



# Newsletter

Winter, 2007

## Special Interest Articles:

- GWRC After-School Special
- Fall Conference Highlights
- NCLB Information
- *Sam's Last Summer* by Pat Richards

IRA 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

Virginia State Reading Association

40th Annual Conference

March 15-17, 2007

Roanoke, Virginia

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.gwrc.net](http://www.gwrc.net)

## A Letter from Your President

Dear Members,

For so long, the Greater Washington Reading Council has been a champion of literacy learning and has tried to help its members explore new and different avenues for literacy expressions. As we brought you the fall conference this year, we hoped to do just that! Read on to find out more!

With the idea of "exploring" and "bringing new things to you" in mind, it is with great pleasure that we announce the continuation of the GWRC "After School Specials". We are so pleased to be able to celebrate with each other the amazing amount of talent and knowledge that is within the reach of GWRC members... with that in mind, GWRC once again brings you one of its own nationally renowned authors, Mary Shulman, to share her expertise and knowledge at no cost to members.

Thanks to all the members of GWRC who continue to strive to share the passion for literacy and for sharing a love of learning with your students. We are truly honored to be able to share and grow with such tremendous educators.

Sincerely,

Annette Lauber

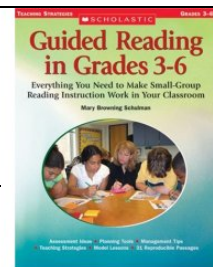
## GWRC After School Specials

**April 17, 2007**

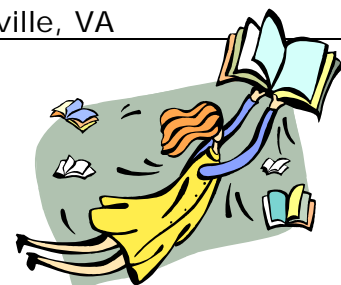
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**Mary Shulman**

Based on her book [Guided Reading in Grades 3-6: Everything You Need to Make Small-Group Reading Instruction Work in Your Classroom.](#)



London Towne Elementary School, Centreville, VA



# 2006 Fall Conference with Carl Anderson

Contributed by Andy Camarda and Maureen McLoughlin, Vice Presidents & Conference Chairs

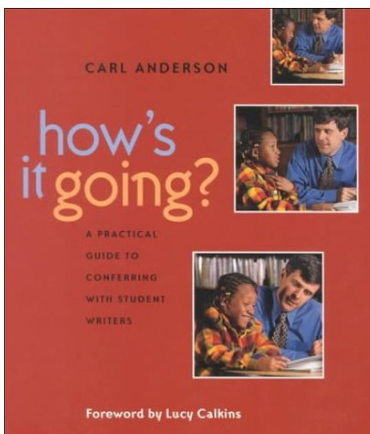
The 2006 fall GWRC, held on November 9 at the Waterford Fair Oaks, provided over 300 educators in attendance with a wonderful opportunity to hear author and educator Carl Anderson.

Carl Anderson is currently an education consultant and writer. He recently worked for Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University as a Lead Staff Developer, providing staff development in the teaching of writing for teachers grades K-8. He spent school days in New York City elementary and middle schools demonstrating effective teaching in the writing workshop and coaching teachers. He gave day-long workshops for teachers at Teachers College on launching the writing workshop, conferring with student writers, mini-lessons, and developing curriculum for the writing workshop.

In his book, *How's It Going?*, Anderson leads readers through the challenging but essential terrain of learning to confer with student writers. The book includes an in-depth discussion of the teacher's role in conferences, strategies for teaching students to take an active role, ways to weave literature, mini-lessons, classroom management strategies, and responses to the most frequently asked questions about conferring.

During the conference, Carl shared a variety of student writing samples. For each piece, he shared key teaching points. He demonstrated the link between authentic assessment and next steps for instruction. Through video clips, Carl brought the writing conference to life and provided a real life glimpse of the powerful conversations teachers can have with students. The presentation was informative, engaging and entertaining.

A special thank you goes to all who helped organize this event including: Annette Lauber, Jen Frate, Rose Pryor, Gail Schwartz, Amy Conlin, Kathy Jordan, Jodi Brown, Anne Hall, Stacey Credle, Barbara Sears, Ameer Shea, Ilene Decker, Carrie Brotemarkle, and Sara Shemonsky. Many thanks as well to those who volunteered in so many ways to make the day a huge success.



GWRC would like to provide you with information in regards to important information concerning NCLB and issues affecting instruction. Please visit the following sites and read the information in order to make informed decisions.

The NCTE position statement on the Reading First Initiative from 2002.

<http://www.ncte.org/about/over/positions/category/read/107475.htm>

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The NCTE recommendations from the 11/15/06 conference.

[www.ncte.org/about/gov/cgrams/126092.htm](http://www.ncte.org/about/gov/cgrams/126092.htm)

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**NCLB Petition Information:** This link is to a petition to not pass NCLB - they are trying for a million signatures to deliver to congress.

[www.petitiononline.com/1teacher/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/1teacher/petition.html)

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### Sam's Last Summer By Pat Richards



I learned back in grade school that writing is hard work. I can't tell you how many times I sent a message to my Writers' Workshop students as they labored to improve their pieces and proudly publish their books. Finally, I decided it was time to write a book of my own. I wrote this work of fiction for fourth and fifth graders, keeping in mind my classroom experience about how students respond to literature. I was also cognizant of incorporating vocabulary that is compelling.

***Sam's Last Summer***, takes place in a small southern town similar to my hometown in North Carolina. School has just closed for the summer of 1954. Samantha and her sister are eager to enjoy carefree days of games and explorations in the nearby woods. But first, they race to the train station to meet Grandma. A young, disheveled boy steps from that same train and catches Sam's eye. Little does she realize that this stranger, along with events in which Sam becomes involved, will change her life forever. ***Sam's Last Summer*** will be available this December.

Pat Richards is also the creator of a game called ***Writing Works*** for each grade level, 3+, 4+, and 5+, to help students remember the techniques and tools for effective writing. The games can be found on her website [www.pjassociates.com](http://www.pjassociates.com).



## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS For the GWRC *Journal*



Greater Washington Reading Council would like to revive the *Journal* for our members. The theme for the 2007 *Journal* is **"Shifting Our Thinking: How New Understandings Shape our Literacy Instruction."**

We'd like submissions that reflect how you have changed in your work and why. We all participate in professional development opportunities and work with children. Sometimes, there is an "aha" moment which changes our thinking and then our instruction. That's what we're interested in gathering for the GWRC *Journal* – articles that share what impacted you as a literacy educator.

Please consider writing an article for this new edition.

### **Types of Submission**

- Descriptions of literacy programs or instructional practices;
- Results of research studies;
- Commentaries on or analyses of literacy issues;
- Profiles of or interviews with experts in the field of literacy;
- Classroom ideas on specific teaching/learning strategies and techniques;
- Stories of literacy in educational settings and incidents in authors' own lives as literate persons;
- Quotations, writings or drawings from students;
- Poetry from students or teachers about topics related to literacy learning;
- Cartoons, drawings, or photographs.

### **Manuscript Form**

All manuscripts should be prepared according to the style prescribed by the fifth edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA, 2001). Because the articles are subject to a blind review the author's identity should only appear on the cover page.

### **Submitting a Manuscript**

Prepare your manuscript using a word processing program. Prepare your figures and graphics using applications capable of generating high-resolution files (e.g., .tif, .eps, .jpg). After preparing your manuscript, submit it to the GWRC website at [www.gwrc.net](http://www.gwrc.net) under Submit Manuscripts.

### **The Review Process**

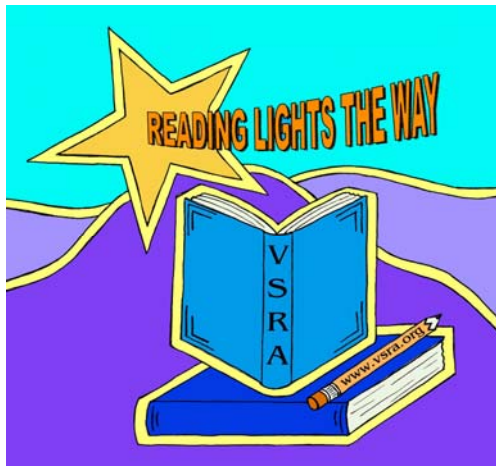
Articles submitted to the *Journal* are reviewed anonymously (blind review) by members of the Editorial Review Board. Articles are judged primarily for their contributions to the field, usefulness to teachers, timeliness, freshness of approach, and clarity and cohesiveness of presentation. Selection also depends on editorial determination of overall balance of content in the journal.

# 52nd IRA Annual Convention: Literacy Without Boundaries

Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
May 13–17, 2007



Thousands of educators from around the world will attend the leading professional development opportunity of 2006: IRA's 52nd Annual Convention in **Toronto**, Ontario, Canada, from **May 13 to May 17**.



## Virginia State Reading Association

### 40th Annual Conference

March 15-17, 2007

Roanoke, Virginia

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

#### General Session speakers will be:

Linda Gambrell - Thursday afternoon, Don Leu - Friday morning, and Doris Walker Dalhouse - Friday afternoon.

#### Meal function authors will be:

Robert Sabuda, Seymour Simon, Annette Curtis Klause, and Marc Brown.

#### Featured authors and speakers include:

Jerry Pallotta, Sharon Flake, Gail Karwoski, Danny Schnitzlein, Laura Elliott, Helen Lester, John Guthrie, Michael McKenna, Maria Elena Arguelles, Debbie Miller, Nancy Polette and Laura Robb. These and many other speakers will present over 100 professional development sessions. Regular conference breakout session are from noon-5 Thursday, from 8-5 Friday and from 8-11 on Saturday. The Literacy Institutes on Thursday morning and the meal functions are costs added to the regular conference registration fee.