



# SALSA NEWS

Supporting the Advancement of Learning Stories in America

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## Welcome to SALSA News!

Welcome to our first ever issue of SALSA News! In this periodic newsletter, we hope to keep you informed about some of the events, people, and practices that define our ongoing interest in and reverence for Learning Stories and how they support children, families and teachers in our communities.

## The Founding of SALSA

The origins of the group SALSA – Supporting the Advancement of Learning Stories in America – can be traced to New Zealand (of course!) when a group of us had the great pleasure of engaging in a ten-day Learning Stories Intensive Study Tour in October 2017. We came from various parts of California – the Bay Area, Santa Barbara and Ventura – and enjoyed tours of an assortment of wonderful child development centers with our peerless—and fearless—guide Wendy Lee. We also attended the one-day Conference and were treated to an array of inspiring talks and workshops and meeting such luminaries as Margaret Carr.

Since that time, we have organized two Learning Stories conferences in California in 2018; we have incorporated as a non-profit organization and established a Board of Directors; and we worked with early learning professionals in Orange County, California to host the first national Learning Stories Conference in May 2019!



SALSA founders in Auckland, October 2017, clockwise from left: Lygia Stebbing, Wendy Lee, Regan Bynder, Lorena Ramos, Annette Muse, Annie White, Joyce Stone, Leslie Voss, Chris Carducci, Isauro Escamilla.

### Mission

SALSA, Supporting the Advancement of Learning Stories in America, advocates for the Learning Stories approach that enhances intentional teaching, reflective practices, and advances equity and diversity by acknowledging early childhood educators, families, and children as both learners and teachers.

### Vision

SALSA represents children's learning with integrity and respect, recognizing their individual value and competencies. We advance Learning Stories in the United States as an authentic narrative approach to bring joy into teachers' work of documentation, observation, and assessment.

### Board of Directors

Board of Directors- Regan Bynder, Chris Carducci, Isauro M. Escamilla, Jeannette Mulhern, Annette Muse, Lorena Ramos, Lindsey Shafer, Joyce Stone, and Annie White

## First National Learning Stories Conference Held May 2019

Many thanks to all of the attendees, presenters, and sponsors – the Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children, Quality Start OC, the Orange County Department of Education, California State University Channel Islands, and especially our Gold Level sponsor Educa for making our first national conference a huge success. To the right is a quote from a student attendee, and below right is a photo of students who presented at the conference.

*“ I learned...how Learning Stories create partnerships that include teachers, families, and the child interpreting the learning that is happening by capturing a story that matters.”*

*MA, CSUCI Student*

## SALSA News Briefs

### Get Your New Learning Stories Book!

Margret Carr and Wendy Lee's new book, *Learning Stories in Practice*, set for publication on July 8, is a practical guide for teachers and features real Learning Stories, as well as conversations with teachers, from around the world. Order your copy from the Book Depository, with free shipping, here:

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Learning-Stories-in-Practice/9781526423757>



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### SALSA featured on ELP Website

Our colleagues at New Zealand's Educational Leadership Project (ELP) have graciously added information on SALSA to their website at

[http://www.elp.co.nz/supporting\\_advancement\\_of\\_learning\\_stories\\_in\\_america.cfm](http://www.elp.co.nz/supporting_advancement_of_learning_stories_in_america.cfm)

The website itself is a great resource so be sure to browse around when you are there!

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### Learning Stories Facilitators Inquiry Group

In 2018 several SALSA members joined Dr. Daniel Meier (San Francisco State University) and Dr. Linda Kroll (Mills College) in creating a Learning Stories facilitator inquiry group. Its purpose is to support education leaders to practice inquiry skills while assisting teachers to write learning stories and to deepen their reflection and understanding of the practice. The group meets monthly through Zoom and utilizes a Google Drive to share documents. The content of the meetings evolved over time to fit the interests and needs of the group, which will begin again in fall 2019 after a summer break. If you're interested in participating please contact Christine Carducci: [ccarducci@gmail.com](mailto:ccarducci@gmail.com)

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### Learning Stories Webinars Available

Educa is sponsoring free webinars with Dr. Annie White featured at noon PDT on July 9. Her topic will be "Learning Stories for America – What, Why and How." The webinars are recorded, and certificates are available. For more information or to register go to <https://www.geteduca.com/webinars/>

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### For More Information...

Please watch for our next issue coming in a few months. The next national conference is being planned for April 2020 in Michigan with more details to come.

If you are interested in receiving more information about SALSA, upcoming events, or any of the items mentioned in this newsletter, please email us at [SALSA.USA10@gmail.com](mailto:SALSA.USA10@gmail.com)