

The Nugget

News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office

February 2010

Holly Hermansen, Superintendent

News & Notes ...

6th annual Nevada County Reads will focus on Japanese-American themes

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office and Nevada County Library have chosen the novel "Snow Falling on Cedars" by David Guterson as the 2010 book selection for the 6th annual Nevada County Reads.

Nevada County Reads is a countywide literary event involving schools, libraries, book reading groups, bookstores and the general public. It principally encourages reading and discussion of quality books. Students, teachers and other community members are encouraged to read and discuss "Snow Falling On Cedars," which is geared for high schoolers and adults. The novel is a compelling account of a murder trial on an island in Puget Sound. It also deals with racial prejudice toward Japanese-Americans post World War II.

A class set of "Snow Falling on Cedars" is available for loan to high school classes from the NCSoS on a first-come basis. Contact Nikki Johnson at 478-6400 ext. 201.

In conjunction with this Asian-American story, Nevada County Reads also encourages middle schoolers to read the award-winning memoir "Farewell To Manzanar" by Jeanne W. and James Houston. "Manzanar" recounts one family's hardships amid other Japanese-Americans imprisoned during World War II at the infamous internment camp in California's Owens Valley.

The book selection for K-5 students is "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr. The 1977 non-fiction book tells the story of a girl, Sadako Sasaki, who lived in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing and developed leukemia from the radiation. While in a nursing home, she folded paper cranes in hope to make 1,000, which might grant her the wish to live.

Nevada County Reads events will begin with a celebratory "Kick-Off" event Feb. 24. Events continue through April. (See events calendar at right.)

Imaginarium workshops come to schools

As promised, during restructuring, the Imaginarium has hit the road and wants to come to your classroom. Imaginarium staff is available to make site visits lasting approximately two hours. Start times are 9 a.m. or noon, though these times are somewhat flexible to accommodate

Nevada County Reads Events

- Feb. 22: "**Origami in the Classroom**" workshop for teachers and art docents with Connie and Paul Harrar, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the NCSoS. \$10. RSVP: 478-6400 ext. 212. See Page 3 for more details.

- Feb. 24: **Nevada County Reads Kick-off** event at the Stonehouse Restaurant, 5 p.m. Light Japanese refreshments, a scene from the play, Taiko drumming performance. Free. Location: 107 Sacramento St., Nevada City.

- March 3: **Origami Night**, 7 p.m. at the Madelyn Helling Library. Professional storyteller Ruth Stotter tells tales and shares origami and itodori (string figures) for a family audience. Free.

- March 9: **Book Club event**, 7-9 p.m. at the Madelyn Helling Library. Discussion of the NCR selection "Snow Falling on Cedars." Book clubs also share their history, book selection process and rituals. Free.

- March 18-April 10: Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra presents a stage adaptation of the best-selling novel "**Snow Falling on Cedars**" at the historic Nevada Theatre. Various show times. School student matinees are March 26 (sold out), April 1 and April 2, 10 a.m. More info: www.catsweb.org

- March 26: **Friends of the Library Fund-raiser** performance of "Snow Falling on Cedars," 8 p.m. Nevada Theatre. A talk-back and audience Q&A session with the cast will be moderated by Paul Harrar. \$20-advance; \$25-door (\$15-\$20 for students). Info: 265-1407 or <friends@ncfol.org>

- April 24: **Japanese cooking class** taught by Wendy van Wagner, 5-7 p.m. at In The Kitchen, 648 Zion St., Nevada City. Learn to make miso soup, vegetable tempura with dipping sauce, veggie sushi rolls, marinated kale and hijiki salad. \$45. Enroll: <wendyvanwagner@gmail.com> or 478 0669.

school schedules. The cost is \$2 per student.

Available on-site "field trips" include:

- Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy (Grades 3-6)
- Magnetism Workshop (4-5)
- Electricity Workshop (4-5)
- How Airplanes Fly (4-5)

On-site programs are being enthusiastically received by both teachers and students. Hennessy teacher Wendy Nelson writes, "My class truly learned a great deal and loved the hands-on learning. ... We certainly love you as a "traveling show."

The Imaginarium is working with Chico State University to teach hands-on workshops for grades K-3 and new workshops for 4-6. If you would like to be part of the pilot program in April and May, please contact the Imaginarium.

To schedule a visit to your school or participate in upcoming new programs, contact the Imaginarium at 478-6400 ext. 231 e-mail <imagination@nevco.k12.ca.us>. Also, for more news and info check out the Imaginarium's new web site: www.imaginationmnc.org

Art & Science field trips resume at Bridgeport

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office's Art & Science Field Trip program resumes this March through May at the Bridgeport State Park on the South Yuba River. Interested teachers are encouraged to make a field trip reservation in the next month to ensure having the date they need for this low-cost, local outdoor learning experience.

The program is geared to meet science standards in grades 3-5, but other grades are welcome. Hands-on learning about the interconnected flora, fauna and watershed hydrology/geology will be combined with simple art making such as field sketching. Nature songs and games also are taught by experienced outdoor educators. All students receive a field journal for their scientific investigations.

The spring program will include study of wildflowers and insects, taking advantage of the park's spectacular floral show.

Field trip hours are generally from 9:30 or 10 a.m. to 1 or 1:30 p.m., including a lunch break. One or two classes may attend the same day. Trips may be scheduled Wednesday-Friday. The fee is \$5 per student and does not include transportation costs. Call or e-mail Paul (478-6400 x 212, <paull@nevco.k12.

Turners receive SNMH Foundation humanitarian award

Longtime NCSoS School Health Services Coordinator Sharyn Turner and her husband, dentist Barry Turner, were the recent recipients of the annual Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation.

The Turners have helped organize and/or participated in over 20 humanitarian missions to Mexico, Nepal and Uganda. Their work has included providing dental care, polio vaccinations, care for HIV patients, delivering eye glasses and providing health education. Next year, the Turners will provide health care in Papua, New Guinea.

The Turners say that working in Third World countries allows them to provide a level of health care and education they normally wouldn't be able to do in Nevada County. It keeps them excited about their professions.

"Finding your passion might be one reason for your existence on Earth," said Sharyn Turner. "We want to discover what we are good at."

The hospital foundation's Glaister A. Dawkins Humanitarian Award was created in 2002 to recognize western Nevada County residents that have made humanitarian contributions at a global level. The hospital foundation's mission: "To nurture the spirit of generosity and volunteerism of the community, we focus our philanthropic efforts in fostering quality healthcare of the highest standards for Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital."



Sharyn and Barry Turner in Nepal

ca.us>) to inquire about dates, or to provide input on the educational needs of your class.

The park also offers its own field trip program with volunteer park docents leading students on nature walks. More information about this program can be obtained by calling Becky Quigley at 432-2546 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

☐ Charlotte's Web ☐ at NUHS

Student groups are invited to attend special student matinee performances of Nevada Theatre Theatrical Society's winter production, "Charlotte's Web." The 10 a.m. student matinees are Feb. 16-18 in the Black Box Theatre (room A-1) located on the Nevada Union High School campus.

Adapted for the stage by Joseph Robinette from the book by E.B. White, "Charlotte's Web" tells the story of the irresistible young pig, Wilbur, and the friendships that keep him alive.

The student production is suitable for all ages, but is especially appropriate for ages 6-10. The running time is

two hours. Tickets are \$5 for the 10 a.m. shows. Seating is limited to 85 people.

Additional performances are at 7 p.m. Feb. 11-13 and 18-20, and at 2 p.m. Feb. 13 and 20.

For reservations, call Rob Metcalfe at the NUHS Drama Department at 273-4431 ext. 2102.

Origami storyteller wants to visit local schools

Nationally renowned storyteller and Japanese-style arts teacher Ruth Stotter is available to perform and teach in schools several days around March 3. Stotter gives 50-minute storytelling performances and teaches children about origami, making string figures (Itodori) and becoming storytellers. She also gives teacher workshops. She is interested in working with students and teachers in grades K-9, including special ed classes.

A Marin County resident, Stotter is in Nevada County to perform for an

Training Events

Classes • Workshops • Seminars • Meetings

First 5 Strengthening Families workshop

First 5 Nevada County will host a free workshop titled "Strengthening Families by Building Protective Factors" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 4 in the Community Room at the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City.

"Family strengthening" is the new language to describe the field of family support. This evidence-based framework was developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy based in Washington, D.C. It highlights five protective factors that help prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening families and communities. The five protective factors are: parental resilience; social connections; knowledge of parenting and child development; concrete support in times of need; and social and emotional competence of children.

Invited to attend this workshop are veteran family support workers and administrators who want to give a face lift to their existing family support program; new family support workers who want to learn how to strengthen families; anyone in a position to nurture children and strengthen families.

Refreshments, lunch and resource materials will be available. To enroll, send an e-mail with your name, job title, organization/school, e-mail and phone to Samie White, First 5 Nevada County Program Assistant: <samie@first5nevco.org> or call 265-0611 ext. 223 for more info.

Classroom origami workshop Feb. 22

Exciting, fun origami projects for students will be shared with teachers during "Paperpalooza III: Origami!" from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22 in the NCSoS Fellersen Room. The cost is \$10, which includes refreshments and resource materials.

Longtime Nevada City Home Study Charter School director/art teacher Connie Harrar will teach participants several unusual origami projects geared for students in grades 3 and up. Projects include a picture frame, a folding memory book and a 14-piece star. Harrar will model how to successfully teach the projects and provide hand-outs that illustrate each folding step. Origami books and many project how-to hand-outs will be available.

Workshop registration is requested through Paul Harrar: 478-6400 ext. 212 or <paul@nevco.k12.ca.us>

First Aid and CPR training continues

First aid and CPR training continues at the NCSoS through 2010. This program, designed and approved by the American Heart Association, is recommended for coaches,

physical education teachers, classroom teachers, administrators, instructional aides and secretaries.

Thursday classes in 2010 are Jan. 28, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 17, July 8, Aug. 28, Sept. 9, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2. Saturday classes in 2010 are Jan. 30, Feb. 20, March 13, April 24, May 15, June 26, July 17, Aug. 19, Sept. 18, Oct. 30, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

Thursday classes are 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturday classes are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The cost is \$30. Reimbursement receipts are available. Pre-register by e-mailing Nikki Johnson at <njohnson@nevco.k12.ca.us>

Real world algebra workshop March 18

Warren Schnack and Clay Dagler from Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento will present an algebra workshop in March the NCSoS. The workshop will take place either March 18 from 3:45-6:30 p.m. at the NCSoS. The cost is \$15, which includes a light dinner.

The teachers will present sample algebra lessons that focus on real world applications of algebra concepts. These lessons have been used and proven with challenging inner-city students. It can engage students and provide "relevance" for algebra.

The flyer soon will be on the NCSoS website: www.nevco.org. Registration can be made through Judy Nielsen: <judy@nevco.k12.ca.us> or by calling her at 478-6400 ext. 203.

Developmental Asset of the Month

Asset #22
A young person has a commitment to learning.

This is an internal asset. A child is responsive, attentive, and actively engaged in learning at school and enjoys participating in learning activities outside of school.

A reminder from Got 40? (formerly MADE 4 Youth), the local nonprofit organization inspired by the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. For more info about the 40 Developmental Assets, see www.search-institute.org/

Practice random and intentional acts of asset building every day!

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audience of families on March 3 at the Madelyn Helling Library in conjunction with Nevada County Reads events, which focus on Japanese culture (see NCR calendar on Page 1).

A former school teacher, Stotter earned a master's degree in storytelling, which led to her second career as a folklorist. She is the author of several books on storytelling and public speaking. Her book "The Golden Axe: Folk Tales of Compassion and Greed" is a collection of 33 international folk tales with notes on how to make these stories come alive with reader's theater, puppetry, games and other classroom activities. She has spent time in Japan learning origami and itadori.

To discuss her availability and fees, Stotter can be contacted by phone at 415-435-3568 or 415-599-5299, or by e-mail: <r.stotter@comcast.net>.

NCSoS to host biennial educator art exhibition

Current and recently-retired Nevada County school staff are invited to showcase their creativity during the semi-annual exhibition "Homework: Recent Art By Nevada County Educators." The show will take place March 1-June 3, 2010 at the NCSoS.

The exhibition will feature paintings, drawings, photography and mixed media two dimensional work. The "Homework" show aims to honor the artistic efforts of teachers who struggle to create work in their limited spare

time, but whose creativity also enhances their teaching practice. Current and recently-retired school staff (including classified staff), substitute teachers and artists working in schools may participate. Art work that is no more than three years old will be accepted.

Paul Harrar, school arts liaison at the NCSoS, will coordinate the exhibition. For more participation info, contact Paul at 478-6400 ext. 212.

Mark Twain to engage students at Nevada Theatre

Writer and humorist Mark Twain returns to the historic Nevada Theatre to perform for student audiences Feb. 16-19. The one-man shows by veteran Twain impersonator Chris LeGate will be staged at 10 a.m. Admission is \$10.

"What would Mark Twain think of America today?" is the theme of the show. Explains LeGate, who has performed Twain since 1994, "Mark Twain would want to point out who we are and where we come from. He would be the first to point out the mistakes we have made and perhaps are still making, but he would also remind us that this country is made up of the best and the worst of the human race."

The first act will portray Twain as he looked while working for the Territorial Enterprise newspaper during the 1860s Virginia City silver strike. He will discuss his younger years in Hannibal, Missouri, and on the Mississippi River. The second act will portray the older, iconic Twain as he discusses his views on American involvement in world politics. The show will conclude with an

audience question and answer session.

LeGate thinks the show is ideal for students studying Twain's writing, U.S. government and the California history of the Gold Rush era.

Student matinee reservations may be made by contacting Comika Beudry at 277-7513.

❑ Snow Falling on Cedars student shows at theater

Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra (CATS) invites students in grade 7 and up to attend a special matinee performance of its annual theatrical production at the Nevada Theatre. The stage adaptation of David Guterson's award-winning and best-selling novel "Snow Falling On Cedars" will be presented at 9:15 a.m. Thursday April 1 and 10 a.m. Friday, April 2. (General public performances are March 17-April 10.)

The two-hour play features drama, suspense, romance and history as a small, quiet, Pacific Northwest community becomes embroiled in controversy surrounding a murder trial and a biracial romance. Racial prejudice toward Japanese-Americans post World War II complicates efforts to find the truth of who murdered a well-respected local fisherman. The bitterness of the town's Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated in internment camps during the war is heightened by the murder trial of a Japanese-American defendant.

Student matinee tickets are \$12. To reserve seats, contact Lisa Moon at 273-6362 or <chanmoon@pacbell.net>.

For more info about the play, see the CATS web site: www.catsweb.org.

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