

Spotlight on Children's Literature

APU's University Libraries Ship Books for Ethiopia's Children

. . while helping to build a small academic library for Operation Impact Students

by *Evelyn Shimazu Yee*, Librarian, Children's Literature Liaison

Boxes of storybooks with classical children's literature, fairytales, contemporary picture books; text books; poetry, history, biographies, children's encyclopedias, Bible stories, and science books piggy-backed their way to Ethiopia in a cargo shipment that was primarily meant for a collection of thousands of academic titles on organizational leadership, business, nursing and theology.

The APU University Libraries and the Operation Impact Ethiopian library project's goal was to assist in the building of a collection for a small academic library to support college

and university students in the remote African country of Ethiopia. A book drive ensued to assist APU alum, Dr. Badeg Bekele, Ethiopian Free Methodist Pastor and President of the Ethiopian based International Leadership Institute. The institute which envisions a better future for Ethiopians prepared a facility to build a new library with the help of an APU faculty librarian, and an assistant volunteer who traveled to Ethiopia this January and February of 2006. The new library will support the academics of over 400 Ethiopian APU Organizational Leadership students involved in APU's Operation Impact program in Addis Ababa.



Photo by B. Strother 2006

Pictured above is Malet, daughter of Dr. Badeg Bekele. Malet lives and goes to school in the Ethiopian capital city of Addis Ababa. Many Ethiopian children in Addis Ababa speak, read and write in one of their native languages called Amharic. But they also learn English. Malet was adopted by Dr. Bekele from an Ethiopian orphanage and is eager to learn new words and phrases in English.

titles were found treasure amongst donations for the Ethiopia book drive, made a wonderful surprise contribution and will be donated to a school in Addis Ababa for the enjoyment and education of Ethiopian children.

Narnia: The Books, the Movie and the question about sequels . . .

There is speculation that following the successful box office version of C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the film, *Narnia*, there may be plans by the children's division of the publisher, Harper Collins to produce "new Narnia novels and picture books" that will "fill in the

gaps" in the stories have the "same characters." reports Ted Olsen from the May issue of *Christianity Today*. Olsen also reports that *The Sunday Times of London* ran story that there may be a commissioning of completely new Narnia books. Simon Adley, managing director of the C.S. Lewis Company appears willing to find fantasy writers that will "use their own voice rather than" that of Lewis'. Olsen mentions that this could be "interesting" should new writers not have the same motivation in "communicating Christian truth." Douglas Gresham, Lewis' stepson is reported by Olsen to be in opposition to the idea of sequels for the series.

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Librarian Trivia?

How much do you know about these Children's book awards?

- What is the Newbery Award?
- What is the Caldecott Award?

The Newbery Medal was named for eighteenth-century British bookseller John Newbery. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

- Description from the American Library Association Website: <http://www.ala.org>

**Pura Belpre Award Winning Author,
Pam Munoz Ryan**



**Children's Literature Council
of Southern California
Spring Workshop
And
Fall Gala**

Register online at:

www.childrensliteraturecouncil.org

The Spring Workshop provides practical information to those who work directly with young people and literature.

The Fall Gala features a reception honoring Southern California authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults as well as a distinguished speaker. The Council also presents awards. The Council may present the Dorothy C. McKenzie Award for a distinguished contribution in the field of Children's Literature and the Myra Cohn Livingston Award for Poetry.

Pam Munoz Ryan holds a copy of her award winning title, Esperanza Rising. A story about Esperanza, a girl modeled after the author's grandmother's life story.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Publisher: Scholastic

AWARDS:

2001 ALA Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults

Smithsonian Best Books 2000

Publisher's Weekly Best Children's Books 2000

L.A. Times Best Books of 2000

Excellence in a Work of Fiction Award 2001 Children's Literature Council of Southern California

2001 Judy Goddard/Libraries Limited Arizona Young Adult Author Award

Pura Belpre Award

Jane Addams Children's Book Award, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

"Esperanza Ortega possesses all the treasures a young girl could want: fancy dresses; a beautiful home filled with servants in the bountiful region of Aguascalientes, Mexico; and the promise of one day rising to Mama's position and presiding over all of Rancho de las Rosas. But a sudden tragedy shatters that dream, forcing Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. There they confront the challenges of hard work, acceptance by their own people, and economic difficulties brought on by the Great Depression. When Mama falls ill from Valley Fever and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must relinquish her hold on the past and learn to embrace a future ripe with the riches of family and community. Pam Munoz Ryan eloquently portrays the Mexican workers' plight in this abundant and passionate novel that gives voice to those who have historically been denied one." — by the publisher

California School Library Association

2006 Annual Conference

November 16-18th

Convention Center, Sacramento, CA

Carol Shuey

cshuey@astound.net

925-673-1236

**Society of Children's Book Writers
and Illustrator's
www.scbwisocal.org**

June 9-11- SCBWI-LA Working Illustrators Retreat

Featuring Emily Easton - Publisher at Walker Books (NY), and Joe Cepeda - Illustrator. The Working Illustrators Retreat is an opportunity for children's book illustrators to re-energize their creative spirit, get feedback on their work, and broaden their knowledge. Experience a weekend of workshops, networking, critiquing, and creative stimulation.