

## LIVING ARTS INVITES YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN ARTCORE

Living Arts is inviting young people in middle school and high school to attend the spring session of ArtCore Studio. ArtCore Studio is a free arts program held at Living Arts, 307 E. Brady in Tulsa.

Classes begin with a brainstorming session on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. followed by studios every Tues. and Thurs., Feb. 25 through April 10, 2014 from 4:30 – 6 p.m.

ArtCore participants study different areas of art, including installation, performance, video art, and music. Each student is encouraged to bring his or her own unique ideas and skills and apply them to the final project. At the end of the classes, the students will have their own presentation in the Living Arts space where they can invite family and friends to view their work.

For more information, email ArtCore Studio Coordinator Mery McNett at [mery@livingarts.org](mailto:mery@livingarts.org).



## 2014 INTERFAITH TRIALOGUE SERIES TO EXPLORE THE CHALLENGE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE

Join local religious leaders and experts as they address the topic “The Challenge of Civil Discourse: Religious Passion, Extremism and the Problem of Perception” at the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice’s 2014 Interfaith Trialogue Series in February.

Sponsored by OCCJ and funded in part by the Tulsa Library Trust’s Alfred E. Aaronson Lecture Series Endowment, the three-part discussion series is scheduled on Sundays, Feb. 2, Feb. 9 and Feb. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. at varying locations.

Dr. Gary Peluso-Verdend, president of Phillips

Theological Seminary, will moderate each session. The programs are free and open to the

public. Donations are welcome.

Session 1, “The Good,” Feb. 2, 2-4 p.m., Peace Academy, 4620 S. Irvington – Kindness. Empathy. Compassion. When religious passion is channeled by a true believer, it can be a powerful contributor to the common good.

Session 2, “The Bad,” Feb. 9, 2-4 p.m., Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, 1301 S. Boston Ave. – There’s a fine line between passion and extremism. That’s where religion becomes angry, triumphant. God loves me more than God loves you.

Session 3, “The Media,” Feb. 16, 2-4 p.m., Congregation B’Nai Emunah, 17th and Peoria – The trouble is that we can’t always see these things clearly. We rely on the media, but it loves a fight. How can we tell what’s true or false?

The Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice is dedicated to achieving respect and understanding for all people through education, advocacy and dialogue.

The Tulsa Library Trust’s Alfred E. Aaronson Lecture Series Endowment was initiated in 1969 on the occasion of Alfred E. Aaronson’s retirement from the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, the Gilcrease Museum Board and the Tulsa Community Relations Commission. Funds collected in his honor were dedicated to bringing authorities to the community to stimulate thought and action in fields where voids exist and offer other points of view.

For more information about the 2014 Interfaith Trialogue Series, visit [www.occjok.org](http://www.occjok.org) or call 918.583.1361.



## MIDWIFE JOINS UTICA PARK CLINIC

Hillcrest HealthCare System announced that Shaun Lesser, APRN-CNM, has joined the Utica Park Clinic office of OB/GYN Corey Babb, DO. Lesser, a midwife, will work closely with Dr. Babb in practicing a natural approach to pregnancy and childbirth by offering alternative options in a hospital setting. Those options include alternative birthing positions, pregnancy education, preconception counseling and aromatherapy.

Lesser earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma and a Masters in Nurse Midwifery from Frontier School of Midwifery & Family Nursing in Hyden, KY. She has worked as a Registered Nurse since 2008, and is a member of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Her office is located at Hillcrest Hospital South, 8803 S. 101st East Ave., Suite 220 in Tulsa.



## HELPING HEARTS

February is Heart month and a Tulsa group is working to raise awareness of congenital heart defects (CHD) during Congenital Heart Defect week, Feb. 7-14. Children born with heart defects often undergo numerous surgeries, and may have developmental delays as well as other difficulties. Families who have a child with CHD need emotional and financial support as they deal with the trauma of CHD.

According to Wayverly Mouse-Evangelista, local leader of the national support group Mended Little Hearts, CHD affects 40,000 births each year and “kills more children than childhood cancer.”

Mended Little Hearts is holding a balloon release at the Children’s Hospital at Saint Francis at noon on Sat., Feb. 8.

“We release red balloons for those that are currently fighting CHD,” Wayverly said, “and yellow for those who have lost their fight with CHD.”

For more information about the balloon drop, CHD or Mended Little Hearts, contact Wayverly Mouse-Evangelista at 918.822.2447 or [mlh.donations@gmail.com](mailto:mlh.donations@gmail.com).

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BY JOHN FANCHER, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

# Jack Gantos awarded 2014 Anne V. Zarrow Award

Newbery Medal-winning author Jack Gantos is the winner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2014 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. He will accept the award at a public presentation at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St., Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. The following morning at 10 a.m., he will present the 2014 Young People's Creative Writing Contest awards at Connor's Cove.

Gantos is being recognized for writing more than 40 books for children, teens and adults, many of which were recognized with distinguished national awards. In 2012, he received the John Newbery Medal for his book *Dead End In Norvelt*. His 2002 memoir, *Hole In My Life*, won Michael L. Printz and Robert F. Sibert honors. He also is widely known for the *Rotten Ralph*, *Jack Henry* and *Joey Pigza* series.

By his own admission, Gantos didn't start out as a voracious reader. When he was 7 years of age, his family moved to Barbados where there was strong emphasis on reading and writing. He recalls the teachers were friendly and made reading fun.

Gantos' family moved to Florida when he was in the sixth grade, where he discovered students were not as interested in his newfound love of books. He



2014 ANNE V. ZARROW AWARD WINNER FOR YOUNG READERS' LITERATURE, JACK GANTOS.

found solace in an abandoned bookmobile, with three flat tires, parked behind the school's baseball field.

As a library helper in school, he would shelve books and dream of having his own book one day among the others in the "G" section. He carried a hardback notebook and wrote his observations, everything from seeing an alligator eat his dog and witnessing a plane crash in his neighborhood to accidentally

breaking his brother's arm. Once every page was full, he titled it "Jack's Black Book," created a fake library call number, included a due-date card and shelved it appropriately in the "G" section.

Weeks went by without so much as a budge, until one day he noticed his book was gone. A month later he found it returned in the book drop box. On the last page he invited the reader to include any thoughts about his stories.

"Whoever wrote this book should seek help," read the inscription.

He did seek help, but not from a doctor, from his English teacher. She taught him how to better organize his thoughts and encouraged him to keep reading more books. Using these two guides, Gantos was on his way to honing the creative writing skills that would guide his career to the best-seller lists.

His career as a professional writer began in 1976 with the publication of *Rotten Ralph*, which he wrote with his illustrator friend, Nicole Rubel. While continuing to publish books at a rapid pace, he also taught creative writing, literature and publishing classes at Emerson College from 1978-96. Gantos also has taught creative writing, literature and other writing-related topics, ranging from introductory classes to graduate-level seminars, at various universities.

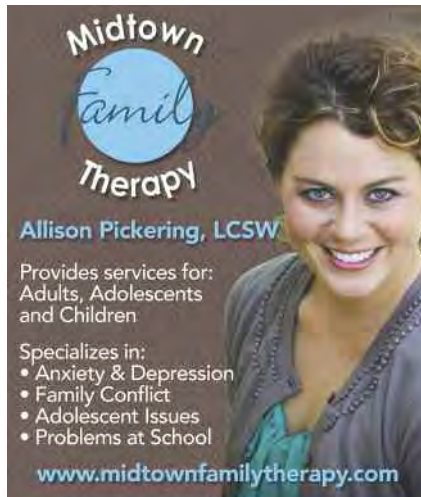
The Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature gives formal recognition, on behalf of the Tulsa County community, to a nationally acclaimed author who has made a significant contribution to the field of literature for young adults. The award, presented by the Tulsa Library Trust, consists of a \$7,500 cash prize and an engraved crystal book. It is presented as the

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culmination of the children's and teen summer reading programs.

Past winners include: Jim Murphy (2013), Jacqueline Woodson (2012), Kathryn Lasky (2011), Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (2010), Christopher Paul Curtis (2009), Louis Sachar (2008), Kate DiCamillo (2007), Sharon Creech (2006), Avi (2005), Susan Cooper (2004), Russell Freedman (2003), Richard Peck (2002), E.L. Konigsburg (2001), Jerry Spinelli (2000), Jane Yolen (1999), Cynthia Voigt (1998), Gary Paulsen (1997), Walter Dean Myers (1996), Lois Lowry (1994), Katherine Paterson (1993), Madeleine L'Engle (1992) and S.E. Hinton (1991).

For more information on the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature or library programming, call the AskUs Hotline, 918.549.7323, or visit the library's website, [www.tulsalibrary.org](http://www.tulsalibrary.org).



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with close friends of the family. His social anxiety was so severe that instead of playing with kids, he would isolate himself. Since Brain Balance, "he has started to make friends rather than me doing it for him," Kathy said, "because now he can reach out and find common interests and start conversations. He wants to be on the basketball team now."

Kathy believes Brain Balance was successful because it is so comprehensive, combining nutrition, daily exercises, music therapy, eye exercises, cross body exercises and academics.

Regardless of the cause of the delay, the good news is that the brain can change. "The research used to say what you have at age 5, is what you've got," Kristen said. "The latest research says the brain actually does change throughout your lifetime. We can employ environmental factors to positively influence how the brain is changing and growing. We expect an average of a two-year functional increase in clients over a three-month period."

Kristen provided a couple examples of what may cause a developmental delay, such as one's genetics. For example, very left-brained parents such as engineers, accountants, and so on,

may have strong left-brained children. Another factor is technology, including too much television, video games, or any screen time, which stimulates the left hemisphere of the brain.

"The national average for screen use for kids is six hours per day," she said. "In the first three years, the right brain should mainly be stimulated. Kids under age 3 should have no exposure to screen time. When you're bored, the right brain has to find out what to do. The right brain has to look around and observe facial expressions, observe people in social settings. Being outside is right-brain stimulating."

Kristen points to a clinical trial incorporating the Brain Balance program. Conducted in Tel Aviv, the results were published on the web-based "Frontiers in Public Health" journal in July 2013. This trial found that 81 percent of control participants who underwent this 12-week hemispheric specific intervention (the Brain Balance program) were considered to yield significant improvement of greater than two years in grade level in all domains except in math and displayed significant improvement in ADD/ADHD-related behaviors.



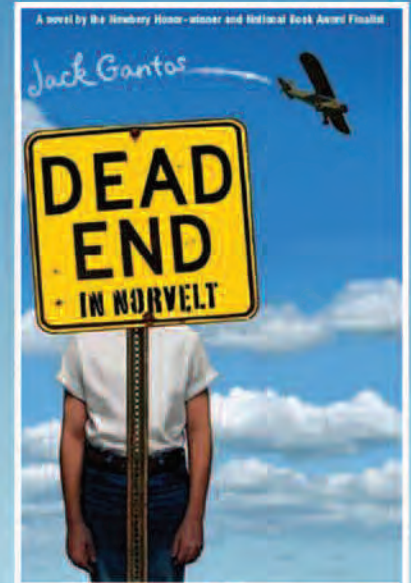
BRAIN BALANCE OWNERS (L TO R) KRISTEN AND DR. ISAAC JOHNSON, D.C.

# Mr. Henry's Books TEACHER WORKSHOP

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- One lucky participant will win a visit by Jack Gantos to his/her classroom on Aug. 22, 2014.



Participants must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County. This workshop is recommended for fourth- through eighth-grade teachers.

Registrations are limited and must be received by Feb. 15, 2014.

Mr. Henry's Books is a program of the Tulsa City-County Library, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, made possible by a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.



## REGISTRATION FORM

**Registration Fee \$10**

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