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## Thanks for the Help: An Editorial

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# Thanks for the Help: An Editorial

**T**he Michigan Reading Association and *Michigan Reading Journal* would like to thank all those that have assisted in the production of the past year's volume of the journal. The members of the Michigan Reading Association accomplished the successful transition of editors because of the spirit of cooperation and teamwork within the organization. When there was a need for reviewers, many of you stepped forward and volunteered your time to ensure that articles were peer-reviewed.

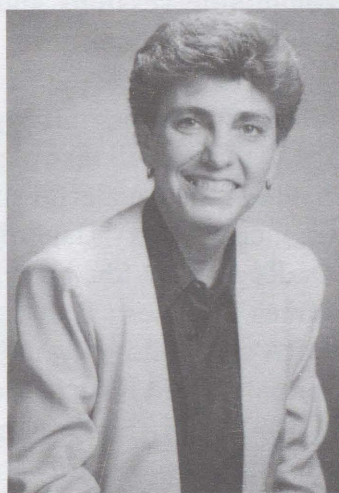
As a new editor, there were so many things to learn. I would like to recognize and thank the following individuals for their contribution to the journal. They shared their time and expertise without a moment of hesitation.

**Evelyn Leaser** – Clark Historical Librarian who helped select pictures for the covers.

**Cheryl Dusty-DeLauro** – Graphics production artist who designed the covers.

**Christopher Bradshaw and Staff** – Printing Services Department at Central Michigan University

And finally, **Greg Goldsmith**, who handles the complete layout of each issue and mentors me in every step of the process. His patience, support, and editorial assistance is deeply appreciated and is one of the reasons for the smooth transition.



**Berak**

## THE COVER

For the past three years, the journal covers focused on a specific theme tracing the history of American reading instruction. The timeline covered the historical period from 1607 until 1925. We know that many people enjoyed this historical perspective. Helen Gill, the previous editor of the journal, initiated the idea and was able to accomplish writing about all but the final two periods before her untimely death. In her honor, we continued this historical journey with Volume 33:2 and Volume 33:3. For further information contact the Nila Banton Smith Historical Collection housed in the Department of Special Collections in the Hofstra University Library at Hempstead, New York.

Future covers of the Michigan Reading Journal will reflect the program poster logo that was used for the conference that was directed by the newly elected president of the Michigan Reading Association. The Michigan Reading Association elected officer, who is president-elect, has the honor of serving as the annual conference chair. One of the many responsibilities of this position is the commissioning of the artwork for the poster that is used to advertise the conference throughout the year and then is used for the program cover. In the past, when the conference was over, the poster was retired to the historical archives. In the future, we will change that practice by using the program poster as the cover for the three journal issues that will be published when the president-elect becomes president. The summer journal issue will feature the summer conference poster.

The cover of this summer 2001 issue is the program logo poster designed for the Summer Literacy Conference. Jennifer Benedict, Senior Graphic Design Artist with Harcourt School Publishers, along with Erin Donovan, Summer Literature Con-



ference Chairperson, created the poster. This year's conference is being held at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in Acme, Michigan, located in the Traverse City area. Registration and hotel reservations forms can be found on pages 8 and 10 respectively. You can also register on line: [www.mraread.org](http://www.mraread.org)

I would invite all of you to consider attending the summer reading conference being held in the Traverse City area. Being a resident of this area, I can attest to its beauty and peaceful atmosphere. It is a perfect place to assimilate

new information and plan for the next school year. See co-editor Karen Edward's Journal article beginning on page 11 for helpful tips she picked up at the annual spring conference. The opportunity to learn helpful hints and share your helpful hints about what works in the classroom is substantially increased while in the company of conference participants.

Erin Donovan, summer conference chairperson, and teacher in Marquette, Michigan, has been busy planning this conference. I asked Erin to share some of her thoughts with you about this conference.

### Message from Erin Donovan: Summer Literacy Conference

**M**y mother was the first to tell me that the only constant in life is change ... and boy, was she right! One big change coming my way –and I hope yours as well – is the change in location for MRA's Summer Literacy Conference, which will be held at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. This new facility offers an exciting range of possibilities with spectacular views of Northern Michigan's natural beauty. Tentative events include a bonfire and beach party, wine and cheese tasting at the Music House, authors' book-signing in the Pavilion and a sunset sail. As always, the conference will also



Donovan

feature excellent presentations, writing circles, roundtable sessions and Sterling Literature Connection's bookstore.

Summer Literacy 2001 "It's still Grand! Glorious Sunsets, Great Authors, Grand Conference" will take place July 25 - 27, 2001. Some of the wonderful speakers we have lined up include Larry Dane Brimner, Carol Crane, Dr. Roger Farr, Shelley Gill, Bernard Most, and James and Lesa Ransome. Be sure to visit MRA's web site [www.mraread.org](http://www.mraread.org) for more information and links to the authors' sites.

The Grand Traverse Resort grounds and surrounding Traverse City area also boast fantastic beaches, terrific shopping, and world class golf courses as well as kid-friendly activities. These amenities create the perfect setting for attendees to build the conference into an end-of-summer family vacation.

I hope you will choose to take advantage of this "Glorious, Great and Grand" opportunity to get together with wonderful people who share your commitment to literacy. See you in beautiful Northern Michigan!



# Michigan Reading Association Publications

## BOOKMARKS

### Content Area Bookmarks

Effective reading strategies at your fingertips - just tuck these information packed cards into your lesson plan book for practical easy-to-use techniques. ©1991, 18 4x11 cards, K-12. **\$6.00**

### Supplemental Strategies Content Area Bookmarks II

More learning and thinking strategies to enhance effective content area teaching. Designed to illustrate how to put current research into instructional practice. ©1998, 16 4x11 cards, K-12. **\$8.00**

### Special!

### Content Area Bookmarks I & II

Set of each of the above strategies. **\$12.00**

### Writing Bookmarks

Ideas for helping students effectively use the writing process to produce both narrative and informational text. By the Michigan Department of Education Early Literacy Committee. ©1998, 27 4x11 cards, K-12. **\$8.00**



## PUBLICATIONS

### A View Inside

Come inside the schools and classrooms of eleven educators as they share their stories. Best practices are shared for first grade classrooms through University teacher education courses. These practices offer classroom-based examples that enable all students to achieve Michigan's ELA content standards. ©1999. **\$12.00**

### Linking - Developing Strategic Readers and Writers in the Primary Classroom

Link your classroom experiences to current research and practice. Based on the work of Regie Routman and Marie Clay, topics include developmental awareness and strategies for reading and writing, plus advice on various types of assessment. By Michigan Reading Recovery Teacher, Stevie Brinkerhoff, ©1993, Revised 1998, 91 pages. **\$10.00**

### New!

### Kaleidoscope 2001

Outstanding student writing to share with your class! This collection of nearly 300 prize winning writings by Michigan's Young Authors can serve as models to motivate your students. Recreated annually. **\$6.00**

### New!

### Writing to Learn Handbooks for Social Studies, Science & Math

These new, teacher-friendly handbooks will prepare students for success on MEAP tests and more importantly, will improve thinking and learning in Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. **\$12.00**

## FLIPCHARTS

### The ABC's of Reading Strategies for Volunteers

A quick "how-to" guide for volunteers and tutors. Designed for the layman, this flipchart offers a variety of ideas to help your volunteers and tutors be more effective and informed. **\$3.00**

### English Language Arts Content Standards and Working Draft Benchmarks

A handy guide to the Michigan English Language Arts Content Standards, adopted by the State Board of Education in July 1995, and the curriculum frameworks which contain the standards. Every teacher should have one in anticipation of MEAP 2001. **\$3.00**

### What Do Parents Want to Know About Early Literacy Programs?

Perfect for parents of young readers! Concise explanations to common questions concerning early literacy programs. Issues covered include components of a quality program, phonics instruction, writing process, and invented spelling along with practice tips on how parents can help their child achieve success in school. By the Michigan Department of Education Early Literacy Committee. ©1997. **\$2.00**

### Teaching Literacy to ESL Students Research and Best Practice.

Designed as a flipchart, research evidence is presented along with implications for classroom application. Areas include the goals of reading, decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, self concept, scaffolds, cooperative grouping, authentic assessment, materials selection, and family support. The Michigan definition of reading, a glossary and an extensive bibliography are also included. ©2000. **\$3.00**

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