



# Greater Washington Reading Council

Spring 2017

## Message from the President, Dr. Michelle Picard

Dear All:

The GWRC board and I want to thank you for the inspiring work and collaboration! Beginning with the annual conference featuring Linda Gambrell, Barbara Marinak, and Jacquelyn Malloy, we were inspired by the importance of reading motivation and provided with innovative, pragmatic way to keep us all reading and writing! If you haven't already, be sure to check out the motivation survey and resources posted on our website surrounding this important issue.

We continue to enjoy our professional conversation series based on the *Not This, But That* series edited by Nell Duke and Ellin Keene. Members and guests have joined together, reviewed research-based practices and those that lack this support on topics ranging from teaching and learning with English language learners, the development of phonics from a developmental approach and vocabulary learning.

Another highlight of our work this year has been the inclusion of authors from outside the Greater Washington area. *Making Literacy Connections*, our biannual journal, highlights practitioners, graduate students, and university professors from near and far. Highlights in the past issue include connecting young adult literature and student achievement, shared reading with informational texts with emergent readers and the importance of professional learning in writing to develop teacher skills. Be sure to visit the digital journal and consider authoring a piece for the next volume.

Thank you for the many ways in which you are promoting a literacy for your students and communities. Let's continue to work and celebrate the work with one another!

Best wishes,

### GWRC Board Members

**Michelle Picard**, President

**Seth Parsons**, Vice-President,  
Conference Chair

Susanna Smith, Vice-President  
Elect

**Meghann Weiss**, Treasurer

**Barbara Rohr**, Corresponding/Recording Secretary

**Lisa Hughes** Immediate Past  
President

**Frances Eroraha**, Member-At  
Large

**Lori Silver**, Membership

Lisa Manikas, Member-At –  
Large

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## GWRC is Recruiting Membership and Leadership

Are you ready to serve? The GWRC

board is looking for interested persons to serve on the board. Consider joining us as we plan to strengthen our network across the greater Washington area. We meet 5-6 times each year work together to promote literacy! We host professional conferences, conversations, and fun reading events. We provide grant and award opportunities, publish a biannual journal and newsletter and seek ways to support one another! Consider representing your locality and join the board.

Current open positions include:

- Vice President -Elect
- Treasurer
- Member at Large
- Liaison – Arlington
- Liaison – Falls Church
- Liaison – Washington D.C.
- Committee Chair – Grants and Awards
- Committee Chair – Secondary Reading



### International Literacy Project in Guatemala

GWRC was well represented at the VSRA Conference this year. In fact, for the International Committee, it was a serendipitous trifecta!

The two recipients of the 2015 International Literacy Scholarship, **Shannon Melideo** of Marymount University, Arlington & **Anitra Butler-Ngugi** of Arlington Traditional School, presented about their projects at this year's conference.

**Students made comments like, "I'm happy for Wednesday to come so I can find new books to read and get a popsicle."**

Anitra shared her presentation, *Hexagonal Learning -- six sides of deep understanding and student interactions with each other and the content*, originally presented at the Third Baltic 17<sup>th</sup> Nordic literacy conference in Torqu, Finland, last August.

Shannon's presentation, *Putting a book in every child's hands, putting empowerment in every teacher's heart*, was about her work last summer at the Arlington Academy of Hope in Bumwalakani, Uganda. Shannon's experiences in Uganda are part of a seven-year partnership between Marymount and the Academy that focuses on teacher training and research.

The joint presentation was introduced by Kathy Davin, who teaches at Key School in Arlington. Kathy chairs both the GWRC and the VSRA international committees.

What a tribute to GWRC, to show-

case our commitment to sharing our wealth of knowledge and rich store of literacy education with the rest of the world.

Contact Kathy Davin if you are interested in participating in this project.

[kathleen.davin@apsva.us](mailto:kathleen.davin@apsva.us)

### Previous GWRC Grant Award Winner Arlington Public Schools Spotlight iREAD & the 40-Book Challenge

In 2013, two Kenmore Middle School teachers, Amy Juengst and Megan McCormick, developed the iREAD program, an intensified reading remediation program targeted to support their least engaged student readers who were reading well below grade level. This targeted group of 17 students commit to the year-long, after-school program which requires them to stay an extra 90 minutes twice a week for reading instruction. In addition to the iREAD program, Megan and Amy have established a literacy goal of 40-books read per student by the end of the school year, even for these most reluctant readers during the school year. That translates into each student reading one book per week for the entire school year.

Current literacy research asserts that in order to improve reading levels, students need to **significantly increase the volume of their independent reading**. Many factors influence the amount of time kids spend reading but research suggests that the three most influential factors are **proximity to books** (a fingertips length away), **time to read**, and **choice**.

**Summer Reading!** One of our greatest concerns is that our iREAD participants will lose momentum over the summer and stop reading due to limited access to engaging, high quality books. Therefore, Amy and Megan raise money each year to purchase **10 summer reading books** for each of our 17 iREAD participants and present the books to them as a surprise, a reward, for completing the program. The GWRC grant contributed to this work!



## Virginia Reader's Choice Selections for 2017-2018

### Primary:

*Glow: Animals with Their Own Night-Lights* by W.H. Beck  
*Yard Sale* by Eve Bunting  
*Chuck* by CeCe Bell  
*Mango Woodchuck* by CeCe Bell  
*Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina  
*and Angela Dominguez*  
*You Must Be This Tall* by Steven Weinberg  
*Job Wanted* by Teresa Bateman  
*The Skunk* by Mac Barnett  
*Flutter*  
*Hum: Animal Poems* by Julie Paschkis  
*Nerdy Birdy* by Aaron Reynolds  
*Thunder Boy Jr.* by Sherman Alexie

### Elementary:

*Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate  
*A Whole New Ballgame* by Phil Bildner  
*Class Dismissed* by Allan Woodrow  
*A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord  
*In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall  
*The Remembering Day/El Dia de los Muertos* by Pat Mora  
*Lucky Strike* by Bobbie Pyron  
*Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems* by Bob Raczka  
*Fuzzy Mud* by Louis Sachar  
*Save Me A Seat* by Sarah Weeks

### Middle:

*House Arrest* by K.A. Holt  
*Booked* by Kwame Alexander  
*Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary Schmidt  
*Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson  
*The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin  
*The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
*The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall  
*The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose  
*A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen  
*Space Case* by Stuart Gibbs

### High School:

*The Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik  
*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys  
*Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli  
*Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Pérez  
*More Happy Than Not* by Adam Silvera  
*An Ember in the Ashes* by Sabaa Tahir  
*Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy  
*Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon  
*All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely  
*All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven

Visit <https://www.vsra.org/vrc/> for directions to vote for your school's favorite book.

## Professional Development Opportunity

George Mason University's Literacy program prepares reading specialists (Graduate Certificate, M.Ed.) and literacy researchers (Ph.D.). The Literacy program is part of the College of Education and Human Development, which was recently ranked as one of the top 50 education schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Faculty members are currently engaged in a number of projects from local to international. Our Literacy specialization within Mason's Ph.D. in Education program is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, with many opportunities for students to study of a wide array of topics and engage in research with faculty. If you are interested in a graduate certificate, master's degree or a Ph.D. related to literacy, please visit <http://gse.gmu.edu/literacy-and-reading/> or contact Jennifer Hathaway at [jhathaw2@gmu.edu](mailto:jhathaw2@gmu.edu). Questions can also be directed to Seth Parsons, GWRC's George Mason University liaison, at [sparson5@gmu.edu](mailto:sparson5@gmu.edu).

## GWRC Grant Applications:

### Community Outreach Grant

The Greater Washington Reading Council (GWRC) is committed to helping its members further their professional development in the field of literacy.

### Nancy King Professional Growth Grant Application

The Greater Washington Reading Council (GWRC) is committed to helping its members further their professional development in the field of literacy. The Nancy King Professional Growth Grant is awarded twice a year to eligible GWRC members who wish to continue their study of literacy, present at literacy conferences, and/or participate in other literacy professional growth scholarship.

### Readers Grant Application

awarded twice a year to eligible GWRC members who wish to pursue a focused study of literacy. The GWRC Grants The Greater Washington Reading Council (GWRC) is committed to helping its members further their professional development in the field of literacy.

DUE April 15, 2017



Spring 2017

Newsletter Design by:  
Dr. Karen Banks &  
Ms. Patricia Sinclair



Join GWRC on our blog:

<http://gwrcouncil1.wordpress.com>

### **We are looking for contributions from members!**

If you have a program, instructional strategy, or news item you would like to share, please email us:

Karen.Banks@lcps.org

Patricia.Sinclair@lcps.org



## **Not This, But That: Professional Conversations (cont)**

### **December: *Not This But That: No More Independent Reading Without Support***

Debbie Miller, Barbara Moss, Edited by Nell K. Duke, and Ellin Oliver Keene

Facilitator: Bridgett Brookbank, Office of Student Learning, Administrative Coordinator

Date: 12/6/16 Time: 5:30-6:30

Location: Independent Hill Complex, Building #51, Rooms 203A/B

14800 Joplin Road, Manassas, VA 20112

### **January : *Not This But That: No More Low Expectations for English Learners***

Julie Nora, Jana Echevarria Edited by Nell K. Duke, and Ellin Oliver Keene

Facilitator: Dr. April Mattix Foster, George Mason University Professor

Date: 1 /25/17 Time: 5:30-6:30

Location: Edward L. Kelly Leadership Center, Rooms 2002/4

14715 Bristow Road, Manassas, VA 20112

### **February: *Not This But That: No More Phonics and Spelling Worksheets***

Jennifer Palmer, Marcia Invernizzi Edited by Nell K. Duke, and Ellin Oliver Keene

Facilitator: Dr. Michelle Picard, ELA Supervisor Arlington Public Schools

Date: 2/21/17 Time: 5:30-6:30 PM

Location: Edward L. Kelly Leadership Center, Rooms 2002/4

14715 Bristow Road, Manassas, VA 20112

### **March: *Not This But That: No More "Look Up the List" Vocabulary Instruction***

Charlene Cobb, Camille Blachowicz Edited by Nell K. Duke, and Ellin Oliver Keene

Facilitator: Dr. Allison Ward Parsons, George Mason University Professor

Date: 3/29/17 Time: 5:30-6:30

Location: Edward L. Kelly Leadership Center, Rooms 2002/4

14715 Bristow Road, Manassas, VA 20112

### **April: *Not This But That: No More Instruction Without Differentiation***

Lynn Geronemus Gigelman, Debra S. Peterson Edited by Nell K. Duke, and Ellin Oliver Keene

Facilitator/Speaker: TBA Date: 4/19/17 Time: 5:30-6:30

Location: Edward L. Kelly Leadership Center, Rooms 2002/4

14715 Bristow Road, Manassas, VA 20112

### **May: *Not This But That: No More Summer-Reading Loss***

Carrie Cahill, Kathy Horvath, Anne McGill-Franzen, Richard L. Allington Edited by Nell K. Duke, and Ellin Oliver Keene

Facilitator: Susanna Smith and Mary Lou Rube, Arlington Public Schools reading teachers

Date: 5/24/17 Time: 5:30-6:30

Location: Independent Hill Complex, Building #51, Rooms 203A/B

14800 Joplin Road, Manassas, VA 20112

The Greater Washington Reading Council sets its mission as promoting literacy and literacy education in this Northern Virginia region. A local affiliate of the [Virginia State Reading Association](#), the Greater Washington Reading Council members are committed to supporting teachers, administrators, and the general public in the best practices of literacy instruction, pre-K to college and beyond.

Through professional conferences, an online newsletter, an evolving website, and a members-only journal, the Greater Washington Reading Council works to support the goals of the [Virginia State Reading Association](#) and the [International Literacy Association \( https://www.literacyworldwide.org/\)](https://www.literacyworldwide.org/). Through these professional opportunities and continuing education events we, the members and literacy leaders in our region, assist the children of Northern Virginia in reaching the literacy standards set by the Commonwealth and the robust literacy objectives of the 21st century.

## GWRC FALL CONFERENCE 2017

**Great news! Kristin Ziemke, author of Amplify: Digital Teaching and Learning in the K-6 Classroom, is willing to be our fall annual conference speaker! October 19, 2017, Hyatt Regency at Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax, VA, 8:30-3:30. More details to follow.**

### **American Academy Of Pediatrics: Protect Immigrant Children ...**

[www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)

Amid new executive orders issued yesterday by the Trump administration to build a wall on the 2,000-mile U.S.- Mexican border, implement a ban on Syrian refugees entering the U.S, followed by a proposed reduction in federal funding to so-called sanctuary cities that harbor illegal aliens, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) pledged its support for the health and welfare of immigrant children and their families who might be subject to such new regulations. "Many of the children who will be most affected are the victims of unspeakable violence and have been exposed to trauma. Children do not immigrate, they flee. They are coming to the U.S. seeking safe haven in our country and they need our compassion and assistance. Broad scale expansion of family detention only exacerbates their suffering," explained Stein said Fernando Stein, M.D., F.A.A.P., president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, The instillation of fear and injection of uncertainty with such executive orders by the Trump administration has direct medical and psychiatric consequences for children, potentially resulting in anxiety, elevated blood pressure and arrhythmias, not to mention long-standing emotional trauma. "Far too many children in this country already live in constant fear that their parents will be taken into custody or deported, and the message these children received today from the highest levels of our federal government exacerbates that fear and anxiety. No child should ever live in fear. When children are scared, it can impact their health and development. Indeed, fear and stress, particularly prolonged exposure to serious stress—known as toxic stress—can harm the developing brain and negatively impact short- and long-term health," emphasized Stein.

Visit the Nerdy Book Club blog for books to share with children to help all our children reach out to each other.

<https://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/2017/03/25/ten-refugee-stories-by-jenny-siebring-degroot/>

