



Rochester Area Literacy Council (RALC) Bi-monthly Newsletter

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# Fall into Reading!

November/December 2021



by Linda Gillette Smith, RALC Co-President

## **New York State Reading Association Conference**

The annual New York State Reading Association (NYSRA) conference on November 11-12, 2021 will be virtual. Check out the [NYSRA website](#) for information and registration. There are a lot of amazing speakers you won't want to miss. All RALC members are also members of NYSRA and receive the discounted NYSRA rate. RALC Board members, Dr. Carol St. George, is presenting *Using Literacy to Prevent Bullying* and Linda Gillette-Smith is presenting *Using Essential Standards to Promote Equity in Reading Achievement*.

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TOP STORIES



## 2021 NYSRA Award Recipients

We are proud to recognize the following members who are recipients of the NYSRA awards.

- ★ Rochester Area Literacy Council received the ILA Honor Council (six consecutive years)
- ★ Literacy Educator of the Year, Lori Gaenzler (Greece Central School District)
- ★ Friend of Reading Award, Cindy Schwind (Greece Central School District)
- ★ Literature Based Mini-Grant *Developing Classroom Libraries in Content Area Classrooms*, Janeen Pizzo (SUNY Brockport)

Here is the [link](#) for more information regarding NYSRA awards and grants. Consider applying for the 2022 cycle once the links become active.

## Rochester Area Literacy Council Membership

Renew or join the Rochester Area Literacy Council for the 2021-2022 school year. [Membership information and rates can be found on the New York State Reading Association Regional Directors and the RALC Local Councils page.](#) Members get access to our newsletters, discounts, and free member events. Members can also join our monthly board meeting and connect with other educators. [REGISTER HERE!](#)

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## Why join RALC?

- ❖ Automatically a member of the New York State Reading Association. See the [Top 10 benefits of becoming a NYSRA member](#). PLUS...
- ❖ Reduced rate to attend the annual New York State Reading Association conference.
- ❖ Reduced rate (or free) for many NYSRA and local professional development sessions offered throughout the year. Check the NYSRA calendar for updates.
- ❖ Reduced rate to attend professional development sessions hosted by Rochester Area Literacy Council. See the RALC calendar for amazing learning opportunities!!!
- ❖ Attend RALC meetings to improve literacy in our community.
- ❖ Attend RALC members only events.
- ❖ Attend book clubs throughout the year for FREE!!!
- ❖ Receive the monthly ReAD newsletter & Language and Literacy Spectrum publication from NYSRA with national, state, and local literacy information and strategies.
- ❖ Receive the bi-monthly RALC newsletter with events and literacy information.
- ❖ Network and grow your literacy knowledge with others in our area.

## Launching Literacy

We had a good turn out at our in-person RALC event at Trata followed by the virtual zoom event on Saturday. We enjoyed seeing our members and getting to know each other. In both settings we were able to share book recommendations for professional and personal growth as well as selections to use with students. Here is the [link](#) to the slides that were shared to learn more about RALC.

## Rochester Reads

This year we will be hosting a variety of book club options free to our RALC and NYSRA members. **Equipped for Reading Success**, and **Shifting the Balance** have begun but anyone can still register and join us for upcoming sessions. Still to come: **Stamped for Kids!**, Check out the link for more information on date and times. [RALC Book Club Information](#). Sign up for 1, 2, 3, or 4 book club options through the [NYSRA website events page](#).

Did you miss Forged for Reading? The slides can be viewed here: [Meeting 1](#) [Meeting 2](#)

## RALC Publishing Project

We are excited to share the Rochester Area Literacy Council's annual literary magazine featuring pieces authored by students of Rochester and its surrounding areas has been published. The magazine is a collection of excellent works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and art based on the theme, "So Runs the River." Every published student will receive a complimentary copy of the



book. A huge thank you to the RALC Publishing Chairs, Pat Martin and Lynne Keefer, as well as committee members.

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## **Live Local Literacy - SAVE THE DATE - February 5th**

RALC hosts an annual Live Local Literacy Conference featuring local educators. This year's theme is **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Literacy**. We are always looking to highlight local educators who can share their professional learning experiences with others. Proposals are due by December 15, 2021. **If you are interested in presenting at the 2022 Live Local Literacy conference please complete this [proposal form](#).**

If you have additional questions you can email [linda.gillette-smith@greececsd.org](mailto:linda.gillette-smith@greececsd.org) or [christine\\_treasure@boces.monroe.edu](mailto:christine_treasure@boces.monroe.edu).

## **RALC Spring Professional Development Event**

We are thrilled to have Dr. David Kilpatrick present on **April 27, 2022**. Dr. Kilpatrick is a prominent researcher and educator in the field of education. He promotes the importance of phonological and phonemic awareness. Dr. Kilpatrick highlights research and practices of phonological awareness as an essential foundation for readers. More information and registration link will be forthcoming in our next newsletter. You can register for the Equipped for Reading Success book study if you are interested in learning more about his work.

## **Get Involved**

Do you have any ideas or suggestions to promote literacy in our area? Send an email to [linda.gillette-smith@greececsd.org](mailto:linda.gillette-smith@greececsd.org). We are always looking for people who are passionate about promoting and supporting literacy in our area.

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