

## VSRA 2014 OPTIONAL MEALS AND EVENTS



### **Literacy Lounge**

**\$0.00 (TICKET REQUIRED)**

**Thursday, March 20, 2014 7-10 pm**

Join together with your council friends to rock the Literacy Lounge! Be ready to have fun with councils around the state as we celebrate the local council presidents and honor the VSRA Past Presidents. There will be great food and drinks to enjoy. You won't want to miss the DJ and dancing. It's sure to be a fun time!



### **Author Breakfast**

**Star City Breakfast Buffet \$30.00**

**Friday, March 21, 2014 7:30-9:00am**

**Author/Illustrator Henry Cole**

**Henry Cole** is the celebrated illustrator of over 50 books for children, including the Bad Boys series by Margie Palatini, award winning *Wee Piggy* by Kim Norman, and numerous books by Pamela Duncan Edwards. He is also the author and illustrator of titles such as *Unspoken*, *On Meadowview Street*, and the novel *A Nest for Celeste*. Henry Cole grew up on a dairy farm outside Purcellville, Virginia. Always interested in art and science, he studied forestry at Virginia Tech. His education required him to study nature closely, and his observation of such details helped him with his drawing. Henry worked in a number of jobs, including magazine illustration, and for sixteen years taught elementary grade science classes. He has returned home to Virginia to live.



### **Administrator's Tea**

**\$0.00 (TICKET REQUIRED)**

**Friday, March 21, 2014 1:00-2:00pm**

**Professional Development Manager Alicia Sparks**

**Alicia Sparks** is a reading consultant and professional development manager. For more than 30 years she has been teaching children to read in settings that include regular and special education, private and public schools, and individual tutoring. She has also worked with teachers and administrators to improve the reading ability of students. Alicia is a certified regional trainer of LETRS (the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) professional development program. She has been a guest lecturer at college courses and has presented locally, regionally, and nationally at preschools, training centers, and school districts. She completed her master's degree in special education at the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio.



**Secondary Superstars**

**\$0.00 (TICKET REQUIRED)**

**Friday, March 21, 2014 2:15-3:15pm**

**Author/Poet Nikki Giovanni**

Middle School and High School Teachers, Reading Specialists

**Nikki Giovanni**, is a poet, activist, mother, and professor. Early in her career she was dubbed the "Princess of Black Poetry," and over the course of more than three decades of publishing and lecturing she has come to be called both a "National Treasure" and, most recently, one of Oprah Winfrey's twenty-five "Living Legends." She is a seven-time NAACP Image Award winner, and the first recipient of the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award, and holds the Langston Hughes Medal for Outstanding Poetry, among many other honors. The author of some thirty books for adults and children, and a Grammy nominee for *The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection*, she is the University Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.



**Annual Banquet with Anna Dewdney**

**\$45.00**

**Peppercorn Grilled Sirloin Steak, Grilled Salmon, or Vegan Stuffed Cabbage**

**Friday, March 21, 2014 7-9:30pm Roanoke Ballroom**

**Author Anna Dewdney**

**Anna Dewdney** is the bestselling author and illustrator of over 15 award-winning children's books, most notably the *Llama Llama* series. Her stories have been adapted into several theatre productions and have been translated into more than ten foreign languages. Anna grew up outside New York City and has lived in Vermont since the early 1980s. Before writing and illustrating her own work, she illustrated several books for other writers. Anna is a strong advocate of literacy and in addition to speaking across the country on the importance of reading for children, she has published articles about this topic in several publications including the *Wall Street Journal*. Anna supports environmental efforts, including pangolin conservation in southeast Asia, as well as local historic preservation. Anna enjoys running and gardening. She is the mother of two daughters and several dogs.



**Literacy Lunch**

**Blue Ridge Luncheon Buffet \$35.00**

**Saturday, March 22, 2014 11:30-1:00**

**Author Roland Smith**

**Roland Smith** is an author of young adult fiction as well as nonfiction books for children. Smith graduated from Portland State University and, following a part-time job at the Oregon Zoo in Portland, began a 20-year career as a zookeeper. After working to save wildlife following the Exxon Valdez oil spill, he published his first book, *Sea Otter Rescue*, a nonfiction account of the process of animal rescue. Over the years, Roland has written numerous books for adolescent readers, including *Jack's Run*, *Zach's Lie*, *Cryptid Hunters*, *Peak*, *Tentacles*, *Chupacabra*, *Elephant Run*, and the *Storm Runners* series. He is also the co-author of *S is for Smithsonian*, *N is for Our Nation's Capital*, and many other picture books with his wife Marie. The Smiths live on a farm in Oregon.