



IBBY SA

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IBBY SA Box 847 Howard Place 7450 South Africa

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Books for Africa newsletter email booksforafrica@iafrica.com

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- ✿ IBBY SA is the South African section of **IBBY**.
- ✿ IBBY is the **International Board on Books for Young People**.
- ✿ IBBY SA's area of interest is everything to do with **South African books for children and young people**.
- ✿ If you are a **member** of IBBY SA, you are also a **member** of IBBY.
- ✿ IBBY's **2004 World Congress** was hosted by **IBBY SA in Cape Town**.
- ✿ The **2010 World Congress** will be in **Santiago de Compostela, Spain**

Wamkelekile! Sithemba ukuba uza kuthanda ukufunda eli phepha eli futshane eli neendaba.

Come on in, and enjoy what the newsletter has to offer by way of news and thought-provoking ideas!

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IBBY SA AT THE CAPE TOWN BOOK FAIR 2009

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The excitement at the **IBBY SA** stand at the Cape Town Book Fair from 13 to 16 June 2009 started even before the Fair did!



The reason for that was a spanking brand-new stand of our own, the result of a generous donation from staunch supporter of IBBY and Jella Lepman medallist in 2006 **Mr Hideo Yamada** of the **Yamada Apiculture Center in Japan**.

So, we stood by in wonder as the crew erected the stand. We rather tentatively offered to assist, but the real purpose of our being there at all was to learn how to erect and dis-assemble it ourselves.

We can now use this stand in various configurations for other events. In what felt like no time at all, the stand was up, complete with its kid-size beanbags and lockable seating-&-storing cabinets.



The panels were designed by **Inge Paulsen**, a member of the IBBY SA Exec.



So, it was no surprise, once the Cape Town Book Fair got under way, that everyone coming along our aisle Oohed and Aahed at the beauty of the IBBY SA stand. We had lots of interested visitors, we handed out masses of our brochures and pamphlets (the 2007 **100 Representative South**



African Books for Children and Young People and the 2008 **100 South African Children's Picture Books**),

and we raked in quite a few new members with the lure of a competition with book and book-voucher prizes from generous bookshops and book organisations.



This year we also ran a number of events at the stand, one at 11 a.m. each day and another at

3 p.m. **Lona Gericke** was on hand to tell moms and dads what to read to their infants and early toddlers; while members of the **Praesa** literacy group displayed their **Little Books for Little Hands** series for early readers. Young tween visitors themselves read from my just-launched book **Sonny Jim and His Sister**; **Gary Hirson** did some aspirational exercises with listeners to his new self-published book **The Power That's Ours**; while librarian **Kathy Dennehy** persuaded young readers that it is cool to chill out in the library these days. Author **Patricia Schonstein** read from her prize-winning novel for young adults **Skyline**; and I ran a quiz-game around my **A - Z of African Writers**.

We were really pleased to have the volunteered services of **Marie Rocher** as our publicist for the CTBF. Her help was great in spreading the IBBY SA word, and we had good press coverage, as well as



having our Exec member **Jean Williams** interviewed on **Nancy Richards's Otherwise** show on

SAfm. Marie arranged for IBBY SA to have space on **Ben Williams's BOOK SA website** – thanks, Ben!

In addition, Marie set up a **Facebook Group site for IBBY SA**, so, if you're part of Facebook, look us up! Thanks, Marie, for your help.

If anyone wants to engage Marie's services, here are her details:

Marie Rocher

FREE MEDIA

Marketing Communications & PR

email marie.freemedia@gmail.com

Books. Film & TV. Travel. Lifestyle advertorials articles below-the-line copy corporate communications concept development custom publishing editing events media releases publicity pitches research reviews scripts web copy

So, all went really well for IBBY SA at the Cape Town Book Fair!

NB If anyone would like an emailed copy of the two pamphlets I mention above, please email booksforafrica@iafrica.com and we'll be happy to send them to you.

– **Robin Malan**

Teen challenges

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The British Council's Jane Henshall arranged a panel discussion at the Cape Town Book Fair on issues surrounding writing for teenagers. This was to spotlight

their guest from the UK, Kevin Brooks, author of, among others, *Lucas*, *Black Rabbit Summer* and *Being*. He is also the featured writer in the 'Authorgraph' of the

July 2009 issue of *Books for Keeps*, the British children's book magazine (www.booksforkeeps.co.uk). Never one to shy away from controversy, his latest novel is called *Killing God*.

The discussion was chaired by Jen Crocker, and the panel consisted of Kevin Brooks, Helen Brain (children's book author of, among others, *Fly Cemetery and other juicy stories*), Najma Patel (librarian), Robin Malan (author of, among others, *The Story of Lucky Simelane* and *Sonny Jim and His Sister*) and André Trantraal (one of the writing-drawing team of the graphic novel *Drome Kom Altyd Andersom Uit*).

The following report is the second half of an article in *The Weekender* of 27 June 2009, written by Lauren de Beer under the heading:

Enticing children into the world of books

The challenge in writing for the teen market was presenting them with a gripping story, said writer Robin Malan, who appeared on a panel discussion on the challenges and rewards of writing for teenagers. 'My book *The Sound of New Wings* was the first (South African] gay novel for teens in English, but while it was about a considerable issue, the novel is not issue-driven,' Malan said.

'I don't think teenagers are all that keen on grabbing hold of the issues, they want to

read a story about people.'

Fellow panellist, award-winning British author Kevin Brooks, said young people were more interested than they may be given credit for in the big questions about life and death.

'Sometimes I'm accused of having more questions than answers in my books, but I think looking for answers can be a slightly pointless exercise,' Brooks said. 'I found the journey of looking at those questions interesting.'

He said the difference between adults and children was that 'all adults have been children'. He said writers of teen novels should avoid 'getting down' with the kids - 'you'll only embarrass yourself'.

Librarian Najma Patel said teenagers didn't read 'ugly, old-looking books' and they wanted simplistic language and a plot with a fast pace.

'Kids don't have time,' she said. 'We compete with so many mediums all the time. We need to let teens know the library is a wonderful resource - and it doesn't cost anything.'

Brooks said it was 'important to let kids read whatever they want to read. As long as they enjoy it, that's all that counts.'

ALMA

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Here's the official press release from the **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award**:



World's Biggest Children's Literature Award Presented 2009-06-02 10:20

For immediate release:

World's Biggest Children's Literature Award Presented in Stockholm, Sweden

Tonight June 2 the Tamer Institute for Community Education, working on the West Bank and Gaza, receive the five million SEK (approx 460, 000 EUR) Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The Award is presented by H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.

The Award was instituted in memory of Swedish author Astrid Lindgren, who has written, amongst other children's books, Pippi Longstocking. It is presented for the seventh year and has previously been received by Sonya Hartnett (Australia), Philip Pullman (Great Britain) and Maurice Sendak (USA) amongst others. It honours authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and promoters of reading working in the spirit of Astrid Lindgren.

For interviews and press accreditation contact agnes.lidbeck@alma.se or +46 (0)76 - 540 10 53. For free video footage of Award Ceremony visit www.thenewsmarket.com/alma. For free still photographs visit <http://www.alma.se/en/Press/Press-pictures/2009-Tamer-Institute/>

Tamer Institute for Community Education:

The Tamer Institute for Community Education in Ramallah is an independent organisation that has carried out reading promotion work for children and young people in West Bank and Gaza since 1989. The Tamer Institute was founded to give children access to books and alternative learning as children's and young people's schooling, leisure time and lives suffered from the troubles in the area. They are rewarded for their reading promotion work which is of extraordinary breadth.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award jury reasons:

With perseverance, audacity and resourcefulness, the Tamer Institute has, for two decades, stimulated Palestinian children's and young adults' love of reading - and their creativity. Under difficult circumstances, the Institute carries out reading promotion of an unusual breadth and versatility. In the spirit of Astrid Lindgren, the Tamer Institute acknowledges the power of words and the strength of books, stories and imagination as important keys to self-esteem, tolerance and the courage to face life.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award:

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world's largest prize for children's and young people's literature. The prize totals SEK 5 million and is awarded annually to a single recipient or to several. Authors, illustrators, storytellers and those active in reading promotion may be rewarded. The prize aims to strengthen and increase interest in children's and young people's literature globally. The award is designed to strengthen children's rights at global level. An expert jury names prize-winners who are nominated by institutions and organisations worldwide. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is administered by the Swedish Arts Council.

Pryse

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MER-prys vir geïllustreerde kinderboeke

Siyolo se trui / Siyolo's Jersey deur Mari Grobler
ISBN: 9780624046059/ 9780624046066 • Tafelberg

MER-prys vir jeugliteratuur

Lien se lankstaanskoene deur Derick van der Walt
ISBN: 9780624046684 • Tafelberg

IBBY SA AGM

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This took place on **Thursday 6 August** at Huis der Nederlanden in Pinelands. As there were no elections to be conducted, the business of the meeting was quickly handled. The Chairperson's Report is appended to this newsletter.

Winter BookBash

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This followed directly after the AGM. Storytellers entertained us with a variety of stories, in different moods and styles – and languages.

- Lesley Beake read an extract from *Home of the brave*.
- Xoliswa Guzula told the story of *Inabulele* in isiXhosa, followed by an English summary of the story.

- Reviva Schermbrucker read from the prologue of her autobiography, *Colour-in child*
- Marianne Serfontein read from *Granny Torelli makes soup*.
- Lona Gericke read *Mev. Potjie rol and die katjie*.
- Veronica read *Mucky Moose*.

The readings were co-ordinated and introduced by **Kathy Madlener**, and they were greatly enjoyed.

The Winter BookBash was followed by soup and rolls, expertly prepared and served by **Yvette Couperthwaite**.

A good winter's evening was enjoyed by all.

QuickQuiz Competition

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We had only one entry for the last competition, and it was correct. That's not quite true. Liz Page of Big IBBY in Switzerland also got it right, but of course she's 'family' and so not eligible. Also, I opened the other email before Liz's! Thanks, Liz, for joining in! The question was: 'Which writer for teens is the British Council bringing to the Cape Town Book Fair. The answer was: Kevin Brooks.

And the first right answer came from: **Leone Tiemensma**. I will pass on to her one of the Kevin Brooks novels the British Council gave me to read before I took part in a panel discussion with Kevin Brooks.

This time the competition is a memory-test. Of course, we've covered it in previous newsletters, but just remind us of the year and the venue of the next TWO IBBY World Congresses. In which years and in which cities/towns/places are the next TWO Congresses planned to occur?

To be in line for a book prize, send your answer to booksforafrica@iafrica.com . (Liz, you can't answer this one!) Remember to add your postal address in case you win!

Any Children's Book Publishers out there?

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There's a website called **Publishers Global.com**, which is an international directory of publishers. I checked out their list of Children's Book Publishers in South Africa. They list only Human & Rousseau.

Anyone else interested? Go to: <http://www.publishersglobal.com/directory/publishers-by-subject-and-country.asp>

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Text: **Robin Malan**
Layout & Design: **Inge Paulsen**