

Day of Diversity: Dialogue and Action

Detailed Agenda

January 30, 2015

Welcome and Introduction

Ellen Riordan

President of the Association for Library Service to Children and Chief of Planning, Programs and Partnerships for the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland.

Keynote: From Broken Yolks to Party Folks: The Importance of Libraries and Literacy in Keeping Diversity Alive For Our Children

Setting the stage for the day's events, Dr. Alire will address the importance of libraries recognizing diversity and keeping it alive through services to our children of color. She will briefly address stereotypes in children's literature; provide data to build a strong rationale for serving our cross-cultural young populace; and provide examples of successful family literacy models.

Dr. Camila Alire

Dean Emerita, University of New Mexico and Colorado State University;
Dr. Camila Alire has served as ALA President, ACRL President, and REFORMA President.

Panel 1: Diversity in Children's Literature: History and Myths

The Diversity in Children's Literature: History and Myths panel will provide attendees with a quick update on how, as a society, we've evolved on the diversity in children's literature front to set the stage for a much deeper conversation around what needs to be done now. This discussion-driven panel will focus on discerning and then "busting" the cycle of myths in the industry (publishing, librarianship, education) that hold inclusive stories back from being told, published, publicized, and perhaps even bought by authors, agents, editors, teachers, librarians, and caregivers.

Violet Harris
Moderator

V. J. Harris is a professor of Language and Literacy at the University of Illinois. She researches topics in children's literature and is committed to sharing multicultural literature.

K.T. Horning

K.T. Horning is the Director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, known for keeping statistics on multicultural literature since 1985.

Jason Low

Jason is the publisher of LEE & LOW BOOKS, an independent children's book publisher that specializes in award-winning books that feature diversity.

Gene Luen Yang

Gene Luen Yang is a comics and graphic novel creator. He is well-known for his award-winning graphic novels *American Born Chinese* and *Boxers & Saints*.

Adriana Dominguez

Adriana is an Agent at Full Circle Literary. Her past positions include managing HarperCollins' Rayo imprint, and the Children's section of Library Journal's *Críticas* magazine.

Breakout 1: Show Me the Diversity!

This interactive breakout session, composed of four discussion groups, brings together librarians, educators, publishers, book creators, and various literacy/non-profit organizations to share perspectives on publishing books and building collections representative of diverse populations. Each discussion group will strategize viable ways to increase diversity in print and digital materials available to children.

Cece Bell

The author/illustrator of *El Deafo*, a graphic novel memoir about her childhood experiences with hearing loss. She lives and works in Virginia.

Marina Tristan

The assistant director of Arte Público Press, oversees day-to-day operations, focusing in particular on marketing and promoting the press's books, authors, and programs.

Tina Taylor Dyches

Professor and Associate Dean, School of Education, Brigham Young University. Researcher, consultant, founder and chair of Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award.

Lesléa Newman

Lesléa is the author of *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *October Mourning: A Song For Mathew Shepard*. She has been an LGBT activist for 25 years.

Wade Hudson

Wade is President of Just Us Books, Inc., a multicultural publishing company he and his wife, Cheryl, established in 1988. He is the author of 25 books for young readers.

Sarah Park Dahlen

Sarah is assistant professor of Library and Information Science at St. Catherine University. She teaches courses on youth materials, library services, and social justice.

Sharon M. Draper

Sharon is a *New York Times* bestselling author who has received the Coretta Scott King Award. She lives in Cincinnati, where she taught English for twenty-five years and was named National Teacher of the Year.

Lee Byrd

Lee is president of Cinco Puntos Press, an independent publisher recognized for focusing on diverse books that open doors for kids, teens and adults.

Jenna Nemec – Loise

Jenna is Member Content Editor of the ALSC Everyday Advocacy Website and Children's Librarian at Chicago Public Library's Roosevelt Branch.

Jason Wells

Jason is Executive Director of Publicity and Marketing at ABRAMS, the publisher of numerous bestsellers.

Tim Tingle

An Oklahoma Choctaw and author of *House of Purple Cedar* and *How I Became A Ghost*, Tingle was featured at the 2014 National Book Festival.

Anita Merina

Anita is a Senior Communications Specialist at the National Education Association and a national coordinator of NEA's Read Across America.

Lunch and Lightning Talks

Sara Farizan, author of young adult titles *If You Could Be Mine* and *Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel*, talks about what it means to have multiple identities and how writing layered characters of different backgrounds can change a readers' perspective.

Sara Farizan

Sara is an MFA graduate of Lesley University. She is the author of *If You Could be Mine* and *Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel*.

Ellen Oh, YA author and WNDB founder, talks about how hearing her father's stories helped her overcome the self-hatred she developed from years of racism and the reason why she writes children's literature. She also opens up for the first time about why the broad definition of diversity that WNDB has taken, including the LGBTQIA and the disabilities community, is personally so very important to her.

Ellen Oh

Ellen is Co-founder and President of We Need Diverse Books, a former entertainment lawyer, and the author of the YA fantasy trilogy, *The Prophecy Series* from HarperTeen.

Muscogee (Creek) author Cynthia Leitich Smith talks about how she stepped away from Native American children's-YA literature, stepped up as a diversity torchbearer, claimed her inner geek, and, most importantly, the inspiring and charmingly blunt kids who guided her home again.

Cynthia Letich Smith

Bestselling, award-winning children's-YA author Cynthia Leitich Smith is a writing teacher and mentor. She's been a leader in the diversity conversation for 15 years.

Namrata Tripathi will share how our thinking of diversity in publishing comes to the conclusion that there are gatekeepers and editors are amongst them—inaccessible and intimidating. She will shed light on how, as a minority in publishing, she also struggled with defining what it meant to be a “diverse” editor. Namrata will take the audience through how she has overcome the typecasting of a “multi-cultural editor” and the way she slowly arrived at a place where she can get the kind of submissions she's looking for to contribute to the field.

Namrata Tripathi

Namrata is the editorial director at Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin Random House).

Panel 2: Literacy Programming: Forming Partnerships and Sharing Resources

This dynamic 75 minute panel will allow program attendees to hear from field experts on how key stakeholders in communities can partner and work together to support diversity in action year-round.

The panel will focus on ways to build partnerships between publishers, nonprofits, librarians, and communities to better share and craft resources that support interactive programming for children, including Common Core and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math).

Dr. Claudette S. McLinn
Moderator

Claudette is the Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature. She has been a school librarian, teacher, adjunct professor, and bookseller.

Irania Macias Patterson

Irania is a multicultural children specialist and library consultant in the area of literature and performing arts. She provides programs for bilingual at-risk audiences using bibliotherapy techniques.

Pat Mora

Pat is an author and literacy advocate. She is the founder of Children's Day, Book Day/ El día de los niños, El día de los libros; often known as Día.

Deborah B. Ford

Deborah is the Junior Library Guild's Director of Library Outreach. She is an award-winning library media specialist and speaker with almost 30 years of experience as a teacher and librarian.

Maureen Costello

Maureen is the Director of Teaching Tolerance, Southern Poverty Law Center. Her career spans college administration, teaching and educational publishing.

Amy Koester

Amy is the Youth & Family Program Coordinator at Skokie Public Library. She blogs about STEAM, collections, and other topics as the Show Me Librarian.

Michelle Leo

Michelle is Vice President, Director of Education & Library Marketing, Simon & Schuster, Inc. She is a graduate of Fordham University and is the daughter of two librarians.

Breakout 2: Partners in Diversity

Each breakout group will brainstorm ways to attract diverse children and families to libraries, consider what resources are needed that are currently not being provided, and think about what partnerships could be created through communities and through nonprofits to engage and expose specific communities to books that are windows and mirrors.

Kody Keplinger	Kody is the author of young adult and middle grade fiction, including <i>The DUFF</i> . She is also a co-founder of Disability in Kid Lit.
Dara La Porte	Dara co-founded the nonprofit An Open Book Foundation, which takes children's authors to disadvantaged DC schools and gives each child the author's book.
Edith Campbell	Edith received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Cincinnati and MLS from Indiana University. Her passion is promoting literacy in teens of color.
Maya Gonzalez	Maya is an artist, author, and educator. She has illustrated over twenty award-winning multicultural books and written five. She co-founded Reflection Press and School of the Free Mind.
Roxana Barillas	Roxana is director of Hispanic Engagement for First Book, a nonprofit social enterprise that has provided over 125 million books to children in need.
Gretchen Caserotti	Gretchen is the new Library Director at Meridian Library District (ID) and serves as the New to ALSC Board Member.
Irene Smalls, MBA	Irene is the author of 15 children's books and is the first African-American female exhibitor at the world's oldest and largest book fair in Frankfurt, Germany.
Lydia Breiseth	Lydia manages Colorín Colorado, a bilingual national website for parents and educators of ELLs, overseeing content, partnerships, and production of multicultural booklists and author interviews.
Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada	Lessa is the chair of the Asian Pacific American Librarian Association's Talk Story family literacy program and Librarian at Rancho Cucamonga Public Library in California.
Zetta Elliott	Born in Canada, Zetta is a Brooklyn-based educator and author of thirteen books for young readers, including the award-winning picture book <i>Bird</i> .
Monica Olivera	Monica is a freelance education writer and co-founder of Latinas for Latino Lit, an organization dedicated to promoting literacy among Latino families.
Beatriz Pascual Wallace	Beatriz is a children's librarian at Seattle Public Library. She chaired the REFORMA Mora Award committee and served on the youth committees of APALA's Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature.

Panel 3: Moving Into Action

Authors, educators, and editors recap the day's biggest takeaways and brainstorm with participants ways to take action...either personally or within your library system. How do we move the diversity needle forward? Action steps may include using resources from the CBD Diversity Committee Blog, taking a stand on social media; creating and implementing programs that reflect your community's diversity; making sure that your reading clubs welcome participants of all racial and ethnic backgrounds as well as kids who are exploring their own identities; becoming a public advocate and ally within your community on issues related to the many facets of diversity.

Satia Orange
Moderator

Former director, ALA Office for Literacy & Outreach Services, with library diversity management expertise in school, public, and special libraries.

Phoebe Yeh

Publisher of Crown Books for Young Readers/Penguin Random House. Phoebe was previously an editorial director at Harper Collins Children's Books.

Carolynn L. Johnson

Carolynn is the Chief Operating Officer at DiversityInc.

René Saldaña, Jr

Associate Professor, Teacher Education, Texas Tech University. René is the author of *Dale, dale, dale: una fiesta de números* and *Hit It, Hit It, Hit It: A Fiesta of Numbers*.

Arthur Levine

Vice President and Publisher of Arthur A. Levine Books at Scholastic who believes that diversity is a hallmark of excellence.