

February  
25th-27th,  
2010

# Nebraska State Reading Association

## THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL READING CONFERENCE

Kearney,  
Nebraska

### *You belong at the 2010 Annual Conference!*

Be sure to plan early - see why it's more important than ever to attend!



The 2010 NSRA Annual Conference in Kearney features a strong programming line-up to help you find solutions, demonstrate accountability, and work together to improve student achievement in your district.

Whether you are a veteran classroom teacher, an administrator, a support professional, or a first-time attendee, you'll take back practical ideas and a renewed commitment to help your school district accomplish the important work ahead.

The two and one-half day Conference includes everything you need to become a more effective leader: **1)** Inspirational General Session speakers, **2)** Topical sessions and workshops covering many facets of literacy issues, **3)** New products and services showcased at the NSRA Exposition, and **4)** Energizing special events.

**Mark your calendars and register today!**

**We'll see you in Kearney!**

### SESSION TICKETING

Advance ticketing for selected sessions on Friday will again be available this year. To ensure your spot in these sessions, you must pre-register by the February 1st deadline. Session tickets, as well as preconference workshops and meal functions, are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Don't miss out!**

This Preview is just a sample of the great content at the NSRA Conference.

For more information go to:

**[www.nereads.org](http://www.nereads.org)**

### SAVE ON REGISTRATION

Why pay more for Convention registration when you can join NSRA and your local council for ONLY \$25!

When you join NSRA, you will:

- \* attend conferences at substantial savings
- \* stay informed about professional issues
- \* receive "The Nebraska Reader"
- \* expand your circle of professional contacts
- \* become involved in local council activities

**Join online at the NSRA Website!  
Or, for membership information,  
contact:**

**Colette Sorensen**  
303 East 19th Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 381-7297 (h)  
[cosorens@gips.org](mailto:cosorens@gips.org)

### SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

#### **Thursday, February 25, 2010**

7:00 am - 8:00 pm Registration Open  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm Pre-conference Workshops  
9:00 am - 5:30 pm Exhibits Hall Open  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Welcome Reception  
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm General Session

#### **Friday, February 26, 2010**

7:00 am - 7:00 pm Registration Open  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Exhibits Hall Open  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm Sessions/Workshops  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Tang Luncheon  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm MacDonald Luncheon  
1:00 pm - 5:30 pm Sessions/Workshops  
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Social featuring Eric Ode  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Banquet featuring Avi

#### **Saturday, February 27, 2010**

7:00 am - 9:00 am Registration Open  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm Sessions/Workshops  
8:30 am - 10:00 am General Session  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Ode Luncheon

For updated conference information visit our website at: <http://www.nereads.org>

**THURSDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS**  
**February 25, 2010**



Julie Kozisek



Cindy Middendorf



Janet Allen



David W. Moore

***Start the Conference off right with timely and targeted in-depth sessions.  
Pre-registration is encouraged for all pre-conference workshops.***

***Lunch will be provided for those that register for both the morning and afternoon workshops.***

**Julie Kozisek** 8:00 AM - 11:00 PM

**Creating Better Writers Through Mentor Texts and Authors, Part I**

Mentor texts can inspire students to write like their favorite authors. Mentor texts will be linked to the six traits of writing, modes of writing and the writing process. Effective ways to create better writers will be shared.

**Cindy Middendorf** 8:30 AM - 11:30 PM

**Differentiated Instruction: Common Sense in the Early Years (PreK-4)**

Classroom teachers are more accountable than ever for the success of all. What distinguishes differentiated instruction in the early grades from DI in the upper grades? What makes a lesson “differentiated?” This workshop will give you the background and basics that all elementary teachers will need to face the mandated RTI initiatives that are coming down through the Federal and State governments. You’ll be validated knowing that much of what you already do is differentiated, and you’ll be well equipped to handle Tier 1 instruction under the RTI format.

**Janet Allen** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Inside Words: Developing a Comprehensive Vocabulary Program**

If you have struggled to find a way to teach vocabulary, this session is for you. Janet Allen will share four components of comprehensive vocabulary programs: developing word consciousness for content learning; teaching individual words; modeling strategies for independent word learning; and increasing volume and diversity of students’ reading. Instructional strategies will be modeled using a wide variety of nonfiction and fiction texts. Join us as we explore effective instructional strategies for helping our students learn the “insider” vocabulary they need for reading, writing and communication.

**David W. Moore** 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Targeted Strategies for Student Success at the Middle and Secondary Levels**

When teachers use a direct, explicit instructional approach, they clarify concepts and demystify strategies, modeling and thinking aloud about how to make inferences or determine the importance of ideas in a text. By so doing, they reveal the ‘secrets’ of what proficient readers do which is a mystery to far too many students. Once students are in on the strategies of good readers, teachers can gradually hand over to students the responsibility for using these strategies as they read independently.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

### February 25, 2010



Jill Morfeld



Michelle Rezek



Greg Tang



**Jill Morfeld and Michelle Rezek** 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

### **Creating Better Writers Through Mentor Texts and Authors, Part II**

In this engaging session you will learn ways to create better writers using authors. Participants will learn ways to utilize author expertise to enhance the writing process for students. Plan to walk away with ideas that you can take back immediately and use in your classroom.

**Cindy Middendorf** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### **Multiple Intelligences and Modalities of Learning the Early Years: It's Not How Smart They Are, It's How They Are Smart (PreK-4)**

Current brain research supports what early childhood educators have known all along: every child can learn and succeed. However, not every child can have success with conventional instructional strategies. This session will help you rediscover the Theory of Multiple Intelligences and how it applies to our youngest learners. What are the signs of non-traditional intelligences? What do we need to know about modalities of learning in order to motivate and nurture the love of learning in all children? How should an environment be structured to help all children explore and cultivate all their intelligences?

**Janet Allen** 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

### **Get Real! Creating and Supporting Successful Nonfiction Readers and Writers**

Topics and themes—units and texts—essential questions and content standards. Regardless of how we organize curriculum and instruction, learning content requires that students know how to decode a wide variety of texts every day. Join us as we explore effective instructional strategies for teaching students how to navigate through a variety of nonfiction texts; learn the “insider” vocabulary that would help them communicate content knowledge; and, develop ways to share their knowledge of content and writing using a variety of nonfiction formats.

**Greg Tang** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

### **The Power of Place Value**

Place Value is the most important concept kids never truly understand. Join us as we explore this critical topic and see how a deeper understanding may be the key to not only computational fluency but fractions, decimals, and measurement, elapsed time problems, and algebra too. (Grades 4-6)

## THURSDAY GENERAL SESSION

February 25, 2010



### Kathryn H. Au

President, International Reading Association

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM

#### “Real Schools, Real Success: A Roadmap for Change”

The Standards-Based Change (SBC) Process is an approach to whole-school literacy improvement tested in Hawaii and Chicago over the past 12 years. A key belief is that teachers must be creators, not just receivers, of curriculum. In schools in the SBC Process, teachers are guided through a To Do List they can use to build their school’s own staircase curriculum in literacy.

The process provides schools with a roadmap that can be followed to initiate and sustain improvement efforts over the years. This roadmap is based on research showing that successful schools progress through seven developmental levels. Results suggest that a staircase curriculum, consistently implemented over the years, can be especially helpful in schools seeking to support the literacy learning of students of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Au received the Causey Award for Outstanding Contributions to Reading Research and was elected to the Reading Hall of Fame in 1998. Au’s research interest is the school literacy learning of students of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Her latest book on this topic is *Multicultural Issues and Literacy Achievement* (2006). She is best known for her research on culturally responsive instruction. Her current research is on school change to improve students’ literacy achievement, focusing on the standards-based change process.



International Reading Association  
The World’s Leading Organization of Literacy Professionals

#### EXPOSITION HOURS:

Thursday, February 25	9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Friday, February 26	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Imagine dozens of companies, all in one place, all eager to show off their best products and services. It’s not too good to be true — it’s the **2010 NSRA Exposition!**

Whatever your district’s literacy needs are, you will find a solution for them here. You’ll also be inspired by new ideas and innovative displays.

Our Exposition is your most comprehensive and efficient way to see the education industry’s latest offerings. **Don’t miss this once-a-year opportunity!**

### Welcome Reception



**MAKE THE CONFERENCE EVEN MORE MEMORABLE BY JOINING US FOR A WELCOME GALA IN THE EXHIBIT HALL!**

Thursday — 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*You are invited* to join the NSRA officers and board members, vendors, and guest speakers.

Browse the displays in the exhibit hall, purchase books, and pick up something good to eat while enjoying some great music!

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

Nebraska Wine Tasting Offered for a Nominal Fee

## FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS - TICKETED SESSIONS

February 26, 2010



**Greg Tang** (AM Workshop)

### **“Poems in Math Class? Yeah, Write!”**

What do you get when you combine poems and pictures with a more effective way to think about numbers? Kids who are good at math! Join us and see firsthand how truly easy math can be. If you ever thought you were missing the math gene, or wondered if there was a better way to teach math, you'll be glad you came. (Grades K-3)



**Linda B. Gambrell** (AM Workshop)

### **“Text Cues: An Intervention Strategy for Struggling Readers”** (Grades 2-6)

Retelling is used to assess reading comprehension, yet the literature reveals few ideas on how teachers can help students become more proficient at this important task. In this session an instructional technique, Text Clues, will be presented along with suggestions for taking students from retelling to notetaking -- both important skills for the developing reader.



**Maryann Manning** - the AM will be for K-3 and the PM will be for 4-6

### **“Creating the Best Literacy Block Ever”**

Learn about redesigning your reading block by reformatting what you currently do into intentional instructional, student social interaction, and independent student engagement. Come away with the organization, strategies, and schedules that will help you structure your day-after-day literacy block so children are happily productive minute by minute.



**Becky Bone** - two workshop choices

### **“Reaching All Readers with Blazing Books: Utilizing the Classroom Library to Motivate, Monitor and Maximize Reading Success”** (AM Workshop)

Explore how to help students discover the significance of reading with engaging books that matter. Understand the research of reading practice and reading achievement. Learn how to build reading textual lineages to promote reading across the curriculum. Get hands-on with “blazing” fiction and nonfiction and learn about the latest, greatest books that hook kids into reading and keep them asking for more.

### **“Make Reading Relevant with Inquiry”** (PM Workshop)

How do we make reading relevant? Explore how to motivate learning using essential questions and inquiry-based instruction in all content areas. Experience how to build comprehension and vocabulary skills through gradual release, moving through read-aloud, small group instruction and independent reading/literacy centers. Learn how to empower students to discover the significance of reading while making personal connections in engaging fiction and nonfiction books that foster critical discussion.



**Eric Ode** (PM Workshop)

### **“Hey, It Could Be Verse! Exposing Elementary Students to Poetry”**

In a fun hands-on (and voices-on) setting, we will be sharing dozens of easy-to-implement ideas for inviting poetry into the elementary classroom as a means of encouraging literacy acquisition.

**Jill Morfeld, Michelle Rezek and Sue Pieper** (PM Workshop)

### **“Next Steps in Managing the Classroom During Small Group Instruction”**

This session will focus on the strategies of the Daily Five, literacy stations and independent reading as management tools to create meaningful literacy activities in order to free up the teacher to provide differentiated/guided reading instruction. A variety of perspectives will be presented. Participants will leave with activities they can implement immediately in the classroom.



## FRIDAY MEAL EVENTS

February 26, 2010

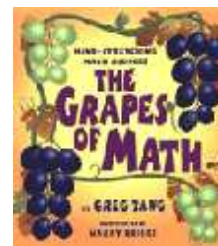
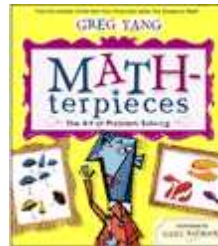


### Greg Tang

Featured Author Luncheon, 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

#### The Art of Smart

What does it mean to be smart? Are kids born smart or can we teach them to be smart? Join NY Times Bestselling Author, Greg Tang, for a provocative look at teaching that will stretch your mind and turn your world downside up. Math, your thinking, and you will never be the same.

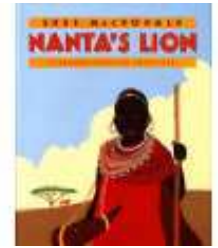
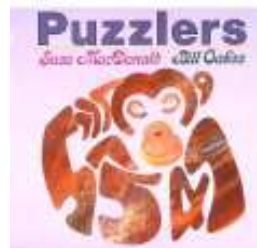


### Suse MacDonald

Featured Author Luncheon, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

#### Seeing the Familiar in New Ways

Suse will introduce you to her books about transformations and connections: taking a well known object or abstraction and turning it into something apparently quite different. For students seeking the familiar in new ways fosters creativity and opens them up to making their own artistic discoveries.



### RTI Forum

Maximize your conference experience by spending the lunch hour with the experts. Pick up your a la carte items and sit in on a discussion among James Baumann, a member of the IRA Commission on RTI, Roger Breed, Nebraska Commissioner of Education, and others representing the Nebraska RTI Consortium and Network. The International Reading Association is a partner in sponsoring the RTI Action Network, a program of the National Center for Learning Disabilities.



**FRIDAY BANQUET**  
**February 26, 2010**

**Equipped with his guitar and zany sense of humor  
Eric Ode will perform poems and musical  
entertainment to kick-off the pre-banquet social.**

**6:30 - 7:00 p.m.**



**My Name is Avi:  
A Literary Performance Based  
on Avi's Writings**

**Friday Banquet**

**7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Teachers told young Avi that his writing didn't make any sense. Little did they know he had dysgraphia, a learning disability that makes writing difficult. Yet, with boundless talent and the encouragement of an understanding tutor, Avi kept writing. Today, he is the prize-winning author of *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *Nothing But the Truth*, and dozens of other popular books for young readers.



**SATURDAY GENERAL SESSION**  
**Saturday, February 27, 2010**



## **BECKY BONE**

### **Harvesting Hope: Growing Better Readers with Powerful Books that Build Vocabulary and Comprehension**

“One’s vocabulary needs constant fertilizing or it will die.” —Evelyn Waugh

How do we grow better readers? One word at a time! Explore how to cultivate successful readers with research-based vocabulary and comprehension strategies using high-interest fiction and nonfiction. Experience read aloud strategies that positively impact the development of vocabulary and comprehension skills of all students.

Discover how to use powerful books to build background knowledge, motivate readers, and improve comprehension in language arts, science and social studies.

Becky Bone is a National Literacy Consultant for the Scholastic Classroom & Library Group and consults with teachers, literacy coaches, principals, and district level administrators nationwide. As a former teacher, Becky worked with all levels of students including struggling and advanced readers and writers in the Central Florida area. She has also served as Curriculum Coordinator, and was voted Teacher of the Year in 1997.

Becky has also taught graduate and undergraduate courses at the University of Central Florida, National-Louis University, and Southern College. She was a national presenter/facilitator for Janet Allen’s “It’s Never Too Late” literacy institutes, and has presented district-wide keynote addresses for teachers, literacy coaches, and administrators. In addition, Becky has presented at national conferences including IRA, NCTE, and NMSA, as well as the Lexile National Conference. Becky has also been a featured speaker at local, state, and regional conferences.

### **A Sample of Some of the Other Great Sessions on Friday and Saturday**

Read... Write ... Remember... Podcast  
Boys and Books — Educational Challenges of Boy Readers  
Mentor Texts and Writing Throughout the Curriculum  
Making Sense Out of Syllables — the Key to Decoding  
Understanding Dyslexia  
Causing Reluctant Middle Grade Reader to Write and Read with Pictures  
Utilizing RTI to Improve Reading Achievement for all Students  
Using Reading and Writing as a Tool in Science instruction  
A Laser-Like Focus on Learners  
Take Aim! At Vocabulary  
The New AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner  
Legislative Update



## SATURDAY SPECIAL EVENTS

February 27, 2010

**LITERACY  
WALK  
2010**

### PARTICIPATE IN THE TENTH ANNUAL “LITERACY WALK”

Saturday Morning

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Walking shoes and comfortable clothing are the appropriate attire for early Saturday morning when you can help support another special literacy project at the conference. Sign up to join the NSRALITERACY WALK with other exercise devotees. Your entire donation of \$5 will support the project and make you eligible for great door prizes.



## ERIC ODE

### SATURDAY LUNCHEON AND AWARDS CELEBRATION

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Join Eric Ode for an uplifting and energizing high-participation keynote session.

Bring your voice!

A former elementary teacher and awarding winning songwriter, Ode shares his original music and poetry with schools across the United States fueling an enthusiasm for literacy through humor and hard work.

**Eric Ode, Singer — Saturday Featured  
Speaker Songwriter, Author, and Poet**

**“My Dog Wrote This Poem: Poetry Writing Projects for the Elementary  
Classroom”**

In a light-hearted, high-participation setting, we’ll be sharing many fun and ready-to-implement poetry writing projects and activities.



## MORE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



**Dr. Roger Breed, — Friday Featured Speaker**  
**Nebraska Commissioner of Education**

**“Literacy for the 21st Century”**

The Nebraska Commissioner of Education will discuss the trends and context for effective literacy education in the 21st century. He plans to invite questions and discussion from the audience.

**James Baumann — Friday Featured Speaker**  
**Wyoming Excellence in Higher Education, Endowed Chair in Literacy Education**

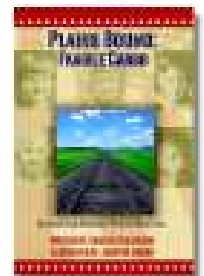
**“A Multi-Faceted, Comprehensive Approach to Vocabulary Instruction in Upper Elementary Grades: Theory, Research, and Practice”**

Effective vocabulary instruction must be provided across the school day and throughout the academic year. In this presentation, Dr. Baumann will describe a four-component model for teaching students the meanings of individual words, developing the ability to use word-learning strategies, acquiring word meanings from oral and written texts, and developing an appreciation and consciousness of words. He will provide background to the model and concrete examples of its implementation from research and development work.



**Charlotte Endorf — Friday Featured Speaker**

In 2006, the mother-daughter team of Charlotte M. Endorf and her teenaged daughter, illustrator Sarah M. Endorf, created the historical biography *Plains Bound: Fragile Cargo* to document the real-life stories of the children who rode the Orphan Trains. This inspiring book was followed by *By Train They Came: Fragile Excess Baggage, Vol. 1 and 2*. Today the Endorf family dresses in period attire, bringing their Orphan Train books to life at schools, museums, libraries, and town festivals.



**Kylie Kinley — Friday Featured Speaker**

Currently a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an English major, Kylie began writing her young adult fantasy novel, *Betwix*, when she was fourteen and finished it during her sophomore year of high school. It was published in 2008. She has finished a sequel and is working on her third manuscript. She grew up on a farm in central Nebraska and has been writing since she was eight years old.

**Pre-registration closes on February 1, 2010. Register early to take full advantage of these professional development opportunities. Once your registration has been processed, you will receive an e-mail confirmation. It will include a link to the session ticketing service. Please note that session ticketing is an online-only service. You must provide an e-mail address with your registration in order to take advantage of session ticketing.**



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**Don't Miss Out! You belong at the 2010 Annual Conference!**  
**Get the knowledge and skills every professional educator needs**  
**to help raise achievement for every student.**

