

PARC Newsletter

November 9, 2024

Letter from the Presidents

Hello PARC members and friends,

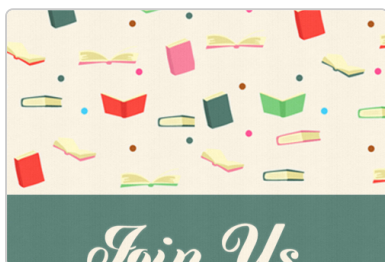
We invite you to join the phenomenal Kathleen March for Book Gossip, our fall event, on **November 13th at 6 pm at Anderson's Bookshop in Downers Grove**. We will be joining West Suburban Reading Council as we hear book recommendations and get great ideas for holiday gifts. Stay around after the event to shop with a discount. If you can't join us in person, you may also [join via Zoom using this link](#).

We hope to see you there!!

We are also excited to share our upcoming events. The Illinois Reads Sneak Peek on December 5th from 6-8 pm at Anderson's Bookshop in Downers Grove. Also, Family Fort Night will be at the Westmont Public Library on January 10th at 4:45 pm. Save the dates for these fun events.

We hope your year is off to a good start and you are enjoying the wonderful fall weather.

Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost
PARC Co-Presidents



Tap to RSVP to Book Gossip with Kathleen March

Evite makes bringing people together easy! Send online invitations with free RSVP tracking and cards by email or text. Get great gift and party ideas too!

[evite.com](https://www.evite.com)

Illinois Reads Book Review

Grade K - 2

You Are a Story by Bob Raczka is a thought-provoking children's book that celebrates the unique and interconnected nature of all beings. Using rhymes and vibrant illustrations, Raczka invites readers of all ages to explore their own stories and the stories of others.

The central message is that everyone is a story, shaped by their experiences, relationships, and dreams. Raczka uses metaphors, such as a book, a puzzle, and a song, to illustrate this concept. *You Are a Story* is a valuable tool for educators in several ways. It could be used with multiple grade levels to spark discussions about identity, diversity, and empathy. You can use this book as a springboard to encourage creative writing and storytelling.

This amazing story celebrates individuality and the power of storytelling, making this Illinois Reads book a great beginning of the year read aloud.



ILLINOIS READS A READING STATE OF MIND



Thursday, December 5, 2024

Anderson's Bookshop
5112 Main Street
Downers Grove, Illinois
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Everyone is invited to the 2025 Illinois Reads Sneak Peek. Authors will be sharing a reading from their book followed by autographing. Books will be available for purchase from Anderson's Bookshops. Light refreshments will also be served.

Visit our website for more information at www.illinoisreads.org

 Nadia Ahmed Grades K-2	 Doug Cenko Grades K-2	 Kat Chen Birth to 4	 Fiona Cook Grades 3 to Adult	 Molly Cranch Birth to 4
 Ronni Davis Grades 9-12	 Jacob Grant Grades K-2	 Lisa Katzenberger Grades 3-5	 Ted Maass Birth to 4	 Aphelandra Messer Grades K-2
 Jeff Miller Grades 6-8	 Benjamin Milligan Adult	 Ray Nadine Grades 6-8	 Janet Nolan Grades K-2	 Wendy Parris Grades 6-8
 Mike Petriki Grades 3-5	 Shifa Saltagi Safadi Grades 6-8	 Ruth Spiro Grades K-2	 Sara Varon Grades 3-5	 Ann Zhao Grades 9-12



For the holiday season, PARC supports this program by giving money which is used to purchase books through the Book Angel program. The books are distributed to area disadvantaged children through Anderson's Bookshops. Each child gets a new book preselected by Anderson's booksellers. Last year, more than 2,200 children received a brand new book for the holidays. To learn more about this program, click on this link: [Jan's Book Angel Program](#).

What are you reading?

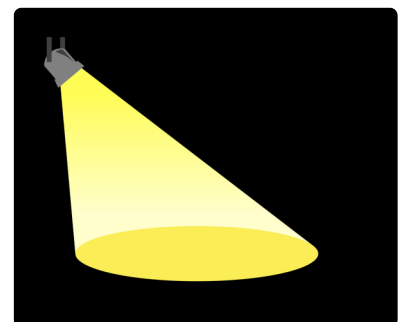
We thought it would be a fun idea to start a column about books we are reading. Please join us by sending the title, author and a small blurb about the book to Ann Peters at ann807098@gmail.com. I'll start us off.

I recently read *Passions in Death* by JD Robb. She is one of my favorite authors. The *In Death* series is based on murders that Eve Dallas (Homicide Lieutenant) investigates in New York. The latest book centers on the murder of a future bride at her bridal shower/party. If you like murder mysteries, she is the author for you. Happy reading!

Member Spotlight

Another idea we had is to have a column highlighting our members and their professions. Why did you choose to do what you do? Please send submissions to Ann Peters at ann807098@gmail.com. I'll start us off.

My name is Ann Peters. I am the Membership Chair for Prairie Area Reading Council. I was a high school reading teacher at Addison Trail High School for 29 years. I chose reading back when I was in college at Illinois State University. I had an instructor in a children's literature class who turned me on to reading as a profession. Her name was Shelly McNamara and she was wonderful! I got a minor in reading and eventually obtained the added credentials to teach reading at the high school level. I have never regretted that decision. Reading comprehension is such an important skill! I loved finding ways to help students connect with books and authors. It's so important to foster that love of reading in our students!



Membership

Welcome to our new members and welcome back to our members that renewed their membership. We are looking forward to meeting you at some of the events!

New Members - Bryan Chen, Charmonique Joiner, Sydney Faulkner, Anna Miesse, Grace Mraz, Amanda Sim, Abigail Wehler, Kairong Yu, Lucy Zhao

Renewals - Bryant Alexis, Barbara Ashton, Susan Daeschler, Victoria Dellinges, Margaret Egan, Frank Ferrara, Cindy Gerwin, Lynda Goldberg, Barbara Jones, Kristen Kolodziej, Heather Kraus, Melissa Love, Kathy Papadopoulos, Ann Peters, Leah Romaine, Sherry Sejnost

2025 IRC CONFERENCE

March 13-14, 2025
Springfield, Illinois



ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL
**LIBERATING
LITERACY**
Embrace Love, Joy, & Empowerment

Join IRC at the 56th Annual IRC Conference from March 13-14, 2025 at the Bank of Springfield Center, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, and the Wyndham Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. IRC will be excited to learn from the following featured speakers who will help teachers, specialists, and administrators from every grade-level and content area. Share the [2025 CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM](#) and the [2025 CONFERENCE VIDEO](#) with other educators!

IRC News

Program Proposals for the IRC Conference are due by Dec. 15th.

https://irc.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=2201620#!/

The Static Sicker Decal Contest for students in grades 4, 5, and 6.

https://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/assets/docs/Static_Stick_Decal_Contest.pdf

IRC Webinars



IRC will be offering the Webinar Series for members only. Please feel free to share the [IRC Webinar Flyer](#) and encourage your colleagues to join IRC!

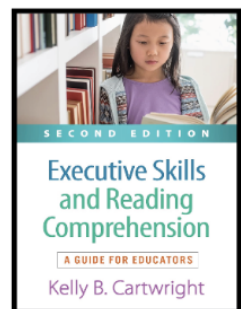
All webinars will begin at 7:00 pm. Members who watch the live or recorded webinars can earn one professional development clock hours for each webinar. Mark your calendars and register to take part in this convenient, free IRC membership benefit.

- **Members** will receive monthly emails with links to register for each webinar. Otherwise, members can also register through their online account or watch past webinars today.
- **Nonmembers** can also join online and sign up for the webinars through their new online account or watch past webinars today.

December 4, 2024 ~ Kelly B. Cartwright Why Don't My Best (Word) Readers Comprehend Text? Reading Science to Support Self-Regulated Comprehension



Some students seem to have the necessary skills they need to be good readers, yet still struggle with putting all of these things together in order to comprehend texts. In this session, we will look beyond these familiar skills to explore essential thinking skills, called executive skills, that support successful word reading and reading comprehension. Executive skills are self-regulatory skills that help students manage their thoughts, emotions, actions, and involve things like working memory, self-control, and mental flexibility.



Meet your PARC Board

Co-Presidents: Sheila Ruh sheilaruh@yahoo.com and Sherry Sejnost ssejnost@me.com

President Elect: Sherry Sejnost ssejnost@me.com

Vice President: Helen Dukhan dukhanh@d83.org

Recording Secretary: Melissa Love melissa.love3517@gmail.com

Treasurer: Roberta Sejnost rsejnost@gmail.com

Membership: Ann Peters ann807098@gmail.com

IRC Mission

To provide support and leadership to all who promote and teach lifelong literacy.



Prairie Area Reading Council (PARC)

PARC is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters