



books

BY DARLA L'ALLIER, MLIS YOUTH LIBRARIAN, HELMERICH LIBRARY

Jack Gantos is Coming – hurray, hurray, hurray

Jack Gantos, the 2014 winner of the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature, will visit Tulsa on Friday, August 22 at 7 p.m. The program will be held in conjunction with the Young People's Creative Writing Contest event at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St. Mr. Gantos will speak about his work as an award-winning author and teacher, answer questions from the audience and sign books for families.

According to the Horn Book periodical, "Jack Gantos writes for the every boy in all of us, regardless if we are a boy or a girl."

Do you need just a taste of his work to get started? Just read one of his short stories in *Guys Read*, the *Funny Business* anthology edited by Jon Scieszka. Another anthology, *Half Minute Horrors*, holds a notable short story by Gantos, too. These two short story collections can be found at your Tulsa City-County neighborhood library.

According to Mr. Gantos' website, he has been writing since childhood. His sister had a diary, which was his inspiration to start journaling at a very young age. In his youth, he was also a stamp collector and an insect enthusiast and would write his observations about his different collections in his private journals. He collected baseball cards, butterflies and "lots more good stuff"



JACK GANTOS AND WIFE ANNE

as he was growing up. These personal collections became the stimulus for his stories.

Gantos owns over 200 personal journals containing his private thoughts about collecting, school years, cheap perfume and more. In one of his interviews, Mr. Gantos talks about going back to his childhood journals as inspiration for writing his popular chil-

dren's books. He states that his classroom visits also gave him countless ideas and story plots for the *Joey Pigza* series.

Gantos taught literature in Boston after graduating from college. As a teacher of children's literature, he was inspired to write books for middle school boys, including the *Joey Pigza* series. His picture book series, *Rot-*

ten Ralph, was published in 1976. The series has received awards from both the American Library Association along with a Children's Book Showcase award. Today, most educators and librarians know Mr. Gantos for the 2012 Newbery Award-winning book *Dead End in Norvelt*, which was also an Oklahoma Sequoyah Middle School Book nominee for the Children's Choice award.

His 40-year adult writing career is truly almost 60 years in the making! Those early childhood inspirations from family, and his enthusiasm for hobbies were the impetus for the body of children's literature that Mr. Gantos brings to readers today.

In an interview with *Children'slit*, he remarked, "young people need to be stimulated to begin the process of self-examination, and I find that reading good books with strong, thoughtful characters searching for answers is one way to pursue a reflective life."

From *Rotten Ralph* and *The Love Curse of the Rumbaughs* to *Dead End in Norvelt*, the award-winning books of Jack Gantos touch everyone who reads or listens to his stories. Children and adult readers alike can relate to the familiarity of the characters he has given us in his writing career thus far. And we are all waiting for more to come!



news & notes

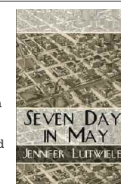
TULSA RACE RIOT TOPIC OF NEW NOVEL

Tulsa freelance writer Jennifer Luitwieler's book "Seven Days in May" is set during the Tulsa Race Riot. It follows the lives of two young girls who despite racial and class differences have forged a close friendship, which is threatened by the riot and a terrible secret that neither can ignore.

"I wanted to write about the Tulsa Race Riot because, as a woman and a non-native Oklahoman, I wanted to understand what life was like then," Luitwieler said. "... what led to the burning of 35 city blocks, and to advance a conversation about the people behind the scenes in major historical events."

Luitwieler said that, as she researched the event, she found herself wanting to know more about the lives of women and children during that time. Her novel explores the emotions and relationships of people as they might have experienced that horrific moment in history.

Luitwieler's book is available at the Tulsa Historical Society or on Amazon.



"CHAPTERS" FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT LIBRARY'S LITERACY SERVICE

Spend an enjoyable evening after hours in the library with three favorite authors while helping raise money and awareness for Tulsa City-County Library's Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service.

In conjunction with National Literacy Awareness Month, Tulsa City-County Library and the Tulsa Library Trust are offering "Chapters: A Casual Evening of Books, Bards and Bites" on Friday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St. The cost is \$50 per person. Deadline for reservations is Aug. 28.

Attendees will get to enjoy food and wine from some of the area's favorite restaurants while listening to authors David Berg, John Searles and Laurence J. Yadon.

Berg is the author of more than 100 political, legal, and personal essays and articles that have appeared in national publications such as The New York Times and Newsweek. He has written two books, including most recently "Run Brother Run: A Memoir of a Murder in My Family." Berg also is a trial lawyer who has tried virtually every kind of case from murder to patent infringement and at 28 became one of the youngest lawyers to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Searles is the author of the national best-sellers "Boy Still Missing" and "Strange but True." His most recent novel is the renowned, critically acclaimed "Help for the Haunted." He appears as a book critic in NBC's Today Show, and his essays have been published in The New York Times and Washington Post. He has a master's degree in creative writing from New York University and lives in New York City.

Yadon is the author of "One Murder Too Many," "Old West Swindlers" and other works about America's crime history. He also is an attorney, mediator and arbitrator. A direct descendent of relatives of the Younger gang, Yadon became captivated with American history, specifically the Southwest, while pursuing his undergraduate degree. He has been interviewed for his expertise on numerous television and radio programs, including National Public Radio and "Chronicles of the Old West." Yadon frequently updates his "American Outlaw Chronicles" book blog, a site dedicated to law enforcement in the American West.

Appetizers, wine and dessert are provided by Albert G's, Antoinette Baking Co., Barnes & Noble, Biga Italian Restaurant, Bodean Seafood Restaurant, Creative Catering by Sherian, HoneyBaked Ham of Tulsa, India Palace, KEO Asian Cuisine, La Villa at Philbrook, McGill's, Oliveto Italian Bistro, The Palate at Ranch Acres, Panera Bread, Pepper's Crill, PJ's Sandwich Shoppe, Ranch Acres Wine & Spirits, Reasor's, Ri Le's, Stonehorse Café, Tavolo Italian Bistro, Toni's Flowers & Gifts, Tulsa Library Trust, Whole Foods Market, The Wild Fork, Yokozuna and Zoës Kitchen.

Authors' books will be available for purchasing with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the literacy service. Call 918.549.7494 for more information about "Chapters" or to make a reservation.



10-YEAR-OLD SEEKS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OTHERS

Ten-year-old Keith Boyd, CEO of Keith's Ice Cold Lemonade Stand, teamed up with entrepreneurship education resource Thrive15 and local businesses to raise \$250,000 for The Little Light House, a development center for children with special needs. Keith knows better than anyone what it is like to live with physical challenges. He was born with nonverbal cerebral palsy and is unable to use his arms, legs or mouth. The Little Light House provided him with a Tobii EyeMobile that allows him to communicate by using his eyes to type what he wants to say on a screen, which is then verbalized by the tool. In appreciation for the help he received, Keith developed a plan to set up lemonade stands around Tulsa in order to help children at The Little Light House.

Inspired by Keith's story, Arthur Greeno, a local franchised Chick-fil-A Operator and Thrive 15 mentor, enlisted other mentors to help Keith achieve his dream.

Keith's Ice Cold Lemonade Stands will be held each Wednesday until August 20 at 10 Tulsa area business locations between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For donation of any amount, guests will receive a cup of either Chick-fil-A Lemonade or Chick-fil-A Sweet Tea. For donations of \$100 or more, guests will receive a reusable Chick-fil-A cup that they can take to any Tulsa-area Chick-fil-A restaurant through August 20 for unlimited beverage refills.

For more information, visit www.KeithsIceColdLemonade.com.

LEARN ALL THE PERFORMING ARTS IN ONE PLACE
 Ballet • Pointe • Modern • Tap • Jazz • Hip Hop • Tumbling • Pom Singing • Acting • Competitive Dance Team • Musical Instruments

DANCE ACT SING MUSIC

THE DANCE And Performing Arts ACADEMY
 TheDanceAndPerformingArtsAcademy.com

FOR AGES 3 1/2 - ADULT
 918.749.2180
 2021 E. 71st St.
 Zarrow Campus

OPEN HOUSE: AUGUST 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 • 2-4PM

Training tomorrow's leaders today!

- Nurturing, responsive teachers
- Academic curriculum: math, science, phonics, art, and Spanish
- Age-appropriate learning centers in each classroom

Call to enroll your child today!
 (918) 258-0594
 1025 W. Kenosha
 Broken Arrow, OK 74012
 RhemaChildCare.com

BETHANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

- Pre-K-Kindergarten skills
- Low paper/teacher ratio
- Developmentally appropriate
- Flexible child-centered curriculum individualized for your child's interest
- Loving family atmosphere
- After school programs available

NAEYC accredited

EXTRACURRICULARS
 Bethany Religious After School Care
 2:30p-5:30p
 679 S. Sheridan
 918.462.2188
 bethanyreligious@bethany.com
 bethanyreligiousbethany.com

Classes 5a-2:30p • from 2:30p-5:30p

Build a Scholar!
 With Tulsa City-County Library's FREE Online Homework Assistance

HOMEWORK HelpNow!
 POWERED BY BRAINFUSE

- Featuring Live Tutors (2-11 p.m., daily CST)
 Get EXPERT one-to-one subject-specific help for students in grades K-12 ... plus college! Spanish-speaking tutors available too!
- Brainfuse Free App
 Available in App Store or Google Play

Visit TulsaLibrary.org/homeworkhelp and use your Tulsa City-County Library card to access Homework Help Now! Don't have a library card? Apply online at www.tulsaLibrary.org/application and get instant access to Homework Help Now and other online library services.

SPONSORED BY:
 tulsakids | tula LIBRARY TRUST | Tulsa City-County LIBRARY

CAPEs
 capesinc.org

CAPEs Fall Social Skills Classes
 Ages 5 years- 15 years

CAPEs uses an interactive and fun approach to teaching social skills through literacy, discussion, games, and activities. Our classes are designed to help our participants become more confident in social situations, form positive relationships with others, and be better prepared to navigate difficult social situations as they arise.

When thinking about social understanding, it is important to consider three components of the social world:

- Social Cognition (how children view or think about the social world around them)
- Social Skills (skills that allow children to interact with others)
- Social Competence (amount of success when interacting with others)

Participants will attend classes once a week from September 8th - October 30th
 Call 918-747-8282 for additional information and to register
 Deadline August 20th; space is limited