I have the privilege and honor of working with teachers who are new to the field of education. When we first begin our coaching journey, I always reach for the book, You’re Here for a Reason, by Nancy Tillman. My favorite Tillman quote is, “So don’t be too worried if some days fall flat. Good things can happen, even from that.” These lines always remind me of my first teaching assignment. I was hired in July and had a full month to get my classroom ready for students. As a new classroom teacher, I wanted everything to be perfect. For a month, before even meeting my students, I planned lessons and collected books for my library. When opening day arrived, I was thoroughly prepared for the “textbook” child. After the first few weeks of “teaching boredom,” I quickly realized that I had prepped and planned over the summer for kids who I did not know. Of course, the summer preparation I had done was not in vain, but I needed to leave room within the curriculum for kids! I decided to leverage dynamism, student choice, and collaboration with the hope of increasing engagement. I started by building rapport with my students. I began to ask questions and genuinely listen to my students. What TV shows did they like? What sports did they play? What was the last book they read? What were their hobbies? What were their literacy histories? I then used this information to craft hooks, form lessons, and collect books that students were excited to read. From that moment forward, I vowed always to work and teach from the heart.

Every teacher has their own first-year story of development, learning, and success. As educators, we should never be afraid of judgment; instead, offer advice by describing our private moments of growth. Author Nancy Tillman said it best when she wrote, “You’re here for a reason. It’s totally true. You’re part of a world that is counting on you.” Essentially, we are counting on you, our MRA members, to provide guidance and encouragement within our literacy communities. Without you sharing your stories, a piece of educational history would surely be missing.

Sincerely,

Carol Paul, 2018-2019 President
Michigan Reading Association
From the Editor’s Pen

When the birds start chirping and the snow melts, I become impatient for warm weather and clear roads. To bide the time before spring arrives in glorious bloom, I plan my trip to the Summer Literature Conference. It’s at Shanty Creek again this year - and the line-up of authors is amazing!

Teri Lesesne, Professor of Library Science at Sam Houston State University, author of MAKING THE MATCH (2002), NAKED READING (2005), and READING LADDERS (2010), will kick off the conference on Tuesday, July 30th. The headliner for Wednesday is author extraordinaire Matt de la Peña, who made a name for himself by writing young adult novels, including BALL DON’T LIE (2005), MEXICAN WHITE BOY (2008), and THE LIVING (2013), before cracking open the picture book genre with LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET (2015) and capturing the 2016 Newbery Medal. He went on to win the hearts of many educators with the publication of LOVE (2018). I can’t wait to see what he’ll write next.

The schedule also includes sessions with Jack Cheng, Wendy Anderson Halperin, Ruth McNally Barshaw and Charlie Barshaw, Lisa Wheeler, Janie Panagopoulos, Sara Holbrook, Michael Salinger, Marquin Parks, Carrie Pearson, Kristin Bartley Lenz, and more. Several of these authors and illustrators will also run sessions for students from Grades 2-7 who are attending the Student Conference. Don’t miss the Great Lakes Great Books Award session with Amy and Heather, expert readers who love to talk about good books.

One of my favorite sessions at the conference is a luncheon where you can talk to, and dine with, an author or illustrator of your choosing. This year there’s also an evening event for learning to draw. Sign up the whole family for the literacy event of the summer! Find more information and registration at https://www.michiganreading.org/summer-literature.

Lynette Suckow, Editor
News & Views on Reading
Adult Services, Peter White Public Library
Dear Michigan Reading Association members, board members and constituents,

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the new Executive Director for the Michigan Reading Association.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is LaShan Mabry. I am a native of Kalamazoo, Michigan. I am a graduate of Western Michigan University, where I received a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership. I have worked 20 years in the Nonprofit / Education arena. Some of my experiences in education include, serving as a Director of Education and Career Development for Boys and Girls Clubs of Kalamazoo and working as a Site Facilitator in the Lift up through Literacy program through Kalamazoo Public Schools.

It is my endeavor to continue to empower students and educators in Michigan through Literacy. Together, we can help provide resources for our teachers and help students to reach their highest potential in academics through literacy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

LaShan N. Mabry, M.A.
Executive Director
Michigan Reading Association

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MRA Calendar
What’s Coming Up?

- **July 30-31, 2019**
  - Summer Literature Conference
  - Bellaire, Michigan

- **July 30-31, 2019**
  - Student Conference
  - Bellaire, Michigan

- **August 10, 2019**
  - News & Views Fall Issue Deadline

- **October 9-13, 2019**
  - ILA Conference
  - New Orleans, LA

- **November 10, 2019**
  - News & Views Winter Issue Deadline

- **December 21, 2019**
  - Kaleidoscope Deadline

- **January 25, 2020**
  - Great Lakes Great Books Voting Deadline

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From the MRA Office

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

LaShan N. Mabry, M.A.
Executive Director
Michigan Reading Association

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Join us for the 2019 Summer Literature Conference!
Theme: “Amplifying Student Voices”
Date: July 30-31, 2019
Place: Shanty Creek Resort
Now that you know what was popular in Michigan classrooms last year, check out one of the books from the 2019-20 GLGB ballot. Then treat yourself to the whole ballot – 8 books for each age level to read and enjoy.

**ENDLING: THE LAST** by Katherine Applegate (2018)
In this fast-paced fantasy for middle schoolers, Byx, a doglike creature who walks upright, can detect when anyone is lying, and has the ability to glide like a flying squirrel, is immediately on the run as she is pursued by human hunters. Arrows whiz past her as she glides from the top of a cliff to rescue a wobbyk named Tobble, who becomes her fast friend. The youngest of the litter of an almost-extinct species of dairnes, Byx returns home with Tobble in tow to find that the human hunters have killed her entire dairne community and made her an endling - the last of her kind. She is now forced to travel with Khara, a human tracker who disguises herself as a boy for safety. The youngest of the litter of an almost-extinct species of dairnes, Byx returns home with Tobble in tow to find that the human hunters have killed her entire dairne community and made her an endling - the last of her kind. She is now forced to travel with Khara, a human tracker who disguises herself as a boy for safety. The two search for allies in a world where different species vie for political dominance; and find themselves in league with a tiger-like felivet and flying raptidons. Natural enemies form partnerships in order to survive against others with evil intentions. Applegate’s award-winning writing style claimed the Newbery Medal in 2013 for THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN. With other titles such as HOME OF THE BRAVE and ROSCOE RILEY RULES, readers can be confident that the Endling series will continue to be as dynamic as this first installment.
## OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE 2019-20 GREAT LAKES GREAT BOOKS AWARD

COMPLETED BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 19, 2020. Ballots may be e-mailed to greatlakesgreatbooks@gmail.com or completed online at [www.michiganreading.org](http://www.michiganreading.org) under the Student Involvement tab. Enter one vote per student.

### Grades K-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vote</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hello Lighthouse</td>
<td>Sophie Blackall</td>
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<td>The Day War Came</td>
<td>Nicola Davies</td>
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<td>We Don’t Eat Our Classmates</td>
<td>Ryan Higgins</td>
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<td>I Walk With Vanessa</td>
<td>Karasooet</td>
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<td>Stretch to the Sun</td>
<td>Carrie Pearson</td>
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<td>The Secrets of Ninja School</td>
<td>Deb Filutti</td>
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<td>Baby Monkey, Private Eye</td>
<td>Brian Selznick &amp; David Serin</td>
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<td>The Hidden Life of a Toad</td>
<td>Doug Wechsler</td>
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### Grades 2-3

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<th>Vote</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zoey and Sassafras: Unicorns and Germs</td>
<td>Asia Citro</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Love</td>
<td>Matt de la Pena</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Islandborn</td>
<td>Junot Díaz</td>
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<td>Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History</td>
<td>Yashii Harrison</td>
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<td>Julian is a Mermaid</td>
<td>Jessica Love</td>
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<td>Desmond Cole: Ghost Patrol: Major Monster Mess</td>
<td>Andres Mecdoso</td>
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<td>Thirty Minutes Over Oregon</td>
<td>Marc Tyler Nobleman</td>
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<td>Vivid: Poems &amp; Notes About Color</td>
<td>Julie Paschkis</td>
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### Grades 4-5

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<td></td>
<td>Pesamina</td>
<td>Nichi Chanani</td>
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<td>Lafayette!</td>
<td>Nathan Hale</td>
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<td>I’m Just No Good at Rhyming</td>
<td>Chris Harris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Can I Touch Your Hair?</td>
<td>Irene Latham &amp; Charles Waters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>Wendy Mass &amp; Rebecca Stead</td>
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<td>Knights vs. Dinosaurs</td>
<td>Matt Phelan</td>
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<td>Ghost Boys</td>
<td>Jewell Parker Rhodes</td>
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<td>Harbor Me</td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson</td>
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### Grades 6-8

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<td>ENDING: The Last</td>
<td>Katherine Applegate</td>
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<td>Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster</td>
<td>Jonathan Auxler</td>
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<td>Aru Shah and the End of Time</td>
<td>Roshan Gokshi</td>
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<td>Illegal</td>
<td>Emma Geffer &amp; Andrew Donkin</td>
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<td>Martin Rising: Requiem for a King</td>
<td>Andreas Davis Pinkney</td>
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<td>Apple in the Middle</td>
<td>Dawn Quigley</td>
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<td>The Prince and the Dressmaker</td>
<td>Jen Wang</td>
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<td>Front Desk</td>
<td>Kelly Yang</td>
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### Grades 9-12

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<td>The Poet X</td>
<td>Elizabeth Acevedo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>What if It’s Us</td>
<td>Becky Albertalli &amp; Adam Silver</td>
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<td>A Heart in a Body in the World</td>
<td>Deb Caletti</td>
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<td>(Don’t) Call Me Crazy</td>
<td>Kelly Jensen, Editor</td>
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<td>Orphan Monster Spy</td>
<td>Matt Killeen</td>
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<td>Hey, Kiddo</td>
<td>Jarrett Krosoczka</td>
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<td>Blood Water Paint</td>
<td>Joy McCullough</td>
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<td></td>
<td>On a Sunbeam</td>
<td>Tillie Walden</td>
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**Teacher Name:**

**E-mail Address:**

**School or Library:**

**City:**

For more information about GLGB, please visit: [www.michiganreading.org](http://www.michiganreading.org)
Kaleidoscope Celebrates Student Writers

The Michigan Reading Association Kaleidoscope committee would like to congratulate the published young authors of 2019. This year the committee had the honor of celebrating the writing of sixty-one students from across the state of Michigan in its 28th annual Kaleidoscope student writing publication. Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade showcased their amazing talents and unique voices across the pages of the 2019 Kaleidoscope anthology. The celebration continued in Grand Rapids at the annual Young Author’s Kaleidoscope luncheon, where attending students and families were entertained by author, artist, and puppeteer Kevin Kammeraad, and dazzled by the love of literacy and positive voice of writer and Scholastic Librarian Ambassador, John Schu.

Congratulations Kaleidoscope authors and thank you to the educators and families who have supported, encouraged, and advocated for your young writers.

Want to learn more about Kaleidoscope and getting a writer from your school published? Information is available on www.michiganreading.org under the Student Involvement tab. Each school in Michigan is invited to select one piece of writing to submit for publication.
The Marquette Alger Reading Council (MARC) has been busy advocating for literacy this year. MARC held a successful Fall Kick-off Event in October, followed by a November book study on Hope and Wade King’s book, THE WILD CARD, for local teachers. Members collected hundreds of books during the annual Gift of Reading book collection over the holiday season. The reading council continued with the winter book study featuring Pernille Ripp’s book, PASSIONATE READERS. MARC teachers were excited to attend sessions by Pernille Ripp at the MRA Reading Conference in March. MARC leaders are hoping to learn and discuss more about reaching and engaging every student, while creating a comfortable reading environment in their classrooms. MARC is pleased to be able to offer book studies to rural teachers in the Upper Peninsula for $10 (book included) and they have the Michigan Reading Association’s local council grants to thank for that opportunity! Family Literacy Nights were held in March at the Peter White Public Library and the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library. More than 300 children and their parents participated in reading-based activities and received a free book of their choosing. MARC has one more Reading Day event planned this spring before the Young Authors program eclipses student involvement for the school year. A week of Young Authors activities, featuring children’s author Aaron Reynolds, will involve all elementary schools in Marquette and Alger counties during the week of May 6th – 9th.

Andrea Kleinpaste, Region 1 Representative
Grade 1 Teacher at Aspen Ridge Elementary School

Marquette-Alger Gift of Reading Event
The Marquette-Alger Reading Council (MARC) recently held an event to celebrate the collection of books for our annual Gift of Reading drive. This year, MARC decided to have an event at the Peter White Public Library (PWPL) for local families. Families were invited to bring their children to the PWPL where MARC had a final collection for books, as well as a craft and snack for the families who attended. Reading Council members were also able to count and label all of the books collected by the local schools and organizations. This year, over 1,100 books were collected. These books are all redistributed to the different non-profit groups within the community and then given to families in need over the holidays as well as throughout the year when the need is present. Thanks to the grant received by the Michigan Reading Association, the Gift of Reading program will be able to reach even more families within our community.

Katie Ferguson, Early Childhood Literacy Chair
Grade 1 Teacher at Aspen Ridge Elementary School
Carrie A. Peason, the 2019 recipient of the Gwen Frostic Award, is an avid outdoor person from Marquette, MI. In her own words, Carrie simply says, “I love to play in the woods and water.” Her writing career started in 2012 when she wrote her first nonfiction book, A WARM WINTER TALE, a work of informational fiction about how animals survive in the winter, as compared to humans. The book received the Gellett Burgess Nature Award for All ages. This book was also nominated as a Great Lakes Great Books Award candidate. A COOL SUMMER TALE, Carrie’s follow up book, looks at summer through the animals’ eyes. Her newest book, STRETCH TO THE SUN: From a Tiny Sprout to the Tallest Tree on Earth, takes the reader to the state of California to learn about the tallest tree in the world – the sequoia. Carrie’s research has opened the eyes of many readers to interesting facts about the outdoors; and earned the book a spot on the 2019-20 GLGB Award list. Find out more about her work at www.carriepearsonbooks.com.

Alicia Kubacki is the 2019 Individual Literacy Award recipient. She studied to be a teacher at California State University – East Bay, and then spent eight years in the classroom in the Houston, Texas area schools, moving again to the San Antonio, TX schools while she completed a master’s degree. Alicia returned to Michigan with her family and worked at the Saginaw Intermediate School District managing grants, at the Midland ESA in Instructional Services, and continued in Instructional Services at Bay-Arenac ISD. Over time, Alicia has advocated for teachers and students alike. “I believe as literacy leaders we must have teacher agency at the core. Research is clear; it is the classroom teacher that matters most. Teachers need access to on-going professional learning within their contract time. Teachers need school schedules with built-in collaborative time to observe and learn from each other. Teachers need to collegially examine student work in order to be self-reflective about their own instruction. These actions build teacher agency and they are imperative if we expect to find joy in teaching as a career again.” She continues, “Last year during spring break, my teenage daughters and I returned to the Texas schools where I taught many years ago. We met up with former students for dinner and a rodeo where we shared stories with them, including Jose, a student from my first year of teaching in an urban school, who taught me more about immigration and Latino culture than I taught him about U.S. History and ELA. It was a teacher’s dream come true to have students tell not only me, but my own children, that I had an impact on their lives. That is why we teach!” She is hoping to complete the full circle of educational experiences by returning to the classroom this fall.

Meanwhile, back at the Kubacki Farm, Alicia raises black-faced Suffolk Sheep, seven of which have produced lambs in the last month. Her family also has 18 laying hens, four barn cats and a big, goofy black labradoodle named Jake.
AMPLIFYING
STUDENT VOICES

2019
SUMMER LITERATURE CONFERENCE
July 30-31 @ Shanty Creek Resort

FEATURING:
Teri Lesesne & Matt de la Peña
with many wonderful Michigan authors
Student Conference Continues
Michigan Reading Association’s
Student Conference 2019
Amplifying Student Voices

July 30-31, 2019 ~ Shanty Creek Resort ~ Bellaire, Michigan

Attending the 2019 MRA Summer Literacy Conference? The Michigan Reading Association is offering a unique dual conference opportunity this year for families. Student sessions will be going on at the same time as the adult literacy conference. Students who will be entering grades 2-7 are invited to interact with these authors and illustrators for a unique conference experience of their own! Numbers are limited and students must have at least one parent or guardian in attendance at the conference.

Registration Price: $50 per student

To register, please visit: www.michiganreading.org

Registration price includes: author sessions, continental breakfast both days, snacks, bag lunch on Wednesday, the Author/Illustrator book signing reception and a drawing session.
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SINCE 1956, the Michigan Reading Association (MRA) has been recognized as a leading resource for teachers, parents, students and educational institutions making significant impacts toward enhancing literacy throughout Michigan.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) and an affiliate of the International Literacy Association, MRA is governed by a board of passionate professionals meeting teachers' needs and inspiring students everywhere.

"Empowering all Michigan students and educators through literacy."

MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP OFFERS:

Discount conference rates for exemplary professional learning hosted twice each year for all individuals engaged with literacy.

An annual conference attracting 1,500+ attendees, featuring world-renowned authors, illustrators, and speakers with over 30 breakout sessions every hour. Attendees easily find sessions they'll enjoy, however they do debate which ones they'll miss.

The highly-acclaimed Michigan Reading Journal consisting of peer reviewed locally- and nationally-relevant manuscripts on literacy by distinguished educators from Michigan and across the country. The publication is released three times a year and available in both traditional print and electronic formats.

Access to a network of local, state and international peers and other professionals who share a passion for literacy.

JOIN NOW CALL 616.647.8310 or go to www.michiganreading.org for more information.
Illiteracy is a SOLVABLE problem. Together, we can be part of the solution!

Today, there are nearly 800 million people in the world who cannot read or write a simple sentence. ILA needs your help to change that!

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Connect with a community of literacy champions
■ Turn to our network of teachers, experts, and leaders (in person at our conference and on social media) for advice and ideas

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■ Members receive a 20% discount on more than 200 ILA books, DVDs, and more

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October 10–13, New Orleans, LA

Four incredible speakers. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Learn, celebrate, and connect with literacy leaders at the ILA 2019 Conference! Practice the skills you need to create a culture of literacy that will empower your students and set them up for success.

ilaconference.org