

Read Along with Arielle North Olson

The Edgerton Public Library, the Friends of the Edgerton Public Library, and the Sterling North Society are collaborating to present a summer reading program entitled "Read Along With Arielle." On June 27, 2009, beginning at 1:00 PM at the library, Arielle North Olson, author, critic and daughter of Sterling North, Edgerton's hometown author, will offer three different sessions with children age three through high school age. She will read and discuss three of her own writings, discuss North's writing, supervise various follow-up activities with those attending, and sign her books which will be offered for sale. At the end of each session participants are invited to visit the Sterling North Home/Museum for complimentary refreshments and tours.

Arielle North Olson is the daughter of Sterling North, who wrote the Newbery Honor Book, RASCAL. She has written three picture books and is the co-author of two collections of scary tales.

After graduating from Swarthmore College, Arielle became a newspaper feature writer on the Morristown (NJ) Daily Record. Then she spent decades as the children's book reviewer of the St. Louis (MO) Post-Dispatch. She says that reviewing was like an ongoing course in children's literature and taught her a great deal about writing. Her five books:

HURRY HOME, GRANDMA! had four foreign editions, in France, Italy, Spain and Great Britain.

THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S DAUGHTER won second place, Juvenile Division, from the Friends of American Writers.

NOAH'S CATS AND THE DEVIL'S FIRE won a Reading Magic Award from Parenting Magazine and was selected by the New York Public Library for its 1992 list of "Children's Books: One Hundred Titles for Reading and Sharing."

ASK THE BONES, a collection of scary tales, which she wrote with Howard Schwartz, won Pennsylvania's Young Adult Keystone Award, voted for by the state's sixth to eighth graders.

MORE BONES, more scary tales written with co-author Howard Schwartz, was published last summer.

As a young woman, she traveled to Edgerton frequently to see her grandfather, and during one visit, she met Clarence Olson (Ole), who later became her husband. He grew up on a farm just north of town and later became the Book Editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Arielle and Ole are the parents of three children and the grandparents of seven—and she wishes that everyone loved to read aloud to children as much as she does.

She and her husband live in Webster Groves, Missouri, and they travel frequently to the Oregon Coast. They love to read, write, garden, work on house projects, take beach walks, and spend time with their family.

As the basis for the three sessions Arielle will use three of her own books: Ask The Bones - Scary Stories from Around the World with stories selected and retold by Arielle North Olson and Howard Schwartz and illustrated by David Linn, The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter by Arielle North Olson illustrated by Elaine Wentworth, and Hurry Home, Grandma! by Arielle North Olson illustrated by Lydia Dabovich. .

Session 1, which will run from 1:00-2:15 PM in the Community Room at the library, is open to children who will be in 2nd through 5th grades as of August. Mrs. Olson will read, “ A Four Footed Horror” - A Tale from the United States from Ask The Bones - Scary Stories from Around the World. After the reading and discussion, the participants will select an activity group to join. They may be part of a share group and tell a story about their own pet, create an illustration about the story or about their favorite part of the story, or write an extension of the story or

change the story ending. The group will close the program by going to the Sterling North Home/Museum/Barn for ice cream sundaes and tours from 2:15 - 3:00.

“How Artists and Authors Create a Picture Book” will be the theme of Session 2 which will run from 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Arielle will talk with students, who will be in grades 6 and above in August, about being involved in their own writing and illustrating. She will share her book The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter as the basis for this session which is the program she presents in the Branson, MO schools every year. She also will share with them about how her dad helped her learn to write and how much she loved the stories he told her about Rascal when she was a child. Participants may then join the others for refreshments and tours.

The story of a zany grandmother who is on an African safari in Hurry Home, Grandma! is the basis for Session 3 which runs from 3:00 - 4:05 for children ages three through seven. An adult must accompany these participants who will read and discuss with Arielle and then select an activity group. They may join a share group and tell a story about their favorite animal, create an illustration about the story or about their favorite part of the story, or draw a picture of their favorite animal. Refreshments and tours will also follow for these children and those who accompany them.

The Edgerton Public Library Summer Reading Program, the Friends of the Library and members of the Sterling North Society are hosting this event. There is no charge for the activities, the refreshments, or the tours. Door prizes will be awarded at each session and each participant will receive a small gift. Writings and drawings created during the group activities will be on display at the library from June 27 through July 11, and they may be picked up after that.

Arielle North Olson has agreed to share with the children of the

community in an ongoing effort to foster literacy and the love of reading and writing. The Sterling North Society, the Edgerton Public Library, and the Friends of the Library promote these same goals and are sponsoring this event in part to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the society in 1989. They cordially invite the community to join them in a wonderful afternoon of learning and fun.