

Boikie (and Missie)... you better believe it!

JAY HEALE

Congress organiser / Honorary
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The (expanded) title of Dianne Stewart's award-winning youth novel gives you due warning of the coming of the 29th IBBY World Congress to Cape Town in September 2004. Why such advance warning? Because, if you want to attend as a delegate, the deadline for registration is 30 April 2004.

You don't have to be a member of anything: just fill in the registration form available from the SACBF at PO Box 847, Howard Place 7450 or telephone (021) 532 0555.

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is the world body on children's books and their biennial Congress is the top



international event on youth literature. September 2004 will be the first time it has ever been hosted in Africa. So you - and your children - surely would want to share in the excitement? The theme: *Books for Africa*.

What's going to happen?

- Minister Kader Asmal has given his approval for the South African Children's Book Forum to call the week of the IBBY Congress *South African Children's Book Week*. Diarize it now: 5-11 September 2004. We want every child in South Africa to experience a week filled with stories and books.

The Masifunde Sonke project of the Department of Education will, during this time, be distributing activity kits.

- At exactly 10 am on Tuesday 7 September, our famous storyteller

Gcina Mhlophe will tell a story to the delegates at the IBBY Congress. At that same moment we want every child in South Africa to be listening to a story - either told or read. Link up with your local primary schools and make sure it happens! We're calling it a Universal Storytelling Moment.

- Authors and illustrators likely to be present will include Katherine Paterson (**Bridge to Terabithia**, **The great Gilly Hopkins**), Avi (whose 50th book **Crispin: the cross of lead** won the latest Newbery Medal), Beverley Naidoo (**Journey to Jo'burg**), Pat Hutchins (**Rosie's walk**), Elizabeth Laird (**The garbage king**) and from South Africa: Niki Daly, Lesley Beake, Piet Grobler, Dianne Hofmeyr, Gcina Mhlophe, Marjorie van Heerden and hosts of others.
- Three full days of conference activities at the Baxter Theatre Centre on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- To kick off the IBBY Congress, a gala opening at the Artscape Opera House on the Sunday evening which will include the presentation of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2004 - the top world medals for children's writing and illustrating. (South Africa's nominations are Lesley Beake and Niki Daly)
- To round it all off, visits to schools and libraries around the Cape on the Thursday, and the closing ceremony and farewell dinner in Somerset West. Don't you want to be there?

How to take part

An international conference doesn't come cheap - sorry!

- Option one: Put in for a week's leave, start saving now and pay your full registration of R2 500 before 30 April 2004. That takes you to all the social events, the conference, the lot. (You're lucky. Delegates from America or Europe pay R4 250.)
- Option two: Choose to attend only the conference part at the Baxter. Budget registration costs R1 200 and includes refreshments and lunch for the three days, with the Welcome Kit and other goodies thrown in. Just no evening parties.
- Option three: Help us for half a day as a volunteer and we'll let you stay at the Congress for the other half day for free. You'll need to arrange your own transport. Mary Lister is in charge of the volunteer roster: contact her at <ibby@mickle.wcape.school.za> or (021) 671 1443. Most volunteers will help at the Baxter but we have other ideas too, like a helpdesk at the airport and guiding people to the right buses.

A week to remember

South African Children's Book Week 2004 will echo round as many schools and libraries in the Western Cape as we can manage to involve. In addition, the public will be able to visit several exhibitions. At the Centre for the Book there will be a double display from the National English Literary Museum (NELM) in Grahamstown and the Afrikaanse Letterkundige Museum (NALN) in Bloemfontein. The National Library will mount an exhibition of Historical South African Children's Books. We are planning displays of Dutch and German children's books in other venues. And our own *One hundred selected South African children's books* (in all languages) will be at the



IBBY Congress and in branches of Exclusive Books all over the country.

Any assistance which you - all of you - can offer in passing this information on to local radio stations, community newspapers, magazines, graffiti artists, directors of education, television talk show hosts, tour group operators, celebrity chefs, pop stars, et cetera, will be welcomed. We want one solid week in which nobody in the Cape Town area can go anywhere without being aware of the delight of bringing good books and children together.

Details of the 29th IBBY World Congress are constantly being updated on our web page: www.sacbf.org.za and the SACBF office is easy to contact at <sacbf@worldonline.co.za> where the JAY Team (initial letters of Jay Heale, Anne Milton and Yvette Couperthwaite) will be glad to attend to your every inquiry. Even if they don't know all the answers!

Gateway to Africa

Coloured lights strung across Adderley Street proclaimed this message for a long time. Everyone connected with the IBBY Congress hopes that this prestigious event will be the gateway through which IBBY comes to Africa in a continuously supportive presence. We have established contacts in twenty-four countries of Africa and we hope to have at least one delegate from each country. Already the registration list includes visitors from Uganda, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Namibia.

This particular IBBY Congress isn't all talk either. For the last three years we have been busy using the glamour of the Congress as a way to raise funds for underprivileged schools. So far, this IBBY Congress has donated seventeen picture-book libraries to needy schools around South Africa, as well as helping the publication of picture-books in minority African languages. Our latest donation was a thousand rands worth of books to New Hearts for Africa, a shelter for street children in Strandfontein. All our donations are handled with the skilled assistance of Biblionef SA.

Getting books to children who have none in their lives is one of our targets. Getting authors and illustrators to children who still consider books as inanimate, soulless objects is another. Once we have a clearer idea of which book creators and children's book people are coming here from around the world, we shall invite schools and libraries to 'Adopt a VIP'. Already the IBBY group from Finland has asked for such a link. You could write to your special person and exchange details of that person's country and South Africa; you could perhaps meet him or her at the airport; you could arrange a short visit to your library and a specially selected group of your keen children.

For your library - and your young readers - to be involved in the excitements of the IBBY Congress 2004, make sure that the Congress office knows you want to do, so, write to Jay Heale at SACBF, PO Box 847, Howard Place 7450 or e-mail him at <sacbf@worldonline.co.za>. You'll be so glad you did!