

Inspiread

A PUBLICATION OF READ FOR LITERACY

CLAIRE'S DAY

Celebrating 16 Years

LIFE, AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS



Claire Lynsey Rubini passed away in 2000 from an undiagnosed heart condition. Her family knew they needed to do something to honor her memory. A vibrant child, Claire loved art, crafts and most of all reading! In 2002 Claire's parents Brad and Julie, brother Ian and sister Kyle worked with a host of volunteers to present the first Claire's Day Book Festival at the Maumee Branch Library in her honor turning a very personal and tragic loss into a celebration of life and literacy!

Today, we celebrate 16 years of Claire's Day in Maumee and are glad you could join us as we honor close to 500 children with C.A.R.E. Awards, host Creation Station Activities, meet area Celebrity Readers and more! Eleven prolific and award winning authors and illustrators are here today to autograph books, take pictures and meet you! They also spent their week visiting with more than 30 schools and 20,000 children!

In addition to our celebration today, we also hosted Claire's Day in Defiance at the Defiance Public Library System in March and at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library in April. Volunteers, sponsors and school leaders joined us to make this our largest celebration of literacy – we truly are amazed at the continued growth of Claire's Day, Northwest Ohio's Largest Children's Book Festival!

THREE GREAT LOCATIONS DEFIANCE, TOLEDO AND MAUMEE, ALL CELEBRATING LIFE, AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS & READING EXCELLENCE – Claire!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Read for Literacy and our Claire's Day planning committee, thank you for celebrating with us!

Adele Jasion
Board Chair

Jeanette Hrovatich
Executive Director

16th Annual



PRESENTED BY



Katherine Ayres (Author) has been a lover of books since earliest childhood, when she began inventing stories before she could write them. Ayres enjoys the opportunity to travel and study the real places she includes in her books.
katherineayres.com



Shelley Pearsall (Author & Illustrator) is the author of six books for middle grade and teen readers. Her inspiring and thought-provoking novels are used in classrooms nationwide, and she is a popular school speaker.
shelleypearsall.com



Denise Brennan-Nelson (Author) is a multi-award winning children's book author and motivational speaker. Denise lives in Howell, Michigan with her husband Bob, their daughters, Rebecca and Rachel, and their extraordinary dog, Bella.
denisebrennannelson.com



Jael Richardson (Author) is an author of *The Stone Thrower: A Daughter's Lesson*, *a Father's Life*, a memoir based on her relationship with her father, CFL quarterback Chuck Ealey. She lives in Brampton, Ontario where she founded and continues to serve as the Artistic Director for the Festival of Literary Diversity.
jaelrichardson.com



Jeff Ebbeler (Author & Illustrator) has been creating award winning art for children for over a decade, illustrating over 40 picture books. He has also done paper engineering for pop-up books, created large scale murals for schools and churches, and sculpted puppets and performed for several marionette theaters.
jeffillustration.com



Nancy Roe Pimm (Author) grew up in Brooklyn, New York where she rode subways and buses. Her message to the children: It's important to believe in yourself, never give up and reach for the stars.
nancyroepimm.com



Meaghan Fisher (Author) has over ten years experience working with children as a former Nanny. Her hope is to inspire children through the moral lessons in her books.
meaghanfisher.com



Julie Rubini (Author) is an author and mother. Following the unexpected death of her daughter Claire at the age of 10 from a heart condition, Julie and Brad founded Claire's Day to honor Claire and to celebrate her love of reading. Claire's Day began in 2002.
julierubini.com



Nick Rokicki/Joe Kelley are quickly becoming beloved names in the world of books for children. Their first book, *Pete the Popcorn*, carries a message of children offering encouragement to each other on a daily basis.
petethepopcorn.com



Aaron Zenz (Author/Illustrator) loves the art of storytelling. He has a degree in art and has worked as an illustrator, graphic designer, multimedia designer, toy designer, graphic recorder, college instructor, fine artist and author.
aaronzenz.com



The Magic Within



My family is in the process of moving to a new home. I've not done this in nearly 24 years. Although the process has seemed daunting and challenging at times, we look forward to the next chapters of our lives with great promise.

One of the tougher aspects for me has been sorting through my book collection. I didn't think I had a huge assortment, because I don't keep them all in one place. I have literary works in my office, in the front formal room, my bedroom, the basement, the Florida room, the kitchen and the room I spend the most time in, our family room.

There, tucked in a corner of this comfortable space, in an ancient bookcase that likely won't survive the move, is a very special assortment of books. Children's books.

Over one hundred beautiful works by authors and illustrators who have graced us with their presence at Claire's Day over the past fifteen years. The books are stuffed on shelves, their bright jackets peering out from behind the glass. Every now and then, they beckon me to reach into that cabinet, open them up and discover their magic within.

As I open the cover of each work, I turn to the title page. There, in each of my precious collection, is the same inscription, "To Kyle and Ian in memory of Claire."

So many wonderful memories float to mind as I explore the pages of the books. Beautiful reflections of celebrating our little reader gone too soon. Touching moments of our family gathered together, celebrating life.

The collection began in 2002, at our first Claire's Day, and up until about five years ago, when we had a tragic shortage of books at the festival. Kyle and Ian told me that year they didn't need me to get books for them. In their incredible empathy, they wanted to make sure that the children at Claire's Day received a book. They didn't need anymore. It is such a blessing to have too many books. It is a blessing to give books to children in Claire's memory who don't have many books, if any. And it is a blessing knowing that each recipient of our Claire's Award for Reading Excellence will have the same experience of pulling their signed book off a shelf in the future, and recall the magic of Claire's Day.

So, gather the special children in your life, bring them to Claire's Day, buy them a book, and get it personally signed for them. And start their own collection.

Julie K. Rubini



Today in our Creation Station Goes Green Area we encourage you to visit our hands on activity area where literacy, science and technology all come together!

Our special guests are:

- Paramount Advantage with Mother Goose
9:45am - 10:15am
- Toledo Zoo
11:00am - 1:00pm
- Laurel Princess Parties:
Batman and Princess Poppy
12:30pm - 1:30pm
- Hands-on Craft Area
Graffiti Boards, Mask Making
Make a bracelet, Creating Bookmarkers & Coloring
- Toledo Lucas County Public Library & the Ready to Read Van
- WGTE TV30 and Hands on Literacy
- Visual Art with the Toledo Museum of Art
- Maumee Garden Club for Planting Flowers
- Girl in the Glass City with her Electric Car & Yoga demonstrations
- Wildlife with the Metroparks Toledo
- Three in one Puzzle of Color by COSTCO
- Caricature Artist

Claire's Day Agenda

Author Presentations

- 10:00-10:30 am
Jael Richardson
- 11:00-11:30 am
Nick Rokicki/Joe Kelley
- 12:00-12:30 pm
Nancy Roe Pimm
- 1:00-1:30 pm
Jeffery Ebbeler
- 2:00-2:30 pm
Shelley Pearsall
- 3:00-3:30 pm
Aaron Zenz



Celebrity Readers

These celebrity readers will be reading in the C.A.R.E Award Tent.

After reading, they will be walking around the Festival so please say hello!

- 9:45 - 10:00 am
Mother Goose
- 10:45 - 11:00 am
Brandon Lobochefski
Maumee Fire Department
- 11:45 - noon
Diana Bush
Read for Literacy
- 12:45 - 1:00 pm
Lt. Dave Tullis
Maumee Police Department
- 1:45 - 2:00 pm
Christine Senack
Girl in the Glass City Car

Visit Christine, before and after her reading time at her BMW Powered Electric Car. She'll have yoga presentations and car fun all afternoon!

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OUR MISSION

To provide a range of literacy services and trainings that enable children, adults and families the opportunity to achieve success.

Read for Literacy Purpose

- To inspire children and families to be lifelong readers through exposure to a variety of literacy opportunities and experiences.
- To provide programs that Celebrate Life, Authors, Illustrators and Reading Excellence while honoring the memory of Claire Lynsey Rubini.
- To recruit, train and place volunteers to act as Reader Friends and Tutors on a one to one basis with individuals who require literacy assistance.
- To serve as the leading advocate for literacy in our community and work cooperatively with other literacy projects.



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Claire'sDay.org

