

# VAASL 2019 CONFERENCE



## CONFERENCE VENUE



Built in 1882, the Tudor-style Hotel Roanoke is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been inducted into the Historic Hotels of America™ organization, and is a member of the International Association of Conference Centers. The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center is located in the Gainsboro neighborhood of Roanoke, Virginia. Located in the heart of downtown Roanoke and Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, this beautifully restored Tudor-style hotel offers 63,000 sq. ft. of versatile event space. <http://www.hotelroanoke.com/>

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### Thursday General Session

**Gina Seymour** is the library media specialist at Islip High School Library on Long Island, NY. She has a Masters in Library Science from Queens College and a Masters in Education (Instructional Technology) from NYIT where she graduated with distinction and also received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Technology. In 2017 Gina received the Library Journal Mover & Shaker Change Agent award and in 2019 was named an [AASL Social Media Superstar Finalist](#) in the Social Justice Defender category. She is the author of [Makers with a Cause: Creative Service Projects for Library Youth](#) and a chapter on inclusive makerspaces in [School Library Makerspaces in Action](#) (2018). Gina will also be presenting a concurrent session and signing her book.

Follow Gina on twitter at [@ginaseymour](#) (and [@IslipHSLibrary](#)) or on Facebook at [IslipHighSchoolLibrary](#).



### Friday General Session

**Dr. Christopher Harris** is the Director of the School Library System for the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, an educational services agency supporting the libraries of 22 small, rural districts in Western NY. A participant in the first American Library Association Emerging Leaders program in 2007, Christopher was honored as a Library Journal Mover and Shaker in 2008. Since then he has been involved with the ALA Office of Information Technology Policy (OITP) and ALA ebook and digital content efforts. Dr. Harris received his EdD from St. John Fisher College in 2018 for dissertation research on helping teachers become more confident teaching computer science. Christopher also has been working on a series of books on gaming and coding for Rosen Publishing. In addition to speaking on Friday afternoon, Christopher will be presenting a concurrent session and signing his books after Friday's General Session.

Follow Christopher on Twitter [@ifthenchris](#).

## OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS

### Exhibit Hall Grand Opening (Thursday)



A ribbon cutting kicks off the conference with a festive spirit. Continental Breakfast will be served in the Exhibit Hall.

### President's Reception (Thursday)



Join us in the Exhibit Hall for this complimentary reception to celebrate our exhibitors and participants. By signing up for this reception you will receive a complimentary drink ticket in your registration packet.

### “Cookies and Milk” with Mr. Schu Sponsored by Scholastic Book Fairs (Thursday)\*



Join us for “Cookies and Milk” with Mr Schu. John Schu (AKA Mr. Schu) is a blogger, a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, and the Ambassador of School Libraries for Scholastic Book Fairs. Every day is a giant book party for this teacher-librarian! Participants will enjoy cookies and milk while listening to bedtime stories told by Mr. Schu.

Follow Mr. Schu on Twitter [@MrSchuReads](https://twitter.com/MrSchuReads)

### Friday Night Awards Banquet with Candace Fleming\*



VAASL is excited to welcome the author Candace Fleming as our guest speaker at the Friday night awards banquet. Candace is the versatile and acclaimed author of more than forty books for children and young adults, including the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize honored *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of the Russian Empire*; Boston Globe/Horn Book Award-winning biography, *The Lincolns*; the bestselling picture book, *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*; the Sibert-Award-winning *Giant Squid*; and the beloved *Boxes for Katje*. She contributed the chapter on Katharine of Aragon to *Fatal Throne*.

This year, attendees will be able to choose between two entrees: *Lemon Rosemary Statler Chicken* (a boneless skin on chicken breast/drumette) with Chablis deglazing sauce and *Garlic Butter Steelhead Trout* (similar to salmon) with tarragon cream. Both entrees will be served with a strawberry spinach salad, savory spinach soufflé, Boursin whipped russet potatoes and Limoncello Cheesecake for dessert. Join us as we celebrate the LOY from each of our regions and recognize our Virginia Librarian of the Year.

### Saturday Breakfast and Author/Illustrator Panel with Rafael Lopez, Allan Wolf and Sandhya Menon\*

The Saturday Breakfast and Author/Illustrator Panel is back again for 2019! Our three special guests represent a variety of global literary crafts including illustrations, novels and poetry. Their life experiences are equally diverse. You won't want to miss these creative people getting to know each other and opening up to us about their crafts.

Prepare yourself for a fun and energetic morning as you get to know our guest speakers:

**Rafael Lopez's** illustrations are bright with colors inspired by growing up in Mexico City. He has illustrated many picture books, including *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson, and *Drum Dream Girl* by Margarita Engle.

Readers of **Sandhya Menon**'s *When Dimple Met Rishi* are anxiously awaiting her next book, *There's Something About Sweetie*. Sandhya writes books that show "the beautiful melting pot I live it" (Menon, 2018. <http://www.sandhyamenon.com/faq/>) and are sure to include an Indian-American main character.

**Allan Wolf** grew up right here in Virginia, just over the mountain in Blacksburg! A poetry slam enthusiast, Allan's newest book of poetry, *The Day the Universe Exploded My Head: Poems to Take You into Space and Back Again* is sure to be a hit with students! Maybe we will convince him to recite one of the thousands of poems he has memorized – poetry slam style, of course.



Rafael Lopez



Allan Wolf



Sandhya Menon

Attendees will be served a delicious breakfast of cage free fluffy scrambled eggs, smoked bacon strips, country sausage, breakfast potatoes, peppers and onion, roasted cherry tomato-asparagus garnish, house-made coffee cake and fresh sliced fruit. A book signing will follow the breakfast.

