

SLAWNY Direct



A Trip to the AASL Conference

-Charlie Kelly

True story - I was at the airport in Minneapolis, MN in October on my way to attend the AASL (American Association of School Librarians) 15th National Conference and Exhibition "Turning the Page." I was a little unsure on which train to take to go downtown so I turned to the woman next to me and asked her if she knew. We started talking and I found out she was a school librarian in Cincinnati and I told her I was from Rochester. So where do you think she grew up? Yes...you guessed it...Rochester! It really is a small world. Later that night I met her and a group of her friends at The Melting Pot for dessert.

I was fortunate to be one of thirty school librarians to receive a Bound to Stay Bound Travel Grant to attend the AASL National Conference and Exhibition. What an experience. By attending a national conference you can meet other school librarians from around the country and find out what they are doing in their school library media center. One great feature at AASL National Conference and

Exhibition was the Exploratorium on Thursday. There were dozens of learning stations showcasing best practices and ideas of school librarians. SLAWNY members Ann Marie Wik and Beth Stancl presented "High School to College."

Ask any school librarian why they would want to attend the AASL National Conference and Exhibition and you will receive a variety of answers. Some come to recharge, network, hang out with old friends, listen to speakers, sightsee, check out the exhibits, explore a variety of workshops, or pick up tons of freebies. Everyone told me to make sure I have an extra suitcase for all the freebies. Did I listen? No, but luckily my parents live outside of Minneapolis so I was able to get an extra duffel bag. I took home 67 FREE BOOKS, numerous posters, bags, and pens from the exhibit hall. I had books signed by Maggie Stiefvater and talked to Andrea Davis Pinkney in my hotel elevator. It was a whirlwind of activity and I hope to attend again in 2013 when it comes to Hartford, CT. You should too!

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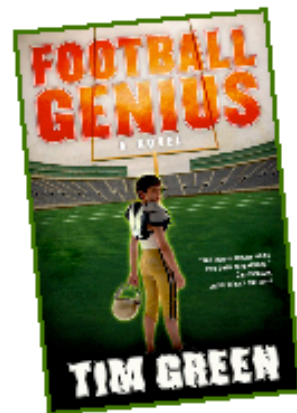
The School Librarians' Association of Western New York February Meeting & Workshop



Author Visit with **TIM GREEN**

February 7, 2012 ~ 4:30 pm

Erie 1 BOCES, Rm. B-1
355 Harlem Rd
West Seneca, NY 14224



Come see best-selling author Tim Green speak! His career has included lawyer, tv broadcaster, coach, author and Atlanta Falcons defensive end and linebacker. After writing more than a dozen books for adults, Tim Green began writing a series of children's novels centered around sports. Taking from his own experiences as a coach and NFL athlete, Tim has written 8 children's books, including *Football Genius* which made *The New York Times* best-seller list of children's chapter books. Since beginning his career as a children's book author, Tim Green has traveled across the country, speaking to thousands of children about the importance of reading and education, sharing his passion for books. Join us in listening to Tim speak about his life and writing and learn how you schedule him to visit your school in person or via skype.

For more information, check out: www.TimGreenBooks.com

**Due to limited seating, registration is required for this meeting.
Registration is due by February 3, 2012.**

Register online at:

<http://www.elb.org/events/Erie1?event=20818>



ChangingTimes@YourLibrary
www.slawny.org

SLAWNY Stars

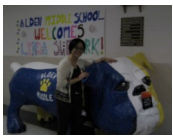


-Compiled by Maria Muhlbauer, Pioneer Middle School, SLAWNY Publicity Committee

Charlie Kelly was chosen to participate in the ALA Emerging Leader Class of 2012. She will also be receiving sponsorship from AASL.

Stephanie Kreutter (Kaegebein Elementary School, Grand Island) created an Iroquois Newscast project for fourth grade students. The class researched different parts of Iroquois life in small groups. Then they took their research notes and wrote a script. Each member of the group had a different role including director, reporter, cameraman, multimedia expert, and cue card holder. While performing their roles, each group recorded the presentation of their script as if they were a news team. All of the news segments were compiled to make an Iroquois Newscast. The students were really proud of their work and how they were involved in each part of the process. They also showed a lot of creativity, calling themselves Channel 49 News!

During January 2012, **Maria Muhlbauer** (Pioneer Middle School) learned that her grant proposal, A Safe and Inviting Library, was accepted by the Lowe's Toolbox for Education program. The \$4,500.00 awarded will be used to replace sections of library shelving and add soft, comfortable seating to the library's reading nook. To learn more about the Lowe's Toolbox for Education program, visit <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/index.html>.



On December 6, 2011, **Donn Riggi** (Alden Middle School) hosted a wonderful author visit from Linda Sue Park. Grades six through eight came to the library before reading the novel for three pre-reading activities: one using CultureGrams Online to learn more about Sudan, one using a DVD from Water for Sudan to learn more about the need for clean water, and one using a short biography of Linda Sue Park to learn more about the author. These activities and having everyone in the school read the same book really made her visit special. In addition, Alden Middle School has decided to build a well in Sudan - all fund-raising from the year is going to that cause.

As of November 2011, **Laurie Sydow** is the new library media specialist at North Tonawanda Middle School. Congratulations Laurie!

Charlotte Award

-Gretchen Seibert, Edison Elementary School

The Charlotte Award is an award given by the NYS Reading Association and voted on by students across NYS. You are welcome to get your students involved in the voting by promoting the books, holding elections and reporting on the results to the award committee. The ballot, containing ten books in each of four categories, may be found on the NYS Reading Association's

website: <http://charlotteaward.wordpress.com/2012-nominees/>. The Charlotte blog contains interviews, activities and more ideas for sharing and promoting these worthy titles. If you are interested in more information or would like me to visit your school to talk with your faculty about the award, please contact me at 874-8416 or

via email. Additionally, I have some free books to donate to librarians who contact me about this article!

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Listening to the Book Whisperer

-Kristin Frauenhofer, Maryvale Primary School, SLAWNY Publicity Committee

How do you inspire a love for reading in reluctant readers? Sometimes, the question becomes how do you just get them to read period? These are questions that many teachers and librarians face throughout their careers. Donalyn Miller, also known as the "Book Whisperer," addressed these questions and more when she came to speak at Erie 1 BOCES on November 14th.

In her workshop, "Metamorphous: Turning Dormant Reader into Gifted Readers!" Donalyn stressed the importance of giving students the freedom to choose their own books. A sixth-grade language arts and social studies teacher, Donalyn sets book requirements, but lets her students select books that interest them. She even suggests reconsidering whole class novel units, rea-

soning that "no single text can meet the reading levels or interests of the wide range of readers in a classroom." She then carves out authentic reading time for students: setting aside class time, eliminating bell work and encouraging students to carry a book with them to read whenever they have random free minutes.

Donalyn also spoke on the importance of being a reading role model. Making time to read and having a love for reading, she explained, helps to inspire that love in students. Let students see you read or know what you're reading. Let them know when you find a book you love and let them know when you found a book that you didn't like or couldn't finish.

For her students, Donalyn sets a goal of reading 40 books each year. Although many of her students meet this goal and often exceed it, she is

less concerned with numbers and more focused on the goal that her students leave with a love, or at least an appreciation, for reading. Listening to Donalyn speak about her love of books and her passion for inspiring students to read, it was easy to see how her excitement and commitment becomes infectious in the classroom. After hearing her speak about some of her favorite books of 2011, I know I was inspired to go home and pick up some new and different titles!

For more information on Donalyn Miller, you can check out her website, www.bookwhisperer.com or her blog for *Education Week*. http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/book_whisperer/. You can also add her book to your reading list, *The Book Whisperer Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child*.

Volunteer Opportunity

-Carol Chapman, Retired

Volunteers are needed for Theatre of Youth ushers for weekend performances for February 3-12 (Ben Franklin's Apprentice), March 23-April 1 (Wrinkle in Time), and May 11-June 3 (Charlotte's Web). Retirees are needed for the weekday morning school performances as well.

I have really enjoyed giving my time to this organization that promotes both great children's literature and live theatre. To see the children's excitement and experience uplifting themes is reward enough but volunteer ushers are also awarded complimentary tickets for their valuable

time and effort. My 10 year old granddaughter shared this: "I have never seen a TOY play that I didn't like."

Please contact Tim White, TOY's Box Office Manager, to set up your volunteer schedule. Email: twhite@theatreofyouth.org or 716-884-4400 x 304.

Fall Sharing 2011

-Kristin Frauenhofer, Maryvale Primary School, SLAWNY Publicity Committee

SLAWNY's first Fall Sharing Conference was held on October 15th at Windom Elementary in Orchard Park. Over 100 people attended the all day event that included 10 breakout sessions. Topics were varied, including Web 2.0 leadership, using Teaching-Books.net, storytelling, ipads in the library and more. Author, teacher and creator of the website Citation Machine, David Warlick was the keynote speaker. Warlick gave two

lectures addressing "information abundance," and speaking on how information is collected, processed and used. He also spoke on giving students more opportunities to be playful and explore what interests them. Also at Fall Sharing, Cathie Marriott was recognized as Outstanding Library Advocate of the Year. Cathie recently retired from her position as Director of Technology and Information Services in Orchard Park. Throughout her

career, Cathie has been an advocate for all school librarians, helping to motivate, teaching and standing up for the profession. She continues to be a strong advocate and voice of encouragement and inspiration. SLAWNY would like to thank everyone who supported the conference by attending. Also, special thanks to the presenters, the vendors and all of the volunteers who helped to make the day a great success.

Fall Sharing FAQ

-Leslie Occhiuto, The Park School, SLAWNY Past President

A big thank you to the attendees of the recent Fall Sharing Conference for providing some great feedback on the evaluation forms. The feedback on the programs offered was universally positive. That's probably because the conference committee used member suggestions from *the last* Sharing to plan the program. Your input about the conference is vitally important.

Over the years your SLAWNY Spring/Fall Sharing committee members have seen certain suggestions for improving the conference repeated over and over again. Members must be thinking that no one ever listens! The committee thought we would present this FAQ (perhaps more aptly titled "frequently made suggestions" but FMS isn't as catchy) regarding the conference set up.

Frequently Made Suggestion #1: START LATER, IT'S SATURDAY FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

There is a lot of fantastic stuff to pack in a not-quite-full-day conference so a later start is not really possible without sacrificing content.

Frequently Made Suggestion #2: END EARLIER, IT'S A SATURDAY FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

See response to FMS #1 ABOVE.
(substitute "later end" for "later start")

Frequently Made Suggestion #3: There are so many good programs, couldn't we add a third session?

Great idea, but it conflicts with the start later/end earlier suggestions.

Frequently Made Suggestion #4: Solve the above issues by having less vendor time.

Vendors take the time to travel to our conference, set up their wares, talk to us about their products, AND pay for the privilege to do so! This payment goes a long way to deferring our costs for the conference. The registration fee would go up without the vendors. They deserve our time and attention. AND The switch to a fall conference has helped to make vendor time even more relevant.

Frequently Made Suggestion #5: The programs I want to attend are always offered at the same time!

So many great sessions that you don't know which to attend? That's what the programming committee likes to hear! Every effort is made to present a variety programs in terms of topics and grade levels and to balance the offerings between the two sessions.

Remembering Fall Sharing 2011



Remembering Fall Sharing 2011 (continued)





Writers needed!

Did you go to a great event? Do you have a lesson that is out of this world? Or do you have advice for a new school library media specialist? SLAWNY Direct would like you to write about it for our next issue! Contact the Publicity Committee for details!

"Learning4Life@ your Library"

Maria Muhlbauer, Pioneer Middle School, Pioneer Central School District

Kristin Frauenhofer, Maryvale Primary School, Maryvale Union Free School District

Tina Pierce, Arcade Elementary School, Pioneer Central School District

SLAWNY.Publicity.Committee@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
<http://www.slawny.org/>

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 4:30 pm, Erie 1 BOCES. Author Tim Green. Join us for a discussion with New York Times bestselling author, Tim Green, now author of seven chapter books for kids, Tim is the real deal. He is a former NFL football player, Rhodes Scholar candidate, Father of five, Lawyer and Author. See the flier in this issue of SLAWNY Direct and mark your calendar for this one! Check him out at <http://www.timgreenbooks.com>

Thursday, April 19, 2012 4:30pm Barnes & Noble, 4401 Transit Rd, Clarence, 14221. Looking to lure students into your library? Find out how Barnes & Noble uses marketing tricks, and how we can utilize them to promote the joys of reading and increase participation in a school library.

Looking for the perfect opportunity to showcase your library and school?

Be the host of
Fall Sharing 2012!

If you're interested or have questions email Jim at jclark@opschools.org