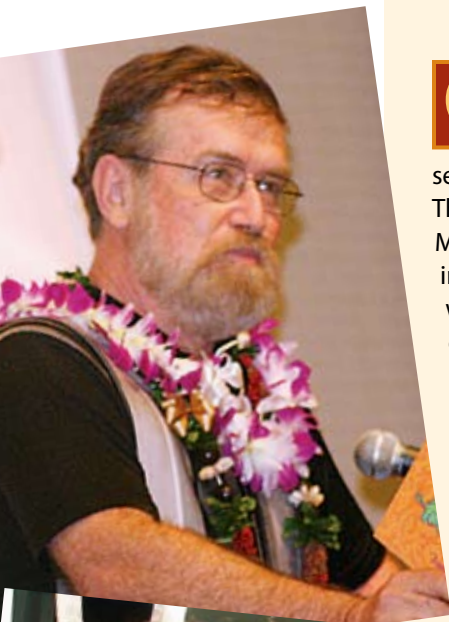


The READ TO ME Planet

Open a Book, Open the World



Top: Author James Rumford.
Above: Read to Me
International's Pat Mizuno
and author Dan Yaccarino.

On June 18-19, the 2009 Read To Me Conference indeed “opened the world” of books, authors, and breakout sessions at the Hawai’i Convention Center. Thursday, June 18, began with emcee Lynne Madden, chair of the Read To Me board, introducing Pono Shim, who shared a wonderful story about the true meaning of giving from the heart. Featured author James Rumford guided the audience through a journey of his writings and illustrations, fascinating all with his diverse works and knowledge of more than a dozen languages. A master storyteller, Rumford reminded the audience to see with the eyes of children, who often see more than adults do.

Following a book signing by Rumford, the Community Building Session, presented by Keiki o Ka ‘Āina, allowed participants to be children again as they moved from table to table, tie-dying, making paper houses, and creating little booklets. Some participants even went to lunch late, working hard to finish their crafts!

Lunch featured Pat Mizuno, RTM’s Program Director, who shared RTM’s work in the prisons. Participants heard from Lyle Nakamasu, who connected with his son through his own recorded tapings of age-appropriate books. Lyle explained how he fought to get visitation rights with his son after staying drug free since his release. The program has helped him understand his role as a parent and has made him a more responsible person.

After lunch, participants attended two concurrent sessions of their choosing, all

geared to make the reading experience enjoyable and educational.

On Friday morning, Wally Amos of Chip and Cookie fame introduced guest author-illustrator Dan Yaccarino, whose message of the day was not lost on the audience: Say “yes” when opportunity presents itself. That is how Yaccarino graduated from magazine illustrator to children’s author/illustrator to animation

artist to screenplay writer/artist. Participants experienced Yaccarino’s life through his illustrations and books, right down to his latest book, *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau*.

After Yaccarino’s book signing, Dr. Sylvia Yuen, who heads the University of Hawai’i Center on the Family, moderated the Local Authors Panel. Judge Leslie

Hayashi, Dr. Terence J. Carolan, and Shelly Mecum all shared how they became children’s writers—all while holding full-time jobs! One thing was evident: each was passionate about writing and sharing the love of story.

Luncheon speaker—Advertiser columnist and popular playwright Lee Cataluna—shared that love of story as she began her speech with a story written by her grandmother about a dove named Soogataris. Her grandmother, who had to quit school to help care for her siblings after her mother (Cataluna’s great grandmother) passed away, never graduated from high school. Yet her grandmother wrote a poignant story, demonstrating that story is a personal way of passing on communication from one generation to the next—and that great writing may be genetic!

After one more concurrent session following lunch, participants gathered for one last plenary session, where [continues on page 3]

The program has helped him understand his role as a parent and has made him a more responsible person.



...e they in such a hurry?"
...the C had received a message
...her eldest little was ill with chil
...feet and was in danger of death



President's Message

Recently, my friend Loretta Yajima, President & CEO of the Children's Discovery Center, presented me with one of my favorite kind of gifts—a children's book. She excitedly handed me the book, *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea*, co-authored by Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth.

The book, a children's version of the New York Times bestseller, *Three Cups of Tea*, tells the amazing true story of how a failed climb up a mountain in Pakistan resulted in the mountain climber (Mortenson) being nursed to health and returning to the remote village of Korphe a year later to build a school for its children.

What I appreciated about this book is what the best of books provide:

- Values that young people can learn and embrace
- Inspiration to make a difference in the lives of others
- An understanding that sometimes what appears to be tragedies or setbacks can actually provide opportunities that can change lives



Readers will appreciate the collage illustrations of award-winning illustrator Susan L. Roth and her notes on her artwork. Perhaps what gives the book an added bonus are the actual photographs of the real people building the school in Korphe. Readers will be interested in learning that since that time, Dr. Greg has helped to oversee 57 more schools built in Pakistan, "promoting peace one school at a time."

Can one person make a difference? Ask the 24,000 children who now attend these schools! As Tom Brokaw commented, "[Mortenson is] proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world."

Share stories with your children that will inspire them to change the world!

Happy reading!

Lynne Waihee



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Moonlight Magic

If there is such a thing as "moonlight magic," then Read To Me's second fundraising effort provided it at the Kapi'olani Community College's 'Ōhi'a Dining Room on Saturday, May 2, 2009. Even with a recession, over 200 attendees paid for an evening of great food, fine wine, and silent and live auctions.



Man-of-the-hour Henry Katsuda accepts the Kū I Ke 'Aki award at RTM's Moonlight Magic '09. Left to Right: Lynne Waihee, Leah Allen, Henry Katsuda, E. Lynne Madden, and Liane Akana.

Guests enjoyed grazing on a variety of gourmet appetizers prepared by Chef David Hamada and students from the famed Culinary Arts School at KCC and tasting a variety of wines selected by banquet manager David Miyamoto. Musicians Kevin and Kent provided the perfect ambience with their singing, accompanied by their acoustic guitars.

For the first time, RTM presented the "Kū I Ke 'Aki Award," which represented the attainment of reaching the highest position, to Hawaii Pizza Hut for its unmatched support of literacy in Hawai'i. Since 1992 Hawaii Pizza Hut has donated over \$4 million toward literacy through its "Carry Out for Literacy" campaign. Hawaii Pizza Hut President and CEO Henry Katsuda accepted the award on behalf of Hawai'i Pizza Hut.

After more eating, more drinking, more bidding, and more socializing, the evening culminated with a live dessert auction, the brainchild of fundraising committee chair Zale Okazaki. The bidders rose to the occasion, with bidding going as high as \$120 for the blueberry cheesecake donated by Okazaki's mother, Marcia Okazaki.

The moonlight worked its magic, resulting in a net profit of \$35,870 for Read To Me, and a lot of good will from those in attendance.

A special mahalo goes to David Miyamoto for his meticulous attention to details, insuring an evening of superb food, wine, and atmosphere; and much gratitude goes to the fundraising committee, comprising board members Earl Miyamoto, Zale Okazaki, Nolan Pong, Pat Thomas, and Chuck Reindollar; and to the many volunteers who made the event possible. Finally, kudos to Diamond Sponsor, Hawaii Pizza Hut; Gold Sponsor, First Hawaiian Bank; and Silver Sponsor, Hawaiian Telcom, without whose support the event would not have been as successful. Mahalo to them, as well as to all of our in-kind sponsors.



artwork by Rosemary Wells

Reading aloud is the single most important activity to prepare children for school



Read To Me INTERNATIONAL

For more information, visit www.ReadToMeIntl.org



[Open a Book—continued from page 1]

authors James Rumford and Dan Yaccarino read aloud to the delight of the audience. Yaccarino read *Every Friday*, *The Birthday Fish*, and *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau*; and Rumford read *Chee-Lin: A Giraffe's Journey*.

All too soon the conference came to an end with RTM president Lynne Waihee closing the day with a heartfelt read-aloud of the children's classic, *The Carrot Seed*. Then it was back to the real, newly-opened world, in which attendees were ready to share the love and joy of reading aloud!

Mahalo Nui!

by Liane Kam
Akana

More than ever before Read To Me International depends on the contributions of the community to continue its work. Our efforts in fundraising this past year remind me of a favorite book by Barbara Helen Berger, entitled *All the Way to Lhasa*, wherein a boy embarks on a long journey to the holy city of Lhasa on foot with his yak.

The path is long, winding and steep, fraught with torrents and snow. An old woman encourages the boy along from the side of the road. In the end, he makes it to Lhasa before nightfall, putting one foot in front of the other. Like the little boy, Read To Me is small and our resources are modest, but our will is strong, and we carry with us a vision of raising the funds necessary to continue our work. Our thanks go out to our generous donors who have helped put us on the road to success!

We gratefully acknowledge the many individuals and businesses that have made monetary contributions over the past year.

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- Pizza Hut Hawaii
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- Zale Okazaki



Read To Me International's Fathers Bridging the Miles program wins an Innovations in Reading Prize from the National Book Foundation

Read To Me International (RTMI) is honored to receive the National Book Foundation's (NBF) Innovations in Reading Prize for Fathers Bridging the Miles (FBM). Out of 150 applications from 30 states, FBM was among five recipients.



Fathers Bridging the Miles

Recipients were not limited to purely technological innovations. NBF defined innovation as the ability to identify a need for literacy in the community and to develop a program that addresses the need in a simple and effective way, all while creating and sustaining a life long love of reading.

Currently in its third year, FBM allows Hawaii inmates housed at a facility in Arizona to read children's books onto CD and to mail the recorded reading to their children bimonthly. A participating FBM inmate sums up the simple yet effective innovation that exists in this RTMI program's mission to share the love and joy of reading aloud: "My kids tell me, 'Oh, Dad, I like when you laugh on the CD and make all kinds of noises [while reading]... And for my kids, I'm willing to do anything, even if I've got to be goofy. For a guy that don't read, and now I'm reading, it's making me broader, too.'"

For more information on the National Book Foundation's Innovations in Reading Prize, please visit their website at http://www.nationalbook.org/innovations_in_reading.html.

Lynne Waihee is the 2009 Pacific Business News Women Volunteer of the Year!

by Leanne Cardwell



Photo by Christina Palma, courtesy Pacific Business News

During Lynne Waihee's recent interview for 2009 Pacific Business News Woman Volunteer of the

Year award, she was asked who inspires her. Lynne responded that throughout her life she has been inspired most by her mother, Matsue Kobashigawa. Mrs. Kobashigawa instilled in Lynne and her siblings that hard work is best complimented with humble and honest roots.

True to her humble and honest roots, Lynne's response to our decision to feature her award in the Read To Me newsletter was also saturated with evidence of just

how much of a children's literature aficionado she is:

"No! No! No!"

(For those of you who love children's literature but who haven't quite mastered the ability to quote it in daily conversation, this is a direct quote from David Shannon's book *"No, David!"*)

As members of Lynne's dedicated staff, we stood firm on our decision to announce this great accomplishment:

Lynne Waihee is the 2009 Pacific Business News Women Volunteer of the Year!

If we were asked the same question that Lynne was asked during her interview: *Who inspires you?* We would respond honestly (and not in an attempt to brown nose):

"Lynne Waihee!"

Lynne is unsurpassed when it comes to promoting reading readiness for Hawaii's children. Her selfless nature and goodwill are evident in all she does (especially when she tries to feed us!). And her puckish humor is unrivaled. On behalf of all Read To Me aficionados, Congratulations, Lynne!

To read more about Lynne's award, please go to: <http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2009/04/13/focus2.html>.



RTM staff proudly supports Lynne Waihee at PBN award ceremony. Left to Right: Liane Akana, Lynne Waihee, Leanne Cardwell, and Monica Coldwell.

It's Not a Box... It's a Puppet!

by Leanne Cardwell



Not a Box
by Antoinette
Portis

In *Not a Box*, a creative little rabbit explores the many things a child can create out of a box. For a child, a box from a refrigerator or large appliance can become a racecar, a mountain, a building, a robot, a pirate ship, a hot air balloon basket, a boat and a rocket ship.

After reading *Not a Box*, if you lack an abundant supply of empty appliance boxes, encourage your child to think about the many things he or she might create on a smaller scale. In this craft activity, we have included one of many possible crafts that a child might create using a mini cereal box. For our craft, it's not a mini cereal box, it's a puppet!

But don't limit yourself. Be creative. If it's not a box puppet, it's a _____!

Supplies Needed

- 1. Empty mini cereal box
- 2. Construction paper
- 3. Cardstock paper (for body)
- 4. Glue
- 5. Markers or Crayons
- 6. Scissors

Optional: googly eyes,
yarn for hair, felt for
tongue, etc.





At the 2009 Read To Me Conference, Gale Warshawsky, Literacy Chair of the Rotary Club of Windward Oahu Sunrise shared with attendees the art of making box puppets.



Instructions

- 1. In the middle of the mini cereal box, cut through three sides.**
- 2. Cover the outside of the box with construction paper; glue on.**
- 3. Draw and cut puppet body of choice out of cardstock.**
- 4. Decorate body and head of puppet. Glue together.**
- 5. Enjoy!**

"Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today."

Gabriela Mistral, poet, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, 1945



Janice Bond (left) accepts Kaua'i's 2009 Outstanding Older American award from Kaua'i Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., while Noemi Pendleton, State Director of the Executive Office on Aging, looks on.

Kudos

Congratulations go out to **Janice Bond** who was named Kaua'i's 2009 Outstanding Older American! The announcement was made on May 6, at the 43rd annual Older American Awards Recognition Ceremony held at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort. Janice has been a

volunteer extraordinaire with Read To Me since 2001. Along with her many other community commitments, she co-chairs Read To Me's annual Kauai Keiki Story Festival. We are so fortunate to have Janice as part of our Read To Me family!



In Memoriam

Jean N. Akin

Long-time Read To Me volunteer and friend Jean N. Akin passed away on March 24, 2009, surrounded by her family. Jean was a volunteer at the Women's Correctional Center in Kailua where she helped mothers record stories onto cassette tapes and send them to their children. According to her daughter Cynthia Tinsley, "Our mother loved the time she spent in the "Read To Me" program. She had fond memories of the women she worked with."

Our condolences go out to Jean's children, Douglas, Cynthia, Arnold and Christopher and their families.