

South Coast Repertory  
**Theatre for Young Audiences**  
presents

**SIDEWAYS STORIES**  
**FROM WAYSIDE SCHOOL**



by **Louis Sachar**  
adapted for the stage by **John Olive**

Set Design  
**Donna Marquet**

Costume Design  
**Angela Balogh Calin**

Lighting Design  
**Tammy Owens Slauson**

Sound Design  
**Drew Dalzell**

Production Manager  
**Tom Aberger**

Stage Manager  
**Erin Nelson\***

directed by **Stefan Novinski**

Honorary Producers  
First American and Santa Ana Education Foundation

The creation and development of Theatre for Young Audiences has been made possible in part by a generous grant from  
**The Whittier Family Foundations**

*Sideways Stories from Wayside School* was commissioned and produced by the Seattle Children's Theatre

**Julianne Argyros Stage** • February 6 - 22, 2004

# A New 'School'

**A**lthough it may not look like it, South Coast Repertory is a school as well as a theatre. There are all kinds of theatre classes — from acting to writing — taught here almost every day of the year! And that doesn't take into account the learning experiences offered by virtually every play we stage during our season.

This month, we are a proud home to the craziest school ever imagined. That's because Louis Sachar's *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* has been adapted by our friend John Olive into a great play. And we're excited to have it in a wonderful new production directed by Stefan Novinski as the second show in our first Theatre for Young Audiences . . . and Their Families season.

But that's not all! While *Sideways Stories* is on the Julianne Argyros Stage and our Young Conservatory is in full swing in our classrooms, our new musical about California history, *The Pride of Weedpatch Camp*, could be on the road to *your* school. Thanks to a great group of actors directed by John-David Keller, this endearing new show will be giving Southern California elementary school students some extra understanding about how our state came to be.

We can't do it by ourselves, though. We must take a moment to thank the wonderful companies that have made all this possible. Helping us produce *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* (and providing all the free seats for students of the Santa Ana Unified School District) are First American and the Santa Ana Education Foundation. And, putting the petrol in our touring tank are The Boeing Company and The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation.



David Emmes  
Producing Artistic Director



Martin Benson  
Artistic Director

# Sideways Stories from Wayside School

## the cast

Mrs. Gorf/Mr. Pickle/Miss Valoosh/Mr. Gorf .....	HOWARD SHANGRAW*
<i>and</i> Voices .....	JODI THELEN*
Mrs. Jewls .....	KEVIN BERNTSON*
Myron .....	LOUIS LOTORTO*
Louis/Voices .....	ELISA BOCANEGRA*
Bebe .....	MELANIE LORA*
Rondi .....	WENDY JOHNSON*
Leslie .....	SOL CASTILLO*
Dameon .....	

\* denotes members of Actor's Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

**the scene** takes place in the 30th floor classroom of Wayside School.  
Up here, everything is sideways, exaggerated and very, very colorful.

**special thanks** to Tracy Halas for the choreography and  
Michael Hooker for his original music composition

**fyi** Everyone must have a ticket. No babes in arms allowed.

Latecomers will be asked to watch the lobby monitor until an appropriate time that they can be taken into the theatre and seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

They may then take their assigned seats at intermission.

Special seating arrangements can be made for **Disabled Patrons** in advance by calling South Coast Repertory's Ticket Services Department at 714-708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons, please turn off all **Cellular Phones, Pagers and Watch Alarms** or switch them to non-audible before the performance begins.

If **Doctors or Parents** expect calls during a performance, please leave your name and seat number with the House Manager, who can be reached at 714-708-5500, ext. 5442.

# Meet Louis Sachar

**A**s a writer of books for elementary school students, Louis Sachar tries to recall what it felt like for him to be that age. That is because he thinks kids are basically the same now as they were when he was young. For instance, when Mr. Sachar turned 9, his family moved from New York to Orange County, California—Tustin, to be exact—which at that time was a rural area thick with citrus groves. He and his friends would divide up into teams and using "ammo" that was hanging in the trees, they'd have orange fights on their way home from school. He remembers that his experience in Little League made him into a real "orange warrior."

While studying at UC Berkeley, Mr. Sachar discovered that he could earn college credit by becoming a teacher's aide—no homework, no tests, no

term papers. All he had to do was watch over a bunch of kids at Hillside Elementary School. So he became a Noontime Supervisor—also known as "Louis the Yard Teacher." What

became his favorite college class turned into a life-changing experience.

He didn't like any of the stories his

**JOHN OLIVE** is a playwright, a screenwriter, a novelist and a popular teacher of creative writing. *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* is his second play at SCR; *The Summer Moon* played here in 1999.

John's plays include *Evelyn and the Polka King*, *Killers*, *Standing on My Knees*, *The Voice of the Prairie*, and *God Fire* among many others. They have been widely produced.

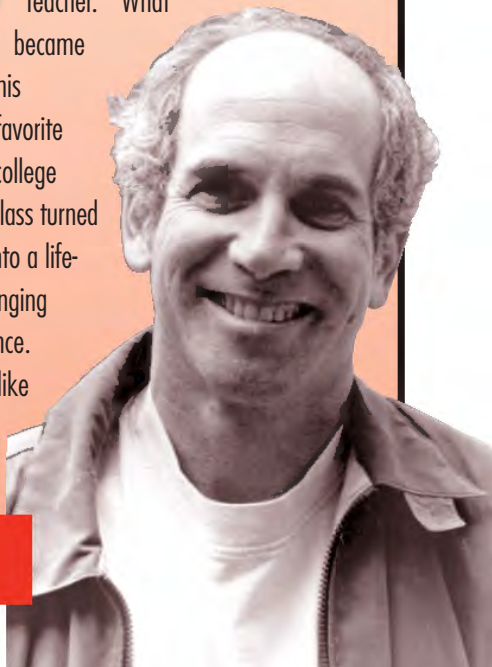
John is a resident playwright at Seattle Childrens Theatre and beginning his fifth play for them, a theatrical reworking of the *Jason and the Golden Fleece* myth. John has completed two novels for young adults, *Slither* and *Smartass*,

as well as a book about creating bedtime stories for children, *Tell Me A Story In The Dark*. He is currently a

McKnight Fellow in Playwriting at the Playwrights Center in

Minneapolis where he lives with his wife Mary and their son Michael.

continued on page 8



**The Boy Who Lost His Face** (1997)

David is cursed by from an elderly woman he has helped his schoolmates attack.

**Dogs Don't Tell Jokes** (1991)

"Goonie" 12-year-old Gary tries to change his image and make new friends at school.

**Holes** (1998)

As the latest chapter in a family curse, young Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he makes his first real friend, finds a treasure, and discovers a new sense of himself.

**Johnny's in the Basement** (1983)

When Johnny has his eleventh birthday, his parents decide he is old enough for dancing classes, but too old to collect bottle caps anymore.

**Sixth Grade Secrets** (1987)

When Laurie Sibbie starts a club called Pig City, she incites a near war among her sixth-grade classmates and generates the creation of a rival club that has designs on Pig City's precious box of secrets.

**Someday, Angeline** (1983)

As a not too popular 8-year-old girl in the 6th grade, Angeline tries to adjust to being different.

**There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom** (1987)

An 11-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself after befriending the school's misfit counselor.

**Wayside School Series****Sideways Stories From Wayside School** (1978)

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

**Wayside School Is Falling Down** (1989)

More humorous episodes from Wayside School where students learn to tango, face the cafeteria's dreaded Mushroom Surprise, and study a hobo during show and tell.

**Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger** (1995)

More unusual happenings at Wayside School.

**Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School** (1989)

Contains over fifty math puzzles and brainteasers.

**More Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School** (1994)

Try solving more than 50 math brainteasers along with the kids from Mrs. Jewls's class.

**Marvin Redpost Series****Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me?** (1993)

An incident during recess threatens to turn 9-year-old Marvin into the outcast of his 3rd-grade class.

**Marvin Redpost: Alone in His Teacher's House** (1994)

Marvin discovers the real reason his teacher asks him to watch her dog while she's away.

continued on page 8 . . .

## Marvin Redpost Series

continued from page 7

### Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth? (1992)

Red-haired Marvin believes he looks different from his family because he is the lost prince of Shampoo.

### Marvin Redpost: Is He a Girl? (1993)

After hearing that kissing his elbow will make him a girl, Marvin gets confused about his identity.

### Marvin Redpost: A Flying Birthday Cake? (1999)

Days after Marvin sees a glowing UFO, his class is joined by a mysterious new boy.

### Marvin Redpost: Class President (1999)

Marvin's 3rd grade class attempts to impress a surprise visitor – the President of the United States.

## THE SACHAR STORY continued from page 6

students were reading, so he decided to try writing a children's book of his own. Hillside Elementary became the inspiration for his first manuscript, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, whose characters are all named after

the kids he knew at Hillside. He insists this book was the most fun for him to write because at the time, writing was still just a hobby. Much to his surprise, however, *Sideways* was accepted for publication during his first week in law school and although he went on to earn his law degree and pass the bar exam, it was becoming clear that writing was his first career choice. By 1989, his books began selling well enough that he was finally able to stop lawyering and start writing full time.

Today, Mr. Sachar lives in Austin, Texas, with wife Carla, daughter Sherre, and dogs Lucky and Tippy. He loves them all, but only Lucky and Tippy are allowed to be in the office with him when he's writing.



# South Coast Repertory

DAVID EMMES, *Producing Artistic Director*

MARTIN BENSON, *Artistic Director*

PAULA TOMEI, *Managing Director*

NICKI GENOVESE  
*General Manager*

MARCIA LAZER  
*Marketing & Communications Director*

TOM ABERGER  
*Production Manager*

EVIE TOLE  
*Development Director*

## These folks are helping run the show back stage

\*Martha McFarland  
Nina Evans  
Stacey Nezda  
Keith Friedlander  
Craig Brown

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER  
STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERN  
DRESSER  
LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR  
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

## And these folks helped get it ready for you

Linda Sullivan Baity  
Jennifer Kiger  
Joanne DeNaut

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES COORDINATOR  
PRODUCTION DRAMATURG  
CASTING DIRECTOR

### THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY

Jon Lagerquist, *Technical Director*  
John Gaddis IV, *Assistant Technical Director*  
Brian Altieri, *Master Carpenter*  
Jesus Soto, *Scenic Carpenter*  
Amanda Horak, *Scenic Carpenter*  
Judy Allen, *Lead Scenic Artist*  
Kenneth Verdugo, *Scenic Artist*  
Krista Zaloudek, *Scenic Artist*

### THESE PEOPLE CREATED THE PROPS

John Slauson, *Property Shop Manager*  
Byron Bacon, *Assistant Property Shop Manager/Buyer*  
Jennifer E. Westie, *Properties Artisan*  
Jeffery G. Rockey, *Properties Artisan*

### THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES

Amy L. Hutto, *Costume Shop Manager*  
Laurie Donati, *Full Charge Costumer*  
DeAnna Rowe, *Cutter/Draper*  
Julie Keen, *Costume Design Assistant*  
MK Steeves, *Wig Master*  
Jennifer Cottrell, *Wig Maintenance Technician*  
Stacey Sarmiento, *Wardrobe Supervisor*  
Catherine Esera, Merilee Ford, Tracy Gray,  
Amber Johnson, Stacey Nezda,  
*Additional Costume Staff*

### THIS GROUP DEALS WITH LIGHTS & SOUND

Jay Vincent Jones, *Master Electrician*  
Keith Friedlander, *Argyros Stage Electrician*  
B. C. Keller, *Audio Engineer*  
Jeff Deckner, *Audio Technician*

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

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# Wayside School Faculty, Staff and Class of 2004



## Wendy

last appeared as Violet in *Small Craft Warnings* at L.A.'s Evidence Room. Other L.A. credits are *The Humidity of Fish* at the Stella Adler Theatre, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, *The Crackwalker* and the world premiere of



## Elisa

is thrilled to be working again at South Coast Rep after appearing in *California Scenarios* in 2002 and last year's Hispanic Playwrights Project. She has also performed at many theatres around the country. Her movie credits include *Griffith*, *White Oleander* and *Spun*.

If your family has attended SCR's *La Posada Mágica* in recent years, then you've seen **Sol** in the role of Refugio, the young *posadero* who finally gets his chance to sing the show-stopping number "Lovin' Santa." That isn't his only singing credit, however. He played the title role in *D*

## ELISA BOCANEGRA (Bebe)

**Kevin** is excited to be making his SCR debut as part of the Theatre for Young Audiences production of *Sideways Stories*. He's been performing a lot on stage, in film and on television since graduating from UC San Diego. You may have seen him in guest starring roles on "Judging Amy," "Moesha" and "Well &



and the world premiere of *Sonnets for an Old Century* with Greenway Court Theatre. After graduating from New York University and Circle in the Square, Wendy appeared in many Off and Off-Off Broadway shows including *The Love Family vs. Andy Kaufman* at HERE and *Collateral Damage* at LaMaMa. She has appeared in the films *The Medicine Story*, *Break a Leg*, *Just Visiting* and *Marisa, Where Art Thou?* and the TV shows "Providence," "America Laughs" and "The Slow Norris."

played the title role in *Bye, Bye Birdie* and appeared in *Damn Yankees*, *West Side Story* and *Buy, Buy Navidad*. Other theatre roles include *The Hollow Lands* at SCR, *Noche De Risa Y Susto* at the Mark Taper Forum and the national tour of *Veteranos: A Tribute*. He was featured in the television film *The Alamo: 13 Days* and "Resurrection Blvd." His films include *High Riders* and *Graffiti*. Sol dedicates his performance to Jenny and Amada, for their love.

## SOL CASTILLO (Dameon)



Elisa's latest film is *Sheriff*, where she plays the world's zaniest librarian Betty Bonheuser. It can be currently seen at film festivals. Elisa's TV credits include "Judging Amy," "NYPD Blue," "The Gilmore Girls," "Touched by an Angel," "Taina, Undeclared" and "Resurrection Blvd." Elisa is a singer from New York City and writes children's plays for the Silvertake Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles.

ANY, MOJIK and Will & Grace." His theatre credits range from the classic, like Shakespeare (*Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Love's Labour's Lost*), to the never-before-seen, like Diana Son's *Boy* at La Jolla Playhouse. Kevin also enjoys work in improv, having trained with the Groundlings, and he can be seen at the ACME Comedy Theatre Bravo! Company in Los Angeles.

## KEVIN BERNTSON (Myron)



## More Faculty, Staff and Class

You should remember **Louis** from *The Emperor's New Clothes*, in which he played the Swindler. What he remembers were two life-changing moments when he was 7. "My father took me to a production of *Peter Pan*," he says. "And he read me a book about the life of Houdini. I knew I wanted to be a part of something magical. From then on, all I dreamt about was either becoming an actor or an escape artist. My older brothers 'helped' me practice escapes by tying me up with rope in the most difficult of knots. Left helpless for hours, struggling to free myself without success, I decided maybe I'd make a better actor instead." Louis has performed in theatres across the U.S. and has helped introduce Shakespeare to students from non-wayside schools in Northern California. He also can be seen with Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen in their *Fashion Show Party* video.

**LOUIS LOTORTO (Louis)**



**MELANIE LORA (Rondi)**

Although this is **Melanie's** first show at SCR, she has appeared in numerous productions in L.A., primarily at The Actors' Gang. Notable roles were in Tim Robbins' staging of *Embedded* and in *Moscow, Medea/Macbeth/Cinderella, Foursome* and as Nina in *The Seagull*. She was featured in AMC's film "The Westmores" and you should watch for her later this season on TV's "The Gilmore Girls." She has appeared in several films including *The United States of Leland, The Eleventh Hour, The Money Shot* and *Self Storage*.

**Howard** is a familiar face to those families who have attended South Coast Repertory's *A Christmas Carol* since it began in 1980. Originally playing Young Ebenezer, he has now played Scrooge's nephew Fred for many years. Before that, he made several trips to local schools as part of the early SCR touring productions and even contributed his own play, *The People vs. B.B. Wolf*, to SCR's Young Conservatory, where it was produced twice. In addition to his many stage roles, he appears in movies and on television. He has been in episodes of "Frasier," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," and "Wings," as well as the daytime dramas "One Life to Live," "Days of Our Lives" and "The Bold and the Beautiful." Among his film roles are parts in *Raging Angels*, *The Fantastic Four* and *What I Did for Love*. Howard dedicates

his performance to the memory of "Pegma" Linton, an inspiring teacher and beloved friend.



**HOWARD SHANGRAW (Mrs. Gorf, etc.)**



**JODI THELEN (Mrs. Jewls)**

Once upon a time, in first grade Peter Wellie gave **Jodi** a kiss. "I didn't have to do anything for it and I'll never forget it. Acting started whenever there was a class play and I went to Catholic school. In 5th grade Mrs. Kolb made us learn "Eldorado" by Edgar Allen Poe and I'll never forget it. In 8th grade, my teacher allowed me to show leadership by putting me in charge of my acting class so I could direct and star in some Carol Burnett skits. I'll never forget it. I then branched out into community theater and did four plays as a young adult: *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Drunkard*, *Night of the Iguana* and *Bad Habits* in St. Cloud, Minnesota. I then decided to go professional and attended The Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis. They make magic and I will never forget it. I moved to California in my Senior Year of High School (**STAY IN SCHOOL!!!!**) and studied with Carol Locatell and Don Eitner at The American Theater Arts in Hollywood. I met Arthur Penn and he directed the movie I starred in called *Four Friends*. I was 18 and I'll never forget it. Now I learn most everything from my daughter Samm. I forgot more than she knows. Special thanks to Howard."

Director STEFAN NOVINSKI began directing in kindergarten with a puppet show of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Recent theatre L.A. credits include *Wilder's Skin of Our Teeth* and *As I Lay Dying*. His productions have earned critical notice and theatre awards. Before moving to L.A. he was the associate producer of the Big D Festival of the Unexpected at the Dallas Theatre Center. He and his wife Donna Marquet just had their first child.

Set Designer DONNA MARQUET is designing all three Theatre for Young Audience productions this inaugural season. She loves to design, draw, paint and especially likes to work on shows that are as much fun as *Sideway Stories from Wayside School*. Her background includes college in Ohio and a Master's degree in California and she feels "Education is the most important gift you can give yourself."

Romanian-born Costume Designer ANGELA BALOGH CALIN has designed the recent productions of *Terra Nova* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and the currently touring *Pride of Weedpatch Camp* (watch for it coming to your school!).

Lighting Designer TAMMY OWENS SLAUSON designed the SCR Players productions of *The Wheels Keep Turning* and *The Weather Started Getting Rough*. She has created designs for plays, musicals, operas and dance across America. Among her favorites are a touring production of *Live On Stage Uncensored* for the Kentucky Arts Council and *Dream the Future* for the International Girl Scout Festival of the Arts.

Sound Designer DREW DALZELL is happy to be doing his first show at SCR. He loves to play with sound and make noise in the theatre, and thinks it's the coolest thing in the world that it's his job to do just that. His background includes going to school for theatre in Washington and a Master's Degree in Ohio. He's happy to be working with his mentor, Michael Hooker, who composed the music for *Sideways Stories*.

Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Stage Manager ERIN NELSON\* is thrilled to be in California and working with SCR again following her first job here with *The Emperor's New Clothes*. She has also worked for La Jolla Playhouse, the Old Globe Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival and Theatre IV.

After 40 seasons onstage, SCR Founding Artist MARTHA McFARLAND (Assistant Stage Manager) is proud and excited to be *backstage* with the people who "run the show." An avid reader, she is pleased to be working on a show based on Louis Sachar's novels.

# Wayside Wordsearch

Can you find the names of all the Sideways characters? (Hint: Words can be read both up and down, from left and right, and diagonally from bottom.)

E	Y	I	B	I	B	M	S	W	K	O	Y	R
W	K	N	O	R	Y	M	U	U	Q	Y	M	E
O	M	K	D	S	I	U	O	L	U	Q	U	T
G	I	G	G	M	L	W	K	X	W	F	H	T
U	U	X	N	X	J	Q	F	H	H	T	A	A
Q	H	X	Q	S	P	J	E	W	L	S	H	W
L	T	S	L	E	L	K	C	I	P	S	L	S
R	U	R	O	N	D	I	Y	F	O	E	Q	D
B	W	Y	E	A	U	U	G	O	S	V	M	I
O	P	Z	M	X	N	O	O	L	B	R	U	K
I	A	E	I	K	R	L	I	J	E	A	S	E
U	O	Q	F	F	A	E	C	P	B	Z	H	K
N	I	C	K	V	L	T	C	Y	E	G	P	Y

Word List: BEBE; DAMEON; GORF; JEWLS; KIDSWATTER; LESLIE; LOUIS; MUSH;  
MYRON; MYRON; PICKLE; RNDI; VALOOOSH; ZARVES.

# Wayside WordSCRamble

Can you unscramble the names of the crazy mixed-up musical instruments that Mrs. Jewls hands out to her students?

H A L G O M C O T    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

L U R K L T W A R    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

C R E C R E K W A P K I L

B L U R F    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

L E R N S O P    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

P L I S F E A R B E N

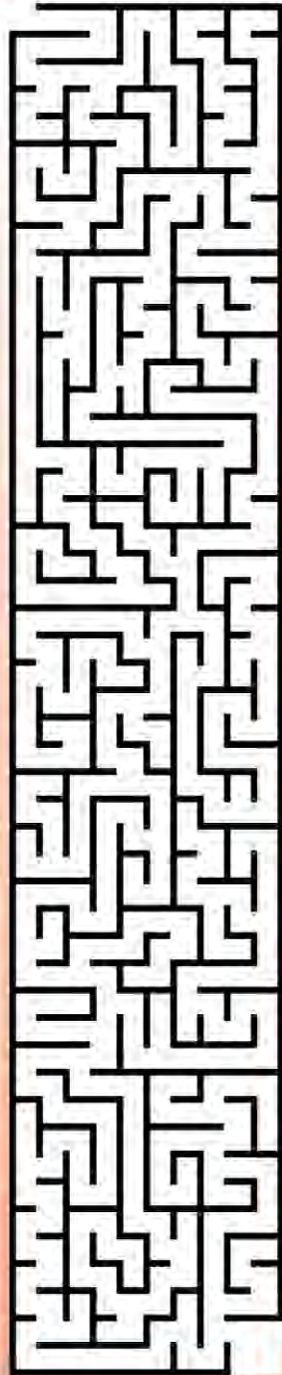
Design your own crazy mixed-up musical instrument . . .

# The 'Wayside' Maze

**W**ayside school is falling down, falling down, falling down. Kids go splat as they hit the ground. My fair lady. . .

OH NO!

A tornado is headed straight for Wayside School. Can you help Myron and Bebe find their way down to the Playground before they get sucked off the roof and go splat?



# Wayside Matching Game

Can you match each of these Sideways vocabulary words with its correct meaning?

- |          |             |    |  |
|----------|-------------|----|--|
| 1. ____  | PUCE        | A. | Italian word for "children"              |
| 2. ____  | BRINE       | B. | Sudden wish or urge, inclination         |
| 3. ____  | BAMBINI     | C. | Someone passionately devoted to a cause  |
| 4. ____  | CRUMPET     | D. | Full and complete, not shortened         |
| 5. ____  | RUTABAGA    | E. | Popular ride at insect amusement parks   |
| 6. ____  | IMPULSE     | F. | Pleasing combination of elements         |
| 7. ____  | ZEALOTS     | G. | Thick, round, turnip-like root vegetable |
| 8. ____  | HARMONY     | H. | Dark reddish, brownish, grayish purple   |
| 9. ____  | UNABRIDGED  | I. | Small, flat round of toasted bread       |
| 10. ____ | BUMBLESHOOT | J. | Solution of salt dissolved in water      |

## Answers:

Page 15 - WordSCRamble:

MOOGLATCH; KRULLWART; PLICKERWACKER; FLURB; SNORPLE; BARFENSPIEL

Page 16 - Wayside Wordsearch: (The first letter of each word is underlined.)

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E Y I B I B M S W K O Y R
W K N O R Y M U U Q Y M E
O M K D S I U O L U Q U T
G I G G M L W K X W F H T
U U X N X J Q F H H T A A
Q H X Q S P J E W L S H W
L T S L E L K C I P S L S
R U R O N D I Y F O E Q D
B W Y E A U U G O S V M I
O P Z M X N O O L B R U K
I A E I K R L I J E A S E
U O Q F F A E C P B Z H K
N I C K V L T C Y E G P Y
  
```

This page - Matching Game:

1. H, 2. J, 3. A, 4. I, 5. G, 6. B 7. C., 8. F, 9. D, 10.E