

Hey, hey, hey, it's the month of May!

We're pleased it's not as late in the month this time as it was when we got last's month's newsletter out. One reason lay in how much we have to tell you - a lot has transpired since then, so let's get right into it, shall we?

Revised proofs have been seen and returned; we await blueprints, which will hopefully come have next week. Further, we're STILL on schedule to have books by the end of the school year. Now we need you to pay attention to this as it could affect you: We are getting in a total 92 copies paperback + 42 copies hardcover as advances; the reason for so few is the tremendous expense of air couriating items of this weight. To get more would run close to \$400 so here is our plan - unless we have strong objections from you, in which case we will reconsider:

Those getting book orders filled from this advance stock will be first and foremost school kids & teachers who have both pre-ordered and prepaid for their books, since they have to get them prior to the end of the school year. Next in line will be those of the general public who have both preordered and prepaid (essentially in the order in which the orders/money came in). Then, the preorders who have NOT yet paid will have copies reserved for when their checks DO come in. Do note that the bulk will only be a month behind the advances, so the wait will NOT be interminable (although it may SEEM that way)!

And hey - if you haven't ordered yet, this is a great time to! You won't get your copies from the advances, but the bulk is no longer that far off in the future, so RESERVE THEM NOW! If you have already ordered, it is no longer premature to pay for your books if you haven't yet done so, and we have been and will continue to send out email reminders of your orders shortly. FYI, so nobody thinks money is sitting around, we have already sent the printer \$2750; thus far, we have actually collected only \$2169.70 (of which \$1811.20 is rec'd, with acknowledgment that another \$358.50 is on the way to us). Preorders now total more than \$3500. We need to send them at least another \$1000 in the next three weeks, so please consider ordering and paying for your copies now!

For those wondering how this book will be promoted, it will largely be through the same ad-hoc efforts we used to make the book in the first place - in other words we will be relying on you, and sheer cojones, to get this book and the cause the attention it deserves! So remember, if you know anyone attached to newspapers, radio news, or in the TV game, let them in on this project. We are thrilled to announce that between newspaper, radio, and television, there are SEVERAL markets nationwide whose attention will be drawn to [SONGS FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN](#), thanks to people like Oregon Sue, NYC Robin (who is actually our California connection - wow!), Marsha and [WHY](#) Sue, and of course we have been canvassing outlets ourselves! Chris from THN in Jersey: You might as well call us now; otherwise someone else gets the story...wink wink...

If your child's art was chosen (or a child from your class, or school, or town), MAKE A STORY OUT OF IT! Call the papers! Call the local morning TV news program! TELL YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE THAT YOU WANT THEM TO CARRY IT! And please remember, NO MARKET IS TOO SMALL! No article is too small! No blurb is too small! No effort is too small! No bank account is...OK, let's not get carried away....

Speaking of which, LIBRARIANS AND BOOKSTORE OWNERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY: We want to come appear in support of this book. We know the discount structure won't allow lots of folks to make lots of profit (there IS some in it for you though) because the book is for charity, but WE are taking NO profit and those who know us personally know we can hardly afford to go around the country on our own resources; please consider that if we can put together a tour, be you far away OR in our own region and simply help pick up expenses (DON'T laugh - if we can get several stores and/or public libraries to coordinate schedules it IS possible) we will gladly waive any appearance fees to come do a full gig if you will order books (because of the children, of course, it may only be possible for one of us to come, but that will make expenses even cheaper...!)

Note also we are beginning the process of returning artwork which was NOT used in the book; we are still holding on to those pieces which WERE used for the foreseeable future for publicity purposes...more on this next month!

Still haven't seen a preview of the cover yet? Click [here!](#) While there hop to other areas of the site and catch up on the latest news, & [appearances](#), including our upcoming tour of the [Brooklyn Public Library!](#) There should be additions in the next month: more activities, images from [Songs For Americas Children](#), and hopefully the title song to the book will be completed and posted as a free download (it is almost completed, needs some backing vocals and mixing)! And if you search diligently you'll be able to see a preview shot from [ROCK A BYE BABY](#), but we'll touch on that more in future newsletters...

"Wait, don't go", you beg, "We still haven't heard about the family!" ? Keep your diapers on, did you think we would blow off our own critters?

Rachelle is preparing for summer, having just finished some round of testing. That always seems to be a sign of spring: The tests come. It's almost like a rite of passage. Speaking of which, she now considers herself a "tween", what "modern" (thanks for that, darlin') young folks consider no longer a kid but not a teenager yet. Ergo, apparently they, or at least she, feels that once you're ten, you're not a kid anymore. Sigh. Do you want to tell her, or should we? We'll be darned if we have to consider ourselves almost out of "kid-dom" four times over. Nosireeebob, we're STILL kids, and there ain't a thang these "modern" young folks can DO about it anyway!

Joshua is still mightily into his Tae Kwan Do, and has his eight stripes to prove it! However, not at the expense of other activities, for he is really packing a fine wallop on the ol' horsehide. No stranger to the American way is he, our young Superman.

As for Maxx, this week he has traded in his "pee-boy" monicker for that of "Mucous-Man", archenemy of clean tissues everywhere. And being the generous sort that he is, has passed on his cold to his mommy. Thanks Maxx. That's the LEAST destructive thing you've accomplished all month.

And as for Kim and Danny, we closed out our bowling year today... tied for third place (ousted from second by a half game!) Nothing to write home about - however since none of you live in our home with us, we fugured we could fill YOU in on it! And hey: It gives us something to shoot for next year...

Barbecue season has started, and early warm weather is bringing out our love of grilled fish, thus far the most popular item (we're sure that the mix will change but we're really liking it so far!). Upcoming summer highlights will include a vacation, and repeated trips to the community pool (and Six Flags naturally!), and of course lounging about on our deck.

This month's site of the month: Mama Lisa's Pages For Children of All Ages is a good resource for people with kids, expecially the wee yung'uns. We can't say we have personally tried all of the pages, nor do we endorse Mama Lisa personally, but she has some nice recommendations to offer. If anyone goes to her page and are so inspired, email her to let her know she should be recommending OUR books, nursery rhymes, and CD's!

This month's closing rock-n-roll quote? Think about this simple thought, courtesy of James Taylor: "Shower the people you love with love, show them the way you feel."

Peace!
- danny & kim, and their future caregivers (gulp!)

PS: As we are duty bound to remind you,if you wish to be removed from this inoffensive, no-pressure, and not more than once monthly newsletter, just let us know. We'll take you off the list, but...nah, you wouldn't want to do THAT now, wouldja? Couldja? Remember, we NEVER give out email addresses.

**To read any of our previous newsletters, just click this [News of the Past](#) link

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