

## ENYSLMA

membership has been steadily increasing since the past newsletter. We are now up to 101 members. Welcome back to seasoned friends and a warm welcome to new members. Belonging to a local affiliate is a great way to network and stay in touch with those that share our profession. Enjoy the programs and getting to know the membership.



## New Name, Same Great Representation

Sheila Dimaggio is stepping down as SLMS Board Representative. We'd like to thank her for her several years of service and enthusiasm.

Dianne Hobden has taken over the position. If you have questions or concerns, Dianne can be reached at Shaker Junior High School, 785-1341 x4547 or at dianeh@ncolonie.org.



Judith Stott  
Library

475 Watervliet-Shaker Road  
Latham, NY 12110



## KAREN HESSE VISIT

by Mary Shands

When we met in the fall of 2003 as the new board of the Eastern New York School Library Media Association (ENYSLMA) and we were dividing up tasks such as water the plants, erase the chalk boards, somehow I ended up with get the most requested author from the SLMS conference survey, Karen Hesse. I agreed without realizing that I actually had no idea on how to go about this. I asked around and finally put a request into the Authors Guild and forgot about it. One snowy day in January while my two kids ran around the house screaming, the phone rang. There was a pause and I almost hung up thinking it was a telemarketer. Finally I heard, "Hi, this is Randy Hesse." Randy Hesse, hmmm... took me a minute or two to put this in context of my not so recent author request. I hid down in the cellar and hoped he couldn't hear the screaming kids in the background and we had a very nice chat. Karen Hesse wasn't available for the fall as we would have liked and I just hung up without pursuing it any farther, flummoxed to have gotten a call from the husband of a world famous author. When I reported my conversation to the ENYSLMA board, they asked, "Well, did you ask him about next fall?" I hadn't thought of that. I repeated my previous steps and again, just when I had forgotten and given up hope, Randy Hesse called.



Raising the money and securing a site were the next great adventures. Many thanks to Kate Cavanaugh and to Crystal Gips for arranging the use of the Lally Building/St. Rose and for helping to fund the tea and cookies. Thanks to Mary Grondahl, Lisa Thomson and Michael Stratton, also of CSR, for technical support. I'm grateful to Vicki Parker of The Greater Capital Region Teachers Center and Jean Duxbury of the Schalmont Teachers Institute for financial support.

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Thanks, also, to the Children's Literature Connection which did a wonderful newsletter on Karen Hesse and hosted a forum on her work at the Pine Hills Branch of the Albany Public Libraries. The vendors also need to be thanked. Thank you to The Bookmark, Terry Small from Follet, Mary Kay Hilko from Marshall Cavendish, and Marsha Lederfeind from Booksource

Lastly, many thanks to the attendees for coming! It was a beautiful day and I know that I was conflicted with the call of the wild. I was also very grateful and happy to see Karen Hesse. A couple of weeks before the event I realized that it had been a long time since I had spoken with Randy Hesse and that I had never spoken with Karen. Feeling like I had a too good to be true date for the prom, I wrote a reminder note and left a message for her. When she showed up early and wanted to take a walk, I had to restrain myself from accompanying her and just give her a map.

Karen Hesse gave a wonderful talk and read from her works. I especially liked how she was able to embody with her voice the different characters in *Witness*. How she came up with certain ideas for books, like *The Music of Dolphins*, was very interesting; it all started with Terry Gross and *Fresh Air*. The anecdotes related to developing the non-language in *this* were fascinating as was the tale she recounted about a reader thrilled to see her memory of a spring snow storm confirmed in *Out of the Dust*.

The amount of research Karen Hesse does for her books is truly awesome. I was also impressed with what she said about how she does not invent any of the bad things that happen to her characters as she has such feelings for them. Karen Hesse's talk and reading were truly inspirational and in that light it was not a hardship to give up such a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Moreover, if I had to choose again between, water the plants, erase the chalkboards or secure Karen Hesse for an ENYSLMA event, I would make the same choice.

## GRAPHIC NOVELS, WHAT'S

### ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

by Cheryl Cufari

Graphic novels are emerging strong and furiously as a new genre. Who among us knows for sure how and what to select? That is the topic of our next ENYSLMA meeting and some of the answers are within the web pages listed below. These are provided for you and any of your patrons who might wish more background on this type of reading. Enjoy. [These addresses will also appear on the ENYSLMA web site.]

An article written about graphic novels by Steve Raiteri, an experienced public librarian. <http://my.voyager.net/~sraiteri/graphicnovels.htm>

A list of links to graphic novels also compiled by Steve Raiteri. <http://my.voyager.net/~sraiteri/comiclinks.htm>

*No Flying No Tights* provides valuable information about graphic novels and choosing them. <http://www.noflyingnotights.com/>

An annotated list of graphic novels and comic trade paperbacks. <http://www.geocities.com/dawnanik/grnovels.htm>

BroDart information on graphic novels. <http://www.graphicnovels.brodart.com/>

Information and definitions on graphic novels useful for background knowledge and ultimately building collections. <http://www.library.barrie.on.ca/teens/gnovel.htm> and [http://spider.lawrenceville.org/depts/library/www/graphic\\_novels/graphic\\_novels\\_101.htm](http://spider.lawrenceville.org/depts/library/www/graphic_novels/graphic_novels_101.htm)

Trevor Oakely

Presents

## Graphic Novels for Your Library

Join us for a Breakfast Buffet  
at Longfellows in Saratoga

Saturday Morning February 5, 2005  
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Cost is \$15 for members & \$20 for nonmembers

Arrival 10:00 AM

Breakfast 10:30 AM

[Homemade coffee cakes, assorted muffins, danish and scones, fresh fruit, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, juices, coffee and tea]

Presentation 11:30 AM

Trevor Oakley is the Teen Services Librarian at Guilderland Public Library. He loves graphic novels and enjoys speaking about them. Join us for a chance to learn more about this new form of comic books.

**Directions** to Longfellows Inn & Restaurant - Located just 2 minutes from the Adirondack Northway - Take Exit 14 off the Northway and travel South on Route 9P. The restaurant will be on your right just a mile down the road. [www.longfellows.com](http://www.longfellows.com)

Make your check payable to ENYSLMA and return the form below by **January 22, 2005** to: Donna Smyth; 4 Homer Ave.; Queensbury, NY 12804. Phone 518/792-7283. E-mail [smyth78@adelphia.net](mailto:smyth78@adelphia.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_