


enough to meet or work with her personally.

The Note from the Guest Editor's page reads, "It is my pleasure to welcome the voices of these distinguished writers and artists who join us in celebration, remembrance, and freedom, and the spirit of justice." Ten superb short stories (available also on the web in full-page .pdf files) by writers such as Georgina Kleege ("Memory Works Both Ways"), Anita Mathias ("Aliens and Strangers"), and others appear next to 10 poems. These, too, represent the writings of new and or emerging writers. One article, "Odessa's Jews: the End of Assimilation," by Michael R. Katz, includes memo-

ries of a tenacious Jewish community life in Europe that has defied a history of persecution and forced assimilation. Katz's piece reminds the reader of Agosin's own "The Deep Breath of Exile," published in the Summer 1998 issue of *Southwest Review*.

Agosin has chosen splendid pieces for this issue. Readers who embark on any of the selections, be it short story, article, or poem, will be on the way to pleasure by way of reading, mere reading! A great product by a phenomenal guest editor, for a fine, long-standing journal. 

BRIDGES ON THE I-WAY: *Multicultural Resources Online* Young Adult Multicultural Literature Web Sites

By Frank Alan Bruno

When I searched Google and Yahoo I expected to locate many high quality multicultural young adult (YA) literature web sites. In the publishing world, students aged 11-18 in middle/junior high and high school are considered young adults, though the term "teen readers" is often used for the younger end of the age range. To my dismay it was challenging to find even a few comprehensive young adult multicultural supersites. Though I found numerous sites that featured YA literature in general, the majority devoted to YA multicultural literature were for the most part little more than bibliographies or booklists. Since many were linked directly to Amazon.com or bn.com (Barnes and Noble's online bookstore), a possible motivation for their existence could be commissions from book sales generating money for the various organizations providing the bibliographies. The quality of the sites ranged from graphically poor with few or no illustrations to graphically intense with myriad book covers and other illustrations. A few better ones included lesson plans, activities, and critical reviews/essays as well as bibliographies. The purpose of my review is to help teachers, librarians, and students to avoid the frustration I experienced in locating useful information and to find good starting points quickly.

The best one-stop site is the Internet

School Library Media Center (<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/index.html>). On this site under the heading "Young Adult Literature: Middle and Secondary English-Language Arts" there are six major sections: African American History & Literature, Asian American History & Literature, English as a Second Language, Hispanic Resources, Native Americans, and Southern Literature. The African American History & Literature section includes biographies of notable African Americans, history, literature, bibliographies, current events, "Million Man March," "Amistad," Black History Month, periodicals, and lesson plans. The Asian American History & Literature section includes general sites, notable Asian Americans, literature, media, history, arts & entertainment, associations, periodicals, social issues, ERIC resources, Japanese Americans, Chinese Americans, Korean Americans, Hmong Americans, East Indian Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Filipino Americans, and other (such as Malaysians). The English as a Second Language section includes listservs, periodicals, sites for students, professional sites, resources, and bibliographies. The Hispanic Resources section includes literature, biographies, periodicals, history, and Mexican Americans. The Native Americans section includes bibliographies, directories, historical documents & e-texts, author pages, study & teaching, history, general sites,

and periodicals. The Southern Literature section focuses on the literature of the South. Each of these major sections has 6 to 10 valuable ethnic-specific sites. A minor problem with the site is that despite updating on a regular basis, there are still a few broken links. Strong features for all six sections are the up-to-date bibliographies, which contain numerous well chosen titles.

A useful, though somewhat self-promoting, site is Cynthia Leitich Smith's Children's Literature Resources (<http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com>). Smith is of Muscogee/Creek heritage and is an accomplished writer of books for children and teens. Beyond her own writing, she has an interest in multicultural studies and includes two extensive sections, *Multicultural* and *Ethno-Categories*, on her general children's literature site. The *Multicultural* section has 12 links, including one in which Smith offers a best multicultural reading list; an interview with Ginny Moore Kruse of the Cooperative Children's Book Center on the lack of multicultural titles for children and young adults; a study done at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, *Children's Books by and about People of Color Published in the United States*; the early childhood education e-newsletter on culturally responsive curriculum and materials; an article by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese, "Examining Multicultural

Picture Books for the Early Childhood Classroom"; an article by Eliot A. Singer, "Fakelore, Multiculturalism, and the Ethics of Children's Literature"; materials from the South Australian Languages and Multicultural Resource Centre; and Debbie Reese's article, "Thoughts on Not Seeing Oneself."

The most useful part of the *Ethno-Categories* section (<http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/newreading.htm#segregation>) is a series of 14 bibliographies: "General Recommendations," "Texas," "NativeNorthAmericanIndians," "Asian and Asian Americans," "Fantasy andScienceFiction," "InterracialFamilies," "Middle Grade Novels: Changing Times," "Young Adult Books: What Attitude," "YA Horror and Suspense," "Intergenerational," "Wartime," "Cats," "Children's Writers' Reading List," and "Favorite Books from Childhood."

At *The Literary Link* (<http://www.theliterarylink.com>) can be found Historical, Multicultural, and Holocaust sections with several no-frills text-only links. For the most part the site covers informational links to African-American, Latino and Latin American, American Indian, Asian-American, and Holocaust writers. The web surfer should be aware that there is an occasional broken link.

There are a few significant young adult multicultural book awards. For books about Latinos there is the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award (<http://www.education.swt.edu/Rivera/Mainpage.html>) as well as Reforma (National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos) and the Association for Library Service to Children's Pura Belpré Award (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/belpre.html>). For black award winners there are the ALA Social Responsibility Roundtable's Coretta Scott King Award (<http://www.ala.org/srrt/csking/index.html>) and the African Studies Association Africana Children's Book Award (http://www.africanstudies.org/asa_childbook.html). For the Pura Belpré and Coretta Scott King Awards, both authors and illustrators are eligible, and most of the author awards go to books for teen readers. In the case of the Tomás Rivera and Africana Children's Book Awards, there is a specific prize category for

books for older readers. All of these awards recognize honor books as well as award winners. A third award, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) Literary Awards (<http://www.bcala.org/awards/literary.html>), geared to adult books and first-time authors, occasionally includes a book of interest to young adults, such as the 2002 winner *Vernon Can Read* by Vernon Jordan. The Young Adult Library Services Association's Michael L. Printz Award (<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/printz/2000printz.html>) is given for excellence in young adult literature. Two of the winners in its four-year history have been multicultural entries, An Na's *A Step from Heaven* (2002) and Walter Dean Myers's *Monster* (2000).

A nice search utility in finding award-winning multicultural books across all cultures is Lisa A. Bartle's Database of Award-Winning Children's Literature (<http://www.dawcl.com/>). The database, which includes 49 international awards, can be searched by keyword or author/illustrator/translator. Visitors to the site can limit by suggested age of reader, format, genre, setting, historical, multicultural, ethnicity/nationality of protagonist, languages other than English, gender of protagonist, and publication year.

There are a few noteworthy culturally specific sites. An exceptional Hispanic site is Isabel Schon's Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents (<http://www.csusm.edu/csb>). This site can be viewed in either English or Spanish and has an extensive database of recommended books in both languages. This database can be searched by grade level, title, subject, country of publication, publisher, and call number. Amy Goldenberg's "Annotated Bibliography of Children's Literature Focusing on Latino People, History, and Culture" (http://latino.sscnet.ucla.edu/Latino_Bibliography.html) has two long lists, one with educators' resources and one with children's literature sources.

Cynthia Leitich Smith has a set of links to Native American young adult books and short stories (<http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/newnative-litb.htm>). Three good Native American

sites can be found at Oyate (<http://www.oyate.org>), Carol Hurst's Native Americans (<http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/nativeamericans.html>), and at the American Indian Library Association's *I is not for Indian: The Portrayal of Native Americans in Books for Young People* (<http://www.nativeculture.com/lisamitten/aila.html>). These sites contain hard-hitting reviews of books for children and teens about American Indians as well as general guidelines on how to evaluate books, nonprint materials, and school curricula and library programs for accuracy and authenticity. Four general Native American sites with a few young adult citations are Native Web (<http://www.nativeweb.org/bookcenter/books/>), Native American Authors (<http://www.ipl.org/div/natam/>), Storytellers: Native American Authors Online (<http://www.hanksville.org/storytellers/>) and Native American Literature Web Resources (<http://www.library.arizona.edu/library/teams/fah/subpathpages/natamlit/natamlit.shtml>). Native American authors including an occasional young adult one can be found at the Internet Public Library (<http://www.ipl.org/div/natam/>).

African American History & Literature (<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/afroamer.htm>) includes some young adult content. The site also has a more specific African-American Bibliography: Books for Children section (<http://falcon.jmu.edu/%7Eeramseyil/mulafro.htm>). A general African American literature site, African American Literature Book Club (<http://www.aalbc.com/>), includes several young-adult-related materials. Black young adult literature selections can be found at the African American Read-In (<http://oz.plymouth.edu/~jeannie/readin/kidlit.html>). A recommended list of children's and young adult books about Africa is at Africa Access Review of Children's Materials (http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Proceedings_Rev/afrik_access.html).

There are only a few Asian-American young adult literature sites: Asian American Literature for Young Adults: A Bibliography (<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/asian.htm>), the New York Public Library "Celebrate...Asian-Pacific

American Heritage Month" (<http://www.nypl.org/branch/kids/asian/asian.html>), and Children's and Young Adult Books with Asian American Themes (<http://www.cynthialeitich-smith.com/AsianAmerican.htm>).

Multicultural young adult themes are the subject of many articles in *ALAN Review* (<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN>). The Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English publishes this respected source of reviews and articles. Two interesting representative pieces are "Exploring Prejudice in Young Adult Literature through Drama and Role Play" (<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/spring95/Bontempo.html>) and *A Selected Listing of Books by and about People of Color, Volume Two, 1991-1996* (<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/spring98/foulksboyd.html>).

Frank Alan Bruno is director of libraries at Prairie View A & M University near Houston, Texas, and is a board member of COD (Council Committee on Diversity, formerly CCMCCD) of the American Library Association. He is the Internet/ Electronic Products Subject Editor of *MultiCultural Review*. E-mail: bruno@coleman.pvam.edu. 