



# Parent-Child Mother Goose

## Update from the National Council

### Welcome to 2020!

Here in Vancouver the snowdrops are already peeking up, bringing hope that spring is not too far away. I hope that wherever you are in the country and whatever the weather, you are enjoying the promise that a new year brings.

The National Council ended 2019 with our Annual General Meeting, which was held on November 26, 2019. Program teachers, trainers, supporters and program administrators from across the country joined the National Council members on a conference call to share news and updates and to connect with one another. It is a great opportunity to hear about goings on in programs from different regions, and to make connections with others.

We were particularly encouraged to hear about new programs being established in Newfoundland and in the Yukon, as well as considerable interest from many areas of the country on topics such as making programs relevant and accessible to indigenous families and other groups. For an overview of our activities in 2019, please check out our [Annual Report](#), available on the National Parent-Child Mother Goose website. And if you've ever wondered, "who are these National Council members anyway?" - well now you can find out! We've added photos and bios of the [National Council members](#) to our website.

We're always looking for new members from around the country, so if you have an interest in governance and a desire to give back to the Parent-Child Mother Goose community, get in touch! It is a great way to gain experience as a board member and to expand your skills, while connecting with others who share your passion for Mother Goose.

And why not let others know how much you love Mother Goose? Consider purchasing one of the lovely Mother Goose Tote Bags - proceeds help to fund the National Council and our ongoing work to advocate for the program, support teachers and trainers, and help more families all across Canada access this great program. You can find out how to order yours [here](#).

Looking ahead at 2020, there is much to do. We are always considering how we can continue to strengthen PCMG and increase the reach of the program into new areas. I look forward to keeping you updated about the progress of our work.

Best wishes for an early spring! ♦



Marilee Peters

#### Inside this issue:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Tell me a story     | 2 |
| Nursery rhymes      | 3 |
| MG around the world | 4 |
| News                | 5 |

## IRAQ

*This famous story from Baghdad, Iraq, is one of Ghada Saleh's favourites. Thank you for sharing it with us together with the beautiful picture!*

*Although summers in my country, Iraq, have long days and extreme heat, for little me, it was my favorite seasons. My cousin would come to stay over, and we would spend the entire time playing and running around the garden with full energy. Because of the heat levels, everyone in the family would stay indoors in the afternoon, many resting or taking a nap. But children knew no rest! My cousin had way too much energy to take a nap in the middle of the day! My mom would often tell us different stories to force us to be quiet while everyone else is resting. The stories were often full of fantasy, but also held big lessons and motives behind them.*

*One such story was that of a young girl called Kahramana. I knew of Kahramana because of the Kahramana fountain, a statue in a large square in Baghdad with a girl standing and holding a clay pot, with water coming out of it. This story was about that Kahramana!*

Ghada Saleh

## TELL ME A STORY ...

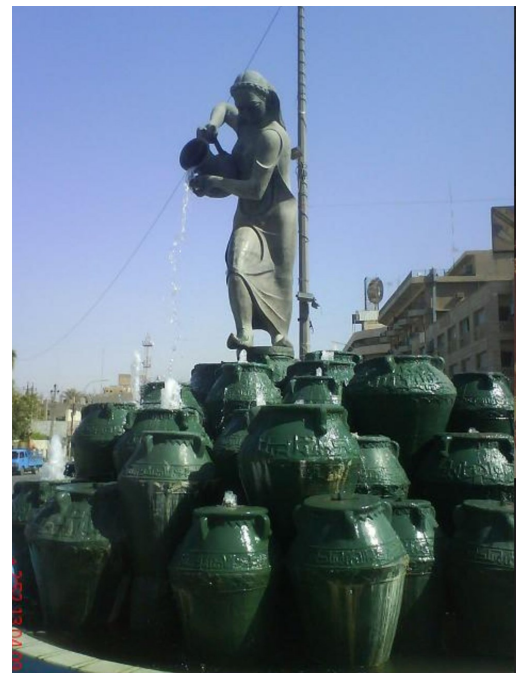
### The story of Kahramana

Kahramana used to live with her father in a simple small home. Her father owned 40 clay pots, which he would fill with oil and put in his cart to take to the market to sell. The family's livelihood depended on whatever money he would make from selling the oil in the clay pots.

One dark night, while Kahramana was sleeping at home, she woke up to noises coming from behind their house where her father stores the clay pots. She got up to see what was happening, only to see thieves going into the pots to hide! Police were going around looking for the thieves. Kahramana feared that if she was to go tell the police of where the thieves were hiding, the thieves might end up hurting her and her dad. Instead, she went and got the oil that was prepared to sell the next day, and very quietly sneaked to the back of the home, and started pouring the oil into the pots. One by one, every thief hiding in each of the 40 clay pots started to stir and turn, making a lot of noise. The noise caught the attention of the police, and they caught the 40 thieves.

This story of Kahramana's intelligence made her famous in the city, and the story was passed on for generations, leading to a statue of her holding a clay pot, and several other clay pots surrounding her, being created and placed in the city's square. Instead of oil, water came out of the pots, creating a beautiful sight to anyone who passed the area.

The clay pots were also a cultural symbol, as in the old days, people would store some types of food in them. I grew to love those pots and when I became an adult, I also used them but to plant plants and remember Kahramana's intelligence. ♦



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## NURSERY RHYMES CORNER

### On My Foot There is a Flea

On my foot there is a flea  
Now he's climbing up on me  
(creep fingers up leg)  
Past my belly  
(creep fingers past belly)  
Past my nose  
(creep finger past nose)  
On my head where my hair grows  
On my head there is a flea  
(Touch head)  
Now he's climbing down on me  
(creep fingers down)  
Past my belly  
(creep fingers past belly)  
Past my knee  
(creep fingers past knee)  
On my foot  
(touch foot)  
Take that you flea!  
(Slap foot gently  
as if you are squishing a flea)

(Source: 1-2-3 Rhyme with me)

Frogs croak. Rain soak. Chicks peep. Crickets leap. Bees hum.

Robin came. Birds sing. It's spring !!!

[joyfullearninginkc.blogspot.com](http://joyfullearninginkc.blogspot.com)

Springtime sun we welcome you,  
(arms in circle above head)  
Welcome you, welcome you.  
(welcoming gesture)  
Springtime, we welcome you  
With rainbows and spring  
showers.  
(wave your open hands down)

(Source: "It's Rhyme Time")



Sing to the tune of "Row, row,  
row your boat")

Bright sun shining down,  
Shining on the ground.

What a lovely face you have,  
Big and round.

(Source: teachersnotebook.com)



# Mother Goose Around the World

*Spring is in the air and Mother Goose is spreading her wings not only across Canada but also around the world. New goslings are hatching. Old ones are leaving the family nest and starting their own families.*

*At the end of last year Mother Goose visited a new continent and a new country—Bosnia and Herzegovina in Europe. She impressed the people there and started her new program abroad. We are waiting for new goslings to hatch there this year and in the years to come.*



Sarah Abušarar and I have recently returned from Sarajevo where we attended *Festival Bajke (Fairytale Festival)*.

Sarajevo, a cultural crossroads and the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, lies in a valley surrounded by mountains. For four years, 1992 - 1995, during the war that followed the breakup of Yugoslavia, Sarajevo was besieged by enemy

## Sarajevo

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### Lynda Howes

forces that established themselves on the hills surrounding the town, cut the people off from food and water and rained bullets down upon them. Thousands of people were killed. In defense, the people built a tunnel under the international airport, and smuggled food, water and medical supplies into the city.

Jasna Held, a storyteller from Dubrovnik, recognizing the importance of fairytales for the well-being of the besieged children and adults, along with one other Croatian storyteller, went through the war tunnel carrying fairy tales and folk tales from Bosnia.

Years after the war, a committed association of women from Sarajevo has organized *Fairytale Festival (Festival Bajke)* and invited Jasna and other storytellers from the Balkans to join them.

As a guest at the festival in 2018, Sarah arranged for storytellers in Sarajevo to talk to Celia Lottridge and me. During our Skype visit, we discussed storytelling in Canada including the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program.

In November 2019, I accompanied Sarah to *Festival Bajke*. By night, we joined Bosnian and Croatian storytellers in a storytelling concert. During the day, we offered sessions inspired by the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. Ten mothers with their infants attended the Infant session; four mothers with their children attended the session for 2-4 year olds. Some women who had observed us teaching the program asked how they, too, might be trained as Parent-Child Mother Goose teachers. Lynda, as a teacher-trainer, and Sarah, as translator, began the training process the next day.

Aleksandra Bosiočić-Dronjić, Marija Fekete-Sullivan, Anisa Križan-Mešić, Željka Lemez, Tatjana Šojić, and Maja Trebić show much promise as Parent-Child Mother Goose teachers. We are hopeful they will set up a program soon, as they have a list of prospective participants, and access to a beautiful space. Using Skype, we will build on what we did while we were with them.

Sarah and I hope to return to *Festival Bajke (Fairytale Festival)* in 2020 when we will visit the women who will be making the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program a reality in Sarajevo. ♦

## NEWS

### Faranak Clinic, Tehran, Iran

Moments from our traditional ceremony in the first night of winter which is the longest night of the year and we call it Yalda night. These are our deaf and hard of hearing children in Faranak Clinic, Tehran, Iran.

We had a very nice party for our children and we had a happy Faranak PCMG.

We sang winter songs and told some very interesting stories about Yalda and winter. All the families enjoyed being together. We had our deaf and hard of hearing adolescents in our party too. ♦

Guita Movallali



## Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®

Programme la Mere l'Oie pour parents et enfants



# Spring 2020



### Share your program with the rest of the P-CMGP Family!

Write about your program. It brings joy, strengthens the network and creates new energy when you share your stories across Canada and across the world.

We love to include your stories, rhymes, pictures and news.

Please send submissions to :

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**For inquiries relating to Memberships, Certification Process and National**

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