



Boston Public Library

Boston, Massachusetts 02117

June 11, 1979

Zena Sutherland
University of Chicago
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Zena,

The Newbery-Caldecott Banquet is a crashing bore!

Expensive bland food in a glittery hotel ballroom with the best seats bought by publishers. Unless one is an invited attendee one must sit miles away in the backfield with catch-as-catch can table companions. It's not only younger members who can't afford it. When was the last time you or I bought a ticket? I honestly don't think I would care to go uninvited.

The speeches, come off as an anti-climax, staid archaic. The time is past for such extravagance. Why should ALSC spend so much time and money on an event to which other than members are the main subscribers? Isn't there a better way? A more personal celebration? and better use of publisher dollars?

Would not the emphasis be better put on the speeches if a gala presentation were held without the food? Or with a different kind of food? Speeches and a reception following could preserve the festive aspects (dress up cloths!) and allow for more conviviality and mixing with honored guests. The best recent addition is the large open reception after the banquet. How about more of that atmosphere and less of the other?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Irenemarie".

Irenemarie Gullinane
Children's Literature Specialist

P.S. Well, you asked!