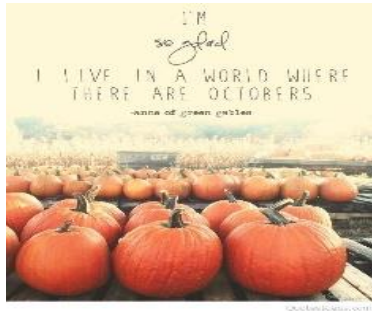


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The Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Reading Association

October 2019
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Editor: Sandi Kurbiel
NYSED Contributing Editor: Kristen Driskill



*Issues are published every month except for December-January and June-August combined issues. For more information, please contact Sandi Kurbiel at skurbiel@nycap.rr.com.
(Above image from GoogleImages)*

Don't forget, now you can become a friend to NYSRA on *Facebook*! Have you?
Thanks to all who contributed their time and expertise to our issue this month!

Inside: [NYSRA & Legislative News](#) by Sandi Kurbiel; [NYSED News](#) by Kristen Driskill; & [Literacy News/Links of Interest](#) by Sandi Kurbiel

NYSRA and Legislative News

2019 NYSRA Literacy Conference

Please join us for the 52nd Annual New York State Reading Association Literacy Conference, *Empowering Striving Readers*! Please read more about the conference below, including an invitation to attend from the conference coordinators, Thea Yurkewecz and Elizabeth Yanoff, highlights from the conference, and a registration form. Please click on the link below for more information:
<https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>



Dear Literacy Leaders,

It is our pleasure to invite you and your colleagues to attend the New York State Reading Association Conference, November 14-16, 2019 in Albany, New York.

<https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>

The theme for NYSRA Conference 2019 is *Empowering Striving Readers*. We have an incredible list of inspiring speakers! Current presenters include: Jennifer Serravallo, Stephanie Harvey, Troy Hicks, Laura Robb, Donna Scanlon, Charles R. Smith, Jr., Janet Wong, Sylvia Vardell, Jeffrey Wilhelm, Jim Wright, NYSED leaders, and many more! The conference kicks off Thursday evening with presentations all day Friday and ending Saturday afternoon.

This conference provides excellent professional development opportunities for all K-12 educators including teachers, administrators, literacy specialists, teacher leaders, coaches, library media specialists, and special educators. You can expand your professional learning community through knowledgeable featured speakers, workshops and connecting with other dedicated professionals. CTLE credit is available.

Remember that if you are a member of NYSRA, you will get a discount on the price of the conference. Also, if you have 3-9 educators going to the conference from your school district, there are special rates. Looking to send 10 teachers or more from your district? There are even more savings! See the registration form for this information.

For more information and a complete list of presenters, please contact us or visit our website for updates: <https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>

We look forward to seeing you and your colleagues in Albany, NY this November 2019!

Thea Yurkewecz, Ph.D.

President of the NYS Reading Association
Conference

Co-Coordinator of the NYSRA 2019 Conference

Elizabeth Yanoff, Ph.D.

Co-Coordinator of the NYSRA 2019



Empowering Striving Readers

November 14-16, 2019
Albany Capital Center, Albany, NY

Register today: <https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>

Keynote Speakers



Charles R. Smith, Jr.



Jennifer Serravallo



Janet Wong & Sylvia Vardell



Earn CTLE Credit Hours!

Come learn from nationally and regionally known presenters, network with fellow educators, check out the latest educational products and earn CTLE credits at the 52nd Annual NYSRA Conference.

Thursday

Evening Preconference:
Empowering Teachers
Virginia Goatley & Thea
Yurkewecz

Friday

Luncheon:
Jennifer Serravallo

Ticketed Dinner:
What Inspires Writing

Additional featured speakers:
Stephanie Affinito, Erica Barnes,
Grace Enriquez, Stephanie
Harvey, Gretchen Oliver, Zoi
Philippakos, Berit Gordon, Erik
Sweet, Laura Robb, Charles R.
Smith Jr., Sandra Athans, Katie
Kelly, Kevin Kurtz & Jennifer Roy

Saturday

Ticketed Breakfast:
Writing for Children and Young
Adults

Luncheon:
Janet Wong & Sylvia Vardell

Additional featured speakers:
Adam Fachler & Jeffrey
Wilhelm, Troy Hicks, Jim Wright,
and Laura Hallgren Flynn,
Peggy Connors & Lynn
Gelheizer, Nancy Castaldo &
Amy Guglielmo

Thank you to our featured speaker sponsors: Corwin, Scholastic & Walck Sales/Heinemann

Save money and register by 9/30/19 and receive the EARLY BIRD discount!

The registration form and more details are posted on our website.

2019 NYSRA Conference Registration Thursday, 11.14.19 to Saturday, 11.16.19 Albany Capital Center
Registration must be postmarked by 11.1.19 to avoid the additional late and on-site registration fee of \$25.

Last Name:	First Name:
Address:	
City:	State & Zip:
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Affiliation:	Position:
Valid/Unblocked E-Mail (Required for Registration Confirmation):	
Are you a member of a LOCAL NYSRA COUNCIL or AT-LARGE MEMBER of NYSRA? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
If yes, WHICH LOCAL COUNCIL? <input type="checkbox"/> OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT-LARGE MEMBER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Check Here If You Will Need A Sign Language Interpreter (Postmarked by 9.30.19).	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Check Here and Specify If You Have Special Dietary Needs:	

Registration Fees, Options (Per Person) and Payment Information

<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 NYSRA At-Large Membership (Allows You To Register At The Member Rate.)	
Package A Regular Full Conference Package (Includes: Thursday Evening To Saturday Afternoon Professional Development, Lunch On Friday And Saturday, And Reception On Thursday And Friday Evening) Early Bird Registration Postmarked BY 9.30.19) <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$225 Non-Member Regular Registration (Postmarked AFTER 9.30.19) <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 School Groups Of 3 To 9 (Submit Together) <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Non-Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Full Time Student	<p align="center">PAYMENT INFORMATION</p> (FULL PAYMENT AND/OR PO MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM) <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ Amount: \$ _____ PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NYSRA. (RETURNED CHECKS WILL BE ASSESSED A \$25 NSF FEE.) <input type="checkbox"/> PO# _____ District: _____ (WE WILL INVOICE THE DISTRICT) <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT CARD TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC CARD NUMBER: _____ NAME ON CARD: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____ SECURITY CODE FROM BACK OF CARD: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____ E-MAIL TO SEND RECEIPT: _____ (NYSRA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHARGE YOUR CARD THE CORRECT AMT. IF THERE IS AN ERROR IN THE CALCULATION OF THE AMT. DUE.) <p align="center">ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</p> 1. A \$25 late registration fee will be assessed for registrations received after 11.1.19 and for On-Site Registrations. 2. Refunds will be made ONLY with a written request postmarked by 11.1.19 and will be processed after the close of the conference. 3. A registration confirmation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address listed above. Please be sure to provide a valid, unblocked e-mail, 4. NYSRA Taxpayer ID number is: 16-6098728. 5. PLEASE MAIL, FAX, OR E-MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION ALONG WITH METHOD OF PAYMENT TO: <p align="center">NYSRA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION C/O MARY & LARRY KLINE 507 BRETT'S WAY WHITESBORO, NY 13492 FAX: 315-736-3519 E-MAIL: NYSRACONFREG@ROADRUNNER.COM</p>
Package B Single Day Conference Package- Friday or Saturday (Includes: Friday OR Saturday Professional Development, Lunch on Friday OR Saturday, and Reception on Friday Evening IF attending on Friday. Please Check Day Attending: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 School Groups of 3 to 9 Submit Together) <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Non-Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Full Time Student	
A La Carte Items <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Friday Evening Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Saturday Morning Breakfast	
\$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	
<p>Please Note: If you are sending 10 or more from the same district, please contact Mary Kline for large group pricing at 315-867-2079. For other Registration questions, please e-mail our registrars at nysraconfreg@roadrunner.com. For non-registration questions, contact us at nysraconf2019@gmail.com.</p>	

Awards to be Given Out at Fall AOD 2019

by Thea Yurkewecz

Description of Awards:

<https://www.nysreading.org/content/awards-and-grants>

Council Service Award Recipients:

Melissa MacCormac-Reading Specialists of Suffolk
Jan Marchetti-Rochester Literacy Council
Maryanne Barrett-Rochester Literacy Council
Keith Newvine-Central York Reading Council
Susan Bogden-Ritty (NYSRA)

Membership Excellence:

Heather Waymouth-Central New York
Michael Pagliaro-Mohawk Valley

International Literacy Association:

The Honor Award annually recognizes local, student, and special interest chapters that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving the chapter members, the community, the state/provincial chapter, and the International Literacy Association. Chapters are recognized for accomplishments of the previous year.

The Award of Excellence is presented annually by the International Literacy Association to state and provincial councils that have distinguished themselves through organizing and implementing a wide range of programs and activities in their state or province that (a) serve and support councils and members, (b) contribute to education, and (c) coincide with and support ILA's programs and goals.

Central New York	ILA Honor Award
Rochester Area	ILA Honor Award
Nassau	ILA Honor Award
Niagara Frontier	ILA Honor Award
NYSRA	Award of Excellence

Awards to be Given Out at NYSRA Conference:

NYS Literacy Educator of the Year: Kirsten Burke-Smith (Incoming Vice President)

NYSRA Literacy Advocate: Gina Ralston (Albany City Area)

Grants:

Senator Donovan: Heather Waymouth (Central New York)

Literature Based Mini-Grant: Karen Maher (Mid-Hudson)

Richard Allington Research Grant: Anemone Zeneli (Central New York)

NYSRA Awards 2019

Name	Award	Presenting Award	Responded
Melissa MacCaromac	Council Service	Fall AOD	YES
Jan Marchetti	Council Service	Fall AOD	YES
Maryanne Barrett	Council Service	Fall AOD	YES
Susan Bogden-Ritty	Council Service	Fall AOD	No coming to AOD
Keith Newvine	Council Service	Fall AOD	YES
Michael Pagliaro	Membership Excellence	Fall AOD	YES
Heather Waymouth	Membership Excellence	Fall AOD	YES
Central New York	ILA Honor Award	Fall AOD	YES
Rochester Area	ILA Honor Award	Fall AOD	YES
Nassau	ILA Honor Award	Fall AOD	YES
Niagara Frontier	ILA Honor Award	Fall AOD	YES
NYSRA	Award of Excellence	Fall AOD	Celebrated by all :-)
Karen Maher	Literature Mini-Grant \$500	Conference 2019	YES

Kirsten Burke-Smith	NYS Literacy Educator of the Year Award	Conference 2019	YES
Heather Waymouth	Senator Donovan Memorial \$500	Conference 2019	YES
Gina Ralston	Literacy Advocate	Conference 2019	YES
Anemone Zeneli	Richard Allington Award \$500	Conference 2019	YES

NYSRA Council Coordinator News

by Carrie Lake clake412@gmail.com

Happy Fall and all the excitement it brings for our local councils, as they kick off a new year of events! Please remember to check the NYSRA website nysreading.org for upcoming events from NYSRA and your local councils. I am happy to introduce a full slate of Regional Directors for 2019-20, representing 19 local councils. Please reach out to them regarding local council events and celebrations, look to them for communication from NYSRA, and share with them your struggles so they can advocate for you.

Welcome to our 2019-20 NYSRA Regional Directors:

Central NY Regional Director ~ Karen Brungard kbrun@tweny.rr.com

Serving Central NY and Mohawk Valley Reading Councils

Eastern Regional Director ~ Rebecca Benjamin Benjamin.rebeccalee@gmail.com

Serving Albany and Columbia Greene Reading Councils

Hudson Valley Regional Director ~ Cathy Frankel catherine.frankel@wsdny.org

Serving Mid-Hudson, Rockland and Westchester Reading Councils

Long Island Regional Director ~ Melissa MacCormac Memacormac@aol.com

Serving Nassau and Reading Specialists of Suffolk Reading Councils

New York City Regional Director ~ Basirat HenryBOttun@schools.nys.gov

Serving Brooklyn and Staten Island Reading Councils

North-East Regional Director ~ BonnieYanklowitz bon_books@hotmail.com

Serving Iroquois Reading Council

North-West Regional Director ~ Judy Ehrensbeck Judy@Ehrensbeck.com

Serving Greater Thousand Island and North Country Reading Councils

Southern Regional Director~ Connie Martin cmartin@homercentral.org
Serving Binghamton and Seven Valley Reading Councils

Western Regional Director~ Cherie Gerych purplan@gmail.com
Serving Rochester, Niagara Frontier and Chautauqua Reading Councils

Charlotte Award 2020

You do not need to read all the books on the ballot, but please read as many books as you can. Vote on one ballot or all of the ballots, but you may only vote once on each ballot. Some upper grade titles contain adult issues. Please consider what is personally appropriate before reading. If you have any questions, please contact NYSRA.Charlotte@gmail.com.

NEW YORK STATE CHARLOTTE AWARD BALLOT 2020

Named for the main character in E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, the purpose of the Charlotte Award is to encourage students to read outstanding literature and ultimately become lifelong readers. Students in New York State will read titles on the ballot voting for their favorites in each category. Ballots must be received by May 30, 2020. Votes will be tallied, and winners will receive their awards at the NYSRA Conference in November 2020. ** Denotes nonfiction titles.

Primary Ballot

Title	Author	Publisher
Can I Be Your Dog?	Troy Cummings	Random House
Crunch the Silly Dinosaur	Cirroco Dunlap	Random House
Elmore	Hollie Hobbie	Random House
Fruit Bowl	Mark Hoffman	Alfred A. Knopf
Grumpy Monkey	Suzanne Lang	Random House
Imagine That! Let Your Mind Run Wild	Yasmeen Ismail	Bloomsbury
Moon**	Britta Teckentrup	Doubleday Books for Young Readers
No More Noisy Nights	Holly N. Niner	Flashlight
What Will Grow? **	Jennifer Ward	Bloomsbury
Windows **	Julia Denos	Candlewick Press

Intermediate Ballot		
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Title	Author	Publisher
Annie's Life In Lists	Kristin Mahoney	Alfred A. Knopf
Exact Location of Home	Kate Messner	Bloomsbury
The First Men Who Went to the Moon**	Rhonda Gowler Greene	Sleeping Bear Press
The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley	April Stevens	Schwartz & Wade Books
My Brigadista Year	Katherine Patterson	Candlewick Press
RA the Mighty Cat Detective	A.B. Greenfield	Holiday House
Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo	Ben Costa & James Parks	Alfred A. Knopf
Sticky Notes	Dianne Touchell	Delacorte Press
Stuck in the Stone Age	Geoff Rodney	Rodale Kids
Write On Irving Berlin! **	Leslie Kimmelman	Sleeping Bear Press

Middle School Ballot		
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Title	Author	Publisher
The Gone Away Place	Christopher Barzak	Alfred A. Knopf
Just Under the Clouds	Melissa Sarno	Alfred A. Knopf
Life In a Fishbowl	Len Vlahos	Bloomsbury
The Lifters	Dave Eggers	Alfred A. Knopf
The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl	Stacy McAnulty	Random House
The Names They Gave Us	Emery Lord	Bloomsbury
Out of Wonder Poems Celebrating Poets	Kramer Alexander	Candlewick Press
Pride The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag **	Rob Sanders	Random House
The Science of Breakable Things	Tae Keller	Random House
Slider	Pete Hauteman	Candlewick Press

High School Ballot

Title	Author	Publisher
Ahgottahandleonit	Donovan Mixon	Cinco Puntos Press
Americanized Rebel Without a Green Card	Sara Saedi	Alfred A. Knopf
The Beauty That Remains	Ashley Woodfolk	Delacorte Press
Fatal Throne	M. T. Anderson, Jennifer Donnelly, Candace Fleming, Stephanie Hemphill, Deborah Hopkinson, Linda Sue Park, Lisa Ann Sandell	Schwartz & Wade Books
Jaya and Rasa A Love Story	Sonia Patel	Cinco Puntos Press
Neverworld Wake	Marisha Pessl	Delacorte Press
Second In Command	Sandi Van	West 44 Books
Tess of the Road	Rachel Hartman	Random House
The Walls Have Ears: A Black Spy in the Confederate White House	Hope Irvin Marston	White Bird Publications
The Window	Amelia Brunskill	Delacorte Press

New York State Education News

by Kristen Driskill
NYSED Contributing Editor

Beth Berlin Named Interim Commissioner of the New York State Education Department

As of September 1, 2019, Beth Berlin has assumed the role of Interim Commissioner of the New York State Education Department, and will remain in the role until a permanent Commissioner is obtained. Click [here](#) to read her full bio.

2019 NYS Assessment Scores Released

NYSED has released the results of the 2019 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and mathematics assessments. In ELA, 45.4% of all test takers in grades 3-8 scored at the proficient level (Levels 3 and 4), an increase of 0.2 percentage points from 2018. In math, 46.7% of all test takers in grades 3-8 scored at the proficient level, up 2.2 percentage points from 44.5 in 2018. In addition, the opt-out rate dropped 2 percentage points from the prior year.

Click [here](#) for the press release, which contains additional information.

2020 NYS Teacher of the Year

NYSED has announced that Rachel Murat is the 2020 NYS Teacher of the Year. Rachel is a high school social studies and technology integration teacher at Maine-Endwell High School.

Click [here](#) for the press release.

Video Series for Home-School Connection Released

WNET has produced a series of videos to help strengthen the connection between home and school. Strategies to help families set up their children for success in and out of the classroom are highlighted. The videos are available in both English and Spanish.

Click [here](#) to access the videos.

Literacy News and Links of Interest

by Sandi Kurbiel
ReAD Editor

Literacy Ideas for October

Find a calendar of important literacy dates in October, and click on any of them to find interesting lesson plan ideas!

Halloween Fun

Have some fun and sneak in some learning at the same time here!

"The Secret Power of the Children's Picture Book"

Click above to read about how even babies can benefit in their cognition and behavior from their caregivers sitting with them and reading them picture books. (As literacy educators we are already aware of the benefits, but it's always interesting to read the newest research on the topic!)

New Research on Learning in Disadvantaged Schools

Many people assume that students in schools serving disadvantaged students are not learning as much as students in more affluent districts. Read about some new research that may be surprising.