin Hyman described her mother as "an ordinary person who wanted to raise her family and own her own home. She did it by taking any job she could get: textbooks, Little Golden Books, dozens of unmemorable children's stories.

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**"One of the nicest things about being an artist is the ability to see things a little differently, a little more carefully, perhaps a little more imaginatively, than most other people do."**

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creature who would never be able to learn or to think" (*Self-Portrait*.) What she could do was draw and she went to art school in Philadelphia where she majored in illustration and found her home.

Trina continued her studies in Boston and Stockholm, where she moved with her husband. She got her first illustration job while in Sweden, a children's book called *Toffe och den Lilla Bilen* (*Toffe and the Little Car*). After travelling 2800 miles through Europe on a tandem bicycle, Trina and her husband moved to Boston where she made the rounds with her portfolio, got a little illustration work, met Helen Jones (who would become one of the most important people in Trina's professional life as well as a close friend) and had her daughter Katrin.

The next move for the family was to

She nearly went blind doing color separations. I think she nearly went crazy from a lack of free time, fresh air, and sunshine and from the constant pressure to keep her bills paid and her family intact" (*Horn Book* July/Aug 1985, p. 423.)

But she did not go crazy, or blind; she survived and she created a body of work that reflected the world as Trina Schart Hyman saw it: "One of the nicest things about being an artist is the ability to see things a little differently, a little more carefully, perhaps a little more imaginatively, than most other people do. To be able to see the possibilities in things; to see the magic in them, to see what it is that makes the thing inherently itself. And then, sometimes, to go beyond the surface of the thing and see what it is that the thing wishes to become: the cities that live in clouds, the landscapes that become sleeping bodies,



the human face that becomes an animal, the tree that becomes a woman” (*Horn Book* July/Aug 1985, p. 411.)

During this period Ms. Hyman became an author as well as an illustrator with the publication of *How Six Found Christmas* in 1969. In 1971 Nancie and her twins moved to California. Trina became the art director of the newly founded magazine *Cricket*. She created the trademark cricket, as well as his companions, and remained art director until 1979.

Ms. Hyman illustrated a wide variety of stories including Grimm’s fairy tales, Arthurian legends, and works by Dylan Thomas, Mark Twain, and Geoffrey Chaucer. She won numerous awards for her work including the Caldecott Medal for *Saint George and the Dragon* by Margaret Hodges (1985) and Caldecott Honors for *Little Red Riding Hood* (1983), *Herschel and the Hannukkah Goblins* by Eric A. Kimmel (1989), and *A Child’s Calendar* by John Updike (1999). There is an excellent list of Ms. Hyman’s work, including sample illustrations, at [www.ortakales.com/illustrators/Hyman2.html](http://www.ortakales.com/illustrators/Hyman2.html). Ms. Hyman’s later work reflected an awareness of the need for multicultural children’s books and included *The Fortune Tellers* by Lloyd Alexander, the illustrations for which were inspired by the beauty of Cameroon, the home of Ms. Hyman’s son-in-law. She also took up oil painting as a way to explore artistic visions that didn’t fit into illustrations for children’s books.

Ms. Hyman was an outspoken critic of the children’s publishing industry and spoke candidly on the challenges of raising a child on an artist’s income and the conflicts inherent in being an artist and a mother: “If you want to paint, I don’t think you can be a mom, be a waitress to make money, and paint. It’s hard enough to be a mom and paint. I think you need help with your children, even if you have one

child.” (*A Question of Balance: Artists and Writers on Motherhood*, edited by Judith Pierce Rosenberg, p. 225.)

In 1999 Ms. Hyman was successfully treated for breast cancer, but after four years in remission the disease came back. In her last year Ms. Hyman continued to work and spend time with her family and friends at her home in Lyme. She died on November 17, 2004, at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. *Merlin*

and the Making of the King in collaboration with Margaret Hodges was her last published work.

Author Lois Lowry wrote about her friend Trina Schart Hyman in the January/February 2005 *Horn Book Magazine*: “Her irreverence was memorable but so was her reverence, and everyone who knew her will remember her passion for and appreciation of writing, music, art, food, gardens, and good gossip.”



## Books in Unexpected Places

What do you do when you have hundreds of books and you move into a small apartment? If you are Mitch Sawaya you take them to work. Mitch is the owner of the Strange Brew Tavern on Market Street in Manchester and he lined the walls of the restaurant — and the windows, and under the counters — with his personal book collection when he moved to Manchester and opened Strange Brew six years ago. The books add to the warm, cozy feeling of Strange Brew — which offers live music every night and the largest selection of tap beer in the state. The books also provide an informal book exchange system. Because most of the books start out as Mitch’s personal library the selection is specific to his tastes; Robert Ludlum, Stephen King, James Patterson, James Lee Burke, Carl Hiaasen, and John Grisham, just to mention a few, are particular favorites. There are currently about 1000 books on the shelves at Strange Brew, with another 300 or so piled in the office waiting to go out on the shelves. Mitch periodically heads over to the Barnes & Noble on Manchester’s South Willow Street and buys up every fiction best seller (except romance). As he finishes reading them — about four books each week — they become part of the Strange Brew library. This arrangement is not without its downside; Mitch’s college yearbook (Tufts ‘80) and a leather-bound copy of his all-time favorite story, *The Lord of the Rings*, both disappeared from the shelves. Mitch had to chalk that up to a lesson learned the hard way, but he is basically happy with the home he has found for his many books. “It’s great having the library. It’s a conversation starter, as well as a lending library. People have brought me books from their own collections.” As far as Mitch knows no authors have come in and seen their own books on the shelves, but with so many books coming and going at Strange Brew, it is probably only a matter of time. Hours and directions are at [www.strangebrewtavern.info](http://www.strangebrewtavern.info).

*Have you come across books in unexpected places in your travels around New Hampshire? Send an email to [mrussell@library.state.nh.us](mailto:mrussell@library.state.nh.us) and we may share your discovery with our readers in a future issue of Book Notes.*

## What Is New Hampshire Reading? 2005

# The NH Humanities Council Offers “Journeys to the Edge”

by Deborah Watrous  
Director, NHHC

Brash risk-taking in the untamed frontier is absolutely elemental to the American character. America was carved from a wild frontier and in that crucible generation after generation tested its mettle. But in the modern world where few spaces remain untouched, this thirst for risk and adventure remains at the core of our character. We are drawn to travel into harm's way, enchanted by the unknown, lured to the frontier. Why?

Throughout the year, the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC) invites the public to explore these questions in “Journeys To The Edge,” the 2005 theme of the Council’s popular statewide reading and discussion series, *What is NH Reading?*. The ten books featured in “Journeys to the Edge” put people from around New Hampshire shoulder to shoulder with men and women who have travelled to the edge, some by choice, others thrust there by circumstance. What is it that they discover? Come find out!

*What is NH Reading? 2005* is made possible by a major grant from the law firm of Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP. Additional support has been provided by the Marshall Family Fund of the Northern New Hampshire Foundation and the Portsmouth Brewery.

### Book Discussion Sites

The Humanities Council will bring a few of the authors featured in the series to the state over the course of the year. In January, Ann Mariah Cook, accompanied by one of her

sled dogs, spoke at the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Highland Center in Crawford Notch. Ben Jones will give a free reading on April 14 at 7pm at the Claremont Opera House. And the Council hopes to bring Nat Philbrick to the seacoast this fall.

The NHHC has partnered with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and NH Public Television to bring the “Journeys to the Edge” book discussions series to ten communities around New Hampshire. The NHHC loans 25 copies of the book to each site and provides a scholar to lead each of the discussions. 2005 discussions will be held at the Gilford and Franklin Public Libraries, Richards Free Library in Newport, Manchester YMCA, Portsmouth Brewery, AMC Highland Center in Crawford Notch, Pease Public Library in Plymouth, and the Jaffrey,

Salem, and Rochester Public Libraries. All programs are open to the public free of charge.

### Companion Children’s Programming

For the first time, the NHHC is offering companion children’s programming for *What is NH Reading?* in order to reach out to young families and to promote family literacy. Designed by NHPTV’s “Knowledge Network,” each children’s program will involve the reading aloud of a children’s book connected to the adult book’s plot or theme, a 30-minute video also thematically connected, and an activity. Children will attend their activity while parents attend the adult discussion.

A complete schedule of books and discussion programs is available at [www.nhhc.org](http://www.nhhc.org).



### The Books in the NHHC’s Journeys to the Edge Series

*Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson  
*Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson  
*Running North: A Yukon Adventure* by Ann Mariah Cook  
*In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick  
*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer  
*Wind, Sand and Stars* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery  
*The Rope Eater* by Ben Jones  
*A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* by Eric Newby  
*Arabian Sands* by Wilfred Thesiger  
*West with the Night* by Beryl Markham

# The New Hampshire Summer Reading Program Features “Camp Wannaread”

By Ann Hoey

Happy campers will be hiking to the public libraries this summer for “Camp Wannaread” — the 2005 New Hampshire Summer Reading Program. Kids and their families will be reading about bears and bugs, making camp crafts, and sharing favorite campfire stories in libraries around the state.

Begun in 1990 by the Children’s Librarians section of the New Hampshire Library Association, the N.H. Summer Reading Program is designed to encourage recreational reading among children and families over the summer vacation months. Featuring a different theme each year,

the Summer Reading Program offers libraries materials and information to help them promote reading and libraries in their communities. A committee of children’s librarians develops a manual that provides librarians with program, craft and decorating ideas, publicity tips, booklists, websites and other information—all related to the summer’s theme. In addition, the committee contracts with a New Hampshire artist who designs a t-shirt, poster, bookmarks, reading certificates, reading logs and other artwork. This year’s summer reading program features the whimsical work of Marty Kelley, a New Boston resident and author and illustra-

tor of such titles as *Fall is not Easy*. Past summer reading artists have included Chris Demarest, True Kelley and Tomi de Paola.

All New Hampshire public libraries receive a free summer reading manual and poster. Reasonably priced t-shirts and printed materials are available for ordering. Most libraries run their summer reading programs from six to eight weeks and feature theme-related activities and performances at no cost to participants. Thanks to the Kids, Books and the Arts program, a joint project of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library, libraries can apply for grants to bring performers to their communities. Storytellers, magicians, musicians and puppeteers have all developed programs related to the Summer Reading Program theme.

Last year, more than 14,000 children read over 160,000 books during the New Hampshire Summer Reading Program. Research shows that children who read over the summer do better in school than those who don’t. Public librarians use the summer reading program to help promote recreational reading and keep kids interested in books.

So, watch for “Camp Wannaread” at a public library in your community and enjoy a summer of reading and fun-filled activities.



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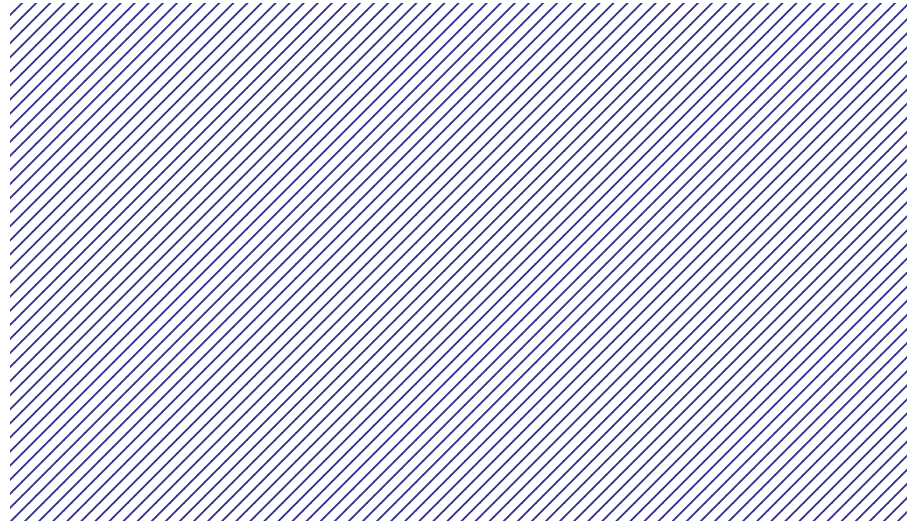
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**Center for the Book**  
**at the New Hampshire State Library**  
20 Park Street Concord, NH 03301

*The mission of the Center for the Book at the NH State Library is to celebrate and promote reading, books, literacy, and the literary heritage of New Hampshire and to highlight the role that reading and libraries play in enriching the lives of the people of the Granite State.*



## **The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress**

*By John Y. Cole*

*Director, Center for the Book at the Library of Congress*

The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress was the creation of one man: booklover and historian Daniel J. Boorstin, who became Librarian of Congress in 1975. In 1977 he proposed legislation to create a center at the Library of Congress which would stimulate public interest in books and reading. With the enactment of Public Law 95-129, approved on Oct. 13, 1977, President Jimmy Carter approved the legislation, an indication of his “commitment to scholarly research and to the development of public interest in books and reading.”

The legislation created the center as a public-private partnership. The Library was to pay the salary of the director (me!), but any additional staff

and the center’s entire program were to be supported by donations from the private sector. In 1987 there still were only two employees—myself and a secretary. However the new Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, agreed that in his next budget he would include funds to support up to four Center for the Book staff positions. He did—and we gradually grew to a staff of four. All the center’s programs and projects, however, are still supported by funds from elsewhere, mostly tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, but also occasional transfers of funds from other government agencies.

Today the Center for the Book is a small, catalytic office that uses the resources and prestige of the Library of Congress to 1) stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and

libraries and 2) encourage the study of the historical role of books, reading, literacy, and libraries. We operate primarily through projects and partnerships—within the Library of Congress and throughout the nation and the world. We have a reading promotion partners program that includes more than 80 national, civic, and educational organizations, and informal partnerships with many academic, research, and professional organizations. We have stimulated the creation of centers for the book in Australia, Russia, Scotland, and South Africa.

The center is both the Library of Congress’s focal point for celebrating the legacy of books and the written word and a national umbrella for sharing good and practical reading promotion ideas.