

# Focus IBBY issue 58.3, 2020

by LIZ PAGE

## A Very Special Press Conference

The Covid-19 pandemic is having an enormous effect on the IBBY schedule in 2020. The thirty-seventh IBBY World Congress, due to be held in Moscow, has been postponed until September 2021, book fairs have been turned into digital events, and many of our projects have been put on hold. The IBBY-Yamada projects that were reported in the previous issue of *Bookbird* have either taken place online or have been postponed to a later date. IBBY has also been innovating! The 2020 Bologna Book Fair press conference was held online. The conference was prerecorded, put together in Basel, and streamed on Monday, May 4. Nearly 3,000 people watched the conference on that day. After the event, each part of the conference was made into mini-clips that can be watched on the IBBY YouTube channel; they are still being viewed.

The winners of the three 2020 IBBY awards were announced at the press conference by the jury presidents.



## IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award 2020

The unanimous choice of the jury for the IBBY-Asahi Award 2020, *Casa Cuna Cuenteros* is a group of passionate volunteers who carry out reading and storytelling activities in a children's hospital in Buenos Aires. This group began to make storybooks available to many children and families, and regular storytelling sessions were held in various areas of the hospital. The stories they told were fun and inspired

the children and adults alike. Soon enough, a change in attitude was noticed, and they saw many were enjoying reading and listening to stories.

Active participation increased at all levels among people coming to the hospital, including the staff. They soon had a collection of books to read from and then even a small library at the hospital. The group has become known for their hard work and successes. They have been invited to provide training and workshops for volunteers as well as offer advice for the setting up of similar programs in other hospitals. The project has seen many heart-warming successes and has touched the lives of many children, teenagers, parents, families, and caregivers. It has also inspired many others to emulate it in other parts of the city and at other hospitals. [www.casacunacuenteros.com](http://www.casacunacuenteros.com)



## IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award 2020

The winners of the 2020 IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award are **Marit Törnqvist** from the Netherlands and **Zhu Yongxin** from China. Marit Törnqvist is a writer and illustrator who has developed reading programs for children that focus

not only on the story but also on the experience of reading and on encouraging children to narrate and illustrate their own stories. Zhu Yongxin is a well-known scholar who has devoted his life to continuous research and activities related to reading promotion, including training and programs for children in rural areas and children with special needs. [www.marittornqvist.nl](http://www.marittornqvist.nl)



### Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2020

The winners of the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award are **Jacqueline Woodson** of the United States as author and **Albertine** of Switzerland as illustrator.

**Jacqueline Woodson** was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1963, and shortly thereafter moved with her mother and siblings to Greenville, South Carolina, where she spent much of her early formative years in the care of her maternal grandparents. At age seven she moved to Brooklyn, New York, where she has since lived. In 2014, her autobiographical work *Brown Girl Dreaming* was the winner of the National Book Award and Coretta Scott King Award; it is also a Newbery Honor book. It is the centerpiece of her oeuvre, depicting her firsthand experiences of how African Americans were treated differently in the North and South, where her own path to becoming a writer is woven in with her life experiences. Woodson was a finalist for the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award and won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2018. After serving as Young People's Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017, she was named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature for 2018-2019. [www.jacquelinewoodson.com](http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com)



Photo Credit: Tiffany A. Bloomfield

**Albertine** was born in 1967 in Dardagny, near Geneva. She studied at the École des arts décoratifs and the École supérieure d'art visuel in Geneva and opened a screen-printing workshop in 1990. She became a press illustrator a year later and in 1996 married the writer Germano Zullo. Their many joint children's publications have received several awards, including the BIB Golden Apple in 1999 for *Marta et la bicyclette* (*Marta and the Bicycle*), Prix Suisse Jeunesse et Médias in 2009, Prix Sorcières in 2011, and New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book in 2012. Her book *Mon tout petit* (*My Little One*; 2015) was selected for the 2016 IBBY Honour List. It also won the 2016 Bologna Ragazzi Award and the Green Island Award at the Nami Island Concours in 2017.



Albertine was a finalist for the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award, and her book *Les Oiseaux* was included in the list of books highlighted by the Andersen jury as an outstanding work. [www.albertine.ch](http://www.albertine.ch)

The 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award finalists are as follows:

*Authors:* **María Cristina Ramos** from Argentina, **Bart Moeyaert** from Belgium, **Marie-Aude Murail** from France, **Farhad Hasanzadeh** from Iran, **Peter Svetina** from Slovenia

*Illustrators:* **Isabelle Arsenault** from Canada, **Seizo Tashima** from Japan, **Sylvia Weve** from the Netherlands, **Iwona Chmielewska** from Poland, **Elena Odriozola** from Spain

A film of the shortlist is available from the IBBY website: HCAA 2020 Shortlist Film. Profiles of all the Hans Christian Andersen Award candidates can also be found on the IBBY website and in the special *Bookbird* issue, vol. 57, no. 4.

In addition to the books of the winners and the shortlist nominees, the Jury created a list of outstanding books from the 2020 nominees that they felt were important enough to merit translation everywhere so that children around the world could read them: **Hans Christian Andersen Jury recommends...** View the books recommended by the HCA Jury in 2020 on the IBBY website: [www.ibby.org/awards-activities/awards](http://www.ibby.org/awards-activities/awards).

### **IBBY-Yamada Projects 2020**

Each year projects are developed by IBBY members and presented to the Executive Committee. The projects selected thus far have included reading promotion programs, establishing libraries in schools and community centers, training teachers and parents in maintaining libraries and storytelling, and workshops for writers, illustrators, and editors of children's books. Because of the current global pandemic, some of these projects have been postponed until a later date, some have been converted into digital projects, and some have already taken place. Please visit the IBBY website for the latest news about these projects. These are the 2020 selected projects:

1. IBBY Argentina: Workshop for the use of books in hospitals, including a writers' workshop, the creation of a small library, and training in bibliotherapy.
2. IBBY Armenia: Reading promotion and workshops in rural areas of Armenia.
3. IBBY Bolivia: *The challenge of reading where there are no books*—using books in schools and creating a library.
4. IBBY Costa Rica: *Los libros violetas*—promoting gender equity in thirty Costa Rican public schools through children's literature.
5. IBBY El Salvador: *Reading Is Marvelous*—developing reading habits and encouraging independent thinking and writing in children.
6. IBBY Indonesia: Workshop on trauma healing for volunteers working in community libraries in volcanic rural regions along the Ring of Fire.
7. IBBY Lebanon: Reading promotion for children with special needs.
8. IBBY Nepal: Developing wordless picturebooks for Nepalese children.
9. IBBY Peru: *Vengan los niños y niñas a pescar historias en el mar de Chorillos / Children come and fish up stories at the sea in Chorillos*—workshops and storytelling for preschool children at the beach.

10. IBBY South Africa: *Book Dash Pan-African Content Creation Workshop*—providing approximately thirty-five creators from across the African continent with the opportunity to collaborate on new African children’s books.
11. IBBY Sri Lanka: *Kathandara Kadalla / Story Nest*—activities and training to revive the art of storytelling in preschools.

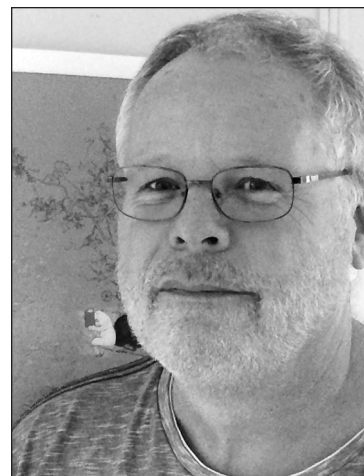
We would like to thank all our members who work on these projects for their perseverance and enthusiasm.

### Two New Honorary Members Announced

Elda Nogueira from Brazil and Toin Duijx from the Netherlands have been named honorary members of IBBY. Honorary membership is bestowed in gratitude and in recognition of outstanding contributions to the development of IBBY.

Nogueira’s work with IBBY Brazil been of great importance, and she has served IBBY International for over twenty years as a passionate advocate of IBBY’s mission. She has been an Executive Committee member, an IBBY Vice President, President of the 2008 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award, and since 2006 has represented the IBBY President on the Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury.

Duijx was secretary and treasurer at the Dutch IBBY section for nearly forty years and was one of the main organizers for the 1996 IBBY Congress in Groningen. His international work includes support of the IBBY sections in Latvia, Uruguay, and Indonesia, as well as his long-standing commitment to the International Youth Library. Duijx also served as a jury member for the 2000 and 2002 Hans Christian Andersen Awards.



### 35 Years of IBBY Bolivia

#### *The Beginning of a Long Way*

It was 1985 when I discovered a magazine about children’s literature called *Alacena*, in which I read a statement that caught my attention. There was an international organization that brought countries together through children’s books and was called IBBY—the International Board on Books for Young People.

There was an address that allowed for possible further information and connection. I wrote and asked for information, and I received all the information I needed to join IBBY.

Bolivia had originally joined IBBY in 1974, but it had lost its membership in 1984, although the section continued to participate in IBBY International events despite its lack of membership.

The writer Hugo Molina Viaña, the President of the section in Bolivia at that time, carried out some significant activities with the Ministry of Education. But on October 30, 1984, he received a letter from the President of IBBY International, Miguel Azaola, informing him that the Executive Committee had met in Cyprus from October 6 to 8. The Executive

Committee had passed a motion to say that member countries that did not pay their dues for two or more years would no longer be listed as members of IBBY, and that Bolivia was among them.

In a letter addressed to me from the Executive Director, Leena Maissen, dated September 27, 1985, I was informed of the acceptance of my request that IBBY Bolivia would operate at the Centro Portales, and I was told the amount of the necessary annual membership dues.

*Love for Children Project and Its Books*

The management of Centro Portales agreed that the Workshop of Pedagogical Experiences that I ran at the institution could take over the IBBY representation. By then, I already had made several forays into children’s literature and attended conferences on the subject; received interested teachers, writers, and illustrators; and even organized meetings and workshops on children’s literature and reading.

Later on, when I stopped working at Centro Portales and due to the lack of institutional interest in IBBY, I decided to take full charge of it, with the support of the Workshop of Pedagogical Experiences. From 1990, we were committed to membership, including paying the annual dues,

and by carrying out activities in favor of children’s literature and according to the international programs disseminated by IBBY.

The first activity was Literacy and Post-Literacy with Children from La Cancha, which was a very ambitious project—a jump in the deep end. From that year on, and without interruption, IBBY Bolivia has worked on behalf of books for children and the promotion and animation of reading, and we have linked up with all the countries in Latin America that have an IBBY section, as well as with IBBY sections around the world. IBBY Bolivia has participated in nearly all the IBBY World Congresses, as well as in the Latin American Congresses.

IBBY Bolivia has published a book to celebrate this achievement, *Proyecto de amor por los niños y sus libros: 35 años del IBBY Bolivia*, with the mission to make known to the world the history of an almost unknown country that, through a group of teachers, decided to share their passion for children’s books and promote reading in our country. We celebrate, in the year 2020, thirty-five years of a fruitful existence!

**Viktor Chizhikov: A Man Whom Everyone Loved**

September 26, 1935 – July 20, 2020

IBBY Russia President Viktor Chizhikov passed away on July 20, 2020. A truly grievous loss.... Viktor was a well-known Soviet and Russian illustrator and People’s Artist of Russia who was dearly loved by readers of all ages, fellow artists, and all those who knew him and his books.



Members of IBBY Bolivia



René Rivera, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities  
Gaby Vallejo Canedo

Viktor created illustrations for children's books since 1960, devoting his whole life to it. Book characters depicted by Chizhikov are instantly recognizable—he shared his kindness, mischief, and optimism with all of them. He smiles at us in each of them: in the Olympic Mishka, Doctor Aybolit, in all the 333 cats, and in hundreds of other unique heroes.

Viktor's first book was *The Secret of the Pram* by Viktor Dragunsky (Malysh, 1960). He transformed a small, hilarious story into an exciting thriller with pirates, a chase, and a shipwreck. This book perfectly illustrated his special talents, with his own aesthetics and outlook for children. Chizhikov deliberately made even the scariest of characters look funny, so as not to frighten little readers.

His first book was followed by *Alya, Klyaksich and the Letter A* by Irina Tokmakova, *Down the Magic River* by Eduard Uspensky, *Toys* by Agniya Barto, *Adventures of Vasia Kurolesov* by Yuri Koval, *Forest Academy* by Sergei Mikhalkov, and *Baba-Yaga's ABC Book* by Andrei Usachev. These and other books are an integral part of Soviet and Russian children's literature today.

Viktor Chizhikov also carried out extensive public work. He was one of the originators of the Russian national section of IBBY, becoming its President in 2009. He was a long and close friend to the Russian State Children's Library (RSCL). The RSCL had become a true second home for him and his characters, regularly hosting exhibitions of his and his friends' and colleagues' work.

Chizhikov was a wonderful man: a brilliant storyteller, a witty, kind, open, sympathetic person. Thank you, dear Victor Alexandrovich, for your drawings, for your stories, and for helping us to look at the world with a kind smile! We love and remember you!

We express our sincere condolences to the family members. Friends and colleagues from IBBY Russia, Russian State Children's Library, Association "Raising Readers".

*Angela Lebedeva*

For more about Viktor Chizhikov, visit <https://ibbycongress2020.org/en/news/223-viktor-chizhikov-a-man-whom-everyone-loved>.



**Liz Page** was born in Britain and moved with her family to Heidelberg, Germany, in 1983. After nearly two years they left Germany and settled in Basel, Switzerland. Through her interest in children and books Liz helped to establish the Intercultural Children's Library in Basel—JUKIBU, which opened in 1990. She was a member of the managing board with responsibility for the day-to-day running of the library for the first years and was elected President of the Intercultural Children's Libraries Association of Switzerland, now called INTERBIBLIO. She joined IBBY as Assistant to the Executive Director in 1997 and in 2009 was appointed Executive Director.

