

Read Aloud 2000

The Honolulu Advertiser ISLAND LIFE

by Jed Gaines

Saturday, January 1, 2000

Resolve to strengthen the family

Let's start off 2000 with a New Year's resolution that I introduced here two years ago. From the feedback that I have received, reading and reading aloud have increased with many of our local families as a result of the plan.

The idea is called **Four Functioning Families:**

1. Four days a week of reading aloud to your child.
2. Four days a week (Monday through Thursday) of no TV on in your home.
3. Four visits a month to the library or bookstore.
4. A four-month commitment of the above from today through May 4, 2000.

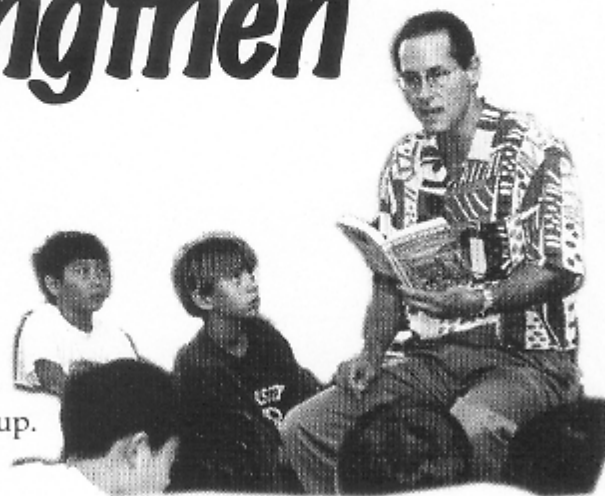
If you decide to go along with this concept, I'd like to hear from you after May 4 as to how it has affected your family. Please write or e-mail a brief note to me at the address on this page, also letting me know if you have any suggestions at the end of four months, and whether or not I may use your name and comments

in future columns.

Be positive in your efforts. If you miss a day, don't give up. Just think what could result by eliminating 20 or so hours of TV a week. I am confident that you will be spending a great deal more time together as a family.

Listen to what John Gray, best-selling author of **Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus**, has to say in his new book, **Children Are From Heaven**: "Reading to a child is probably the most important gift a parent can give a child; it is particularly important for the responsive child. They hunger to hear stories, myths, and legends. They need the stimulation of faraway places, people, and things. A child uses images created by hearing stories to develop their imagination, creativity, and a stronger sense of self. Too much watching TV or movies can weaken the process of creating internal pictures."

A big mahalo to Noel Trainor, general manager of the Hilton Ha-



Jed Gaines, the father of two public-school children, has been working with the read-aloud concept for the past 14 years. He conducts presentations for educators, parents and their Hawaii School communities. Send questions or a self-addressed stamped envelope for his K-8 reading list to: Jed Gaines, **Read Aloud America**, 1937 Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822. Call 531-1985, fax 531-1984 or email to: readaloudamerica@lava.net.

waiian Village, who will be providing all the weekly dinners for Read Aloud America's RAP program, commencing this month. **RAP 2000** now welcomes Kapolei Middle School along with Barbers Point Elementary. Those schools will be joining Highlands Intermediate for our early-evening read-aloud program.

Congratulations to Dawn Shibano from Bond Memorial Library in Kapaa on the Big Island. She has been chosen *Public Librarian of the Year* by the Hawaii Library Foundation. Her dedication to her work has helped to make their library the center of the community.

I hope to see you at my monthly reading at Barnes & Noble at 7p.m. on Wednesday, January 26.

A wonderful new year to all of you!

"It's easy to read aloud to anyone. Simply pick up a book and start!"



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