

And The Winner Is. . .

The Good Muse

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'Be A Hero. . .READ!'

For Your Information:

And The Winner Is. . .

By Kokoi Aryee, Library Secretary

We are pleased to announce that the National Library Service (NLS) has selected Braille Institute Library Services as the winner of the 2004 NLS Network Library of the Year Award. NLS created the Network Library Award in order to recognize outstanding accomplishments among the 134 libraries serving blind and physically handicapped individuals across the country and in U.S. territories, and Braille Institute Library Services has the honor of being the very first recipient of this new award.

The NLS Award Committee, comprised of librarians and patrons, was looking for innovation, significant achievements and patron satisfaction. Our "Golden Seniors" Program, Summer Reading Program and the Spanish-language addition to the Telephone Reader Program are a few notable programs that were highlighted in our nomination.

Library Director Henry C. Chang, Ph.D., and Braille Institute President Leslie E. Stocker attended the awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C., at the Library of Congress Jefferson Building on Wednesday, June 1. They accepted a check for \$1,000 along with a plaque honoring the Library's excellence, creativity and special programs for the blind and print-disabled community. During the ceremony, Dr. Chang stated that he was "proud to accept this recognition on behalf of our staff, volunteers and patrons."

The Good Muse

By Daniel Brooks, Reader Advisor

The importance of inspiration becomes apparent when you turn your attention to issues of religion, philosophy, the arts, politics or just getting through the day. It is inspiration, that elevation of being, perception and creativity, that transforming infusion of concept and consciousness, that makes all the difference between screaming and singing, between a stone and a story, between the mean and the meaningful.

But, as every creative person knows, inspiration can be elusive. Mastering a discipline is no guarantee that inspiration will arrive to give purpose to one's efforts. Maybe the real talent is learning how to recognize inspiration, or maybe it is the ability to coax the muse into offering up an expansive idea that is worth retelling. Who knows? Fortunately, there have been many who were good at finding inspiration. Even more fortunately, numerous books by and about history's most brilliant luminaries serve to offer a glimpse of their vision.

For the spiritually oriented, there aren't many better places to look than Braille Institute Library's collection of religious books. From The Bhagavad Gita (RC 44109), The Five Books of Moses (RC 42213) and The Way and Its Power: A Study of the Tao Te Ching (RC 30489) to The Dhammapada (RC 44491), The Complete Jesus (RC 53825) and The Meaning of the Glorious Koran (RC 44913), there is a literal abundance of inspiration from virtually every tradition. Those who are comfortable with a less traditional path may also find Neale Donald Walsch's Conversations with God (RC 44643) to be both challenging and insightful.

Of course, inspiration is not solely for the pious. We also have a considerable collection of literature to inspire the intellectually and philosophically inclined. From Joseph Campbell, who spent his life exploring the underlying meaning of the world's mythology, we have The Hero with a Thousand Faces (RC 28252) and The Power of Myth (RC 28043). Robert

Pirsig presented an all-encompassing metaphysics of quality in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* (RC 49089) and *Lila* (RC 34335). And Daniel Boorstin shines a spotlight on the inspired through his histories of *The Creators* (RC 35507), *The Discoverers* (RC 20145) and *The Seekers* (RC 47037).

To learn about other “inspired” works in our collection, please contact a Reader Advisor.

Author Profile:

The Chronicles of C.S. Lewis

By Kenari Lee, Reader Advisor

Clive Staples Lewis, commonly known as C.S. Lewis, was born in Belfast, Ireland, on November 29, 1898. His works on medieval literature and his emphasis on Christian apologetics brought him worldwide fame and are still widely read today. He was a prolific writer beloved and respected by many.

Lewis was the younger of two sons of Albert James Lewis, a solicitor, and Flora Augusta Hamilton, a mathematician. His mother was a devout Christian who died when he was still young. Her religious influence, and concurring events and phases, swayed his faith throughout his life.

After World War II, Lewis attended Oxford. During his studies, he made several lifelong friends and formed a literary group called "The Inklings"—a number of thinkers and friends who gathered regularly to critique each other's writing, discuss current events and life in general. Among the groups' members was J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Lewis wrote a great number of books. The Braille Institute Library currently holds 20 of his works in its collection, including science fiction, poetry, essays and children's books. Some of his best were written after the dark periods of his life. *A Grief Remembered* (RC 21646, BR 05703) is an intense autobiography about his feelings while witnessing the effects of cancer on his wife, poet and critic Joy Davidian. This relationship was the subject in the film *Shadowlands* (1994), directed by William Nicholson and starring Debra Winger and Anthony Hopkins.

The Screwtape Letters (RC 12395) is a fictitious story containing 31 letters written by a devil named Screwtape giving advice to his devil-in-training nephew, Wormwood, on how to tempt a Christian into damnation.

The letters show how evil can seep into a Christian's relationships with friends and family.

The Ransom trilogy includes *Out of the Silent Planet* (RC 44319), *Perelandra* (RC 23329; BR 07558) and *That Hideous Strength* (RC 44320). Lewis utilizes his Christian beliefs in the setting of a science-fiction story—where science is used for demonic purposes.

The Chronicles of Narnia (RC 50083) is the most popular of his works. It is a series of seven fantasy novels for children: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (RC 16982, BR 07236); *Prince Caspian* (RC 16984, BR 07238); *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (RC 16985, BR 07313); *The Silver Chair* (RC 16986, BR 07237); *The Horse and His Boy* (RC 17438, BR 13946); *The Magician's Nephew* (RC 16987, BR 07215); and *The Last Battle* (RC 16988, BR 13950). This is a tale with a Christian allegorical theme, borrowing from Greek and Roman mythology, describing the adventures of a group of children who visit a magical land called Narnia.

For more information on other titles by C.S. Lewis, you may contact any available Reader Advisor.

Young Adult Fiction For All Ages

By Gordon Henderson, Support Services Coordinator

If you need picking up during your down time, nothing works better than a good book, especially one that reminds you of your childhood or brings back memories of the past. No matter what your age, there is something special about young adult books. Here are a few classics of the genre:

In *Emma* (RC 23490, BR 08733) by Jane Austen, complications abound when a young woman arranges the lives of her friends, for amusement. Emily Jane Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* (RC 25178, BR 11902) is a classic English novel about a young foundling who dedicates his life and passion to the love of Catherine, a member of the family who took him in. In another classic English novel, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* (RC 47868, BR 10514), a governess falls in love with the master of the house.

Leaving Home: Stories (RC 47071) by Hazel Rochman is comprised of 16 stories dealing with the heavy emotions of this important right of passage. *The Catcher in the Rye* (RC 47480, BR 11909) by J.D. Salinger is the story of Holden Caulfield, a young man who has just been expelled from prep school. He puts off going home to wander the streets of New York City. *Lord of the Flies* (RC 48388, BR 09480) by William Golding is a disquieting story about a group of English school boys marooned on a desert island. In Frederick Reiken's *The Odd Sea* (RC 48611) a boy searching for his missing brother discovers his brother's secret life, which includes a love affair with an older woman.

For more young adult books ask your friendly Reader Advisor, or request a copy of the "Young Adult Stories" bibliography.

'Be A Hero. . .READ!'

By Kokoi Aryee, Library Secretary

The 2005 Summer Reading Program for kids was a huge success! This year's theme was "Be a Hero...READ." The program began on June 6 and continued through July 15. Before the start of the program, the Summer Reading Committee mailed packets to every active reader from preschool to 18 years of age. Each packet contained a parent's letter, a bibliography, a Sticker Page and an invitation to the culminating Summer Reading Program Celebration. Children kept track of the number of books they read by putting stickers on their Sticker Pages and received prizes for every 10 books they read.

On Friday, July 22, 109 children and adults attended the culminating Summer Reading Celebration from 10 a.m. to noon. Kerry Madden, author of *Gentle's Holler*, was our special guest for the event. She read portions of her novel to the children and answered questions from the group. She created an interactive experience for the kids by sharing several items featured in the story, including music, applesauce cake and even her own dog. Ms. Madden has recorded her novel and it will soon be available in our collection as a CBB.

There were five winners in six categories: Petras Vasiliauskas (preschool – kindergarten), Vejas Vasiliauskas (grades 1-3 and Overall Braille Reader winner), Roni Avansyansyan (grades 4-6), Marlinsa Rugama (grades 7-9) and Luz Elizabeth Navarro (grades 10-12). Congratulations to all the participants!

**For Your Information:
Please Have Patience**

For reasons beyond our control, many books ordered through the Braille Institute Library are taking longer than usual to arrive. Please allow at least two weeks for your books to get to you before calling the Library.