

 **Media Kit for Power of Words Conference**

Greetings,

 Thank you for helping us get out the word on the Power of Words conference, Sept. 18-20 at Unity Village in Kansas City, Missouri, which brings together writers, storytellers, community leaders, educators, arts facilitators and health professionals to explore liberation, celebration and transformation through the written, spoken and sung word. The conference is a project of the Transformative Language Arts Network, a non-profit organization that promotes writing, storytelling and performance to build community, shift culture toward peace and justice, and transform lives.

 Enclosed are some materials you can share in various ways on social networking sites (facebook, Linkedin, etc.), blogs, websites, newsletters, community announcements, calendars of local and/or arts-related events, magazines, newspapers, and all manner of other media. If you need further information in any way, please be in touch.

 We’re particularly excited about our 2015 event, which features poet and writer Jimmy Santiago Baca, playwright Darren Canady, spoken word artists SháCage and E.G. Bailey, and poet [Xánath](http://xanathcaraza.webs.com/) Caraza. There are hands-on workshops, small talking circles, innovative open mics, and big group performances that help people find ways to bring home practical and applicable wisdom. Thank you for your help.

All good wishes,

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg and Ronda Miller, *Conference Co-Chairs*

Sandy Snook, Diane Silver, Mary Wharff, Deborah Altus, Brian Daldorph, Joanne Hickey, Nancy Hubble, Stephanie Christensen, Willie Young, Peggy Mulvihill, Kelly Hams-Pearson, José Faus, Amy Nixon, Sharon Gibson, and Michael Caron, *Conference Committee*

Teri Grunthaner, *TLAN Interim Coordinator*

**Power of Words 2015 Conference Summaries**

***One sentence summary***: Join us September 18-20, 2015 atUnity Village in Kansas City, MO for our 12th [**Power of Words Conference**](http://www.tlanetwork.org/conference/power-of-words-2013/) **t**o explore how we can use our words — written, spoken or sung — to make community, deepen healing, witness one another, wake ourselves up, and foster empowerment and transformation. Http://TLANetwork.org

***One Paragraph summary:*** Join us September 18-20, 2015 atUnity Village in Kansas City, MO for our 12th [Power of Words Conference](http://www.tlanetwork.org/conference/power-of-words-2013/) to explore how we can use our words — written, spoken or sung — to make community, deepen healing, witness one another, wake ourselves up, and foster empowerment and transformation. The conference features workshops, performances, talking circles, celebration and more, featuring writers, storytellers, performers, musicians, community leaders, activists, educators, and health professionals. The 2015 conference keynoters include poet and writer Jimmy Santiago Baca, playwright Darren Canady, spoken word artists SháCage and E.G. Bailey, and poet [Xánath](http://xanathcaraza.webs.com/) Caraza. Scholarships available. [http://TLANetwork.org](http://tlanetwork.org)

**Website & Social Media**

**Website:** [http://TLANetwork.org](http://tlanetwork.org) and for conference, [http://TLANetwork.org/conference](http://tlanetwork.org/conference), schedule summary at <http://www.tlanetwork.org/conference/schedule-summary/>, and workshop and presenter descriptions at <http://www.tlanetwork.org/conference/workshopsperformances-2/>

**Tumblr:** <http://powerofwordsconference.tumblr.com/>

**Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/TLANetwork> and <https://www.facebook.com/kansascitypowerofwords>

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Transformative-Language-Arts-Network>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/TLANetwork>

**Power of Words Conference Brings Transformative Language Artists to Kansas City**

For Immediate Release Contact: Teri Grunthaner

 coordinator@TLANetwork.org

 An international conference on community-building, social change, engaged spirituality, and healing and health through writing, storytelling, singing and performance is coming to Kansas City. The Power of Words conference will be held September 19-20 at Unity Village, and will feature poet and writer Jimmy Santiago Baca, playwright Darren Canady, spoken word artists SháCage and E.G. Bailey, and poet [Xánath](http://xanathcaraza.webs.com/) Caraza.

 “The conference is a gathering place for all who work with words -- aloud and on the page -- for greater civil discourse, community building, and individual health, awareness and meaning,” said Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, conference chair, and former Kansas Poet Laureate. “It brings together writers, storytellers, educators, actors, spoken word artists, health professionals, community leaders, musicians and artists, and many others who are drawn to the power of the arts as force for positive change in our lives and communities.”

One of America’s best-loved poets and conference keynoter Jimmy Santiago Baca says, “How can one diminish the power of words and what they have done to me? They've changed my life, taught me to love, described what deep learning is, opened my eyes, shaped my speech, all bound together and much more to give me an amazing life, and this conference swells with that importance. It's the epiphany and epicenter of using language to learn to love ourselves and others.”

 The conference features five tracks of workshops: narrative medicine (how we can use our words for health and healing), social change (effecting positive change in our communities), engaged spirituality (finding powerful ways to use language through religion or spiritual experience), ecological literacy (using human language to connect with the living earth), and right livelihood (making a living based on how to contribute best to our communities). Past conferences have featured keynote speakers including Grace Paley, Julia Alvarez, David Abram, and Gregory Orr.

 Founded at Goddard College in Vermont in 2003 by Mirriam-Goldberg, the conference is now a project of the Transformative Language Arts Network, a not-for-profit organization. Mirriam-Goldberg explains that she started the conference in conjunction with the MA program she coordinates at the college on Transformative Language Arts (TLA), an emerging academic field, profession and calling. “TLA is the use of any of the language arts to effect change in the world. Transformative Language Artists facilitate writing workshops for elders, storytelling events for at-risk children, collaborative theater projects to raise awareness about ecological issues, and journaling workshops to help people determine the best way to creatively make a living. The conference amplifies these possibilities, and helps those of us drawn to this work find inspiration and ideas.”

 Scholarships are available, including the Roxanne-Florence Scholarship for people of color. For more information about the conference, Transformative Language Arts, or to arrange to interview any of the keynoters, please contact Mirriam-Goldberg at carynmirriamgoldberg@gmail.com.

**About the TLA Network**

The TLA Network is gathering place, a healing ground, a place of greater vision and wider perspective that supports individuals and organizations in promoting all forms of the spoken, written and sung word as a tool for personal and community transformation. The TLA Network exists to support and promote individuals and organizations that use the spoken, written, or sung word as a tool for personal and community transformation. As such, the Network is committed to providing spaces, both physical and electronic, where where people interested in [Transformative Language Arts](http://www.tlanetwork.org/wp/about/) can share resources, network, learn, and enhance their capacity to practice Transformative Language Arts as Right Livelihood in their communities.

The work of the TLA Network includes:

* **Conference:** The annual Power of Words conference, bringing together people to explore liberation, celebration and celebration through the written, spoken and sung word.
* ***Chrysalis: A Journal of Transformative Language Arts*:** An international scholarly and professional journal featuring essays, reflections and creative writing related to TLA. <http://chrysalisjournal.org/>
* **Membership:** Benefits include discounts for the conference and online classes, and a copy of *The Power of Words* for first-time members, plus a monthly e-newsletter.
* **Online Classes and Certification:** Regular offerings of online classes for our livelihoods, lives, and communities, plus an introductory certification to TLA.
* **One City One Prompt:** A global project featuring workshops, salons, discussions, storytelling circles and more related to one main topic, explored differently in various locations around the world. The topic for 2015 “Where I’m From.” [http://onecityoneprompt.org](http://www.onecityoneprompt.org)
* ***The Power of Words: A Transformative Language Arts Reader:*** Publication of the first-ever TLA anthology, an almost 500-page collection of essays and reflections on TLA theory and practice, co-edited by Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg and Janet Tallman.

***TLA Network Council (governing board):*** Callid Keefe-Perry (chair), Heather Severson (treasurer), Sandy Henneberger(secretary), Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg and Ronda Miller (conference co-chairs), Kelly DuMar (membership chair), Amber Ellis (editor of *Chrysalis: A Journal of Transformative Language Arts),* Joanna Tebbs Young (certification chair), Seema Reza (blog curator), and Sarah Williams-Devereux

***TLA Network Coordinator:*** Teri Grunthaner, interim coordinator, coordinator@TLANetwork.org,

TLA Network, P.O. Box 442633, Lawrence, KS 66044, 626/379-7641