

Memorial Service for Jo Osborne

1. Piano - Bill Dowling (30 minutes)

2. Meribah's opening welcome remarks (set the stage, including use of Jo's notes, poems)

3. Jean Hope

Poem:

Invitation

If you are a dreamer, come in,
If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar,
A hope-er, a prayer, a magic bean buyer . . .
If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire
For we have some flax-golden tales to spin.
Come in! Come in!

by Shel Silverstein

Anecdote:

Story hour boy asking where Jo's bedroom was (since the children's room was obviously her living room).

4. Jordy Ventresca

Isaac Asimov quote:

I received my formal education in school, but that was not enough. My *real* education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement, and I can never be sufficiently grateful that I had the wit to charge through that door and make the most of it.

Anecdote:

A favorite book Stone Fox by Gardener, quoting Grandfather (p. 23) to young grandson: "If your teacher don't know, ask me. If I don't know, you ask the library. If the library don't know, then you've got yourself a good question."

4. Jordy (continued)

Poem:

Lost in a Book

Being Lost
Is the perfect way
To pass the time
On a sky blue day
When it's warm
And the open window
Uncurtains a call
Spiraling up the stairway
Hovering in the hall.
No one comes then
When they call me.
I am not there
Where they look.
I linger alone
In a place of my own
Lost
In a book.

by Karla Kuskin

5. Viola solo by Jill Osborne

Vocalize: Sergei Rachmaninoff

Mary Lou Bauer

6. Bernice Daniels - Memories of Jo

Valentines

7. Ann Badger

I gave a hundred Valentines

"Maritime Disasters"

I gave a thousand Valentines

one cold and wintry day.

Anecdote:

I didn't put my name on them

Mother reported that her four-year-old child was picking out words in books and saying
"Is that reading? I can read!"

for February birds.

by Aileen Fisher

8. Kathy Barkhurst (continued)

Poem:

In Search of Cinderella

From dusk to dawn,
From town to town,
Without a single clue,
I seek the tender, slender foot
To fit this crystal shoe.
From dusk to dawn,
I try it on
Each damsel that I meet.
And I still love her so, but oh,
I've started hating feet.

by Shel Silverstein

Anecdote:

Fifth grade girl, doing a report on bats and interviewing Jo: "If you didn't have to worry about rabies, would you like to work with bats?" Answer: "If they could shelve books, yes."

9. Susan Branch - Memories of Jo

10. Mary Lou Benner

Poem:

Valentines

I gave a hundred Valentines.
A hundred, did I say?
I gave a thousand Valentines
one cold and wintry day.

I didn't put my name on them
or any other words,
because my Valentines were seeds
for February birds.

by Aileen Fisher

10. Mary Lou Benner (continued)

Anecdote:

Jeremy's mother reported that he had been so thrilled that I had introduced my mother to him at Worthington Square. He was impressed that I hadn't known his mother's name - I was his friend.

11. Cassie Osborne Cuthbert - selected poems

12. Dick Taylor - Memories of Jo "Little Turtle"

13. Bruce Knost

15. Poem: Alabama - selected poems

This Bridge

16. Bohls Richards

This bridge will only take you half way there
To these mysterious lands you long to see:
Through gypsy camps and swirling Arab fairs
And Moonlit woods where unicorns run free.
So come and walk awhile with me and share
The twisting trails and wondrous worlds I've known.
But this bridge will only take you half way there -
The last few steps you'll have to take alone.

by Shel Silverstein

Anecdotes:

Success Story: Child was scared of spiders. Mother wanted a book. Jo gave her Be Nice to Spiders. Child would not let mother read it for two days. But when she finally listened, she liked it and now is not afraid of spiders. Now she's afraid of thunderstorms. Jo prescribed Zolotow's Storm Book, DePaola's Cloud Book, and two poems to chant. We'll see if it works. (Editor's note: this was before Patricia Polacco gave Thundercake to the world.)

Anecdotes:

"Do you have a book on woodworking - refinishing furniture? Well, more like refinishing - after a dog has chewed it?"

Well, he'd found a big rock in his backyard and thought it was a dino egg. We looked . . . You know, I don't believe any dinos have been found in Ohio (we confirmed this). You never know, but it is unlikely. Maybe a book about rocks? Oh, Yes!

A little girl so thrilled to find the book where the s'getti overflowed and overflowed (Strega Nona, of course).

14. Sally Carton

Elephant poems by Jo

Little boy, oblivious to all else, read Mrs. Figgie Wiggle and laughed out loud.

Anecdote:

18. Martha's mother reports that they went to church and the priest asked if anyone wanted to say anything. Martha stood up and recited "The Little Turtle" (finger play). Priest: That's very nice. Where did you learn that? Martha said, "At my library." She then invited everyone to come.

Refer to story *Faraway/Unfortunate?*

Lead participants in finger play "Little Turtle"

Refer to puppets, book displays

19. Memorial Tree - invite all to see, sit under it and read (*Meribah*)

Presentation of Memory Book

15. Lynn Osborne - selected poems

16. Bobbi Richards

Poem:

Chopsticks

It's 15 minutes til closing time.

I am learning

to move my chop

sticks through

the vegetables

and meat

we/have/tonight/but in/

between/my/smiles/and/bites/

I/write/a/message/

in/the/sweet/and/sour

pork

I/need/a/

fork.

by Arnold Adoff

We sing a library lullaby.

Check out now - the computer will beep.

Anecdotes:

In 15 minutes our computer will snore.

Ariel asked for books on dinosaur eggs. Well, he'd found a big rock in his backyard and thought it was a dino egg. We looked . . . You know, I don't believe any dinos have been found in Ohio (we confirmed this). You never know, but it is unlikely. Maybe a book about rocks? Oh, Yes!

Come again by morning light.

A little girl so thrilled to find the book where the s'getti overflowed and overflowed (Strega Nona, of course).

17. Jo Osborne Award announced by Carol Brieck, President of the Friends of the Library

Anecdote:

Little boy, oblivious to all else, read Mrs. Piggle Wiggle and laughed out loud.

18. Rachel Alexander

Living Will

Refer to story Fortunately/Unfortunately?

Kipling's bio/philosophy

19. Memorial Tree - invite all to see, sit under it and read (Meribah)

Presentation of Memory Book

Proclamation - Jo Osborne Day

20. "Closing announcements" (Tom Slappy and Meribah)

Tom Slappy

We now announce in perfect rhyme

It's 15 minutes til closing time.

So pick your books and pick 'em faster

Avoid a closing time disaster.

(and)

A crocus and forsythia announce that spring is here.

The music and this little rhyme say closing time is near.

Spring fever now may slow us all, but hurry if you please.

Check out your books and go enjoy the fragrant soft spring breeze.

Meribah

Closing time is drawing nigh.

We sing a library lullaby.

Check out now - the computer will beep.

In 15 minutes it goes to sleep.

In 15 minutes our computer will snore.

It works til then and then no more.

So pick the books that you like best.

Our checkout computer needs its rest.

Hush-a-bye. Good-bye. Goodnight.

Come again by morning light.