



# Spotlight

Volume LXVI, No. 1  
ILA Honor Council - #35575  
October 2023

## President's Message

Hi NFRC Members,

Fall is here and I hope you all have a chance to enjoy the wonderful activities that accompany this season here in Western New York. This fall, NFRC will present a community literacy event. For the past few years in the fall, we've offered professional development for teachers through our book club, but this year, we will hold a community event on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

We will be part of the Saturday Academy at Hamlin Park School from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. by presenting literacy activities to children and their families. We hope to pass out a free book to each child, read aloud to the children, and do a literacy activity to engage the children and parents.

As an NFRC member, you are invited to join us in this event by volunteering just one hour of your time (e.g., 10-11, 11-12, or 12-1:00). Please consider a donation of your time because we need member participation to make this event a success. If you can volunteer 1 hour of your time, please sign up [here](#).

Also this fall, NYSRA's 56<sup>th</sup> annual conference, *Better Together, Paths Forward in Literacy, Learning, and Hope*, will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> in Rochester. There will be a pre-conference event on the evening of Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, including a Keynote by Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Riz. On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, the conference will feature the keynote speaker Kwame Alexander and multiple breakout sessions, including one from NFRC's Dr. John Strong. To register for the conference, go online to: <https://www.nysreading.org/event-5297315>.

Wishing you a wonderful fall,  
Ashlee Campbell  
2022-2023 President, Niagara Frontier Reading Council



Ashlee Campbell

**NYSRA 56TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023** Better Together: Paths Forward in Literacy, Learning, and Hope

**NOVEMBER 9-10**  
**HYATT REGENCY**  
**ROCHESTER NY**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Kwame Alexander**  
Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, producer and #1 New York Times bestselling author of 39 books, including *Why Fathers Cry at Night*, *An American Story*, *The Door of No Return*, *Becoming Muhammad Ali* (co-authored with James Patterson), *Rebound*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious UK Carnegie Medal, and *The Undeclared*, the National Book Award nominee, Newbery Honor, and Caldecott Medal-winning picture book illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

**REGISTER TODAY!** <https://www.nysreading.org/event-5297315>  
**PANELIST: Literacy Researchers' Response to the NPR Podcast "Sold a Story"**

   
**Timothy Shanahan**  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus,  
University of Illinois, Chicago

   
**John Strong**  
Assistant Professor of Literacy  
Education, SUNY at Buffalo

   
**Donna Scanlon**  
Professor Emeritus  
Literacy Teaching & Learning  
SUNY at Albany

   
**Tyana Velazquez-Smith**  
Assistant Vice President for  
Education, The Strong,  
National Museum of Play

# NYSRA 56TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023



NOVEMBER 9-10 | HYATT REGENCY ROCHESTER NY

**BETTER TOGETHER**  
PATHS FORWARD IN LITERACY,  
LEARNING, AND HOPE

## Featured Speakers



Timothy Shanahan



John Strong



Donna Scanlon



Jayne Lammers



Debbie Reese



Charlie Temple



Carl Anderson



Laura Ascenzi-Moreno



Kate Roberts



Kesha James



Shane Weingand

REGISTER TODAY! <https://www.nysreading.org/event-5297315>

NEW YORK STATE READING ASSOCIATION (NYSRA) CONFERENCE



## Habitat for Humanity

NFRC continues to partner with Habitat for Humanity to provide books and bookcases to families receiving a Habitat for Humanity house. This is a wonderful partnership that allows NFRC to give new books and a new bookcase to each family as they move into their new home. Everyone at NFRC loves books and we want all children to have access to books, not only at school and the library, but at their home.

In 2022-2023, NFRC donated books, bookcases, and book baskets to 7 families (12 children total). So far this year, NFRC has donated books and a bookcase for 5 more families in late July, early August, and September 2023. There are typically one to two house dedications each month. Thank you to Medaille college for donating tons of “like new” books from their reading center to give to families! NFRC continues to purchase the bookcases for this partnership.

Ashlee Campbell serves as the Habitat for Humanity liaison for the 2023-2024 year. Questions or donations, please contact Ashlee Campbell ([ashleeb@buffalo.edu](mailto:ashleeb@buffalo.edu)).

## NFRC Award Winners!

The NFRC Service to Reading Award for 2023 goes to Dr. John Strong. He is the current NFRC Treasurer since fall of 2020. He joined NFRC in January 2020. He was involved in the fall of 2022 with the organization of a successful NFRC Book Discussion Group. Also during the fall of 2022, he represented the NFRC at a table event at a WNY Fall literacy conference. He actively supports NFRC through his commitment to offer high quality programming and his commitment to promote the mission of NFRC. Congratulations, Dr. John Strong!

The NFRC Certificate of Recognition for 2023 goes to Meg Howe. She is the owner of Alice, Ever After Bookstore on 295 Parkside Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214. She is an independent bookstore owner and is dynamic and enthusiastic plus extremely energetic and supports the community through books and reading. Congratulations, Meg Howe!

Renee Andrzejewski





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## **!!NFRC 2023-2024 Officers & Board Members!!**

### **Officers 2023-2024**

President - Ashlee Campbell  
Past President - Heidi Clarke  
Vice President for Programming – (Currently functioning as a committee)  
Secretary - Jack Agugliaro  
Treasurer - Dr. John Strong  
Director of Membership - Carol Bush  
Finance/Budget Chair – (Vacant)  
Audit Chair – (Vacant)

### **Board Members for 2022-2024**

1. Judy Bradbury
2. Patty Oliphant
3. Christina King
4. Maria Nader

### **Board Members 2023 - 2025**

1. Renee Andrzejewski
2. Lisa Boyd
3. Mariah Kramer
4. Kirsten Burke Smith

### **Chairperson Positions**

Editor of Spotlight- Jack Agugliaro  
Web Designer & Editor- Mary Beth Scumaci  
Social Media Chair- Blythe Anderson  
Council Awards Chair- Renee Andrzejewski  
Professional Development Co-Chair- Judy Bradbury  
Outreach Co-Chair - Judy Bradbury to oversee Little Free Libraries project  
CTLE Chair/ Mini Grants Chair - Patricia Oliphant  
Nominating Chair - Heidi Clarke  
Liaison Chair- Jack Agugliaro

# Join N|FRC

NIAGARA FRONTIER READING COUNCIL

Become part of a community dedicated to promoting literacy education, encouraging professional development, and providing community service to the WNY area.



## NFRC members include

Educators  
Administrators  
Parents  
Education Students  
Library Media Specialists  
Community Members

Register at

<https://www.thenfrc.org/>

## Membership Includes

- Complimentary membership to the New York State Reading Association (NYSRA)
- opportunity to attend other NYSRA events
- Reduced pricing for NFRC events
- Reduced registration for NYSRA's annual conference
- Digital newsletters from NFRC and NYSRA
- PD/CTLE credits
- Professional Book Discussion Group
- Professional Networking

Questions- contact Ashlee  
[ashleeb@buffalo.edu](mailto:ashleeb@buffalo.edu)



**About the NFRC:**

- We are non-profit educational organization chartered by The International Literacy Association since 1958.
- We are dedicated to the professional development and enhancement of literacy in our community.
- We are involved in professional issues affecting literacy.

**NFRC Mission:**

Our mission is to promote literacy education, encourage professional development, and provide community service, which fosters literacy within Western New York. We hope to instill a passion for lifelong learning and encourage readers to build a vision of the future.

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