Artists for Literacy Support
Library Literacy Services

By Carole Talan
Literacy Consultant, Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

Library literacy services have once again inspired a new group of people to become involved in literacy---musicians and songwriters. Founded and led by motivated and energetic Deborah Pardes, the Songs Inspired by Literature Project (SIBL) is committed to creating a more literate America. SIBL is sweeping the music and entertainment world and leading it into a new partnership with library adult literacy services in California and throughout the nation.

SIBL has launched an awareness and outreach campaign for one of this country’s most critical problems: adults who cannot read or write. A northern California non-profit organization made up of musicians, authors, teachers, and journalists, SIBL’s programs and projects inspire adults who need to improve their literacy skills. It also attracts volunteers and supporters on behalf of many literacy providers who do not have the financial resources or expertise to launch such a massive public awareness campaign. The SIBL Project is currently set up to partner with libraries by supplying them with a world-class CD to use as part of their outreach and to benefit their fundraising campaigns.

How is SIBL helping adults learn to read?

SIBL recognizes that literature profoundly influences most of us, and inspires many musicians to write or record a song based on a book, poem or other piece of literature that has deeply affected them. Deborah Pardes, the founder of SIBL, was so moved herself after reading the heartrending Frank McCourt’s novel Angela’s Ashes that she immediately wrote a song, “The Seventh Step” and recorded it as part of a CD she was producing. When Deborah realized that adults who cannot read are missing much of the richness and life-enhancing stimulation of good literature, she decided to help support adult literacy programs. Public libraries seemed the perfect place to start.

Deborah met with Randy Weaver, literacy services coordinator at her local public library, the San Francisco Public Library, and with Dr. Carole Talan, literacy consultant at the California State Library. Soon they were on their way to Sacramento to convince the State Librarian that SIBL could combine two wonderful arts, music and literature, to bring the importance of literacy to the forefront while also supporting library adult literacy services with publicity and funds. One of SIBL’s favorite quotes appears on its website (www.siblproject.org) and is from vocalist Grace Slick, who said, “Through literacy you can begin to see the universe. Through music you can reach anybody. Between the two there is you, unstoppable.”

Annual Contest and Benefit CD

SIBL will sponsor songwriting competitions each year and produce a CD of music inspired by literature. March 2002 marks the release of “The SIBL Project - Chapter One” and features songs inspired by literature (SIBLs) written by world class musical artists Bruce Springsteen, Suzanne
Vega, Ray Manzarek, Grace Slick, and Aimee Mann. It also includes 10 winning songs from SIBL’s first international songwriting competition held this past summer. Over 350 songwriters entered from 38 states and 10 countries. Concerts are planned this year to promote the CD and will feature the work of authors and musicians on stage together. This will be their first annual benefit CD to raise awareness and funds for library adult literacy services to teach adults basic reading and writing skills for free.

As proof of the value of the SIBL Project, a doctor in Massachusetts recently sent the project the following e-mail: “After hearing about your project and thinking more about the difficulty [faced by adults who cannot read], I found myself more responsive to a local appeal for a contribution to the Massachusetts adult literacy project.”

Deborah Pardes’ song, “The Seventh Step,” was recently used in an adult learner’s workshop at Santa Clara County Public Library’s adult literacy services in the local jail. Men between the ages of 19 and 42 heard the song and began talking about it with their tutors. The song peaked their interest, their connection to literature, and their own relationship to poverty and parental abandonment. They’ve gone on to read Angela’s Ashes and to explore further connections between literature and their own personal experiences, something that none of them had ever done before.

**How Can Libraries and Their Literacy Programs Raise Funds and Awareness with SIBL?**

The success of this campaign relies heavily on partnerships. Book Sense, a national coalition of 1,250 independent bookstores, has signed on as a distribution partner. CDBaby.com has signed on to fulfill all Internet orders through the SIBL Project’s website. But the most significant partners for distribution are libraries and their literacy services. Through this unique partnership, SIBL sells the CD in packs of 16 for $5 per CD. The library sells the CDs for $15 with proceeds going directly to their literacy services.

The SIBL Project has many promotional partners including the Library of Congress Center for the Book. On March 18 at their Reading Promotion Partners meeting in Washington, DC, Deborah will be presenting the opportunities and agenda of The SIBL Project. A special launch of Chapter One will be held at the San Francisco Center for the Book on March 12, 2002. San Francisco Bay Area library literacy programs are invited to attend for free, but the general public will pay $20 for admittance. There will be lots of music, song, food, fun, and a great celebration of adult literacy. All are invited; for more details see www.siblproject.org/party.html.

**Organization**

The SIBL Project brings together a diverse and dedicated community of musicians, producers, authors, teachers, students and journalists. It is the mingling of all their work that inspired The SIBL Project. SIBL is a private, non-profit with 501(c) 3 status. An outstanding group of music and literacy greats serve on the project’s advisory board. Project Coordinator Deborah Pardes says donations are welcome and tax deductible.

Ms. Pardes also indicated that she and SIBL are especially thankful for the vision and conviction of its first funding partner, the California State Library. Recognizing that SIBL offers a unique opportunity to increase public awareness and provide additional financial support for local library literacy services, California State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr committed funds from the Library Services and Technology Act as seed money to begin the project. This project is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

SIBL’s motto is: *Inspire someone to read- even if it’s YOU!*

To learn more about the SIBL Project, visit their website at www.siblproject.org. You can learn more about participating in the project’s fundraising program by viewing www.siblproject.org/programs.html on the website, which helps explain the mission of the SIBL Project. For further information, contact Deborah Pardes, coordinator for the SIBL Project, at (415) 553-3330, or by email to sibl@mentalmusic.com; or contact Carole Talan at (916) 653-8032, or by email to ctalan@library.ca.gov.

![SIBL Project](image-url)
James Dawe steps down as LoC board president

By Christopher Berger
Resource Sharing Specialist, Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

Now that James Dawe has stepped down as Library of California board president, he can look back at his term knowing that he made a difference when the Library of California (LoC) began as a library networking and resource sharing program.

An expansion of the California Library Services Act (CLSA) in effect since 1978, the Library of California Act, passed in September 1998, broadened library networking and resource sharing beyond just public libraries. Now college and university, school, and special libraries have become part of this new and flexible blueprint for Californians to obtain the information they want from any library participating in the LoC.

Mr. Dawe was first appointed to the California Library Services Board on June 6, 1994, and he served as vice president of that board during 1998. Elected president of the LoC board when LoC funding began in January 1999, Dawe presided over the board with intelligence and humor during the challenges of the first three years to make the vision of the LoC a reality. When the LoC was first underway, the LoC planning regions, representing libraries located throughout the state, struggled valiantly to seamlessly sew the pieces of their applications together so the LoC board would approve them as regional library networks. Dawe provided solid leadership during this difficult process and celebrated along with other LoC board members, California State Library staff, and librarians when the planning regions became regional library networks in the fall of 2000. He also helped by advocating for additional funding to benefit LoC regional library networks, to keep statewide LoC programs going, and to publicize the LoC. Dawe has indefatigably helped the LoC move forward so that all Californians have the opportunity to obtain the information they need for work, school, or lifelong learning, regardless of the library they choose to use.

Mr. Dawe will continue his involvement with libraries in his own community of San Diego where he was the founding chair of the San Diego Public Library Foundation. His latest project will be to raise $50 million to build new and expanded libraries for the San Diego Public Library.

LoC program moves forward despite downsized budget

By Christopher Berger
Resource Sharing Specialist
Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

The Library of California budget, to borrow from Charles Dickens’ famous phrase, is not facing the best of times, nor the worst of times, either. This seemed to be the conclusion of LoC board members after listening to the effect the Governor’s proposed 15 percent cut will have on local assistance funding for the 2002/2003 fiscal year. This $598,000 cut reduces the amount of money available for statewide and regional network programs and services to around $3.39 million. In the words of State Senator Dede Alpert, who spoke to the board on February 21, 2002, lean budget years require a concentration on the basics. During the Legislative Committee meeting, she spoke about the importance of funding only the “core mission” of the program, and using this time to plan for future efficiencies and expansions in programs and services.

After considering the recommendations of California State Library staff and regional library network representatives, the LoC board approved an LoC program budget model for fiscal year 2002/2003. The model preserves funding for LoC’s statewide programs, keep the base allocation for the regional library networks at $200,000 per network with additional funding provided based on members and their participating libraries, and will lower the withholding percentage for the pilot interlibrary loan program to 35 percent. This action provides the regional library networks with an allocation model on which to base their plans of service for the upcoming year. The LoC board will adopt a final budget in August 2002, once the Governor signs the state budget.
LoC board grapples with budgetary issues at February meeting

Faced with the current downturn in California's economy, the Library of California board made difficult budgetary decisions at its February 20-22 meeting in Sacramento. This was particularly challenging because there was no quorum of board members due to illness and work commitments. Based on the advice of counsel, all board motions will be presented for ratification at the May 2002 board meeting in Sacramento.

In this light, attention focused on LoC regional library networks and statewide LoC programs as they anticipate a $598,000 cut to the LoC program for fiscal year 2002/2003. Discussion centered on maintaining funding so regional library network staff positions and essential library member services would be preserved, even though the funding would be at reduced levels.

Following is a summary of issues the LoC board addressed at the meeting:

1. **Budget and Strategic Planning**

   The board adopted a preliminary statewide programs budget for fiscal year 2002/2003 that funds the Librarians' Index to the Internet (iii), the LoC Periodicals/Serials Database, the Interlibrary Loan Pilot Program, and AMIGOS, but at a reduced funding level totaling $813,345.

   The board also approved a preliminary allocation model and budget for regional library network programs for fiscal year 2002/2003 at $2,576,655, which preserves the $200,000 base allocation to each network and the essential services provided to the member libraries of each regional library network. Final budget action will take place after the Governor signs the 2002/2003 California State Budget.

   The board approved a motion that the regional library networks and the California Library Services Act (CLSA) Systems add a description of planning efforts for transitioning California Library Services Act (CLSA) programs into the LoC in their plans of service for fiscal year 2002/2003. The goal is to complete transition by the 2005/2006 fiscal year, but this date has not been finalized.

   LoC staff will also consult with the regional library networks and cooperative library systems in preparing information about transition issues and options, which will be presented to the board at the May 2002 meeting.

2. **Regional Library Network Development**

   The following libraries were approved as new member and/or participating libraries:

   **Arroyo Seco**
   - **Member Libraries**
     - Alverno High School Library
     - St. Mel School Library

   **Cascade Pacific**
   - **Member Libraries**
     - North State Cooperative Library System
   - **Participating Libraries**
     - Winship Middle School (Eureka City Schools)

   **Gold Coast**
   - **Member Libraries**
     - Dunn School Library
     - Peabody Charter School Library
     - Santa Barbara Graduate Institute Library

   **Heartland**
   - **Member Libraries**
     - California Christian College
     - Cortese Library
     - Dinuba Unified School District
     - Washington Intermediate School Library
     - Fowler Unified School District
     - Sutter Middle School Library

Please see LoC board meeting, page 5
LoC board meeting

Heartland, continued...

Member Libraries
Reedley Community College Library
Selma Unified School District
Selma High School Library
Visalia Unified School District
Golden West High School Library
Redwood High School Library
meeting Whitney High School Library

Tierra del Sol

Member Libraries
Imperial County Free Library
Main Library
Calipatria Branch
Desert Shores Branch
Heber Branch
Holtville Branch
Niland Branch
Ocotillo Branch
Salton City Branch
Westmorland Branch
Loma Linda Academy Library
Murrieta Valley Unified School District
Murrieta Valley High School Library
Palomar Community College District
Palomar College Library

Participating Libraries
Arroyo Valley High School
(San Bernardino City Unified School District)

5. California Library Literacy Service (CLLS) and Families For Literacy (FFL)
The board approved allocating the fiscal year 2002/2003 California Library Literacy Service Act funds to local programs as soon as the final version of the state budget is passed and the funds are available.

The board approved allocating the fiscal year 2002/2003 Families For Literacy funds to an estimated 80 library jurisdictions as soon as the final version of the state budget is passed and the funds are available.

The board approved the Legislative Committee's recommendation to preserve the CPSLA and the budgetary line item supporting its funding in order to maintain strong public school library services.

3. LoC Multitype Pilot Loan Program
The board approved increasing the withholding amount from 30 percent to 50 percent for all LoC-funded loan compensations for the third and fourth quarters of the 2001/2002 fiscal year.

4. CLSA Interlibrary Loan, Universal Borrowing, Equal Access Programs
The board approved increasing the withholding amount for CLSA Interlibrary Loan and Direct Loan payments from 5 percent to 15 percent for the third and fourth quarters of the 2001/2002 fiscal year.
California Libraries plan for five more years of LSTA

By Liz Gibson
Assistant Bureau Chief, Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

and

Rhea J. Rubin
Consultant
Oakland, California

State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr has called Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, appropriated by the U.S. Congress and the President, "the venture capital of California libraries.” Without this boost of funding from the federal government, libraries would not be able to experiment with enhanced technologies, develop new and more responsive services for people who have difficulty using existing library services, or test new ideas for greater efficiency in ongoing library services and operations.

LSTA is a state-based program, meaning that each state’s libraries are encouraged, individually, to shape their LSTA program and plans to meet their unique needs. To guide this program the federal government, through its federal administrative agency, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), requires only that each state:

- develop and file a new, state-based and stakeholder-defined plan every five years;
- provide a formal evaluation of the state’s implementation of the plan and how the funding provided directly impacts the state’s people; and
- implement programs and processes that focus the state plan on outcomes for the end users of the efforts supported by these funds.

This article is the first in a four-part series in Connection to describe California’s efforts to fulfill these three requirements, and to ensure that all types of libraries in the state know about their opportunities to affect and utilize the plan and the $15.8 million in federal funding provided to California’s 8,000 libraries to support their experiments, tests, and potential new "ventures.” The companion article in this Connection issue, Let's See Your LSTA ‘Success Stories, provides information on where to go to see what LSTA has already accomplished in its first five years (1997/98-2001/2002) and on how to simply and quickly share with everyone, including our Congressional representatives, your own success stories from your LSTA projects.

Since 2000, the California State Library (CSL) has been spearheading an effort to help California libraries develop our state’s five year LSTA plan for the period 2002/2003-2006/2007. This effort is multi-pronged, as described below. Succeeding Connection issues will describe the processes used in each step, how California libraries can participate, and the results of the efforts at each step.

Environmental Scan

In fall 2000, the Library Development Services (LDS) Bureau of the California State Library commissioned an environmental scan to identify key thematic issues for the following five to ten years, including consideration of societal problems, technology, the underserved and the role of libraries in future responses to these issues. This research, the results of which will be detailed in the next Connection article on this planning process, will assist LDS in assessing the current five-year plan and in developing the next one.

Planning Process Oversight

LDS designated an internal Planning Group of its professional staff to guide the next steps of the multi-year process. In addition, an LSTA Plan Advisory Committee of librarians, trustees, and Library of California board members was convened to work with the staff Planning Group. LDS selected the members to represent varying types and sizes of libraries, different regions of the state, and a mix of rural/urban areas. These members are: Anne Bernardo, Tulare County Law Library; Barbara Custen, Metropolitan Cooperative Library System; Erika DeMille, Mendocino County Library; Karen Dyer, California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners Trustee; Ellie Goldstein-Erickson, Berkeley High School Library; Brain Schottlaender, University of California San Diego Library; Albert Tovar, Azusa City Library; and Sally Tuttle, Library of California Board/Friend. CSL hired a planning and evaluation consultant, Rhea Rubin, to facilitate the planning process and to develop ways to integrate outcomes supported by these funds into the future work of LDS.

Mission Statement

The full LDS professional staff wrote a draft mission statement based on California state law and other relevant documents. The LSTA Planning Advisory Committee revised it in December 2001, and the LDS consultants will again review the draft after results of the needs assessment (discussed below) have been analyzed.

Evaluation of First Five Year LSTA Plan

At the end of 2001, a two-part evaluation of the current LSTA plan began. This evaluation process and its results will be described in a subsequent issue of Connection after preliminary reports have been received and analyzed. The report is due at IMLS in April 2002.

Needs Assessment

In January 2002, the CSL did a statewide needs assessment to determine the relevance of the issues and remedies
Let’s see your LSTA ‘Success Stories’

By Christopher Berger
Resource Sharing Specialist, Library Development Services Bureau
California State Library

A truck driver with American Indian ancestry wanted to put a copy of his tribal logo on his truck. Through LSTA funding, the Colusa County Free Library had the Internet capability to search and find his sub-group, and the library staff located the logo on a license plate site, enlarged it, and got it to him.

Working together with the San Rafael Public Library, the Marin County Free Library served 56 isolated, low literacy adults through a radio distance learning project that broadcast bilingual radio programs to West Marin Hispanic residents working and living on dairy ranches. Participants rated their ability in such life skills as purchasing a car and handling household emergencies as improving between 49 percent and 73 percent, and twenty of them (36%) enrolled in the Library Literacy service to enable them to continue to learn.

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) has been in effect for five years (since 1997/98) and is currently being considered for re-authorization by Congress. To document the LSTA program’s effectiveness, the Washington Office of the American Library Association (ALA) has been gathering “LSTA Success Stories” such as the two California public library stories described above. These stories, and ones from other states, are now available on their website at www.ala.org/washoff/lsta.html. California’s stories can be found by clicking on the postage stamp-sized image of the state flag and then clicking on the red rectangular box that links to the ALA’s Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) website. “Success Story” summaries, complete summaries, and LSTA projects by Congressional District number are easily found.

Libraries that have received LSTA grant funds are strongly encouraged to submit “Success Stories” to the ALA website. These stories should include the following information:

- Year of the story;
- Name of the LSTA grant;
- Where the story took place (i.e., name of library, name of branch [if appropriate], city where the story took place, 9-digit zip code of the library where the story took place);
- 150-200 word description of the story written in paragraph form (and without bullets, columns, or special indentation);
- Contact at the library (contact name, library name, email address, telephone number, Fax number).

Stories should be sent as soon as possible to the California State Library. They can be sent in one of the following ways: by email, fax, or mail. No matter which way they are sent, they should be addressed to Barbara Will, library consultant at CSL. E-mail stories to bwill@library.ca.gov, fax them to (916) 653-8443, and mail to Barbara Will, Library Development Services Bureau, California State Library, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001. For further information about “LSTA Success Stories,” contact Barbara Will (telephone (916) 653-7071).

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identified in the environmental scan to California library directors and trustees, and to determine ways that CSL could best use LSTA funds to satisfy local needs. The design, implementation and results of this needs assessment will be detailed in next month’s Connection, after Ms. Rubin has analyzed and synthesized the results.

Drafting the New Five Year LSTA Plan

The internal LDS LSTA Planning Group drafted state-level goals based on the national LSTA goals and the LDS mission statement in November 2001. The LSTA Planning Advisory Committee discussed them, and they were subsequently approved by the full LDS professional staff in December 2001 with the understanding that the draft would be revisited after the First Plan evaluation and needs assessment results are available. The next step is for the full LDS professional staff to revise the goals and draft program priorities for 2003-2007. These goals and priorities will come from discussion of the evaluation and needs assessment results as well as a discussion of many other needs assessment documents LDS developed during the past five years. Once goals and priorities are set, the actual plan itself will be drafted and forwarded for approval by the LSTA Planning Group in May 2002.

Finalizing the Plan

The draft plan will be submitted to the LSTA Planning Advisory Committee and to the full LDS professional staff for comments. It will be revised accordingly and then sent to the LSTA Advisory Council and the California library community for comments in June 2002. After the draft is again revised (if necessary) and approved by the full LDS professional staff, it will again be sent for review to the LSTA Advisory Council and, then, on to the State Librarian for approval. The plan will then be submitted to IMLS by July 31, 2002.

If you want more information about the California Libraries Plan for 2003-2007, contact Liz Gibson, at (916) 653-6752, or by email to lgibson@library.ca.gov.
The Office of Library Construction completes workshops

The Office of Library Construction (OLC) recently held 20 workshops around the State of California entitled “How to Apply for a Library Bond Act Grant.” Over 400 interested parties attended the workshops. The participants, who came from all walks of life, included library directors, staff, Friends, Trustees, Mayors, City Council members, City and County staff, architects, and library consultants.

Apparently participants felt the workshops were of value since OLC staff received an overall rating of 4.6 out of 5.0 mid-way between “Outstanding” and “Very Good.” The workshop covered all of the essential information necessary to make an application for Library Bond Act funds. The Power Point presentation used during the workshops is available on the OLC website at http://www.olc.library.ca.gov/workshops/.

The workshops will be offered again next fall, well ahead of the second cycle application deadline, which is March 28, 2003. The OLC is exploring the possibility of conducting at least one workshop next fall by videoconference as well as subsequently providing access to an archived, taped version of the workshop on the OLC website so that individuals may view the workshop in modules at their convenience.

Currently, OLC staff is actively involved in answering the many questions that applicants had during and after the workshops. The “News Flash” e-mail alert system will be used to respond to those questions that have broad application. To subscribe to the e-mail alert system, visit the OLC website at http://www.olc.library.ca.gov/4. Individuals with additional questions are encouraged to use the “Staff Contacts by Activity” list available at on the OLC website at http://www.olc.library.ca.gov/.
Provider: InfoPeople
Course: The Reference Interview: Asking All the Right Questions
Dates and locations:
Thursday, March 14, 2002
Shasta County Library
Tuesday, March 19, 2002
San Diego County Library Headquarters
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/69

Provider: InfoPeople
Course: Using Libris Design to Create Your Library Building Program
Dates and locations:
Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2 and 3
Pasadena City College
Shatford Library Computer Lab
Thursday and Friday, April 11 and 12
San Francisco Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/43

Provider: InfoPeople
Course: Licensing Electronic Resources: Navigating and Negotiating in a Shifting Licensing Landscape
Dates and locations:
Friday, March 15, Belvedere-Tiburon Public Library
Friday, April 12, Cerritos Public Library
Friday, May 10, Arcadia Public Library
Friday, May 24, Sacramento County Office of Education
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/71

Provider: InfoPeople
Course: Library Cheat Sheets, Guides and Manuals: How to Create Effective Instructional Materials
Date and location:
Monday, April 22, San Francisco Public Library
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/62

Provider: InfoPeople
Course: Designing Accessible Websites
Dates and locations:
Tuesday, March 5, San Francisco Public Library
Monday, March 25, Los Angeles Public Library
Thursday, April 11, San Jose Public Library
Tuesday, April 30, Sacramento County Office of Education
http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/74

Provider: Information Management Corporation (OCLC)
Course: MARC21 Holdings Format/Serials Format (2 day)
Dates and location:
Wed-Thur, March 27-28
OCLC Western Service Center, Ontario
http://www.oclc.org/western/training/marc_holdings.htm
March

March 13-16, 2002
Public Library Association (PLA) National Conference, Phoenix

April

April 14-20, 2002
National Library Week

May

May 17-23, 2002
Medical Library Association (MLA) annual meeting, Dallas, Texas

May 29-30, 2002
Library of California board meeting, Sacramento

June

June 8-13, 2002
Special Library Association (SLA) Annual Conference, Los Angeles

June 13-20, 2002
American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Atlanta

June 14, 2002
Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant applications for fiscal year 2002/2003 are due at 4:30 p.m. at the Library Development Services bureau of the California State Library. No faxed or postmarked grant applications will be accepted.

July

July 20-24, 2002
American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Annual Meeting and Conference, Orlando, Florida

August

August 14-15, 2002
Library of California board meeting, Sacramento

November

November 14-15, 2002
Library of California board meeting, Sacramento

November 15-18, 2002
California Library Association (CLA), Annual Conference, Sacramento

2003

April

April 10-13, 2003
Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), 11th National Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina

Articles for inclusion in a future issue of the Connection are welcomed. Please submit articles or suggestions to the Connection editor, Sarah Dalton.