



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

VIRTUAL FAY B. KAIGLER  
**CHILDREN'S BOOK  
FESTIVAL**



**School of Library and Information Science**

**APRIL 6-8, 2022**

## The University of Southern Mississippi

# MEDALLION

The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion is the highlight of the Children's Book Festival. Awarded annually for outstanding contributions in the field of children's literature, the Medallion for 2022 goes to Brian Selznick. Silver medallions are cast for the recipient, for the president of The University of Southern Mississippi, for members of the Medallion Selection Committee, and for the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection's permanent display. In addition, nickel medallions are cast and available for purchase during the festival.



## Recipients of The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion

1969	Lois Lenski	1987	Paula Fox	2005	Kevin Henkes
1970	Ernest H. Shepard	1988	Jean Fritz	2006	Walter Dean Myers
1971	Roger Duvoisin	1989	Lee Bennett Hopkins	2007	Eve Bunting
1972	Marcia Brown	1990	Charlotte Zolotow	2008	Pat Mora
1973	Lynd Ward	1991	Richard Peck	2009	Judy Blume
1974	Taro Yashima	1992	James Marshall	2010	David Wiesner
1975	Barbara Cooney	1993	Quentin Blake	2011	T.A. Barron
1976	Scott O'Dell	1994	Ashley Bryan	2012	Jane Yolen
1977	Adrienne Adams	1995	Tomie de Paola	2013	Jon Scieszka
1978	Madeleine L'Engle	1996	Patricia MacLachlan	2014	Christopher Paul Curtis
1979	Leonard Everett Fisher	1997	Eric Carle	2015	Paul O. Zelinsky
1980	Ezra Jack Keats	1998	Elaine Konigsburg	2016	Jacqueline Woodson
1981	Maurice Sendak	1999	Russell Freedman	2017	Kate DiCamillo
1982	Beverly Cleary	2000	David Macaulay	2018	Dav Pilkey
1983	Katherine Paterson	2001	Virginia Hamilton	2019	Tamora Pierce
1984	Peter Spier	2002	Rosemary Wells	2020	Rita Williams-Garcia
1985	Arnold Lobel	2003	Lois Lowry	2021	Andrea Davis Pinkney
1986	Jean Craighead George	2004	Jerry Pinkney	2022	Brian Selznick

# BRIAN SELZNICK

## 2022 Southern Miss Medallion Recipient

**BRIAN SELZNICK** is the author and illustrator of innovative, genre-defying works for children. For *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, which combined words, pictures and design in a revolutionary way, Brian received the Caldecott Medal before Martin Scorsese adapted the book into the Oscar-winning film, *Hugo*, in which Brian made a cameo appearance. Growing out of the style and technique of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian created *Wonderstruck* and *The Marvels*.

He has illustrated picture books, including the Caldecott Honor recipient, *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* by Barbara Kerley, and the Sibert Honor recipients, *When Marian Sang* by Pam Muñoz Ryan and *Walt Whitman: Words for America* by Barbara Kerley. He and his husband David Serlin collaborated on *Baby Monkey, Private Eye*, a 158-page early reader that again challenged the expectations for a literary category. Brian has also created artwork for beloved series, including new covers and a decorative book to commemorate the 20th anniversary of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, covers and interior illustrations for *The Doll People* trilogy by Ann M. Martin and Laura Godwin, and chapter books by Andrew Clements, such as *Frindle*. Recently, Brian published his first book for adults, *Live Oak, With Moss*, based on 12 of Walt Whitman's poems, and his newest book for young readers, the *New York Times* bestselling *Kaleidoscope*, is a transcendent tale of friendship, loss and hope.

Brian continues to take his work beyond the page by performing as a puppeteer, creating toy theater pieces, and writing a new narrative for Christopher Wheeldon's *The Nutcracker*, performed at Chicago's Joffrey Ballet. Brian wrote the screenplay for Todd Haynes's film adaptation of his book *Wonderstruck*, and is also working on a new adaptation of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, a stage musical to be directed and choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon. Clearly, Brian's experimentation with form and storytelling techniques is far from over.



## 2022 Keynote Speakers



**JEN BRYANT** has written award-winning picture books, verse novels and poetry collections and is particularly well-known for her picture book biographies. *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* received the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award, and *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* received a Sibert Honor, the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award and the Schneider Family Book Award. *Six Dots: The Story of Young Louis Braille* also received the Schneider Family Book Award. *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* and *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* both garnered Caldecott Honors for illustrator Melissa Sweet's artwork, which beautifully complements Jen's flowing text. Two of Jen's middle-grade verse novels, *Ringside 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial* and *The Trial*, which presents the legal aftermath of the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby, highlight important events in U.S. history from multiple perspectives.



**NIC STONE** is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dear Martin*, the novel that launched her career and encourages readers of all ages to examine the biases in their own lives and to have honest discussions about race in today's world. Nic's mission is to create stories that speak to kids underrepresented in YA literature today. Her aim is to not only create windows in which young people are introduced to new perspectives but also mirrors in which children see their experiences and identities fully represented. Born and raised in a suburb of Atlanta, Ga., Nic grew up with a wide range of cultures, religions and backgrounds and constantly strives to bring diverse voices and stories to her work. All of her novels have been widely embraced by teens and adults and have been the recipients of numerous accolades, awards and starred reviews. In addition to *Dear Martin*, her books include *Dear Justyce*, *Blackout*, and a middle-grade novel, *Clean Getaway*, all *New York Times* bestsellers. She has also published *Odd One Out*, *Jackpot*, *Black Panther* novels *Shuri* and *Shuri: The Vanished*, as well as *Fast Pitch*. A Spelman College graduate, Nic lives in Atlanta with her family.

## 2022 Keynote Speakers



**RAÚL THE THIRD** is an award-winning illustrator, author and artist living in Boston. His work centers around the contemporary Mexican American experience and his memories of growing up in El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. *Lowriders in Space*, a graphic novel Raúl illustrated, was nominated for a Texas Bluebonnet Award, and Raúl was awarded the Pura Belpré Award for Illustration for its sequel, *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*. The picture book, *¡Vamos! Let's Go to The Market!*, was the first book that Raúl both wrote and illustrated, with colors by Elaine Bay, and it received a Pura Belpré Honor for Illustration. *¡Vamos! Let's Go Eat*, the next installment in Raúl's *¡Vamos!* series, won the Pura Belpré Award for Illustration, and *¡Vamos! Let's Cross the Bridge* was recently published. Raúl has also recently released the first two books in his new early reader series, *El Toro & Friends: Training Day* and *Tag Team*.



**ANGIE THOMAS** was born, raised and still lives in Jackson, Mississippi. A former teen rapper, she holds a BFA in creative writing from Belhaven University. Her award-winning, acclaimed debut novel, *The Hate U Give*, is a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and major motion picture from Fox 2000, starring Amandla Stenberg and directed by George Tillman Jr. Her second novel, *On the Come Up*, is a #1 NYT bestseller as well, and a film is in development with Paramount Pictures with Angie acting as a producer. In 2020, Angie released *Find Your Voice: A Guided Journal to Writing Your Truth* as a tool to help aspiring writers tell their stories. In 2021, Angie returned to the world of *Garden Heights* with *Concrete Rose*, a prequel to *The Hate U Give* that focuses on 17-year-old Maverick Carter. *Concrete Rose* was an instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller.

# Coleen Salley Storytelling Award Recipient



**DONNA WASHINGTON** is a storyteller and author who has performed at countless storytelling festivals, schools and libraries, sharing captivating stories with audiences of all ages. She has published an anthology, *A Pride of African Tales*, illustrated by Festival keynote James Ransome, as well as picture books, including *Boo Stew*, *The Story of Kwanzaa*, *Li'l Rabbit's Kwanzaa* and *A Big Spooky House*. As a recording artist, she has released multiple albums, such as *Live and Learn: The Exploding Frog and Other Stories*, *Fun, Foolery and Folktales*, and *The Sword and the Rose*. Her albums have received numerous honors, including a Parent's Choice Award, a Storytelling World Award, an iParenting Media Excellent Product Award, and Children's Music Web Awards. Drawing on her performance experiences, Donna offers workshops about storytelling, writing and creative drama for teachers and librarians.

## The Coleen Salley Storytelling Award



**COLEEN SALLEY** The Coleen Salley Storytelling Award was established in 2009 to honor the memory of Children's Book Festival supporter, storyteller and children's literature advocate, Coleen Salley. Throughout her career, Ms. Salley worked tirelessly to promote quality children's literature and reading. Each year, the award recognizes a storyteller whose mission reflects the ideals and dedication to the field that Ms. Salley personified. The session is supported by the family of Coleen Salley, the Coleen Salley Storytelling Endowment and The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation.

### Previous Coleen Salley Award Winners

2010 - Walter Mayes  
(AKA Walter the Giant Storyteller)

2011- Carmen Agra Deedy

2012 - Caroline Herring

2013 - Trout Fishing in America

2014 - Mary Hamilton

2015 - Rita Auerbach

2016 - Tim Tingle

2017 - Pat Mora

2018 - Wanda Johnson

2019 - William Joyce

2020 - Michael Fry

2021 - Elizabeth Ellis

# de Grummond Children's Literature Lecturers



**LESA CLINE-RANSOME** is an acclaimed author of picture books, middle grade novels, and works of nonfiction. Many of her books focus on African American and women's history, often uncovering hidden stories. Her award-winning picture books include *Satchel Paige*, *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams*, *Words Set Me Free: The Story of Young Frederick Douglass*, and *The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel Payne*. Her verse biography of Harriet Tubman, *Before She Was Harriet*, received five starred reviews, was nominated for an NAACP Image Award, and received a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor. Her debut middle grade novel, *Finding Langston*, received the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction and a Coretta Scott King Author Honor and was followed by two companion novels, *Leaving Lymon* and *Being Clem*. Lesa's books have received numerous other recognitions, including the Jane Addams Children's Book Award and the Christopher Award. She frequently collaborates with her husband, illustrator James Ransome.

**JAMES RANSOME** has illustrated over 60 picture books, many of which explore African American history and contemporary life. For *The Bell Rang*, which he both wrote and illustrated, he received his second Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award. Previously, he had received the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award for *The Creation*, along with three Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honors for *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*, *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*, and *Before She Was Harriet*. *Let My People Go* won an NAACP Image Award. He frequently collaborates with his wife, author Lesa Cline-Ransome, and some of their picture book creations include *Overground Railroad*, *Freedom's School*, *Young Pelé: Soccer's First Star*, and *My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey*. In addition to Lesa, James has illustrated works for other well-known authors, including Jacqueline Woodson, Carole Boston Weatherford and Deborah Hopkinson. He also paints murals, including three murals for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

## Previous de Grummond Lecturers

2010 - Richard Peck

2011 - Gary Schmidt

2012 - Margery Cuyler

2013 - Wendell Minor

2014 - Kathi Appelt

2015 - Deborah Wiles

2016 - Tim Tingle

2017 - Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

2018 - T.A. Barron

2019 - Sophie Blackall

2020 - Emma Walton Hamilton

2021 - Sharon Draper

2022 - Lesa Cline-Ransome  
and James Ransome





## The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

Founded in 1966 by Dr. Lena de Grummond, the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection is the result of one woman's dream to collect original materials from authors and illustrators of children's books to use as resources for students in library science. Today the collection has grown far beyond its original intent and is now one of the largest such collections in North America.

While the collection has many strengths, the main focus is on American and British children's literature, historical as well as contemporary, and it holds original materials and published works in the McCain Library and Archives on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi.

The de Grummond Collection contains the works of more than 1,400 authors and illustrators, including Randolph Caldecott, John Newbery, Kate Greenaway, H.A. and Margret Rey, and Ezra Jack Keats. These are some of the most celebrated names in children's literature, with Caldecott, Newbery and Greenaway all having prestigious national awards named in their honor, and the Reys being the creators of Curious George.

Keats, the man behind *The Snowy Day*, is one of America's most groundbreaking authors, with his efforts to break the color barrier in children's publishing. *The Snowy Day* is considered to be one of the most important American books of the 20th century. The de Grummond Collection is the sole repository of the works of Ezra Jack Keats, holding original artwork, typescripts, dummies and preliminary sketches for 35 books by the Caldecott Award-winning author/illustrator that complement the archives of his personal and professional papers.

### For more information, contact

Ellen Ruffin, Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection  
McCain Library and Archives  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
118 College Drive #5148  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406  
601.266.4349





# Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science Lecture

In 2021, the Dr. Teresa S. Welsh Children's Book Festival Lecture Endowment was established to support a scholarly keynote at the Kaigler Festival related to the history of children's literature. The inaugural Southern Miss SLIS Lecture is given this year by Dr. Eric L. Tribunella. This scholarly lecture carries on the proud tradition originally established by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation in 1985.

1985 Brian Alderson

1987 Betsy Hearne

1988 Nancy Hands

1989 Ellin Greene

1990 Michael Patrick Hearn

1991 Dorothy Butler

1992 Ann Thwaite

1993 Anita Moss

1994 Anita Silvey

1995 Selma Lanes

1996 Leonard Marcus

1997 Ann Lundin

1998 Roger Sutton

1999 Susan Hirschman

2000 Richard Peck

2001 Patsy Perritt

2002 Barbara Elleman

2003 Eliza Dresang

2004 Eric Kimmel

2005 E.B. Lewis

2006 Floyd Dickman

2007 Leonard Marcus

2008 Barbara Immroth

2009 Pat Scales

2011 Roger Sutton

2012 Anita Silvey

2013 K.T. Horning

2014 Karen Nelson Hoyle

2015 Rita Auerbach

2016 Michael Cart

2017 Andrea Davis Pinkney

2018 Charlotte Jones Voiklis

2019 Bweela Steptoe

2020 Randy Testa

2021 Meg Medina

## The Inaugural Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science Lecturer



**DR. ERIC L. TRIBUNELLA** is a professor of English and executive associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi. He has written influential works of children's literature scholarship, including *Melancholia and Maturation: The Use of Trauma in American Children's Literature* and two editions of *Reading Children's Literature: A Critical Introduction*, co-authored with Carrie Hintz and a staple in many college-level children's literature courses. He has also edited a critical edition of Edward Prime-Stevenson's 1891 novel, *Left to Themselves*, and, in conjunction with Carolyn J. Brown and Ellen Hunter Ruffin, *A de Grummond Primer: Highlights of the Children's Literature Collection*. A long-time member of the Children's Literature Association, his essay, "Between Boys: Edward Stevenson's *Left to Themselves* (1891) and the Birth of Gay Children's Literature," received the organization's award for an outstanding article of literary criticism.

# 2022 Ezra Jack Keats Award

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation (EJK Foundation), in partnership with the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM), will present the winners of the 2022 Ezra Jack Keats Award (EJK Award), along with four honor books, at a virtual award ceremony on April 7, 2022, during the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival at USM in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The annual EJK Award celebrates exceptional early career authors and illustrators for portraying the multicultural nature of our world in the spirit of Ezra Jack Keats.

"The spirit of Ezra Jack Keats can be found in all EJK Award and honor books, a spirit that reflects an ever-expanding definition of diverse children's literature," said Deborah Pope, Executive Director of the EJK Foundation. "This year's EJK Award winning and honor books provide inclusive stories about children with many shades of skin, children who happen to have Down Syndrome, children dealing with loss, children who live in the city or country, in the United States and abroad, and children having trouble sleeping through the night. EJK Award books entertain while opening children's minds and hearts. This year is no exception."

According to Ellen Ruffin, curator of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, "The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection is thrilled to encourage the creation of beautiful and engaging books for the diverse children of our country. It's an honor to work with the amazing members of the EJK Award committee, to celebrate these authors and illustrators, and together build a library in which children see themselves and others in the books they read every day."

Since its inception, the EJK Award has celebrated over 100 exceptional early career authors and illustrators for portraying the multicultural nature of our world, the universal experience of childhood, and the importance of family and community. Past winners include renowned bookmakers Oge Mora, Meg Medina, Christian Robinson, Bryan Collier and Sophie Blackall.



# Ezra Jack Keats Award Winner for Writer



## PAUL HARBRIDGE

"I learned about diversity teaching English as a second language to immigrants in Toronto, the most culturally diverse city in the world, and as a speech-language pathologist working first with persons from the deaf community and later with adults with developmental disabilities. But the best lesson about diversity came from growing up with Linda, my little sister with Down Syndrome. Yes, she was different in some ways, but at the same time, she was not different at all. Like me and my other brothers and sisters, she needed a chance to explore the world around her, encouragement to go after her goals, a pat on the back when she succeeded, and a reassuring hug when she stumbled. And that is the beauty of Ezra Jack Keats's books. In *The Snowy Day*, Peter could have been from any background, any gender or ability. Winning the EJK Award for Writing is so special to me because it means, in my own small way, I am carrying on Mr. Keats's work to show the world that, despite our differences, at heart we are all the same."



## OUT INTO THE BIG WIDE LAKE

Illustrated by Josée Bisailon

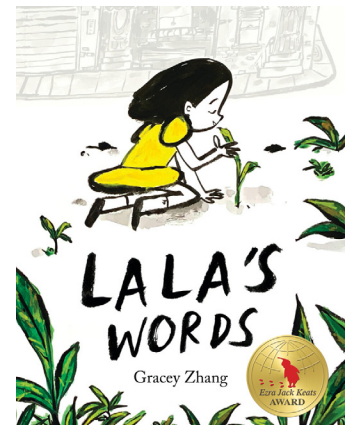
Published by Tundra Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House

# Ezra Jack Keats Award Winner for Illustrator



## GRACEY ZHANG

"When I was writing and illustrating *Lala's Words*, I sought to create a story that came from my own experience of familial relationships and communication that felt decidedly unique and my own. While sharing stories with others, many of whom were also children of immigrants, I found a common understanding and that we shared similar experiences. I purposely set the book in the neighborhood of Ridgewood, Queens, a vibrant and diverse community of people *and* buildings I fell in love with. I was extremely moved when I received the call for the Ezra Jack Keats Award for Illustrator—an award that stands for acceptance of differences and recognition of our diversities and strength. To have *Lala's Words* recognized for furthering these values is an immense honour and celebration of those stories we share."



## LALA'S WORDS

Published by Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic

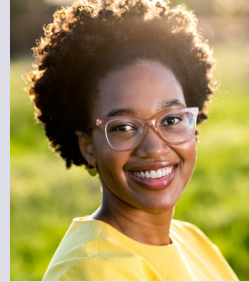
# Ezra Jack Keats Award Honor Recipients

## WRITER HONORS



Joanna Ho  
**PLAYING AT THE BORDER**

Illustrated by Teresa Martinez  
Published by Harper,  
an imprint of HarperCollins



Anne Wynter  
**EVERYBODY IN THE  
RED BRICK BUILDING**

Illustrated by Oge Mora  
Published by Balzer & Bray,  
an imprint of HarperCollins

## ILLUSTRATOR HONORS



Marta Bartolj  
**EVERY LITTLE KINDNESS**

Written by Marta Bartolj  
Published by Chronicle



Kenesha Sneed  
**MANY SHAPES OF CLAY**

Written by Kenesha Sneed  
Published by Prestel, an imprint  
of Penguin Random House

The Ezra Jack Keats Award is co-administered by the EJK Foundation and the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi.

A distinguished selection committee of children's literature and early childhood education specialists, librarians, authors and illustrators review the entries and announce the winners and honorees on the second Tuesday in March each year.

Ezra Jack Keats (1916-83) is considered one of America's greatest children's book illustrators and authors. His first book, *The Snowy Day*, which he wrote and illustrated, was published in 1962 and awarded the Caldecott Medal, the most prestigious children's book award for illustration in the United States, in 1963. Keats went on to write and illustrate over 20, now classic, books, including *Peter's Chair*, *Whistle for Willie* and *A Letter to Amy*. He wanted no child to be an outsider. "If we could see each other exactly as the other is," he wrote, "this would be a different world."



# The Fay B. Kaigler-Ruth Lamont Award

The first presentation of the Kaigler-Lamont Award was made in 1998. The generous financial support of Fay Kaigler of McComb, Ms., made the award possible. Ms. Kaigler was well-known for her love of children and her many years as an elementary school teacher. In retirement, she continued to promote books and reading in her local public library. Her dear friend, Ruth Lamont, a successful school librarian in Baton Rouge, La., shared her passion for making books integral to children's lives.

The Kaigler-Lamont Award recognizes distinguished accomplishments in promoting children's reading by librarians and teachers in Mississippi schools and by children's librarians in the public libraries of Mississippi.

## Recipients of the Kaigler-Lamont Award

1998 - Mattie Rials

1999 - Lawana Cummings  
and Charjean Graves

2000 - Sybil Hanna

2001 - Sherry Donald

2002 - Linda E. Sikes

2003 - Gerrie Ann Weldon

2004 - Vickie Ross

2005 - Victoria Penny

2006 - Carol Phares

2007 - Ramona Barrett

2008 - Sally James

2009 - Linda Perez

2011 - Faye Harris Bruce

2012 - Dianne Butler

2013 - Elizabeth Turner

2014 - Tracey H. Crawford

2015 - Kathie Ward

2016 - Becky Smith

2017 - Nettie Moore

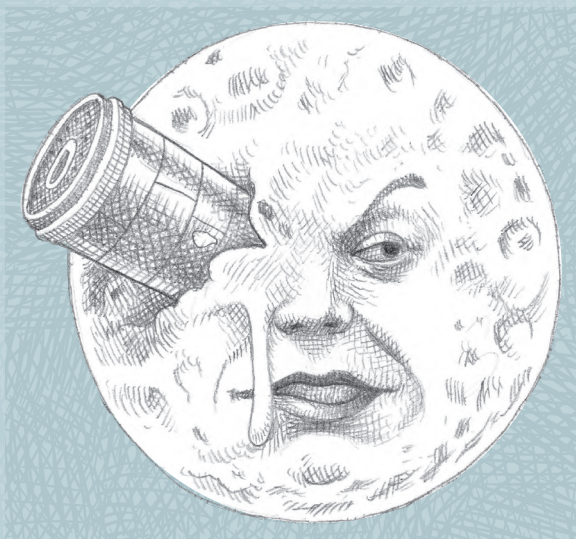
2018 - Venetia Oglesby

2019 - Jennifer Baker

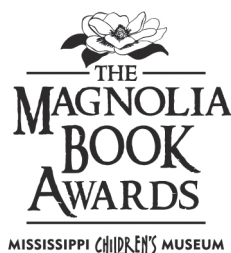
2020 - Beckie Nieman

2021 - Connie Robinson  
and Loraine Walker

2022 - Otha Keys



# The Magnolia Children's Choice Award



The Magnolia Children's Choice Award introduces youth to current literature with a goal of instilling a love of reading. The award was established in 2010 and is a partnership between the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Reading Association, The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Library and Information Science, the de Grummond Collection, the Mississippi Children's Museum and the Mississippi Library Association.

Votes can be cast by Mississippi children in grades K-12. Children in public, private or homeschooled settings are eligible to vote. In order to be eligible to make the reading list (and ultimately, perhaps, be selected by the children as the winner), the book must have been published within the past two years. Titles that have won a national award (i.e. Caldecott, Newbery, Sibert, Coretta Scott King, Pura Belpré, National Book Award, etc.) are not eligible for the Magnolia Award, but honor books are, and either the author or illustrator must be living. Nominations may be done by the public and the committees, but final selection of the titles is determined by the committee.

*The winning titles in each category are announced at the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival.*

## Congratulations to the 2021 Magnolia Award Winners:

- *Grades Pre-K-2: This Is MY Room!*  
written by Jennifer Jacobson  
and illustrated by Alexandria Neonakis
- *Grade 3-5 Winner: Jars of Hope: How One The Dog Who Lost His Bark* written by Eoin Colfer  
and illustrated by P.J. Lynch
- *Grade 6-8 Winner: Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present* written by Jamie Wilson and  
illustrated by Andrea Pippins
- *Grade 9-12 Winner: SHOUT* written by  
Laurie Halse Anderson

For more information: [mschildrensmuseum.org/parent-community-resources/magnolia-book-awards](https://mschildrensmuseum.org/parent-community-resources/magnolia-book-awards)

# 2022 Concurrent Session Presenters

**TINA ATHAIDE** is the author of the award-winning middle grade novel, *Orange for the Sunsets*. It was the 2020 recipient of the CCBC Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young Readers, named a Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best Books of 2019 selection, a Canadian Children's Book Center Best Books for Kids and Teens Pick, and received starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *Publishers Weekly*. Tina has been an educator for over 30 years. The lack of representation and diversity in children's literature is what motivated her to start writing.

**KATHY BARCO**, a former children's librarian, retired from the position of literacy coordinator at the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library. She was Youth Services coordinator at the New Mexico State Library from 2001-06. Kathy received her MLIS from USM. Kathy realized that her experience as a librarian, author, editor and workshop presenter prepared her perfectly for her new career: library consultant. She has done webinars and workshops on topics relating to early literacy, intellectual freedom and Banned Books Week. Her book, *Storytime and Beyond: Having Fun with Early Literacy* (co-authored with Melanie Borski-Howard), was published by Libraries Unlimited in 2018.

**KIM BECNEL** is a professor of Library Science at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina and a former youth services librarian. She earned her Ph.D. in literature and language from the University of South Carolina and currently teaches and researches in the areas of youth literature and literacy and the intersection of technology and pedagogy.

**TEGAN BEESE** is the Youth Services consultant for the State Library of Iowa. She has her Master of Library and Information Science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently obtaining her Master of Fine Arts in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. While currently focusing on Youth Services, she has worked in every department of the library, giving her a well-rounded library experience.

**RASHMI S. BISMARK**, MD, MPH (she/her) is a mom, writer, certified mindfulness meditation teacher and physician specialized in preventive medicine. Inspired by experiences of contemplative practice with her own family, Dr. Bismark writes stories that share South Asian philosophies, yoga, and mindfulness for children and their grown-ups. *Finding Om*, illustrated by Morgan Huff and published by Mango and Marigold Press, is her award-winning picture book debut. Dr. Bismark is a member of SCBWI, KidLit in Color, and co-moderator for the Desi KidLit Community.

**MELANIE BORSKI-HOWARD** has been working in libraries for over 25 years. She has presented webinars on musical, virtual, drag queen, and embracing race in storytimes. She currently works at the Boulder Public Library in Colorado as a Youth Services specialist. She has been reading stories to children for over 19 years. Melanie is a member of the American and Colorado Library Associations, CLEL (Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy), where she is currently serving on the CLEL BELL Award selection committee. And last, but not least, she is the co-author of the book, *Storytimes and Beyond: Having Fun with Early Literacy*, published by Libraries Unlimited.

**ELISA BOXER**, is an Emmy-winning journalist whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Inc.* magazine, and *Fast Company*. Her first picture book, *The Voice That Won the Vote*, released in 2020 to coincide with the suffrage centennial. Her second book, *A Seat at the Table: The Nancy Pelosi Story*, released last year and features an interview with the House Speaker herself. Elisa has several more inspirational nonfiction picture books on the way, and she lives in Maine with her family. To learn more about her, please go to: [elisaboxer.com](http://elisaboxer.com).

**KIRSTI CALL** is a co-host of the *Picture Book Look* podcast, a Rate Your Story judge, and a blogger for Writer's Rumpus. She has judged the Cybils Award since 2015 and is a therapist-trained life coach for creatives. Kirsti's the author of *Mootilda's Bad Mood* (Little Bee), *Cow Says Meow* (HMH), *COLD TURKEY* (Little Brown) and *The Big Scream* (Little Simon).

# 2022 Concurrent Session Presenters

**BETHANY CARLISLE** serves as president of the Magnolia Book Awards Executive Board. Bethany is the Youth Services coordinator for the Jackson-George Regional Library System, a position she has held for 11 years. Prior to taking the Youth Services coordinator position, she worked at the Vancleave Public Library, where she found great joy in being the community "Library Lady." Bethany loves living in coastal Mississippi and feels privileged to promote libraries and literacy in Jackson and George counties.

**LESLEY COLABUCCI** is an associate professor of early, middle and exceptional education at the Millersville University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches courses in children's literature at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

**WENDY DAUGHDRILL** serves as vice president of the Magnolia Book Awards Executive Board. Wendy is the school librarian at Oxford Intermediate School. Before coming to the Oxford School District 12 years ago, she taught middle and high school English and has also worked with children and youth in the public library system. She thinks spending every day with kids and books is the best job in the world.

**ALDA P. DOBBS** is the author of the historical novel *Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* and its followup *The Other Side of the River* (September 2022). Her debut novel was nominated for the Texas Bluebonnet Master List Award and received a Pura Belpre Honor Award. Alda was born in a small town in northern Mexico but moved to San Antonio, Texas as a child. She studied physics and worked as an engineer before pursuing her love of storytelling. She's as passionate about connecting children to their past, their communities, different cultures and nature as she is about writing. Alda lives with her husband and two children outside Houston, Texas.

**CHRISTINA DORR'S** love affair with books began early when her mother took her to the tiny, red-brick public library in their village. This involvement has led her to become an award-winning librarian, author, presenter and consultant. She has served on a number of state and national book award committees, including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Geisel Award and Stonewall committees. This is her fifth book and the second one published by the American Library Association. You can visit her website at [opendorrs2books.com](http://opendorrs2books.com).

**CAROL GORDON EKSTER** was a passionate elementary school teacher for 35 years and is now grateful that her writing allows her to continue communicating with children. Her fifth book, *Some Daddies*, comes out with Beaming Books May 2022, and *Trucker Kid, Capstone Kids*, is expected out in 2023. She is a blogger for Writers' Rumpus and lover of yoga. Find out more at [carolgordonekster.com](http://carolgordonekster.com).

**SOPHIA GHOLZ** is an award-winning children's book author, magic seeker and avid reader. Sophia enjoys writing fiction with humor and heart. When writing nonfiction, she pulls on her love of science and her strong family background in ecology. Sophia is the author of *The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng*, a NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book and Florida State Book Award gold medalist; *Jack Horner, Dinosaur Hunter!*; *Bug on the Rug* and the forthcoming *A History of Toilet Paper (And Other Potty Tools)*. Find out more at [sophiagholz.com](http://sophiagholz.com).

**LYDIA GREEN** is a former, highly evaluated teacher-librarian for elementary and middle schools in Middle Tennessee and a 2017 graduate of the School of Library and Information Science at USM. During her time in education, she secured prestigious funding for her school libraries from Disney, local arts organizations and political leaders. She recently accepted a new role with Teachers Pay Teachers Corporate as a sales development representative and is an incoming Harvard University graduate student in the Master of Management degree program.



# 2022 Concurrent Session Presenters

**JO WATSON HACKL** is the bestselling author of *Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe* (Random House Children's Books), which won the Southern Book Prize and the Mississippi Library Association Children's Author of the Year Award, and is an Amazon Teacher's Pick. Jo is also the founder of [outdoorosity.org](http://outdoorosity.org), a free resource for inspiration and information about nature. A first-generation college graduate (Millsaps College and Yale Law School), Jo has presented to over 20,000 students and educators. Jo loves school visits and donates her honorarium to buy books for children in need. Find free resources at [JoHackl.com](http://JoHackl.com).

**DEE HARE** is the director of the Northeast Regional Library System. She holds a Master of Library and Information Science from The University of Southern Mississippi with a certificate in Youth Services and Literature and a Bachelor of Arts in English education from Delta State University. She has 20 years of experience working in public library services.

**CYNTHIA HARMONY** is an author and educational psychologist, who has created exhibits for children and science museums. Originally from Mexico City, Cynthia was awarded the 2020 "We Need Diverse Books" Mentorship and has published for the educational market. Her picture books *Mi Ciudad Sings* (2022) and *Flicker of Hope* (2023) will be released simultaneously in English and Spanish by Penguin Young Readers.

**ANASTASIA HIGGINBOTHAM** is the award-winning author and illustrator of the *Ordinary Terrible Things* book series, which offers a compassionate, child-centered witnessing of the injuries that can come with divorce, childhood fears about death, conflicting messages about sex, the confusion and complex feelings of confronting racism when you're white, the conditions in childhood that could liberate children into their full humanity (even as they reckon with weaponized Christianity and the violence of whiteness), and childhood sexual abuse by a beloved family member.

**SOLINE HOLMES** is a school librarian in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a member-at-large for ALA's Graphic Novels and Comics Roundtable, serves on the Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award committee, is the 2021-22 chair of the New Orleans Information Literacy Collective, and was recently named a Teaching with Primary Sources Network mentor. She has given presentations on graphic novels, Mother Goose and STEM, and primary sources at local and national conferences with Alicia Schwarzenbach. Soline also co-authored, with Alicia Schwarzenbach, an article about graphic novels as informational texts for *Children and Libraries* and was interviewed for *Book Links* about how to best use graphic novels in the classroom.

**LEIGH HOOD** is the administrative assistant and Branch Services coordinator for the Northeast Regional Library System. She has 15 years of experience working in public library services.

As the youngest of eight siblings, **LISA KATZENBERGER** has been making up stories to entertain herself since she was a child. She loves to write books that make children laugh, escape and dream. She is the author of *It Will Be Ok* (Sourcebooks 2021) and *National Regular Average Ordinary Day* (Penguin Workshop 2020).

**KIRSTEN W. LARSON** used to work with rocket scientists at NASA. Now she writes books for curious kids. She's the author of the picture books *Wood, Wire, Wings: Emma Lilian Todd Invents an Airplane*, illustrated by Tracy Subisak (Calkins Creek, 2020), *A True Wonder: The Comic Book Hero Who Changed Everything*, illustrated by Katy Wu (Clarion, 2021), *The Fire of Stars*, illustrated by Katherine Roy (Chronicle, 2023), the graphic novel *The Light of Resistance*, illustrated by Barbara McClintock (Roaring Brook, 2023), along with 25 other nonfiction books for kids. Find her at [kirsten-w-larson.com](http://kirsten-w-larson.com) or on Twitter/Instagram @KirstenWLarson.

# 2022 Concurrent Session Presenters

**IRENE LATHAM** and **CHARLES WATERS** have been creating books together since 2015. Published titles include *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship*, which was the recipient of a Charlotte Huck Honor; *Dictionary for a Better World: Poems, Quotes and Anecdotes from A to Z*, an NCTE Notable Poetry Book, and the historical verse novel, *African Town* (Jan. 4, 2022/PRH).

**MARIANA LLANOS** is a Peruvian-born writer of children's literature. Her latest book, *Run Little Chaski* (Barefoot Books, 2021), is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, and it was selected as one of the Best Picture Books of 2021 by the Chicago Public Library. She's also the author of *Eunice and Kate* (Penny Candy Books, 2020), winner of the Patterson Prize Books for Young Readers, and *Luca's Bridge* (Penny Candy Books 2019), a 2020 ALSC Notable Book. Mariana is a co-founder of LatinxPitch and visits schools to encourage the love for reading.

**KAYLA MARTIN-GANT** has been working in public libraries for over 8 years and got her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2020. She has a passion for intersectional collection development, inclusive and engaging teen services, and disability advocacy. Along with being a librarian, she is also: a writer, a nap enthusiast, a sentient cardigan, and a lover of all things spooky and weird.

**ALISON GREEN MYERS** has served as a classroom teacher, literacy coach and school director. She is the program director at the Highlights Foundation and a National Writing Fellow. *Kirkus* details her debut middle grade novel, *A Bird Will Soar* (Dutton), as, "poetically portray[ing] the oft-difficult, usually rewarding work of maintaining families of choice and of blood."

**MARY NAPOLI** is an associate professor of reading at Penn State Harrisburg, where she teaches literacy education and children's literature courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**CHARLOTTE OFFSAY** was born in England, grew up in Boston, and currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two small children. Through her work, Charlotte hopes to make children laugh, to inspire curiosity, and to create a magical world her readers can lose themselves in time and time again. She is the author of *The Big Beach Cleanup* (Albert Whitman 2021), *How to Return a Monster* (Beaming Books 2021), and *A Grandma's Magic* (Doubleday Books for Young Readers 2022).

**COLLEEN PAEFF** is the author of *The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem* (Margaret K. McElderry Books/S&S 2021) and *Rainbow Truck* (Chronicle Books 2023). A former preschool teacher and bookseller, her passion for picture books is rivaled only by her love of research, especially when primary sources are involved. Find her on Twitter and Instagram @ColleenPaeff and online at colleenpaeff.com.

**SANA RAFI** is a Muslim American author who is passionate about showcasing Muslim and immigrant characters in books, especially for children. Her debut, *Little Seeds of Promise*, was released in October 2021 by The Innovation Press. She has an MFA in writing from Columbia University. Rafi currently resides in sunny California with her husband, son and newborn daughter.

**ANNA CROWLEY REDDING** is an award-winning author of six nonfiction books for kids and teens. Her works has garnered accolades from the Gold Standard selection by the Junior Library Guild to a Best STEM book designation by the National Science Teaching Association. Her book *The Gravity Tree* was recognized by *Kirkus* as a Best Book of 2021. New York Public Library called *Black Hole Chasers* a Best Book of 2021. Anna's latest *Courage Like Kate: The True Story of a Girl Lighthouse Keeper* comes out from Penguin Random House in August 2022. You can find out more at AnnaCrowleyRedding.com.

# 2022 Concurrent Session Presenters

**ALICIA SCHWARZENBACH** is the Youth Services librarian at Ascension Parish Library in Louisiana. She has over 25 years of experience in public, school, academic, government and corporate libraries. Alicia has co-presented with Soline Holmes at conferences, including the Louisiana Library Association (LLA), Conference for Young Adult Literature Louisiana (CYALL), and a recent Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Celebration of Illustration, and she has co-published with Soline in ALSC's *Children and Libraries and Book Links*. Alicia has handled social media for libraries where she has worked and served as a social media coordinator for the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival.

**ANA SIQUEIRA** is a Spanish-language elementary teacher, an award-winning Brazilian children's author, and a published author in the foreign language educational market. Her debut picture book is *Bella's Recipe for Disaster/Success* (Beaming Books, 2021). Her forthcoming books are *IF Your Babysitter Is a Bruja/Cuando Tu Niñera Es Una Bruja* (SimonKids, 2022) and *Abuela's Super Capa/La Super Capa De Abuela* (HarperCollins 2023) at a two-book deal auction, as well as another book to be announced.

As an Indian American, **MEERA SRIRAM** has lived equal parts of her life in both countries. Previously an electrical engineer, she now writes for children and advocates for diversifying bookshelves. Meera is the author of several picture books, including *The Yellow Suitcase*, *Between Two Worlds* and *Dumpling Day*. Her book, *A Gift for Amma*, received the 2021 South Asia Book Award and the Foreword Reviews Indies Silver Award, and was named Best Book of The Year by *School Library Journal* and Bank Street College. Meera believes in the transformative power of stories and likes to write about people, places and experiences less visible in children's literature. For more information, visit [meerasriram.com](http://meerasriram.com).

**ALEX VILLASANTE** is the author of the Lambda Award-Winning novel, *The Grief Keeper*, a young adult story about two sisters who must flee El Salvador. It is a story of survival and the lengths we will go to in order to protect our family. Alex is a program manager at the Highlights Foundation and a steering committee member for the Latinx Kidlit Book Festival.

**KAITLYN WELLS** (she/her) is an award-winning journalist at the *New York Times'* Wirecutter. Her work has appeared in *Consumer Reports*, *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*, among others. She has an MS in journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and she lives in New York City with her wonderful husband and two rambunctious pets. Her first picture book, *A Family Looks Like Love*, arrives in summer 2022 with Penguin Random House/Philomel Books.

**HELEN H. WU** is a children's book author, illustrator, translator and publisher. She is the author of *Tofu Takes Time* (Beaming Books 2022) and the illustrator of *Be a Coronavirus Fighter* (Yeahoo Press, 2020). Helen is the associate publisher of Yeahoo Press. Being fascinated by the differences and similarities between cultures, Helen loves to share stories that can empower children to understand the world and our connections. Born and raised in Hefei, China, Helen currently resides in San Diego, California, with her family. Learn more about Helen at [helenhwu.com](http://helenhwu.com).

**MINDY YUKSEL**, writing under the pen name M.O. Yuksel, is a multicultural children's book author with a passion for research and writing stories about diverse historical figures, whimsical characters and fascinating cultures. Her debut book, *In My Mosque* (HaperCollins, 2021), is a lyrical picture book celebrating the traditions and joys found in mosques around the world. She is also the author of *One Wish* (HarperCollins, 2022), a picture book biography about Fatima al-Fihri, a ninth-century woman who pioneered the oldest university in the world in Fez, Morocco. Visit her online at [moyuksel.com](http://moyuksel.com).

# 2022 Concurrent Session Descriptions

## **South Asian Stories: Elements of Culture and Faith**

Tina Athaide, Rashimi S. Bismark, MD, MPH, Sana Rafi and Kaitlyn Wells

*Storytelling, Booktalks/Best New Books*

Children of the South Asian diaspora come from a vast variety of social, cultural and religious backgrounds. Join author and *New York Times*' Wirecutter journalist Kaitlyn Wells as she chats with three picture book authors of South Asian heritage about their experiences sharing aspects of culture and faith in the midst of storytelling. This session features members of KidLit in Color.

## **Let's Play Banned Books Week Jeopardy and Charades**

Kathy Barco

*Community Outreach, Public Libraries*

BBW Game Night (or afternoon) is a presentation given to "civilians" (audiences of seniors and bookstore patrons), as well as librarians at conferences. Banned or challenged books provide the basis for games of Jeopardy and charades based on banned or challenged books. Attendees can easily replicate this event in their own settings. An extensive list of Jeopardy answers and questions, as well as appropriate titles for charades, and sources for lists of banned/challenged books will be provided. This activity could easily be planned by and presented to teens. Book banning is happening these days more than ever!

## **Global Literature in Libraries Initiative (GLLI) 2022 Translated YA Book Prize Winners**

Kim Becnel, Catharine Bomhold, Brooke Cruthirds and Jewel Davis

*Programming, Best New Books*

Learn about important new prize books from around the world for young adults that have been translated into English. Members of the 2022 committee will introduce you to the award, the Global Literature in Libraries Initiative, and this year's award and honor books.

## **Diversify Your Collection: The Importance of Diversity in Every Genre**

Tegan Beese

*Booktalks/Best New Books, Public Libraries*

This breakout session will explore the importance of having diverse books in every genre of your collection, ex. romance, horror, fantasy, etc. Resources to find diverse books will be shared, as well as how to do an audit of your collection. Lists of examples for each genre will be shared. This session will use young adult collections as an example, but the practices shared can be used across all age ranges and reading levels.

## **If You Have Emotions and Know It, Shout Hooray: Presenting Social Emotional Learning in Storytime**

Melanie Borski-Howard

*Storytelling, Booktalks/Best New Books*

Storytelling is all about human connection. In this webinar, we will discuss different children's books and other storytime situations that have sparked emotion. We will also dig into what social emotional learning (SEL) is for very young children and how many storytellers present SEL instinctually just by being their amazing selves.

## **Engaging Storytimes**

Kirsti Call and Carol Gordon Ekster

*School Libraries, Programming*

Two picture book authors will present ways to make storytimes more engaging. We'll each give examples of activities and ideas to make a reading more interactive and encourage participation using a variety of picture books for examples.

# 2022 Concurrent Session Descriptions

## **Exploring the Magnolia Book Awards, Mississippi Children's Choice Award**

Bethany Carlisle and Wendy Daughdrill

*School Libraries, Public Libraries*

The Magnolia Book Awards provides the children and youth of Mississippi the opportunity to nominate, read and vote for their favorite books. Please join us to learn more about the Magnolia Book Award and participate in discussion to explore integrating the Magnolia Book Award into school or public library settings. The Magnolia Book Award has four voting categories: PreK-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade. Learn about the process and help us advocate for the Magnolia Book Awards, as we continue to offer children and youth in Mississippi opportunities to develop a lifelong love of reading.

## **Reaching Young Readers with Exemplary Diverse Literature**

Lesley Colabucci and Mary Napoli

*Booktalks/Best New Books*

All children deserve the opportunity to see themselves reflected in books and learn about those who are different from them. In this session, participants will explore text sets and a vast array of recently published, diverse literature focused on themes of identity affirmation, notions of family, developing and maintaining friendships, nurturing a sense of belonging, and understanding the world on a global level.

## **Barefoot Dreams: Unearthing Details of an Old Family Story**

Alda P. Dobbs

*School Libraries, Storytelling*

My abuelita was known for telling tall tales, but one intriguing family story was too fantastic to believe. It depicted the Mexican Revolution and my great-grandmother's poor peasant family escaping its wrath. It told of a race across the desert, north toward the Rio Grande, and a plea to cross to the safety of the United States. Had this really occurred, or had our family tale been stretched after each retelling? Over 40 books of the greatest historical works on the Mexican Revolution couldn't give me an answer, but one source invited me to witness the event.

## **Poverty and Privilege: Intersectionality of Race and Class in Young People's Literature**

Christina Dorr

*Public Libraries, School Libraries*

How do our shared or differing cultural backgrounds affect the relationships and influence we have with our patrons/students? White, award-winning authors and former librarians/educators discuss how unpacking the racial and class biases of our identities better enable us to foster more positive and authentic relationships with the young people in our lives.

## **Everything You Wanted to Know About Back Matter**

Sophia Gholz, Lisa Katzenberger, Charlotte Offsay, Meera Sriram, and Helen H. Wu

*How to Get Published*

Back matter is a great way to add extra insights and layers to your picture book, and provide an exciting opportunity to further engage with young readers about a chosen topic. Join a diverse group of picture book creators of both fiction and non-fiction: Sophia Gholz, Lisa Katzenberger, Charlotte Offsay, Meera Sriram, and Helen H. Wu to discuss different approaches of creating compelling fiction and nonfiction back matter, as well as using it in meaningful ways in classrooms, libraries, and homes.

# 2022 Concurrent Session Descriptions

## **EJK Bookmaking Tips & Tricks Webinar**

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation

*Programming, Public Libraries, School Libraries*

Having your students write and illustrate their own picture books empowers them as readers and writers. It is fun, meets every child at their level and without fail improves reading and writing skills. In this workshop, experienced classroom teachers and school librarians share their enthusiasm for the activity, as well as the ways in which they inspire the kids and use bookmaking to further the required curriculum. Melissa Jacobs, Director of Library Services and Karen Rosner, Director of Visual Arts, both for the New York City Department of Education will join us at the end to answer your questions and talk about their belief in the program.

## **How to Use Social Media to Gain Funding and Diverse Programming for Your School Library**

Lydia Green

*Technology/Social Media, School Libraries*

Attendees will learn how to start, grow and maximize their school's social media profiles to gain additional funding for school library programs. Presenter will also share the benefits of having a healthy, active social media presence for school librarians, tips for networking, and professional portfolio uses.

## **Poetry to Promote Inclusion and Improve Writing**

Jo Watson Hackl

*Common Core, School Libraries*

Poetry is a powerful tool for students to express their diverse perspectives, honor the perspectives of others, and improve writing skills. This session by bestselling and award-winning author, Jo Watson Hackl, will provide data on the value of creating and studying poetry, especially for students from historically marginalized communities. She will then present practical techniques that participants can use with students to help them use poetic techniques to become more critical readers and to make their own poetry and prose writing stronger.

## **Let's Go for a Walk! Taking Stories Outdoors**

Dee Hare and Leigh Hood

*Public Libraries, Programming*

The presentation will discuss the new emergence of Story Walks® in library programming. Story Walks® are outdoor reading activities whereby a children's book is presented via plastic signs at various points along a designated route, such as a walking trail. Story Walks® present a fun option for passive programming, as well as a great opportunity to partner with your local city and their parks department to increase your library's visibility in your community and to reach community members who may not otherwise be utilizing your library's services.

## **Ordinary Terrible Things: Children's Literature, Reality, and the Power of Witnessing**

Anastasia Higginbotham

*Best New Books, School Libraries, Public Libraries*

Anastasia Higginbotham is the award-winning author and illustrator of the Ordinary Terrible Things book series, which offers a compassionate, child-centered witnessing of the injuries that can come with divorce, childhood fears about death, conflicting messages about sex, and confronting racism when you're white. Of her two most recent books, one imagines the conditions in childhood that can liberate children into their full humanity (even as they reckon with weaponized Christianity and the violence of whiteness), and the other envisions a path for healing childhood sexual abuse committed by a beloved family member.

# 2022 Concurrent Session Descriptions

## **The “Natural” Library: Taking Public and School Libraries OUTSIDE!**

Soline Holmes and Alicia Schwarzenbach

*Programming, Booktalks/Best New Books*

In 2021, the *Journal of Happiness and Health* reported that “Nature experiences have a positive effect on mental health.” Since the pandemic, nature has also proven to have a positive effect on physical health. Many libraries and schools started outside storytimes and programming, so join us for ideas, activities, resources and book pairings for public and school library outdoor programming. Whether it is bird watching, rock painting, or art made from natural objects or found materials, outside library programs are safe and refreshing and build a child’s imagination and a lifelong love of and respect for nature.

## **Discovering African Town: Lessons Learned from the Survivors of the Last Slave Ship**

Irene Latham and Charles Waters

*Booktalks/Best New Books, School Libraries*

Encounter the history of African Town, a community outside Mobile, Alabama, founded by African captives brought to the United States in 1860 aboard *Clotilda*, the last known slave ship. Prepare to be impacted by this heartrending, yet triumphant, story, as the authors share their research and writing experience, revealing challenges, rewards and unanswered questions.

## **Family Ties: Real Families in Fiction**

Alison Green Myers and Alex Villasante

*Common Core, Storytelling*

How do we help students find confluence between the lives of children in books and their own experiences? One word: FAMILY. Curated book lists will showcase authentic, diverse families. Guided activities will help students express joys, as well as the pains that sometimes come when writing about our complex families.

## **From Primary Sources to Published: How to Get Published in Children’s Nonfiction**

Colleen Paeff, Kirsten W. Larson, Mindy Yuxsel, Elisa Boxer and Anna Crowley Redding

*How to Get Published*

From picture books to graphic novels, from middle grade to young adult, children’s nonfiction is one of the most innovative parts of today’s children’s market. How do aspiring authors get started? This panel will show you how to take your work from primary sources to published, no matter the age group you’re writing for. Authors will discuss finding story ideas, research techniques, the craft of writing and revising nonfiction, matching story ideas with age groups, and the process of finding agents and publishers.

## **Fostering Empathy Through a Diverse Library**

Ana Siqueira, Cynthia Harmony and Mariana Llanos

*School Libraries, Booktalks/Best New Books*

Stories play a vital role in shaping young readers to be compassionate and caring individuals. When reading diverse books, children will learn to respect diversities with tolerance and acceptance, while considering aspects of social intelligence and emotional relationships. So, let’s check together how to create the most diverse library possible.

# 2022 Prerecorded Sessions

## **Growing Your Social-Emotional Bookshelf: New Books to Teach SEL Skills**

Shannon Anderson and Carrie Finison

*Booktalks/Best New Books, School Libraries*

Children's books may be short on text, but they are long on opportunities for lessons on social-emotional topics. Authors will discuss their recent books for young readers that provide the basis for social-emotional learning and discussion – from empathy, expressing emotions, being yourself, navigating friendships, overcoming fears, personal boundaries, and other “big” topics important to elementary-aged students. Panelists will share ideas/activities/resources that can be used with these books.

## **Understanding Immigration with Graphic Novels and Border Pedagogy**

Kim Becnel

*School Libraries*

Teachers and librarians looking to spark productive and nuanced discussions about immigration would do well to turn to graphic novels. Requiring a particular type of investment from the reader, these texts can evoke powerful emotions and help cultivate empathy. In this session, we will review the principles of Henry's Giroux's border pedagogy and practice applying them to several graphic novels featuring first-generation immigrant characters. Come join us as we explore what happens when we bring critical thinking and compassion to a good story.

## **TeachingBooks and Children's/YA Collections: A Perfect Pairing for Promotion and Instruction**

Sheila Brandt and Anna Mary Willford

*Technology/Social Media, School Libraries*

In this session, you will learn about a collaborative project involving the use of TeachingBooks, an online children's literature resource database, as an instructional and promotional tool when paired with an academic library's youth collection. The presenters will describe how they have used TeachingBooks to create interactive, shareable and thematic lists to expand the reach of their children's and YA collections, and they will provide an overview of how to use the program. Finally, they will share their collaborative experiences of incorporating TeachingBooks within instruction in English and education instructional sessions.

## **Developing Empathy Through Picture Books**

Donna Cangelosi and Chana Stiefel

*Common Core, Booktalks/Best New Books*

Learn how picture books can help students develop empathy and process their emotions in a safe and healthy environment. Using various examples from children's literature, authors Chana Stiefel and Donna Cangelosi will demonstrate how reading books about empathy encourages self-awareness and self-acceptance (which leads to accepting others), promotes curiosity about strangers, helps children discover commonalities and tune into how other people feel, fosters kindness, and challenges prejudice to promote inclusion. The presenters will discuss the importance of using diverse picture books, some on difficult topics, to introduce and explore empathy with students.



# 2022 Prerecorded Sessions

## **The Littlest Learners: Exploring Our World Through Preschool Storytime**

Abi Cushman and Angela Kunkel

*Programming, Storytelling*

In this session, the authors and illustrators of recently published picture books will discuss how their stories were crafted to engage young readers. Each presenter will share potential activities to use with their books, along with several other picture book titles that would work well for a themed storytime. Attendees will come away with several ready-to-go programming ideas to add to their preschool storytime repertoire.

## **Growing Young Environmentalists: Fostering Sustainability Literacy in Classrooms and Libraries**

Cecilia DuPepe and Jamie Naidoo

*Booktalks/Best New Books, Programming*

From Greta Thunberg to Jane Goodall, environmentalists and environmental issues have taken the children's literature world by storm! Join us as we survey the landscape of environmental issues, such as climate change, sustainability and global warming, in recently published children's and YA literature. This presentation also explores suggested read-alikes and resources for extension ideas and programming activities.

## **How to Turn an Idea into a Chapter Book Series**

Christine Evans and Vicky Fang

*How to Get Published, Storytelling*

Authors Christine Evans (*The Wish Library*, Albert Whitman) and Vicky Fang (*Layla and the Bots*, Scholastic) share their advice for creating great chapter books. They will provide example mentor texts, tips from various authors, and tactical advice so that participants will leave with tangible steps to turn their ideas into a chapter book series. There will be a live Q&A for participants to ask questions at the end of the session.

## **Getting Your Picture Book Published**

Deb Gruelle

*How to Get Published, Storytelling*

Do you have a board book idea or written book you'd like to see published? In this session, you'll learn about what these youngest readers and their parents are looking for, and you'll learn about publishing options for new picture books.

## **A Mississippi Ghost Town, a Reclusive Artist and a Poetry-Loving Dog: Drawing Inspiration from Real Life**

Jo Hackl

*Storytelling, School Libraries*

Sometimes the best ideas for fiction come from real life. This interactive session by award-winning and bestselling author, Jo Watson Hackl, presents techniques and tools that participants can use to help their students draw upon their own experiences to create characters who come alive, settings that feel lived-in, and plots that keep the reader engaged from the first page to the last word. Handouts include worksheets for mining personal experiences for character, setting and plot ideas, and tools and techniques to translate those ideas into stories that connect with readers.

# 2022 Prerecorded Sessions

## Using Fiction to Teach Writing and Revision Techniques

Jo Hackl

*School Libraries, Programming*

Would you like to take your writing and that of your students to the next level? This interactive session, led by award-winning and bestselling author, Jo Watson Hackl, will equip you with tools and techniques to use with your students to help make their writing more powerful, more persuasive and more fun. Handouts include writing prompts, brainstorming tools, tips to keep inspiration close at hand, and an author-created bookmark revision tool that can be used for both creative writing and academic essays.

## How to Host an Author Visit: Crafting an Unforgettable Experience for Your Students

Kim Howard

*School Libraries, Community Outreach*

Author visits have amazing benefits for students, helping to motivate and inspire them. If you've never hosted an author before, however, it can be hard to know where to start! This presentation will cover why author visits can be a life-changing experience for your students, how to find authors to visit your school, and how to plan for the visit. The presentation will also include some ideas on how to fund author visits.

## Diversity Needs Jewish Books: A Missing Piece of the Diversity Conversation

Susan Kusel and Rebecca Levitan

*Public Libraries, Booktalks/Best New Books*

The FBI reports that 58% of all religious hate crimes target Jewish people despite the fact that only 2% of America's population identifies as Jewish. This hate can be fought with education and the building of empathy through literature. Jewish books are about far more than the Holocaust and the holidays. They provide windows and mirrors into many other cultures (not all Jews are white or European). Learn more about this often-misunderstood category of literature and how you can make it a part of your diverse collection. The rising tide of antisemitism makes this an urgent topic.

## Normalizing Diversity and Decentering the Dominant Culture, Using Picture Books for Anti-Racist Teaching

Andrea J. Loney and Zeena Pliska

*Common Core, Public Libraries*

Part of anti-racist teaching means we must consciously and intentionally make subtle changes that shift who and what we value as humans. We can use picture books to normalize diversity and bring marginalized people out of the margins by centering those marginalized people, communities and cultures, and decentering the white culture to create a balanced vision of value for all.

## Publishing Behind the Scenes: An Author and Her Literary Agent Talk Publishing

Sara Megibow and Mayonn Passewe-Valchev

*How to Get Published, Storytelling*

Mayonn Paasewe-Valchev is the author of a charming fantasy novel for middle grade readers, and her literary agent is Sara Megibow of KT Literary. In a fiercely competitive industry, how did these two connect with HarperCollins for such a wildly successful book launch? Go behind the scenes in publishing to learn about what a literary agent does, what the author had to do to sign with that agent, and how the manuscript went from laptop to bookshelf.

# 2022 Prerecorded Sessions

## **Practice Makes Pitch Perfect**

Jocelyn Rish

*Storytelling, How to Get Published*

Whether you're pitching your own book to an agent or editor or you're pitching someone else's book to a customer, you need to immediately grab them. Condensing a complex story into a sentence or two is difficult, but a pitch is more marketing hook than summary -- tell them just enough in an intriguing way to get them to ask for more. In this session, we'll break down the core elements of a pitch, learn additional methods to expand a pitch into an effective sales tool, and gain confidence in writing pitches by practicing with several prompts.

## **Creating Accessible Read-Alouds! The Role Picture Books Can Play in Creating Accessibility for All Readers**

Nadia Salomon

*Community Outreach, Technology/Social Media*

We want to show how books, no matter the format or genre, are a needed resource, not just in classrooms and libraries, but in foster care, homeless shelters and refugee camps. We want to raise awareness around the "privilege" to have a book to read or be read to and having accessibility to a comforting bedtime routine—a routine that many may not realize children in underserved communities don't have the fortune to experience. We show how volunteerism and technology combined could offer access to all.

## **How to Add Choice Books to Your Curriculum: Covering the Standards and Building a Love for Reading**

Bethany Seal

*Common Core*

This session will explain a step-by-step process of incorporating choice reading into an existing curriculum, from the "why" to the "how." I will start by explaining the need for, and the benefits of, student choice in selecting a text. Then I will give a step-by-step guide that can immediately be implemented in a classroom, including options for students to select books, how to run multiple small group discussions simultaneously, activities for students to complete during their discussions, and how to meet Common Core/MCCR standards through student choice books.

## **Mining the Heart: How to Emotionally Connect with Readers**

Kaitlyn Wells

*Storytelling, How to Get Published*

Bestsellers emotionally resonate with readers. But how can you transform your manuscript into a book everyone talks about? Use heart. During this session, you'll learn how to identify the emotional core of a story and how to ensure it beats alive on every page, using the tried-and-true heart-mapping method. Come prepared to use the entire emotional toolkit and learn how to write so your work stays with readers long after that last page is turned. Tissues are encouraged.

# 2022 Virtual Festival Schedule

## Wednesday, April 6

8:30 a.m. CST

### **WELCOME SESSION**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AWARDS**

*Kaigler-Lamont Award and Magnolia Award  
Winners announced*

9-10 a.m. CST

### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#### **A1. EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BACK MATTER**

Sophia Gholz, Lisa Katzenberger, Charlotte Offsay, Meera Sriram and Helen Wu  
*How to Get Published*

#### **A2. BAREFOOT DREAMS: UNEARTHING DETAILS OF AN OLD FAMILY STORY**

Alda P. Dobbs  
*School Libraries, Storytelling*

#### **A3. GLOBAL LITERATURE IN LIBRARIES INITIATIVE (GLLI) 2022 TRANSLATED YA BOOK PRIZE WINNERS**

Kim Becnel, Catharine Bomhold, Brooke Cruthirds and Jewel Davis  
*Programming, Best New Books*

10:15-11:15 a.m. CST

### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#### **B1. LET'S GO FOR A WALK! TAKING STORIES OUTDOORS**

Dee Hare and Leigh Hood  
*Public Libraries, Programming*

#### **B2. HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO GAIN FUNDING AND DIVERSE PROGRAMMING FOR YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Lydia Green  
*Technology/Social Media, School Libraries*

#### **B3. ORDINARY TERRIBLE THINGS: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, REALITY, AND THE POWER OF WITNESSING**

Anastasia Higginbotham  
*Best New Books, School Libraries, Public Libraries*

#### **B4. SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Kayla Martin-Gant  
*Public Libraries, Programming*

Noon-1:30 p.m. CST

### **KEYNOTE SESSION**

#### **COLEEN SALLEY STORYTELLING**

Donna Washington

2-3:30 p.m. CST

### **KEYNOTE SESSION**

#### **DE GRUMMOND LECTURE**

Lesia Cline-Ransome and James Ransome

4-5:30 p.m. CST

### **KEYNOTE SESSION**

#### **SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE LECTURE**

Dr. Eric L. Tribunella

## Thursday, April 7

9-10:30 a.m. CST

### **GENERAL SESSION**

Jen Bryant

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. CST

### **KEYNOTE SESSION**

#### **MEDALLION SESSION**

Brian Selznick

# 2022 Virtual Festival Schedule

1-2:30 p.m. CST

## **KEYNOTE SESSION**

### **EZRA JACK KEATS AWARD CEREMONY**

3-4 p.m. CST

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### **C1. EJK BOOKMAKING TIPS & TRICKS WEBINAR**

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation

*Programming, Public Libraries, School Libraries*

### **C2. FOSTERING EMPATHY THROUGH A DIVERSE LIBRARY**

Cynthia Harmony, Mariana Llanos and Ana Siqueira

*School Libraries, Booktalks/Best New Books*

### **C3. SOUTH ASIAN STORIES: ELEMENTS OF CULTURE AND FAITH**

Tina Athaide; Rashimi S. Bismark, MD, MPH;

Sana Rafi, and Kaitlyn Wells

*Storytelling, Booktalks/Best New Books*

4:15-5:15 p.m. CST

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### **D1. DIVERSIFY YOUR COLLECTION: THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY IN EVERY GENRE**

Tegan Beese

*Booktalks/Best New Books, Public Libraries*

### **D2. ENGAGING STORYTIMES**

Kirsti Call and Carol Gordon Ekster

*School Libraries, Programming*

### **D3. FROM PRIMARY SOURCES TO PUBLISHED: HOW TO GET PUBLISHED IN CHILDREN'S NONFICTION**

Elisa Boxer, Kirsten W. Larson, Colleen Paeff,

Anna Crowley Redding and Mindy Yuksel

*How to Get Published*

7-8 p.m. CST

## **GENERAL SESSION**

### **EJK DOCUMENTARY**

*Tell Me Another Story*

## **Friday, April 8**

9-10:30 a.m. CST

## **GENERAL SESSION**

Nic Stone and Angie Thomas

10:45-11:45 a.m. CST

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### **E1. THE "NATURAL" LIBRARY: TAKING PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES OUTSIDE!**

Soline Holmes and Alicia Schwarzenbach

*Programming, Booktalks/Best New Books*

### **E2. IF YOU HAVE EMOTIONS AND KNOW IT, SHOUT HOORAY: PRESENTING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN STORYTIME**

Melanie Borski-Howard

*Storytelling, Booktalks/Best New Books*

### **E3. POVERTY AND PRIVILEGE: INTERSECTIONALITY OF RACE AND CLASS IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE**

Christina Dorr

*Public Libraries, School Libraries*

Noon-1:30 p.m. CST

## **GENERAL SESSION**

Raúl the Third

# 2022 Virtual Festival Schedule

1:45-2:45 p.m. CST

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### **F1. POETRY TO PROMOTE INCLUSION AND IMPROVE WRITING**

Jo Watson Hackl

*Common Core, School Libraries*

### **F2. LET'S PLAY BANNED BOOKS WEEK JEOPARDY AND CHARADES**

Kathy Barco

*Community Outreach, Public Libraries*

### **F3. DISCOVERING AFRICAN TOWN: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SURVIVORS OF THE LAST SLAVE SHIP**

Irene Latham and Charles Waters

*Booktalks/Best New Books, School Libraries*

3-4 p.m. CST

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

### **G1. EXPLORING THE MAGNOLIA BOOK AWARDS, MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARD**

Bethany Carlisle and Wendy Daughdrill

*School Libraries, Public Libraries*

### **G2. REACHING YOUNG READERS WITH EXEMPLARY DIVERSE LITERATURE**

Lesley Colabucci and Mary Napoli

*Booktalks/Best New Books*

### **G3. FAMILY TIES: REAL FAMILIES IN FICTION**

Alison Green Myers and Alex Villasante

*Common Core, Storytelling*

## 2022 Medallion Selection Committee Members

- *Stacy Creel*: Chair, Interim Director, The University of Southern Mississippi
- *Ellen Ruffin*: Curator, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection
- *Phil Bildner*: The Author Village
- *Catharine Bomhold*: Associate Professor, The University of Southern Mississippi
- *Ramona Caponegro*: Curator, Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, University of Florida
- *Elizabeth Haynes*: Associate Professor Emeritus, The University of Southern Mississippi
- *Marianne Martens*: Associate Professor, Kent State University School of Information
- *Jamie C. Naidoo*: Interim Director and Foster-EBSCO Endowed Professor, The University of Alabama
- *Venetia Oglesby*: Librarian, New Hope Elementary
- *Kathy Roberts*: Retired from Central Mississippi Regional Library System
- *Don Tate*: Author-Illustrator
- *Deborah Taylor*: Retired, Coordinator of School and Student Services, Enoch Pratt Free Library
- *Eric L. Tribunella*: Professor of English, The University of Southern Mississippi

# Credits

## STEERING COMMITTEE

- *Stacy Creel*: Chair, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science
- *Sarah Mangrum*: Outreach and Technology Coordinator, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science
- *Ashley Marshall*: Registration and Technology Coordinator, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science
- *Karen Rowell*: Coordinator, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science
- *Ellen Ruffin*: Curator of The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science
- *Ramona Caponegro*: Curator of the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, Breakout Session Coordinator
- *Dorothy Higgs* Social Media Coordinators, Southern Miss Graduate Assistant

## Special Thanks

### THE FAY B. KAIGLER CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE 2022 FESTIVAL:

- Dr. Rodney D. Bennett, President, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Dr. Steven Moser, Provost, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Dr. Trent Gould, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Dr. Stacy Creel, Interim Director, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Dr. Aubrey Lucas, President Emeritus, The University of Southern Mississippi
- The Estate of Fay B. Kaigler
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- LISSA, Student Association of the School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Lacy Ellinwood and Lorietha Myers at the Mississippi Library Commission
- Josh Cromwell, Scholarly Communications Manager, University Libraries, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Faculty, staff and students of the School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Heather Wood Graves, Victoria Scarbrough, David Tisdale, Cassie Oubre, Taylor Johnson and the team at University Communications

VIRTUAL FAY B. KAIGLER  
**CHILDREN'S BOOK  
FESTIVAL**



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CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
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