

AN AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION
PROMOTING READING ON GUAM SINCE 1968



Highlights of the 55th Annual IRA Convention

The focus of this month's meeting is *Reading in Many Languages*, Highlights from the 55th Annual Convention. The delegates who attended the convention in Chicago, Illinois from April 26 – 28, 2010 will present a variety of topics during our breakout sessions. The convention's theme was "Expand your knowledge. Broaden your community. Spark your inspiration. Reading in Many Languages." Rania Al Abdullah, Queen of Jordan and the opening keynote speaker, gave an inspirational, warm, uplifting, and eye opening address to thousands of attendees. In her speech, she stated, "As literacy empowers us, cross-cultural literacy enriches us." From this belief, Queen Rania authored *The*

Sandwich Swap which is her first brush of "something different." The home of Barack Obama, Chicago, is widely known as the "Windy City" for it is naturally breezy and near Lake Michigan. Our Chicago home was the Intercontinental Chicago Hotel, which was located on the Magnificent Mile known to be "One of the Great Avenues of the World." This vibrant and fast-paced city is enriched with architecture, historic buildings, attraction sites, baseball stadiums, and many shopping areas. The convention was hosted at the McCormick Place, the premier convention facility in North America, which has four state-of-the-art buildings. Imagine the size of this facility which has 2.6 million

square feet of exhibit halls, 1.2 million square feet on one level, a 4,249 capacity seat theatre. The area we visited was only a fraction of the building. As we were acclimatizing to the extremely chilly and rainy weather of Chicago, the excitement of which sessions to attend, the awes of the sessions clashing in time, the thoughts of the walking distance between sessions, and most of all the experience of spending time at the Candy Land for educators, the exhibit hall, filled us to the brim! During the convention, we had the opportunity to meet and greet many authors, reconnect and reminisce with those who visited our great island and the hospitality we shared.

Reading in Many Languages

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Poet Kenn Nesbitt to Visit Schools on Guam

Kenn Nesbitt writes funny poetry for kids. He will be bringing his "stand-up" comic poetry presentations to the IRA General Membership Meeting on October 16 and will visit 14 schools during the week of October 18-22.

Kenn first started writing poetry in 1994 with the poem, "The Scrawny Tawny Skinner," that was inspired by a friend's daughter who was trying to get out of eating her dinner. He then wrote a few poems each year and published his first

collection of poetry in 1998 called, *My Foot Fell Asleep*. His first collection of humorous poems about school, *When the Teacher Isn't Looking*, was published in 2005 by Meadowbrook Press. His latest books, *The Tightly Whitey Spider* (2010) and *My Hippo Has the Hiccups* (2009), feature fun poems about animals that "he totally made up." We will have some of his books available at our October meeting and you can get them signed by the author.

You may even have some of his poetry in the

anthologies of poetry that were available last year, *My Teacher's in Detention*, *What I Did on My Summer Vacation*, and *If Kids Ruled the School*. His poetry has also appeared in reading and language arts textbooks, magazines, restaurant placemats, and on television. RhymeNow is an "app" for the iPhone and iPod Touch that he has written to help writers find just the right word for writing poetry or prose.

Every day of the week, Kenn posts a new poem on his website,

www.poetry4kids.com. Kenn invites teachers and students to visit the site, read his poems, and comment on them.

Most of them aren't published in any collections of poetry yet, so you get to read them first and help him decide which ones will get published next. Just click on the title of one of his poems and read. You can also listen to some of the songs he has written for others to sing. He has word search games, songs, and poetry lessons to explore, too.

Visit Kenn's website at www.poetry4kids.com

Read-A-Thon 2011: "Read to Succeed"

Hafa Adai Everyone!

We hope you had a great summer. Are you ready to get into gear with reading? If you haven't heard, this year's Read-A-Thon theme is "Read to Succeed."

We will be recognizing different careers to coincide with this year's theme. Please forgive me if I forget to list your career; however, you can email me your career at readathon2011@gmail.com and the month it is celebrated. I'll make sure to add it to my list.

We will be recognizing all careers. Yes, all! Since Labor Day is celebrated this month, let's thank everyone for

their hard work.

We are also highlighting different events you can celebrate or acknowledge each month; it's really up to you. These are some special events that will be occurring in September: Autumn Begins, Banned Books Week, Children's Good Manners Month, Constitution Day, Deaf Awareness Week, Elephant Appreciation Day, International Day of Peace, International Literacy Day, Labor Day, Library Card Sign-Up Month, National Grandparents Day, National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15), National Honey Month, National Keep Kids Creative Week, National Peanut Day, National

Piano Month, Patriot Day, Punctuation Day, Talk Like a Pirate Day, and US Constitution Signing Month.

If you'd like to support Read-A-Thon 2011 "Read to Succeed," please contact me at 477-8340, extension 4816 or stop by my table during our general membership meeting.

I hope to see you!

Adios,

Nel



IRA Website Features Latest IRA News

In our effort to "Go Green," the Guam Chapter of the IRA website offers various electronic features with the touch of your fingertips. Check out <http://iraguam.blogspot.com> to explore the following:

- Latest IRA News
- IRA Newsletter
- IRA Calendar of Events
- IRA Workshop Handouts
- IRA Grant Applications
- IRA Membership Form
- Effective Literacy Websites
- Guam IRA Memoriam

- IRA Pamphlet
- Guam IRA Archive
- Guam IRA Newsletter Archive
- Guam IRA Author Visits Archive
- ABC's of Family Literacy

The above are just some of the features on our website. You'll have to visit it to find out more information. While you're there, please be sure to sign our Guam IRA Guest Book by clicking on, "Click here to view and sign the Guam IRA Guestbook." Thank you!



L-R: Grace Griffin, Nilfa Milan, Catherine Au, and Margaret Asuncion at the Scholastic Dinner in Chicago.

USD GRADUATE CREDIT

Sign up for this class is in September. It's ONE CHANCE ONLY! The cost is \$75. See Erlinda Arriola at the USD Table.

GRANTS

Do you need books for your classroom? Do you have a great idea you have been putting off because you don't have the books you need?

Here's a perfect opportunity to get books into the hands of your students. Fall grant applications will be available at the

September 2010 IRA General meeting. They will be due on the October 2010 at the IRA General membership meeting (no later than 11:00 A.M.)

For more information head to the grants table at the September meeting. Also, you may download all grant forms at www.iraguam.blogspot.com.

For more information, call Tina Buendicho at 482-7788 or email hooray4reading@yahoo.com or Evelyn Topasna at 689-9455 or e-mail edptopasna@yahoo.com.

BOOK EXCHANGE

This exchange is for us. The Book Exchange table needs books for this year. IRA gave three boxes of books to the Aleo Shelter last June so we are in need books for this year.

If you are a retired teacher or a teacher who has changed grades and have material you are not going to use please bring them to the September meeting for new teachers. Thematic Unit Books, games, hands-on material and bulletin board material are some ideas to bring in.

'Guam Water Kids' Offered To Public Middle Schools

Public middle schools are being offered a guest presentation of "Guam Water Kids," to explore the natural resource of fresh water on Guam. Project manager Ann Card said the presentation includes a multimedia show with animated segments and provides teachers with additional materials which are all specific to Guam and are DOE approved.

"We use our model 'Guam Water Kids' to ask their peers to think about the importance of fresh water. All the photos, maps and illustrations about the fresh water in Guam's aquifer, rivers and lakes and how we can protect it," Card said.

"Guam Water Kids" is a presentation of WERI: the Water and Environmental Resources Institute of the Western Pacific,

University of Guam, with funding from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Free teacher materials supplied with the presentation include a CD copy of the slide show, two teacher lesson plans, follow up activities, and a glossary of related terms in Chamorro. The supplemental materials are also downloadable at www.guamwaterkids.com, the companion website where students can explore information about Guam's fresh water on their own.

Prepared by consulting teacher Jennifer Berry, the lesson plans are correlated to Guam standards and are applicable to Science Language Arts, Social Studies, Chamorro Studies, Spelling, Vocabulary and Art, grades 3-7. The Guam DOE has

approved the materials for use in elementary and middle schools.

For information about scheduling a presentation, please contact Jennifer Berry at 483-6161 or 472-2466 or email jberrry2466@gmail.com or Ann Card at 565-2213 or email ann@cardandcard.com.

Kenn Nesbitt's Visiting Schools

The following schools have earned a visit by Author Kenn Nesbitt by their commitment to literacy, their outstanding participation in RAT 2010 and their continuing support of the fund raising efforts of the International Reading Association, Guam Council.

Agana Heights Elementary

Astumbo Elementary

H.S. Truman Elementary

Liguan Elementary

Marcial Sablan Elementary

Montessori Preschool

Ordot Chalan Pago Elementary

Cpt. H.B. Price Elementary

Saint Francis Catholic

San Vicente Catholic

St. Paul's Christian, North

Talofofo Elementary

Upi Elementary

Wettengel Elementary

**Don't miss the October Newsletter
for more information!**



Students display their selected 'classic' books at the beginning of the school year. St. Francis students have come together to let this year's theme come to life by reusing, cleaning, and swapping old books that are headed to the trash.

"GO GREEN, GO READ!"—Crusaders bring this year's IRA theme to life

Now that we are in the midst of the IRA year, the students of St. Francis Catholic School have found ways to allow this year's theme to come to life! The Crusaders of St. Francis have taken their love for reading and their willingness to share to another level after being inspired by this year's "Go Green, Go Read" theme.

Youth volunteers from the Santa Teresita Catholic Church offered time this summer to go class to class to collect used chapter and picture books. Rather than disposing of the old, ripped, discolored books, the volunteers dusted them off, cleaned them up, boxed them, and got them ready for the new school

year. Then an eighth grade student approached the Student Affairs Office to establish a Book Club. What perfect timing!

Within the first week of school, a Book Club was established, a room was set aside, and tables were covered with the boxed-up old books. Students in Kindergarten to grade 6 were invited to come and browse through and choose a book for themselves to keep.

Students were then challenged to read and understand the book, make their own illustrations, do a report or a write-up for the teacher, pull it out when they are finished with their in-class work, or even swap it upon completion. You should've seen the smiles of children as we yelled "free books!" all along the halls of the school.

Our next step at St. Francis is to invite parents and family members to donate old books to the Book Club.

Our intention is not to purchase new books, but to allow old favorites to live on in the hearts of this generation of readers.

The concept of "Go Green, Go Read" does not just allow everyone to "recycle" their knowledge with others based on what they have learned and read. It's also about taking what you have – way before you turn it in for actual recycling – and using it over and over again.

After all, old books aren't really 'old.' They're 'classic.'

Kevin AN Delgado is Administrator of Student Affairs at St. Francis Catholic School.

Guam Council International Reading Association



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One book can make a difference.



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President's Message

Hafa Adai!

I would like to extend a warm and sincere welcome to all, as we are the International Reading Association, Guam Council family. I am excited for this council year to begin and would like to personally thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as our council's president. I would like to wish all a great school year as we have thousands of students who believe in us as we believe in them.

Great News! Our meetings will be held at the **Sheraton Laguna Guam**, the former Palace Hotel, ballroom located below the lobby. Accessible parking to the ballroom is located to the immediate right of the main entrance. There are three restaurants available for lunch which offer Japanese, international, and local cuisine. Discounts are available if you are a Premier Club cardholder. The Premier Club membership cost \$50; however, if you are a member of the Calvo's Insurance Driver's Club, this membership is free. For more information, please call Calvo's Insurance.

The Guam Delegates are ready to share the ideas from the 55th Annual Convention: Reading in Many Languages held in Chicago, Illinois. The following are the scheduled presentations.

ABC, it's easy as 1, 2, 3 by Therese Volstead. The focus of this session will be on the connection between non-fiction books and ABC themed books, learning to help your students' develop and create their own individual ABC books, and a mother reads to her child's ABC book... priceless!

SEPTEMBER MEETING SPECIAL—INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS -NEW AND CURRENT will be given two chances for the trip to the International Convention in Orlando, FL. Bring proof of membership—your International Membership Card or label from a Journal. Fill in the blank next to your name on the sign in sheet or note your number and expiration date on the line for International Members on the Membership Form. Be sure to include both your number AND the expiration date.

IRA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—IF YOU JOINED IN MAY FOR 2010-2011 -RECEIVE A \$5 CHIT FOR EVERY NEW MEMBER YOU BRING TO THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETINGS.

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JOIN IRA IN SEPTEMBER AND RECEIVE A \$5 CHIT FOR EVERY NEW MEMBER YOU BRING TO THE OCTOBER MEETING.

SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—HELP IRA MEET ITS MEMBERSHIP GOAL FOR 2010 - 2011 : 300 MEMBERS—When the goal is reached, a raffle will be conducted. The winner will select \$200 worth of reference materials to be donated to the school library of his/her choice.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—Include IRA MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE in your Professional Development Plan (Standards 4 and 5). Pick up the form at the Membership Table and have it stamped at every meeting you attend.

NEWSLETTERS—If you do NOT wish to receive your newsletter via email, please indicate NO on the sheet at the membership table.

INFORMATION UPDATE—Please update email addresses and international membership information on the attendance sheet.

DID YOU KNOW? IF you join the International IRA and our local IRA at the same time you will receive a 50% reduction in Local Dues for this year. Local Dues = \$12.50 + International Dues (amount depends on number of journals you choose). Application forms will be at the Membership Table. This is a one-time offer. Subsequent local dues will be \$25.

GENERAL REMINDER—Before filling out a new application form, check the sign in sheet to be sure you didn't join in May.

THIS YEAR'S MONTHLY THEMES

Read in Many Languages: Convention Highlights—**September 11.**

Enriching Poetry with Kenn Nesbitt—**October 16.**

Cultivating Professional Learning with the Language Arts Conference—**November 6.**

You, Me, and the Community Book Fair—**December 11.**

Crafting a Story with SASS—**January 15.**

Launching Read-A-Thon 2011 "Read to Succeed"—**February 5.**

Instilling Literacy Through our Cultures—**March.**

Nurturing our Students with Resources. "Spend it All, Spend it Now"—**April.**

Gathering Together for the Year in Review—**May.**

Yoshi