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Selections

The newsletter of the Sarasota County Library System

April 1, 2006

Volume 1, Issue

6

Welcome to **Selections**, the monthly electronic newsletter of the [Sarasota County Library System](#). Each month, you will find stories related to:

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This issue brought to you by the:

[Fruitville Public Library](#)



[National Library News:](#)

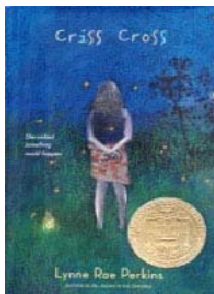
ALA's 2006 Top Children's Books Named (Newbery and Caldecott winners)



2006 Newbery Medal

The Newbery Medal, awarded to the most distinguished contribution to American

literature for children, went to *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins (Greenwillow Books).



Criss Cross is the chronicle of the lives of four teens living in a small town, each of whom faces a crossroads of sort. As they seek to find the meaning of love and life they share thoughts and feelings with others, creating a ripple of common emotions that define their experiences.

“Writing in a wry, omniscient third-person narrative voice, Perkins deftly captures the tentativeness and incompleteness of adolescence,” said Award Committee Chair Barbara Barstow. “ In 38 brief chapters, this poetic, postmodern novel experiments with a variety of styles: haiku, song lyrics, question-and-answer dialogue and split-screen scenarios. With seeming, yet deliberate randomness, Perkins writes an orderly, innovative and risk-taking book in which nothing happens and everything happens.”

2006 Caldecott Medal

The Caldecott Medal book is *The Hello, Goodbye Window*, illustrated by Chris Raschka and written by Norton Juster (Hyperion Books for Children).The Caldecott is awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.



A young girl describes her experiences when visiting her grandparents’ home in this uncomplicated story of familial love. The richly layered illustrations resemble the simple drawings of a child, perfectly complementing the unaffected voice of the narrator. With a few energetic lines, Raschka suggests a world filled with affection and humor,” said Award Committee Chair Gratia Banta. “The richly textured tones of these expressive illustrations convey the emotional warmth of the intergenerational connection.”

The ALA complete list of winners and honor book awards may be found at:
<http://www.ala.org/>

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Local Library News:

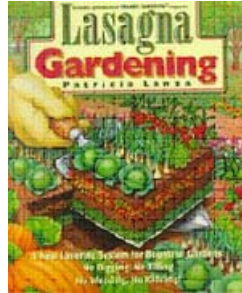
A Growing Collection

The Fruitville Public Library has a *growing* collection of gardening books inside, as well as a unique Reading Garden outside. A generous grant from the William G. Selby and Marie Selby Foundation was used to purchase books and media on gardening and landscaping, for both the general and the children's collections. Novice Florida gardeners have numerous resources from which to choose, and to see a demonstration of native plants and eco-friendly practices, one only has to take a few steps into the Reading Garden.

To promote the collection, the library hosts gardening programs throughout the year, presented by authors of gardening books, Master Gardeners, staff from the Florida House, members of the Florida Native Plant Society and other local experts.



Visitors explore the Reading Garden



Author Patricia Lanza was a recent speaker at the Library's Gardening-in-Florida series

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Featured Stories:

Phonics Program is a Success!

The Sing, Spell, Read and Write phonics program (SSRW) is concluding a second successful year at the Fruitville Library. This 36-step reading series is designed to enhance the skills of first grade students through a highly motivational learning format. Twice a week the youth librarians and the young readers meet to complete activities that support the various components of the Reading First Initiatives, such as fluency, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension.

Through the generous support of the Friends of the Fruitville Library the program was expanded this year to include an additional series of SSRW for second grade students, and a third class called "Winning" for students in grades three through five.

During the summer, young readers can participate in "The Grand Tour," a supplemental reading series featuring stories that combine historical information with a geographic tour of the United States.

For information about these or other programs call the Youth Services Desk at 861-2525.

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Community Connection:

Literacy Summit call 861-5000 for additional information



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead

Tim Dutton of SCOPE (Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence) and Debra Jacobs of the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation facilitated Sarasota's first Literacy Summit, a fast-paced and lively forum held on March 7 at the Girl Scouts Conference Center in Sarasota. More than 90 participants, including representatives from libraries, businesses, schools, literacy programs for children and adults and interested individuals engaged in a conversation about literacy opportunities in Sarasota County.

The goal of the Literacy Summit was to bring all the players together to consider questions designed to elicit novel ways of looking at a topic that cuts across every segment of society. Participants were asked to share their excitement about literacy endeavors already underway in the community, to imagine the possibilities for fostering increased literacy in Sarasota County, and to voice concerns about issues that might hamper efforts to expand literacy efforts. Attendees were encouraged to sit with people whom they didn't already know, to get the best possible mix of ideas and to make new connections within the community.

The conversation will continue on Tuesday, April 11, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., again at the Girl Scouts Conference Center. Participants at the second Literacy Summit session will have an opportunity to reinforce connections made at the earlier event and to explore goals for increased collaboration in literacy efforts throughout the community. If you would like to take part in the April 11 conversation, please contact Sarabeth Kalajian (861-2502) or Jean Fargo (861-2505) at the Fruitville Public Library.

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Featured Database:

Your Ticket to Authors, Critiques, Reviews, Essays and more!

Literature

Resource Center

Need information about an author? Want to locate a critique of a literary work?

If so, then check out the Literature Resource Center on the Library's Website. This database includes biographies, bibliographies and critical analyses of more than 120,000 authors from every age and literary discipline - including poets, novelists, playwrights, songwriters and screen writers.

The LRC contains information from over 250 magazines and journals, plus sources such as

Encyclopedia of Literature, Contemporary Authors Online, Contemporary Literary Criticism Select, the Dictionary of Literary Biography Online, Scribner's Writers Series, and Twayne's English Authors, US Authors, and World Authors. All authors appearing in Contemporary Literary Criticism since vol. 95 of the print series are featured.

Many reviews and essays in Literature Resource Center include excerpts from the works of the authors.

To access the Literature Resource Center, simply go to the Library website at sclibs.net, choose "Electronic Information Resources," and then select "Literature Resource Center."

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Featured Internet Sites:

Ask a Librarian



About Ask a Librarian

What is Ask a Librarian?

Ask a Librarian is a free online information service provided by Florida libraries. Library staff from public, academic, school and special libraries throughout Florida answer your questions in real time.

Who am I talking to?

Ask a Librarian is a statewide service and you may receive live assistance from a librarian who does not work at your local library. While all our librarians are glad to assist you, they may not be able to access information about your library record. For hours and more information about this service, [read more](#).



askalibrarian.org

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Book Review:

One Book One Community 2006, Sarasota County

"Remembering Blue" selected for One Book One Community 2006

	<p style="text-align: center;">About the Author</p> <p>Connie May Fowler is an essayist and screenwriter, as well as the author of six novels, including <i>Sugar Cage</i> (1992), <i>River of Hidden Dreams</i> (1994), <i>Before Women Had Wings</i> (1996), <i>Remembering Blue</i> (2000), <i>When Katie Wakes</i> (2002), and <i>The Problem with Murmur Lee</i> (2005).</p> <p>In 1996, she published <i>Before Women Had Wings</i>, later a successful "Oprah Winfrey Presents" TV movie, winner of the 1996 Southern Book Critics Circle Award, and paperback bestseller.</p>
<p>Connie May Fowler photo by Deborah Feingold</p>	<p>About the Book</p> <p>Emotionally neglected by her mother, abandoned by her father, Mattie O'Rourke spent her childhood starved for the one thing she thought she'd never find: love. When her mother dies and, at twenty-two, she finds herself completely without ties of any kind, Mattie takes a chance at ending her loneliness and moves to a tiny coastal Florida town. At the Suwannee Swifty convenience store, a sea change envelops her. Mattie O'Rourke sees Proteus Nicholas Blue and their fate is sealed after only a few shy, stolen glances.</p> <p>Nick walks into Mattie's life having fled his own. A lifelong fisherman from a remote island off the coast, Nick is haunted by the certain knowledge that the sea will be the death of him (as it has been for all the Blue men) and he has resolved to leave it behind. But as Nick and Mattie settle into an intimacy that both comforts and surprises them, Nick feels the inextricable pull of the waxing moon's tide and the siren's call of the dolphins that, Blue legend has it, are his brethren.</p> <p>And so it is that Mattie, who only months before felt that happiness would never find her, returns with Nick to the island home that nurtured him and finds herself embraced by a large and loving family and an alluring and sensual landscape. Life on Lethe is transforming for Mattie. But Nick always knew that the sea would claim him, and all of Mattie's love cannot prevent the tragedy that is their destiny.</p> <p>Moving and enchanting, <i>Remembering Blue</i> is a lush story of love, loss, and the mythic power of the ocean, told in an elegant and passionate voice that could only come from Connie May Fowler.</p>
	<p>Connie May Fowler's novel "Remembering Blue" will be on the reading list of Sarasota County book lovers for the next two months, as the annual One Book, One Community celebration begins this year's chapter.</p> <p>The series of events will culminate in an appearance by Fowler at the Venice Community Center at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 4; and at Selby Public Library at 6 p.m. that evening. Fowler will talk about her novel, its characters and the writing process at both venues, and will sign copies of her books.</p>

During National Library Week, April 2 through 8, libraries in Sarasota County will host One Book, One Community discussion groups to talk about "Remembering Blue." A list of dates and times are as follows:

11 a.m., Monday, April 3: North Sarasota Library
2 p.m., Tuesday, April 4: Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library
10 a.m., Wednesday, April 5: Selby Library
2 p.m., Wednesday, April 5: Elsie Quirk Library
2 p.m., Wednesday, April 5: Venice Library
3 p.m., Thursday, April 6: Gulf Gate Library
11:30 a.m., Friday, April 7: Fruitville Library

Circulating copies of the book are available at Sarasota County libraries and at area bookstores.

To find out more visit any Sarasota County Library or call the Sarasota County Call Center at (941) 861-5000 and ask about One Book, One Community.

Also, check out a variety of topics and items from [BookNews](#). You can even sign up to get *free* newsletters in your email as they are updated monthly!

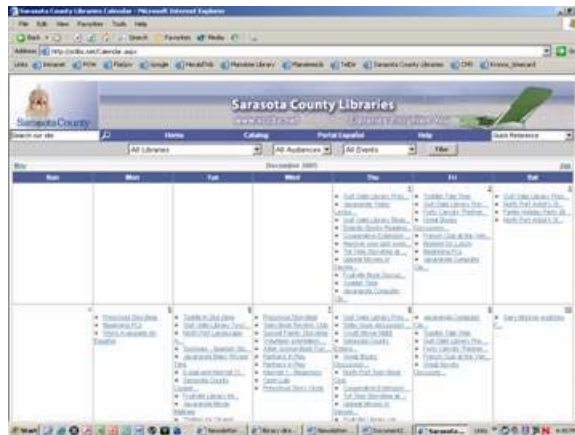
BookNews



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[Library Events Calendar:](#)

[Click on the Library Calendar link from the Library's Home page](#)



You can limit what shows on the calendar by individual library, by audience and by type of event. Just click on the dropdown boxes.

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Reference Question of the Month:

What is the statue on top of the U.S. Capitol?

The statue on top of the U.S. Capitol is the Statue of Freedom, which consists of a bronze, classical female figure of Freedom wearing flowing draperies, standing 19 feet 6 inches tall and weighing approximately 15,000 pounds.

The Statue of Freedom was designed by Thomas Crawford, who began work on a plaster model in 1855, in his studio in Rome, Italy. Crawford died in 1857 before the model left his studio. The following year the model was broken into pieces and shipped, arriving in Washington in March of 1859.

The statue was cast in five main sections by Clark Mills and was completed and raised on December 2, 1863. The installation ceremony featured a salute of 35 guns answered by the guns of the 12 forts around Washington. The final cost of the statue, excluding its installation, was \$23,796.82.

(Source: The Architect of the Capitol)



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Sarasota County Library System. Part of the Sarasota County Community Services Business Center. 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota, FL 34241
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