



Bring on the School Year



them.

It's the end of August and we are back to it. I'm sure I'm not the only one thinking, "Wow, that summer went by fast." While many of us had the opportunity to reconnect with family and maybe even travel a bit, all of us on the SENIA Board understand that many of you did not get to do so. So let us take a moment to thank you. You gave up so much for the students in your care, and we are all appreciative of your sacrifice. Because of you, these students return to school, whether online or in-person, to educators who they know care about

Our students are coming back to school this year with excitement, trepidation, stress, and anxiety. Last year, I spoke with Dr. Roby Marcou in a [podcast](#). Dr. Marcou is a developmental pediatrician who suggested that rather than focus on all that was lost academically during the pandemic, we should focus on building a sense of community and re-establish routines that provide consistency for our students. She also recommends that we provide them with safe ways to express how they feel and help build their emotional vocabulary. Providing our students a safe environment is crucial for their successful return. This reminded me of a meme I recently came across on the FB page [SELspace](#):

My Checklist for Every Class This Year

- 1. Keep them safe**
- 2. Lower their anxiety about the current situation**
- 3. Make them laugh**
- 4. Make them feel loved**
- 5. Teach them something**

All in that order.

When we prioritize our students' social-emotional health, academic learning will come.

There is no denying this is a difficult time for educators, parents, and professionals in the field. So, we created a Social-Emotional Learning strand for our upcoming SENIA Conference. Our speakers will discuss student well-being as well as educator mental health. We know this strand will be extremely informative and beneficial for us all.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find celebrations of students and educators, book and movie recommendations, and more information about our conference coming up in December.

Will you be joining us in just 100 days? We certainly hope so. And in the meantime, have a wonderful beginning to your new year.

Thank you for your commitment to the our students.

--Lori & the SENIA Board

PS. Just a reminder that this newsletter is filled with information. When you come to those annoying 3 dots, don't forget to click on them so you can see the entire thing!



That's right, peeps. The SENIA conference will be here before we know it!

See below for our fabulous group rates. The more people, the better the discount. So why not bring your whole school?

Be sure to [contact us](#) for more information on how to get these super great rates.

See you in 100 days!

SENIA CONFERENCE 2021 | ANNOUNCING OUR
3-5 DECEMBER **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



LeDerick Horne
Poet, Activist,
Advocate



Shelley Moore
Teacher, Researcher,
Storyteller



**Michelle Garcia
Winner**
Speech Therapist
Social Thinking



INCLUSIVE PRACTICES · MENTAL HEALTH / SEL · INTENSIVE NEEDS
LITERACY STRATEGIES · MATH STRATEGIES

SPECIAL GROUP RATES

10 - 20

\$125

per person

21 - 50

\$99

per person

51 +

Flat Rate

Contact Lori Boll for more info



INCLUSIVE PRACTICES - MENTAL HEALTH / SEL - INTENSIVE NEEDS
LITERACY STRATEGIES - MATH STRATEGIES

Student Voices

I Am

**A poem by Samantha Johnson 4th
Grade student at IS Bangkok**

I am a sister and a pet lover

I wonder how the world can be happy
and not fighting so much

I hear the birds sing and the rain
dripping down

I see the storm clouds and I feel
nervous

I wish there was no more COVID

I am a sister and a pet lover

I pretend I'm a superhero

I feel sad when I watch the news and
see bad things happen in the world

I touch my family's hearts because
I'm a special kid and I don't give up

I worry about my animals my family
and my big sister in war

I cry sometimes because I'm scared,
my work is too hard

I'm nervous and don't have lots of
friends

I am a sister and a pet lover

I understand I'm a little different from
my classmates

I have Down Syndrome and I'm a
smart and kind person

I say I am smart, I am kind. I like to
help people feel better

I dream about being a paleontologist
and discovering new dinosaur bones

I try to be a good listener

I hope everyone is kind like me

I am a sister and a pet lover



Would you like to contribute to our student voices section? [Contact us](#) to share.

Look Who's Coming to SENIA

REGISTRANT SPOTLIGHT

Clare Michelsen

Second Registrant from Sotogrande
International School, Spain

"I am a specialist in implementing inclusive practices in international Schools and my new school asked if I knew anything about SENIA. I let them know that I had attended a conference and recommended it."



SENIA CONFERENCE 2021

LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS
SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Clare recently moved to a new school and was asked if she knew anything about SENIA! She let them know that she'd been to a previous conference in Shanghai and that she definitely recommended it.

Clare is a specialist in implementing inclusive practices in international Schools. She was head of Learning Support at Nanjing International School, the LS coordinator at AISJ (Pretoria campus), K-12 LS Coordinator at Mozambique International School, and was appointed as Director of Student Support Services at AISC, Chennai, India (but was furloughed due to Covid 19). She will begin in August at Sotogrande International School Spain, as Head of LS. Depending on the school, she has also headed up the EAL programme. She also regularly visit the website and is happy to be able to attend SENIA again.

Thank You
GRAND ERIE DISTRICT
CANADA



Group Highlight

Shoutout to Grand Erie School District, Canada for being one of the first large school groups to sign up for [#SENIA2021](#) with the special group rate.

Group rates are also available through the conference link below.

SENIA 2021 Conference


Conference Registration

World Changer Award: July



**MUHAMAD FAZRI
BIN HASSAN**
Malaysia

For more info, go to:
www.seniainternational.org/senia-world-changer-awards/



Muhamad Fazri Bin Hassan is a special education teacher at SK Gas Sandakan in Malaysia. He believes that learning through play will provide meaningful learning for his students. He has been featured in many social media platforms for his creativity in teaching. Fazri is a keen advocate for his students and encourages them to participate in singing competitions and art exhibitions.

Also, Fazri has been involved in action research implementing ways to improve reading skills in his students. His research has earned him gold awards at the state, national and international level. During the pandemic, Fazri had created his own website, Facebook page and YouTube channel called Fazri Classroom to help his students learn online. His materials have been shared and used nationwide not just among special education teachers but also early education and remedial teachers.

Congratulations to Muhamad Fazri Bin Hassan as the recipient of the 2021 SENIA World Changer Award.

Muhamad's YouTube

Nominate a World Changer

SENIA Student Award: Scholarship



DO YOU KNOW AN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD OR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES WHO IS RAISING AWARENESS OR ADVOCATING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



**NOMINATE TODAY!
DUE OCTOBER 15, 2021**

Applications & regulations are found on our website
www.seniainternational.org/senia-student-award-home/

SENIA is pleased to announce the **2021 SENIA Student Award**. Do you know of a student who advocates and promotes inclusion in their community? Then nominate them today!

The recipient of the award receives a scholarship, plaque, certificate and the opportunity to present their inspirational story at the SENIA International conference, as well as be featured in future SENIA publications.

The deadline for all nominations is **October 15, 2021**. A full list of rules and regulations can be found [here](#).

Nominate a Student Advocate Today!

Check Out These Impressive Speakers



Dr. Nadine Gaab

Harvard Graduate
School of Education
Literacy



Steve Leinwand

Author, Award
Winner, Researcher
Math



Leah Kuypers

Creator of Zones of
Regulation
SEL



**Dr. Lorea
Martinez**

SEL Expert/Author



Pernille Ripp

Author & Founder
of Global Read-
Aloud Project



**Kristel Solomon-
Saleem**

Inclusion Leader

Here is just a sampling of the fantastic speakers we have coming to #SENIA2021.

We have MORE on our [website](#) and even MORE to come.

We have over 50 presenters and all videos will be available for **FOUR** months! That's more than 70 hours of content.

Seriously, this conference is beyond our wildest dreams!

What We're Reading

Reviewed by Tanya Farrol

Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

By Judith Heumann with Kristen Joiner

[Goodreads](#) / [Book Depository](#)

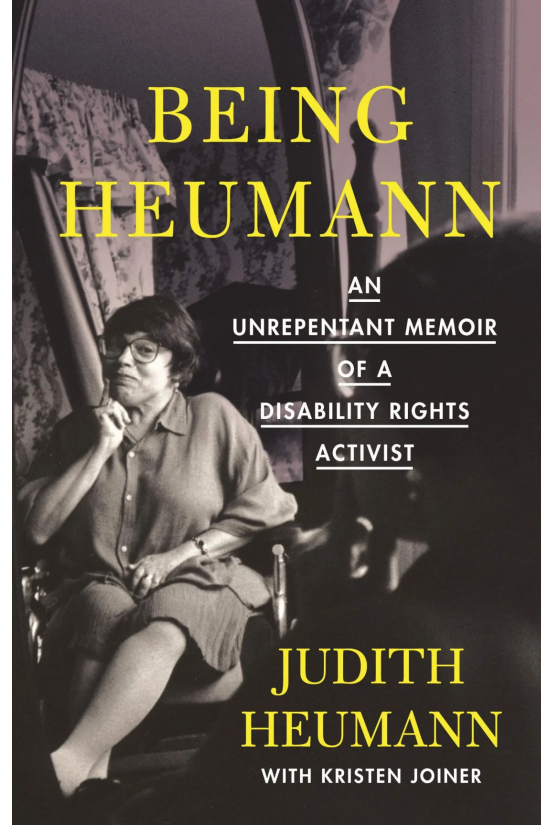
The Inclusive Book Club hosted weekly
by Karen Killeen decided to read this

book about Judith Heumann's fight for disability rights in the US. I am so glad they did! Not only do we learn about the struggle to be seen as a human being and the fight for inclusion in society, we also see what it means to be a woman leading the charge and the obstacles she faced in being an activist.

The obstacles started early when she was placed in a separate school for people with disabilities and was not provided an education. Essentially she was hidden from society and no one expected much from her. Judith and her family fought hard to get her the education she so rightly deserved. At university she was not allowed to pursue her dream of teaching as there were no teachers who were wheelchair users. She fought to get her credentials as a teacher and ultimately succeeded, however no school would hire her, citing safety concerns.

Judith tells her story of fighting to get the American Disability Act signed by holding protests and epic sit-ins. She talks about the everyday struggles to be seen as a human, whether it is getting on an inaccessible bus (no lifts) or finding an accessible bathroom in the White House. Her story is one of determination, grit and resilience. She offers hope for the next wave of activists and reminds us all that our rights can so easily be stripped away if we don't continue to fight for our rights and the rights of others.

If you are interested in joining the Inclusive Book Club, please contact Karen Killeen on Instagram ([@KarenKilleen2020](https://www.instagram.com/KarenKilleen2020)). The Inclusive Book Club is held on Mondays at 5pm East African Time and the next book beginning on Aug 30, 2021 is "[Have a New Teenager by Friday: From Mouthy and Moody to Respectful and Responsible in 5 Days](#)" by Dr. Kevin Leman. See you there!



What We're Watching

Reviewed by Nicole Demos, SENIA
Europe Board Member

Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution

Inclusion, Empowerment, Dignity,
Acceptance, Awareness, the power of
connecting voices, hearts and minds
to what is right, just and an end to

isolation and discrimination. Such were the thoughts running through my soul as I watched this inspirational documentary with tears rolling down my cheeks. Watching Crip Camp allowed me to fully embrace my disability and become an even stronger advocate for my students and for myself.

Crip Camp highlights experiences at Camp Jened, in the Catskills, where disabled teenagers were able to relish previously denied but rightly deserved freedom and inclusion. Winner of the Documentary Award at Sundance 2020, nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 2020 Oscars, and directed by Nicole Newnham and Jim LeBrecht, a camp attendee, this is indeed a captivative and emotional work of art that served as the impetus for the Disability Rights movement. Delve into the stories and memories, listen to their words and witness how coming together and using their voice set the wheels of change into motion. Visit the website at <https://cripcamp.com/> and explore how to become aware and involved. Activities and an educational curriculum for those who teach is also available. For your viewing pleasure Crip Camp is available on Netflix with official trailers on Youtube.



News from our Terrific Sponsors

The advertisement features a close-up of a young girl's face with her eyes closed and a gentle smile. The background is a chalkboard filled with various chalk drawings, including a large circle, a sun, and some abstract shapes. The words 'EMPOWER LEARNERS' are written in large, red, hand-drawn letters across the top. A red banner at the bottom right contains the text 'Sign up for our courses today: marioframework.com/courses'. Below this banner is the Mario Framework logo, which consists of two stylized figures inside a circle, and the text 'MARIO FRAMEWORK' in a bold, sans-serif font.

Does your school need:



Consistency across your Learning Support department?



An easy method of tracking student progress?



To save time?



A research-based method to guide your teaching practices?



STEP is for you!

A bank of 5,000+ ILP/RTI goals and objectives with a powerful progress monitoring system



April Remfrey

Program Creator
SENIA Board Member

www.remfreyeducationalconsulting.com

**Earn Grad Credits for Attending
#SENIA2021**



GET GRADUATE CREDIT FOR ATTENDING

Conference attendees have the opportunity to earn 1-3 graduate credits through SUNY Buffalo.



[Contact Us](#)

Have You Listened to Our Podcasts?



SENIA **HAPPY HOUR** PODCAST



Return to School:
More Referrals
This Year Than
Ever Before

Tracey Ellis

www.seniainternational.org/podcast/

Tracey Ellis from International Diagnostic Solutions (IDS) discusses the impact this past pandemic year has had on families, parents, teachers, and students with learning needs. Tracey predicts there will be large uptake in student referrals for assessment and evaluation since so many of our kids spent the year behind a computer screen, making it more difficult for their teachers and specialists to be able to identify possible red flags. A recent article in EdWeek echoes this belief. You can read that article [here](#).

Find Our Podcasts Here

Looking to Hire the Best Special Educators in the Field?

Virtual Hiring Fair

During the Conference



For schools looking to hire teachers or specialists in the field of special education, we are happy to announce our first job fair.

Where else can you find such a large group of experienced and dedicated support teachers? Whether you are hiring this year or for future, this is a fantastic opportunity to meet some candidates from all over the world.

Are you looking for a new teaching opportunity? This will be a great chance for you to connect with school leaders as well.

And did we mention that it's FREE with your price of admission into the conference?

If your school is interested, please [contact us](#) and we will get you all the details to start setting up your virtual job fair booth.

If you are a candidate, stay tuned for more information.

Become A SENIA Teacher Rep



Does your school have a
SENIA Teacher Rep?

The SENIA TR keeps your school abreast of SENIA events/conferences. In addition, the SENIA reps encourage their faculty to attend local and international SENIA conferences, help motivate teachers to submit proposals to present at SENIA, and keep schools informed about inclusion PD in the region.

Consider appointing/nominating an individual whose role involves meeting the needs of diverse learners and is committed to advancing best

practices in education for all students. Ideally, the appointed individual has attended at least one SENIA conference.

Contact us at TeacherRep@seniainternational.org to learn more.

Contact us to nominate a TR

Would you like to sponsor SENIA in 2021–2022?

Do you know of an organization who would like to sponsor our us? Sponsoring SENIA is a great way for organizations who share our mission to interact with SENIA members worldwide. Check out all our great [sponsorship opportunities](#). Interested? Contact [Lori Boll](#) today.

Stay in Touch

Our conference is fast approaching and we'll be sharing lots of information about it. Stay updated by joining one of our social media channels. Just click on the social media channel of your choice below.

SENIA International

A Non-profit organization 501(c)(3)

Based in Oregon, USA

Operates Worldwide

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