

FY2012
Fiction/Non-Fiction
Panelist Biographies

Jaime Adoff

Jaime Adoff is the author of "The Song Shoots Out of My Mouth," "Names Will Never Hurt Me," *Jimi & Me*, "The Death Of Jayson Porter" and "Small Fry". He has won numerous awards, including the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award for "Jimi & Me" and The Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award (Honor Book) for "The Song Shoots Out of My Mouth." His latest novel "The Death of Jayson Porter" won the 2010 Teen Buckeye Book Award, and received *starred* reviews in *BOOKLIST* & *VOYA Magazine*.

Mr. Adoff is a highly sought after speaker, presenting across the country on teen issues, diversity, YA literature & poetry. He is the son of the late Newbery Award-winning author Virginia Hamilton and renowned poet Arnold Adoff and lives in his hometown of Yellow Springs, Ohio, with his family.

Neal Karlen

Neal Karlen was speaking Yiddish at home well before he was an Associate Editor at *Newsweek* and Contributing Editor for *Rolling Stone*. A long-time contributor to *The New York Times*, he has authored six other books, most recently, "Shanda: The Making and Breaking of a Self-Loathing Jew". He has studied Yiddish at Brown University, New York's Inlingua Institute, and the University of Minnesota's Graduate School of Journalism, where he has taught non-fiction writing for six years. He lives in Minneapolis.

Amy Sage Webb

Amy Sage Webb earned her M.F.A. in fiction from Arizona State University. As a specialist in creative writing pedagogy, she has served as Director of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs' pedagogy forums, and as editor of the national pedagogy papers. She is a contributing author to "Mooring Against the Tide: Writing Poetry and Fiction" (Prentice Hall 2001 and 2004) and to "Power and Identity: The Authority Project" (Multilingual Matters, 2007). Her creative work appears most recently in *Fourth River Review*, *Clackamas Literary Review*, and *Eclipse*. She directs the Creative Writing program at Emporia State University, where she teaches introductory creative writing, fiction writing, special topics and studies in creative writing, and literary editing. She currently serves as managing editor of *Bluestem Press* and *Flint Hills Review*, and serves on the boards of Woodley Memorial Press and the Kansas Arts Commission. She recently completed her first collection of short fiction, "Save Your Own Life".