

Pat Mora's Children's Literature



“For the ladybug that landed on my finger, a little red flying surprise, thanks.” So begins Pat’s bilingual picture book, *Gracias * Thanks*. Her award-winning children’s books include *A Piñata in a Pine Tree: A Latino Twelve Days of Christmas*. Her new book for teens is *Dizzy in Your Eyes: Poems about Love*. Her books for adults include *Zing! Seven Creativity Practices for Educators and Students*; *House of Houses, a memoir*, *Nepantla: Essays from the Land in the Middle*; and six poetry collections.

Pat’s haiku collection about foods of the Americas, *Yum! ¡MmMm! ¡Qué rico!* won the Américas Award and was an ALA Notable. *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart* was an ALA Notable which received a Pura Belpré Author Honor Award and a Golden Kite Award from the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

A literacy advocate excited about sharing what she calls “**bookjoy**,” Pat founded the family literacy initiative, El día de los niños / El día de los libros, Children’s Day / Book Day (“**Día**”) now housed at the American Library Association. The year-long commitment to daily linking all children to books, languages and cultures that culminates in events across the country celebrated its 15th Anniversary April, 2011. Pat’s *Book Fiesta* promotes the Día spirit.

Pat’s honors include Honorary Doctorates from North Carolina State University and SUNY Buffalo, Honorary Membership in the American Library Association, and a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship to write in Umbria, Italy. She was a recipient and judge of a Poetry Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a recipient and advisor of the Kellogg National Leadership Fellowships.

A former teacher, university administrator, museum director, and consultant, Pat is a popular national speaker at conferences, campuses, libraries and schools. The mother of three adult children, she’s married to anthropology professor Vern Scarborough and lives in beautiful Santa Fe, NM.