

# CHARLOZ

**SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2024**

**A COMMUNITY OZ THEMED LITERACY ARTS FESTIVAL**



[charloz.charlotte.edu](https://charloz.charlotte.edu)



## Welcome to Charloz 2024!

Explore how L. Frank Baum's fairy tale timelessly reflects American values with its vast array of characters through a variety of experiences including:

- Gregory Maguire, author of *Wicked*, giving Charloz's opening talk at the Knight Theater
- Exhibits at the Projective Eye Gallery (at The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City) and the Popp Martin Student Union on UNC Charlotte's main campus
- Gaming and virtual reality experiences, hands-on creative opportunities, and discussions led by Oz experts from around the country in UNC Charlotte's J. Murrey Atkins Library
- Author talks and family activities at ImaginOn in Uptown
- Vendors at The Market at 7th Street on Saturday and Sunday
- Unique presentations at The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City, including the the premiere of *His Majesty, The Scarecrow of Oz*, and a presentation by Gita Dorothy Morena—L. Frank Baum's great-granddaughter!

In collaboration with Charloz, the Charlotte Symphony presents the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* Film in Concert.

<https://charloz.charlotte.edu/>

# Welcome to CharLOz 2024!

Welcome to CharLOz!

I'm so excited that you decided to spend an hour, the day, or your whole weekend with us! While it seems long ago and far away now, CharLOz started as a much smaller idea—connect UNC Charlotte students with scholars who specialize in Oz as an opportunity for the students to experience a professional conference and the scholars to bring their love of America's first fairy tale to the next generation of scholars. When I pitched this idea to my mentor and collaborator, Mark West, he said two terrifying words: think bigger. Today, you get to experience that bigger vision.

Bigger isn't easier, and it certainly isn't done without a whole community supporting the vision. Our first partners, Becca Worthington and Maryann Okeeffe were invaluable—sharing ImaginOn's building and resources with the sort of collaborative spirit that can only be found in libraries. Of course, UNC Charlotte's J. Murrey Atkins Library also demonstrated the same collaborative spirit—Dawn Schmitz, Beth Caruso, Randy Beem, Natalie Ornat, Ryan Miller, Stacy Rue, Rodney Freeman, and others jumped right in with offers of space, technology, and so much more!

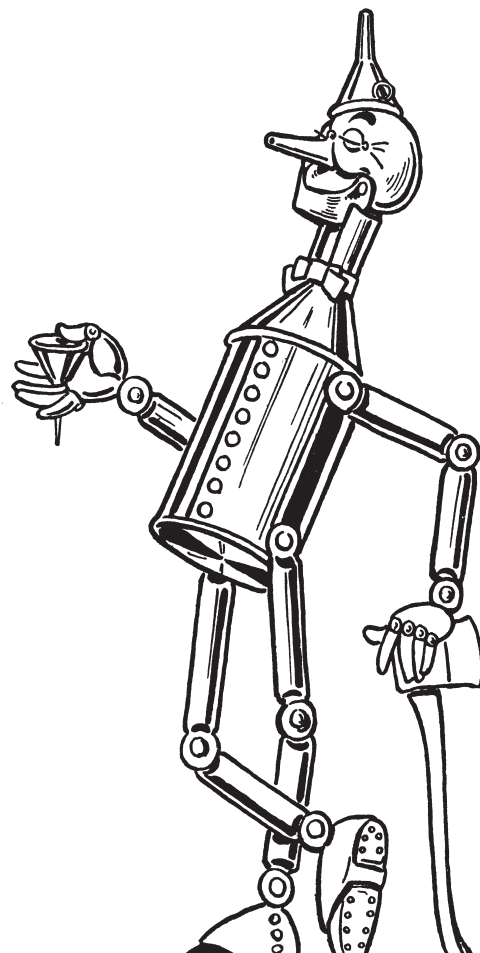
Libraries aren't the only places willing to collaborate! From the UNC Charlotte side: Wendy Fishman, Adam Justice and Jessica Burke helped us collaborate with our College of Arts and Architecture—the gallery exhibits would not have happened without Adam and JB, and Wendy's fingerprints are on FAR too many CharLOz items to list out in a short acknowledgement—Leslie Antoniel and Twig Branch tirelessly helped with funding and connections, including (but not limited to) the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Scott Gartlan helped connect CharLOz and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools via the Charlotte Teachers Institute, Peter Szanton helped with our grant applications and internal funding, support, energy and encouragement came from Paula Eckard, Beth Whitaker, Mary Jo McGowan, Jennifer Warner, Angie Williams, Monica Burke, Jeffery Leak, Jurgen Buchenau, Karyn Williamson-Coria, Lynn Roberson, Nana Sledzieski, Jenn Conway, Buffie Stephens, and Janaka Lewis.

We're lucky enough to have many external-to-UNC Charlotte partners, too. (Apologies in advance if I missed anyone!) CharLOz would not have been possible without Robert Krumbine and Monica Ponce from Center City Partners, Brad Ritter and Jay Morong from the Charlotte Film Society, Tom Gabbard and Alana Graber from Blumenthal Performing Arts, Salem Suber, Kenya Augurson, and Antonia Betaudier from The Market at 7th Street, Sean Barrett from the Land of Oz park, and Jane Albright, Leah Barber, and Ryan Bunch from the International Wizard of Oz Club. And, of course, CharLOz also would not be possible without our funders: Caitlin Patton Stanley with North Carolina Humanities, and individuals including Tim Tucker, Eric Sklut, Peggy Gartner, Philip Blumenthal, Warren Spielberg, Gary Rautenstrauch, and Tamara Lesesne.

CharLOz also wouldn't be possible without our presenters, interns, volunteers and without YOU—your presence makes the work worthwhile.

Thanks to all,

Dina Massachi, CharLOz Project Director



# Welcome to CharOz 2024!

P.S.

On the previous page I named a lot of names that CharOz wouldn't be possible without. This list left off a very important group: the CharOz interns. This was not an error; they merit their own thank you page.

CharOz is not just a festival, it was also a class that ran for four semesters at UNC Charlotte. During this time I had the privilege of working with some of the finest students within the university. They made this event possible with their hard work and dedication. Each of them brought something new and irreplaceable to the table and exceeded in raising the bar and making this event the best possible version of itself. I offer their names, and the semesters they put into this project, below:

**Kennedy Brooks:** January 2023 - December 2023

**Mahaley Bruch:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Princela Flores:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Courtney Galloway:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Laura Harrison:** August 2023 - May 2024

**Peyton Hatley:** January 2023 - May 2023

**Glorian Hidalgo-Vega:** August 2023 - May 2024

**Egypt James:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Sierra Johnson:** August 2023 - October 2024

**Carlee Macaluso:** January 2024 - May 2024

**Amir Maddox:** January 2023 - December 2023

**Megan Mcdaniel:** August 2023 - October 2024

**Kass Mellado-Zavala:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Lydia Melton:** January 2024 - October 2024

**Nastia Kowalski:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Silverixx Parkes:** August 2023 - December 2023

**Dallas Pike:** January 2023 - October 2024

**Harley Roberts:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Jadyn Robinson:** January 2023 - May 2023

**Mackenzie Saenz:** January 2024 - October 2024

**James Tawes:** January 2023 - May 2023

**Hadley Templeton:** August 2024 - October 2024

**Madison Todle:** January 2023 - May 2023

**Dorothy Knosby:** Graduate assistant who created the original design of the CharOz website

Everyone on this list should be proud knowing that everyone attending the festival is enjoying the fruits of your labor and the time you dedicated to this will create memories for others that last a lifetime. Thank you so much for your hard work, fantastic attitudes, and willingness to dream with me. I can't wait to see what you do next!

With love and appreciation,  
Dina Massachi, CharOz Project Director

P.P.S Thank you to Dr. Jennifer Warner and the LEADS program for providing me with the opportunity to turn CharOz into a learning experience for these students.

# Schedule of Events

Advanced registration is required. Your registration confirmation will provide access to one or more events, so please print it out or favorite it on your device so you can find it easily at the sign-in table. Please plan to arrive about 10 minutes before the event begins to sign in and get settled.

CharOz is very pleased to offer such a wide variety of events, with so many talented presenters! Check out this official schedule of events to see when and where all of them will be taking place.

## Thursday, September 26

The primary venue for these events will be The Knight Theater at UNC Charlotte Center City.

7:00 PM-7:05 PM: Dina Massachi, Project Director for CharOz, welcomes everyone.

7:05 PM – 9:00 PM: Gregory Maguire gives a CharOz kick-off welcome talk.

9:00 PM – 9:30 PM: Gregory Maguire book signing reception.

### ADDITIONAL EVENT

All Day: Student art exhibition 'Oz Illustrations' (self-guided) in the Popp Martin Student Union Art Gallery on the UNC Charlotte Main Campus.

9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28223

For more information about parking, visit [pats.charlotte.edu](http://pats.charlotte.edu).



# Schedule of Events

## Friday, September 27

Advanced registration is required. Your registration confirmation will provide access to one or more events, so please print it out or favorite it on your device so you can find it easily at the sign-in table. Please plan to arrive about 10 minutes before the event begins to sign in and get settled.

The primary venue for these events will be at UNC Charlotte's J. Murrey Atkins Library.

10:00 AM-10:05 AM: Dina Massachi, Project Director of CharlOz, welcomes everyone in Halton Reading Room.

### VISUALIZATION LAB

10:10 AM-11:05 AM: Brady Schwind talks about *The Wiz* and Tom H. John.

11:10 AM-12:05 PM: Eric Shanower talks about how he found a career in Oz.

12:10 PM-1:05 PM: Brady Schwind talks about *The Wiz* and Tom John.

1:10 PM-4:00 PM: *The Wiz* Virtual Reality Experience.

### THE MAKERSPACE

12:30 PM-2:30 PM: Drew Allison offers a hands on tutorial.

3:00 PM-4:00 PM: Janet K. Lee demonstrates how to draw Oz Characters.

### T3

10:10 AM-10:30 AM: T. Craft talks about work as the artistic director at Offsite Connecticut Theatre.

10:35 AM-11:05 AM: Eric Gjovaag talks about the process of creating a definitive *The Wizard of Oz* website.

11:10 AM-11:35 AM: Ryan Bunch talks about his *Oz and the Musical: Performing the American Fairy tale* book.

11:40 AM-11:50 AM: Carlee Macaluso will talk about fate and free will in *Wicked*.

11:50 AM-12:00 PM: Sierra Johnson will talk about the character of Dorothy in many adaptations, including *Dorothy Must Die*.

12:05 PM-12:35 PM: Atticus Gannaway talks about Baum, and the illustrators and publishers involved during

\*Continue to next page for continued Friday, September 27 schedule.



# Schedule of Events

## HALTON READING ROOM

10:10 AM-11:10 AM: Janet K. Lee, James Ortiz, Eric Shanower and others discuss the process of creating Oz Characters in a panel moderated by Jessica Burke.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM: Heather Greene talks about the story of the Wicked Witch and Glinda through cinematic history.

12:20 PM-1:20 PM: Angelica Shirley Carpenter talks about Matilda Joslyn Gage, a major leader in the early women's movement and L. Frank Baum's mother-in-law.

1:25 PM-2:15 PM: Mark West, Katharine Kittredge, J.L. Bell, Walter Squire, Paige Gray, Angelica Shirley Carpenter, Gita Dorothy Morena, and Dina Massachi talk about their book, *The Characters of Oz* in a panel moderated by Jane Albright.

2:20 PM-2:50 PM: Jason Black and Jeff Walker unpack scenes from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and *The Wizard of Oz* concerning the promise of discovering one's "fantastical home" and "chosen family" as equipment for living in an uncertain and hazardous world.

3:00 PM-3:30 PM: Megan Lynn Isaac talks about the intersection of public authority and gender across the fourteen Oz novels.

3:30 PM-4:00 PM: J.L. Bell talks about governmental authority and the long line of literary scholarship about Oz as a utopia, to indicate patterns and show the meaning of monarchy in Baum's Oz.

## ALL DAY EVENT

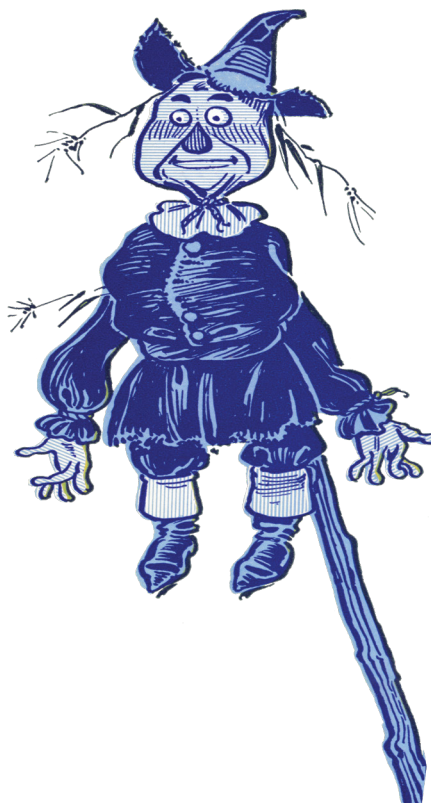
Oz gameplay in Area 49's Gaming Lab.

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

All Day: Land of Oz exhibition (self-guided) running in the Projective Eye Gallery.

All Day: Student art exhibition 'Oz Illustrations' (self-guided) running in the Popp Martin Student Union Art Gallery on the UNC Charlotte Main Campus.

Beginning at 7:30 PM: As part of the CharlOz Festival, the Charlotte Symphony delivers a sweeping orchestral backing of the beloved 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* in Belk Theatre. To purchase tickets or get additional information on this Charlotte Symphony Event please visit: <https://www.charlottesymphony.org/movie-series/>.



# Schedule of Events

## Saturday, September 28

Advanced registration is required. Your registration confirmation will provide access to one or more events, so please print it out or favorite it on your device so you can find it easily at the sign-in table. Please plan to arrive about 10 minutes before the event begins to sign in and get settled.

The primary venue for these events will be ImaginOn: The Joe and Joan Martin Center.

10:00 AM-10:05 AM: Dina Massachi, Project Director of CharLOz, welcomes everyone.

### KIDS PROGRAMMING IN THE SPANGLER LIBRARY

10:30 AM-11:00 AM: Family Storytime: The Wizard of Oz features stories, songs, and movement activities.

11:30 AM-12:00 PM: Puppet Show: No Place Like Home includes puppet shows, songs, and movement activities.

12:05 PM-12:30 PM: Book Signings.

2:00 PM-3:00 PM: Story Explorers: Meet The Land Of Oz explores stories in creative ways and features special guests from the Land of Oz.

### KIDS PROGRAMMING ALL DAY EVENTS

Special CharLOz Scavenger Hunt throughout ImaginOn.

Special CharLOz Crafts in the Story Jar Area.

### GENERAL PROGRAMMING IN WELLS FARGO THEATER

10:05 AM-11:00 AM: Eric Shanower, Amy Chu, and Janet K. Lee discuss Oz in comics, in a panel moderated by Michael Kobre.

11:05 AM-12:00 PM: Amy Chu and Janet K. Lee talk about their Sea Sirens and Sky Island graphic novels and Danielle Paige talks about her Dorothy Must Die series.

12:35 PM-1:30 PM: Eric Shanower talks about his work in Oz and Angelica Shirley Carpenter talks about her L. Frank Baum and Matilda Gage biographies.

1:35 PM-3:30 PM: James Ortiz's *The Woodsman*, with Q&A.

### ADDITIONAL EVENTS

All Day: Land of Oz exhibition (self-guided) running in the Projective Eye Gallery.

All Day: Student art exhibition 'Oz Illustrations' (self-guided) running in the Popp Martin Student Union Art Gallery on the UNC Charlotte Main Campus.

Beginning at 7:30 PM: As part of the CharLOz Festival, the Charlotte Symphony delivers a sweeping orchestral backing of the beloved 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* in Belk Theatre. To purchase tickets or get additional information on this Charlotte Symphony Event please visit: <https://www.charlottesymphony.org/events/8E21>

# Schedule of Events

## Sunday, September 29

Advanced registration is required. Your registration confirmation will provide access to one or more events, so please print it out or favorite it on your device so you can find it easily at the sign-in table. Please plan to arrive about 10 minutes before the event begins to sign in and get settled.

The primary venue for these events will be The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City.

10:00 AM-10:05 AM: Dina Massachi, Project Director of CharIOz, welcomes everyone in Auditorium 1.

### AUDITORIUM 1

10:05 AM-12:05 PM: Watch the premier of *His Majesty, The Scarecrow of Oz*, with music provided by Ethan Uslan, and stay for Nate Barlow's talk about his restoring process

12:10 PM-1:05 PM: Virginia Kantra talks about what it means for Dorothy Gale to be one of the first American heroines.

1:10 PM-2:10 PM: Shundra Allison, Elizabeth Cochrane, Marian Myers, and Lynne Wiesecke discuss creating and implementing Oz curriculum in a panel moderated by Scott Gartlan.

2:15 PM-3:15 PM: Gita Dorothy Morena, the great-granddaughter of L. Frank Baum, the great-granddaughter of Matilda Gage shares personal stories about the impact of this powerful lineage.

3:20 PM-3:50 PM: Dina Massachi and Mark West talk about their new Broadview edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

### AUDITORIUM 2

10:05 AM-10:35 AM: Hiroe Suzuki talks about male characters in the Oz series who show care capability.

10:40 AM-11:10 AM: Judy Bieber analyzes representations of protective and nurturing father figures, and examines depictions of heteronormative marriage, which are infrequent and none too flattering .

11:15 AM-11:45 AM: Laurence Brenner explores the movie *Return to Oz* as a treatise on trauma, memory, and mental health.

11:50 AM-12:20 PM: Holly Humes and Vibiana Cvetkovic talk about the adaptation of the original *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* into the novel *The Hunger Games* and the adaptation of the 1939 MGM Oz film into the 2012 film *The Hunger Games*.

12:25 PM-12:55 PM: Eric Gjoavaag looks at how math shows up in Oz, and also how Oz can be used to teach math.

1:00 PM-1:55 PM: UNC Charlotte Musical Theatre Students Ezra DeVane, Reem Nour, Caitlin O'Hagan, Izzy Oyler, and Trinity Turner perform a set of Oz songs.

2:00 PM-4:00 PM: Walter Squire introduces *The Muppets' Wizard of Oz* film, which will be subsequently shown.

### ADDITIONAL EVENT

All Day: Land of Oz exhibition (self-guided) running in the Projective Eye Gallery.

# Presentation Abstracts

## Thursday, September 26

### **No Rest for the Wicked: Gregory Maguire**

Starting with his childhood experiences of reading and watching the 1939 MGM film *The Wizard of Oz*, Mr. Maguire will consider the inspiration, ideas, and development behind his novel *Wicked* and its further iterations, the Broadway show, and the forthcoming films.

## Friday, September 27

### **The Journey Towards “Home” - A Look at *THE WIZ* and How Time and Space Influence Our Stories: Brady Schwind**

When *The Wiz* opened on Broadway in 1975, audiences and critics were challenged by the show's bold re-imagining of a familiar classic. Using Tom John's original scenic artwork, Brady Schwind takes us into that re-imagination process, inviting a conversation about how the recreation of stories reflects our culture and emotionally impacts us as individuals.

### **Road to Oz: Eric Shanower**

How does one assume the mantle of keeping L. Frank Baum's magical Land of Oz alive through comics, writing, illustration, and more? Come learn how *New York Times* best-selling cartoonist Eric Shanower as a child fell in love with Oz and dedicated himself to continuing Baum's legacy as no one else has done. Come marvel at Shanower's many decades of Oz work, encompassing not only two series of graphic novels, but Oz projects as a publisher, non-fiction researcher and author, stage producer, convention organizer, and dancer.

### **Hands-On Puppet Tutorial: Drew Allison**

Come join Grey Seal Puppeteer's Drew Allison for this speedy course in shadow puppetry! The workshop will begin with a demonstration of different types of puppets followed by the design and construction of simple shadow puppets by the participants, who will then break into small groups to develop a Wizard of Oz themed story to perform for their fellow workshop attendees!

### **Drawing Oz Characters: Janet K. Lee**

Join award-winning artist Janet K. Lee and learn to draw your favorite characters from the Land of Oz! All ages and skill levels are welcome.

### **Reviving Oz: T. Craft**

T. Craft is a life-long Connecticut Oz fan, and the owner of Molly's Puppet Cottage, Artistic Director at Offsite Connecticut Theatre, as well as the writer of the new musical movie "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz – A Psych Rock Movie." T. Craft will talk about their work with Golden Age Theatricals, and how they have revived classic Oz musicals like 1903's "The Wizard of Oz" extravaganza, and 1905's "The Woggle Bug." Breaking down the process of reviving each show, which will be followed by a Q&A session. T. cannot wait to share their research, work, and new discoveries with the audience.

### **Creating a Wizard of Oz Website: Eric Gjovaag**

Eric Gjovaag, a long-time Oz fan, set out to create a definitive *The Wizard of Oz* website in 1996, at the dawn of the world wide web. It's still going! He'll tell the tale of how it started, how it's changed over the decades, and the impact it's had on both his love of oz and that of others.

### ***Oz and the Musical: Performing the American Fairy Tale* Book Talk: Ryan Bunch**

Ryan Bunch will discuss his book *Oz and the Musical: Performing the American Fairy Tale*, exploring how the "American fairy tale" and the "American art form" of the musical have influenced each other for more than a century. In addition to *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Wiz*, and *Wicked*, Ryan will talk about Oz play at home and in community theater performances, the current Broadway and touring revival of *The Wiz*, and the upcoming film adaptations of *Wicked*.

# Presentation Abstracts

## **Fate vs. Free Will in *Wicked*: Carlee Macaluso**

Did any of Elphaba's choices lead to her eventual downfall or had her fate been written in the stars long before she was born? There is a recurring question Elphaba presents to Glinda and her sister, Nessarose; had their lives truly been their own, or had a spell determined them to act the way they did? All signs point to free will only existing as a concept, with everyone in Oz following a predetermined fate instead.

## **Did Dorothy Have To Die?: The Diminishing of Dorothy and *Dorothy Must Die*: Sierra Johnson**

The Dorothy described in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is a young, self-reliant, and practical girl who faces her problems head-on. With the 1939 MGM film adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* we are greeted with a very different and noticeably timid Dorothy which marks the rapid decline in the autonomy and self-reliance of our young, in this case markedly less young, heroine.

## **Men Behind the Curtain: Atticus Gannaway**

Atticus Gannaway's presentation will encompass the Oz books begun by L. Frank Baum in 1900 and continued posthumously. Gannaway's talk, based on his extensive original research, will shed light on Baum's relationships with his publishers, their personal and professional backgrounds, and how those backgrounds positioned the publishers to help Baum and his successors cultivate one of the most successful juvenile series of the early twentieth century. Gannaway will answer how shifting US demographics, economic cycles, and military conflicts played into the fortune of the Oz books and other lingering questions about the history of the Oz franchise.

## **Creating Oz Characters: Eric Shanower, Janet K. Lee, and James Ortiz**

Have you ever read a book, seen a piece of art or watched a performance and wondered where the ideas for the characters come from? Come hear Oz author and illustrator Eric Shanower, illustrator Janet K. Lee, and Broadway puppet master James Ortiz explore what inspires their characters and how they bring their characters to life in a panel moderated by Jessica Burke.

## **Exploration of Witches in Oz: Heather Greene**

*The Wizard of Oz* (1939) is one of the most beloved American films of all time with a powerful imprint on pop culture. However, the film has another legacy. The film contains the most influential representations of witches in American cinema and television. Sabrina and the Sanderson Sisters can enjoy their spotlight, but the Wicked Witch and Glinda are the true visual, technical, and narrative inspirations. This talk will discuss the story of the Wicked Witch and Glinda through American cinematic history, illustrating how MGM created a behemoth of a witch character that has woven her way through Hollywood's magical and magickal histories.

## **Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage: Angelica Shirley Carpenter**

Matilda Joslyn Gage, an early leader in the women's movement, planned conventions, organized political parties, spoke at Congressional hearings and at the White House, and wrote books that are still being studied today. Matilda worked closely with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but these so-called friends betrayed her late in life and wrote her out of history. One person who never forgot her was her son-in-law, L. Frank Baum. His books reflect her opinions and her writing advice.

## **Creating *The Characters of Oz*: Mark West, Katharine Kittredge, J.L. Bell, Walter Squire, Paige Gray, Angelica Shirley Carpenter, Gita Dorothy Morena, and Dina Schiff Massachi**

Jane Albright, past president of the International Wizard of Oz Club, asks many of the contributors of *The Characters of Oz* questions about their chapters, their Oz research, and how the contributor's favorite characters have changed over the years and what those changes mean about Oz, our media, and our society.

# Presentation Abstracts

## **“If We Walk Far Enough, We Shall Sometime Come to Someplace”:** Fantastical Home and Chosen Family in *The Wizard of Oz*: Jason Black and Jeff Walker

*The Wizard of Oz* and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* presents home as a social space rather than a physical place. Dorothy must sojourn beyond Kansas to discover what we call a “fantastical home” in Oz. The “fantastical home” is one where “we find ourselves right where we always wanted to be,” and necessitates a “chosen family.” Black and Walker take Dorothy’s “fantastical home” and “chosen family” as analogs of identity-journeys in the living world, unpacking scenes from these Oz stories, alongside public examples and personal narratives concerning the promise of discovering one’s “fantastical home” and “chosen family.”

## **Government Surveillance in Oz:** Megan Lynn Isaac

L. Frank Baum described Oz as an effort to create literature that was “moral,” “modernized,” and “American.” Baum married the daughter of suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage and took up her cause advocating for “the political future of our wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters.” Isaac explores public authority and gender across the Oz novels by looking at female leaders as monarchs, diplomats, and members of advisory councils, and also connects the role that magical forms of surveillance play in governance with female authority. Superior intelligence is favored over superior force by Baum’s female authorities, but the invasive strategies used for gathering intelligence contrasts with the democratic values his new “American” fairy stories promote.

## **“My! what a lot of Kings and Queens!”:** The Meanings of Monarchy in L. Frank Baum’s Fantasies: J.L. Bell

Monarchs are often at the top of society in Baum’s fairylands, and show characters coming to hold monarchical power in many ways. Baum himself was active in partisan politics, and shaped novels around elections and government reform for older readers. Yet, he consistently set all his fantasy stories in monarchies. He might ridicule individual rulers or shape plots around removing unworthy monarchs from power, but his stories never undercut monarchy itself. Baum even depicted animal species and immortal races as led by kings and queens. Bell will seek explanations for this pattern, using psychological and political-science theories about how children understand governmental authority and literary scholarship about Oz as a Utopia.

## **Saturday, September 28**

### **Creating Comics in Oz:** Eric Shanower, Amy Chu, and Janet K. Lee

How does one take a work as famous as Oz (or an Oz adjacent property like Sky Island) and adapt it into a comic? What is unique to the comic property, how does one pay homage to the original, and what needs to be updated to work for a modern audience? Explore all of this, and more, as Queens University’s Michael Kobre moderates a panel with author/illustrator Eric Shanower (of the Marvel Oz comics) and Amy Chu and Janet K. Lee (of the *Sea Sirens & Sky Island* graphic novels).

### **Writing in Oz:** Amy Chu, Janet K. Lee, and Danielle Paige

In back-to-back talks, Amy Chu and Janet K. Lee talk about creating their *Sea Sirens & Sky Island* graphic novels and Danielle Paige talks about creating her *New York Times* bestselling series *Dorothy Must Die*. This session will end with time for audience Q&A.

### **Working in Oz:** Eric Shanower and Angelica Shirley Carpenter

In back-to-back talks, *New York Times* best-selling cartoonist Eric Shanower shares how he fell in love with Oz as a child and dedicated himself to continuing Baum’s legacy as no one else has done and Angelica Shirley Carpenter talks about her first publication, *L. Frank Baum: Royal Historian of Oz*, a middle-grade biography written with her mother Jean Shirley, her young adult biography, *Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist*, and her picture book, *The Voice of Liberty*, also about Gage. This session will end with time for audience Q&A.

# Presentation Abstracts

## ***The Woodsman* Showing: James Ortiz**

Come watch a recording of James Ortiz's off-Broadway creation, *The Woodsman* (which earned him a 2016 OBIE award for puppet design) and then stay for a talkback and Q&A session with Ortiz—and don't miss *The Woodsman* puppets displayed in ImaginOn: The Joe and Joan Martin Center!

## **Sunday, September 29**

### ***His Majesty, the Scarecrow of Oz* Showing: Nate Barlow**

Filmmaker Nate Barlow has been interested in L. Frank Baum's Oz Film Manufacturing Company for years. With help from UNC Charlotte and The Library of Congress, Barlow has been able to restore Baum's silent film, *His Majesty, the Scarecrow of Oz*. Come to the premier of this restoration and stay for a talkback and Q&A session with Barlow.

### **Dorothy as Everywoman: Virginia Kantra**

Dorothy Gale is one of the first great American heroines—not a sweetheart or a sidekick, but the protagonist of her story. Armed with nothing but a kind heart and kick-ass shoes, she navigates a sometimes hostile world, helps her friends achieve their dreams, and discovers the power that was inside her all along. At a time when women's stories and women's empowerment are as important as ever, Kantra explores the joys and challenges of reimagining a classic and discusses the process of finding our voices as writers/creators and as women.

### **All Roads of Thought Run Through Oz: Shundra Allison, Elizabeth Cochrane, Marian Myers, and Lynne Wiesecke**

Scott Gartland, Executive Director of the Charlotte Teachers Institute, moderates a panel of seven teachers from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public School System, who are Charlotte Teacher Institute Fellows who participated in the seminar "All Roads of Thought Run Through Oz: Teaching Any Topic using The Wizard of Oz," which was led by UNC Charlotte professor and Oz expert, Dina Schiff Massachi.

### **The Impact of the Powerful Baum Lineage: Gita Dorothy Morena**

Gita's great-grandfather, L. Frank Baum and his mother-in-law, Matilda Joslyn Gage expressed their vision and creativity by making unique and noteworthy contributions to society. Gita shares their impact culturally and personally by exploring characteristics and attitudes that have manifested through her family legacy for generations. She explores how we are affected by the actions of our ancestors, and considers how exploring one's family legacy can stimulate and deepen the challenges of healing and reconciliation that are needed to influence the course of our future.

### **Creating the Broadview Edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*: Dina Schiff Massachi**

Dina Massachi discusses creating the Broadview edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, what it is like to place a text within its time period, and how one chooses what to place in an appendix of one of the most famous American fairy tales.

### **Male Capability of Care in Oz Series: Hiroe Suzuki**

The "ethic of care" advocated by Carol Gilligan in the 1980s, as opposed to the "ethic of justice," has been used as an argument against patriarchy and neoliberalism, which underestimated care work such as housework, childcare, and nursing care. Suzuki will examine male characters in the Oz series who show care capability, and break free from machismo. In *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, three males' virtues are shown through wisdom and courage to save others and compassion for the weak, while Oz, a little man who tries to wield authority, doing nothing, is expelled. By analyzing male characters' gratuitous care in the Oz series, Suzuki will examine whether the series has contemporary respect for non-interested care and gender equality, leading to its enduring appeal.

# Presentation Abstracts

## **Fictive Fathers and Henpecked Husbands: Parenting and Marriage in Baum's Oz: Judy Bieber**

Orphans are ubiquitous in children's literature, and L. Frank Baum's fantasy books for children are no exception. There are few depictions of nuclear families and heteronormative marriages in his books. Baum breaks gender norms by creating the transgender Tip/Ozma, and the nonbinary Chick the Cherub. Was he similarly innovative in his representations of parenting and marriage? Bieber will analyze representations of protective and nurturing father figures, and examine depictions of heteronormative marriage, which are infrequent and none too flattering. While Aunt Em and Uncle Henry are the most visible and well-developed married couple in Baum's children's fantasies, Bieber also examines minor characters.

## **Exploring Walt Disney's *Return to Oz*: Laurence Brenner**

Walt Disney's *Return to Oz* has a curious pedigree, as an adaptation of L. Frank Baum's third Oz book, *Ozma of Oz*, and a sequel (in spirit, if not in fact) to the 1939 MGM movie *The Wizard of Oz*. The film posits that Dorothy's first visit to Oz was a traumatic experience she could not process. As a result of this trauma, Aunt Em brings Dorothy to an asylum for electroshock therapy. Dorothy escapes to Oz, where everything she saw and met in the asylum is reproduced in Oz. In this presentation, Brenner will explore the movie as a treatise on trauma, memory, and mental health.

## **Katniss in Oz: Holly Humes and Vibiana Cvetkovic**

Did *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* adapt into *The Hunger Games* and the 1939 MGM Oz film into the 2012 Hunger Games film? Holly Humes will explain intertextuality in the novel, *The Hunger Games*, and Vibiana Cvetkovic will cover the 2012 film. Humes argues that Dorothy's reincarnation as Katniss is emphasized by: the Capitol/Emerald City and President Snow/Wizard and presses the role of incomplete revolution in Oz, which Gale completes. In her portion, Cvetkovic traces the parallel economic crises of the Great Depression in the 1939 film and the Great Recession in the 2000s, which bookend the 1939 Oz and 2012 Hunger Games films.

## **Mathematics in Oz: Eric Gjoavaag**

This workshop for teachers of mathematics at all levels will look at how math shows up in Oz (is the Scarecrow's brain in the famous movie version really so good?), and also how Oz can be used to teach math. Activities and problems from the books *The Mathematics of Oz* (Clifford A. Pickover, 2002) and *STEAM Tales: The Wizard of Oz* (Katie Dicker, 2022) will be presented, and the Oz contributions of Martin Gardner (popular mathematics writer, charter member of the International Wizard of Oz Club, and North Carolinian) will also be discussed.

## **UNC Charlotte Musical Theatre Students Oz Performance: Ezra DeVane, Reem Nour, Caitlin O'Hagan, Izzy Oyler, and Trinity Turner**

The UNC Charlotte Musical Theatre Students perform a set of Oz songs. The setlist includes; The Wizard and I from *Wicked*, What Would I Do If I Could Feel from *The Wiz*, Popular from *Wicked*, Home from *The Wiz*, For Good from *Wicked*, Be A Lion from *The Wiz*, Defying Gravity from *Wicked*, Believe in Yourself from *The Wiz*, Somewhere Over the Rainbow (Eva Cassidy arrangement) from *The Wizard of Oz*, One Short Day (a capella arrangement ) from *Wicked*.

## ***The Muppets' Wizard of Oz*: Walter Squire**

Walter Squire will be giving an introduction to *The Muppets' Wizard of Oz*, which will be subsequently shown. His introduction will note that beginning with Baum's own 1902 stage production, adaptations of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* build upon one another, including the Fox TV movie *The Muppets' Wizard of Oz*. After noting how these adaptations build upon one another he will note additional complexities and items of interest in *The Muppets' Wizard of Oz*.

# Guest Speakers

**Jane Albright** grew up reading the Oz books, and joined the International Wizard of Oz Club at age 13 to buy, sell, and trade books. In college a display of her books led her to pursue public exhibits and presentations. Today, Jane's collection fills the third floor of her home, and includes Oz productions, international Oz, and vintage toys. She supports public exhibits at toy, doll, art, and history museums, libraries, and other venues. She recently completed her second 3-year term as president of the International Wizard of Oz Club.

**Drew Allison**, the founder of Grey Seal Puppets, has performed on television and stage, including The Center for Puppetry Arts and The Smithsonian Institution. He has received awards such as The President's Award by The Puppeteers of America, and is a Certified Teaching Artist with the South Carolina Arts Commission and with Engaging Creative Minds, and has served on the Board of The Puppeteers of America and UNIMA-USA. He has worked on-camera in many roles for both broadcast, non-broadcast and feature film roles including "Elmo in Grouchland" and "The Eyes of Tammy Faye."

**Shundra Allison**, a native of Charlotte, teaches English III, Creative Writing and Literary Magazine at her Alma Mater, Myers Park High School. She is beginning her 27th year of teaching and has aspirations of becoming an Oz scholar. This is her second CTI seminar.

**Nate Barlow** graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, but quickly switched to filmmaking in Hollywood. His award-winning documentary short *A Brief History of Hollywood*, which interweaves the history of the Hollywood Sign with that of advances in filmmaking, played thirty-three film festivals worldwide. Other recent work includes co-producing the PBS documentary *The Water of Life*, about the craft and craftspeople of Scotch whisky. Previously he wrote the Meghan Markle-starrer *Random Encounters* and produced & directed *Tales From Beyond*, starring Adam West. His website is [natebarlow.com](http://natebarlow.com).

**J. L. Bell** wrote "A Good Man but a Bad Wizard?" in *The Characters of Oz*. His past articles on Oz have dissected an L. Frank Baum manuscript, analyzed Dorothy Gale as a conqueror, and explored how Baum used historic stereotypes. Bell's stories have won the Oz Club's Fred Otto Prize for fiction several times. In the great outside world, he is author of *The Road to Concord: How Four Stolen Cannon Ignited the Revolutionary War*.

**Judy Bieber** is a Professor of History at the University of New Mexico who focuses on the history of Spanish America and Brazil. She joined the International Wizard of Oz Club in 1977, has served on the IWOC board of directors, and has published articles and book reviews in *The Baum Bugle*. At IWOC conventions, she has delivered presentations about Baum's pseudonymous works and gender representations in the Oz books.

**Jason Edward Black** is Professor of Rhetoric, Culture, & and Social Change at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His teaching and research reside at the constellation of social change and rhetorical studies, with a keen interest in popular culture, Indigeneity, and Queer World-Making. The author (or coauthor) of six books and over 40 articles, Black has been enchanted by the Oz epic since receiving – and devouring! – the full series of Dover edition books on his 8th birthday.

**Larry Brenner** is an Associate Professor at Bronx Community college, where he teaches film, television, and interpersonal communication. He also teaches playwriting and screenwriting at the Naslund/Mann School of Writing. His screenplay 'Bethlehem' (Universal) was a winner of Final Draft's Big Break Contest. He has also written *Labyrinth* (Walt Disney Pictures) and *Angelology* (SONY/Columbia Pictures.) Brenner as a PhD in Educational Theatre from NYU, and is a host of the *Once Upon a Disney* podcast. He has also launched a website for this podcast at <https://www.onceuponadisneypodcast.com/>.

# Guest Speakers

**Ryan Bunch** is president of the International Wizard of Oz Club and author of *Oz and the Musical: Performing the American Fairy Tale*, published by Oxford University Press. A musicologist and scholar of the cultures of childhood, he teaches music history at Temple University and childhood studies at Rutgers University-Camden. He is a founder of the Childhood and Youth study group of the American Musicological Society, and his most recent research concerns the cultural significance of mass-market children's music.

**Jessica Burke** (J.B.) is an Associate Professor of Art and Foundations Coordinator at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. An artist working across installation, drawing and digital media, she examines world-building and its relationship with issues of identity. Her work has been widely exhibited nationally and internationally. She has been an artist-in residence in Cork, Ireland; Key West, Florida; Cove Park, Scotland and in Budapest, Hungary. Her drawings have been published in *Manifest's* International Drawing Annual (INDA) 13; *Studio Visit* Magazine and North Light Book's *Strokes of Genius 9: The Best of Drawing*.

**Angelica Shirley Carpenter** is the author of five biographies for young people, Frances Hodgson Burnett, L. Frank Baum, Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Carroll, and *Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Radical Suffragist*; and two picture books, *The Voice of Liberty* and *The Secret Gardens of Frances Hodgson Burnett*. Curator emerita of the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature at California State University, Fresno, she is a past president of the International Wizard of Oz Club. Her website is [www.angelicacarpenter.com](http://www.angelicacarpenter.com).

**Amy Chu** is a multi-genre writer for comics and animation. Her most recent graphic novel is *Carmilla: The First Vampire* (Dark Horse / Berger Books). Her graphic novels for children include *Turning Red*, *Sea Sirens* and *Sky Island* and *Ana & the Cosmic Race*. In addition to judging for the Ringo and Harvey awards, she serves on the faculty of the Kubert School and the School of Visual Arts and is a board member of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. You can follow her on instagram @amy\_chu, tiktok @theamychu, and on Facebook/iwritecomics.

**Elizabeth Cochrane** teaches English Language Arts to novice and intermediate multilingual learners in grades 9, 10 and 11 at East Mecklenburg High School. She holds a Masters degree in curriculum design and instruction with emphasis in English as a second language and English language arts from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. This is Ms. Cochrane's first CTI seminar.

**T. Craft** is the owner of Molly's Puppet Cottage and the Artistic Director at Offsite Connecticut Theatre, as well as the writer of the new musical movie "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz – A Psych Rock Movie." T. also revives classic musical works of the 1800s and early 1900s with Golden Age Theatricals. Revivals have included the 1903 "The Wizard of Oz" extravaganza, and 1905's "The Woggle Bug." A life-long Connecticut Oz fan, T. Craft is grateful to speak at CharLOz.

**Vibiana Cvetkovic** holds a PhD in Childhood Studies. She is a Librarian Emerita of the Rutgers University Libraries. Her books include: *Fleeting Images: Portrayals of Children in Popular Culture* (Lexington Books, forthcoming 2013), *Stop Plagiarism: A Handbook for Librarians and Educators* (Neil-Schuman Publisher, 2010), and four other works that include handbooks, tutorials, and research and resource guides. Her most recent monograph is *Cold War Children's Television: Philadelphia as a Case Study* (Lexington Press, 2023).

# Guest Speakers

**Ezra Devane** is a Pre-Nursing Major at UNC Charlotte. He is very active on campus with student organizations such as Students Achieving First Year Excellence, Emerging Leaders, Collegiate 100, among others. Driven by his passion for music, particularly gospel, he has studied various music genres from a young age. He recently played Emmett Forrest in Charlotte's mainstage production of *Legally Blonde*. He is also a member of Codachrome A Capella, and recently released some of his own original music. His favorite Oz-related works are *Wicked* or *The Wiz*.

**Atticus Gannaway**, senior writer in NYU School of Law's Office of Communications, is a former editor-in-chief of *The Baum Bugle* and the author of six Oz books, including *The Silver Sorceress of Oz* (Books of Wonder, 2002). The recipient of the 2012 L. Frank Baum Memorial Award, he has written major research articles about Oz illustrators Frank Kramer and Dick Martin and is currently working on a book about how Baum and his publishers turned Oz into a cultural phenomenon.

**Scott R. Gartlan**, Ed.D. (he/him/his) is Executive Director of the Charlotte Teachers Institute. He is a former high school teacher and counselor. He has supported the growth and development of more than 900 PK-12th grade teachers through high-quality professional development seminars and programs. His work focuses on effective teacher professional development, teacher efficacy, and program evaluation. He earned a Doctorate from UNC Charlotte, a Master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a Master's degree and undergraduate degree from Washington College.

**Paige Gray**, a professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, approaches the study of children's and young adult literature as a means to explore questions of voice, agency, and creative expression. She's the author of *Cub Reporters: American Children's Literature and Journalism in the Golden Age* (SUNY Press), and her current book project is *Children of the Black Press: How Young People Helped Create an African American Youth Literature* (The Ohio State University Press). She also researches ideas of play, thingness, dolls, and American puppetry.

**Heather Greene** authored the award-winning book, "Lights, Camera, Witchcraft: A Critical History of Witches in American Film & Television" and has appeared in several productions on the topic including the French documentary "The Witches of Hollywood" (2020). She currently works as an acquisitions consultant for Llewellyn Worldwide and has bylines at Religion News Service and Religion Unplugged. Her writing has also appeared in "The Washington Post," "The Associated Press," "The Wild Hunt," and more. Heather also co-hosts the "Witch's Movie Coven" podcast. She is a member of the Religion Newswriters Association and Covenant of the Goddess.

**Holly Blackford Humes**, Professor of English at Rutgers University, Camden, teaches and publishes literary criticism on American, children's, adolescent, and YA literature, film, and media. She has written and edited six books including *Out of This World: Why Literature Matters to Girls* (Teachers College, U of Columbia P, 2004) and *Mockingbird Passing: Closeted Traditions and Sexual Curiosities in Harper Lee's Novel* (U of Tennessee P, 2011). She is finishing a manuscript on puppetry, stop motion, and virtuality in youth media and working on *Beyond Womanish: The Black Female Bildungsroman*.

# Guest Speakers

**Megan Lynn Isaac** is a professor of English at Elon University where she teaches courses in young adult literature, surveillance and literature, and Shakespeare. Her recent publications include work on surveillance in young adult literature and the representation of young women as fiction writers. At about age 10, she purchased a subscription to her first literary journal—*The Baum Bugle*. She’s been an Oz fan for a long time!

**Tom H. John** has had a distinguished career in art and design. Design highlights include the African Pavilion for the 1964 World’s Fair, television set designs for *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Death of a Salesman*, the Academy Awards and the Tony Awards. Tom designed the sets for all of Barbra Streisand’s 1960s television specials, and for six Broadway productions, including *Guys & Dolls*, *George M!* and *The Wiz*. John has received five Emmys and the Peabody Award.

**Sierra Johnson** is a Senior at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte studying Communications with a concentration in Rhetoric, Culture, and Social Change. She has been an intern in the CharOz program for the past 3 semesters and has had a passion for *The Wiz* since childhood.

**Adam N. Justice** received his BA in Art History/Museum Studies from Radford University and his MA in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University. His past appointments include Chief Curator at William King Art Museum (Abingdon, VA), Curator of Art at Polk Museum of Art (Lakeland, FL), and Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at the Mint Museum (Charlotte, NC). In 2018, he became the Director of Galleries for the College of Arts + Architecture at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His website is <https://coaa.charlotte.edu/people/adam-justice> .

**Virginia Kantra**, an NYT bestselling author, has written over thirty novels about strong women, messy families, and the search for a place to call home. She enjoys bringing fresh life to American classic heroines, including Meg & Jo and Beth & Amy, inspired by *Little Women*, and *The Fairytale Life of Dorothy Gale*, in which a graduate student from Kansas journeys to Trinity College Dublin (the Emerald Isle!). Virginia’s stories have earned praise from People Magazine, Woman’s World, and Publishers Weekly, as well as numerous industry awards. Find her on Instagram (@virginiakantra), Facebook (VirginiaKantraBooks), and her website (<https://virginiakantra.com/>).

**Katharine Kittredge** is Professor of English at Ithaca College, where she teaches courses in Women and Gender Studies, Children’s Literature, and Science Fiction. She founded and oversees a comics-based community service organization, The Graphic Novel Advisory Board, <https://www.ithaca.edu/graphic-novel->

**Michael Kobre**, Professor of English at Queens University of Charlotte, has contributed essays and stories to numerous prestigious journals including *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Tin House*, and *TriQuarterly*. He authored Walker Percy’s *Voices* and his work appears in collections such as *Reading the Boss: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Works of Bruce Springsteen and Superhero Bodies: Identity, Materiality, Transformation*. His latest publication, *Disallowed Truths: Race, Shadow Books, and Captain America*, was featured in the Summer 2023 issue of *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*.

# Guest Speakers

**Janet K. Lee** co-created *Return of the Dapper Men* in 2010 with writer Jim McCann, which won an Eisner Award. Since then, Lee has illustrated numerous projects, including two Jane Austen adaptations for Marvel Comics. Her most recent books, *Sea Sirens* and *Sky Island* (Viking, 2019 and 2020) are based on a lesser-known Baum series. Currently, Janet is working on her first solo project, a middle-grade graphic novel for Roaring Brook Press. Janet lives in Nashville but dreams of someday surviving a tornado which whisks her to OZ. Her website is <https://j-k-lee.com/>.

**Carlee Macaluso** is a 2024 graduate of UNC Charlotte and current employee of CharLOz. She studied English with a concentration in Creative Writing and aspires to one day publish books (that may or may not be Oz-related). Carlee grew up immersed in the world of Oz, from the 1939 MGM movie playing on repeat to seeing *Wicked* on Broadway during her first trip to New York City. She will tell anyone who listens that her most prized possession is the program book she got signed by Jackie Burns who played Elphaba at the time.

**Gregory Maguire** is the New York Times bestselling author of *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, which inspired the Broadway musical *Wicked* and the two forthcoming movie musicals starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande. He has written nearly forty other books, many for young readers. Featured on "Oprah" and in a profile in the Sunday New York Times Magazine, Maguire has been an activist for literacy and literature education. His website is [gregorymaguire.com](http://gregorymaguire.com)

**Dina Schiff Massachi**, Project Director of CharLOz, has written and presented numerous academic essays on Baum's Oz and its various adaptations. She edited *The Characters of Oz: Essays on Their Adaptation and Transformation* (McFarland 2023). Massachi also appeared in the "American Oz" episode of PBS's American Experience. She is a lecturer for the American Studies program at UNC Charlotte; one of her favorite classes is a course on *The Wizard of Oz*.

**Gita Dorothy Morena** is an author, lecturer, and psychoanalyst who shines as a beacon of light for all those traveling along the yellow brick road of life. Her great grandfather, L. Frank Baum, provided a rich tapestry of fairy tales which Dr. Morena draws upon in her book, *The Wisdom of Oz*. Matilda Joselyn Gage, Baum's suffragist mother-in-law, seems to whisper encouragement as Dr. Morena carries the fight for freedom into the inner realms of the psyche. You can find out more about her at [www.gitamorena.com](http://www.gitamorena.com).

**Marian Myers** graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a degree in History. She has taught 6th, 7th, and 8th graders Career and Technical Education (CTE) at Northridge Middle School for 10 years. CTE aims to empower students to be successful citizens, workers, and leaders in a global economy. She teaches *The Wiz* as a curriculum for her 8th graders, emphasizing self discovery and future careers. Students learn personal character, values, decision-making, career planning, and real world skills. This is her first year with CTI.

**Reem Nour** is a Sophomore Vocal Performance major at UNC Charlotte, where she is also earning her certificate in Musical Theatre. She recently played Brooke Wyndham in Charlotte's production of *Legally Blonde*. Other roles she's enjoyed playing include: Gretchen in *Mean Girls*, Fiona in *Shrek* and Rusty in *Footloose*. She also is part of UNC Charlotte's Opera Workshop, where she played The Queen of The Night in their production of *The Magic Flute*. She also is a Soprano in UNC Charlotte's University Chorale.

**Caitlin O'Hagan** is in the Musical Theatre Program at UNC Charlotte.

# Guest Speakers

**James Ortiz** is a cross-disciplinary designer whose recent creation of Milky White for the Broadway revival of *Into the Woods* as well as the Dino designs for Lincoln Center's Tony nominated *Skin of Our Teeth* have both become fan favorites and tattoos! 2016 OBIE winner for puppetry design for his off-Broadway creation, *The Woodsman*. American Theatre magazine of "Six Theatre Workers you Should Know" in 2020. 2022 Drama Desk winner for *Skin of Our Teeth*. His website is <https://www.jamesortiz.co/>.

**Izzy Oyler** is a junior Theatre major with a Music Minor at UNC Charlotte, where she is also earning her certificate in Musical Theatre. She recently played Elle Woods in Charlotte's mainstage production of *Legally Blonde*. Other favorite roles include Sister Mary Robert in *Sister Act*, Lily St Regis in *Annie*, and Margot in *Legally Blonde*. Her favorite Oz-related work is *Wicked*.

**Danielle Paige** is a NYT bestselling novelist and WGA award winning TV writer. Her YA series *Dorothy Must Die* wherein another girl must face off against a now evil Dorothy, is in development at Sony. Her latest series with Kass Morgan follows a group of sorority witches in *The Ravens*. Her new solo work *Wish of the Wicked* (Bloomsbury) is a part one of the fairy godmother's origin story. She's currently working on a DC Black Label Comic. Her graphic novel, *Mera: Tidebreaker* launched the DC Comics Young Readers Line. Here website is <https://daniellepaigebooks.com/>.

**Brady Schwind** launched The Lost Art of Oz in 2018. It was the first program attempting to trace and catalog the surviving original art from the Oz book series. The project brings together institutions, libraries, and private collectors with the vision of celebrating the original artists, and to encourage the continued preservation of Children's Literature Illustration. The Lost Art of Oz is sponsored by The Arts of Imagination Foundation – a nonprofit organization which explores how art and stories influence our culture, our beliefs, and how we see ourselves. His website is <http://www.bradyschwind.com>.

**Eric Shanower** is the award-winning cartoonist of the graphic novel series *Age of Bronze* (Image Comics), retelling the story of the Trojan War. With cartoonist Skottie Young, he adapted L. Frank Baum's Oz books into New York Times best-selling graphic novels. After producing a revival of Baum's stage musical *The Tik-Tok Man of Oz*, Shanower wrote the definitive book on the show's history, *All Wound Up*. He has written and/or illustrated too many other Oz projects to count. He lives with his husband in Portland, Oregon. His website is <http://ericshanower.com/>.

Visit the website of my award-winning graphic novel series: [age-of-bronze.com](http://age-of-bronze.com).

**Walter Squire** is an associate professor of English and Director of the Film Studies program at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. He has published articles on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and other Oz texts, Disney adaptations, American mad scientist films, cinematic depictions of teachers, and literature of the Loray Mill textile mill strike. He is currently at work on a book-length study of 21st-century Appalachian film.

**Hiroe Suzuki** is a Professor at Kanagawa University, Japan. She finished her doctoral course in 2000 and gained her Ph.D. in Literature in 2016 from Shirayuri University in Tokyo. Her interests are in the marginalized in children's literature, especially ethnic minorities or the oppressed in societies. Her latest book, *Reading African American Children's Literature* (2022), collected many positive reviews and was introduced in The American Literature Society in Japan. Besides more than twenty co-authored books, she has written sixteen papers: <https://researchmap.jp/hiroesuzuki>.

**Trinity Turner** is in the Musical Theatre Program at UNC Charlotte.

# Guest Speakers

**Ethan Uslan**, a ragtime/jazz concert pianist, is hailed by the Chicago Tribune for his “vivid musical imagination” and “deep understanding of far-flung performance practices”. He is a 3-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest (yes – that really exists!) and has performed all over the USA and Europe. Ethan was featured prominently in the documentary “The Entertainers” and his jazz rendition of Bach’s “Minuet in G” was used in the AMC series “Interview With the Vampire.”

**Jeff Walker**, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies and Director of the Honors Program at the University of Montevallo, is a fan of all things Oz. His teaching and research interests include rhetoric, public memory, storytelling, and social change. Walker is the author of four books and numerous journal articles in the field of communication, but wrote his first published story as a child for an issue of the International Wizard of Oz Club’s *Oz Gazette*.

**Mark West**, a professor in the English Department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, has taught courses in children’s and young adult literature since 1984. He has also had administrative positions at UNC Charlotte, including the Chair of the English Department and the Director of the American Studies Program. He has written or edited over twenty books, including the recent *Liminal Spaces in Children’s and Young Adult Literature* (Lexington Books 2024), and co-edited the forthcoming Broadview Edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* with Dina Schiff Massachi.

**Lynne Wiesecke** has taught Multilingual Learners at Albemarle Road Elementary School in East Charlotte for more than two decades. She is a Curriculum Coordinating Teacher with English Learner Services. Lynne uses a self-created picture adaptation of L. Frank Baum’s story, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, to lead young students with an immigration background through a comparative study of Dorothy’s journey through Oz and their own immigration experiences. Students are asked to create introspective, engaging and individualized digital graphic novels depicting their immigration journey in pictures and words.



# Venues

## CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY

### ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center

300 East Seventh Street Charlotte, NC 28202

For more information about parking, visit <https://www.imaginon.org/parking-information>



Livability.com recently ranked this one-of-a-kind destination as the No. 1 children's library in the United States. ImaginOn is an impressive establishment, containing:

A 102,000-square-foot facility

Two state-of-the-art theatres (one of which is tentatively programmed)

A dedicated library space for kids 11 and under

Four multi-use classrooms

A teen-only library

A multimedia production studio

An interactive exhibit space

A collaborative effort between the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and Children's Theatre of Charlotte, ImaginOn will feature presentations related to Oz literature (especially children's and young adult).

Literature must have a formal publishing company. No self-published submission.

### The Market at 7th Street

224 E 7th St, Charlotte, NC 28202

For more information about parking, visit <https://themarketat7thstreet.com/visit/>



The Market at 7th Street is a non-profit food hall, retail space, and meeting place unlike any seen in this town. It takes a community to support business and as a small business incubator and they support both: their incredibly diverse and inclusive community and its burgeoning entrepreneurs. They are proud to be Charlotte's original food hall and a beloved part of the Uptown community. But don't take their word for it-come shop, taste, and gather to experience it for yourself. What are you waiting for? The Market is calling you. Check out their website or Instagram for more information!

# Venues

## **Knight Theater**

430 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

For more information about parking, visit <https://www.blumenthalarts.org/venues/detail/knight-theater>



Knight Theater seats 1,192 within its orchestra, grand tier and mezzanine levels. A variety of dance and music shows are hosted here. The venue is physically connected and shares lobby space with the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. Check out this video for more information on the space!

## **UNC CHARLOTTE MAIN CAMPUS**

### **J. Murrey Atkins Library**

9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28223

For more information about parking, visit [pats.charlotte.edu](https://pats.charlotte.edu).



### **University of North Carolina Charlotte J. Murrey Atkins Library**

The J. Murrey Atkins Library was established in 1963, and it has since continued to grow in facilities and features, including:

#### **The Dale Halton Reading Room**

This room is for traditional lectures and special events, and has a seating capacity of 80.

#### **Special Collections**

The library's collection of rare books includes early editions from the Wizard of Oz series and other works by L. Frank Baum, many of which will be on display on the first floor of the library.

#### **Area 49**



Area 49 contains a variety of technology and creation experiences with option of displays throughout the Atkins Library including:

- Access to video studios
- Gaming labs
- 3-D printers and more

Interested in creating Oz podcasts, videos, games, or other higher-tech versions of Oz? Area 49 is the space to demonstrate what you do!

# Venues

## UNC CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY CAMPUS

### Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City

320 E 9th St, Charlotte, NC 28202

For more information about parking, visit <https://duboiscenter.charlotte.edu/parking/>



The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City embodies UNC Charlotte's urban identity in the heart of the greater Charlotte region. Check out this virtual tour of presentation spaces!

### Projective Eye Gallery

320 E 9th St, Charlotte, NC 28202

For more information about parking, visit [pats.charlotte.edu](https://pats.charlotte.edu).



Located in the Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City, UNC Charlotte's Projective Eye Gallery is planning an exhibit in collaboration with CharLOz and the Land of Oz theme park.

# Around Charlotte

CharlOz is taking place in the city of Charlotte, North Carolina. Here are some locations and sources that may help while visiting Charlotte for our event!

## THE CHARLOTTE AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM LYNX LIGHT RAIL

The light rail is a public transportation system spreading from the UNC Charlotte campus to I-485 at South Boulevard. The light rail has stops all throughout Charlotte, but includes stops at UNC Charlotte and Charlotte Center City that provide a very convenient means of travel for CharlOz, but also a way to explore Charlotte. The closest stop to our J. Murrey Atkins Library venue is the UNC Charlotte- Main Station. The closest stop to our ImaginOn, Dubois Center, and The Market at 7th Street venues is the 7th Street Station. The closest stop to our Knight Theater venue is the 3rd Street Station. Please reference the official Lynx Station website, to find a map of all stations, details on each stop, and other key information on transit planning.

## DINING OPTIONS

### Charlotte Center City

The Market at 7th Street

As one of CharlOz's venues, The Market at 7th Street offers a variety of dining options. It is placed beside the 7th Street light rail station, and within walking distance of our ImaginOn and Dubois venues.

### UNC Charlotte Main Campus

#### **Prospector**

Located in the UNC Charlotte main campus, Prospector has six different dining locations to choose from, and is within walking distance of our Atkins venue. Please see this link for additional dining information: <https://aux.charlotte.edu/dining/dining-map>.

#### **Cone Center Main Street Market**

Another UNC Charlotte main campus location, the Cone University Center has three different dining locations to choose from. As with Prospector, it is within walking distance of our Atkins venue. Please see this link for additional dining information: <https://aux.charlotte.edu/dining/dining-map>.

#### **Popp Martin Student Union**

A final suggested UNC Charlotte main campus location, the Popp Martin Student Union has a variety of dining options, including fast food locations and the Social 704 dining hall. This location is also within walking distance of all main campus venues. Please see this link for additional dining information: <https://aux.charlotte.edu/dining/dining-map>

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Charlotte Symphony

The Charlotte Symphony will be providing the orchestral backing of The Wizard of Oz (1939) in Belk Theatre. However, the Charlotte Symphony has a large variety of other performances. Please see this link for more information on upcoming performances: <https://www.charlottesymphony.org/>.

For additional information on Charlotte and it's features, please visit: <https://www.charlottecentercity.org/> and <https://www.crva.com/>.