

# International Reading Association

*Proudly Presents*



GARFIELD © PAWS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

## JIM DAVIS Creator of Garfield

### Opening General Session Keynote Speaker

Sunday, February 22, 2009 • 8:30 a.m.

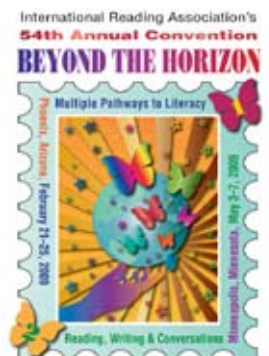
Everyone knows Garfield—the fat, cynical, lazy-but-lovable cat—from his amusing antics on the comic pages, but creator Jim Davis will introduce you to Garfield’s “educated” side. Davis, the mastermind cartoonist “behind the cat,” will discuss the Professor Garfield Foundation, an educational collaboration between Paws, Inc., the global headquarters for Garfield, and Ball State University, a leader in digital education.

The goal of the Professor Garfield Foundation is to provide teachers, parents, and other mentors with fun, interactive, and free “edutainment” games and activities that address fundamental reading

skill sets. The games and activities are available on the Foundation’s website at [www.professorgarfield.org](http://www.professorgarfield.org).

Davis will also delight you with stories from his thirty-year history with Garfield. The comic, *Garfield*, was born on the pages of just 41 newspapers in 1978. Today, Davis’ comic strip is read daily by 263 million people in 2,570 newspapers around the globe. Davis believes people relate to Garfield so much because he is “a human in a cat suit”

“We’re made to feel guilty for overeating and sleeping, but Garfield defends our right to grab a jelly donut and take a long afternoon nap,” says Davis. “Somehow, Garfield relieves our guilt and we love him for it.”





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PHOTO CREDIT JENNIFER LOVELL - BOLD EXPRESSIONS

## GARY W. MOORE

Author and Motivational Speaker

### Special Featured Speaker

Sunday, February 22, 2009 • 2:00 p.m.

It's always a challenge to entice adolescent boys to read. But Gary W. Moore's book, *PLAYING WITH THE ENEMY: A Baseball Prodigy, World War II, and the Long Journey Home* is a tale that can inspire young adult readers—particularly middle and high school-aged boys—to not only read, but to turn their defeats and set-backs into victories.

Less than 24 hours before he died, Moore's father, Gene, shared with him a riveting story of his life as a baseball prodigy whose dreams were interrupted by Pearl Harbor. It was a remarkable odyssey that took his father through World War II and back to minor league baseball. Moore will

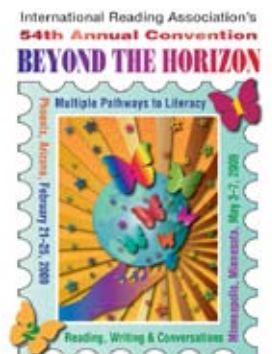
engage you with this story, which he turned into a critically acclaimed book that is soon to be a major motion picture.

A dynamic motivational speaker who often shares with audiences the importance of reading with the theme "Readers are Leaders," Moore will also discuss the impact his book has had on YA readers and how it can be used to encourage boys to read more.

Moore received the 2006 Military Writers Society of America Book of the Year award for *PLAYING WITH THE ENEMY*. He has contributed a related story to *Chicken Soup for the Father & Son Soul*. He is also a successful entrepreneur, sales trainer, and musician.



IRA wishes to thank Penguin Group USA for its support of this Special Featured Speaker.





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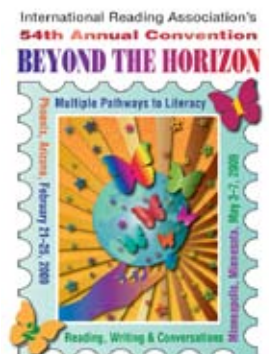
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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FLINT JOURNAL

## GABRIELLE FORD AND IZZY

**"No School Bullying!" National Speaker**

### Special Featured Speaker

Monday, February 23, 2009 • 2:00 p.m.

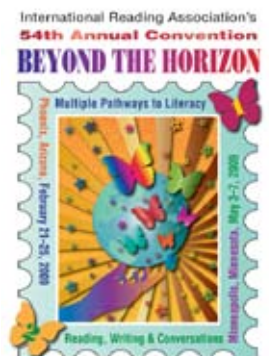
**S**chool bullying *hurts*. Gabrielle Ford should know. She was tortured and bullied for years. She'll share her story of the remarkable bond with her dog, Izzy, that not only rescued her from depression, but also helped her to become a powerful voice against school bullying.

At age 12, Ford was diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia, a rare genetic neuromuscular disease that affects coordination. A victim of classmate bullying, Ford suffered from severe depression even after graduation. Things changed when Izzy came into her life. By extraordinary coincidence, Izzy developed a muscle disease similar to Ford's, and sharing common challenges with her beloved dog

brought Ford out of her shell.

Ford and Izzy's story was chronicled on *Animal Planet* in a nationally televised show, "Pet Story." The show changed her life. Teachers began to ask Ford to come to their classrooms and tell her story. She did, with Izzy at her side. Now Ford and Izzy travel to schools throughout the country and Ford speaks about the lifelong effects bullying can have on a person.

Ford's memoir, *Still Dancing*, will be published in December by Zoe Life Publishing. She plans to write a series of storybooks—with herself and Izzy as the main characters—that will teach elementary school children about the many faces of bullying.





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PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

## **BARBARA MORGAN** Teacher in Space

### **Closing General Session** **Keynote Speaker**

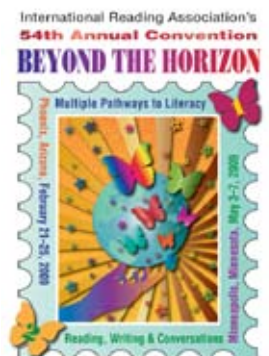
**Wednesday, February 25, 2009 • 9:00 a.m.**

**W**hen teacher/astronaut Barbara Morgan was given the chance to be a part of a space shuttle mission, she wanted other teachers to know, “Every teacher is by my side.” You’ll be inspired by this elementary school teacher from Idaho who, after nearly 22 years of waiting, finally got her chance to be a “Teacher in Space.”

Morgan taught elementary-grade children in Montana, Idaho, and Ecuador before embarking on her career as an astronaut. She was selected for the NASA Teacher in Space program in 1985, and was Christa McAuliffe’s backup for the 1986 *Challenger* mission that exploded soon after

takeoff. After the *Challenger* accident, she worked with NASA’s Education Division while teaching in Idaho. Her duties for NASA included public speaking, curriculum design, and serving on the National Science Foundation’s Federal Task Force for Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering.

In 1998, NASA selected Morgan as a mission specialist. After two years of training and evaluation, she worked at NASA as an astronaut. On August 8, 2007, Morgan realized her dream to soar into space when she joined the crew of *Endeavour* on a mission to the International Space Station. Hear the story of her incredible journey.





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## WALTER WICK

Photographic Illustrator and Bestselling Author

### Special Featured Speaker

Tuesday, February 24, 2009 • 2:00 p.m.

Come take a behind-the-scenes peek into the richly realized worlds of Walter Wick.

The photographic illustrator and author of numerous bestselling books for children will discuss his unique photographic techniques and the process behind his works.

In 1991, Wick collaborated with Jean Marzollo on *I Spy: A Book of Picture Riddles*, launching a bestselling picture puzzle book series for children. Wick created elaborate sets of 3-D models and photographed them to produce the book's illustrations. The success of *I Spy*, and Wick's observation of children's reaction to his work, inspired him to create his own award-winning books, including the

science-based, *A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder*, and *Walter Wick's Optical Tricks*. In 2002, *Can You See What I See? Picture Puzzles to Search and Solve* debuted on the *New York Times* bestseller list and a new series of search-and-find puzzle books was born.

Wick will share news on the latest *Can You See What I See?* book, *On a Scary Scary Night*. Based on the classic folktale, *In a Dark, Dark Wood*, Wick's new project is a visual tour-de-force, featuring photographic illustrations of elaborate 3-D models including a hand-crafted haunted mansion. *On a Scary Scary Night* will be published by Scholastic in August.



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for more exciting  
convention information!

