

UPCOMING WEBINAR EVENTS



MARCH 25 Janet Wong CRA Poetry 4-5 PM \$11

MARCH 25 Free CCRA Pre-Poetry Party 3:15-3:45

APRIL 8 MaryEllen Vogt CRA ELL 4-5 PM \$11

APRIL 15 Free CCRA Book Talks 3:45-5:15 PM

APRIL 22 Don Vu CRA Culture of Reading 4-5 PM \$11

MAY 6 Donald Bear CRA Word Study 4-5 PM only \$11

MAY 13 Free Parent Help Prevent Summer Slide 4-5 PM

JUNE 3 Deb Rose CRA Astronauts Zoom! 4-5 PM \$11

Join CCRA! Your membership includes...

- College credit for semester units @ \$80 per unit
- Discounted CRA Conference and Webinars for units
- Free CCRA Webinars for units
- Subscription to California Reader and Spotlight Publications
- CCRA Newsletters
- **All for only \$40!**

Special! Renew on time and pay \$25 for CRA membership!

CCRA Communiqué Spring 2021

www.contracostareading.org

The Best Professional Deal in Town:
CCRA events are free for members!

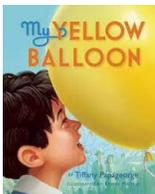


Apply for the ALC "Outstanding
Contributions to Literacy" \$2,000
cash award and \$500 school grant

amerlitcorp.org

Questions? Email President Lynn Gurnee lynn@gurnee.org

LITERACY FOR ALL



Author Tiffany Papageorge will speak for our CCRA kick off meeting on the power of story. She will help us to

support our kids in recovering from this year's turmoil. Don't miss hearing about these powerful tools! More information coming soon!



Leadership Opportunity For Educators

Join the CCRA Board!

- Build leadership capacity
- Share expertise and ideas
- Collaborate across districts
- Strengthen your resume
- Attend CRA PDI for free!
- CCRA Membership Free!

Contra Costa Reading Association (CCRA) and California Reading Association (CRA) support

Common Core Standards-aligned, research based teaching strategies that enable all students to decode, comprehend, think critically, collaborate and communicate effectively. Literacy for all!

Thanks for your loyalty CCRA/ CRA members! Welcome new members!! We have truly been blessed in 2020-21 because of you! Thank you teachers!

Future Meetings!

Thursdays- 5:30-7 PM
Concord Library-Salvio St.

One post graduate semester unit for members attending 3 events for \$80 from UOP when CVC deems safe.

SAVE THE DATE!!! Virtual CRA PDI Fall 2021

CALIFORNIA READING ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

CCRA needs more board members to help with the Concord meetings!

**Join our board and you come fro
CRA PDI for free!**

Vist CRA web site for more info.

www.californiareading.org

One post graduate semester unit for CRA members attending for \$80 from UOP.

CCRA Board Loves Our Members!

President Lynn Gurnee, VP Tamra Golinveaux, Secretary Kryssie Mingst, Members at Large: Karen Yee, Christy Condrin, Nicole Matthew, Cara Sawyer, Joni Smith, and Jacquie Young

Meet Some of Our Board Members

Meet Nicole Matthew having taught for 20+ years, all at Knightsen School District. Nicole lives in Walnut Creek with partner and 16-year-old daughter. Her stepdaughter, 27, is in Oregon.

As a teacher, Nicole is passionate to build self-confidence and excitement around learning. Normally (what's normal now?) in her off-time, she enjoys spending time with extended family, reading, cooking, and listening to music.

Nicole appreciates being connected with CCRA, people driven to develop a love of literacy. One of her favorite memories was last November when she took a break from responsibilities and participated in the CRA virtual conference. As with the CCRA events, Nicole loved the opportunity to listen to speakers, get excited about new strategies and resources, and put the information to use in class.

An old favorite read aloud is *Hush! A Thai Lullaby* with lovely illustrations and repetitive text. Students love to add their voices as they recognize the repetition. Her favorite way to engage younger students is puppets that are fun for both the students AND the puppeteer! With older students, she says, "Just listen."

Nicole says she's not in any position to give advice to teachers. However this year, more than any other, it's important to set boundaries and schedule time for self-care. The challenges of pandemic teaching have been taking their toll and we are no good to anyone if we are empty.

Meet Christy Condrin who teaches 3rd grade and is in her 26th year. Her favorite CCRA event is the May End of Year Celebration with good food and drink! Christy has enjoyed being in CCRA that allows teachers to continue their professional development. Her favorite books to read aloud are *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *How To Steal A Dog*, and *The One and Only Ivan*. She engages kids online with humor and advises teachers to teach what interests you!

Meet Joni Smith who lives in Oakley. Joni has a husband Kirby and three children who are adults now, Michael, Marion and Carl. She taught for 40 years grades 1-4, retiring in 2019. Joni loves spending time with her horses, dogs, gardening, cooking, and of course reading.

Joni really loves when CCRA members can all be interacting together like when we were doing the Angela Watson podcasts. The Patricia Newman webinar is a recent favorite. She has been a member on and off since the 1990s and has enjoyed the professional development and many wonderful friends over the years through CCRA and CRA.

Joni's favorite read alouds are Peter Reynolds books like *Say Something* and also *Charlotte's Web*. Her favorite way to engage kids online is self guided interactive projects that go with units where students work together in groups and have a choice. Joni's best advice for teachers is do what works for you and feels right to you. Teacher confidence leads to learning! Always read to your students across the curriculum.

Meet Karen Yee, a retired Reading Specialist and Literacy Coach from MDUSD, who still tutors via Zoom with her grandson and at Bel Air Elementary with a 1st grade reading group and reads aloud to a T-K. She enjoys CCRA meetings at Concord Public Library (when we could have them) and Brentwood meetings over Facebook. Karen loves the continued relationships with colleagues and sharing effective literacy instruction throughout the teaching community.

Karen also loves reading Mo Willams books with young students and has revived Mrs. Wishy-Washy with T-Ks. Karen's favorite ways to engage kids online is the "Thumbs up, down, sideways, and wave" along with multiple uses of white boards (or white paper inside a plastic sleeve) so students can respond and hold up their products for her or the class to see. Her best advice for teachers is to build into any or all presentations ways for students to respond and create active engagement.