

The Solano Reader

www.solanoreaders.org

October - 2008

President's Message

This is a GREAT year to join SCRA! From **Ralph Fletcher** and **Rebekah Caplan**, who will inspire us to teach writing, to **Michelle Labelle-Fisch** who will give us practical tools that will facilitate our students' writing, you won't want to miss this year's events. The theme for SCRA this year is writing!

Joseph Heller, author of *Catch 22*, said, "Every writer I know has trouble writing." I think every teacher I know has trouble teaching writing! Our SCRA events will focus on the teaching writing in the classroom. Who knows, you may be teaching the next Twain, Michner or Grisham!

We will again be sponsoring our Writing Contest for grades K-12. Note, we extended the due date to **March 4th** for submissions this year, so mark your calendar and start your students writing!

Have a wonderful new school year and make all our SCRA events a "must-not-be-missed" priority! Join today! Join SCRA and register for events by visiting www.solanoreaders.org.

Sincerely,
Jackie Albright
President, SCRA



Solano County



Reading Association
est. 1961

What is SCRA?

For those of you new to teaching or new to Solano County, I thought it might be good to give you some background information about Solano County Reading Association, SCRA.

We are a non-profit professional organization, established in 1961. Over 47 years we have conducted one of the longest running county writing contest for students in grades K-12, hosted award winning authors, conducted numerous professional development opportunities, hosted local reading mini-conferences and helped third world countries support literacy efforts.

For the last 23 years we have received the distinction of Honor Council by our affiliates, the California Reading Association (CRA) and the International Reading Association (IRA).

Visit www.solanoreaders.org for the calendar of events and writing contest information (due March 4th). We have some phenomenal speakers coming. I encourage you to join SCRA now! Register online for membership and workshops. Have an incredible year!

Denise Fracchia
Editor, *The Solano Reader*

Don't Miss Ralph Fletcher

Saturday October 11th!



The Solano County Reading Association and the **Area 3 Writing Project** are cosponsoring **Ralph Fletcher** at UCD on Saturday, October 11. Ralph Fletcher's all day K-12 workshop on *Teaching the Qualities of Writing* will blend practical instructional skills, humor, and some fresh ideas for developing good writing with your students.

Ralph Fletcher is a brilliant author of over a dozen books including: What a Writer Needs, Live Writing: Breathing Life into Your Words, Writing Workshop-the Essential Guide, Boy Writers-Reclaiming their Voices, and many, many more! For more information on Ralph Fletcher visit www.ralphfletcher.com.

With our continued focus to improve student writing, this is an excellent opportunity for our K-12 teachers.

Cost: \$75 (lunch included)

Registration for the workshop is online only at:
www.regonline.com/63354_649230A

Seating is limited to 200. Make your reservations now!

SCRA 2008 - 2009 Calendar

August	SCRA Writing Contest. Begin collecting student writing.	Dec. 20	Wrapping Books at Barnes & Noble Fairfield
Sept. 8	International Literacy Day www.reading.org	Jan. 24	Rebekah Caplan, Author Topic: Writing Location/Cost: TBA Time: 8:30-4 p.m.
Oct. 1	CA Young Medal Reader Book Talks Location: Fairfield Barnes and Noble Time: 4:30-5:30 p.m. Registration starts at 4:00 p.m. Books will be available for purchase. A percentage of all sales goes to benefit the Literacy in Zanzibar Project.	Feb. TBA	Campus Star Entries Due, www.thereporter.com
Oct. 11	Ralph Fletcher, Educational Speaker/ Consultant; Area 3 Writing Project Co-sponsored Event; Topic: Teaching the Qualities of Writing Location: UC Davis Campus Time: 8:00 am-3:00 p.m. Cost: \$75 (Lunch included) Register online only at www.regonline.com/63354_649230A	Feb. 21-25	IRA 54th Annual Convention West , "Multiple Pathways to Literacy" Phoenix, AZ, www.reading.org
Oct. 12-18	Teen Read Week, "LOL @ your library", www.ala.org	Mar. 2	"Read Across America", www.nea.org/readacross
Oct. 16-18	42nd Annual CRA Conference, "Comprehension...A Key to Many Doors" Sacramento, CA www.californiareads.org	Mar. 4	SCRA Writing Contest Deadline
Oct. 29	Michelle Labelle-Fisch, Teacher-Tech Trainer; Topic: Using Inspiration 8 to Inspire and Organize Student Writing (Grades 2-12) Location: Tolenas Elem. School Computer Lab Time: 4:00-6:30 p.m. Cost: \$20 (seating limited)	Mar. 10 & 17	Writing Contest Judging Place: Fairmont School, Time: 4:30-7:30 p.m.
		Mar. TBA	Elisa Kleven, Author & Illustrator Location/Time: TBA
		Mar. TBA	Newspapers in Education Week, http://nieonline.com/thereporter/ www.kidscoop.com/escoop/index.html
		Apr. 20-26	TV Turn-Off Week, www.tv-turnoff.org
		Apr. 29	SCRA Writing Contest Awards Place: Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre Time: 7-8 p.m.
		May 12-18	National Children's Book Week 2008, www.cbcbooks.org

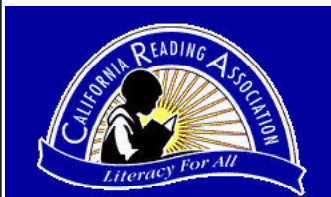
Visit www.solanoreaders.org to sign up for events!
Bold print indicates SCRA Event.

CRA's 42nd Annual Conference October 16-18, 2008

"Comprehension... A Key to Many Doors"

Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, CA

For more information and registration visit www.californiareads.org





Rebekah Caplan
Saturday, January 24th!
8:30 - 4 p.m.

We are thrilled to have Rebekah Caplan come to Solano County this year. You may know the writing term “show not tell”. Rebekah developed this early in her career when she was challenged teaching junior high students to write. She has authored Show Not Tell, and has coauthored Writers in Training, The Writer’s Craft and The Language of Literature. Rebekah Caplan, a leader in the Bay Area Writing Project and now traveling across the U.S. as a lead trainer for America’s Choice Reform Model, has written many books and articles with practical strategies to improve your students’ writing. Don’t miss out on this fabulous writing workshop. Check the website for details and register online at www.solanoreader.org.

Coming in March!

Elisa Kleven, Author and Illustrator



You may know some of her wonderful picture books: Abuela, The Lion and the Little Red Bird, Hooray, a Pinata!, The Puddle Pail, A Monster in the House. Just to name a few!

Join us for an afternoon with Elisa Kleven as she shares her stories and illustrations. Bring students and parents along for this event. For more information about Elisa Kleven go to: <http://www.elisakleven.com/aboutelisa.html>.

Check out www.solanoreaders.org for more information and registration.

Many thanks to Michelle Labelle-Fisch and her class for all the hours spent counting, sorting, labeling and mailing the various SCRA newsletters and fliers. We appreciate all the time and effort it takes to do this job!



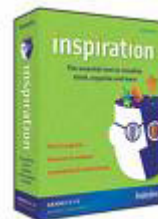
Writing Workshop
presented by Michelle Labelle-Fisch
Wednesday October 29th!

Topic: Using Inspiration® 8 to Inspire and Organize Student Writing (Grades 2-12)

Time: 4 - 6:30 pm

Location: Tolenas School Computer Lab

Cost: \$20 (seating is limited)



Michelle Labelle-Fisch is an outstanding sixth grade teacher in Fairfield and a long time trainer with the powerful and effective use of various technology tools in the classroom.. Teachers will have an opportunity to use *Inspiration 8*, a technology program for students to effectively pre-plan their writing. She will present practical writing strategies and techniques.

Inspiration 8 is a commonly available piece of software that helps students and teachers brainstorm and organize content and ideas for writing. Using both text and graphics, students plan and organize their ideas, and then use this plan for writing. Come try the tool yourself, participate in raffle for free prizes, and plan your next writing lesson!

Check it out!

www.solanoreaders.org

Did you know you can become a SCRA member online? Or register for SCRA events online? Check out our website often for up-to-date details and information about speakers and upcoming events.

A special thank you to Jean Downey, our volunteer Webmaster, for her devotion and creativity. Also, thank you **Castles.com** for providing discounted web hosting for another year!

Visit our website at
www.solanoreaders.org



WANTED: Book Reviews! Have you read a good professional book lately? Please email denise@fracchia.com and include title of the book, author, a comment from you about why the book was good, your current position and school.



Newspapers go green!

**Introducing
Newspaper E-Editions**

Now **The Sacramento Bee** can be delivered electronically to your classroom. The electronic edition, or “e-edition,” of **The Bee** has the same news, sports, features, business and entertainment as the printed edition, except without the inky fingers.

It’s an electronic version of the newspaper -- an exact digital replica of the printed edition -- that you can view on any computer. It’s easy to use and it’s delivered fresh to your email inbox. Best of all, it’s available to you and your students at no cost, thanks to the generous support of our subscribers and business partners.

Go to <http://guide.sacbee.com/125/story/23.html> or visit our website at www.solanoreader.org and click “In the News” for **The Sacramento Bee** link.

~~~~~

**The Reporter** invites you to participate in the NIE e-edition. Check out NIE e-edition at <http://nieonline.com/thereporter> for access to **The Reporter** with grade level appropriate lessons. This is a great way to be “green”. To be a teacher/subscriber call The Reporter at 707-453-8177 or sign up online at or email [nie@thereporter.com](mailto:nie@thereporter.com).



**2008 Educator’s  
Writing Contest Winners**

- ~“*Yale Blues*” by Jim Fredenburg
- ~“*My Special Place*” by Ethel Namazzi
- ~“*Just Going for a Swim*” by Jane Hara

Read these award winning pieces by clicking on Writing Contest at [www.solanoreaders.org](http://www.solanoreaders.org) and then click on Contest Winners. Congratulations writers!

We look forward to the 2008’s annual writing contest for teachers and other educators. Entries include poetry, short stories, autobiographical sketch, or expository.

*“Teachers who teach writing, write.”*

**Solano County Reading  
Association Officers**



**President**

**Jackie Albright**  
Dan O. Root School, FSUSD  
School (707) 421-4240  
[president@solanoreaders.org](mailto:president@solanoreaders.org)

**Vice President**

**Jeanne Bane**  
Cordelia Hills Elem. School, FSUSD  
School (707) 864-1905  
[vicepresident@solanoreaders.org](mailto:vicepresident@solanoreaders.org)

**Treasurer**

**Katy Mangels**  
Retired Teacher, VUSD  
[treasurer@solanoreaders.org](mailto:treasurer@solanoreaders.org)

**Secretary**

**Marybeth Quig-Hartman**  
Wardlaw School, VCUSD  
School (707) 556-8730  
[recordingsecretary@solanoreaders.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@solanoreaders.org)  
[correspondingsecretary@solanoreaders.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@solanoreaders.org)

**Membership Chair**

**Linnea Determann**  
Fairview School, FSUSD  
Phone (707) 421-4165  
[membership@solanoreaders.org](mailto:membership@solanoreaders.org)

**Legislation/Professional Development**

**Barbara Debevec**  
Vacaville Unified School District  
School (707) 453-6117  
[legislation@solanoreaders.org](mailto:legislation@solanoreaders.org)

**Editor, *The SOLANO READER***

**Denise Fracchia**  
Fairmont School, VUSD  
School (707) 453-6240  
[editor@solanoreaders.org](mailto:editor@solanoreaders.org)



[www.solanoreaders.org](http://www.solanoreaders.org)