



CELEBRATE LITERACY: LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

***32ND SOUTHWEST IRA
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 15-16, 2007
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS***

Join us for two days of sessions, workshops, and symposia. Here are a few of the exciting speakers you will hear.

GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS



Linda Gambrell, a professor of education in the Eugene T. Moore School of Education at Clemson University, is president of the International Reading Association. She began her career as an elementary classroom teacher and reading specialist in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1998 she received the IRA Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award, and in 2004 she was elected to the Reading Hall of Fame



Steven Layne serves as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Education at Judson College in Elgin, Illinois, where he teaches courses in reading methods as well as children's and adolescent literature. Over the years, Steve has taught many grade levels (ranging from kindergarten to college) and his work has been recognized with awards for outstanding contributions to the fields of educational research, teaching, and writing.



Kate DiCamillo is the author of *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *The Tale of Despereaux*, and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. She has also written a series of books about a pig with an inordinate fondness for hot buttered toast. She lives and writes in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

FEATURED SPEAKERS AND AUTHORS

Mike Artell is the author/illustrator of more than 35 books for children, parents, and teachers. He is a former television cartoonist. His books have won many awards and have been translated into several languages. His story, *Petite Rouge*, has also become a musical theatre production.

Donald Bear is director of the E. L. Cord Foundation Center for Learning and Literacy and a professor in the Department of Educational Specialties in the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno. He researches and writes about literacy development and instruction and is a coauthor of several books, including *Words Their Way* and *Words Their Way With English Learners*.

Maggie Burton is a former classroom teacher who has been consulting with teachers and school districts since 1976, specializing primarily in grades pre-K-3. She translates research into practice through her professional development workshops for teachers interested in reaching all children through differentiated instruction.

J. David Cooper, currently an adjunct professor of education at Ball State University, is the author of *Literacy: Helping Children Construct Meaning, Improving Reading Comprehension*; and coauthor of several other books. Dr. Cooper's research has had practical results for classroom teachers nationwide, and he has advised major school districts, state departments of education, and the U. S. Department of Education.

Robert Cooter is editor of *The Reading Teacher* (IRA) and Distinguished Professor of Urban Literacy Research at The University of Memphis. He has authored 19 books in reading education and nearly 100 professional articles.

Tony Crunk is a widely published poet and children's book author. His first collection of poetry, *Living in the Resurrection*, was the 1994 selection in the Yale Series of Younger Poets and his most recent children's book is *Railroad John and the Red Rock Run*.

Linda Dorn is a professor of reading at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has presented at more than 300 conferences, including keynote and featured sessions at international, national, and state conferences. She is coauthor of four professional texts and numerous staff development materials for teachers.

Sharon Draper is a professional educator and the author of *Tears of a Tiger, Forged by Fire, We Beat the Street, Copper Sun*, and others. She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year and is a four-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literacy Award.

Marny Duncan-Cary holds an education degree from the First Nations University of Canada. She has since turned her talents to singing and writing songs, releasing her debut album, *Reason for Bein'*, to national critical acclaim and garnering four Saskatchewan Country Music Awards.

Irene Fountas is a professor at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. With her coauthor Gay Su Pinnell, she has written *Guided Reading: Good First Teaching for All Children, Guiding Readers and Writers Grades 3-6*, *Teaching Comprehension*, and many others.

Lloyd Hardesty received a BA in elementary education from Idaho State University, MA in guidance and counseling at Western Oregon University, and an MA in educational administration at Idaho State University. He is a member of the IRA Board of Directors and coauthor of *Time Out for Math and Keys to Success in School—Unlocking Your Understanding of Teachers*.

Matthew Holm is the coauthor and illustrator of the *Babymouse* series of graphic novels from Random House. He is also a professional graphic designer, and, prior to *Babymouse*, spent eight years writing about kitchens (among other topics) for *Country Living* magazine.

Jerry Johns has been recognized as a distinguished teacher, writer, and popular professional development speaker for schools and conferences. Jerry was a classroom teacher and reading specialist. He also served as president of the International Reading Association.

Joan Kindig is an associate professor at James Madison University where she teaches pre-service teachers classes in reading and children's literature. She has compiled lists of children's books for teachers to use in their instruction under the Reading First and Reading Next umbrellas.

Alexandria LaFaye is a visiting instructor in the low residency MFA programs at Hamline University and Hollins University. Since she began writing novels at the age of 12, she loves working with writers of all ages. Her novels include *The Year of the Sawdust Man*, *Edith Shay*, *Dad, in Spirit*, *Strawberry Hill*, *Nissa's Place*, *The Strength of Saints*, and the Scott O'Dell Award-winning novel *Worth*.

Carla Killough McClafferty is an award-winning author of nonfiction books. Her latest book, *Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium*, is the 2007 IRA Children's Book Award Winner in the intermediate nonfiction category. Her next book, *In Defiance of Hitler, The Secret Mission of Varian Fry*, is due out fall 2008.

Fredrick and Patricia McKissack have written more than 100 books about the African-American experience. They have won countless awards and received much critical acclaim, all the while bringing enjoyment and information to young readers. Some of their books are *Days of Jubilee: Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African-American Whalers*, and *Christmas in the Big House*.

John Micklos, Jr. is the author/compiler of four children's poetry books and the author of several juvenile biographies, as well as many magazine and newspaper articles for

both children and adults. For more than 20 years, he has served as editor of IRA's *Reading Today* newspaper, and he is also a past president of the Association of Educational Publishers.

Jeanne Paratore is a faculty member and coordinator of the Literacy, Language, and Cultural Studies Program in the Department of Developmental Studies and Counseling at Boston University. Her current research efforts are in two areas: classroom grouping practices and family literacy. She is a past member of the IRA Board of Directors.

Darcy Pattison is the author of the award-winning *Journey of Oliver K. Woodman* and its companion, *Searching for Oliver K. Woodman*, which is on the 2007-8 Arkansas Diamond Award reading list. Her latest book is *19 Girls and Me*.

Carol Rasco is a native Arkansan who has taught school, worked as a middle school counselor, and served in government policy work both in the Arkansas Governor's office and as the domestic policy advisor to the president. She currently served as the President/CEO of Reading is Fundamental where she has been for five years. RIF has a presence through 4,000 programs in all states and territories serving more than 4.5 million children and their families yearly.

Margriet Ruurs teaches creative writing at the elementary and college levels. She is the author of more than 20 books for children and teachers. Several of Margriet's books have won awards, including the Storytellers World Award Honor Title for *Emma's Eggs* and short-listings for the Mr. Christie Award of Excellence, the Shining Willow, and the Chocolate Lily Awards.

Rebecca Sitton had experiences in classroom teaching, special education, curriculum supervision, and reading/spelling/language textbook authorship. She now creates and publishes her own language-learning materials and conducts staff development seminars nationally to promote better instructional strategies for effective spelling, word-skill and vocabulary-building instruction.

Cris Tovani is a high school reading specialist and English teacher, as well as a nationally known consultant focusing on issues of reading and content comprehension in high school classrooms. She is the author of the book *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading* and the videotape sets *Thoughtful Reading and Comprehending Content*.

Miriam Trehearne has been a classroom teacher, resource teacher, program specialist (exceptional needs students), coach, administrator, literacy specialist, and university associate. She is the winner of the 2006 Association of Educational Publisher's Distinguished Achievement for Excellence in Educational Publishing Award, Professional Development Category. *The Comprehensive Literacy Resource for Grade 3-6 Teachers* became available in March 2006.

Necy Twinem is an award winning children's book author and illustrator with more than 25 published books. Her rich, brightly colored artwork and simple text invites

readers to explore the natural world. Toddlers enjoy her new *Beasties* series, and all readers embrace her *E is for Enchantment: A New Mexico Alphabet*, and other enticing titles.

Myron Uhlberg is the first-born son of two deaf parents. Born in depression-era Brooklyn, his first language was sign language. He is the award-winning author of five children's books, and up upcoming adult memoir.

June Rae Wood, author of several books for mid-level readers including *The Man Who Loved Clowns*, grew up in Versailles, Missouri, and studied business education at Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg. She and her husband, William, live in a rural home near Windsor, Missouri, and have one daughter and two granddaughters.

Judy Young is the author of *R is for Rhyme, A Poetry Alphabet* that received a 2006 NAPPA Honor Award for ages 9+ and was choreographed by the Tanner Creative Dance Theatre at the University of Utah for their 58th annual performance. Judy also wrote *S is for Show Me, A Missouri Alphabet, Poetry and Paint: Selected Works, Lazy Days of Summer* and *Show Me the Numbers, A Missouri Counting Book*. She has two additional books scheduled for release in 2008. She is a full time writer, after working 20 years in the public schools. She resides in Springfield, Missouri.

Terrell Young is a professor of literacy at Washington State University, where he teaches courses in children's literature and reading. He was named the 2008 Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading by the International Reading Association.

Gail Boushey and **Joan Moser** are known simply as “**The Sisters**” to the teachers they have worked with in Washington state and throughout the world. They are sisters and elementary teachers with more than fifty years of teaching experience between them. Gail is currently a literacy coach and Joan is a grades K-1 multiage teacher. In addition to full-time teaching, they are newly published authors of the book *The Daily 5: Fostering Literacy Independence in the Elementary Grades*, as well as the DVDs *Daily 5 Alive, Café in the Classroom* and *Simply Beautiful*. They are also nationally known consultants specializing in literacy, assessment, and creating beautiful spaces for learning in classrooms.