

**Your membership includes...**

- Free CCRA events
- Subscription to California Reader & Spotlight Publications
- College credit for up to 8 units @ \$80 per unit per year
- Discounted CRA Conference
- CCRA Newsletters
- Free CRA Webinars for units
- All for only \$40!

**Community Efforts: Summer Slide Prevention Project Postponed until May 2022**



**Special! Renew on time for only \$25 until March 2022 through CRA!**

Mail \$40 check to Lynn Gurnee 86 Esparito Ave. Fremont Ca 94539 or pay through Zelle or Paypal through Lynn 510-449-1988

# CCRA Communiqué Winter 2022

Register at CRA:  
[californiareading.org](http://californiareading.org)

Or [contracostareading.org](http://contracostareading.org)

The Best Professional Deal in Town: CCRA events are totally free for members!

**Questions? Email President Lynn Gurnee [lynn@gurnee.org](mailto:lynn@gurnee.org)**

## President's Pen



Tiffany

Papageorge, author & grief counselor spoke at our Zoom kick off meeting September 2021. **Seven teachers got a free signed copy of *My Yellow Balloon*.** We helped 12 teachers attend the powerful CRA Conference. We gave a teacher \$100 so that her grade level could have an author visit & buy a grade level set of his books to share. **Author/Singer John Farrell joins us in 2022. Earn a semester unit for attending 3 free CCRA webinars!**

## We love our members!!

President Lynn Gurnee, VP Tamra Mansapit, Secretary Kryssie Mingst, Karen Yee, Christy Condrin, Cara Sawyer, Joni Smith, Nicole Matthew & Jacque Young.

For more info. and updates:  
[www.contracostareading.org](http://www.contracostareading.org)

## Save these 2022 dates!

**January 13 Lori Oczkus CRA**  
**Jan. 27 *Shifting the Balance***  
**February 10 CYRM Talk CCRA**  
**March 24 Mary Howard CRA**  
**April 14 Book Talk CCRA**  
**May 19 Free Book Talk CCRA**  
**June 30 Units due to UOP**

Do a Zoom book talk and/or blog on FB on *Conferring with Readers: Supporting each Student's Growth and Independence* by Jen Serravello for 2 more units totaling up to 8! Units transfer to all districts. **Want Jen's book free? First to bring in a new member gets it!**

## Leadership Opportunity For Educators

### Join the CCRA Board!

- Build leadership capacity
- Share expertise and ideas
- Collaborate across districts
- Strengthen your resume
- Attend CRA PDI for free!
- CCRA Membership Free!



## Reflections of a Retired Teacher by Joan E. Masaryk

My teaching career began in 1966 in San Francisco's Chinatown. My fond memory of my sixth grade class of 41 students is that Heather Fong became Chief of Police for San Francisco. Even then Heather stood out as a leader.

My teaching career ended in 2004 in Hayward, California. It began with the Chinese Community and ended working with the Hispanic and Black Community. What I treasure is the diversity of America that was an integral part of it.

We are all more the same than different. We are the same in wanting opportunity and happiness for our families. The difference in language, music, dance, art and beliefs makes for a colorful mosaic of wealth. I continue to volunteer in

elementary classrooms. Much has changed with the growth of technology. I ask myself what worked in 1966 that still works today. I share those thoughts with you.

**Difficult student:** Choose one thing for focus. Share with the student the goal or behavior to be implemented. Provide positive reinforcement by responding, "I know you can be a good listener instead of saying, "Stop talking."

**Participation:** Cooperative Learning engages students. Students think about a response, share with a partner while teacher observes, and engages the whole class. Calling on hands-only involves one or two students and often the same students.

**Reciprocal Strategies:** predict, question, clarify and summarize provide for intense comprehension. Connecting what is read with another book, a world event, or to self is also a very effective way to foster comprehension.

**Writing Strategies:** Students need to articulate the writing process: brainstorm first draft, revise, edit, publish and indicate where they are in the writing process. The six traits plus one are effective stepping stones to use in revising a student's writing. (ideas, voice, word choice, structure, fluency, conventions & organization).

The six traits are more effectively used when students study the literature during read alouds and independent reading. By keeping a journal of the way stories begin and end, favorite word choice and voice is so effective.

For ESL, talking out what you are going to write is helpful.

Teacher: "Think about what you are going to write. Tell your partner what you are going to write. Now write." After the students have finished writing they review their writing with a partner. Use these procedures sentence by sentence or paragraph by paragraph depending on the language acquisition needs of students.

**Spelling:** Influenced by Cunningham and Bear, I found the following procedures most helpful in promoting spelling: Frequent use of word walls, sorting spelling words by endings, roots or patterns, personal spelling dictionary of needed high frequency words or specialized words.

**Teaching Procedures:** Tell the students what strategy, goal, objective they will learn. *Today we will learn how to clarify when we read.*

- Tell students why this strategy, goal, objective is necessary. *Good readers clarify when they read to help them understand what they read.*
- Teacher models how to use the strategy, goal, objective. Clarify by noticing... "There are a lot of quotation marks in this reading. These marks indicate someone is speaking. We will clarify who is speaking as we read."
- Have the students practice the strategy, goal, objective while the teacher observes and intervenes. Have the students articulate in pairs what the strategy, goal, objective was, when they used it & how to use it.

**Unexpected Time:** If the prep teacher's absent and you have your class for an extra period, gather favorite books and give each student a book. They read for 5 minutes and then pass the book to the student behind

them or beside them. (Decide which rotation method is best for your class.) Since the book is only read for 5 minutes it probably will not be completed unless you have a first grade or younger group. For a young group, alphabet books work very well.

A concluding activity is called Whip. Each student gives a 30 second summary of their favorite book.

**Motivation:** There are so many challenges to teaching today: massive testing, violence, tons of paperwork, constant new technology, virtual learning. I tried to always remember I was there for the child. Some days when the pressures were so great, I would say to myself, find a child who needs a smile. Find a child who needs an encouraging word. In these demanding times, if you are not there for the child who will be?

**Support:** Support is vital for effective teaching. I tried to surround myself with teachers who had greater competence and experience than myself. This forced me to teach to my optimum potential.

I stayed active in the local reading association. This enabled me to stay abreast of the latest research and be in contact with the experts in the field. So after 55 years since I first started teaching and now as a volunteer in the classroom, I share with you my thoughts. I will always be grateful for the teachers in my life.

**Thanks for reading our newsletter.** Joan is a good friend & teacher. Know plenty of this info. is familiar. Still hope it inspires you! Looking forward to hearing your thoughts on it on our FB page or email me: lynn@gurnee.org.