

# Secondary Reading League

## Charting the Course for Adolescent Literacy



Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2007

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### Upcoming Events:

- \* 11/2-11/3 SRL's 31st Day of Reading, Holiday Inn, Tinley Park
- \* 3/12-3/15 Illinois Reading Conference, Springfield
- \* 4/17 SRL's Spring Book Talk, Holiday Day Inn, Willowbrook



Secondary Reading League  
Day of Reading

## Welcome Back!

Kathy Murphy and Susanne Faber

SRL board members would like to officially welcome back all of our members to another exciting school year! You may have noticed the new format of our newsletter. Following a very successful IRC Leadership Retreat at Starved Rock this past June, board members adopted a new mantra and a new commitment to fulfilling our vision for a an even better SRL! One of our goals is to be paperless by the end of 2008, communicating via email and PDF-formatted newsletters. In addition to

our renovated communication plan, we intend to keep you posted on the latest hot topics in adolescent literacy. Recently SRL began including our goal right along side our title. Charting the course for adolescent literacy is exactly where we are headed! While we may individually take different routes or sail at different times, we do know where we are going. Together we share a common direction. We set our compass directly at helping adolescents move towards literacy. With a shared

leadership, our direction is clear and consistent. We are able to monitor our direction and stay on course with SRL pointing the way. Join us on our first adventure of the year — The 31st Day of Reading. Mark your logs for Saturday, November 3rd and join the crew.

Again, welcome back!  
We're glad you're sailing on *OUR* ship for 2007-2008!

## 31st Day of Reading

Sandy Coughlin

School is officially is session! Do you know what that means?...Time to make plans to attend SRL's 31st Day of Reading conference! Once again we've created an exciting day filled with top-rated instructors, innovators, and exhibitors. With over 20 breakout sessions from which to choose, there is something for everyone. Special sessions include literacy coaching, ELL

learners, content area reading, and vocabulary instruction. This year's keynote speakers are some of the top in the field. Mr. Jim Burke, NCTE award winner, will share with us his work with struggling readers, the reading process, and tools to support our teaching. ALA award-winning author, Alex Flinn, has captured the attention of reluctant readers with her gripping novel,

*Breathing Underwater*. Alex will discuss how "realistic or dark fiction" books connect with the lives of our reluctant readers in order to help them cope with reality and seek help. What a treat for all of us to hear her speak! If you have never attended a DOR conference, then make this your first! You won't want to miss these area movers and shakers.

## Hot Topic

Susanne Faber

In June of this year, the Alliance for Excellent Education, funded by the Carnegie Corporation, released *Literacy Instruction in the Content Areas: Getting to the Core of Middle and High School Improvement*. In their report, Rafael Heller and Cynthia Greenleaf expound on the mounting national crisis of content area literacy for our nation's adolescents:

*“If students are to be truly prepared for college, work, and citizenship, they cannot settle for a modest level of proficiency in reading and writing.”*

This 48-page downloadable report (PDF format) brings to our attention the many demands placed on students by their often beyond grade level content area textbooks. Once again, we are reminded of the pressing nature of our jobs. If students are to be successful in any realm of the adult world, we must take action NOW to provide ongoing literacy instruction *across* content areas for those students who are behind. The report delves into each core content area, highlighting the difficulties of that text, and offering suggestions for how we can best support our

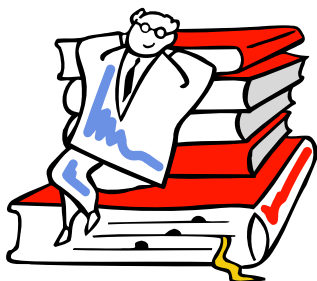
students. Not only must we rethink how we define literacy in our own content areas, but we must also “raise the bar” in our own instructional practices. “Teaching must be treated as a learning profession” (19). Please take the time to visit the link below:

<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/LiteracyContent/LitCon.pdf>

The Alliance continues to arm us with some of our best information as we fight to make every student a graduate.

## Book Reviews Kathy Murphy

Secondary Reading League's 31st **Day of Reading** promises to be the best yet! One of the highlights of the day will be YA author Alex Flinn. This tremendously popular author captures her teen audience with stories that are relevant and moving, open and honest. Her 2002 title, *Breathing Underwater*, had us all holding our breath as dating violence was addressed head-on through the gripping story of Nick and Catlin. As Nick's anger grows he takes it out by physically abusing the love of his life, Catlin. Despite Nick's negative action, the author is able to bring readers to an understanding of just what motivates Nick. Without preaching,



Flinn sends a relevant message to today's teens. It is a message so

honest and well developed that a local district health curriculum considers this title required reading for their high school students! In Flinn's recent title, *DIVA*, the story opens with Catlin now dealing with a restraining order against Nick and the fact that she wants to put the past behind her and focus on shaping her future. While teens will find this a fast read, this story too has substance. Flinn deals with both the concerns teens experience today and those that they have encountered for generations. Catlin has dreams for the future but she is struggling. She and her mother can't find any common ground. Catlin has a talent and when she auditions for the Miami High School for the Performing Arts against her mother's wishes, she makes it. However, despite her operatic abilities Catlin feels like an outcast. Sean is the only one who openly recognizes and appreciates her talent, but when she begins to fall for him she comes to the realiza-

tion that he is gay. Teens will relate to Catlin's all too realistic struggles, and as she finds new respect for her mother and a new confidence in herself, they will relate to that too. The author herself once attended a school like this and received a degree in voice performance. She brings this experience, a true sense of humor, and readable, realistic dialogue to her writing. YA readers won't want to miss these titles and you won't want to miss the opportunity to meet this exceptional author!



## SRL ,IRC, IRA ...What's the difference???

Gail Huizinga

*"Why should I be a member?"* Becoming involved in a professional organization such as Secondary Reading

League, the Illinois Reading Council, and the International Reading Association allows you to participate in a professional collaborative group whose benefits are numerous. Our journals are some of the finest professional journals available, making you part an unparalleled local and national instructional network. Our authors are educators like you, sharing what works, and often,

what does not. Membership in these organizations is also your opportunity to articulate and network with colleagues/peers in addition to hearing wonderful speakers on current topics. *"How do I become a member?"* Simply fill out the membership form included in this newsletter and mail or fax it to the Illinois Reading Council (whose address is listed on the application). You can also join at any local council meeting or conference you attend. When you chose your council affiliation, remember that you will receive a discount if you join two or more councils.

*"I have yet to see a school where the learning curves of the youngsters are off the chart upward while the learning curves of the adults are off the chart downward, or a school where the learning curves of the adults were steep upward and those of the students were not. Teachers and students of hand in hand as learners, or they don't go at all."*

Roland Barth, 2002

## SRL Announces 2007 Grant Winners

Gail Huizinga

Secondary Reading League thanks all of the grant applicants for their proposals. We were proud to announce our 2007 Literacy Grant Winners at our April Spring Meeting. The winning members received a \$500 award for their outstanding project. **Paulette Goodman** of Kennedy Junior High School, Naperville District 203, won for her project entitled *"Two Worlds Meet To Change History: UUS Indianapolis Survivors and a Boy*

*Who Retold Their Story.*" You can read Diane's narrative of her project in this newsletter. **Diane Mankowski**, Glenbard South High School, was awarded a \$500 grant for her on-going project, *"Brake for Books"*. The funding will promote the fostering of independent reading of contemporary books at her high school. We look forward to Diane's narrative describing her project in an upcoming issue of the SRL news-

letter. Secondary Reading League's commitment to secondary literacy shines through these grants. Two grants will again be awarded in spring of 2008. The grant application can be found in each month's SRL newsletter, or by contacting Gail Huizinga, SRL Grant Chairperson.

## Meet Your Officers / Officer Bios

Gail Huizinga has been a member of Secondary Reading League's Executive Board for the past five years. Having served as Vice President and President of SRL, she is currently the Membership and SRL Literacy Grant Chairperson. Gail began her teaching career at the high school level but moved in to middle school fifteen years ago. A former 6th



grade teacher in Homewood SD 153, she is currently the District's Coordinator for Curriculum and Instruction. Gail's Illinois Reading council affiliations are SRL and South Suburban Reading Council as well as being a member of IRA. She is very proud of her involvement with IRC's Speaker's Bureau. The opportunity to share her passion for

reading strategies with other educators is something she truly enjoys.

# 2008 Secondary Reading League Literacy Grant

The Secondary Reading League (SRL) has established two (2) \$500 **Literacy Project Grants** to be awarded to SRL members. This monetary award is intended to support educators in developing new or adopting existing innovative literacy projects for use in their school or classroom.

Interested Secondary Reading League members are encouraged to complete the two-page application form. A committee of SRL members will evaluate the projects using the rubric included with the grant application and select one or more projects to be awarded funding. Those members receiving **Literacy Grants** will be required to write a brief narrative of the project for a future SRL newsletter. **Please note that the deadline for all applications is February 15, 2008.** Grant winners will be notified by mail and announced at SRL's spring meeting.

If you have questions, contact a Secondary Reading League Board Member or myself at any time.

Sincerely,  
 Gail Huizinga  
 ghuizinga@sbcglobal.net  
 1040 185<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Homewood, IL 60430

## Secondary Reading League Literacy Grant Scoring Rubric

Criteria	1	2	3	Total Score
<b>Rationale</b>	Little justification. Project does not promote literacy.	Some justification. Project promotes literacy in the classroom to some degree.	Rationale is well defined. Project clearly promotes literacy in the classroom.	
<b>Description &amp; Execution</b>	Project is incomplete. Timeline is insufficient. No mention of specific activity.	Project and timeline are realistic and attainable. Evidence of specific activity.	Project and timeline are well thought out and implementation plans are detailed. Activity is very clear and well defined.	
<b>Budget</b>	Total amounts listed. No budget breakdown. Little or no research on cost of project.	Budget is outlined. Some research on cost of project is evident.	Budget has detailed and realistic expenditures. Expenditures have been well researched.	
<b>Evaluation</b>	Little or no evaluation of the project is listed. Did not include evaluation form/method.	Evaluation is adequate. Assessments & evaluation form/method is included but project success and impact is not measured.	Evaluation will measure impact and success of the project. Evaluation form/method is included and well thought out.	
			<b>Total Points Scored</b>	

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**  
**31st DAY OF READING - November 3, 2007**

**NO PURCHASE ORDERS OR CREDIT CARDS**

**One person per form, please.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-mail (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work E-mail (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Check the appropriate pre-registration fee below: **These fees are applicable if received on or before Oct. 26, 2007.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Current SRL members - \$110** (Pre-registration forms received Oct. 27-31, \$120; Nov. 1&2, \$130)  
(Jim Burke's morning address, breakout sessions, exhibits, luncheon, and Alex Flinn's luncheon address)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Current IRC member, but not SRL member - \$130** (Pre-registration forms received Oct. 27-31, \$140; Nov. 1&2, \$150)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Not a member of SRL or IRC - \$145** (Pre-registration forms received Oct. 27-31, \$155; Nov. 1&2, \$165)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Full-time student with an ID - \$65** (Pre-registration forms received Oct. 27-31, \$75; Nov. 1&2, \$85)

\_\_\_\_\_ **On-site registration - \$175**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*\* Friday evening banquet, Nov. 2, with Alex Flinn & Jim Burke - \$32.**  
(include payment with pre-registration form)

\_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*\* Reserve a hotel room Friday, Nov. 2 - \$120 Reserve now.**  
(include payment with pre-registration form) The SRL room block will be released on October 2, 2007.

Only one person from your group should complete the room occupancy list. Occupants of the room are: (Please print)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SECONDARY READING LEAGUE - MAIL THIS FORM AND A CHECK TO:  
**BARB CHRZ-WHITE 306 Columbia Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016**

**Questions? Call TERRY MC HUGH Cell- 708-220-4544 [tmchugh@dayofreading.org](mailto:tmchugh@dayofreading.org)**

**Contact Terry McHugh by 10-15 for details on team discount** CPS Vendor #80827

If you would like to attend a break out session by Alex Flinn **OR** Jim Burke, please indicate below in order of preference (first choice = 1, second choice = 2, third choice = 3, fourth choice = 4). **Registration for these sessions will be taken in the order they are received.** You'll be guaranteed a seat in one of the four sessions. Each is limited to 50 participants. We will try to provide first preference to all. **INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Burke (10:25) \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Burke (12:00) \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Flinn (9:20) \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Flinn (12:00)

**Registrants will receive a conference confirmation/session preference choice by e-mail. Please include your e-mail address at the top of this page, or you will NOT receive a confirmation.**



# MEMBERSHIP FORM

1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2, Normal, IL 61761  
 Phone: 888-454-1341 E-mail: [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)  
 Fax: 309-454-3512 Web: [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

**1** Please print or type. *Individual Membership for One Year*

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 or  
 Business/Institution \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Preservice Teacher? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no College/University \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>2</b> List the council(s) you wish to join.          When you join, you receive membership in the IRC, as well as membership in a local or special interest council. You must select at least one of the councils listed on the back.</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p>	<p><b>3</b> List the dues amount of each council you are joining.  <b>\$40 - One year membership</b>  <b>\$25 - Preservice Teacher membership</b></p>
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**4** Discount for multiple memberships.  
 If you join more than one council at this time, you may deduct \$25 for each council after the first one. Preservice Teacher discount is \$20.

Total Before Discount \_\_\_\_\_  
 Discount \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \_\_\_\_\_

**5** Return this form with payment to:

**Illinois Reading Council**  
**1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2**  
**Normal, IL 61761**

Paying by credit card? Phone: 888-454-1341 or Fax: 309-454-3512

**Method of Payment:** (Sorry, no P.O.'s accepted)  Check (payable to IRC)  Visa  MasterCard

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Expiration Date: Mo \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

**6** In our continuing effort to provide meaningful services to our members, IRC requests the following information.

Are you a member of the International Reading Association (IRA)?  
 a. \_\_\_ yes membership # \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. \_\_\_ no

**Professional Areas of Interest** (Check 3)

a. \_\_\_ administration  
 b. \_\_\_ adult literacy  
 c. \_\_\_ affective reading  
 d. \_\_\_ assessment  
 e. \_\_\_ children's literature  
 f. \_\_\_ comprehension  
 g. \_\_\_ content area reading  
 h. \_\_\_ family literacy  
 i. \_\_\_ holistic reading  
 j. \_\_\_ multilingual/multicultural  
 k. \_\_\_ newspapers in education  
 l. \_\_\_ parents and reading  
 m. \_\_\_ reading for gifted students  
 n. \_\_\_ research  
 o. \_\_\_ study skills  
 p. \_\_\_ teacher education  
 q. \_\_\_ technology in reading  
 r. \_\_\_ Title I/remedial reading  
 s. \_\_\_ young authors/writing

**Age**  
 a. \_\_\_ 18-24  
 b. \_\_\_ 25-39  
 c. \_\_\_ 40-54  
 d. \_\_\_ 55 and over

**Years in Education Profession**  
 a. \_\_\_ 0-4  
 b. \_\_\_ 5-14  
 c. \_\_\_ 15-29  
 d. \_\_\_ 30 and over

**Highest Degree Eamed**  
 a. \_\_\_ Bachelors  
 b. \_\_\_ Masters  
 c. \_\_\_ Doctorate

**Present Position**

**Classroom Teacher**  
 a. \_\_\_ preschool  
 b. \_\_\_ K-3  
 c. \_\_\_ 4-6  
 d. \_\_\_ middle school/jr. high  
 e. \_\_\_ high school  
 f. \_\_\_ post Secondary

**Administrator**  
 a. \_\_\_ curriculum/reading supervisor  
 b. \_\_\_ building principal  
 c. \_\_\_ superintendent  
 d. \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

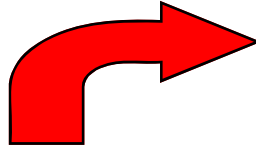
**Other**  
 a. \_\_\_ librarian  
 b. \_\_\_ parent  
 c. \_\_\_ special ed. teacher  
 d. \_\_\_ gifted/talented teacher  
 e. \_\_\_ Title I/remedial  
 f. \_\_\_ reading specialist  
 g. \_\_\_ retired



Don't miss out on the latest SRL,  
IRC, and IRA updates!

Please send your current home and/or  
work email addresses so that we may  
communicate with you in a more effi-  
cient and timely fashion!

Email Tammy



## Contact Us...

President Judy Whalen  
jwhalen@tfd215.org

President Elect Susanne Faber  
sfaber@learningcommunity202.org

Vice President Sandy Coughlin  
sandra\_coughlin@yahoo.com

Past President Kathie Murphy  
abookcase@comcast.net

Treasurer Liz Strejcek  
lizstrejcek@yahoo.com

Membership Chair Gail Huizinga  
gail.huizinga@homewoodsd153.org

Day of Rdg. Chair Barb Chrz-White  
bchrzwhite@comcast.net

Secretary Tammy Swinford-Potts  
tpotts@aol.com

Newsletter Chair Dr. Kathleen Liace  
kliace@naperville203.org



## Welcome to Our New Members

Secondary Reading League  
would like to take this  
opportunity to welcome its  
newest members into its strong  
and growing coalition of  
educators. They are:

**Joline Tewksbury** of Bartlett  
**Sharon Dodds** of Cuba  
**Barbara Willson** of Hinsdale