

# GWRC NEWSLETTER



THE GREATER WASHINGTON  
READING COUNCIL

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## Inside Points of Interest

- After School Special—  
April 22, 2009
- GWRC Fall Conference—  
featuring Kylene Beers  
and Rob Probst
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ports readers in Kenya
- Membership News

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear GWRC Members,

The Greater Washington Reading Council has experienced a busy and productive fall/winter season. The November conference, featuring Katie Wood Ray, brought us many ideas for encouraging and strengthening writing in our classrooms. In December, author Fred Bowen entertained members with fun and inspiring stories of sports and youth. Just recently VSRA held its annual conference in Crystal City, at which GWRC was well represented. Cathy and I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped David Red, VSRA President-elect, and worked to make the conference a success.

In addition to the opportunities mentioned above, GWRC is proud to announce the recipients of the GWRC professional grants. Please visit our website for more details. The next round of grant applications is now underway.

Looking ahead, we hope to see you at the upcoming After-School Special in April. Dr. Peter Edwards, Professor and Director of the Graduate Reading Specialist Program at Shenandoah University, will be presenting on his book *Literacy Techniques*. Please register by April 14 at [tiffany.brocious@loudoun.k12.va.us](mailto:tiffany.brocious@loudoun.k12.va.us). We hope to see you there.

The strength and energy of GWRC comes from its members. We look forward to your participation this and next year. Please visit [www.gwrc.net](http://www.gwrc.net) for all the exciting news and events.

Regards,  
Lori Riley and Cathy Root  
GWRC Co-Presidents

## AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIAL

**Dr. Peter Edwards discusses his book, *Literacy Techniques*.**

Dr. Edwards is the Director of the Reading Specialist Graduate Program at Shenandoah University.

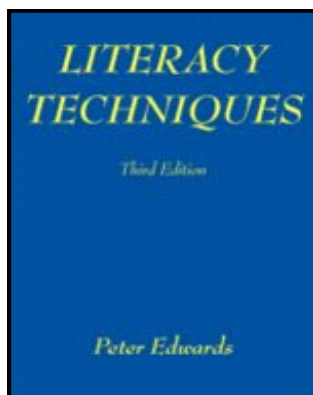
**April 22 at 4:30 P.M.**

**Cool Spring E.S.  
Leesburg, Virginia**

**Free to GWRC members !!**

**To register contact Tiffany Brocious  
by April 14th**

**[tiffany.brocious@loudoun.k12.va.us](mailto:tiffany.brocious@loudoun.k12.va.us)**



*“Fred also presented at VSRA, and if the book signing lines were any indication, he was very popular there as well!”*

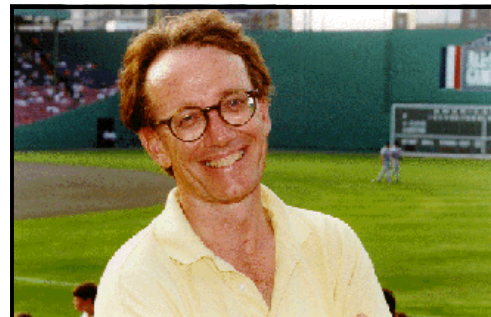
## FRED BOWEN—SHARES WRITING IDEAS WITH GWRC MEMBERS

Greater Washington Reading Council sponsored Fred Bowen for an after-school special on December 3, 2008.

Fred Bowen is the author of the AllStar SportStory Series and also writes a sports column for kids in the Washington Post. His presentation included stories about how he got into writing, who motivated him when he was growing up, and his passion for sports. Although all of Fred's books are about sports, they contain strong boy and girl characters, lessons for life, and historical connections.

Everyone enjoyed listening to Fred, and many teachers purchased his books to share with their students.

Fred also presented at VSRA, and if the book signing lines were any indication, he was very popular there as well!



*Fred Bowen is the author of the AllStar SportStory Series and also writes a sports column for kids in the Washington Post.*

## GRANTS AWARDED TO GWRC MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following GWRC grant recipients

### Teachers As Readers:

Dianne Kinkead, Rachael Wozniak, Susan Sall, Tiffany Brocius and JoAnn Kowalski

### Professional Growth:

Rachael Wozniak, Kristen Cook, Cyndy Amrhein, and Christopher McAuliffe

### Community Outreach:

June Berthelsen, Sally Chadbourn, Ilene Decker, Sally Donnelly, Paula Assadi and Linda Kimmel

## GWRC SPRING GRANTS AVAILABLE

The deadline for spring grant applications is April 15, 2009. Each applicant must submit a proposal that meets the following criteria: a description of the focus of the grant, a time table for completion and the budget requirements. Grant proposals may be submitted to Barbara Bundy or Ro Hochkammer at 21000 Education Ct., Ashburn, VA 20148. More information may be found at the GWRC website.

Some of the grants awarded this Fall included the following:

**Professional Growth Grants** were awarded to people who were furthering their education.

Grants were awarded to individuals for Advanced Studies and Learning at GMU, National Board Certification or individuals who were presenting at conferences.

**Community Outreach Grants** were awarded for programs to boost home/school connections.

Grants were awarded for materials for monthly sessions with parents and students prior to entering Kindergarten, to purchase Keep Books and trade books for summer reading for K-3 students, a parent/teen book club, and a parent book club for parents looking for ways to help their child become a better reader.

**Teachers as Readers Grants** were awarded to programs that promote professional reading and discussion among teachers and specialists to increase ongoing professional growth within the school environment.

*Deadline for Spring Grant Applications are April 15, 2009.*

*Take advantage of this member benefit!*

# THE 42ND CONFERENCE OF VSRA

**David Red**

**VSRA President-elect**

The 42nd Conference of the Virginia State Reading Association was held in Arlington at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City February 20-22. As chair of the conference, I want to say how thankful I am to GWRC members for their help before and during the conference. I know there were many people helping in many ways and I can't name them all here, but want to single out a few.

GWRC Past President Maureen McLoughlin led a team to read the proposals during the summer last year. President Lori Riley helped me schedule the

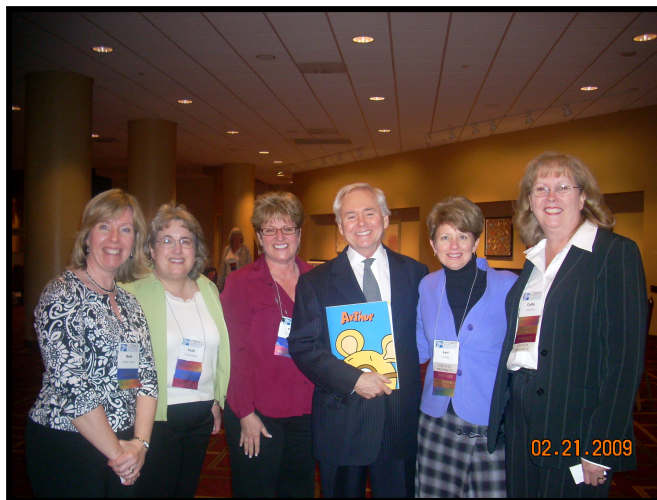
proposals into the time slots for the conference. At the conference, President-Elect Kate McLaughlin headed the VSRA book sales, and GWRC member Susan Sall headed registration. There were many other GWRC members who helped do the hundreds of things that make a conference happen. I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all of those who helped the conference be a success for all of those who came from other parts of Virginia to attend.

The conference itself presents a wealth of professional development opportunities.

In addition to the many concurrent sessions with authors and presenters, there were general sessions with two major authors and educators, Tim Shanahan and Judy Montgomery. Tim talked about comprehension and Judy talked about vocabulary. I know those who heard them learned a lot that they can bring back to their work.

The banquet with Marc Brown of the Arthur series was a highlight of the conference. His popularity was evident because he signed books for almost an hour after his talk.

If you were unable to attend this year's VSRA conference, I hope you are making plans to attend the GWRC Conference in November of this year and the 43rd conference of VSRA to be held in Virginia Beach in March 2010. As the incoming president of VSRA for 2009-2010, I hope to have your continued support for the efforts of VSRA to serve reading educators in Virginia. I am very proud of the fact that I am a member of Greater Washington and appreciate the support I have had from all the members over the years.



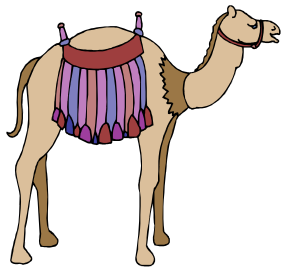
*GWRC Members share a moment with author Marc Brown.*

*From l to r: Beth Cipriano, Patti Waters, Cindy Amrhein, Marc Brown, Lori Riley, Cathy Root*

## IRA CONFERENCE WEST- GWRC MEMBER PRESENTS

This year's IRA Conference West was held in Phoenix, Arizona on February 21-25, 2009. The theme of the conference was, "Beyond the Horizon." The weather was wonderful (around 70 degrees everyday) and perfect for traveling from session to session.

Two of the presenters at the conference were **Dr. Tiffany Brocius (GWRC Treasurer)** and Dr. Peter Edwards (Director of the Reading Specialist Graduate Program at Shenandoah University). Their topic was, "Visual Literacy: WHAT are they reading?" They spoke about the amount of visual literacy versus articles in five popular magazines read by middle school students, and stressed the need for educators to be cognizant of exciting opportunities in popular students' reading materials, and to use aspects of visual literacy to cater to their students' learning needs and interests.



**Continue to be a part of GWRC**

Check the website in August to renew your membership!



**We're on the web!**  
[www.gwrc.net](http://www.gwrc.net)

## **GWRC International Project**

Camels deliver books to those in need. GWRC will be donating a box of books for the Camel Book Drive. In Kenya, Africa camels serve as mobil libraries for remote areas. The camel bookmobile provides books to nomadic schools in the region. GWRC will continue to collect and send paperback books throughout the year. More information about the camel book drive can be found at <http://camelbookdrive.wordpress.com>

For information on donating books contact: GWRC member Patti Waters

## **VSRA Grant Opportunities**

VSRA is offering Teacher Research grants of up to \$1000 each which will be awarded at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual VSRA conference in Virginia Beach, March 11-13, 2010. For information please contact Don Langreh at

[dlangreh@radford.edu](mailto:dlangreh@radford.edu)

## **GWRC MEMBER BENEFITS OR TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN GWRC**

The mission of GWRC is to promote literacy and literate education, and all that literacy encompasses, in the Northern Virginia region (Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William) to professionals and the general public.

### **The top 10 reasons why you should become a member of GWRC are...**

1. Enjoy membership to GWRC's sister organization, VSRA so when you join GWRC you are also a member of VSRA
2. Get reduced rates for GWRC conferences
3. Receive GWRC and VSRA publications
4. Become eligible for GWRC and VSRA scholarships
5. Earn an opportunity to apply for professional development grants
6. Learn about other professional opportunities such as family literacy events and teacher research support groups
7. Attend GWRC's Fall conference featuring Kylene Beers and Bob Probst addressing how to help struggling readers
8. Participate in after school specials for members only— see page one for our April special
9. Become involved in an organization that promotes and supports literacy

### **And the number ten reason for joining GWRC...**

10. Network with Literacy Professionals from many surrounding school districts