



*Long Island Language Arts Council
Nassau Reading Council
2009 Spring Conference - April 24, 2009
Believing in Literacy*

Keynote Speakers: Irene Fountas & Kwame Alexander

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November 6, 2008

Dear Colleague:

On Friday, April 24, 2009, LILAC and NRC will host our annual spring conference at the Melville Marriott. We are very excited to announce our conference title and keynote speakers for this year:

BELIEVING IN LITERACY

Irene Fountas: Guided Reading expert and professor at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Irene Fountas has extensive experience as a classroom teacher, language arts specialist, and consultant in school districts across the nation and abroad. Currently, she directs field-based literacy research projects and continues to publish resources for comprehensive literacy programs including guided reading resource guides. With her coauthor Gay Su Pinnell, she has written *Guided Reading: Good First Teaching for All Children*; *Guided Readers and Writers Grades 3-6: Teaching Comprehension, Genre and Content Literacy*; *Word Matters: Teaching Phonics and Spelling in the Reading/Writing Classroom*; and *Phonics Lessons: Letters, Words and How They Work* (for kindergarten, grade one, and grade two). She is the recipient of the Greater Boston Council and the International Reading Association's Celebrate Literacy Award.

Kwame Alexander: Poet, publisher, award-winning producer of literary programs, and dubbed a "phenom" in the poetry world by *The Charleston (SC) City Paper*, Kwame Alexander has written for television, the stage, and authored ten books including the best-selling *Do The Write Thing: 7 Steps to Publishing Success*, *Dancing Naked on the Floor: poems and essays*, *Tough Love: The Life and Death of Tupac Shakur*, and most recently a young adult title, *Crush: Love Poems*. He speaks, and conducts writing/publishing workshops at schools and conferences throughout the country. Alexander resides in the Washington, DC area, where he produced the annual *Capital BookFest* presented by The Washington Post, and currently serves as the President of Book-in-a-Day, a literacy program that teaches and inspires youth in the writing and publishing process. The Kwame Alexander Papers, a collection of his writings, correspondence, and other professional and personal documents is held at the George Washington University Gelman Library.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to share best practices, inspiring ideas, and your passion for English language arts and reading with your colleagues across Long Island.

We invite you to consider presenting a workshop either directly related to the theme or on another, timely topic. There will be 22 workshops, spanning grades K-12. We will make every effort to choose a variety of workshops to present the most appealing choices for conference attendees at all levels of instruction.

The registration fee for each presenter will be the discounted fee of \$40, rather than the regular conference fee of \$100 (or \$80 with early registration). This discounted fee will be for up to two presenters per workshop; additional presenters must pay the \$100 fee. Also, please be aware that at least one presenter per workshop must be a current member of either LILAC or NRC.

In anticipation of very busy schedules in January and February due to ELA 3-8 and Regents testing and scoring, we hope to accomplish as much of our conference planning in the early winter as possible. **Please send us your workshop proposal by December 30, 2008.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 631-898-0640 or anja1@optonline.net.

Sincerely,
Anja Groth
Workshop Chair