



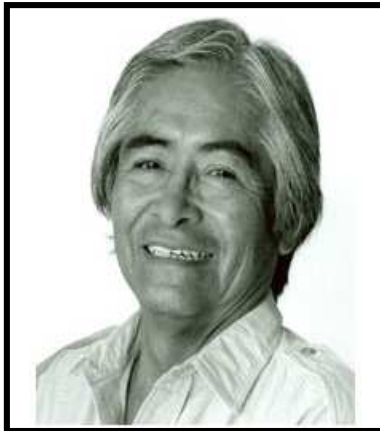
# CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2010 VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

Fall Conference  
is Sept. 24-25.

REGISTER BY  
SEPTEMBER 2!

## LOCAL AUTHORS HEADLINE FALL CONFERENCE



**SIMON J. ORTIZ** is an Indigenous poet and writer of Acoma Pueblo heritage who specializes in Indigenous Literature. His personal and professional interests focus on decolonization of Indigenous people's land, culture, and community. Ortiz, who has written more than two dozen books of poetry, fiction, nonfiction and children's literature, believes poetry is what makes language effective, powerful, meaningful, and distinctive. To Ortiz, Pueblo oral tradition is more than folk tales passed from one generation to the next: "It includes advice and counsel, those things told to you by your elders to insure that you're living responsibly, to ensure that the relationships among family members are in accord with the Acoma way of life."



**JEWELL PARKER RHODES** is an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction, including *Voodoo Dreams*, *Magic City*, *Douglass' Women*, a mystery trilogy: *Voodoo Season*, *Yellow Moon*, *Hurricane Levee Blues*, and *Free Within Ourselves: Fiction Lessons for Black Authors*. Her newest novel, and first children's book, is *Ninth Ward*. Her work has been published in five different countries, and her literary awards include the American Book Award, the National Endowment of the Arts Award in Fiction, and the Black Caucus of the American Library Award for Literary Excellence. A frequent speaker and guest at conferences, Dr. Rhodes has been honored repeatedly for her contributions to teaching, most recently receiving ASU's Quality Teaching Award. She is also a member of the Arizona-International Women's Forum. Currently, Dr. Rhodes is the Artistic Director for Global Engagement and the Piper Endowed Chair of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University.



A Native Diné (Navajo) speaker, **LAURA TOHE** has written and co-authored several books. Her most recent book, *Tseyi, Deep in the Rock*, won the 2007 Glyph Award for Best Poetry and Best Book by Arizona Book Association. The 2006 Dan Schilling Public Scholar for the Arizona Humanities Council, she writes essays, stories, and children's plays that have appeared in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. She also wrote a commissioned libretto, *Enemy Slayer, A Navajo Oratorio*, for the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, which premiered in 2008.

"While growing up I heard stories all around me. As we drove down the dusty reservation road, my mother told many Din stories. My first publication originates from a story given to my mother by her great-grandmother."



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: KRIS GUY

Welcome to another year in the Arizona English Teachers Association. 2010-2011 looks to be a very promising year. After serving two years as the President Elect, I am ready to step up and serve. I have been a member of AETA for 8 years and a member of the executive board for 7 years. I strongly believe in this organization and the members who keep it strong.

Our annual conference is planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> once again at the beautiful Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus. The theme for this year's conference *Read Locally, Act Globally* will showcase the many talents we have lying within our state's borders. Our presenters, guest authors, and speakers will represent the many talents Arizona has to offer. The conference will once again feature the ever popular author panel on Friday night during dinner. If you would like to take a sneak peek at all the conference has to offer, visit the AETA website to read the newest edition of connections, as well as, a preview of the conference program.

Reading the bios on the authors reminds me of the fact that Arizona is not only filled with great, talented English teachers, but fantastic writers as well. Many times those two are one in the same. I think we can use the talents we have in the classroom and the passion we have for writing to inspire our students to become the best writers they can be. Who knows, maybe one day we will be sitting at an AETA conference in the years to come listening to one of them!

If you are as excited as I am and just can't wait to attend this year's event, make sure you send in your registration form today.



## AETA FALL CONFERENCE FEATURED AUTHORS

**Lisa McMann** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the teen paranormal novel trilogy, *Wake, Fade, and Gone*. Although she was born, grew up, and lived in Michigan until 2004, she and her husband and two children currently reside in the Phoenix area where Lisa writes from a green chair overlooking the Superstition Mountains. In June, Paramount and MTV Films picked up the film rights to the Wake trilogy with Christopher Landon (*Disturbia*) writing/directing. Miley Cyrus is considering the lead role, but Lisa reminded fans on her blog, "There is no guarantees it'll get made." This funny lady who loves peanut butter offers one sentence of advice for new writers: "Learn how to take criticism and keep writing--it takes a lot of practice and hard work." She also talks fondly about teachers, who do "small things to change lives dramatically," who make a difference in the lives of their students. Her wish: "Hopefully 25 years from now, [an appreciative student will] find you on Facebook to tell you what you meant to them."

**Bill Konigsberg** is the author of the 2009 Lambda Award winning young adult novel, *Out of the Pocket*. A native of New York, Bill became an Arizona resident several years ago when he arrived in Tempe to earn an MFA in creative writing at ASU. He is an award winning sportswriter, having written for several newspapers around the country, as well as ESPN.com, the Associated Press, and CBS Sports. Bill first earned sports reporting fame for his fictitious reports on American and National League baseball games in 1994 after the strike ended the season. Bill's syndicated stories of the games that didn't happen were picked up by several major newspapers and television networks around the world, and his World Series championship game was recreated on Dateline USA using college ball players. Bill currently teaches in the ASU Tempe English Department.



A true believer in multi-tasking, **Robin Brande** is or has been everything from a writer and trial attorney to entrepreneur and state spelling bee finals judge. Robin, who publishes with Knopf/Random House, is the author of *Evolution, Me, and Other Freaks of Nature*, and *Fat Cat*, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults and a Michigan Library Association Honor Book. By sprinkling stories like *Fat Cat* with quotes from Einstein and illustrating the scientific method in action, Brande inspires all youth, but especially girls, to see scientific research as a pleasant and possible pursuit. She also insinuates that emotional and physical survival depends not only on best friends as a solid support system but upon our refusal to swallow garbage—in its various forms. Her new novel, *Parallelogram*, will be published in 2011.

---

**Aprilynne Pike** has been spinning faerie stories since she was a child with a hyper-active imagination. At the age of twenty, she received her BA in Creative Writing from Lewis and Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. When not writing, Aprilynne can usually be found at the gym. She also enjoys singing, acting, reading, and working with pregnant moms as a childbirth educator. Aprilynne recently returned to Arizona with her husband and three children, where she appreciates the sunshine. She is the author of the #1 New York Times Best-Selling novel *Wings. Spells*, the sequel to Aprilynne Pike's debut novel, continues the story of a not-so-ordinary girl named Laurel.

---

**J.S. Lewis** is best known as the co-author of the acclaimed Grey Griffins Trilogy. After selling nearly a million copies, Lewis and his writing partner, Derek Benz have teamed with Little Brown to produce a new series based on that original property. *The Brimstone Key*, the first book in the Grey Griffins Clockwork Chronicles debuted in June 2010. Lewis, who admits he has a short attention span and likes nonsense, is a Founder of the Young Author's Online Resource Center and Founding member of The Super Amazing Brain Society. He currently resides in Arizona with his wife and children where he conducts school visits and workshop presentations, sharing his sense of humor and inspiration with young people.

---

Born and raised in Arizona, **Tom Leveen** still resides here with his wife. He is the artistic director and co-founder of Chyro Arts Venue, an all-ages, non-profit performance space hosting live music, theatre, visual art, and independent film in Scottsdale. Leveen has been involved in theatre since 1988, directing over thirty plays, but during the past three years has especially enjoyed watching new, young adult bands take the stage at Chyro. Adding another layer to his artist's résumé, Leveen's debut young adult novel *Party*, set in the most awesome town of Santa Barbara and published by Random House, arrived during the summer of 2010. The book explores loss, racism, friendship, dating, teen sexuality, the human need for emotional fulfillment, and the destructive results young people might experience when they rely on others for acceptance and validation instead of recognizing their value themselves.

---

**Janette Rallison**, who also writes as Sierra St. James, lives in Chandler, Arizona, with her husband, five children, enough cats to classify her as "an eccentric cat lady," and a little Westie dog who has been unsuccessful in driving off the cats. Despite her busy schedule, she has published numerous novels and confesses that some of her inspiration comes from her own life: "I have a teenage daughter, which is sort of like living in your own reality show, but with fewer commercials. I borrow from her life a lot. Once, I lifted dialogue for a scene right off the text message log in my daughter's cell phone." Rallison has built a reputation around books like *My Fair Godmother* and her latest book, *My Double Life*, which feature romantic "what if" plots and fairy tale endings, that despite the fantasy flavor, still provide substance.

—Donna Miller, ASU

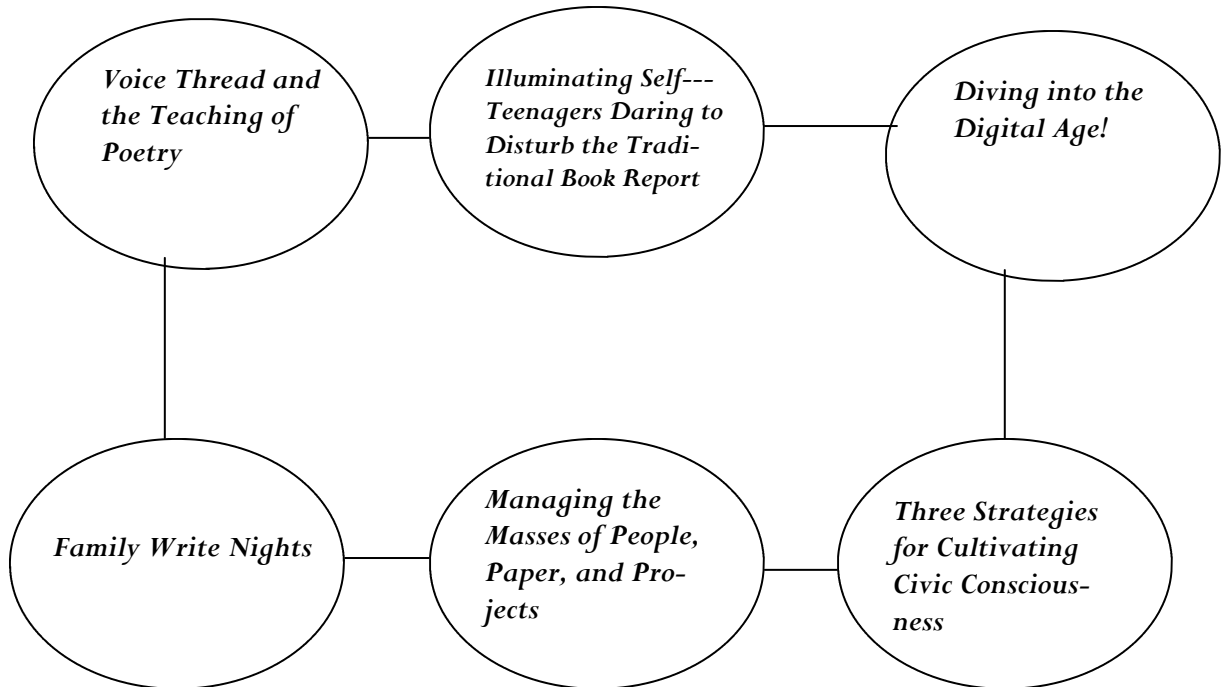
---



**Dr. Beverly Ann Chin** is Professor of English and Director of the English Teaching Program at The University of Montana, where she teaches and mentors beginning and experienced teachers. From 1981 to 1993, Beverly directed the Montana Writing Project. Her national leadership roles include President of NCTE in 1995-1996, Board Member of NBPTS from 1995-2003, and Senior Project Advisor for the 2011 Writing Framework for NAEP. Within NCTE, Beverly has served on the executive committees of the Conference on English Education and the Conference on English Leadership and was honored with the Rewey Bell Inglis Award for her outstanding service. Recently, Beverly was elected to NCTE's Middle Level Section Steering Committee. A former high school English teacher and community college instructor, Beverly received her Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Reading and Language Arts, from the University of Oregon. She has taught at Arizona State University, University of New Orleans, and University of Central Florida in Orlando. An engaging and inspiring workshop presenter at national and international conferences, Beverly is the Program Consultant for *Glencoe Literature: The Reader's Choice*. In addition, she is the Editorial Director for Annenberg's *Teaching Multicultural Literature: A Workshop for the Middle Grades* and a Literature Scholar/Pedagogy Expert on Annenberg's *The Expanding Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School*. In 2009, she participated in a seminar for teacher educators at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, where she studied with Holocaust scholars and survivors. Dr. Chin's presentation on Friday is entitled: **Making Personal and Multi-cultural Connections with Native American Literature.**

**BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**

This year's conference features 30 breakout presentations by new and veteran teachers designed to appeal to elementary, secondary and collegiate teachers. Check out the following sessions—inspiration is guaranteed!





## WELCOME NEW CO-EDITOR !

*Connections* welcomes veteran teacher Siiri Granfelt Julian to the editorial staff. Siiri teaches senior English at Notre Dame Preparatory in Scottsdale and serves as the private and charter school liaison on the AETA Executive Board. She regularly presents at the AETA fall conference and enjoys volunteering for the ACMRS spring conference. Prior to teaching English at NDP, Siiri worked with the Veterans Upward Bound program at ASU and has taught courses in English and Humanities in the middle school, college, and university settings. Siiri has an MA in Interdisciplinary Humanities, a certificate in scholarly publishing, and ten years ago was working fervently on her PhD in Rhetoric and Composition when she got married. Now as a new mom, she has a renewed interest in linguistic and cognitive development and wishes she had more time to devote to studying these fields while playing with her children, 4 & 2 years of age. Between eating French pastries and Belgian chocolates, Siiri loves to stay in shape and is an avid hiker in cooler months or climes.

Teaching is  
not filling up  
a pail, it is  
lighting a fire.

-William Butler Yeats

## BOREEN'S BOOKSHELF: CRUNCH, BY LESLIE CONNOR

We typically take being able to get in our cars to drive somewhere for granted, but in the novel *Crunch*, by Leslie Connor, we're taken not too far into our future to a time where there are severe gas restrictions and, scarier still, days and weeks when there is no available gas at all. This is where our main character, Dewey Mariss, and his siblings find themselves...their parents—a father who is a long distance trucker and a mother who takes one “break” from home a year to be with her husband—are stranded at the Canadian border trying to make their way home during a summer where people have turned to their bicycles as a real means for getting around.

Dewey takes responsibility for his father's side business—a bicycle repair shop—and knows the thrill of pride when he and his brother Vince seemingly can handle the shop and its various customers even though their dad is away. But when bike parts begin to disappear from the shop and people bring more bikes to “The Bike Barn” than the two brothers can possibly handle, Dewey and his older sister, Lil, clash over what is in the best interests for the five Mariss children while their parents are away. Lil is concerned that the boys are working themselves too hard, then upset that they're not taking enough responsibility for the money they're bringing in to the family coffers; the younger siblings—twins who go to day camp in town—are too trusting at times and Lil worries about all of them being taken advantage of by some of the people who turn up at their door. Nevertheless, Dewey is resolved to do what's best for the family and the Bike Barn, and that includes solving the mystery of who is taking the parts and stealing bikes. However, the mystery has the capacity to put them all in danger, and it takes the family and their friends working together to put things right. The characters in this story are well-developed and their reactions to the various challenges they face very real; this book should be a favorite with younger readers.

This book was published in earlier this year by Katherine Tegen Books. It's target audience are those readers aged 10-14. The ISBN: 978-0-06-169229-1





## 2009-2010 AETA Teachers of Excellence

In 2010, the newly formed AETA Executive Board Awards Subcommittee reviewed and revised the nomination process for both the AETA High School Teacher of Excellence Award and the AETA Middle School Teacher of Excellence Award. We have placed nomination forms for this year's teacher of excellence awards on the AETA website and are encouraging anyone who reads this newsletter whether they be administrators, faculty, or staff to nominate an English teacher they believe deserves recognition for outstanding work in the field. Because we are hoping to increase awareness of the AETA and all the organization has to offer, all English teachers at the high school or middle school are eligible for nomination: AETA membership is not requisite for the award. Additionally, if you are interested in serving on this board, please contact us.

Recipients of 2010 AETA High School Teacher of Excellence Award and the AETA Middle School Teacher of Excellence Award will be announced at the fall conference. Also to be honored at the fall conference will be the recipients of the 2009 awards: Developing Leader Award, Distinguished Service Award and teacher of excellence awards. Please join us in honoring all these amazing teachers!

—Siiri Granfelt Julian, Notre Dame Prep

### HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR: KATHY DEAKIN



I graduated from NAU in 1998 and have taught 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade English. I began teaching at Highland High School in Gilbert, and taught at Basha High School in Chandler through last May. I received my National Board Certification in May, 2003 and just completed my PhD in English Education in May, 2010. Currently, I reside in Firestone, Co with my husband, Mike, and my two children Andrew and Madelyn. I am an Assistant Professor of English at Metro State College of Denver...yippee! My passion is teaching writing and I am very excited to work with future English teachers.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR: RENEE VAHLING RUDE

Renee Rude is a graduate of NAU with a BS in English Education and a Masters in Educational Leadership. She has taught in Gilbert and Mesa School Districts and is currently in her 9th year of teaching. Daughter to a Montessori teacher, Renee was raised in a teaching environment. She enjoys working with a talented staff at Poston Junior High in Mesa where she teaches 9th grade AA and 7th grade English. She enjoys reading young adult literature with her students and can be found hiking Havasupai each year.

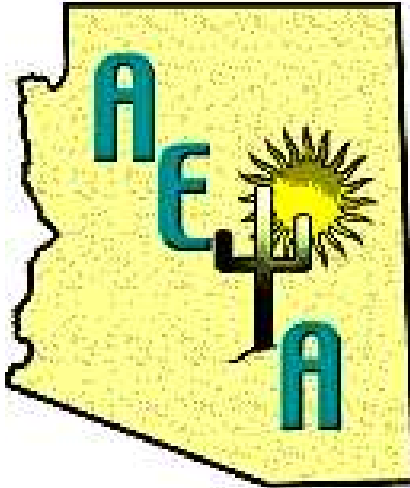


### DEVELOPING LEADER: BILLY GERCHICK



As honors English educator, journalism advisor, yearbook advisor, JV baseball coach and Ping Pong Club sponsor, Billy continues teaching in his eighth year at Coronado High School, a title I school in Scottsdale, Arizona. In 2006 he entered Arizona State University's M.A. English program with a Rhetoric and Composition concentration. This past May, under the guidance of Dr. Duane Roen, Dr. Elenore Long, and Dr. James Gee, he completed his thesis "Place Exploration: Affinity-Based Media Convergence through a High School Journalism Production." Now, he's looking to further explore the positive impact that secondary journalism staffs can have on entire school learning communities, particularly through Facebook.

# AETA 2010 Conference Registration Form



Register and Pay online at <http://www.asu.edu/aeta/>

Pre-register by September 2, 2010 to ensure that conference materials and meals are available for you. All conference participants and presenters are responsible for conference fees. Submit fees online with PayPal at [www.asu.edu/aeta](http://www.asu.edu/aeta) or mail this form and your check or purchase order payable to AETA to:

Jean Boreen, AETA Executive Secretary  
1285 N. Wakonda St.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

**STUDENT REGISTRATION** Full Conference Package---\$45 \_\_\_\_\_  
(meals, student registration, membership dues)

**MEMBER REGISTRATION** Full Conference Package---\$135 \_\_\_\_\_  
(meals, registration, membership dues)

**A LA CARTE**

AETA Membership 10-11	Educator, new or renewed---\$40	_____
Conference Package A	All Friday & Saturday Activities---\$140	_____
Conference Package B	Friday Only---\$70	_____
Conference Package C	Saturday Only---\$110	_____

**LATE REGISTRATION** (after 09/02) add \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FEES: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_,

(Last Name First Name)

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(Street and Apt. Number)

\_\_\_\_\_ **ALT. PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(City, State, Zip) (Indicate Work or Cell)

**E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL AFFILIATION/INSTITUTION** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALT. E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate level of service or interest:  Elementary  Middle/Junior High  High School  College/Uni

Participation in Conference:  Presenter  Participant  AETA Executive Member

Are you interested in joining the AETA board? **YES/NO**

## INTERNET CONNECTIONS



Following are some Web links to help you connect — with other teachers, students, and the larger education community.

What are your favorite Internet sites and resources? Send us your links so we can share them with other AETA members.

Thanks to Shannon Griffith of Sonoran Trails Middle School for these links!

Visuwords produces a word map diagram that shows how words associate.  
<http://www.visuwords.com/>

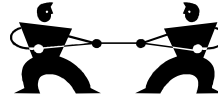
Here is a cool one for graphic organizers:  
ExplorATree - <http://www.exploratree.org.uk/>

Dabbleboard- <http://www.dabbleboard.com/>

This one is a good mind mapping site:  
Mindomo- <http://www.mindomo.com/>

I love this one for creating and studying with flashcards:  
Quizlet- <http://quizlet.com><<http://quizlet.com/>>

This is a great one for picking out vocabulary words from reading text:  
VocabGrabber- <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/vocabgrabber/>



## AETA CONNECTIONS STAFF

David Pegram, *Connections* Co-Editor  
Arizona State University  
PO Box 870302  
Tempe, AZ 85287-0302  
  
Phone: 480-965-3105  
Fax: 480-965-0605  
Email: [David.Pegram@asu.edu](mailto:David.Pegram@asu.edu)

Kelly O'Rourke, *Connections* Co-Editor  
Sonoran Trails Middle School  
PO Box 426  
Cave Creek, AZ 85327  
  
Phone: 480-272.8600  
Fax: 480-272.8699  
Email: [korourke@ccusd93.org](mailto:korourke@ccusd93.org)

Siri Granfelt Julian, *Connections* Co-Editor  
Notre Dame Preparatory  
9701 E. Bell Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260-2125  
Phone: 480-634-8200  
Fax: 480-634-8299  
E-mail: [sjulian@notredamepreparatory.org](mailto:sjulian@notredamepreparatory.org)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.PUBLIC.ASU.EDU/~JBLASIN/AETA/](http://www.public.asu.edu/~jblasin/aeta/)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Tucson, Arizona  
Permit No. 414

ARIZONA ENGLISH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Jean Boreen  
1285 N. Wakonda St.  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

