



Literacy, Language & Culturally Responsive Teaching

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

TEACH WITH PURPOSE

IN LITERACY LANGUAGE AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING
MA DEGREES, GRADUATE CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS (WITH ONLINE OPTIONS)

Become endorsed as a Reading Teacher through
Colorado Department of Education

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



Inspiring classes help you support native speakers of English and English language learners. Our faculty give you expertise to recognize and build on students' languages, dialects and cultures.

FULLY ONLINE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY
FOR EARLY LITERACY OR ADOLESCENT LITERACY

LEARN MORE: CUDENVERLITERACY.COM

29th Annual Colorado Teen Literature Conference



Saturday

April 1, 2017

Keynote Authors



Greg Neri



Gail Carriger

photographer Vanessa Applegate

Tivoli, Auraria Campus, Downtown Denver
coteenlitconf.wixsite.com/ctlc ♦ [facebook.com/coteenlitconf](https://www.facebook.com/coteenlitconf) #CTLC2016

Presented by:



Join us for the 30th Colorado Teen Literature Conference on Sat., April 14, 2018

Schedule

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Registration Opens | 7:30 a.m. |
| Welcome, Announcements and Keynote - Greg Neri | 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. |
| Book Sales and Exhibits | 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. |
| Session I | 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. |
| Session II | 11 a.m. - noon |
| Lunch (Book Sale, Exhibits) | 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. |
| Keynote - Gail Carriger | 12:45 - 1:15 p.m. |
| Session III (includes Local Author Panel) | 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. |
| Teen Connection Panel (All ages welcome!)..... <small>With Greg Neri and Gail Carriger</small> | 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. |
| Book Signings by Featured Authors | 4 - 4:30 p.m. |

Keynote Authors

Greg Neri is the Coretta Scott King Book Award winning author of *Yummy: the Last Days of a Southside Shorty* and the recipient of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award for his free-verse novella, *Chess Rumble*. His books include the novels *Ghetto Cowboy*, *Knockout Games*, and *Surf Mules*, and a free-verse picture book bio, *Hello, I'm Johnny Cash*. His newest is the middle grade mystery, *Tru & Nelle*, about the childhood friendship between Harper Lee and Truman Capote. Prior to becoming a writer, Neri was a filmmaker, an animator/illustrator, a digital media producer, and a founding member of The Truth anti-smoking campaign. Neri currently writes full-time and lives on the Gulf Coast of Florida with his wife and daughter. You can find him online at gneri.com.

Gail Carriger writes steampunk comedies of manners mixed with paranormal romance. Her books include the *Parasol Protectorate*, *Custard Protocol*, *Supernatural Society*, and *Delightfully Deadly* series for adults, and the *Finishing School* series for young adults. She is published in many languages and has over a dozen *New York Times* bestsellers via seven different lists (#1 in Manga). She was once an archaeologist and is overly fond of shoes, octopuses, and tea.

Thank You!

Dr. Lori Elliott

Fleet Thought

Dr. Joan Foster

Dean, Metropolitan State University of Denver
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Betty Ingels and Auraria Book Store Staff

Dr. Rebecca Kantor

Dean of the University of Colorado
Denver School of Education and Human Development

Colorado Language Arts Society

Colorado Writing Project

Dr. Sally Nathenson-Mejia
Language, Literacy and Culturally
Responsive Teaching Division

Pikes Peak Library District

Dr. Sherry Taylor

Richard Argys
UCD-SEHD

REFORMA

Session 3 - Speakers

Diverse Book BINGO

Hollie Hawkins & Kristin McKeown

One of the most important (and fun!) things librarians get to do is read. A LOT. It is literally one of the job descriptions: to have knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of books. During the 2016 - 2017 school year, teacher librarians from Eaglecrest High School in Centennial, CO are inviting staff and students to participate in the Raptor Reading Challenge. Come hear how this BINGO game, inspired by a YALSA Hub post, is encouraging participants to step outside of their "reading comfort zones" to explore a variety of genres they may traditionally overlook when reading for fun. Learn about the multitude of exciting ways these librarians are inspiring teens and adults to develop empathy and understanding by reading widely and diversely.

Hollie Hawkins is a teacher librarian at Eaglecrest High School in Centennial, CO, which was named the 2014 National School Library Program of the Year award from AASL. Originally from Atlanta, she taught third and fourth grade before finding her true passion as a book-pusher in the library. She is a dedicated champion of all things YA and promotes it to teens and adults alike.

Colorado Teen Literature Conference Committee

Arra Katona, Dodie Ownes, Karen Bradley,
 Jessie Ransom, Angie Brown, Jill Adams, Sheena Kelly,
 Becca Philipsen, Angel Jung, Kandy Timinski,
 Susan Person, Shannon Kincaid

Sessions

| Room | 1 9:45 - 10:45 | 2 11 - noon | 3 1:30 - 2:30 | Teen Connection Panel 2:45 - 3:45 |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 261 Roger Braun Multicultural Lounge | Greg Neri | <i>Rewriting the White World</i> Ye & Apodaca | Gail Carriger | None |
| 320 A | <i>P/A & Dystopian Lit in Class</i> Mitchell | <i>Murder Mystery</i> Benson | Local Author Panel Aaron Ritchey | Teen Connection Panel |
| 320 B | <i>How to Keep Writing</i> Ritchey | <i>Teens Critiquing</i> Lasher | Lisa Brown Roberts Judy Robbins Rose | |
| 320 C | <i>Diversity in YA</i> Backman | <i>Poetry Slammin'</i> Payne | Wendy Terrian | |
| 329 Senate Chamber | <i>Would You Rather</i> Boddie | <i>Being a Girl IS a Superpower</i> Cannon | <i>Life of Pie</i> Carrier | None |
| 440 Adirondacks | <i>Action! Lib&School Media</i> Dolezel | <i>What's New in YA</i> Kaehny | None | |
| 442 John Good | <i>Finding Happily Ever After</i> Lincoln | <i>Creating Buzz</i> Nehls | <i>Writing to be Published</i> Kroepfl | |
| 444 Lorraine Good | <i>Characters and Conflict</i> Robbins Rose | <i>So Many Books, So Little Time</i> Merrell | None | |
| 640 Zenith | <i>Diversity by the Book</i> Taylor | <i>Turn Passion Into Leadership</i> Noomnam | <i>Diverse Book Bingo</i> Hawkins | |
| 250 Turnhall | <i>Geeks Who Read</i> | None | None | |

Session 1 - Speakers

Post-Apocalyptic and Dystopian Fiction: How Dark Stories of the Future Can Help Us Create a Better Present

Todd Mitchell

Join award-winning author and teacher Todd Mitchell for a discussion of why post-apocalyptic and dystopian narratives are so popular now, and how such narratives can be used in the classroom to empower students to confront difficult current issues. Creative activities to help readers connect with these books will be explored and shared, along with a list of post-apocalyptic books that are effective for various grades.

Todd Mitchell is the author of the middle grade novels The Last Panther (Random House, August 2017) and The Traitor King (Scholastic Press), and the young adult novels The Secret to Lying (Candlewick, Colorado Book Award Winner) and Backwards (Candlewick, CAL Award Winner). He created the graphic series Broken Saviors, and co-wrote the graphic novel A Flight of Angels (DC Comics). Currently, he serves as Director of the Beginning Creative Writing Teaching Program at Colorado State University, and fiction faculty at Antioch University in Los Angeles. You can visit him (and learn about bringing him to your school) at ToddMitchellBooks.com.

How to Keep Writing when Zombies Strike, Homework Hits, and Activities Attack

Aaron Ritchey & Abby Reed

Life never gives us the time to write, especially if you're a busy student. However, when we do have time, we waste hours looking at cat memes. Throw in writer's block or a mood swing and doing anything creative can be a real challenge. Both the presenters are busy writers who find time to squeeze in multiple projects despite very full lives and other obstacles, physical and emotional. Come and learn how to write in stolen moments and produce art no matter what. It's not as impossible as it seems!

Aaron Michael Ritchey is the author of five young adult novels and numerous pieces of short fiction. In 2012, his first novel, The Never Prayer, was a finalist in the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Gold Conference. In 2015, his second novel, Long Live the Suicide King, won the Building the Dream award for best YA novel. His epic sci-fi western series, The Juniper Wars, is available now through WordFire Press. The second book, Killdeer Winds, was on Amazon's Hot New Releases for September of 2016. Aaron lives in Colorado with his wife and two stormy daughters.

Abby J. Reed writes young adult science fiction and fantasy novels that ask what if. She has a degree in English Writing and is drawn to characters with physical limitations due to her own neurological disorder called Chronic Migraine. Her debut novel, When Planets Fall, will be published in April 2017 by Soul Mate Publishing. Abby lives in Colorado with her husband and two fluffy pups. If her hands aren't on the keyboard, they are stained purple and blue with paint. Find her online at abbyreed.com.

Session 3 - Speakers

Life of Pie

Jean Carrier

Delight your senses with these book and food pairings. Drool over culinary related books. Cook up recipes written about in favorite teen novels. Book lists, recipes, and other resources to be peppered throughout the presentation.

Jean Carrier devours books and cupcakes sometimes in equal ratios. She has worked as Teen Services Specialist at Pikes Peak Library District for three years.

Writing to Be Published

Jim Kroepfl & Stephanie Kroepfl

Have a brilliant idea, but not sure how to actually write a book? Started the Great American Novel, but somehow got stuck? Or, are you a bibliophile who yearns to know what really goes on behind the page? Then, this riveting presentation is for you! Jim and Stephanie will share scads of real world tips on the craft of creating a manuscript and the business of getting it published. You'll learn how to find story ideas, the value of story structure, whether plotting is right for you, how to efficiently work through drafts, and tricks to elevate your story. Then, they'll help you navigate through the traditional publishing industry, including finding a literary agent and getting a publishing deal. Plus, they'll cover the pros and cons of traditional publishers, vanity publishers and self-publishing. Added bonus: proven ways to get your writing read by someone other than your mother.

Jim and Stephanie Kroepfl are a husband-and-wife team who write YA novels and stories of mystery and adventure from their mountain cabin in Grand Lake, Colorado. Their short stories and articles have been published in literary journals in the U.S. and England, and they have won numerous writers conference awards and writing contests. One of their YA stories was recently selected to be produced in audio by Soundwork in the U.K. Their most recent YA novel is currently being reviewed by major New York publishers. You can find them at kroepflbooks.com.

Session 3 - Speakers



Aaron Ritchey

Aaron Michael Ritchey is the author of four young adult novels and his short fiction has appeared in various anthologies and online magazines. In 2012, his first novel, *The Never Prayer*, was a finalist in the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Gold Conference. In 2015, his second novel, *Long Live the Suicide King*, won the Building the Dream award for best YA novel, and he spent the summer as the Artist in Residence at the Anythink Library. His epic YA sci-fi western series, *The Juniper Wars*, is available now through WordFire Press. The second book, *Killdeer Winds*, was on Amazon's Hot New Releases for 2016. Aaron lives in Colorado with his cactus flower of a wife and two stormy daughters.

Lisa Brown Roberts

Lisa Brown Roberts still hasn't recovered from the teenage trauma of nearly tweezing off both eyebrows and having to pencil them in for an entire school year. This and other angst-filled memories inspire her to write YA books about navigating life's painful and funny dramas, and falling in love along the way. Her novel *Playing the Player* won the 2016 Aspen Gold award in the YA category. Her almost forever home is Colorado, though she occasionally pines for the days when she lived within walking distance of the Pacific Ocean. Her house is full of books, boys, four-legged prima donnas, and lots of laughter.



Judith Robbins Rose

Look Both Ways in the Barrio Blanco, Judith Robbins Rose's debut novel for middle grades (5 - 8), is the recipient of multiple honors, including a second place award in the 2016 International Latino Book Awards. It's the story of the lonely but gifted 12-year-old daughter of undocumented immigrants, whose family is torn apart, after she's paired in a mentoring program with a fading, pushy TV news personality. Rose is a volunteer mentor and tutor in Colorado, and offers free school visits, with special consideration given to Title I schools.

Wendy Terrien

Wendy Terrien received her first library card at age two, and a few years later started writing her own stories. Her debut novel *The Rampart Guards* (February 2016) earned a Kirkus starred review and is listed as one of Kirkus' Best Books of 2016. She's also a founding member of Wicked Ink Books, and released a novella in the award-winning anthology *Tick Tock: Seven Tales of Time* (March 2016). She is currently working on the next two books in her series to be released May 2017, as well as a short story for an upcoming anthology from Wicked Ink Books. Wendy lives in the Denver area with her husband, Kevin, and their three rescue dogs.



Session 1 - Speakers

Diversity in Young Adult Library Collections

Antonio Backman & Chayse Sundt

The #WeNeedDiverseBooks campaign was formed in 2014 to create a "roar that can't be ignored," catalyzing the discussion of needing more diverse books in children's and young adult literature. While there has been some progress, more work needs to be done in public and school libraries to diversify collections and make sure that acquisitions are current and authentic. In this presentation, we will describe the results of our research investigating the new young adult acquisitions at an urban public library specifically regarding Asian American young adult texts. This research will provide a model for how we can analyze diverse collections at public and school libraries, as well as encourage librarians to conduct their own evaluations of how their systems are doing in diversifying their collections for their particular community.

Antonio Backman is a graduate student in the St. Catherine University MLIS program and a librarian at the Anoka County library system. He has spent years caretaking the Loft Literary Center writer's library and working in several academic libraries. He has presented at annual and regional library conferences and facilitated training workshops for library systems. He was an ALA Spectrum Scholar in 2015 - 2016, and also received the MLIS Program's Urban Public Library scholarship. Together with Chayse Sundt and Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen, he received the MLIS Program's Friends of the Library Development Services Award. @AntonioBackman

Chayse Sundt is a graduate student in the St. Catherine University MLIS Program, where he is focusing on youth librarianship. He has volunteered in youth programs and worked as a youth community engagement intern with the Anoka County library system. He is currently chair of the MLIS Program's ALA Student Chapter and a recipient of the 2017 ALA Student-to-Staff Program. He has presented at annual and regional library conferences, and maintains a youth literature review blog. Together with Antonio Backman and Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen, he received the MLIS Program's Friends of the Library Development Services Award. @ChayseTBR

Would You Rather...with Books!

Catherine Boddie, Kelsey McLane, & Bridget Kiely

Would you rather take flight on a magical sailing ship or be the only thing that stands between us and the aliens? Come hear about some of the newest and best YA books with a twist. You choose what we'll talk about...

Catherine, Kelsey, and Bridget are YA librarians with the Arapahoe Libraries. They like ice cream, unicorns, dinosaurs, and books. If you have a question about books or ice cream, they can help with that.

Session 1 - Speakers

Action! Library and School Media Making

Brittany Dolezal & Christy Swafford

Hear two different perspectives on how a public library and a middle school teamed up to make book trailers that promote reading and the library's teen events. In this session, we'll talk about how book trailers help encourage reading and creativity for students, as well as learn about the benefits of this partnership for both organizations. Educators, learn how to connect with your teens, tweens, and local library to make a successful video production class. Teens, you can learn how to start a grassroots video club at your school and promote reading. We'll show you the basics and how to work with your teachers.

Brittany Dolezal is currently the Teen Librarian for Clearview Library District where she develops teen programming and services, as well as outreach to local schools. She has an MSC in Information Science from City University London.

Christy Swafford is a Middle School Educational Technology Coach for the Weld RE4 School District. She holds an MA in Special Education—Gifted and Talented and a BS in Elementary Education. She is presenting at ISTE 2017-International Society for Technology in Education, InnEdCO 2017-Innovative Educators Colorado, CALCON-The Colorado Association of Libraries, and the Colorado Teen Literature Conference. Christy inspires and supports educators as they strengthen their expertise, redesign their curriculum, and reconnect with their students in the 1:1 digital classroom.

Finding Happy Ever After (in a Book)

Jenna Lincoln & Lisa Brown Roberts

In a Book Mysteries get solved. Monsters get vanquished. And Romances have a Happy Ever After. Whether you've thought about tropes in genre fiction or not, this session will be an interactive discussion looking at genre requirements and how almost every author, no matter what the back cover copy says, sneaks in at least a little bit of the feels. Get ready to talk (and write) about heroes, villains, canon couples, and monster of the week. All fandoms welcome!

Jenna Lincoln loves to read, write, and talk about reading and writing. She spent many happy years as a language arts teacher doing just those things. After dabbling in X-Files, Firefly, and Supernatural fan fiction, Jenna got serious about building her own imaginary world, big enough to get lost in for a long, long time. When she comes back to reality, Jenna enjoys her home in beautiful Colorado with her husband and two daughters. Jenna is the author of The Protector Project and The People's Champion, the first two books in a YA Sci/Fi trilogy from Boroughts Publishing.

Lisa Brown Roberts still hasn't recovered from the teenage trauma of nearly tweezing off both eyebrows and having to pencil them in for an entire school year. This and other angst-filled memories inspire her to write YA books about navigating life's painful and funny dramas, and falling in love along the way. Her novel Playing the Player won the 2016 Aspen Gold award in the YA category. Her almost forever home is Colorado, though she occasionally pines for the days when she lived within walking distance of the Pacific Ocean. Her house is full of books, boys, four-legged prima donnas, and lots of laughter.

Characters and Conflict

Session 2 - Speakers

Turn Passion into Leadership: How Teens Can Facilitate Clubs and Programs at the Library

Pauline Noomnam & Fran Jenner

Has a teen ever approached you with an idea for creating a club? We will share our best practices in helping teens develop and facilitate their own programming. Learn about our current teen-led clubs, hear from the teens themselves, and have an opportunity to brainstorm what you can implement at your library.

Pauline Noomnam has been a Teen Services Librarian at the Broomfield Library since 2013. She has been involved in guiding the Teen Advisory Board, maintaining the YA materials collections, designing and facilitating craft and science programs, and most notably, the creation and development of the library's teen makerspace programs.

Fran Jenner gets inspired by teens and loves working with them in the Teen Zone at the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library in Broomfield. She helps the YA staff invent, market, and facilitate cool programs and events that teens enjoy, especially writing workshops and author events.

Session 2 - Speakers

Creating Buzz for Colorado's Teen-Generated YA Book Award

Sharon Nehls, & Kristin Grabarek

What are the most popular books with Colorado teens? The Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award nominees are suggested and voted on only by Colorado teens. Come learn about the award and this year's nominees, as well as what nominated authors are saying. Innovative ideas for promoting the award will be discussed, as well as the Blue Spruce's media presence and promotional materials. Come and explore what Colorado teens are reading!

Sharon Nehls is a retired language arts teacher from Boulder Valley Schools, and the author of What's New in Young Adult Novels? and Ideas for Classroom Use. She is co-chair of the Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award committee and also blogs about the use of YA books in the classroom at "What's New in Young Adult Novels?" When she is not reading YA novels, she chairs the programming committee for the Boedecker Art House Cinema in Boulder.

Kristin Grabarek is a reference librarian at the Denver Public Library. She has served on the Colorado Blue Spruce Book Award committee for seven years and has had the honor of co-chairing the committee for the past two. When she is not working to develop kids' and teens' library services, Kristin enjoys hiking with her son and reading histories of the American West.

So Many Books, So Little Time: Talking about Books You Haven't Read

Kate Merrell

Let's face facts; none of us will ever catch up with our "to-read" list. And there are some books you may just not want to read. Do you fear readers' advisory questions from readers with different preferences than your own, or that simply have more time for reading than you do? Readers' advisory is one of Kate's favorite aspects of library work, and some days she loves talking about the books she hasn't read more than the ones she has. We'll share strategies and then have a chance to practice unscripted book talks with other attendees.

Kate Merrell coordinates the Homework Center and Spanish-language outreach at the Lafayette Public Library. Having worked in several libraries along the northern Front Range, she can say without reservation that they are all her favorite. Favorite authors include: Sherwood Smith, Naomi Novik, Tamora Pierce, John Flanagan, and Bill Bryson. When not at the library, she can be found spending time with her family and friends, baking, gardening or playing board games, sometimes in combination.

Session 1 - Speakers

Judy Robbins Rose

Award-winning novelist and playwright Judith Robbins Rose teaches how to create characters that act as collaborators, enhancing conflict and comedy. Drawing on her own experience writing *Look Both Ways in the Barrio Blanco* (2016 International Latino Book Award Honorable Mention,) Rose shares techniques gleaned from classes with eminent comedy writers, novelists and playwrights. She is a sought-after teacher of writing in middle grade classrooms from San Diego to Boston. Teacher/Author Leah Bassoff of the International School of Denver calls Rose "funny and passionate" adding, "Students who are lucky enough to meet Ms. Rose will not forget..."

Ms. Rose's debut middle grade novel, Look Both Ways in the Barrio Blanco, was recognized with more than a dozen different honors, including a second place in the 2016 International Latino Book Awards. She is a regular volunteer in low-income neighborhoods, having been a mentor, tutor, foodbank manager, and fundraiser for projects in underserved communities. She was the recipient of a Colorado Governor's STAR Award for diversity programming. Ms. Rose is an award-winning playwright, former TV news producer and erstwhile standup comedienne. On her college debate squad, she was duet acting partner to "Weird Al" Yankovic.

Diversity by the Book: Speed Dating

Melissa Taylor

This is an interactive program where attendees will get to meet as many books as possible which feature diverse characters. An opening presentation will introduce the audience to cultural diversity in YA literature, struggles we see in YA literature's presentation of diversity and new titles featuring diverse characters.

Melissa Taylor is the teen services outreach librarian at Jeffco Libraries. She is always out and about introducing teens and teachers to all the library has to offer!

Geeks Who Read

Andrea Wyant, Cindy McGuire, Jayna Ramsey, & Liz Powell

Pub quizzes are trending in the US, and this is a way that teens can get in on the action without the beer. In addition, geek has become chic. We have found that the population that flocks to the library from the 13 - 18 set proudly call themselves geeks. This is our programming sweet spot. **Geeks Who Read** has been one of Douglas County Library's easiest and most exciting programs of recent years. We will take 15 minutes to explain the program to adults who might want to adopt this venture, and then the rest of the time playing Geeks Who Read in all its glory. Teams will answer questions about movies, music, pop culture, and books! The team with the best score wins a terribly gauche trophy.

When they are not busy being rad librarians who love to plan the best stuff for teens: Andrea twilights as supermom and volleyball genius, Cindy plays way too many video games and makes pretty awesome food, Jayna is geek extraordinaire and aspiring cat lady, Liz runs around after four kids and enjoys knitting and the great outdoors.

Session 2 - Speakers

Rewriting the White World of YA

Samantha Ye & CC Apodaca

Racial tensions in America have seen a public resurgence in the last two years as various races and ethnicities fail to connect to one another. While most media contributes to the polarization of races, books have the capability to join the sides together. This lecture discusses the current state of racial diversity in young adult novels and the importance of diverse reading, libraries, and classrooms.

Samantha Ye and CC Apodaca are both seniors at Fort Collins High School and participate in an eclectic array of activities. Music, one of their core interests, takes a majority of their school time, as they are involved with pit orchestra, chamber orchestra, symphony orchestra, and symphonic band. Outside of school, they are both members of the Interesting Reader Society TAG at the Poudre River Public Library District, where they review/share books and volunteer at library events. Through their library district, both girls have presented at local community forums about various forms of diversity in today's world.

Creating a Murder Mystery Event with Teens

Thane Benson

Creative Writing + Acting + Murder = Best Teen Program Ever! For the past three years at Denver Public Library we've created different interactive murder mystery events as Halloween programs for teens. These events are created by teens who write the script and act out the parts of the characters (aka the suspects). Other teens are invited to the event as guests. The guests witness the drama and then, working in teams or as solo detectives, they must solve the mystery by interviewing all the suspects. We will explain the formula we use to create these events. Then workshop attendees will work together to create an original murder mystery event outline live in the workshop.

Thane Benson is a librarian for Denver Public Library. He works with teens to create original programming that fosters creativity and encourages expression among young people. When he is not at the library, Thane moonlights as an independent comic book and graphic novel creator. You can see examples of his work at thanebenson.com.

Teens Critiquing and Publishing

Andrea Golden-Lasher & Sosie Nixon

Panel discussion of a teen critiquing group on how they run meetings and self-publish.

Sosie Nixon was grown on Oregon sunlight, riding in a backpack on the back of her mother. The daughter of an ecologist, she has evolved into a lover of nature, possessing a child-like dream of saving mankind through the conservation of the natural world. She spent eight years splashing in puddles and catching tadpoles in the ponds of Portland before moving to Colorado and growing as a camper, writer, reader, and general hippie.

Session 2 - Speakers

Poetry Slammin'

Carolyn Payne & Reba Holmes

During this session, plan on participating in a poetry slam or being part of the audience. Poets: please bring up to three original poems, no more than 3 minutes in length. Prizes will be awarded. Some audience members will be selected as judges.

Carolyn Payne has been the librarian at Rampart High School for the past 10 years. She has presented on Poetry Slams at the Colorado Teen Lit Conference and other topics at the CAL Conference. Carolyn loves to read, especially YA Lit and averages over 150 novels each year. She also coaches the school's hip-hop team.

Meha Khanna is a junior at Rampart High School. She loves writing poetry and is involved with the Hear Here Poetry Organization in Colorado Springs. This summer she presented at the International Poetry Slam "Brave New Voices" in Washington, D.C.

Being a Girl IS a Superpower

Kellie Cannon & Tara Bannon

Do you want to see women in comics wearing more than a bikini and doing something more than being the victim? We will talk about amazing women in comics, some really great feminist trends, and provide you with a slew of recommendations. This workshop will focus on diversity within comics featuring women and girls - everyone should be able to see themselves within these pages.

Kellie Cannon is a librarian, artist, bike nerd, and standard issue geek. Her favorite things include handheld food, naptime, clouds and space. She recently acquired a new bicycle and named it the Naughty Otter.

Tara Bannon Williamson started working at the public library when she was 14 year old. Now she is in charge of the Park Hill branch library and teaches once a year at the University of Denver Library Sciences program. Dreams do come true!

What's New in Young Adult

Sheila Kaehny & Karen Hartman

Want to hear about the hot books teens are reading? Quickly boost your list of go-to teen titles in this session as we book talk some of the newest and most engaging titles in Young Adult Literature.

Sheila was a student in Karen's YA Lit class in the CU Graduate School of Education, and now we have been presenting together on new YA books for almost 20 years. **Karen** is a retired English teacher who now directs the Colorado Writing Project (CWP). **Sheila** is an instructional coach at Westlake Middle School in Broomfield and is a teacher consultant for CWP.