

Oak Park District 97 Board Members,

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for all you do to support the students and teachers of District 97. Once again, I am making a donation of books to the District 97 School Libraries.

I am donating books from the 2017 Jane Addams Children's Book Award list. I do this every year in honor and in memory of my mother and my mother's cousin who both worked for peace, justice, freedom and equality. My hope is that the children and teachers in District 97 will enjoy these books and be inspired by them.

The winning picture book for 2017 was ***Steamboat School*** written by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Ron Husband. It is a fictionalized account of Reverend John Meachum's resourceful circumvention of an 1847 Missouri statute that outlawed schooling for African Americans by moving his school to a steamboat floating on the Mississippi River, well beyond the laws of any territory. It's also the transformative story of young James, one of the students, who realizes the importance of small acts of courage. The honor books were ***The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial***, written by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by E. B. Lewisby Jonah Winter & Shane W. Evans and ***I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark***, written by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley. In ***The First Step*** Sarah Roberts' legal case against the Boston schools is unsuccessful, but it is the first step on the road to the groundbreaking *Brown v. Board of Education* nearly 100 years later. ***I Dissent*** celebrates Ruth Bader Ginsburg's lifelong refusal to accept the unacceptable.

The winning book for older students was ***Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story***, written by Caren B. Stelson. It is the true story of a six year old playing with friends a mere half mile from ground zero when the United States bombed Nagasaki. Sachiko finds the courage fifty years later to tell her own story and work publicly to change the world. It is a compelling book which should be read by each of us, adults as well as older children. The honor books were ***We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler***, written by Russell Freedman and ***Wolf Hollow***, written by Lauren Wolk.

I am thrilled to say that many of the school libraries already had copies of some of these books. I donated 2 books to each school library for a total of 20 books which came to \$305.93.

If I might repeat the request that I made last year - PLEASE make time to visit at least one of the District 97 school libraries; stay for a lesson. I believe you will be surprised and thrilled at the teaching of valuable lessons that goes on in the libraries on a daily

basis. I volunteer a half day a week in one of the libraries and am constantly in awe of the superior teaching that happens.