

# CEMA - gram

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OCTOBER, 2006

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## The President's Message

### Come to CEMA's Annual Conference

on  
November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

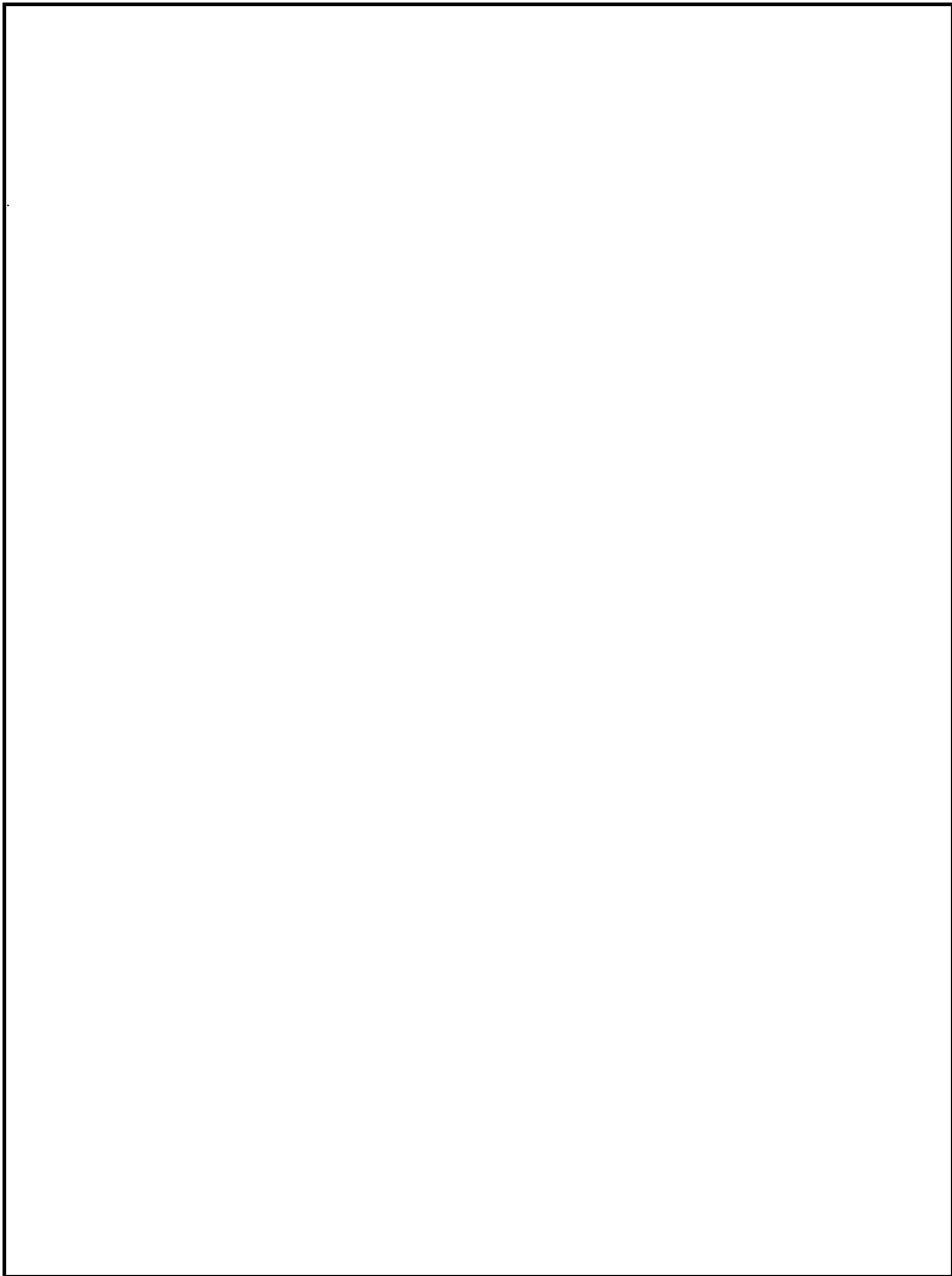
On Sunday, November 5, 2006, 3:00-7:00, CEMA's Annual Conference will begin with a Celebrate Connecticut Authors Reception. Over 35 authors will talk with you, sign books, and arrange with you to visit your school. In addition Kat Lyons, CT Center for the Book will speak from 3:00-3:30 and Katherine Baxter, author of *The Nonfiction Booktalker* will speak from 3:30-5:00 describing dozens of new fall non-fiction titles. Something about each author is on the CEMA site <http://www.ctcema.org>.

On Monday, over 24 presenters will speak about the hot topics in our profession. Our keynote speaker is AASL President Elect Sara Kelly Johns. A brief biography and a brief description of the presentation about each speaker are on the CEMA site <http://www.ctcema.org>.

**A Registration Form for all  
Conference events is posted on  
the CEMA site  
<http://www.ctcema.org>.**



~Janet Roche  
[JRoche@simsbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:JRoche@simsbury.k12.ct.us)





**Student Volunteers  
CEMA Conference 2006  
What's Happening @**

**YOUR Library**

**Who:** Students enrolled in a library science program

**What:** Volunteer for 2 hours

**Where:** Crowne Plaza Conference Center,  
Cromwell, CT  
100 Berlin Road, Route 372  
East of Exit 21 off I-91

**When:** Monday, November 6, 2006; 7:00am – 4:00pm

**What does a volunteer do?**

Volunteer for 2 hours at the hospitality table  
May be asked to help with registration, book sales, escort speakers to rooms, and answer location questions.

**What does a volunteer gain?**

Participate in statewide, educational, professional conference

Examine books & media presented by over 60 vendors

Attend workshops

Meet colleagues

Gratitude of the CEMA Conference Committee

Volunteers can attend workshops, view vendors and partake of food served in the vendor area. (This includes coffee/danish at breakfast; coffee/cookies at noon; ice cream social in afternoon.) Lunch may be purchased.

**How does a volunteer sign up?**

Contact either Volunteer CoChair  
Frances Nadeau at 860-832-2071 or email  
nadeau@ccsu.edu

Judy Carnes at 860-604-2722 or email  
Judith.carnes@yale.edu

le.edu

**CEMA Conference 2006**

Have you forgotten to register for the fall conference? After October 20th, the price for the conference goes from \$135 to the \$175 onsite registration fee. Save \$40 by mailing in your registration by October 20th!

There are so many reasons to go to this annual professional development opportunity and gathering of Connecticut's school librarians.

We have presenters from every New England state except Rhode Island and Vermont: Susan Ballard, library media coordinator for Londonderry Public Schools (NH), a SLMPY award winner; Nancy Grant and Sylvia K. Norton (ME) a nationally recognized laptop program; Kathy Lowe (MA) past president of MSLA and member of ALA's School Library Task Force; Nancy Kehayes (NY) on the new literacy assessments; Sara Kelly Johns (NY) AASL president-elect and keynote speaker; Janet Allison (MA) NEASC, deputy director of the Commission on Public Secondary Schools; and Dr. Steven Arnoff (MA) past director of Information and instructional technology in Lexington. We do have to acknowledge Vermont for giving us the idea for an author celebration.

We have technology workshops w/ Jill Castek, Sue Rice & colleagues, Cathy Swan, Robert Hannafin, Amy Morton, Michael Young and Clint Kennedy.

We will have a vendor demonstration area in the Exhibit Hall: Robert Bolster; Encyclopedia Britannica; ProQuest; Follett Software; Gale Virtual Reference; RnB Enterprises; Iconn and Nutmeg Awards.

We have authors, authors, authors: Lois Lowry, Suzanne Bloom, & Kathleen Baxter on Monday and 35 more at Sunday night's CT Author Reception, a new event this year. The book sales table in the exhibit hall will offer 23 titles by the authors.

Speaking of the CT Author Reception, it will be a delicious event in the ballroom! Our appetizers for the day will be presentations by the CT Center of the Book and Kathleen Baxter, a nonfiction contributor to SLJ. At the reception, you will be able to talk to the 35 authors listed on our website <http://ctcema.org/conf06preconf.html>, have their books autographed and inquire about possible school visits. A light buffet will be served that includes 1 drink ticket, a turkey carving station, a pasta station, butler passed hot hor d'oeuvres and a chocolate fountain for dessert.

How can you possibly resist?! It is going to be a fun evening. Invite other teaching colleagues from your school. All are welcome to join us. Go to <http://ctcema.org/conf06.html> for conference information and to download the registration form.

BTW, put next year's conference date on your calendars. The joint CECA/CEMA conference will be at the Hartford Conference Center on October 23, 2007. Both CECA and CEMA are looking forward to a whole new conference experience in bigger and better surroundings.

See you soon.

Irene Kwidzinski, CEMA conference chair 2006

## ***The Benefits of Joining a Listserv***

To be successful in our profession, we have to be able to interact well with people. Of course the most important people for us to interact with are our students, staff and administrators. But we also need to be able to interact with our colleagues. Most of us are the only library media specialist in our school, and in many districts the LMS's rarely get a chance to meet. So how do we get a chance to interact with our colleagues on a regular basis?

The easiest way to do so is to join a listserv. The CEMA listserv is a vastly under-utilized resource. Less than half of CEMA's members are on the listserv. If you haven't been a member of the listserv, you've missed postings this fall about the following:

- An opportunity to sign up an author visit for your school, and share the travel expenses by booking the author in conjunction with other schools in the state
- A discussion of how to measure achievements of a high school library media center in a school going through its NEASC accreditation.

- Publicity about the Fall Festivals that were held in September

Late-breaking news about the upcoming CEMA Conference

Job openings are often posted on the listserv, along with other important information. It's also been a place where CEMA members have been able to put together comparisons of staffing in library media centers.

One of the most common excuses I've heard for people not signing up for listservs is that they don't want to be swamped with emails. The CEMA listserv is not like that. You don't get a barrage of emails, although it would be nice someday for us to have that much activity on the CEMA listserv for that to be a problem!

If you're not on the listserv already, why don't you give it a try. Instructions follow below. You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain!

*~David Bilmes  
CEMA vice president*



TO SUBSCRIBE TO CEMA-L: send an email to: [listserv@listserv.aces.k12.ct.us](mailto:listserv@listserv.aces.k12.ct.us)

Leave subject blank. Do not include a signature.

Type in the message: Subscribe CEMA-L yourfirstname yourlastname

## ***Fall Festival Wrap up***

It didn't quite work out as expected, as only two regional Fall Festivals were held on Sept. 28, instead of the six we had originally hoped for. The turnouts were also lower than hoped for. But the participants who attended the two festivals that were held all had an excellent time.

The Region 5 festival was held in Hamden at Colonial Thymes. The eight participants socialized, discussed Best practices and challenging situations they are facing in their schools. "We had a really nice evening," said one participant. "Everyone loved the central location and was thrilled with the restaurant choice."

The Region 1 festival took place at Bull's Bridge Inn in Kent. Illustrator/musician Doron Ben-Ami made a fascinating 30-minute presentation, and had on display some of the wonderful books he has worked on. The librarians in attendance were unable to tell the difference between one of his computer-generated illustrations and one done the old-fashioned way, manually with a paint brush. Every one of the 14 attendees came home with a door prize, which ranged from books to mums to jelly beans!

Special thanks go to Region 1 representative Barbara Borque, and Region 1 members Joan Temple and Shelley Stedman, who helped her out. In Region 5, a committee consisting of Nancy Goss, Jeanne Lawrence, Arlene Herens, Paula Daitzman, Nancy Green and Elizabeth Dalton worked on organizing their event.

The decision to go to regional festivals this year was an attempt to increase participation in this popular event. However, we also found out that it's a lot more work to organize multiple festivals than just to organize one. I'd love your feedback on whether we should go back to having one Fall Festival at a central location, as in previous year; continue to try to have regional Fall Festivals held concurrently throughout the state; or concentrate on Spring Flings instead of Fall

Festivals. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please email me at [bilmesd@new-milford.k12.ct.us](mailto:bilmesd@new-milford.k12.ct.us).

*~David Bilmes, CEMA vice president*



# Building a Collection to Encourage Free Voluntary Reading

*By Tobey Mintz, Library Media Specialist, Conard High School, West Hartford, CT.*

Building on student interest can stimulate voluntary reading, even among lower-achieving readers. Taken from: McGill-Franzen, Anne and Richard Allington. "Lost Summers: For Some Children, Few Books and Few Opportunities to Read." Classroom Leadership August 2001. The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University.

Wishing I could have been the one to witness my proudest moment as a library media specialist, I heard through my colleague that the tenth grade English class with 21 boys and two girls were enthusiastically reading the books they had selected for independent reading in the library the day before. Not only were they enthusiastically reading, they were amicably arguing over who had the best book. Not only were they arguing over who had the best book, they were reading passages to each other and their teacher to provide evidence!

Since last spring after completing a workshop with Walter Mayes, I had been honing a collection of books for students who proclaimed loudly and proudly that they hated to read. Walter's unwavering conviction that there is a right book out there for everyone motivated me to identify and distribute them to my so called "reluctant readers." I used two guiding principals in finding and distributing the right books.

- 1) Choosing books with topics or themes considered high interest by the students
- 2) Knowledge of what was unique about a particular book that would make it desirable

From Walter Mayes I learned to give the customer what they wanted. I also found out quickly, if I had read the book myself, my promotion was much more authentic. Honest enthusiasm is often contagious.

When I listened without judgment to their requests I discovered that many of them wanted to read non-fiction, graphic, intense accounts of what happened to teens on the streets. They wanted to read about real lives with challenges they could relate to. They also wanted fantasy, adventure, and sports. We were ready with all of these genres, willing to encourage them to read anything that might hook them. We were willing to accept that even if it wasn't great literature, they were still reading. Being open to their choices will hopefully give us the common ground and trust needed to take them to that next level. As the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu once said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."



## **SAVE THE DATES...**

- Jan. 27           CEMA Workshop – Topic/speaker/site TBA
- March 3           CEMA Workshop – Topic/speaker/site TBA
- March 29-30    NEEMA Leadership Conference, Boston
- April 17-18     CLA Annual Conference, Hartford

## Professional Reading

"Writing Off Reading" The Washington Post, August 20, 2006.  
One Reason Students Are Poor Writers is That They Aren't Reading  
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdwedid=1099011571&Fmt=3&clientId=62039&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

*This was a workshop I went to last spring at UConn run by Dr. Leu and his department. The handout I have has a different title ("Integrating the New Literacies of Online Reading Comprehension: Ten Easy Steps") than the one that's linked to, but in looking through it, it appears to be the same thing.*

### How Reading is Changing in a Networked Age of Information and Communication: Integrating The New Literacies of Online Reading Comprehension Into Your Classroom

<http://www.newliteracies.uconn.edu/IRA/NRChandout.doc>

### Help for students and educators

*Although the talk of textbook costs seems to imply it's more for college students, in just quickly looking at the site it seems that there's info. that you should be able to use.*

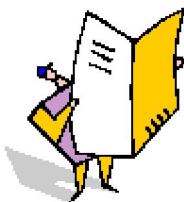
Those costs of textbooks, coupled with rising tuition, make it difficult for many to attend college. At the site Textbook Revolution, you'll find a range of free educational materials and textbooks. Some are downloadable, others can only be viewed via the Web. Students can find information that will help with their studies. Teachers can find information to incorporate into lesson plans.

<http://www.textbookrevolution.org>

### Stepping Up to AYP

Although nearly one-in-four schools fall into the category of "failing" under the provisions of NCLB, districts across the country are using technology to help turn struggling schools into success stories.

<http://www.techlearning.com/shared/printableArticle.jhtml?articleID=192700199>



### How I Became a WebHead

A hard-working classroom teacher describes the amazing six-week Web-related experience that forever changed her perspectives on learning.

<http://www.techlearning.com/shared/printableArticle.jhtml?articleID=192201457>

### Many misconceptions surround podcasts

Podcasts have been around for quite a while. You can find them all over the Web. But despite their prevalence, there are many misconceptions. To learn more about podcasts and how to find them, read this column in USA Today.

[http://www.usatoday.com/tech/columnist/kimkomando/2006-09-21-podcasts-noipod\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/columnist/kimkomando/2006-09-21-podcasts-noipod_x.htm)



**Budget Highlights** – The finance committee, consisting of the treasurer, past financial director and current director, met in September to organize line item expenditures and fine-tune the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008. Our reasoning was to become more fiscally responsible while aligning expenses with the appropriate line item. This resulted in the following changes:

- An increase in Awards and Nutmeg Book Awards to account for growth in the program
- An increase for Convention Delegates (CEMA pays transportation and one night's hotel room for the Vice President and President to attend ALA Midwinter, ALA Summer and AASL Conference and Affiliate Assembly)
- An increase in Licenses & Permits & Fees to include fees for web domain fee and tax preparation
- An increase in Publications to include postage
- A decrease in Finance
- A decrease in Implementation Standards
- A decrease in Regional Representatives

Overall the 07-08 budget is an increase over the 06-07 budget by \$5885. The finance committee will meet in the summer 2007 to review any requests, increases or decreases, from each committee and prepare next year's budget for the September 2007 board meeting.

## AASL News: Reauthorization of NCLB

In last month's CEMAGram, I included AASL's proposed wording of amendments to NCLB that would focus on the value and role of library media specialists.

I hope that you have compared what the law says now and the proposed wording for the amendments.

This is our chance. We have complained about how NEASC sees us as support personnel versus instructional and that we were again excluded in NCLB. We know that if you are not included in the law or assessment, you are also not included in possible funding and therefore less valued, or worse yet experiencing cuts. AASL is trying to improve that situation.

Please let me know how you feel by answering the following talking points in a questionnaire that CEMA will provide via Survey Monkey. Your thoughtful input and comments **will** be brought to the AASL board's attention.

These are the talking points, so that you can think about your answers before taking the survey:

1. Are you supportive of the revised wording for NCLB?
2. If you cannot be supportive, why not?
3. What are your major concerns?
4. What do you see as the major issues we must overcome?
5. Specific comments

There is a lively discussion of this topic on AASLFORUM, an electronic discussion list. If you wish to see the discussion of this and other issues, as an AASL member, it is easy to join. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to [subscribe-aaslforum@ala.org](mailto:subscribe-aaslforum@ala.org) with your first and last name as the subject. Leave the body of the message blank.

Thank you. Irene Kwidzinski,  
AASL Director-Region 1, New England  
[kwidzinskii@new-milford.k12.ct.us](mailto:kwidzinskii@new-milford.k12.ct.us)

## *The Difference Between Challenging a Book and Banning a Book*

According to the American Library Association, a challenge is “an attempt to remove or restrict materials based on the views of a person or group.” Banning is the actual removal of those materials. Thanks to the commitment of librarians, media specialists, teachers, parents, students and other citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful.

ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom lists the top three reasons for challenging material are: 1) the material is considered to be “sexually explicit”; 2) the material contains “offensive language”; 3) the material is unsuited to a particular age group. “Throughout history, more and different kinds of people and groups of all persuasions have attempted –and continue to attempt- to suppress any material that disagrees with their own beliefs.”

The Office for Intellectual Freedom received a total of 405 challenges last year. It must be noted that the number of challenges reflects only incidents reported, and “for each reported, four or five remain unreported.” Since the national association began compiling electronic records of book challenges in 1990, more than 8,700 works have been challenged. That translates to more than a book a day being challenged for inclusion in public and school libraries, according to the ALA.

The “10 Most Challenged Books of 2005” reflect a range of themes:

- It’s Perfectly Normal by Robie H. Harris for homosexual ity, nudity, sex education, religious viewpoint, abortion and being unsuited to age group;
- Forever by Judy Blume for sexual content and offensive language;
- The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger for sexual content, offensive language and being unsuited to age group;
- The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier for sexual content and offensive language;
- Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher for racism and offensive language;
- Detour for Emmy by Marilyn Reynolds for sexual content;
- What My Mother Doesn't Know by Sonya Sones for sexual content and being unsuited to age group;
- Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey for anti-family content, being unsuited to age group and violence;
- Crazy Lady! by Jane Leslie Conly for offensive language
- It’s So Amazing! A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families by Robie H. Harris for sex education and sexual content.

ALA also keeps a record of the most frequently challenged authors. In 2005 they were Judy Blume, Robert Cormier, Chris Crutcher, Robie Harris, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Toni Morrison, J.D. Salinger, Lois Lowry, Marilyn Reynolds, and Sonya Sones.

As Intellectual Freedom Chair of CEMA, I keep a list of Challenged and/or Banned books in Connecticut. This information is also forwarded to the Office for Intellectual Freedom at ALA. If you have had any materials challenged, please let me know. If you are in the middle of a challenge and need CEMA’s help, you can contact me at [mhoitt@torrington.org](mailto:mhoitt@torrington.org) or 860-489-2500, EX. 244

## *YA Group...*

Young Adult Literature Discussion Group meets four times a year to discuss YA books. Next meeting is dinner at Williams Farm, Wallingford on Thursday, Nov. 9th from 4:30 to 6:30pm. The cost is \$14.00. Please contact **Frances Nadeau** at [nadeau@ccsu.edu](mailto:nadeau@ccsu.edu) or **860-832-2071** for more information on this meeting or to join for future discussions.



## *FYJ...*

Members of the AASL International Relations Committee would like to encourage you to participate in International School Library Day. It's just around the corner-October 23. Details and many ideas can be found here: <http://www.iasl-slo.org/isld.html>

## **AASL Awards**

AASL National School Library Media Program of the Year Award (SLYMPY)

We have had two SLYMPY winners in CT: Bunny Yesner won for Beecher School in Woodbridge and Dorna Person won for Dwight Elementary School in Fairfield. It’s time for another Connecticut winner. You could be a SLYMPY winner if you have created an exemplary school library media program that is committed to:

- Ensuring that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information
- Implementing Information Power
- Being fully integrated into the school’s curriculum.

AASL Collaborative School Library Media Award.

Please apply if you collaborate with teachers in meeting goals outlined in Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning through joint planning of a program, unit or event in support of the curriculum and using media center resources.

AASL Information Technology Pathfinder Award

Please apply if you demonstrate vision and leadership through the use of information technology to build life long learners.

AASL Innovative Reading Grant

Please apply if you have a unique and innovative program for children that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers.

Go to the AASL website, <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aasindex.htm> and click on Awards for application forms. The applications are due by February 1, 2007.

## 2006 CEMA Conference Book Sales List

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Gotcha! – Nonfiction booktalks to get kids excited about reading	Baxter	27.00 pb
Gotcha Again!	Baxter	29.00 pb
Gotcha Covered!	Baxter	30.00 pb
Learning Outside the Lines	Mooney & Cole	13.00 pb
Autumn Street	Lowry	4.00 pb 14.00 hc
Gathering Blue	Lowry	5.00 pb 14.00 hc
The Giver	Lowry	5.00 pb 14.00 hc
Gooney Bird and the Room Mother	Lowry	5.00 pb 13.00 hc
Gooney Bird Greene	Lowry	5.00 pb 13.00 hc
Gossamer	Lowry	14.00 hc
Looking Back	Lowry	14.00 hc
Messenger	Lowry	5.00 pb 14.00 hc
Number the Stars	Lowry	5.00 pb 4.00 hc
The Silent Boy	Lowry	5.00 pb 13.00 hc
We Keep a Pig in the Parlor	Bloom	6.00 pb
Piggy Monday- a tale about manner	Bloom	15.00 hc
The Bus for Us	Bloom	12.00 hc
Girls A-Z	Ill. Bloom	14.00 hc
No Place for Pig	Bloom	5.00 hc
My Special Day at Third Street School	Ill Bloom	14.00 hc
A Splendid Friend, Indeed (Seuss award winner)	Bloom	14.00 hc
Melissa Parkinson's Beautiful, Beautiful Hair	Ill. Bloom	14.00 hc
A Mind at a Time	Levine	13.00 pb



# www.cema.org

## Members Only Login

The Members-Only password is 'luv2read'. The username is 'cemamember'. Please make a note of it somewhere, although if you forget, you can always contact the current membership chair for a reminder. His/her e-mail address will be linked from the CEMA home page for your convenience.

For security purposes, we will be changing it at the beginning of January each year. As our website grows, this special web space will become more and more important. So visit often!

The **CEMA-gram**, published ten times each year, is the official newsletter of the Connecticut Educational Media Association. Subscriptions are included as a benefit of membership in CEMA. Submissions and correspondence should be sent to the CEMA PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE, 49 Hazelwood Lane, Stamford, CT 06905, or emailed to [hedysiegel@snet.net](mailto:hedysiegel@snet.net) 2006-2007 CEMA President, Janet Roche The CEMA webpage can be accessed at [www.ctcema.org](http://www.ctcema.org)

# CEMA

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