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Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival  
Programs

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2023

## **Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival 2023 Program**

USM School of Library and Information Science

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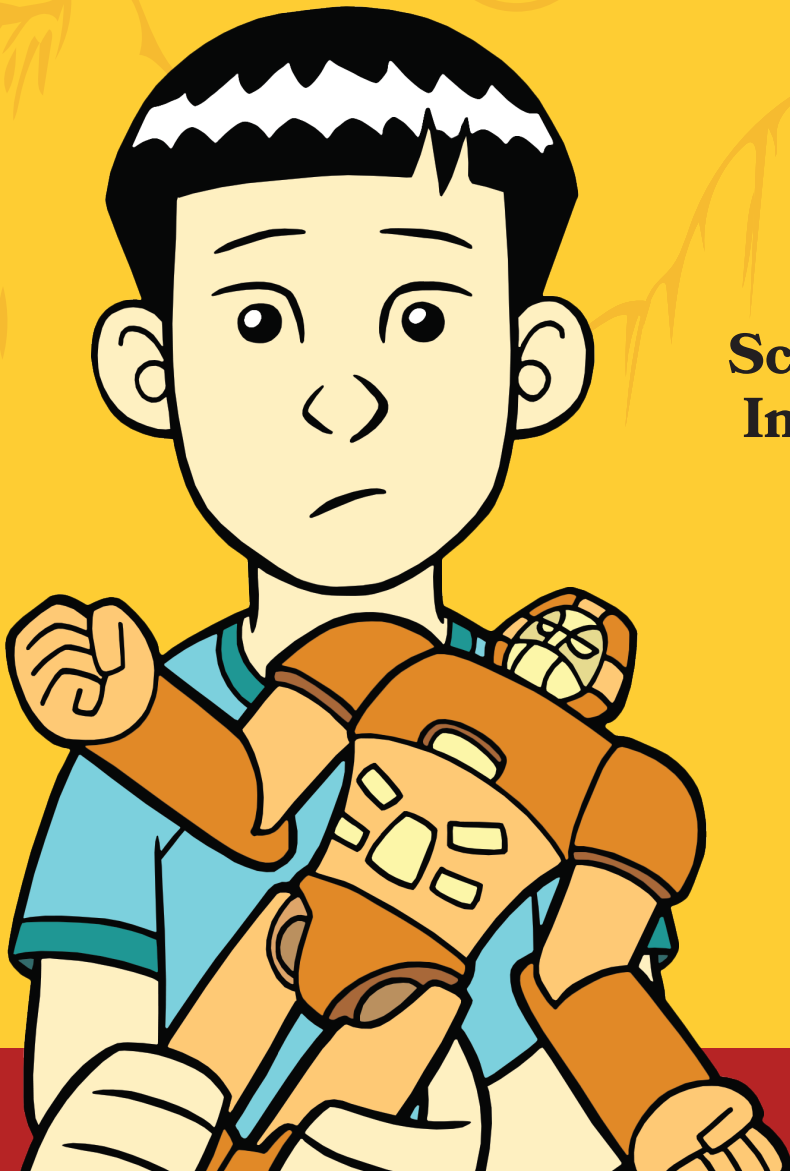
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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

**2023 Fay B. Kaigler**

# CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL



*Presented by the*  
**School of Library and  
Information Science**

**APRIL  
12-14**

# 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 2023 goes to Gene Luen Yang. Silver medallions are cast for the recipient and bronze medallions are cast and are available for purchase during the festival.



## Recipients of The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion

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

# GENE LUEN YANG

**2023 Southern Miss Medallion Recipient**



**Gene Luen Yang** is the bestselling writer and artist behind *American Born Chinese*, *Boxers and Saints*, the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* comics, and many other iconic works. His latest graphic novel, *Dragon Hoops*, was released in March 2020. Gene began drawing comics in the fifth grade. His rise to prominence as a cartoonist began in 1997, when he received the Xeric grant for self-publishing for his *Gordon Yamamoto and the King of the Geeks*. After putting out several issues on his own, it was picked up by the independent comics publisher Slave Labor, who published it and *Loyola Chin and the San Peligran Order* (later collected into a single volume as *Animal Crackers*). While working on these comics, Gene received his master's degree in education from California State University-East Bay and began teaching at a San Francisco school. He is a founding member of the Bay Area's Art Night Crew, a local group of cartoonists. *American Born Chinese*, Gene's first graphic novel, was the first-ever graphic novel to be named a finalist for the National Book Award, causing a firestorm of controversy about whether graphic novels were eligible for the award, and whether they were "real books." The book went on to win the Printz Award, the ALA's award for the best young adult

book published that year, and an Eisner Award, one of the most prestigious honors in the comic book world. His follow-up solo graphic novel, *Boxers and Saints*, was also a National Book Award finalist and won the Printz Honor and the *LA Times* Book Prize for Young Readers. Currently, Gene is writing the graphic novel series *Secret Coders*, illustrated by Mike Holmes. This middle-grade series uses narrative to teach kids about computer programming. Gene is a strong proponent of using comics in education and of representing diversity through the comics medium, which he does in all of his comics work. He and Holmes were selected by the editors of *Foreign Policy* as two of the Top 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2015. Gene was named the next National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress in early 2016. He is the first writer who works primarily in graphic novels to be named ambassador. During his two-year tenure, Gene promoted Reading Without Walls, a platform he developed with the Children's Book Council and his publisher, First Second, that aims to excite young people about reading outside their comfort zones. In September 2016, he was awarded a fellowship with the MacArthur Foundation and the accompanying prestigious "Genius" Grant. A strong believer in collaboration, Gene has published books in partnership with esteemed cartoonists Derek Kirk Kim (*The Eternal Smile*, *Duncan's Kingdom*), Thien Pham (*Level Up*) and Sonny Liew (*The Shadow Hero*). His work has also been included in the anthologies *Up All Night*, *Secret Identities*, *Strange Tales*, *Nursery Rhyme Comics*, *Shattered*, *Open Mic* and *Comic Squad: Recess*. After speaking out against the lack of diversity in the casting of the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* movie, Gene was asked to write the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* comics, which he does to this day, as well as writing *Superman* (with John Romita Jr., Klaus Janson and Howard Porter) for DC Comics. You can follow Gene on Twitter.



## 2023 Keynote Speakers



**Linda Williams-Jackson** is author of critically acclaimed, Mississippi-based historical novels, *Midnight Without a Moon*, *A Sky Full of Stars*, and *The Lucky Ones* (Common Sense Media Family Seal Selection 2022). Southern by birth and a Southern writer by the grace of God, Linda is plump-picking proud to still call Mississippi home. Born and raised in the Mississippi Delta in the teeny-tiny town of Rosedale, Linda Williams-Jackson likes to spin stories about everyday people in small-town settings. Though she has lived in a few other states (Alabama, Missouri and Kansas), Linda currently makes her home in a not-so-small town in Mississippi with her husband and three children. While a degree in math and computer science from the University of Alabama allowed her to enjoy a career in information technology as a database administrator and adjunct professor, Linda now prefers manipulating words rather than numbers and symbols. Besides her novels for young readers, Linda

has also written reading assessment passages for various educational publishers and is published in five *Chicken Soup for the Soul* titles.



**Kyle Lukoff** writes books for kids and other people. Before becoming a full-time writer, Kyle worked at five bookstores, in four libraries, for three schools, as two genders, through one intersection: people, and books. Kyle's middle grade novel *Too Bright to See* received numerous awards, including a Newbery Honor and a Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award. Kyle's picture book, *When Aidan Became a Brother*, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita, also received a Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award. Kyle's most recent books include *A Different Kind of Fruit*, *Mermaid Days*, and *If You're a Kid Like Gavin: The True Story of a Young Trans Activist*.



**Vikram Madan** grew up in India where he really wanted to be a cartoonist but ended up an engineer. Many years later, he finally came to his senses and followed his heart back into humor. When not making whimsical paintings in his Seattle studio, Vikram writes and illustrates funny books, including the award-winning poetry collections *A Hatful of Dragons*, *The Bubble Collector*, and *Lord of the Bubbles*. *A Hatful of Dragons* is being turned into a musical theater performance and is being released in India by Harper Collins India. Vikram has also written and illustrated the graphic novel series, *Zooni Tales*, and the early reader series, *Bobo & Pup-Pup*. His early reader book *Owl & Penguin* received a 2023 Geisel Honor and was recognized on the 2023 ALSC Notable Children's Book List.

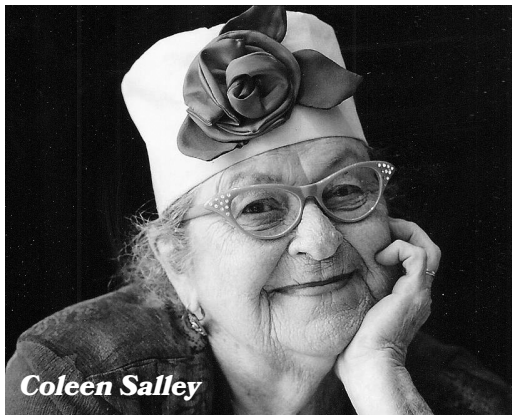


# Coleen Salley Storytelling Award Recipient



**Amy Bruton Bluemel** is a gifted storyteller and educator, artist and stomp dancer. Her appreciation for cultural awareness came at an early age. She was raised in a military family; she lived in Germany, Okinawa, Turkey and Scotland before returning to her Chickasaw roots in America. As the great-granddaughter of Eastman Kaney (an original Dawes Commission enrollee), Amy's a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation. She often performs with the dance troupe, Chikashsha Hithla, during nationwide tours. She shares Chickasaw customs (and those of other Southeastern tribes) with audiences of all ages through lively programs at schools and museums across the country. Amy was one of 36 Native American artists chosen to show and sell her art at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Native American Art Market in Washington, D.C., in 2019. She also shows and sells her creations at powwows and festivals throughout the United States. Amy lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, Carl, and two daughters, who have also taken to Chickasaw culture and stomp dance.

## The Coleen Salley Storytelling Award



The Coleen Salley Storytelling Award has been established 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

- |   |                           |                              |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>2010</b> Walter Mayes AKA Walter the Giant Storyteller | <b>2014</b> Mary Hamilton | <b>2019</b> William Joyce    |
| <b>2011</b> Carmen Agra Deedy                             | <b>2015</b> Rita Auerbach | <b>2020</b> Michael Fry      |
| <b>2012</b> Caroline Herring                              | <b>2016</b> Tim Tingle    | <b>2021</b> Elizabeth Ellis  |
| <b>2013</b> Trout Fishing in America                      | <b>2017</b> Pat Mora      | <b>2022</b> Donna Washington |
|   | <b>2018</b> Wanda Johnson |                              |



# The Southern Miss SLIS 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. This scholarly lecture carries on the proud tradition originally established by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation in 1985.

## Southern Miss SLIS Lecturer



Angie Manfredi is a librarian, writer and editor. She believes that all youth deserve a right to see their world accurately reflected in the books they read, and that literacy is a human right. For the past 16 years, Angie has worked in public, school and special libraries. She is currently a middle school librarian and teacher in New Mexico, where she focuses on student voice and creating safe spaces for students to explore and grow. Angie

is the editor of *The (Other) F Word: A Celebration of the Fat and the Fierce* (Abrams 2019), the first fat positive young adult anthology. She has created curriculum supports and educational guides for Scholastic, Penguin Random House and HarperCollins and served on awards committees for the American Library Association, as well as the International Literacy Association, where she is currently a member of the International Literacy Association's Young Adult Book Award Committee. Angie is a proud alumna of The University of Southern Mississippi, where she graduated from in 2007 with her MLIS.

From 2019-21, Angie was the Youth Services consultant for the State Library of Iowa. She provided continuing education, training and support around everything related to Youth Services for all 543 public libraries in Iowa in a job she genuinely loved and a position she excelled at. She chose to resign from that position after Iowa lawmakers passed a series of laws restricting free speech for government employees, a decision that she felt limited and curtailed her work. It was the hardest decision she has never regretted.

In her spare time, Angie enjoys writing snail mail, watching obscure world cinema, debating unsolved mysteries, trying regional sodas, and looking for adventure. You can find her online at fatgirlreading.com or on Twitter as misskubelik. She would always love to discuss elaborate *Supernatural* plot theories, school library decor, and what you're reading with you.

## Previous Southern Miss SLIS Lecturers

- 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
- 2022** Eric Tribunella



# de Grummond Children's Literature Lecturer



**Loren Long** grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, but he didn't catch the illustrator "bug" until his junior year of college. After years of taking every art class he could, he finally decided to become an illustrator after trying out four other majors (on his website, Loren cautions, "parents, be patient"! ). Loren's career in illustration started off in the greeting card industry. Later, he spent roughly a decade as a freelancer, illustrating for popular publications such as *Sports Illustrated* and *Time*. Though he created several YA novel covers, Loren's entrance into the world of children's publications truly kicked off when he was invited to illustrate the wonderful *I Dream of Trains*, by Angela Johnson. Since then, he has written and self-illustrated a number of books, including the popular Otis series about a little red tractor who befriends everyone from a calf to a kitten. His Otis series has been adapted into a delightful animated series, *Get Rolling With Otis* on Apple TV. Along with the extraordinary honors of illustrating books by Madonna, Barack Obama, Inaugural Poet Amanda Gorman, and Newbery Medalist, Matt de la Peña, Loren is a *New York Times* bestselling author. His caution for parents to be patient applies to us as well: we have been longtime fans of Loren's work, and we are so thrilled to finally welcome him to this year's Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival as the de Grummond Lecturer.

## 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

### Previous de Grummond Lecturers

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>2010</b> Richard Peck   | <b>2017</b> Phyllis Reynolds Naylor              |
| <b>2011</b> Gary Schmidt   | <b>2018</b> T.A. Barron                          |
| <b>2012</b> Margery Cuyler | <b>2019</b> Sophie Blackall                      |
| <b>2013</b> Wendell Minor  | <b>2020</b> Emma Walton Hamilton                 |
| <b>2014</b> Kathi Appelt   | <b>2021</b> Sharon Draper                        |
| <b>2015</b> Deborah Wiles  | <b>2022</b> Lesa Cline-Ransome and James Ransome |
| <b>2016</b> Tim Tingle     |  |

# 2023 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 2023 Ezra Jack Keats Award (EJK Award), along with four honor books, at the award ceremony on April 13, 2023, 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.

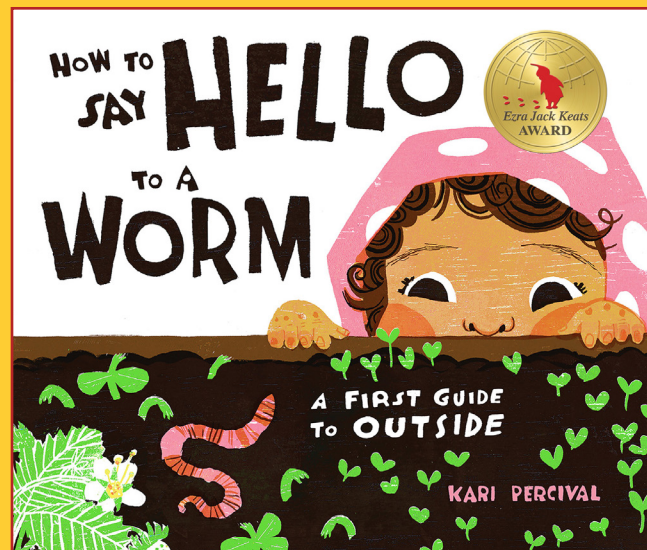
"The spirit of Ezra Jack Keats can be found in all EJK Award and honor books, a spirit that reflects an ever-expanding definition of diverse children's literature," said Deborah Pope, Executive Director of the EJK Foundation. "This year's EJK Award winning and honor books provide inclusive stories about 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



### Kari Percival

*How to Say Hello to a Worm*

Published by Penguin Young Readers Group

## Ezra Jack Keats Award Winner for Illustrator



### Doug Salati

*Hot Dog*

Published by Random House Children's Books



## Ezra Jack Keats Award Honor Recipients

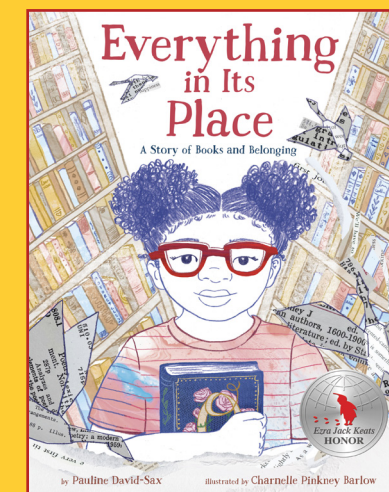
### Writer Honors



### Juliana Perdomo

*Sometimes, All I Need is Me*

Published by Candlewick Press



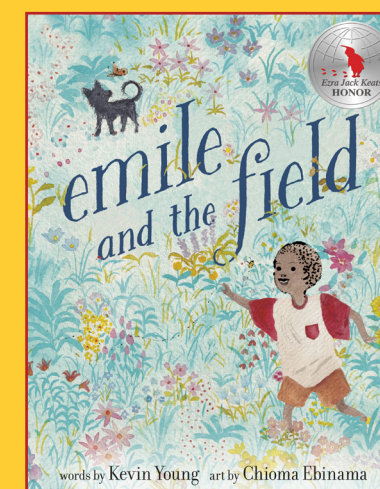
### Pauline David-Sax

*Everything in Its Place*

Illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow

Published by Random House Children's Books

### Illustrator Honors

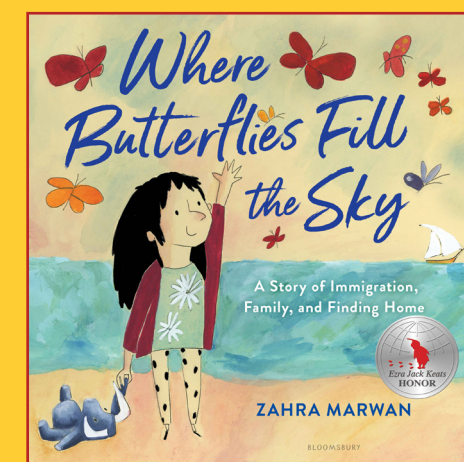


### Chioma Ebinama

*Emile and the Field*

Written by Kevin Young

Published by Random House Children's Books



### Zahra Marwan

*Where Butterflies Fill the Sky*

Published by Bloomsbury Children's Books

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, Miss., made the award possible. Miss Kaigler was well-known for her love of children and devoted herself for many years as an elementary school teacher to enhancing books and reading in the lives of children. Her students were soon hooked on books. In retirement, she continued to promote books and reading in her local public library. Her dear friend, Ruth Lamont, who for many years was 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.

This year's recipient is **Becky Bowen**, Youth Services Librarian at Madison Public Library in Madison MS.

## Past Recipients of the Kaigler-Lamont Award

<b>1998</b> Mattie Rials	<b>2006</b> Carol Phares	<b>2015</b> Kathie Ward
<b>1999</b> Lawana Cummings and Charjean Graves	<b>2007</b> Ramona Barrett	<b>2016</b> Becky Smith
<b>2000</b> Sybil Hanna	<b>2008</b> Sally James	<b>2017</b> Nettie Moore
<b>2001</b> Sherry Donald	<b>2009</b> Linda Perez	<b>2018</b> Venetia Oglesby
<b>2002</b> Linda E. Sikes	<b>2011</b> Faye Harris Bruce	<b>2019</b> Jennifer Baker
<b>2003</b> Gerrie Ann Weldon	<b>2012</b> Dianne Butler	<b>2020</b> Beckie Nieman
<b>2004</b> Vickie Ross	<b>2013</b> Elizabeth Turner	<b>2021</b> Connie Robinson and Loraine Walker
<b>2005</b> Victoria Penny	<b>2014</b> Tracey H. Crawford	<b>2022</b> 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 Children's Literature 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 books 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 2022 Magnolia Award Winners:

- **GRADES PRE-K-2: *Hat Tricks*** written and Illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura
- **GRADES 3-5: *Becoming Muhammad Ali*** written by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile
- **GRADES 6-8: *96 Miles*** written by J.L. Esplin
- **GRADES 9-12: *The Inheritance Games*** written by Jennifer Lynn Barnes and ***This is My America*** written by Kim Johnson

For more information: <https://mschildrensmuseum.org/parent-community-resources/magnolia-book-awards/>





# 2023 Concurrent Session Presenters

## ***Kitty Ainsworth***

Dr. Kitty Ainsworth, 1969 USM alumni, holds a B.S. (1-8), M.Ed. in supervision and administration, Ed.S. in reading, and Ph.D. in early literacy. She currently teaches at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La. Her courses include Children's Literature, Young Adult Literature, Classroom Management, and Teaching Reading in the Elementary School. Dr. "Kitty" began teaching in 1969 in Gulfport, Mississippi.

## ***Mac Buntin***

Mac Buntin is a retired librarian who spent most of his career as a consultant at the Mississippi Library Commission. He is a co-founder of the Social Justice Round Table at the Mississippi Library Association. He has served in various roles in the Mississippi Library Association, the Collaborative Summer Library Program and the Magnolia Book Award Committee.

## ***Gloria J. McEwen Burgess***

Award-winning author, performer and pioneering thought leader, Dr. Gloria J. McEwen Burgess was born in rural Mississippi, coming of age during the turbulent civil rights movement. She lives with her husband in North Carolina and calls the world her home. She has written books on leadership, several books of poetry, and a children's picture book—Pass It On!, which shares the story about her father, Earnest McEwen Jr. and his life-changing relationship with Nobel Laureate William Faulkner. She enjoys learning about new places and people and has travelled extensively in North America, Europe, Africa, South America and Australia. Gloria brings her passion for people and wealth of experience to her writing, workshops and speaking.

## ***Sarah C. Campbell***

Sarah C. Campbell is the director of programs and publications at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. She has more than two decades of experience working in communications and is the author and photo-illustrator of three award-winning picture books for children. Her journalism degrees are from Northwestern University, and she has a degree in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University, which she attended as Mississippi's first woman Rhodes Scholar. Sarah and her husband, Richard, who is co-photographer on the books, live in Jackson, Miss.

## ***Bethany Carlisle***

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 12 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.

## ***Jane Claes***

Jane Claes is a retired school librarian and university professor. She has served on several selection committees both for American Library Association and Texas Library Association including the Texas Bluebonnet Committee, the Robert H. Sibert Committee, and Notable Recordings for Children Committee.

## ***Stacy Creel***

Stacy Creel, Ph.D., serves as the director of the School of Library and Information Science and is the creator of the Graduate Certificate for Youth Services and Literature. She has 10 plus years in public libraries.

## ***Wendy Daughdrill***

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.

## ***Kandice Evans***

Kandice Evans is the Children's Services supervisor in the Laurel-Jones County Library System. She was born in Laurel, Miss., and has four kids! Kandice considers herself a lucky woman to be a paraprofessional at the same library she grew up in. She's been at the Laurel Library for seven years and has enjoyed watching and helping it thrive in the community.

## ***Chuck Galey***

Chuck Galey has read comic books all his life. It's one of the reasons he was inspired to become a picture book author/illustrator. A popular speaker at schools and presenter at literary conferences, Chuck has illustrated over 70 books for educational publishers and 15 picture books.

## ***Ethan Glenn***

Ethan Glenn is the librarian assistant in the Laurel-Jones County Library System. He has lived in the small town of Stringer, Miss., just outside Laurel his whole life, where the library was his outlet to find anything he needed. He loves to read young adult fiction, especially fantasy, and as part of the responsibilities of librarian assistant. He is also the teen librarian at LJCL and has been there for over two years. Ethan graduated in 2019 from The University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree, which allowed him to pursue the Master of Library and Information Science program at Southern Miss, which he will finish in summer 2023. Ethan says that the MLIS program has not only helped him to become a better librarian, it but has helped him find ways of enriching his fellow coworkers and the community that they serve.

## ***Jo Hackl***

Jo Hackl is the national bestselling author of Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe (Random House Children's Books/Yearling Adventure), which won the Southern Book Prize, the Mississippi Library Association Author Award, and is an Amazon Teacher's Pick. She is a sought-out speaker and has presented at conferences hosted by ALA, IASL, TLA, NCTE, the International Children and Nature Network, and numerous conferences hosted by state librarian associations. Jo is also the founder of Outdoorosity.org, a free resource for inspiration and information about nature. A first-generation college graduate and Mississippi native, Jo has worked with educators to develop a "Building Grit Kit" to help students build skills to enhance social and emotional learning and promote grit and resiliency. Jo is a Liberty Fellow, a Riley Fellow, and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. Jo loves to do school visits and donates her honorarium to buy books for children in need. In addition, she is known for her work with educators to incorporate nature into the school day. Free resources for educators and other readers (including a "Writing and Revision Toolkit" and nature activities) are available at JoHackl.com. You can find her online at @JoHackl (Twitter and Instagram) and at Jo Watson Hackl Author (Facebook).

## ***Steven Harper***

Steven Harper is an artist/writer and illustrator/publisher of such comic books, graphic novels and children's books as The Quest for the Golden Butterfly, the Heather and the Monkey King comic series, the Wilbur the Vampyre comic series, Oatmeal and A Night Out in Pig Town. A devoted husband and father, Mr. Harper takes great pains to make sure that his works are appropriate for children of all ages, especially those with high reading levels. He is also a lifelong musician, performing in fields as diverse as jazz, classical, world, punk, surf, and various genres of rock. He also enjoys travel, woodworking, learning new languages, and foods of the world.

## 2023 Concurrent Session Presenters

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### ***Leslie Helakoski***

Leslie Helakoski divides her time between Louisiana and northern Michigan. She is the author and sometimes illustrator of 15 picture books. Most recent are *Are Your Stars Like My Stars?* (Sterling Publishing) and *When the Rain Came Down* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux). Leslie is also the author of the bestselling *Big Chickens and Woolbur*. She teaches picture book workshops at the Highlights Foundation and around the country. [helakoskibooks.com](http://helakoskibooks.com)

### ***Janet Hilbun***

Janet Hilbun is a retired teacher, school librarian and university professor. She still teaches a seminar in Trends and Issues in Children's and Young Adults with several different seminars: *We Need Diverse Books*, *Young Adult, Nonfiction, and History of Children's Literature*, and is developing a course on *Middle Grade Literature* at the University of North Texas. She has served on multiple committees for the Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, including *Best Fiction for Young Adults*, *ALEX* (adult books for young adults), *Excellence in Nonfiction*, and the *Michael L. Printz Award*.

### ***Soline Holmes***

Soline Holmes is a school librarian and the Information Services chair at Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a member of American Library Service to Children's Children and Libraries Editorial Advisory Committee and is a member at large for ALA's Graphic Novels and Comics Roundtable. She also serves on the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award selection committee, is a board member of the New Orleans Information Literacy Collective (2021-22 chair) and is a Teaching with Primary Sources Network mentor. She has given presentations on graphic novels, Mother Goose and STEM, global education and primary sources at local and national conferences; co-authored an article about graphic novels as informational texts for Children and Libraries; and was interviewed with Alicia Schwarzenbach for Book Links about how to best use graphic novels in the classroom.

### ***Karen Konnerth***

Teaching artist Karen Konnerth is an award-winning arts integration specialist, who has presented teacher instruction based on her extensive classroom experience at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as for the U.S. Embassy English Language Specialist Program in Central America, Asia, the Middle East and South Africa. She is also artistic director of world-traveling Calliope Puppets, presenting thoughtfully interactive puppet theater for children, families and art lovers of all ages featuring handmade puppets in a wide variety of techniques. And she is an author and illustrator of books for children, *Calliope Kate* and *the Voice of the River* (Pelican Publishing 2022) and *The Snowman Waltz* (Sleeping Bear Press 2022).

### ***Hanna Lee***

Hanna Lee is the Youth Services coordinator at First Regional Library. She is currently a member of the 2023 Asian Pacific American Librarians Association Children's Literature Award Committee and co-convenor of the Association for Library Service to Children's BIPOC Discussion Group. She is also involved in ALA and YALSA, and she served as a judge for the 2019 Kirkus Prize's Young People's Literature Award. While serving youth through libraries is her dream job, she has also worked with students in public schools, colleges and at an international school.

### ***Amelia McCann***

Ms. Amelia McCann is currently enrolled at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La. Her degree plan is to graduate in the area of early childhood education. She is pursuing a lifelong dream of being a children's/young adult author/illustrator. She is currently completing her first book and will have it ready for publication and distribution in spring 2023. Ms. McCann will graduate in December 2023.

## 2023 Concurrent Session Presenters

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### ***Lana Montgomery***

Lana Montgomery is a USM alumnus and current USM library and information science graduate student. She is currently an outreach librarian in the Carroll County Public Library system in Maryland. In addition to past experience in K-12 education, Lana now provides information services, emergent literacy-based story times, engaging puppet shows, early childhood workshops, and bookmobile services to a wide variety of patrons across her county with a focus on caregivers and their children from birth to age five.

### ***Jamie Campbell Naidoo***

Jamie Campbell Naidoo, Ph.D. is the Foster-EBSCO Endowed Professor and interim director of the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies. A former school librarian and children's librarian, Dr. Naidoo teaches and researches in the area of cultural diversity in children's and young adult literature and library services. He has published numerous articles, book chapters and books related to these topics.

### ***Claudia Nisbett***

Claudia Nisbett is professor of education at Belhaven University in Jackson, Miss. She has been chair of the Education Department at Faulkner University, a past elementary principal and elementary teacher in the classroom. She is involved in teaching reading and literacy courses at the college, as well as the following courses: *Classroom Management*, *Educational Psychology*, *Children's Literature*, *Math for Teachers*, and *Diagnostic Reading*. She emphasizes patterns found in nature, as well as quality children's literature, to enhance children's involvement with their outside environment.

### ***Kimberly Rogers***

Kimberly Rogers is the children's literacy graduate assistant at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies. She is a first-year graduate student in the program with experience working with children in public libraries. Kim has a strong interest in cultural diversity in children's literature and librarianship.

### ***Karla M. Schmit***

Karla M. Schmit is an education librarian and the director of the Pennsylvania Center for the Book at Penn State. In her 40-year career, she has taught second, third and fifth grades, served as a school librarian, was a children's literature professor, a current storyteller, and for the last 15 years has worked as an academic librarian. Graduating from The University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in library and information science was the catalyst for her career in librarianship.

### ***Alicia Schwarzenbach***

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. She has co-published with Soline Holmes 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. Kaigner Children's Book Festival.

### ***Margaret Simon***

Margaret Simon lives on the Bayou Teche in New Iberia, Louisiana. Margaret has been an elementary school teacher for more than 35 years. UL Press published her first book of children's poetry, *Bayou Song: Creative Explorations of the South Louisiana Landscape*. Margaret writes a blog regularly at [reflectionsontheteche.com](http://reflectionsontheteche.com).

## 2023 Concurrent Session Presenters

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### **Callie Ann Starkey**

Callie Ann Starkey is a children's librarian at the Nashville Public Library. She loves children's books, donuts and Walt Disney World. She also loves the Kaigler Children's Book Festival, attending first as an ambassador in 2013 and many more times throughout the years since!

### **Nancy Varian**

Nancy Varian is the director of the Center for Professional Development and a professor at Malone University in Canton, Ohio. She organizes Malone's Literacy Celebration, bringing in renowned children's authors and/or illustrators each spring. She has traveled all over the world and loves to teach children about other places and people. She has taught Children's Literature, Content Reading Strategies, Math and Science Methods, Social and Cultural Diversity classes and Understanding Poverty.

### **Karyn Walsh**

Karyn Walsh is director of the Laurel-Jones County Library System. She lives on a small farm in Jones County with her family and lots of animals. She enjoys reading science fiction and mysteries, archery and quilting. Karyn is a graduate of Arizona State University and The University of Southern Mississippi, completing the Master of Library and Information Science program. After graduating from ASU, she started her career in the library while she was living in Phoenix and was fortunate to be trained at the largest public library in Arizona. Karyn fell in love with working with children, and when she moved home to Mississippi, she found a job working as a teacher/librarian for 14 years at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hattiesburg while completing her master's degree. While she loved teaching her students, she felt it was time to go back into a public library when the position of director of the Laurel-Jones County Library System became available.

### **Ally Watkins**

Ally Watkins is the youth librarian at the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library, a branch of First Regional Library. She is a member of ALSC, YALSA and the Social Responsibilities Round Table and Graphic Novel and Comics Round Table of the American Library Association. She served for five years as a member of the Rise Feminist Books Project, a book selection committee of the Feminist Task Force of ALA. She is a past member of the Executive Board of the Magnolia Book Awards and was the founding chair of the 9-12th grade Magnolia Book Awards selection committee. She has worked in libraries in Mississippi for over 13 years.

### **Meridith Wulff**

Meridith Wulff serves as First Regional Library's regional youth specialist, providing early literacy library service to childcare centers in the system's outlying and underserved communities from the Words on Wheels BookWagon. She previously worked as youth specialist at the Lafayette County and Oxford Public Library, a branch of First Regional Library, and as director of the Lafayette County Literacy Council. In addition to her love for story times and working with young people, Meridith is passionate about outreach services and community partnerships. Thanks to the Mississippi Library Commission's Public Library Scholarship Program, she is expected to complete her MLIS degree from The University of Southern Mississippi in August 2023.

### **Dawn Zimmerer**

Dawn Zimmerer is currently the Adult and Youth Services director with the Madison County Library System. Previous incarnations have included acting branch manager, Teen Services librarian and retail manager. She left the NYPL in pursuit of her dream job here in Mississippi. She is a co-founder of MLA's Social Justice Round Table and reads for the American Library Association's Rainbow Book List.



## 2023 Concurrent Session Descriptions

### **Summer Reading Programs**

**Stacy Creel, Public Libraries, Programming**

Summer Reading Program is around the corner. We will be doing some "All Together Now" crafts for you to make and take. Limited to 40.

### **Celebrating Racial Diversity in Children's Literature**

**Callie Ann Starkey, Diversity and Multicultural Book Talks; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

This presentation will discuss the steps taken at the Nashville Public Library to celebrate racial diversity in children's literature, while also acknowledging the history of children's books containing racist and problematic content. We will discuss our reading recommendations, as well as our curriculum kits, and ways to encourage parents to engage with their children about the books they read.

### **Puppets with Purpose: Using Puppets to Enhance Early Literacy Storytimes**

**Lana Montgomery, Programming, Emergent Reading Strategies**

We all know puppets can be a great tool for imaginative play. But did you also know that you can use puppets to enhance emergent literacy strategies in your story times? Puppets can be a great tool to help explore and develop social foundational skills and a love of books and reading with small children. We will investigate some strategies for librarians to use puppets to create great story times using puppets with purpose.

### **Making Books Come Alive with Music**

**Jo Hackl, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Cross-Curriculum**

We all know that students learn in a variety of ways. In this session you will learn evidence-backed ways to engage students by creating a chapter-by-chapter playlist of the book they are studying, with a narrative explaining the connection between the song and the chapter arc. The session also includes a sample playlist featuring Mississippi artists, best practices, resources, and tips to get started.

### **Secrets of the Graphic Novel - An Exploration of the Newly Respected Literary Art Form**

**Chuck Galey, Anime, Comics and Graphic Novels; Storytelling**

The graphic novel has come into its own over the past couple of decades encouraging reluctant readers to move from picture books to chapter books. Join us for an intriguing evolutionary journey of the graphic novel. Learn how its humble beginnings in comics paved the way to the highly respected and popular literary art form it is today.

### **We Need Diverse Books!: How to Evaluate and Develop a Collection to Meet All Your Users' Needs**

**Janet Hilbun and Jane Claes, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Collection Development**

Having a diverse library or classroom collection is more important now than ever. How can you know that the book you chose to address an area of diversity is accurate, well-written, and of interest to your patrons or students? Having tools to help you evaluate books can help in making sure that the books you choose are the best and most accurate available. This session will provide a framework for evaluating existing books and selecting new books for library and classroom collections. Do you have books you aren't sure about? Bring them, and we will work together to determine if the book best fits what you want to share with your students and patrons.

## 2023 Concurrent Session Descriptions

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### ***Set the Stage: Using Primary Sources to Bring Picture Books and Novels to Life***

***Soline Holmes and Alicia Schwarzenbach***, *Programming, Nonfiction*

Do you want to bring picture book biographies and historical fiction novels to life for readers? Librarians can set the stage for readers by using primary sources and creating an immersive experience for patrons. Primary sources are the “raw materials” of history. Pairing primary sources with literature can help to bring the stories and time periods to life for all ages of readers. Find primary sources from the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian and other sources to incorporate into library programs and classes, and bring stories to life, building empathy in readers.

### ***The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round: Early Literacy Outreach Aboard the Words on Wheels BookWagon***

***Meridith Wulff and Hanna Lee***, *Community Outreach, Public Libraries*

Get ideas and inspiration from First Regional Library's Words on Wheels BookWagon, the state's only bookmobile devoted entirely to early literacy! As an extension of FRL's 14 branches, the BookWagon brings the library – monthly story times, materials delivery and checkout, and modeling of early literacy best practices for caregivers – to childcare centers in outlying and underserved areas of five northwest Mississippi counties. Learn about the BookWagon's unique mission, space and collection, as well as tips and strategies anyone can use to provide top-notch outreach library service to childcare centers and young children. (And, no, you don't need a bookmobile!)

### ***Drawing for Kids***

***Steven Harper***, *Anime, Comics and Graphic Novels*

This is a step-by-step “How To” drawing session for artists of all ages and abilities, led by author/artist/illustrator Steven Harper of Tikifez Comics. Join us for a fun and easy lesson on how to draw an outer space explorer on an adventure!

### ***A Celebration of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Children***

***Karla M. Schmit***, *Poetry; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

“Give children poetry. It is one of the best gifts you can give them...a gift to last a lifetime.” Lee Bennett Hopkins This session will highlight the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Children administered by the Pennsylvania Center for the Book at Penn State. The legacy of Lee Bennett Hopkins (April 13, 1938-August 8, 2019) and his advocacy of children's poetry will be shared. Hopkins was a medallion winner at The University of Southern Mississippi Children's Book Festival in 1989. He was also the winner of the 2009 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children and in 2011, was recognized by the Guinness World Records as the world's most prolific anthologist of poetry for children. The Hopkins Poetry Award for Children began in 1993 with “Sing to the Sun” by Ashley Bryan being named the first winner of the award, and 29 titles later, in 2022, “The 1619 Project: Born on the Water” by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson. Learn more about the Hopkins Poetry Award, the winners and honor books—come away wanting to share poetry and enrich the lives of students, family and friends of all ages.

## 2023 Concurrent Session Descriptions

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### ***A World of Possibilities: Recent International and Domestic Children's Literature Promoting Cross-Cultural Understandings***

***Jamie Campbell Naidoo and Kimberly Rogers***, *Diversity and Multicultural Book Talks, Programming*

From graphic novels to picture books and middle grade novels to nonfiction, a rich variety of recent global children's books hold exciting possibilities for fostering intercultural connections among children. This session highlights some of these titles and provides suggestions for integrating them into your classroom or library through engaging activities. Presenters focus on creating meaningful conversations that will plant the seeds for advocacy.

### ***Children's Literature and Developing Social-Emotional Skills***

***Kitty Ainsworth and Amelia McCann***, *Children's Books and Social Emotional Development*

Students often enter school with no skill set on how to properly process and act on their emotions. Presenters will discuss social-emotional skills and how to use children's literature to assist students in developing appropriate behaviors.

### ***Inspiring Young Writers: Sense of Place Through Tall Tales***

***Karen Konnerth***, *Storytelling, Common Core*

This fun, arts integrated project merges social studies and language arts learning goals for students in grades 3-5. Students are introduced to a traditional American story genre, unearth the elements of their home culture, and create the story of a tall tale character born there. A packet of creative worksheets leads step-by-step to an original tall tale!

### ***Tapestry: Creating Hospitality through Creativity, Social Artistry, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion***

***Gloria J. McEwen Burgess***, *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Anime, Comics and Graphic Novels*

How does a young Black boy hold onto and achieve his dreams in the white supremacist culture of the Jim Crow South? With courage, perseverance and the generous embrace of community. We, too, can weave a tapestry of hospitality. We can do so by drawing on our innate creativity, expanding our reach as social artists, and centering diversity, equity and inclusion.

### ***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. Join us to learn more about the Magnolia Award and participate in discussion to explore integrating the Magnolia Award into school or public library settings. The Magnolia Award has four voting categories: pre-K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grades, 6th-8th grades and 9th-12th grades. Learn about the process and help us advocate for the Magnolia Awards as we continue to offer children and youth in Mississippi opportunities to develop a lifelong love of reading.

## 2023 Concurrent Session Descriptions

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### ***Kamishibai Storytelling – Bringing Culture and Interactive Storytelling Into Your Program***

***Claudia Nisbett and Nancy Varian, Diversity and Multicultural Booktalks, Storytelling***

Come to our session and learn how to use Japanese Kamishibai storytelling in your library, classroom, or even sharing stories with your children and/or grandchildren. This interactive storytelling technique uses a small theater and will be a hit with all ages. Try your hand at writing and illustrating your story to be presented in the theater and get lots of take-home ideas!

### ***Library of Things: Adding Everything but the Kitchen Sink to Your Collection***

***Ethan Glenn and Karyn Walsh, Public Libraries, Community Outreach***

Step outside the box, or should we say bookshelves? Learn how your public library can loan items, such as sensory kits, power tools, electronics (i.e. hotspots and laptops), STEAM kits and more! In this session, we will discuss ideas, cataloging and policies that went into creating this inclusive collection.

### ***Check Your Bias at the Door***

***Mac Buntin and Dawn Zimmerer, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Access***

This program will investigate the inherent biases surrounding the publishing and reviews in children's literature. Attendees will be asked to examine their part in restricting access to information for the patrons they serve. The group will discuss how they can actively lessen the influences of bias in their collection development.

### ***Level Up! Transform Your Library Life Through Involvement in Professional Associations***

***Allie Watkins and Hanna Lee, Professional Development and Engagement, Public Libraries***

Are you looking for ways to up your game professionally? Or maybe you're feeling alone, burned out, and looking to reignite your passion for your work. Service in local, regional and national associations can transform your librarianship. In this session, participants will learn more about how and why to get involved with professional associations for people involved in library service to youth, as well as how to overcome common barriers to participation.

### ***Baby + Me: Easy Steps to Reach the Youngest Generation***

***Kandice Evans and Karyn Walsh, Programming; Public Libraries***

Baby + Me is a program for public libraries designed for parents/caregivers and babies from birth to 24 months. The program explores baby books, songs, lap reading and fun age-appropriate activities. In this session, we will share the road to success, ideas, and ways to implement and present a baby program for anyone, like us, not realizing their library needs one.

### ***Picturing Math***

***Sarah C. Campbell, Nonfiction, How to Get Published***

Award-winning author/photographer Sarah C. Campbell shares a segment from her school and library visit for *Infinity: Figuring Out Forever* (Astra Books for Young Readers, 2022). Campbell will talk about the creative process that led to this book and share some ways you can use it in your library or classroom to spark curiosity for mathematics and the natural world. Campbell's previous books—*Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature*, *Growing Patterns: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature*, and *Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator*—are favorites on nonfiction shelves.

## 2023 Concurrent Session Descriptions

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### ***Are Your Words Like My Words? Writing with Lyrical Language***

***Margaret Simon and Leslie Helakoski, Poetry, Storytelling***

What makes one word more powerful than another? These two teacher/authors will discuss meter, sound and emotion, which all play a part in writing lyrically. Utilizing strategies to elicit emotion, we will write in our own zines about life around the world and uncover fresh perspectives that ask— do I see what you see?



## 2023 Prerecorded Session Description

### ***Picture Books as Coping and Calming Tools***

***Kim Becnel, Social Emotional Learning; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion***

In this session, we'll talk about the RULER theory of social emotional learning (Baily, Hoffman, & Simmons 2109) and share a project in-progress, a webliography called "We're all orchids now: A bibliography of children's picture books about dealing with anxiety," which is supported by a Carnegie-Whitney Grant from the American Library Association. Using example books and reviews from this project, we'll explore the RULER framework, how it can be applied to picture books, and how these books can be used to support children and families coping with anxiety, overstimulation, and other emotional challenges.



# 2023 Festival Schedule

## Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Complimentary coffee service offered from 8 a.m. to noon at the end of 2nd floor exhibitor's hall.

### 9-10 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### **A1. Secrets of the Graphic Novel: An Exploration of the Newly Respected Literary Art Form**

Chuck Gale  
Anime, Comics, and Graphic Novels; Storytelling  
ROOM 210  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **A2. Celebrating Racial Diversity in Children's Literature\***

Callie Ann Starkey  
Diversity and Multicultural Booktalks; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **A3. Puppets with Purpose: Using Puppets to Enhance Early Literacy Storytimes\***

Lana Montgomery  
Programming; Emergent Reading Strategies  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **A4. Making Books Come Alive with Music**

Jo Hackl  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Cross-Curriculum  
ROOM 218A  
(0.1 CEUs)

### 10:15-11:15 A.M. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### **B1. Summer Reading Program**

Stacy Creel  
Public Libraries; Programming  
ROOM 210  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **B2. We Need Diverse Books!: How to Evaluate & Develop a Collection to Meet All Your Users' Needs\***

Janet Hilbun and Jane Claes  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Collection Development  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **B3. Set the Stage: Using Primary Sources to Bring Picture Books and Novels to Life\***

Soline Holmes and Alicia Schwarzenbach  
Programming; Nonfiction  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **B4. The Wheels On the Bus Go Round and Round: Early Literacy Outreach Aboard the Words on Wheels BookWagon\***

Meridith Wulff and Hanna Lee  
Community Outreach, Public Libraries  
ROOM 218A  
(0.1 CEUs)

### 11:30 A.M.

#### **Welcome Session**

- Announcements
- Kaigler-Lamont Award
- Magnolia Awards Ceremony

TCC BALLROOMS

### NOON-1:30 P.M.

#### **Coleen Salley Storytelling Luncheon with Amy Bluemel (\$25)**

TCC BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 1:45-2:45 P.M.

#### **de Grummond Lecture with Loren Long**

TCC BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 3-4 P.M.

#### **General Session with Vikram Madan**

TCC BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 4:15-5:30 P.M.

#### **Autographing**

BARNES AND NOBLE

### 4:30-5:30 P.M. SECOND CHANCE CONCURRENT SESSIONS\*

#### **SC1. The Wheels On the Bus Go Round and Round: Early Literacy Outreach Aboard the Words on Wheels BookWagon\***

Meridith Wulff and Hanna Lee  
Community Outreach, Public Libraries  
ROOM 218A  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **SC2. Celebrating Racial Diversity in Children's Literature\***

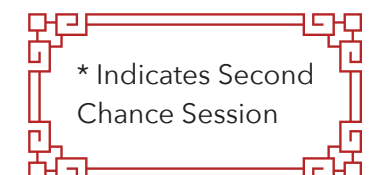
Callie Ann Starkey  
Diversity and Multicultural Booktalks; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
ROOM 210  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **SC3. Set the Stage: Using Primary Sources to Bring Picture Books and Novels to Life\***

Soline Holmes and Alicia Schwarzenbach  
Programming; Nonfiction  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### **SC4. We Need Diverse Books!: How to Evaluate & Develop a Collection to Meet All Your Users' Needs\***

Janet Hilbun and Jane Claes  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Collection Development  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)





# 2023 Festival Schedule

## Thursday, April 13, 2023

Complimentary coffee service offered from 8 a.m. to noon at the end of 2nd floor exhibitor's hall.

### 8-8:45 A.M.

#### Social with Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science

Southern Miss SLIS invites you to grab coffee and pastries while networking, socializing, and waking up with the faculty of the School of Library and Information Science

### 9-10 A.M.

#### General Session with Kyle Lukoff

TCC BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 10:15-11:15 A.M.

#### Medallion Session with Gene Luen Yang

TCC BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.

#### Ezra Jack Keats Awards Luncheon (\$25)

TCC BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 1:30-3 P.M.

#### Autographing

BARNES AND NOBLE

### 2-3 P.M.

#### SECOND CHANCE CONCURRENT SESSIONS\*

##### SC1. Puppets with Purpose: Using Puppets to Enhance Early Literacy Storytimes\*

Lana Montgomery  
Programming; Emergent Reading Strategies  
ROOM 210  
(0.1 CEUs)

##### SC2. A Celebration of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Children\*

Karla M. Schmit  
Poetry; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)

##### SC3. Children's Literature and Developing Social-Emotional Skills\*

Kitty Ainsworth and Amelia McCann  
Children's Books and Social Emotional Development  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

### 3:15-4:15 P.M.

#### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

##### C1. Drawing for Kids

Steven Harper  
Anime, Comics, and Graphic Novels  
ROOM 218 A  
(0.1 CEUs)

##### C2. A Celebration of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Children\*

Karla M. Schmit  
Poetry; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)

##### C3. A World of Possibilities: Recent International & Domestic Children's Literature Promoting Cross-Cultural Understandings

Jamie Campbell Naidoo and Kimberly Rogers  
Diversity and Multicultural Booktalks; Programming  
ROOM 210  
(0.1 CEUs)

##### C4. Children's Literature and Developing Social-Emotional Skills\*

Kitty Ainsworth and Amelia McCann  
Children's Books and Social Emotional Development  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

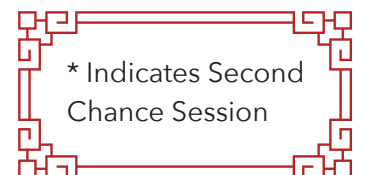
##### C5. Inspiring Young Writers: Sense of Place Through Tall Tales

Karen Konnerth  
Storytelling; Common Core  
ROOM 218B  
(0.1 CEUs)

### 7 P.M.

#### Celebration of the Ezra Jack Keats Award

Hors d'Oeuvres and Cash Bar  
HATTIESBURG TRAIN DEPOT  
Co-sponsored by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation and the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection





# 2023 Festival Schedule

## Friday, April 14, 2023

Complimentary coffee service offered from 8 a.m. to noon at the end of 2nd floor exhibitor's hall.

### 9-10 A.M.

#### General Session with Linda Williams Jackson

TCC BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 10:15-11:30 A.M.

#### Autographing

BARNES AND NOBLE

### 10:30-11:30 A.M. SECOND CHANCE CONCURRENT SESSIONS\*

#### SC1. Check Your Bias at the Door\*

Mac Buntin and Dawn Zimmerer  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Access  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### SC2. Baby + Me: Easy Steps to Reach the Youngest Generation\*

Kandice Evans and Karyn Walsh  
Programming; Public Libraries  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)

### NOON-1:30 P.M.

#### SLIS Lecture Luncheon with Angie Manfredi (\$25)

BALLROOMS  
(0.1 CEU)

### 1:45-2:45 P.M.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### D1. Check Your Bias at the Door\*

Mac Buntin and Dawn Zimmerer  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Access  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### D2. Level Up! Transform Your Library Life Through Involvement in Professional Associations

Ally Watkins and Hanna Lee  
Professional Development and Engagement; Public Libraries  
ROOM 218B  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### D3. Baby + Me: Easy Steps to Reach the Youngest Generation\*

Kandice Evans and Karyn Walsh  
Programming; Public Libraries  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### D4. Picturing Math

Sarah C. Campbell  
Nonfiction; How to Get Published  
ROOM 210  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### D5. Are Your Words Like My Words? Writing with Lyrical Language

Margaret Simon and Leslie Helakoski  
Poetry, Storytelling  
ROOM 218A  
(0.1 CEUs)

### 3-4 P.M.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### E1. Tapestry: Creating Hospitality Through Creativity, Social Artistry, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Gloria J. McEwen Burgess  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Anime, Comics, and Graphic Novels  
ROOM 210  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### E2. Exploring the Magnolia Book Awards, Mississippi Children's Choice Award

Bethany Carlisle and Wendy Daughdrill  
School Libraries; Public Libraries  
ROOM 216  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### E3. Kamishibai Storytelling: Bringing Culture and Interactive Storytelling Into Your Program

Claudia Nisbett and Nancy Varian  
Diversity and Multicultural Booktalks; Storytelling  
ROOM 218A  
(0.1 CEUs)

#### E4. Library of Things: Adding Everything but the Kitchen Sink to Your Collection

Ethan Glenn and Karyn Walsh  
Public Libraries; Community Outreach  
ROOM 214  
(0.1 CEUs)

## Prerecorded Only Session

#### Picture Books as Coping and Calming Tools

Kim Becnel  
Social Emotional Learning; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
(0.1 CEUs)

\* Indicates Second Chance Session



## Members of the 2023 Medallion Selection Committee

**Stacy Creel**, Chair, Associate Professor, 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 Emerita, 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, University of Alabama

**Venetia Oglesby**, Librarian, New Hope Elementary

**Kathy Roberts**, Coordinator of Children's and Youth Services for 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

## Steering Committee

- **Stacy Creel**, Chair, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science
- **Sarah Mangrum**, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science, Outreach and Technology Coordinator
- **Ashley Marshall**, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science, Registration and Technology Coordinator
- **Karen Rowell**, Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science, Coordinator
- **Ellen Ruffin**, University Libraries

Breakout Session Coordinator: **Ramona Caponegro**

Social Media Coordinator: **Dorothy Higgs**

On-Site Registration Coordinators: **Edmand Pace** and **Dorothy Higgs**

Ambassador Coordinators: **Ramona Caponegro** and **Heather Weeden Moore**

Keynote Handlers and Drivers: **Erin Clyburn, Sharon Davis, Tonja Johnson, Jessica McDaniel, Christine Nassar, Nadine Phillips, Bridget Reeves, and Montana Rindahl**

## 2023 Kaigler Ambassadors

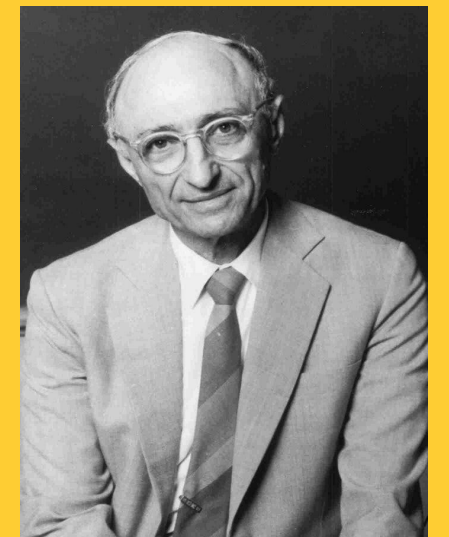
- **Cecilia Dupepe**, University of Alabama
- **Ros Faulkner**, University of Wisconsin- Madison
- **Jessica Perkins**, University of Maryland, College Park
- **Bekah Puddington**, San Jose State University
- **Leanna Wagner**, University of Alabama
- **Holly Wergin**, University of Wisconsin- Madison

## Special Thanks

The Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival expresses appreciation to the following for their contributions to the success of the 2023 festival:

- **Dr. Joseph S. Paul**, President, The University of Southern Mississippi
- **Dr. Gordon C. Cannon**, Provost, The University of Southern Mississippi
- **Dr. Trenton E. Gould**, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi
- **Dr. Stacy Creel**, Director, School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
- **Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas**, President Emeritus, The University of Southern Mississippi
- **The Estate of Fay B. Kaigler**
- **The family of Coleen Salley** for their continued support of the Festival
- **Dr. Deborah Pope** and the **Ezra Jack Keats Foundation** for their continued support of the Festival
- **Dr. Teresa S. Welsh**, Professor Emeritus, for her continued support of the Festival
- **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
- **Faculty, staff and students** of the School of Library and Information Science, The University of Southern Mississippi
- **Heather Wood Graves, Hillary Lovinggood, David Tisdale** and the team at University Communications
- **Belinda Patterson** and her team at University Parking Management
- **Marlene Dillon** and her team with Aramark Catering
- **Bourbon on Front, Twin Forks, Southern Prohibition, and Flathau's Fine Dining**

### In Memoriam



**Dr. Martin Pope**

(August 22, 1918 - March 26, 2022)



**THE FAY B. KAIGLER  
CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**