UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE FESTIVAL
EST. 1969

Maya Kucij,
Festival Director
Kirsten Shaw,
Volunteer Coordinator
What We’ll Cover Today

• Information about the Festival & its history
• 2019 Presenter Reveal!
• 2019 Festival Photo Scavenger Hunt
• Promoting the Festival @ your library
• Brief survey on possible future contests
• Questions/Feedback/Discussion
• Book Giveaway & Drawing for Book Sales Certificate
Co-founders Ophelia Gilbert & Phil Sadler
Ladies lunch in 1969
Elaine Konigsberg at the 1975 CLF
Tomie de Paola in 1978
Jean Craighead George signing Julie of the Wolves in 1979
2019
PRESENTER
REVEAL
Selina Alko, illustrator

Selina is both a writer and illustrator and has co-illustrated a number of titles with her husband, Sean Qualls.

Selina finds inspiration in the world around her, including the streets of Brooklyn where she has lived for more than 20 years, or her native Canada (Vancouver, B.C.), or the small but universal experiences of a child as she watches her kids grow up.

Grades 3-6

https://www.selinaalko.com/
Crystal Allen

The youngest of five children, Crystal was born in Germany but grew up in Indiana. She is currently married with two sons and living in Texas.

Grades 3-6

//www.crystalallenbooks.com/crystal.php
Avi was born and raised in New York, along with his twin sister. In school, he wasn’t a good writer but enjoyed reading and using his imagination.


Crispin: Cross of Lead won the Newbery in 2003.

Grades 3-8

https://www.avi-writer.com/
Phil was born and raised in New York. He taught middle-school there for 11 years. In 2006, he founded The NOLA Tree, a non-profit youth service organization, that worked on community building and development projects. In 2017, he launched the Author Village, where he works with other authors coordinating school visits.

Grades 3-5

https://philbildner.com/
Kendare Blake

Kendare was born in South Korea but grew up in the United States. Her work is sort of dark, always violent, and features passages describing food from when she writes while hungry. She lives and writes in Kent, Washington, with her husband, their cat son Tyrion Cattister, red Doberman dog son Obi-Dog Kenobi, rottie mix dog daughter Agent Scully, and naked sphynx cat son Armpit McGee.

"Tragic, devastating, horrifying, enthralling." Kirkus

Grades 7-10

https://kendareblake.com/
Heather Bouwman

H.M. Bouwman is a full-time college professor and mother of two children, whom she homeschools. In her spare time she loves reading, baking fancy cakes and cookies, growing unusual tomatoes and exploring.

Grades 5-7

https://hmbouwman.com/
Mary Casanova is an award-winning children's author of novels and picture books. Many of her books stem from her life on the Minnesota-Canadian border; yet some of her stories have taken her as far away as France, Norway, and Belize for research. Whatever the setting for her books, Casanova writes stories that matter--and stories that kids can't put down.

Grades 3-10

https://www.marycasanova.com
Angela Cervantes

Angela was born and raised in Kansas. Though English is her first language, she also speaks Spanish. She has written four middle-grade novels including an adaptation of Disney/Pixar’s *Coco*.

Grades 3-5

http://www.angelacervantes.com/
Sneed Collard

Sneed B. Collard III is the author of more than eighty award-winning books. In 2010, Sneed sought to address the shortage of quality regional children’s books by launching his own publishing company, Bucking Horse Books. When Sneed is not writing or publishing, he can often be found speaking to students, conducting teacher workshops, volunteering for his son’s Boy Scout Troop, and walking his new dog, Lola.

Grades 3-10

http://www.sneebcollardiii.com/
Karina Yan Glaser

Originally from California, Karina came to New York City for college and has stuck around for nearly twenty years. She has had a varied career teaching and implementing literacy programs in family homeless shelters and recruiting healthcare professionals to volunteer in under resourced areas around the world. Now as a mother, one of her proudest achievements is raising two kids who can’t go anywhere without a book. She lives in Harlem with her husband, two daughters, and an assortment of rescued animals.

Grades 3-5

http://www.karinaglaser.com/
Raul Gonzalez III, Illustrator

Raul is a recipient of the prestigious Pura Belpre award in illustration from the American Library Association for his work on *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth* in 2017. His work has been exhibited widely in the northeast including The Drawing Center in New York, the Aidekman Gallery at Tufts University in Medford, MA and The Mills Gallery at the Boston Center for the Arts in Boston, Ogunquit Museum of American Art as well as on the west coast at SCION Installation, San Francisco Art Institute and Self-Help Graphics in Los Angeles.

Gonzalez is committed to introducing youth to the visual arts and has taught in the education departments of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Grades 3-7

https://www.raulthethird.com/
Paul Griffin

After graduating Dartmouth College with a BA in Film Studies, Paul worked as a butler and bartender, a cook and an EMT, a dog trainer, and a driver. He made movies and wrote short stories, plays, scripts, and novels. He was also a teacher, which he greatly enjoyed. He currently lives with his family, human and canine, in New York City.

Grades 5-7

https://www.paulgriffinstories.com/
For roughly a decade, Kelly focused on magazine and newspaper submissions and saw more than 1,000 articles published. Then she shifted to children’s nonfiction books, which remains her passion today.

Kelly lives and works in Spokane, Washington. She travels frequently, doing school visits and conference presentations all over the country.

https://www.wondersofweird.com/
Ard Hoyt was born in Temple, Texas and raised on picture books. He fell in love with the worlds created by Robert Lawson, Steven Kellogg and H.A. Rey. He knew that he wanted to be a children's book illustrator and dreamed of one day having a book with his name on it next to the great ones.

Ard graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California in 2001 and has illustrated over 15 children's books since including two New York Times Best Sellers.

http://www.ardhoytbooks.com/

http://www.ardhoytbooks.com/
Antony John was born in England and raised on a balanced diet of fish and chips, obscure British comedies, and ABBA's Greatest Hits. In a fit of teenage rebellion, he decided to pursue a career in classical music, culminating in a BA from Oxford University and a PhD from Duke University. Along the way, he worked as an ice cream seller on a freezing English beach, a tour guide in the Netherlands, a chauffeur in Switzerland, a barista in Seattle, and a university professor. He lives in St. Louis with his family.

Freshwater Fish and Other Stories

Grades 4-7

http://www.antonyjohn.net/
Stephen T. Johnson

Stephen’s art spans a broad range of concepts and contexts and can be seen in site-specific public art commissions, gallery and museum exhibitions, and original award-winning children’s books such “Alphabet City,” a Caldecott Honor and a New York Times Best Illustrated book of the year.

His drawings and paintings are in numerous collections including those of Paul Simon and Cherry Jones, and in Carnegie Mellon University, the New Britain Museum of American Art in Connecticut, and the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

Grades 3-5

https://stephentjohnson.com/
Adib Khorram

Adib was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Design & Technical Theater (Emphasis in Lighting Design) from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Following that he attended Vancouver Film School and found out he didn't like making movies very much.

Now Adib lives in Kansas City, where he writes books. During the day he works as a graphic designer, videographer, projectionist, and more for live events in and around the Kansas City area and nationwide.

"Khorram’s debut novel is filled with insight into the lives of teens, weaving together the reality of living with mental illness while also dealing with identity and immigration politics."
-Kirkus

Grades 8-10

https://adibkhorram.com/
The award-winning illustrator and fine artist, E.B. Lewis has illustrated over seventy books for children. After graduating from Temple, he taught art in public schools for twelve years. Presently, E.B. teaches at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

One recent project is the completion of more than 100 watercolor paintings for the new Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center that were turned into animated films that play as visitors interact with the museum.
Dorinda Makanaonalani Nicholson was born in Hawaii to a Hawaiian mother and Caucasian father. As civilians, they were living in Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack. After the birth of her four sons, Dorinda earned undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate degrees at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in Counseling Psychology. Pearl Harbor Child is her first book, followed by Pearl Harbor Warriors, winner of several national awards.

Grades 5-10

https://pearlharborchild.com/
Marc Tyler Nobleman

Author of books for all ages, speaker, and pop culture archaeologist. Marc speaks at elementary, middle, and high schools internationally (from Thailand to Tanzania) and blogs about adventures in publishing (from research victories to enthusiastic librarians).

"A must-read story of a lesser-known World War II event and its aftermath."
-Kirkus

Grades 3-7

https://www.noblemania.com/
Gary Schmidt is a professor of English at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He received both a Newbery Honor and a Printz Honor for Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy and a Newbery Honor for The Wednesday Wars. He lives with his family on a 150-year-old farm in Alto, Michigan, where he splits wood, plants gardens, writes, and feeds the wild cats that drop by.

http://www.hmhbooks.com/schmidt/
Ray Anthony Shepard is a grandson of a slave, a former teacher, and retired editor-in-chief of a major education publishing company.

He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Education and the Harvard Graduate School Education where he received a Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. This is his first work of creative nonfiction.

"This is a powerful use of primary resources, one that illuminates the lives of its subjects but never gets in the way of their remarkable stories. Rich backmatter provides useful information. Absolutely stellar."

-Kirkus

Grades 8-10

https://www.rayanthonyshepard.com/
Obert Skye

Obert Skye was born on a stormy night in the back of a fast-moving taxi, in the middle of the week during an average-length year. He is the middle child in a family with an odd number of children. Obert’s interests include falling from great heights, devouring books, and fighting for Foo. He also likes the beach. The author of the bestselling Leven Thumps series, Obert travels around the world telling all who will listen about the importance of Foo. He currently lives in the United States in a place a bit colder than he would prefer.

http://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Obert-Skye/38227241

Grades 4-8
Laurel Snyder

A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and a former Michener-Engle Fellow, Laurel has published work in The New York Times, The Boston Globe, the Utne Reader, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Revealer, Salon, The Iowa Review, American Letters and Commentary, and elsewhere. She is an occasional commentator for NPR’s All Things Considered, and teaches in the MFAC program at Hamline University, and also in the creative writing department at Emory University.

Grades 3-8

http://laurelsnyder.com/
Roland Smith

Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Roland's love of writing led to his work with animals at a children's zoo. He worked with animals for 20 years and traveled often. He has returned to Portland and currently lives there with his wife. He spends most of his time writing or working with animals.

Grades 3-8

https://www.rolandsmith.com/
Shadra Strickland studied design, writing, and illustration at Syracuse University and later went on to complete her M.F.A. at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She travels the country conducting workshops and sharing her work with children, teachers, and librarians. She currently works and teaches illustration at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland.

Grades 3-7

http://www.jumpin.shadrastrickland.com/
Christine grew up in Ohio where she spend most of her time at the library reading. Her writing took a circuitous route that included a New England boarding school, two MIT degrees and a series of jobs that included working for a start-up software company followed by several years at Harvard University and more than a decade as a Graphic Arts Manager at Hallmark Cards. Through her books she hopes to inspire students to read for pleasure, to show them the path towards math and science, and how art and math are not mutually exclusive in terms of how higher order thinking is developed.
Tim Tingle

Tim is an Oklahoma Choctaw and an award-winning author and storyteller. He received a Masters Degree in English Literature at the University of Oklahoma in 2003, with a focus on American Indian Studies. He was a featured author and speaker at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington D.C.

Grades 3-8

http://www.timtingle.com/
Roderick Townley

Roderick acknowledges the challenges of being a writer when he speaks to audiences. He has several goals as a writer: “to write so brilliantly that people will never forget my name. A better goal, a deeper one, is to write something so true that people will be helped by it. Life is not easy. We all need to feel that someone understands us. I would like to write a story that will make another person smile secretly a hundred years from now.”

Grades 3-8

https://www.rodericktownley.com/
Beth Vrabel is an award-winning author of books for middle grade readers. Her inspiration comes from everywhere so she always keeps a journal close by. Beth lives in Texas with her family and puppy.
Jen Wang

Jen Wang is a cartoonist, writer and illustrator based in Los Angeles. She is also the co-founder and organizer for Los Angeles based comic festival Comic Arts LA.

Grades 8-10

http://jenwang.net/
Ashley Woodfolk

Ashley graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in English. She’s currently a member of the CBC Diversity Committee and her day job is marketing books for children and teens.

In her spare time, she fangirls over her favorite authors and tries her hardest to write a book that will make you cry. Ashley lives in Brooklyn with her husband and pit bull puppy.

"An ambitious debut from a writer to watch."
-Kirkus

Grades 8-10

https://www.bethvrabel.com/
Who are you most excited about?
2019 PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

RULES

• Everyone on the team must be in every picture, except the chaperone, who takes the picture
• All photos must be taken during the Festival, on the UCM campus
• Have fun, but be respectful at all times!
• Submit your photos to [email here] by [date here].

TAKE A PICTURE

• With a statue
• With a water fountain
• In front of the library
• In the Bowling Alley
• With a mule
• Recreating a scene from a book cover (Book cover must be in photo too)
• Rolling down a hill
• With a school bus or a yellow car
• With the funniest thing you can find
• With everyone’s reflection

• Everyone reading a book
• With any kind of CLF sign
• Hiding behind a tree
• Doing exactly what a sign says (any sign)

BONUS

• With something that begins with the letter “Z”
• Inside the Swimming Pool
• With someone wearing a UCM name tag
• With Old Drum
• Entire team jumping (everyone must be in mid-air to count)
PROMOTING THE FESTIVAL @ your library
BRIEF SURVEY ON STUDENT/SCHOOL CONTESTS
QUESTIONS/
FEEDBACK/
DISCUSSION
Many presenters are looking for additional school visits in the area, including:

• Avi (books through Vicki Palmquist: vicki@windingoak.com)
• Phil Bildner
• Paul Griffin (books through wife Risa: paulgriffinstories@gmail.com)
BOOK
GIVEAWAY
Thank you!