

Williamsburg Lodge
November 3-5, 2021



2021 Annual Conference Preview “The Library is the Heart of Love, Literacy, and Learning”

As we have entered a new calendar year, we can certainly say without a doubt that our libraries are the heart of the school. And as we teach our students in new ways and over new means, we know our school librarians are essential to the love, literacy, and learning that is occurring in our schools.

The authors and speakers slated for the 2021 Annual Conference will share with attendees all aspects of the ways to teach and reach your students with love, promote literacy and, of course, enhance learning for all.

Judy Deichman – VAASL 2021 Conference Chair

Wednesday Pre-Conference

You definitely need to plan to arrive on Wednesday for an afternoon of learning at the conference center with three exciting programs.

First, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will bring their state-of-the art traveling museum and art studio. Part traveling museum and part art studio, the VMFA Artmobile combines real artwork with interactive components. It will be open beginning at 2PM for our pre-conference attendees.

Our second event will be a two-hour hands-on session with Fara Faust, the 2018 Computer Science Teacher of the Year and a trained CS First facilitator by CodeVA. She will introduce CS First and show participants how it works and what resources are available. She will also introduce the Scratch interface and a simple introduction to block coding. There will be time to create a CS First project while Fara is there to help and provide support. If you have wanted to integrate coding into your library program but did not know where to start, this is a great opportunity to learn how.



Google CS First
VAASL Pre - Conference Workshop
November 3 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Computer Science and coding is easy when you use CS First. Join us to learn how easy it is to teach your students to code.

- No coding experience needed
- Everything you need is in one location
- Ready to use templates
- Video tutorials

Visit <https://www.vaasl.org/> to register

CodeVA VAASL

Our final event will be a poster presentation of ***Fixer to Fabulous Library Edition***. We will be calling on members to share their pictures and their stories on how they transformed their old library spaces into beautiful new spaces to attract students and staff to the library. The posters will be displayed the entire time of the conference but get an exclusive sneak peek at the Wednesday pre-conference and attend a special reception!

Attention - First Timers!!!!

Just for you, Wednesday evening! A first timer's event to get you ready for the conference. The event begins at 7 PM and will highlight tips and tricks for a successful conference experience.

THURSDAY CONFERENCE EVENTS

President's Breakfast Reception at the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening – Thursday @ 8:00 AM

Jenni Cooper, VAASL's President, is starting Thursday off with a bang and will be offering Mimosas to everyone who attends the President's Breakfast Reception!

Sign up to join us in the Exhibit Hall for this complimentary reception to officially kick-off the 2021 conference.

A Delicious Trio: Literacy, Reading, and The Gingerbread Man at the Thursday Awards Luncheon



For our Thursday Awards Luncheon, we are pleased to be hosting author Laura Murray and illustrator Mike Lowery as our keynote speakers. This dynamic duo, who worked together to create *The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School* series, will share how their work can have an impact on literacy and the love of reading.

Unsurprisingly, Murray's elementary school librarian played a key role in her becoming a reader when she introduced her to the *Dark Is Rising* series, by Susan Cooper. Then, while attending college to earn her teaching degree, she got the writing bug after taking a children's literature course. The former kindergarten teacher now lives with her husband, three children, and dog Roxy in Northern Virginia.

During a 2016 interview with Scholastic's Mr. Schu, Murray said, "School libraries are like a passport. Every time you check out a book, you receive a stamp that beckons you to explore, to travel beyond yourself and your comfort zone . . . and when you close that book and come back home, you are a changed and better person for having taken each journey." To learn more about Murray, visit her at www.lauramurraybooks.com.

Because Murray says she is "good at drawing stick people and that's about it," she relies on Mike Lowery to help bring her characters to life. He became interested in art while spending summers with his grandmother in Tennessee, an amateur artist who encouraged him to create a sketchbook. He has gone on to both write and illustrate numerous books, including *How to be a T. Rex, Prince and Pirate*, and the *Doodle Adventures* and *Junior Genius Guides* series.

A former professor of illustration at the Savannah School of Art and Design in Georgia, Murray now works and lives in New York with his wife and daughter. He also has done illustrations for a host of other publications and organizations, including the *New York Times*, *MacWorld* magazine, and the Atlanta Braves baseball team. You can learn more about him at his website: www.mikelowery.com.

There are now five books in the *Gingerbread Man* series. The first one, *The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School*, won a 2014 Virginia Reader's Choice award and earned a starred review in ALA's *Booklist*

Get Real-ity With Our Thursday Keynote Speaker



Wondering what to do with that MergeCube? Feeling lost in the Metaverse?

Help is on the way in the form of Jaime Donnally, our Thursday Keynote Speaker! Jamie specializes in practical ideas for using augmented, mixed, and virtual reality in the classroom. She is skilled in choosing and customizing immersive technology tools for all learners.

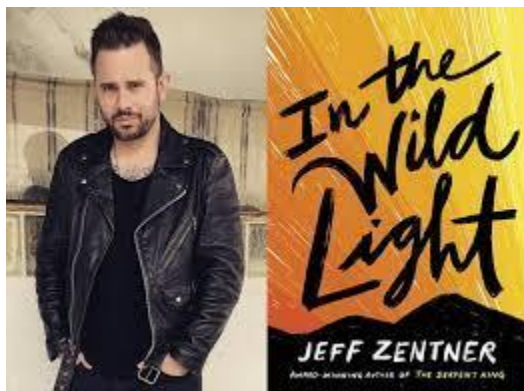
Jamie began her career in education as a math teacher. Her enthusiasm for technology led to a career as an edtech consultant and the opportunity to collaborate with educators and students from around the world.

Jamie is the author of *The Immersive Classroom: Create Customized Learning Experiences with AR/VR* (2021) and *Learning Transported: Augmented, Virtual and Mixed Reality for All Classrooms* (2018). A frequent conference and professional development presenter, she has written for the International Society for Technology in Education, EdSurge, edCircuit, and EdTech Magazine.

You can learn more about Jamie by checking out her blog at ARVRinEDU.com for the #31DaysofARVRinEDU series, or by joining her weekly #ARVRinEDU Twitter chat on Wednesday nights.

FRIDAY CONFERENCE EVENTS

Friday Awards Luncheon w/Author Jeff Zentner



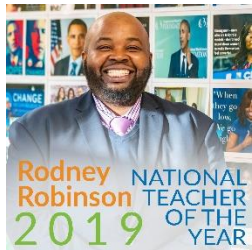
Jeff Zentner is the author of New York Times Notable Book *The Serpent King*, *Goodbye Days*, *Rayne & Delilah's Midnite Matinee*, and his latest, *In*

The Wild Light. He has won the William C. Morris Award, the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, the International Literacy Association Award, and the Westchester Fiction Award. He is a two-time Southern Book Prize finalist, been long listed for the Carnegie Medal and UKLA, and was a finalist for the Indies Choice Award. He was selected as a Publishers Weekly Flying Start and an Indies Introduce pick. His books have been translated into fifteen languages.

Jeff came to writing through music, starting his creative life as a guitarist, and eventually becoming a songwriter. He has released five albums and appeared on recordings with Iggy Pop, Nick Cave, Warren Ellis, Thurston Moore, Debbie Harry, Mark Lanegan, and Lydia Lunch, among others.

He became interested in writing for young adults after volunteering at the Tennessee Teen Rock Camp and Southern Girls Rock Camp. As a kid, his parents would take him to the library and drop him off, where he would read until closing time. He worked at various bookstores through high school and college. He speaks fluent Portuguese, having lived in the Amazon region of Brazil for two years. Jeff now resides in Nashville, TN.

2019 National Teacher of the Year Is Friday's Keynote Speaker



Rodney Robinson, the 2019 National Teacher of the Year, will share insights on the impact of “Library, Love, Literacy, and Learning” as our Friday Keynote Speaker, Nov. 5.

Robinson’s experiences include working with striving learners of the Virgie Binford Education Center, studying the impact of school-to-prison pipelines, and helping to develop new pathways for learner success beyond academics. He has several works published by Yale University that showcase his passion, dedication, and core belief that all students can succeed.

Join us as Rodney shares his experiences on the power of “Library, Love, Literacy, and Learning” for all students.