

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Diane Bartlett
CLA Beatty Award Committee Chair
Telephone: 209-543-7315
Email: bartlett@scfl.lib.ca.us
www.cla-net.org



***The Tree Lady* by H. Joseph Hopkins selected for 2014 CLA Beatty Award**

San Mateo, CA, April 15, 2014 – *The Tree Lady*, written by H. Joseph Hopkins and illustrated by Jill McElmurry, has been selected by the California Library Association (CLA) to receive its prestigious Beatty Award. Hopkins’ and McElmurry’s vivid book tells the story of pioneer and activist, Kate Sessions, who helped San Diego grow from a dry desert town into a lush, leafy city known for its gorgeous parks and gardens.

“Thank you, California librarians, for honoring The Tree Lady,” said Hopkins. *“Your award is a grand tribute to Kate Sessions’ legacy and to the book artists who made Kate’s story into a fine work of art.”*

Jill McElmurry said, *“Three generations of my family considered themselves Californians. As a Californian at heart, I’m proud and happy to receive this award.”*

Hopkins and McElmurry will be honored at the Beatty Award Luncheon on Saturday, November 8, 2014, during the CLA annual conference in Oakland, CA.

“CLA is delighted to honor this lovely book that tells the story of a determined California scientist who followed her heart to make San Diego a more beautiful place,” said CLA President Deborah Doyle.

H. Joseph Hopkins (author) lives in Oregon, on a houseboat. **Jill McElmurry (illustrator)** lives with her husband, dog, and apple, peach, pear, and fig trees in New Mexico.

The John & Patricia Beatty Award honors the author of a distinguished book for children or young adults that best promotes an awareness of California and its people. **The California Library Association** provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and librarianship

2014 Beatty Committee members: Diane Bartlett, Chair (Stanislaus County Library), Odette Batis (Richmond Public Library), Roberta Boegel (Sacramento Public Library), Ashley Kagan (Palos Verdes Library District), Sarah Mae Harper (County of Los Angeles Public Library), Rene Hohls (Ventura County Office of Education), and Edwin Rodarte (Ontario City Library).

– END –