



## Literacy for Change

October 20, 2017 - Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA

Dear Supporter of Education:

We are inviting you to join New England teachers, students, instructors, administrators, and other educational professionals when they gather this October in Mansfield, Massachusetts for NEATE's 115th Fall Conference. As one of the oldest professional educational organizations in the country, we are proud to help educators make purchasing decisions through access to information, products, and services that can help them build strong cultures of literacy in their school communities.

Our keynote speakers, Gish Jen and Taylor Mali, embody this year's conference theme, "Literacy for Change." Their writing and speaking embody the power of words to change lives through advocacy, questioning, empowerment, civic engagement, and transformation.

We will present conference sessions and exhibits designed to help educators answer key questions:

- What are your favorite works of literature to foster exciting, worthwhile discussion about individual choices and society as a whole?
- What strategies do you use to help your students gain a wider perspective on life through their reading, writing, viewing, and listening?
- How are advocacy, persuasion, and argument related, and how do you help students to practice these important skills?
- What assignments immerse students in research on social justice?
- What is the role of the graphic novel in increasing students' appreciation for, attentiveness to, and consciousness of the power of words and images?

NEATE is offering you space in the Exhibits Hall from early Friday morning until late afternoon on **October 20th**. The conference schedule offers exclusive time while nothing else is scheduled to allow attendees to browse through the exhibits while they enjoy coffee and light refreshments. One of our faithful exhibitors testifies: "NEATE is one of the few conferences I attend where there is adequate time for attendees to visit the exhibit area. Vendors are treated very well." The conference package will contain a list of all the exhibitors, their contact information, and a 25-word description of their products, a valuable resource that attendees will take back to their schools after the conference. Many exhibitors bring a small box or bowl to collect participants' names and then draw a winner of some item of their choosing. This opportunity brings participants back to their tables after lunch and provides exhibitors with contact information.

An independent book seller located in the Exhibits Hall will bring in attendees by offering titles specifically chosen by workshop presenters as well as keynote speakers' books. A book-signing session is also held in the Exhibits Hall. Also housed in the Exhibits Hall will be the very popular NEATE mini-grant raffle. **We are offering a special low rate for tables in order to provide an even greater variety of vendors to our participants: \$225 for the first table and \$200 for each additional table. Non-profit organizations may reserve a table for \$100.**

You will not want to miss this opportunity to make critical business contacts, produce quality leads, and learn what's on the minds of today's top education professionals. Because school districts are highlighting the importance of literacy skills in all curriculum areas, they will be in the market to purchase a variety of quality materials to improve student reading and writing skills, while appealing to the learning styles and imagination of children. Many of our attendees are considering taking courses to enhance their skills and knowledge, so we welcome colleges, universities, and professional development agencies. Our Exhibits Hall is an exceptional setting to address teachers, administrators, college instructors, and curriculum leaders directly!

- WE DEVOTE THREE DISTINCT TIME PERIODS TO OUR EXHIBITORS.
- INTERNET IS FREE THROUGHOUT THE EXHIBITS HALL.
- WE OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXHIBITORS TO ADVERTISE IN OUR CONFERENCE MATERIALS OR TO SPONSOR COFFEE BREAKS IN THE EXHIBITS HALL.
- WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR REDUCED HOTEL ROOM RATES THAT INCLUDE FREE PARKING

You can download forms and more information at <http://neate.org/>, where you will find the registration form and a link to PayPal.

We look forward to seeing you at our conference!

Sincerely,

*Dick West*

*Debbie Woelflein*

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