



Minnesota Writing and English Conference

Changing the Narrative: Empowering Stories

Thursday, April 7 and Friday, April 8, 2022



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

The Minnesota Humanities Center

987 Ivy Ave E.

St Paul, MN 55106



MnWE 2022

“Changing the Narrative: Empowering Stories”

Minnesota Writing & English (www.MnWE.org) is partnering with the Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) for our 2022 conference, so this year’s theme, “Changing the Narrative: Empowering Stories,” spotlights the Humanities. Whether we teach Composition, Literature, or Creative Writing—or we serve students in tutoring centers or libraries—stories frame student and teacher identities, infuse the texts we explore, and inspire our students' and our own writing.

Recent events—from the pandemic and its economic dislocations, social injustices and responses to them, to disruptions of our sense of America in both domestic and foreign arenas—we are compelled to reassess our controlling cultural narratives and forge new stories to shape paths forward. How are you and your students and/or colleagues transforming personal, professional, or communal narratives?

Last year’s online-only conference was a great success. We’d like to repeat that and also enjoy the opportunities of meeting in a physical space. As a result, we are organizing a conference that is both online and in-person. In addition, we plan on using, once again, the discussion-intensive roundtable breakouts and plenaries that worked so well last year.

Welcome to MnWE 2022! To register, go to [Registration](#).

– The Minnesota Writing and English Volunteer Committee

David Beard, UMD Advisor, University of Minnesota-Duluth
Heidi Burns, Web & Docs Coordinator, Minn. State University-Mankato
Mary Ellen Daniloff-Merrill, SMSU Advisor, Southwest Minn. State Univ.
Casey DeMarais, 2022 Site Coordinator, Minn. Humanities Center
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Donald Ross, Co-Founder and UMN Advisor, University of Minnesota
Kako Shintani, International Co-Leader, University of Leeds
Larry Sklaney, Conference & Cost Center Coordinator, Century College
Mary Taris, Equity Co-Leader, Strive Community Publishing
MnWE Journal Editorial Brd.: David Beard, Yanmei Jiang, & Mary Taris

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MnWE.org

Minnesota Writing & English
A Consortium of Upper Midwest Colleges & Universities

In Memoriam

Sarah Spleiss teaches 10th-grade English at Minneapolis' North High. Her academically and athletically gifted student Deshaun Hill recently was shot to death very near the school by an older white man falsely accusing Deshaun of stealing a cellphone. She will read her poem at the end of MnWE's Friday lunch.

"Boy With The Bright Smile"

by Sarah Spleiss, MFA

Tell me how to move on
his bright beautiful face the ghost
looming over those that lost him
Tell me what they can learn now
when life has violently interrupted
their innocence
Tell me how my two arms
can be enough
when they only stretch so far
Tell me how to erase that porcelain
smile from their memories
every second hour
Tell me how to honor
the truth
not let him be defined by trauma
Tell me how much longer
privilege gets to
keep controlling the narrative
Tell me why
because the how
makes no sense
And my heart keeps breaking

© 2022 by Sarah Spleiss. Printed here by permission

The following for others who died appears in the beginning of We Are Meant to Rise: Voices for Justice from Minneapolis to the World edited by Carolyn Holbrook and David Mura, as featured in Thursday's Plenary.

This book is dedicated to the memories of George Floyd, Philando Castile, Jamar Clark, Dolal Idd, Brandon Laducer, Fong Lee, Duy Ngo, Daunte Wright, and all other beloved BIPOC men, women, and children whose lives were lost to police violence in the State of Minnesota and beyond.

Special dedication to Darnella Frazier, the seventeen-year-old whose courageous recording of the murder of George Floyd changed the world.

MnWE respectfully adds two more names of BIPOC people whose lives were lost to police violence in Minnesota since the publication of *We Are Meant to Rise*: Amir Locke and Winston "Boogie" Smith.

PRESENTER GUIDELINES FOR MnWE

Thank you for presenting at MnWE 2022! Please help us make our *first hybrid* conference (simultaneously online and in person at most events) feel like one unified gathering, not parallel real and virtual world meetings, and share your time at the microphone so that everyone has an enjoyable experience.

Information for *All* Presenters

Breakout Session Format

MnWE Breakouts are “roundtables.” Instead of long presentations followed by hurried questions and comments at the end of the 75-minute session, we want to bring more voices into the conversation sooner, including members of the audience. Each presenter speaks for 5-7 minutes (if there are only three presenters, each may speak for 10 minutes), and then at least the last half of the session will be Q&A between and among presenters and audience.

Room Host

A Room Host from the MnWE Committee will help start and end the session on time, facilitate smooth interaction between face-to-face and online ZOOM participants, and keep an eye on the clock, on the ZOOM chat, and on raised ZOOM hands. The Room Host will enable ZOOM’s auto-transcription (closed captioning) so everyone can follow the discussion better, but please speak up so your voice reaches all participants and alert the Room Host if you are having trouble hearing either F2F or online contributors to the conversation. Large monitors will display the ZOOM session in the Minnesota Humanities Center breakout rooms, so F2F attendees do *not* need to log in to ZOOM. Note: If you DO log in to ZOOM from the session room at MHC, you must

(1) MUTE your microphone and (2) turn OFF your computer’s volume to avoid sonic feedback.

Security

You will be emailed a registrants-only version of the program with links to ZOOM sessions and also receive a password so you can access that program through our website, www.MnWE.org. Please do *not* share that program or that password with anyone, *especially by social media* or on a website, and we will avoid security issues such as ZOOM raiding/bombing. Only *registered* attendees may access the links.

Information for *Online* Presenters

Before the Conference

Update your Zoom Profile with a current picture of you. If you wish, you can update your screen name and add your school or other affiliation. Please make your natural or virtual ZOOM background *less* interesting than your words and ideas!

Find and test your breakout session link in the online program to make sure you have access (you must register for the conference to get those ZOOM links).

On the Day of the Conference

Minimize potential interruptions (ry, even your adorable pets) and silence your desk notifications.

Use headphones with a built-in mic if possible.

Show up a few minutes early at the designated Zoom link for your breakout session and introduce yourself as a presenter to the Room Host, who will be your Zoom Host as well.

Hold your portion of the presentation to 5-7 minutes.

In the Q&A part of the session, be prepared to respond to participants’ and other presenters’ questions and have your own questions ready to ask. If your audience has no more questions, ask your other participants questions.

Avoid talking over the other presenters. Mute your mic when it is not your turn to speak.

Have fun exchanging views on this topic you all care about!

SCHEDULE OF THURSDAY EVENTS

Thursday, April 7

10:00-10:30 am

MnWE Welcome

Larry Sklaney, Conference Coordinator; Richard Jewell, General Coordinator

MnWE Journal, Yanmei Jiang

Poem by student Michaela Day

The Commons—[Zoom Link](#)

10:30-11:45 am

Plenary: *We Are Meant to Rise: Voices for Justice* Authors

Kevin Lindsey, Minnesota Humanities Center

Carolyn Holbrook, author

David Mura, author

The Commons—[Zoom Link](#)

12:00-1:00 pm

Lunch

1:15-2:30 pm

Breakout Session A

See next pages for session details.

2:45-4:00 pm

Breakout Session B

See next pages for session details.

4:10-5:00 pm

Walking Tour of St. Paul Changsha China Friendship Garden

5:00-6:00 pm

Dinner at the Minnesota Humanities Center

For questions or technology help, please call
Gordy Pueschner at 651-276-4786.

PLENARY: *WE ARE MEANT TO RISE: VOICES FOR JUSTICE* AUTHORS

Thursday, April 7, 10:30-11:45 am, The Commons

Sponsored by Minnesota Humanities Center

Do you believe stories frame identities, infuse the texts we explore, and inspire our students' and our own writing? Join Kevin Lindsey, CEO of MHC as he hosts a conversation with Carolyn Holbrook and David Mura about their new anthology, *We Are Meant to Rise: Voices for Justice from Minneapolis to the World*.

This brilliant and rich gathering of voices on the American experience of this past year and beyond, from Indigenous writers and writers of color from Minnesota, not only provides valued witness to our present but also speaks to our collective future. This collection of stories is an ideal lens to focus pressing themes central to this year's conference. Their conversation will include how dominant cultural narratives about race, gender, or class impact teaching and relationships with students, how educators navigate these dominant narratives, and how educators may question and resist persistent cultural narratives that reproduce inequality in the classroom.

"For readers, this anthology of Minnesota writers of color and Indigenous writers will serve many things. A presentation of the growing diversity of Minnesota and of the many voices great within us. A series of lens on the American experience. A bouquet of wordsmiths and thinkers, memorialists and novelists, poets and activists." ~ David Mura

Don't miss this conversation between Kevin, Carolyn, and David. It will be an engaging and thought-provoking opening to the 2022 conference.

Join via Zoom—[Zoom Link](#)



Kevin Lindsey, MHC CEO



Carolyn Holbrook, Coauthor



David Mura, Coauthor

BREAKOUT SESSION A

Thursday, April 7, 1:15-2:30 pm

1. Storytelling in the Classroom

Molly Ubbesen, University of Minnesota Rochester
Darcie Rives-East, Augustana University
Daniel Gerling, Augustana University

The Staff Room—[Zoom Link](#)

2. Interdisciplinary Writing Classrooms

Mike Reynolds, Hamline University
Ryan Eichberger, St. Olaf College
Jonathon Heide, North Central University
Michelle Filkins and Danielle Hinrichs, Metropolitan State University

The Ivy Room—[Zoom Link](#)

3. Nature and Creative Writing: The Finding Refuge Project

Kevin Zepper, Minnesota State University Moorhead
Travis Dolence, Minnesota State University Moorhead
Tonja J. Hansen, Minnesota State University Moorhead

The Board Room—[Zoom Link](#)

4. Student Voices and Student Lives in the Classroom

Ethan Voss and Cody Bursch, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Caleb Klitzke, Century College
Alyssa Adkins, Saint Paul College
Peng Nelson, City of Lakes Waldorf School

The Library—[Zoom Link](#)

5. Antiracism in the Classroom: Professional Development for Educators

Lee Fisher, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Ellie Roscher, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Kevin Lally, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

The Commons—[Zoom Link](#)

BREAKOUT SESSION B

Thursday, April 7, 2:45-4:00 pm

1. Pedagogy and Professional Development

Leni Marshall and Kate Thomas, University of Wisconsin—Stout
Leslie Werden, Morningside University

The Staff Room—[Zoom Link](#)

2. Workshop: Rev Up Your Resilience: Five Simple Steps You Can Try Today

Pam Whitfield, Rochester Community and Technical College

The Ivy Room—[Zoom Link](#)

3. Why Won't They Just Write Grammatically?: Writing Assessment and Social Justice

Cheryl Caesar, Michigan State University
Joyce Meier, Michigan State University
Juhua Huang, Michigan State University
Apichaya Thaneerat, Michigan State University
Key Chimrak, Michigan State University

The Board Room—[Zoom Link](#)

4. Racial Affinity Spaces in K-12 Teacher Professional Development

Lee Fisher, Minnesota Writing Project (University of Minnesota Twin Cities)
Angelina Momanyi, Minnesota Writing Project (North High School, Minneapolis Public Schools)
Jasmine Kar Tang, Minnesota Writing Project (University of Minnesota Twin Cities)

The Library—[Zoom Link](#)

5. The “Critical Role” of Research: Understanding the Activities of Role Playing Gamers in Research

David Beard, University of Minnesota Duluth
Lisa Horton, University of Minnesota Duluth
Kate Rolfe, Lake Superior College

The Commons—[Zoom Link](#)

4:10 – 5:00 pm

Walking Tour of St. Paul Changsha China Friendship Garden with Bill Zajicek

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Dinner and Literature Slam-a-Thon at the Minnesota Humanities Center

Walking Tour

**St Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden
of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters
Liu Ming Yuan | 柳明園 | Lub Vaj Phooj Ywg**

1624 Phalen Drive
St. Paul, MN

The MN China Friendship Garden Society welcomes you to visit the China Friendship Garden at Phalen Park (1.8 acre site) to enjoy the majestic Xiang Jiang Pavilion and elegant Hmong Heritage Wall (completed in 2018) and the West Entrance Archway (completed in 2019).



This is a sister-city collaboration initiated by the MN China Friendship Garden Society, with the City of Saint Paul Department of Parks & Recreation, Payne Phalen Community Council, with the City of Changsha, Hunan Province, the Changsha People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and the Changsha Yanghu Wetland Park (Phalen Park's sister park) in China. Changsha has been the sister-city to the City of St. Paul since 1988.

*Hugh
Manatee*



invites you to

Mn  **WE**

**Dinner and Literature Slam-a-Thon
5:00-6:00 Thursday, April 7**

at the



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

and on
ZOOM

*Want to read something you wrote or something you like?
Email Larry Sklaney to get on the program or just show up!
To help Hugh and his kind, go to www.savethemanatee.org*

Join via Zoom! [Zoom Link](#)

SCHEDULE OF FRIDAY EVENTS

Friday, April 8

9:00-9:30 am

MnWE Welcome

Larry Sklaney, Conference Coordinator

MnWE Journal, Yanmei Jiang

Reading by student Eddie Wu

The Commons— [Zoom Link](#)

9:40-10:55 am

Breakout Session C

See next pages for session details.

11:00-12:15 pm

Plenary: Changing the Narrative through Generational Lenses

Mary Taris, Strive Community Publishing

Donna Gingery, Author

Gregory Pickett, Storyteller

Anthony Walsh, Author

The Commons— [Zoom Link](#)

12:20-1:20 pm

Lunch

Poetry Reading: “Boy With the Bright Smile” by Sarah Spleiss

The Commons— [Zoom Link](#)

1:30-2:45 pm

Breakout Session D

See next pages for session details.

2:55-4:10 pm

Breakout Session E

See next pages for session details.

4:15-5:00 pm

Closing Session & MnWE Meeting (Everyone Welcome)

The Commons— [Zoom Link](#)

5:00-6:00 pm

Order-In Pizza at MHC (Everyone Welcome)

The Commons— [Zoom Link](#)

For questions or technology help, please call
Gordy Pueschner at 651-276-4786.

BREAKOUT SESSION C

Friday, April 8, 9:40-10:55 am

1. Transformative Narratives About Race and Equity

Brooke Boulton, Winona State
Carla-Elaine Johnson, Saint Paul College
Carrie Maynard-Allen, Minnesota State College Southeast
Liz Sills, Northern State University

The Commons— [Zoom Link](#)

2. Using Drama to Teach Writing: Assignments that Engage Students, Build Skills, and Offer Differentiated Instruction Opportunities

Pam Solberg, Western Technical College
Tracy Helixon, Western Technical College
Linda Knox, Western Technical College

The Board Room— [Zoom Link](#)

3. Anti-Racist Writing for Non-Native English Speakers

Elizabethada A. Wright, University of Minnesota Duluth
Kristina Cashin, University of Minnesota Duluth
Asmita Ghimire, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Avesa Rockwell, University of Minnesota Duluth

The Library— [Zoom Link](#)

PLENARY: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE THROUGH GENERATIONAL LENSES

Friday, April 8, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, The Commons

Hosted by Strive Publishing Company

There is power in elevating everyday stories from the Black community to effect change and challenge the way we relate to one another across cultures and identities. Join in this community panel discussion with Mary Taris, Donna Gingery, Gregory Pickett, and Anthony Walsh. Listen to their stories told in their own ways, representing lived experiences across the Baby Boomers, Generation X, and the Millennial Generations.

Just showing up for a panel discussion creates space to connect, break down stereotypes, and share important life lessons, values, and hope for Generation Z, Generation Alpha, and generations to come. This is an opportunity to bring education, culture, and community together in an atmosphere of learning and acceptance, where we can be our authentic selves and face the challenges of educating the next generations in a way that honors each student's full identity.

– *“The best contribution Strive Publishing can make in the children’s book publishing industry is to focus on African American authors.” — K. T. Horning, Cooperative Children’s Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

Join Via Zoom—[Zoom Link](#)



Mary Taris, Strive Publishing



Donna Gingery, Educator



Gregory Pickett, Storyteller



Anthony Walsh, Author

BREAKOUT SESSION D

Friday, April 8, 1:30-2:45 pm

1. Literature and the Humanities

Lianna Farber, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Eric Baker, Metropolitan State University
Katherine (Kassy) Skoretz, Anoka Ramsey Community College
Noah R. Mincheff, South Dakota State University

The Ivy Room— [Zoom Link](#)

Transforming Writing Pedagogies

Laura McCartan, Metropolitan State University
Heather Adamson, Southeast Technical College
Theresa FitzPatrick, Concordia University, St. Paul

The Board Room— [Zoom Link](#)

2. Community Storytelling

Ryuto Hashimoto, Minnesota State Mankato
David Engen, Minnesota State Mankato
Skylar Guzman, Minnesota State Mankato
Marla Wagner, Minnesota State Mankato
Faith Bergevin, Minnesota State Mankato
Rekereke Evuleocha, Minnesota State Mankato
Almilcar Valdez, Minnesota State Mankato

The Library— [Zoom Link](#)

3. Creative Writing BIPOC Mentorship

Michael Yer Vang, Century College
Esper Garcia, North Hennepin Community College
Priscilla Mayowa, North Hennepin Community College
Rachel Kraus, Normandale Community College
Paige Riehl, Anoka Ramsey Community College
Brian Baumgart, North Hennepin Community College

The Commons— [Zoom Link](#)

BREAKOUT SESSION E

Friday, April 8, 2:55-4:10 pm

1. Creativity in the Writing Classroom

Mikayla Davis, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Mialisa Moline, University of Wisconsin—River Falls
Richard Jewell, MnWE Committee

The Ivy Room — [Zoom Link](#)

2. Rhetorical Approaches

Cynthia Pope, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Ben Harley, Northern State University
Susan Perala-Dewey, University of Minnesota Duluth
Melanie Cashin and KatieRose Kimball, Carleton College

The Board Room — [Zoom Link](#)

3. Digital Storytelling: The Social and Literacy Benefits in a Classroom Setting for Students with Exceptionalities

Brent Daigle, Loras College
Ally Berryman, Loras College
Kalie Boigenzahn, Loras College
Bella Edminster, Loras College
Caitlin Keane, Loras College
Dani Montocchio, Loras College
Nina Schiro, Loras College
Caitlin Scopa, Loras College
Caitlin Strauser, Loras College

The Library — [Zoom Link](#)

4. Critical Literacy and Deep Learning in a Destabilized World

Patrick Bruch, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Thomas Reynolds, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Mark Brenden, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

The Commons — [Zoom Link](#)

4:15-5:00 pm
MnWE Closing Session
and Meeting
(Everyone Welcome)

The Commons—[Zoom Link](#)

5:00-6:00 pm
Order-In Pizza
at the MHC
(Everyone Welcome)

The Commons—[Zoom Link](#)

SHORT EDITION
SHORT STORY DISPENSER

STORIES

CONNECT US

Strive Publishing is partnering with various organizations to place Short Story Dispensers across Minneapolis. Now the dispenser is at Open Book! Our goal with this program is to strengthen communities, promote literacy, and uplift diversity in voices.

SHARE
YOUR STORY!

Showcase your writing and partner with us by submitting a short story. Scan QR code to submit.



WWW.STRIVEPUBLISHING.COM



Journal

Mission for Year One of *MnWE Journal*

For the Members of MnWE

We seek to publish and promote presentations at the MnWE conference.

For the Community of Educators

We seek to catalyze conversations about locally produced resources usable in the K-12, CC and University Classroom that will both

- (a) center BIPOC voices in the class and
- (b) encourage us to hear BIPOC voices among our students.

For our first issue, we seek:

1. **Papers** summarizing and developing presentations at the 2022 MnWE conference. At author's request, these may be anonymously peer-reviewed.
2. **Papers or brief articles** submitted as part of conversations about locally produced resources that center BIPOC voices. At author's request, these may be anonymously peer-reviewed.
3. **Reviews** of locally produced materials and resources as part of these conversations. These will be reviewed by the editorial team.
4. **Essays by and interviews with** local producers of materials that foreground BIPOC voices as part of these conversations. These will be reviewed by the editorial team.
5. Where possible, **work, interviews, and other contributions** by students as part of these conversations. These will be reviewed by the editorial team.

The Team

The editorial team consists of academics and publishers from across Minnesota: Mary Taris (of Strive Publishing), Yanmei Jiang (of Century College), and David Beard (of University of Minnesota Duluth)

The Plan

The journal will be published online once per year.

The Timeline

Due date for submissions – June 1, 2022
Send to volunteer reviewers by June 15, 2022
Receive from readers by August 1, 2022
Publish by November, 2022.

Questions and Submissions

Please email mnwejournal@gmail.com

Join Us
Next
Year!!!

Minnesota Writing and English Conference

March 31 and April 1, 2023

Atwood Memorial Center

Saint Cloud State University



MnWE is "Minnesota Writing and English," a consortium of Upper Midwest college and university writing and English faculty and staff centered in Minnesota. Our annual two-day conference each spring attracts up to 200 attendees, and we send the bi-monthly "MnWE News" by email to over 2500 members in both Minnesota and around the world.

Find out more at www.mnweconference.com