



GEORGE FIRESTONE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary of State

STATE OF FLORIDA

State Library of Florida
R. A. Gray Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Telephone: (904) 487-2651
TWX: 810-931-3689

June 11, 1979

Ms. Zena Sutherland
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
University of Chicago
1100 East 57 Street
Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Zena:

About your request for feedback concerning the Newbery-Caldecott Awards Banquet--I agree that a change is appropriate--the cost in both money and time has escalated to the point that we need to rethink our priorities. But, I don't want to throw away the baby with the bath water.

These are the things I think are important about the Newbery-Caldecott presentation and should be kept if possible:

1. A chance for all those interested in children's literature to come together at a particular time in a pleasant place.
2. A chance to listen to the winners in person.
3. A sense of festivity and specialness, i.e., a moving out of the realm of everydayness.
4. The social situation of table assignments so that people meet and talk with folks they may not otherwise encounter. In line with this, I think of my own pleasant experiences meeting publishers, authors and other librarians. (Really, I think this is the crux of the matter and since, in our culture, food is the medium of social exchange, perhaps we could move to drink and antipasto--champagne (we'll all toast the winners) and cheese ball--beer and fondue--maybe even soft drinks, tea and coffee and light sandwiches.)*
5. I also, think some sort of souvenir of the occasion is nice, but not necessary.

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I'll be interested in the outcome.

Sincerely,



Betty Davis Miller
Youth Services Consultant

BDM:bls

*This might alleviate some cost, but probably would take just as much time to organize and--may not be feasible.