12th Annual
Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana
Children's Literature Conference
South Dearborn High School
Aurora, IN

Words Alive!
Engaging Youth in the
Prose, Poetry, & Passion
of Books

Featuring
Author and Illustrator Ashley Bryan

With
Helen Frost, Will Hillenbrand, Andrea Cheng,
Sally Derby, e.e. Charlton-Trujillo,
Linda Leopold Strauss, Poetry Alive

...and
Darwin Henderson, Joel Caithamer, Blue
Marble Bookstore, ROYAL, Jody Maples,
Ron Nicholson, Don Miller, Mike King,
and the Showcase of Entertainers

The Conference is funded by a generous grant from
TOYOTA MOTOR ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING
and UNITED COMMUNITY BANK OF LAWRENCEBURG
Conference Schedule

8:00-8:45 AM  Registration, Continental Breakfast (Cafeteria), Book Sales
8:45-9:00 AM  Welcome  Auditorium
9:00-9:50 AM  Ashley Bryan, Keynote Address  Auditorium  
   "A Tender Bridge: Black American Poetry, Spirituals, and African Folk Tales"
10:00-10:50 AM  Concurrent Session 1
11:00 AM-12 Noon  Poetry Alive/Announcements  Auditorium
12:00-12:50 PM  Lunch  Cafeteria
1:00-1:50 PM  Concurrent Session 2
2:00-3:30 PM  Showcase of Entertainers  Auditorium
3:30-4:00 PM  Book Signing  Library
Concurrent Session 1
10:00-10:50 AM

A) Helen Frost: Finding Form, Voice, and Story in a Novel-in-Poems
Room B 202
Poet, Playwright, Children's Writer. Helen writes books for children, teens, and adults. She writes poetry, novels-in-poems, plays, picture books, essays, and nonfiction. Helen will share how narrative poems take shape. Attendees will have an opportunity to put their ideas in writing. Helen will focus on her books The Braid and Diamond Willow, as well as mentioning her other books.

B) Once Upon a Time-Picture Book Reviews: Blue Marble Bookstore
Room B 204
Uncover what’s new in Children’s Literature for the young at heart. Discover books that will transform your children and classrooms (without having to kiss any frogs)!

C) Author Showcase
Room C 202
Four local children's authors with different writing styles and working methods will talk about the way they get writing ideas and turn them into published books.
Andrea Cheng, Sally Derby, E.E. Charlton-Truillo, Linda Leopold Strauss

D) How to host a Poetry Café /Poetry Circle
Room C 201
Jody Maples, Youth Services Manager of the Lawrenceburg Public Library District and Ron Nicholson, Language Arts Instructor with the South Dearborn High School, will demonstrate how to encourage tweens and teens to express themselves through word, song, and even musical talents.

Concurrent Session 2
1:00-1:50 PM

A) Ashley Bryan: The Heart of Language
Room B 202
Ashley’s message to fellow educators is that children are more likely to become joyful readers if they find meaning in stories. Ashley, along with Darwin Henderson, will give participants enough courage to share each word found within, encouraging attendees to share literature with meaning so children will become lifelong lovers of books. There will also be discussion on the Coretta Scott King Awards.

B) ROYAL Reviewers: In Our ROYAL Opinion
Room B 204
ROYAL (Reviewers of Young Adult Literature) is a Greater Cincinnati book review group comprised of school and public librarians who meet regularly to read and review newly published fiction and non-fiction young adult books for publishers. Barb Bluestein will be sharing what her group’s opinion is of the best books for Young Adults in 2007.

C) Bringing Literature Alive with Music
Room C 201
Joel Caithamer, Children’s Services Coordinator of the William E. Durr Branch Library, will share how to bring literature alive for children through song and dance.

D) Writer's Critique Roundtable with Linda Leopold Strauss
Room C 202
This pre-paid workshop is for those who submitted manuscripts and would like to meet with Linda for a roundtable discussion of their work.
Ashley Bryan does not “recite” poems. Recitation implies monotony and rigidity; Ashley’s delivery is riveting and athletic, occasionally cathartic. Nor does he “read” them: he holds a book in one hand, shaking it occasionally and jabbing at the page with his other hand for emphasis, but he never looks at the printed poem. Perhaps the poem is not even on the page; perhaps it’s in a different book entirely. It doesn’t matter; the poem is inside him. “Poetry is at my center as a human being”, he once remarked. “I believe that poetry lies at the heart of the wonder and mystery of language”. As the creator or co-creator of almost forty picture books, Ashley Bryan has captured the mystery of language in volumes that are cultural records as well as works of art. In 1990, Ashley received the Arbuthnot Prize, a prestigious International Award given to recognize lifetime achievement in Children’s Literature. Ashley was born in New York City and now lives on a small island off the coast of Maine, where he writes and illustrates books most of the year. A former teacher at Dartmouth College, Ashley has compiled, written and illustrated numerous books, many of them African folktales, such as Ashley Bryan’s African Tales, Uh Huh and The Story of Lightning and Thunder. His writings also include collections of spirituals, such as All Night, All Day: A Child’s First Book of African American which won the Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration, and Lion and the Ostrich Chicks, a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. The Cat’s Purr, Walk Together Children, and I’m Going to Sing—are all ALA notable children’s books.

Helen Frost was born in Brookings, South Dakota, the fifth of ten children. She graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Elementary Education. She received her Masters degree in English from Indiana University in 1994. Throughout her career, writing and teaching have been inter-woven threads. She has published poetry, children’s books, anthologies, and plays, as well as a book about teaching writing. She has taught writing at all levels, from pre-school through university. Helen’s book, The Braid, was selected as a YALSA Best Books for Young Adults, 2007 and the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award Honor Book. Her 2007 Honor book, Lion and the Unicorn, was awarded for Excellence in North American Poetry. Keesha’s House was awarded the Michael L. Printz Honor in 2004. She has also been noted in School Library Journal for “Best books of the Year, 2006” and Kirkus Reviews “Editor’s Choice, 2006”. Helen presently lives in Fort Wayne, IN. She is married and has two sons. She enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, and raising and releasing monarch butterflies.
Workshop Presenters

Andrea Cheng is the author of several books for children and Young Adults. Her first novel, Marika, was selected by the city of Cincinnati for “On the Same Page,” a city wide reading program. Honeysuckle House, Anna the Bookbinder, and Shanghai Messenger received Parent’s Choice Awards. Grandfather Counts was recently featured on Reading Rainbow. The Lemon Sisters just won the Ohioana Book Award in the juvenile category. Her books draw on her background as the child of Hungarian immigrants as well as the background of her husband, the son of immigrants from China. In addition to writing books for children’s, Ms. Cheng teaches English as a Second Language at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. She lives with her husband and 3 children in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sally Derby states: “My school presentations are designed to entertain and enlighten children as well as to acquaint them with my books and magazine stories”. “I try to show them what enjoyment they can find in both reading and writing”. Sally always stresses the importance of revision, word choice, and accurate observation. It’s important to her that students find her visits fun as well as empowering, and that when she leaves the classroom she leaves them with a feeling of excitement and confidence. Sally’s works include, Whoosh Went the Wind, The Wacky Substitute, Two Fools and a Horse, Hannah’s Bookmobile Christmas, Taiko on the Windy Night, and My Steps.

e.E Charlton-Trujillo grew up in Mathis, Texas, where it wasn’t easy having a name like Eunice-Ellen. She studied as an actress before becoming a director / writer / producer and most recently novelist. e.E has an MFA in filmmaking and an undergraduate emphasis in English and Theater. She has taught writing in graduate school and novel writing from a Filmmaker’s perspective at the Northshore Academy in Cedarburg, WI. e.E is open to facilitating discussions, leading writing prompts or exploring how her experience in the various arts influences her writing. Her presentations are interactive, leaving students with an insight into the craft and excitement of storytelling. Titles include: Feels Like Home and Prizefighter En Mi Casa, a 2006 Parents’ Choice Silver Honor book.

Linda Leopold Strauss writes for children of all ages, fiction and non-fiction, and is happy to tailor her presentation to the particular curriculum needs of a teacher. Her speaking style is informal and encourages give-and-take with the children. She brings in lots of materials (galley sheets from publishers, scribbled notes, revision pages) for children to see and handle. Book titles include: A Fairy Called Hilary, The Alexandra Ingredient, Coping When A Parent Has Cancer, The Elijah Door, and Really, Truly, Everything’s Fine.
**Darwin Henderson** is an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Cincinnati where he holds a joint appointment in Literacy and Early Education. His research interests lie in 20th and 21st century African-American writers and illustrators of literature for children and youth. He is a member of the Coretta Scott King Award Jury, a member of the Advisory Board of the Virginia Hamilton Conference on Multicultural Literature, and is a Profile Column editor for *Language Arts*, a Journal of the National Council of Teachers of English.

**Joel Caithamer** Forget about being quiet in the Library. At least not in Joel’s Library. Joel brings music, magic, kids and books together in a celebration of reading. He is a very talented musician who writes and performs music that kids love. In a recent issue of *School Library Journal*, Joel’s album, *ACTIVATE!* was selected as one of the 12 kids albums that school librarians can’t live without. But Joel’s music reaches beyond the children in his story times and has parents and teachers tapping their toes too. Joel is the Children’s Services Coordinator of the William E. Durr Branch Library in Nicholson, KY.

**Jody Maples and Ron Nicholson** Jody is a member of the OKI Executive Committee and the Youth Services Manager of the Lawrenceburg Public Library District. She has over 25 years of library experience. She began working as a Children's Librarian, doing programs for young children. When she was promoted to Youth Manager, she expanded her programming to include teens. Together Jody has provided over 5,000 youth oriented programs.

R.H. Nicholson was born and raised in Indianapolis, IN. He holds a B.S. in English and Journalism from Indiana State University and a M.A. in English from Butler University. He has taught High School for over 25 years, 21 of them at South Dearborn High School. He has also taught writing at Indiana University, Ivy Tech State College, and is currently an adjunct at Northern Kentucky University. He has published several short stories, poems, and essays. Ron is the author of a children’s book, *The Snow Wish*, and a novella, *Broken People*. He advises *The Knight Life* and edits *Voices*, a student poetry collection.

**Poetry Alive** is the performance path to literacy. Using poetry performance techniques, Poetry Alive, a Poetry Company, empowers educators to improve student literacy and help students to self-actualize improvement in reading and writing. Founded in 1984, Poetry Alive fields group of two-person teams who travel to schools and libraries worldwide. Their high-energy presentations have taken them to a total audience of more than 7,000,000 in all 50 states. Each year they conduct approximately 2000 performances, over 750 classroom follow-ups, and 150 teacher workshops. Using the rich heritage of the bardic tradition of long ago, Poetry Alive brings high-intensity poetry performances into the classroom.

**FamilyTime Entertainment, Inc.** Located in Indianapolis, IN, FamilyTime Entertainment's core business is providing fun, quality, and memorable events and programs for children from three-to-ninety three! Their goal is to provide entertaining and educational programs or festival events that enhance your classroom, library, or celebration with imaginative and extraordinary performances and activities.

**Blue Marble Bookstore** is a small children’s bookstore in the South end of Fort Thomas, KY. The atmosphere is homey. Customers can go in, grab a spot on the floor and start looking at all the children's books they have. Their workers are very knowledgeable. The store often brings in author's for book signings. They even sell some of the signed books from their shelves. Dave Richardson and Marilyn Smith will share some of the most popular picture books found in their bookstore.
The OKI Conference is a collaborative effort of a large group of professionals and organizations. Without the dedicated effort of all we would not have the quality conference we are enjoying today.

A special thanks to South Dearborn High School for the use of their facilities; Robert Moorhead, Principal, and Foster Harris, Director of Activities & Athletics, for partnering with us and helping us coordinate this event; and the South Dearborn High School Student Government for their volunteer work! Thanks to the Lawrenceburg Public Library District for hosting the Friday evening Pre-Conference event!

Book Sales by the Blue Marble Book Store, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky
- Books purchased at the conference are discounted 10%.
- 10% of all book sales will be donated to the OKI Children’s Literature Conference.
The 2007 OKI Children's Literature Conference is underwritten by a generous grant from Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing and United Community Bank of Lawrenceburg, IN

The Conference sponsor is the Dearborn Highlands Arts Council in cooperation with The Blue Marble Book Store Boone County Public Library Clermont County Public Library Golden Corral Kenton County Public Library Lawrenceburg Public Library District Miami University Northern Kentucky University Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County South Dearborn High School Thomas More College Xavier University

THANKS FOR COMING!

Please plan to attend the 2008 OKI Children's Literature Conference "Tots, Teens & In Between" Featuring Award-Winning Author Sharon Draper Saturday, November 1st Thomas More College Crestview Hills, KY