

# Focus IBBY issue 60.2, 2022

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by LIZ PAGE

## Awards Awards Awards

The Bologna Children's Book Fair is back! The 59th book fair was back as an in-person fair with all the favorite events as well as new ones. With over 1,000 exhibitors from ninety countries, there was plenty to see for the 21,400 visitors. Although smaller than the last in-person fair in 2019, it was great to be there! But the mood was also somber as we thought about those caught up in the war in Ukraine. There was much support for Ukrainians throughout the fair: books were collected for the children and displays of unity abounded—blue and yellow could be seen everywhere.

IBBY was present with a large stand where we could present the 2022 awards: the IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Awards, the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award, and the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award, as well as providing information about Bookbird and other IBBY projects.

The IBBY Press Conference on the afternoon of the opening day was a mixture of pre-recorded and live events. IBBY President Mingzhou Zhang could not travel from China to give the traditional welcome, so he sent a film of his speech, where he thanked all the IBBY sponsors and talked about how IBBY is still relevant, especially today as we are witnessing the current aggression in Ukraine.

*Since the founding of IBBY almost seventy years ago, a lot of effort and progress has been made in terms of children's publishing and literacy. But we have more to do as people become more and more intolerant to other cultures and ideas. This is especially true for children when they are caught up in conflicts and hurt by policies that forget or even ignore them.*



IBBY President Mingzhou Zhang speaking at the IBBY Press Conference from Beijing

Mingzhou also congratulated Elda Nogueira on her IBBY honorary membership. Elda was bestowed with this honor in 2020, but because of the lockdowns and travel restrictions, this was the first possible occasion to congratulate her in person. Toin Duijx was also bestowed in 2020 with honorary membership and received his diploma at a special Friends of IBBY day in the Netherlands in 2021.

The traditional slideshow of IBBY activities is always well received and shows just how much IBBY members around the world are doing to bring children and books together, which is always very impressive. The president of the Bookbird Inc. Board, Valerie Coghlan, also sent a pre-recorded overview of the latest news from *Bookbird*. President of the IBBY Trust, Patsy Aldana, announced a new fundraising appeal to help Ukrainian children who are now refugees in Poland. (fpc.org.pl/)

The 2022 Jury presidents announced the winners of the awards. This year IBBY had five award winners to announce! Sylvia Vardell, the chair of the IBBY Reading Promotion Award Jury, began by announcing:

*The 2022 winner of the IBBY Asahi Reading Promotion Award is the Canadian project Pinnguaqta, a program of Ilitaqsinniq—the Nunavut Literary Council, nominated by IBBY Canada. It is located in the Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, an Inuit hamlet on Hudson Bay that is the second largest settlement in the territory. The Pinnguaqta program is an inclusive and culturally meaningful community-based program focused on early childhood education and family support. It is designed and based on Inuit societal values. They work to support and encourage parents and caregivers in the development of life, literacy, and essential skills in their infant and preschool children in preparation for formalized schooling. The target group of Pinnguaqta is children from birth to six years old, as well as their parents and caregivers.*

Congratulations to Ilitaqsinniq—the Nunavut Literary Council, and to IBBY Canada for their excellent nomination. This project was selected from eighteen nominations made by the IBBY National Sections: *Poesía en la escuela*, Buenos Aires, Argentina; *Fundación Giracuentos*, Santiago de Chile, Chile; *Di Hæslige Sløngers Klup*, Middle Jutland, Denmark; *Albus International Children’s Literature Festival*, Aarhus, Denmark; *DREAM: Dominican Republic Education and Mentoring*, Dominican Republic; *Fundación Abriendo Camino*, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; *Reading Marathon: Ecuador, A Country That Reads*, Quito, Ecuador; *ATD Fourth World’s Street Libraries*, France; *Art of Buna*, Ethiopia; *Parag Multi-State Library Project*, Tata Trusts, India; *The Community Library Project (TCLP)*, New Delhi, India; *Children Cultural Development Centre (CCDC)*, Iran; *De Verhalenweverij*, Flanders, Belgium; *Stichting De Voorlees Express*, Netherlands; *Društvo Bralna značka Slovenije–ZPMS*, Slovenia; *Book Dash*, South Africa; *Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library: The Dollywood Foundation*, USA.

The 2022 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award Jury comprised the following members: Constanza Mekis (Chile), Doris Breitmoser (Germany), Elena Pasoli (Italy), Basarat Kazim (Pakistan), Sophie Hallam (UK), and Sylvia Vardell (USA) as chair.



Every two years IBBY invites National Sections to nominate outstanding individuals who are working to promote the expansion and development of children’s reading. The jury then selects two winners from among all the nominations, looking for individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to exploration, innovation, and a sense of responsibility and dedication to cultivating a love of reading in children. All nominations are judged on sustainability, influence, and dedication to the common good, as well as innovation and inspiration. Jury chair, Sylvia Vardell proceeded to announce the two winners of the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award:



Zohreh Ghaeni on hearing the news at the press conference

*I am very happy to announce our two 2022 winners of the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award. Our first winner, who was nominated by two National Sections, IBBY Canada and IBBY Iran, is **Zohreh Ghaeni**. Our second recipient of the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award is **Jane Kurtz**, nominated by USBBY. Congratulations to both impressive women.*



Jane Kurtz

These worthy winners were selected from fourteen excellent nominees: *Durowaa Amponsah Mensah*, Adenta, nominated by IBBY Ghana; *Ævar Thor Benediktsson*, Reykjavik, nominated by IBBY Iceland; *Kirsten Boie*, Barsbüttel, nominated by IBBY Germany; *Murti Bunanta*, Jakarta, nominated by IBBY Indonesia; *Hugo Waldemar Cubilla*, Buenos Aires, nominated by IBBY Argentina; *Darja Lavrenčič Vrabc*, Ljubljana, nominated by IBBY Slovenia; *Rose-Marie Lindfors*, Skellefteå, nominated by IBBY Sweden; *Mei Zihan*, Shanghai, nominated by IBBY China; *Sathyanarayan Mundayoor*, Arunachal Pradesh, nominated by IBBY India; *Sayyed Nader Musavi*, Tehran, nominated by IBBY Iran; *Michèle Petit*, Paris, nominated by IBBY France; *Slavko Pregl*, Ljubljana, nominated by IBBY Slovenia.

The 2022 IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award Jury comprised the following members: Constanza Mekis (Chile), Doris Breitmöser (Germany), Elena Pasoli (Italy), Basarat Kazim (Pakistan), Sophie Hallam (UK), Wen Li (China), and Sylvia Vardell (USA) as chair.

The final announcements were made by Junko Yokota, president of the 2022 IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury. She began her announcement by saying:

*I am honored to have served with the following members of the jury: Antoine Al Chartouni (Lebanon), Marilar Aleixandre (Spain), Evelyn Arizpe (Mexico/UK), Mariella Bertelli (Canada), Tina Bilban (Slovenia), Viviane Ezratty (France), Jiwone Lee (South Korea), Robin Morrow (Australia), Jaana Pesonen (Finland), and Cecilia Repetti (Argentina). Liz Page acted as Jury secretary. The jury*



*accepted the responsibility of the trust placed in us for making difficult decision among such highly qualified candidates. Due to the pandemic, we met online over several days, with some jury members staying up past midnight and others starting as early as 4 a.m. Our yearlong online blog discussions and the extraordinary preparation of the jury facilitated this process in the best way possible. The criteria used to assess the nominations included the aesthetic and literary quality as well as the freshness and innovation of each nominee's work; the ability to see the child's point of view and to stretch their curiosity; and the continuing relevance of the works to children and young people. The award is based on the entire body of work.*

### IBBY 2022 Hans Christian Andersen Award Winners



**Marie-Aude Murail**



**Suzy Lee**

Marie-Aude Murail (France) and Suzy Lee (Republic of Korea)

From sixty-two candidates from thirty-three countries, the shortlist of six authors and six illustrators was announced in February of this year. From these two shortlists the winners of the 2022 award were selected. The 2022 winner of the author category is **Marie-Aude Murail**, submitted by the French national section of IBBY. And the 2022 winner of the illustrator category is **Suzy Lee**, submitted by the Republic of Korea section of IBBY.

This exciting news closed the 2022 IBBY Press Conference at the 59th Bologna Children's Book Fair, and although we could not have our regular stand reception because of the Covid regulations, we shared the news far and wide. The press conference was live-streamed and the recording is available on the IBBY YouTube channel.

All the IBBY 2022 award winners will be celebrated at the IBBY World Congress that will be held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from September 5 to 8, 2022. We are very grateful to our award sponsors: the Asahi Shimbun for the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award; the Shenzhen iRead Foundation for the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award; and to Nami Island Inc. for the IBBY Hans Christian Andersen Award. For more information about the awards, nominees, and winners, please visit the IBBY website: [www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org).

## IBBY World Congress 2022

The 38th IBBY Congress will take place in Putrajaya from September 5 to 8, 2022. Putrajaya is about thirty kilometers south of central Kuala Lumpur and, since 1999, is the seat of the federal government. The theme of the Congress is **The Power of Stories** and speakers and participants will discover the common stories that appear in children's literature across the world. We wish to explore how stories can be a powerful tool for shaping our beliefs and behaviors; for advocacy, change, and building bridges; and most importantly helping us make sense of our world.

The subthemes of the Congress include:

- Cognitive power in children's development
- Stories for healing for children and young adults
- Power of visual and aural presentations in children's and young adult stories
- Bridging divides in children's and young adult literature
- Identity and values in children's and young adult literature
- Empathy and memory in stories and storytelling

The program is taking shape and registration is now open. Go to the website to book your place in this exciting event, which will be the first IBBY World Congress in Southeast Asia! All the latest news is posted on the website: [www.ibbycongress2022.org](http://www.ibbycongress2022.org).



**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.

