PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Master of Ceremonies
San Diego County Library Director
José A. Aponte

RECEPTION - 5:30-6:20

ACT 1
• Francisco X. Alarcón
• Arigon Starr
• Gordon Johnson
• Kristy Orona-Ramirez
• Special presentation by ALA President Dr. Loriene Roy
• Tim Tingle

INTERMISSION - 7:30-7:40

ACT 2
• Arigon Starr
• Jorge Telí Argueta
• Janice Gould
• Erika T. Wurth
• Sherman Alexie

THANK YOU

Many Voices, One Nation @ your library® was originally conceived by ALA Past President Carol Brey-Casiano as a means of celebrating diverse literary voices and the unifying role that libraries play in building a literate nation. This special 2008 Many Voices, Many Nations is brought to you by the Office for Diversity with support from ALA President Loriene Roy, the ALA Committee on Diversity, and the Chinese American Library Association (CALA). Book donations, raffle items and speaker presentations have been made possible through the generosity of Barbara Adriano-poli, Schaumburg Township District Library; August House; Susana G. Baumann, Director, LCS-Worldwide Language and Cultural Services, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; Children's Book Press; Cinco Puntos Press; Corinne Ebbs, Interim Associate Dean of Library Services, Westfield State College, Massachusetts; Groundwood Books; Hachette Book Group USA; and Wacky Productions Unlimited.

Special thanks to the 2008 Many Voices, Many Nations planning committee: Chair Sonia Alcantara-Antoine, José A. Aponte, Barbara Adrianopoli, Lynne Altstatt, Angela Barnes, Susana Baumann, Valerie Bell, Elise Browne, Jayati Chaudhury, Corinne Ebbs, Oralia Garza de Cortes, Susan Hanks, Johan Koren, Portia Latalladi, Karin LeMaire, Karen Brown Letarte, Loriene Roy, Sue Tyson, and Victoria Vanlandingham.
Francisco X. Alarcon is a widely acclaimed Chicano poet and educator. He has received the Jane Addams Award for Children's Literature and the Pura Belpre Honor Award. His work has been translated into many languages. Raised in Mexico and California, Francisco knew he wanted to be a writer early on in his life. By the age of 13, he began to write poetry and commit himself to becoming a writer and from there he admits his “whole career path seemed to evolve naturally.” In his newest bilingual poetry collection, Animal Poems of the Iguazu/Animalario del Iguazú, Francisco opens the door to a discussion about animal rights and wildlife conservation and tells us that with a look at one of the wonders of the natural world—the Iguazu rainforest of South America. Following the American indigenal tradition, he lets the animals of the rainforest speak for themselves, and the resulting poems are as urgent as they are beautiful and humorous. “I hope these poems will motivate all of us to take action, to protect the wild animals and plants of the earth,” he says. To date, Francisco has written four books for Children’s Book Press, each part of the Magical Cycle of the Seasons series, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez: Iguanas in the Snow, and Other Winter Poems, Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems (recipient of the Pura Belpre Award and the National Parenting Gold Medal Award), From the Bellybypass of the Moon and Other Summer Poems, and Book Press, each part of the Magical Cycle of the Seasons series. He currently directs the Spanish for Native Speakers Program at the University of California at Davis, where he also teaches Chicano culture and literature.

Sherman Alexie, award-winning author, poet, and filmmaker, was named one of Grantland’s Best Young American Novelists and has been lauded by The Boston Globe as “an important voice in American literature.” One of the best-known and beloved literary writers of his generation, his works of fiction, including Reservation Blues and short story collections Ten Little Indians and The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven, have received numerous awards and citations. His first novel for young readers, TheTrue Diary of a Part-Time Indian, was named one of the Library of America’s Best Books for Young People and one of the American Library Association’s Best Books for Young Adults.

Janice Gould, of Maidu/Konkow descent, was born in San Diego and grew up in Berkeley, CA. She earned degrees in English and American Studies at the University of California at Berkeley and Ph.D. in in English from the University of New Mexico. Janice has taught Native American Literature and Creative Writing at the Celebrate Youth and the Flight of the Mind summer workshops, and the College of Santa Fe summer session. While a graduate student at the University of New Mexico, she taught several courses there in Creative Writing, Women’s Studies and American Studies. She has taught at the University of Colorado in the English Department. Janice recently completed a three-year term as the Hallie Ford Chair in Creative Writing at Willamette University. She currently lives in Tucson where she is enrolled in the School of Information Resources and Library Science and works as a Research Assistant at the University of Arizona, acting as a librarian, archivist, and director of the library’s digital collections department. She is a 2006 Knowledge River Scholar at UA and an Association of Research Libraries Fellow (2007-08). Janice will earn her MLS in December 2008. Recent publications include an essay in Placing the Academy: Essays on Landscape, Work, and Identity (Utah State U Press, 2007) and poems in News from Native California and in two new anthologies, Spring Salmon, Hurry to Me! and Bear Flag Republic.

Gordon Johnson is a Cahulaw/Cupeno from the Pala Indian Reservation. A former newspaperman, his last job was as a cartoonist and feature writer for the Press-Enterprise covering Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Before that, he studied literature and philosophy at the Universities of California at Santa Cruz, San Diego and Berkeley. Since leaving the newspaper business, he’s concentrating on finding work as a freelance writer from his home in Murrieta, VT, specializing in short stories and poetry and continues to study creative writing in the master of fine arts program at Antioch University Los Angeles.

He has a book of newspaper columns called Red Dogs Eat Beans that was also translated and published in the Czech Republic. Heyday Books in Berkeley has published another book of columns called Fair Cars and Frybread. He was also a contributor to an anthology of regional writers called Inlandia, published by Heyday.

He has four kids, four grandkids and lives and writes in Pala.

Flowers, 2003 America’s Award Commended Title, Trees are Hanging from the Sky, Ziptipu, Talking with Mother Earth, The Little Her in the City and The Flight of the Mind, are among many titles. A native Salvadoran and Pipil Nahua Indian, Jorge spent much of his childhood in rural El Salvador. He feels that everybody is capable of writing, and that Native American life, and one of his natural poets. His dynamic presentations and classroom visits are powerful and inspiring. They receive high praise from educators, parents and students alike.

Kristo Orona Ramirez (Taos Pueblo/Tarahumaras) makes her home in Taos in the company with Kiki’s journey, a tale about the challenges and rewards of contemporary Native American life, and one girl’s discovery of where her heart belongs. Kristy grew up in California’s San Gabriel Valley. From an early age, she showed a penchant for the creative arts, and has been writing short stories and poetry since she was seven years old. While at Humboldt State University, Kristy focused on Native American studies, and completed the Indian Teacher Personnel Program (ITEPP). A fourth grade teacher, Kristy also has a Master’s degree in American Indian Administration. Kiki’s journey was inspired by Kristy’s own first trip to Taos Pueblo. She, like Kiki, came away from her trip with the knowledge that she is “part of the collective memory of the people and the land” and that “her people will never forget her.” You can see Kristy perform as one of the lead singers for the Native American Northern drumming group, The Mankillers, listed by Indian Country Today as one of the top women’s drum groups in the country. In her spare time, Kristy can be found boxing or Muay Thai kick-boxing and enjoying the outdoors. She currently resides in Riverside, California with her husband and four children.

Arigon Starr is a multi-talented and multi-award winning musician, actor, playwright and artist. She is an enrolled member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma and is based in Los Angeles, California. Arigon released her first solo cd, The Red Road – Original Cast Recording in 1996. Starr has since released three other CDs including Wind-Up, Backflip and most recently, The Red Road - Original Cast Recording.

Arigon has performed internationally as a solo artist and with her band in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, New Orleans, London and in Australia. She has received four prestigious awards from the Native American Music Association and three from First Americans in the Arts.

Arigon Starr is also a noted actress, playwright and artist. Her one-woman comedy with music “The Red Road” has toured across the United States and Australia. Her radio comedy series "Super Indian" has aired nationally on the Native Voice One satellite radio network. She is currently working on a "Super Indian" graphic novel and a new CD. Her official website is www.arigonstarr.com.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY

Dr. Loriene Roy is Professor in the School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin. She is Anishinabe, enrolled on the White Earth Reservation, a member of the Anishinabe Nation of the United States of America, 1855 Treaty. She was elected to serve as the 2007-2008 President of the American Library Association.