

Spring, 2013



Briefings...



A publication of the Youth Services Interest Group of the California Library Association

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Tweets, Posts & Pins— Diving Right In!

Confession time: I had to be dragged kicking and screaming into social media. But after my sports columnist husband convinced me that Twitter was all that and more, I set up an account, chose a handle and jumped in. Once in the Twitter stream, I found the bite-sized tweets refreshing and easily digestible--perfect for my daily information-laden plate. That was a year ago. Now I'm totally addicted.



I linked Twitter to my Facebook account. Then a colleague led me to Pinterest. As many of you have already discovered, building a presence on social media is a great way to promote reading and libraries. Plus--it's free!

Thanks to all who sent in your social media links—I enjoyed 'visiting' you and reading your social media stories.

Burbank Public Library (submitted by Carey Vance):

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Burbank-Public-Library-Childrens-Page/176658949020335>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/bplkids1913/>

Goodreads: <http://www.goodreads.com/user/show/10179590-burbank-library-children-s-department>



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TWEETS, POSTS & PINS cont.

Says, Carey, "I am the Children's Librarian at the Burbank Public Library in charge of our department's social media presence. A few months after I started working here, I created a Facebook page that has become a popular forum for us to promote new (and classic) children's literature as well as information relevant to our families. I not only post about library programs but also free family events in the area, articles about literacy, book reviews, as well as funny youtubes and ecards related to books and reading. After 2 1/2 years, our Facebook page reaches over 1300 people and is continuing to grow in popularity. Building off of the success of our Facebook page, we created a Goodreads page and most recently, a Pinterest page. Our Pinterest page has grown quickly, with followers both local and across the country. I believe this is the perfect platform for us to promote the Burbank Library beyond our community to continue the library's mission of connecting people with information, regardless of location. Social media is an integral part of our world, the majority of people have profiles on social media networks and a quarter of the population logs in multiple times a day."

San Lorenzo Library , Alameda County (Submitted by Lael Takiguchi, Youth Librarian)

<https://www.facebook.com/SanLorenzoLibrary>

Dublin Library, Alameda County (submitted by Lee Jouthas, Branch Manager)

<http://pinterest.com/dublinlibrary/kid-power-recommends-summer-2012/>

<http://pinterest.com/dublinlibrary/page-1-a-book-group-for-5th-6th-graders/>

Sunnyvale Public Library (Submitted by Rachel Collier, Librarian)

@sunnyvalelib

Pass It On: Thoughts from the Sunnyvale Library - <http://www.passitonspl.org>

Celeste Steward, Collection Development Librarian

Alameda County Library, Fremont, CA

<https://twitter.com/Bookladybyday>

<https://twitter.com/aclib>

Meet the Author

“Where We Can Get to Know California Authors and Illustrators of Books for Children and Teens”

by Penny Peck

Tim Federle



“I made my debut dancing behind Bernadette Peters in Gypsy, and went on to dance behind Jan Maxwell in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Sherie Rene Scott in The Little Mermaid, and a gaggle of Very Funny Men in Spamalot (on tour).”

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For this issue, author Tim Federle was kind enough to do an interview by email.

Q. Congratulations on your debut book, *Better Nate Than Ever* (Simon and Schuster, 2013). It has been receiving great reviews – even a shout-out in *Entertainment Weekly* magazine! How did you find a publisher (since it can be difficult to break into the children’s books biz)?

Thank you, Penny! Every book—just like every person, really—needs a guardian angel. In my case, that’s my agent, Brenda Bowen, a kidlit legend who found the perfect home for *Better Nate Than Ever* with David Gale at Simon & Schuster. But before David, and before Brenda, there was me and my computer and a big stupid dream: to someday turn my Microsoft Word ramblings into a publishable novel. And that took clueless passion and a lot of luck.

Q. *Better Nate Than Ever* is a tween novel about a boy who wants to become a Broadway musical actor. Is it somewhat autobiographical?

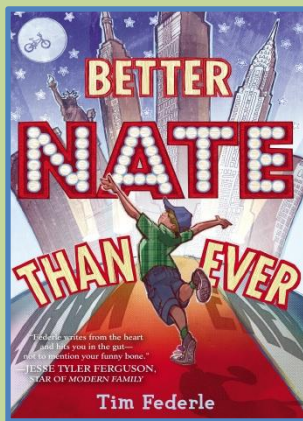
Why, yes. Yes, it is. J When I was nine years old, my parents took me to the Golden Gate Theater to see *CATS*. That did it. From there on out, the only thing I ever wanted to be was on Broadway. I was lucky enough to get there (after a detour dancing behind Christina Aguilera at the Super Bowl). *Better Nate Than Ever* is largely drawn from my own experiences as an underdog theater geek.

Q. Is Libby (Nate’s best friend) based on anyone in particular?

Libby is Nate’s Gal Friday: the wise-cracking, gum-smacking, eighth grade co-conspirator of his every wild ambition. When I was on the artistic staff of *Billy Elliot*, there was one particularly vivid girl who provided the glimmering inspiration for Libby.

Q. In which Broadway shows did you appear? Are you more of a singer or a dancer, or a triple threat?

I made my debut dancing behind Bernadette Peters in *Gypsy*, and went on to dance behind Jan Maxwell in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Sherie Rene Scott in *The Little Mermaid*, and a gaggle of Very Funny Men in *Spamalot* (on tour). A lot of “dancing behind,” which was great—but also felt like a repeat cycle. I’m not sure what I am today: a dancer who sings, an actor who mugs, a writer who naps...really, I’m most comfortable saying I’m a dude who’s trying to make people smile for a livina. Fingers crossed.



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Meet the Author: Tim Federle cont.

Q. Have you heard any feedback yet from tween readers? How have they reacted to *Better Nate Than Ever*?

We were lucky enough to launch *Better Nate Than Ever* at a kids' theater festival in Atlanta. It was my first time signing a single copy of the book, and (*fabulous bookstore alert*) Little Shop of Stories and I ended up sending almost 800 die-hard Broadway lovers home with copies. It was nuts. And many of these tweens wrote to me later with just about the same message: "You've written my story!" Even more meaningful: hearing from the moms (and occasional dads) who say: "My son/daughter needed this character to identify with." Those emails get me hyper-weepy. All kinds of kids deserve all kinds of stories.

Q. Is there a sequel in the works? With the success of TV shows like "Glee" and "Smash," there is certainly an audience for this topic.

In fact, my red copyediting pencil is currently set aside so I can complete this interview ☐. I'm thrilled to say that Simon & Schuster is publishing the further adventures of Nate next year.

Q. What other books do you have which are forthcoming?

This spring, Running Press is publishing my debut novelty recipe book, *Tequila Mockingbird: Cocktails with a Literary Twist*. (Think: "The Last of the Mojitos" and "Are You There God? It's Me, Margarita.") And then in 2015 Disney is publishing my first picture book! Did I mention I'm lucky?

Q. You were born in San Francisco. Do you remember going to the library there?

I do. Very much. Long before I got into performing, I was obsessed with telling and reading stories. And in Foster City, CA, our elementary school had a library to which parents could contribute and dedicate a new book for their son or daughter. My folks picked *I'll Always Love You*, by Hans Wilhelm—about a boy's everlasting love for his dog—and that story made me cry and cry and cry. In a great way though—in that personal, private, wonderful way that only a book can.



“I was constantly sent to the principal’s office. The problem was, I’d make him laugh when I got there.”

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Tim Federle cont.

Q. What was the public library like when you were a kid in Pennsylvania? Did you have a favorite book as a kid?

The public library in our little suburb of Pittsburgh (where my family moved when I was nine—but don’t worry, we’re back on the peninsula now!) was very memorable. There were these very cool conference rooms that we teens would go into to finish our homework, and I remember thinking: This is so neat. We’re playing “office” the way we used to play “house” when we were kids. That’s what’s great about libraries, you know? You get to practice being the best kind of person: respectful, studious, curious.

Q. Your website mentions you are a “professional class clown.” Is that based on your childhood?

I was constantly sent into the principal’s office. The problem was, I’d make him laugh when I got there.

Q. Have you visited any schools or public libraries to talk to kids about your book?

Simon & Schuster sent me on a (surprisingly and wonderfully ambitious!) author tour, and I’ve met thousands of kids from all walks of life who have all types of dreams—from dancing to dental school. I really love connecting with an un-jaded, hopeful readership. They inspire me. And—pretty jaw-dropping, from my perspective—we’ve sold out of books at nearly every event we’ve had.

Q. How do librarians contact you for visits? (www.timfederle.com/#main)

They send me a note at tim@timfederle.com and I write them back right away ☐ Nothing makes me happier than getting kids dancing and reading. Really, really.

Q. Anything else you would like our readers to know?

No matter how old you are, your dreams are allowed to be bigger than you are.

Thanks, Tim! It is great to see that a newcomer can get a book published and have such great success! Thanks so much for visiting us at CLA’s Briefings for this interview!

Penny Peck, San Jose State Univ., School of Library and Information Science.



**California Library Association
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Ro*co Films and CLA Present: A Place at the Table

Dear summer reading community:

Ro*co Films International and CLA are partnering to make the purchase and screening of the film *A Place At The Table: One Nation. Underfed.* available to all California public libraries at a discount.

Usually \$295, California libraries will be able to purchase the public performance DVD of *A Place At The Table: One Nation. Underfed.* for \$100. (The purchase includes the feature-length version of the film and unlimited public performance rights at a single venue.)

The film is a perfect tie-in with iRead's *Reading Is So Delicious!* summer reading theme. But whatever your summer reading theme, this film is a great way to raise awareness of the prevalence of hunger in America and provide your library patrons with tools to create meaningful change.

California public libraries should use coupon code **CLASUMMER2013** to take advantage of the discount.

For a detailed description of the film, to view the trailer, and to purchase the DVD, please visit:

http://www.rocoeducational.com/a_place_at_the_table

About the film:

50 million people in the U.S. – one in four children – don't know where their next meal is coming from, despite our having the means to provide nutritious, affordable food for all Americans. Directors Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush examine the issue through the lens of three people who are struggling with food insecurity: Barbie, a single Philadelphia mother who grew up in poverty and is trying to provide a better life for her two kids; Rosie, a Colorado fifth-grader who often has to depend on friends and neighbors to feed her and has trouble concentrating in school; and Tremonica, a Mississippi second-grader whose asthma and health issues are exacerbated by the largely empty calories her hardworking mother can afford.

Their stories are interwoven with insights from experts including sociologist Janet Poppendieck, author Raj Patel and nutrition policy leader Marion Nestle; ordinary citizens like Pastor Bob Wilson and teachers Leslie Nichols and Odessa Cherry; and activists such as Witness to Hunger's Mariana Chilton, Top Chef's Tom Colicchio and Oscar®-winning actor Jeff Bridges. Ultimately A Place at the Table shows us how hunger poses serious economic, social and cultural implications for our nation, and that it could be solved once and for all, if the American public decides - as they have in the past - that making healthy food available and affordable is in the best interest of us all. -- Magnolia Films

California Summer Reading Program is a project of the California Library Association, supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, a federal grant program administered in California by the State Librarian



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Acquire a Taste for Giving Food Drive

This summer, public libraries across California will partner with local area food banks to collect food for those in need. The California Library Association is coordinating this effort to collect at least 10,000 pounds of food for hungry Californians.

One in six Americans struggles with hunger. The [Acquire A Taste for Giving Food Drive](#), inspired by the California Library Association's *Reading Is So Delicious!* summer reading theme, encourages libraries to hold summer food drives and host events that highlight issues relating to hunger in America. Public libraries will offer events such as food-for-fines programs, screenings of *A Place At the Table: One Nation Underfed*, "construction" competitions, cooking demos, healthy living programs, and more. Donations will be tracked on the CLA website through the summer and the statewide total will be announced in the fall.

"We encourage children, teens, adults, libraries, and food banks across the state to join CLA in this exciting and important community effort. While public libraries already contribute to the vitality of their communities in a number of ways, this is a unique opportunity to join together across the entire state to make a difference in fighting hunger," said CLA President, Derek Wolfgram.

For information on how to take part in this statewide effort and for a list of participating libraries please visit the [Acquire A Taste For Giving Food Drive](#) page on the California Library Association website.

The California Library Association provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and librarianship.

The California Summer Reading Program is a project of the California Library Association, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Contact: Trish Garone

Summer Reading Program Associate

Telephone: 650-376-0886 #4

Email: pgarone@cla-net.org

Fax: 650-539-2341

www.cla-net.org



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SENSORY STORY TIMES @

Clovis Regional Library

The staff at the Clovis Regional Library, part of the Fresno County Public Library system, had a positive problem. Their preschool story times were so well attended that they were no longer suitable for children who have difficulty functioning in large groups—often those with developmental disabilities or autism. In response, children’s programmer Eric Dunicliff, who is currently earning a credential in special education, brought together both areas of his expertise in the form of sensory story times.



Library Assistant Eric Dunicliff

These programs, held biweekly on Sunday afternoons so that working parents can attend with their children, offer many of the same activities from traditional story times but with greater emphasis on presenting with minimal stimuli. Using a multi-sensory approach, every song, movement, and story is simplified to meet the children’s needs. Most important is providing a safe environment for these children, ages 3-8, to enjoy their library experience.

“I got interested in doing sensory story times when my Infopeople instructor was disappointed she was never able to do a story time for children with disabilities,” said Dunicliff. “I did some research to see if other libraries were doing them. When I suggested the idea to staff and customers everyone got excited, so I knew I had to make it happen.”

The sensory story times, which began in February, have been embraced by the Clovis community, with 4-8 children and 4-6 adults attending each time—perfect numbers for a program of this design. Afterward, a parent thanked Dunicliff for offering the service, saying, “We were always the family that the other families wished would leave. Our little guy just didn’t ‘get it’.”

Connie Urquhart, Marketing Librarian

Fresno County Public Library



Renewable Energy @ Rancho Cucamonga

Through an LSTA grant issued by the California State Library, the Rancho Cucamonga Library created the Play and Learn Islands™ interactive spaces where families share unique learning experiences. Through imaginative play using our health-themed marketplace or by experimenting with design using our Big Build we have seen firsthand how play positively reinforces learning concepts such as counting, sorting, sorting, sharing, and collaboration.



The new Renewable Energy Play and Learn Island™ highlights five major sources of sustainable energy, including solar, wind, and biomass. Hopefully, this unique learning tool will help start a dialogue between parents and children about where energy comes from and how we can help our environment.

The Renewable Play and Learn Island™ project was funded by a grant from the American Public Power Association's Demonstration of Energy-Efficient Developments (DEED) program.

Wess Garcia, Programming Librarian

Rancho Cucamonga Library Services

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Teens & Shakespeare @ Burbank Public Library

At the Burbank Public Library, Young Adult librarian, Melissa Elliott and Anarda Williams applied their love of storytelling into an innovative teen program. With local actor David Purdham, they created a Readers' Theater program for teens.



Teens at Burbank PL's Midsummer Night's Dream Event

The first production was a Sherlock Holmes mystery, *The Blue Carbuncle*, featuring several teens alongside professional actors. The teens and their families loved it! We have continued with original Readers' Theater productions of *Gift of the Magi*, *Little Women*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and now, featuring only teens, *A Halloween Miscellany* and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

The teens have the pleasure of reading a wonderful story or play aloud to an appreciative audience while gaining greater insight into the stories themselves, while the audience has the pleasure of watching these teens develop confidence and storytelling skills. We've just started to include the teens' writings in our Halloween program, so original storytelling will be next on the agenda!

Anarda Williams, Young Adult Services

Buena Vista Branch Library

Burbank, CA 91505



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Kids' Art Contest @ Rancho Mirage Library

You Can Tell a Book by Its Cover



In the spirit of promoting art education for children, the Rancho Mirage Public Library Foundation held the first annual: You Can Tell a Book by its Cover: *Art Competition for KIDS*.

Children between the ages of 5 and 12 were invited to submit a piece of artwork illustrating a book cover based on a book or story they had read, written or would like to write. A total of 37 entries were received, all participants received a small art kit, while the top three entrants also received art supplies.

All of the artwork will be displayed April 15th through May 15th in the children's room of the Rancho Mirage Public Library, the library Website: www.ranchoiragelibrary.org, as well as *Pinterest*, [click here to view all images: http://pinterest.com/ranchoiragelib/](http://pinterest.com/ranchoiragelib/)

This program was made possible by a grant from the Rancho Mirage Art Affaire.

JoAnn Collins, Senior Librarian

Rancho Mirage Library



Game Design Workshop @ Oakland Public Library



81st Avenue East Oakland Community Library hosted the "PowerUp Video Game Design Workshop" on March 16. 27 tweens, teens, and young adults participated in this IMLS-funded event. Facilitated by game designers from E-Line Media (producers of open-source game production programs) and members of Blacks in Gaming (an organization of African-American game designers), the program enabled youth to learn how to design their own games in using the Gamestar Mechanic software and to learn how to design their own non-digital games using everyday household items. Although the participants were having too much fun gaming to notice, plenty of STEM-rich learning also took place in the course of the three hour-program.

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Susan Maldonado, Teen Services Librarian

81st Avenue Branch, Oakland Public Library

Oakland, CA



**California Library Association
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OUTCOMES + OUTREACH = OUTSTANDING SRG

Outcomes + Outreach = Outstanding Summer Reading Programs!

ALA Preconference Workshop

Friday, June 28, 2013 | 11:00am - 4:00pm

Registration fee: \$125

[Register today](#) and please forward to friends and colleagues who may be interested in attending.

- Are you looking for ways to keep your summer reading program vital, dynamic, and relevant?
- Would you like to start presenting outcomes-based summer reading programs but don't know where to start?
- Do you want to reach out successfully to underserved community members during the summer?

Then this workshop, presented by the Illinois and California Library Associations, is for you!

Our hands-on session will give you a framework and techniques for planning and presenting successful outcomes- and outreach-based summer reading programs. Participants will learn how to:

- conduct a community needs assessment;
- develop meaningful outcomes and measurement tools;
- reach out effectively to your community and underserved groups;
- evaluate the impact of your summer reading program;
- generate results that show the value and impact of summer reading; and
- use results to improve library service, promote the library, and generate funding!

The workshop will help librarians transition from presenting programs that merely measure outputs to creating programs that record benefits. While the workshop will focus on summer reading, the skills acquired by participants will be transferable to other areas of library service.

Presenters:

Lori Easterwood, Sacramento Public Library, CA

Helen Fisher, Ontario City Library, CA

Cindy Mediavilla, California State Library

Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library, CA

Virginia Walter, Outcomes Trainer and Consultant, CA

Michelle Wyss, Forman Valley Public Library District, Manito, IL

Natalie Cole
Associate Executive Director
California Library Association
ncole@cla-net.org

News & Notes

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://clanet.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=25>

Sharon Snow, Branch Manager at Desert Hot Springs Library and Yvonne Reed, Technology Librarian at Ranch Mirage Library have published a new book:

Teens Have Style: Fashion Programs for Young Adults at the Library, Libraries Unlimited, 2013.

<http://www.amazon.com/Teens-Have-Style-Fashion-Programs/dp/1598848925>

CLSP Update:

Winning slogans for 2015 are “Every Hero Has a Story” (Children/Early Literacy), “Unmask!” (Teens), and “Escape the Ordinary” (Adults). The theme for 2016 is Sports/Health/Fitness. Contact Pam Carlson at Long Beach Public Library for more information pam.carlson@lbpl.org



Don't miss “**Golden Threads: Journey through the Picture Book**” on exhibit through May 24, 2013 at the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature, California State University, Fresno, CA.

For more information, contact Jami Sanford, Henry Madden Library at (559-278-8116).

**California Library Association
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Request for Submissions/Upcoming Topics

Interested in contributing to the next issue of Briefings? Want to share some wonderful and successful programs and partnerships at your library? Do you have any pressing topics you would like to read about in *Briefings*? We want to hear from you!

We are especially looking for new and interesting programs going on at your library or any successful collaborations/partnerships. Please send submissions for upcoming issues to the editor at csteward@aclibrary.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

***Help to contribute to YSIG by taking part in the
Briefings Newsletter!***



A special "THANK YOU" to all those who submitted articles for the Spring, 2013 issue of BRIEFINGS!!!