

---

# LEADERS & LEGACY

---

The Quarterly Newsletter for the CEC Leaders & Legacy Division

---



Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

Division of Leaders  
and Legacy

## President's Message

DLL was blown away in Louisville! Literally—the winds on the last day of the conference reached over 75 MPH. It was a good day to stay in—attend our annual business meeting, the representative assembly, Yes I Can awards, and the closing party. And we were also blown away figuratively— Dr. Mikki Garcia, DLL president elect, received the 2023 Outstanding CEC Leadership Award, and Dr. William “Bill” Bogdan, former president of DLL (as Pioneers) was awarded the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award. Read about their achievements on the [CEC website](#).

We also said hello to a number of DLL members who joined us in person and on zoom, and we said goodbye to a long-time DLL member and CEC leader, Harry Dahl. DLL also recognizes the passing of Judy Heumann, Disability Rights Activist, well-known to CEC and recognized internationally as a leader in the disability community.

DLL's momentum is building, and the Louisville convention confirmed this. The DLL sponsored collaborative session on students who are 2e, the DLL Showcase session on what can be read and said in schools, and positive reports at the Annual business meeting including the implementation of our strategic plan to date, showcased our growth.

Thanks to all who are participating in DLL committees, in activities, and in the leadership. We are truly a reflection of our name—Leaders and Legacy!



Susan & Parthenia



Bill, Sharon, and Mikki at the Awards Luncheon



Business Meeting



**Division of Leaders  
and Legacy**

**Convention Round Up!  
The DLL President's Showcase Session**

The DLL Showcase session, Navigating Schooling During Historically Challenging Times: What Should be Read and Said

DLL President Kathleen Puckett, Arizona State University, welcomed everyone to the Showcase and introduced the presenters:

A sincere thank you to our moderator Joy Banks who provided a big picture reflection on past-times and an overview of our current challenges and our very dynamic panelists Laura Clarke, Christopher Cormier and JT Taylor who addressed questions posed and provided practical suggestions and strategies to ponder. Participants engaged in the Q and A and Mary Ruth Coleman summarized the session as follows:

**Summary Remarks: Mary Ruth Coleman, PhD**

- Those who do not learn from History are doomed to repeat it!!!
- We have failed to teach history as it is and so we continue to repeat it.
- How can we disrupt this cycle?
- How do we challenge our own thinking and become vulnerable?
- The lens we use shapes what we see – who has the power?
- We must listen to and learn from our parents - sometimes we must use the backdoor to move forward.
- REMEMBER WE ARE HERE FOR THE KIDS!!
- Our kids are global citizens and we must give them access – even virtual access – to other cultures, contents, and people.
- There is safety in numbers. Build your stakeholder base and never stop trying to bridge the gap.
- Don't be afraid to have uncomfortable conversations...words matter...we are here for the kids.
- What we teach matters. Examine your curriculum, reflect on what you want your students to know...are these things valued?
- How can we move this forward?
- Change takes bravery, competence, and confidence.
- Are we willing to listen? Will we share our resources, knowledge, data, and wisdom?
- We are professionals we must take back our power and do this together...we have the numbers to change Policy!
- Sometimes we have to innovate outside the system so that we can introduce change within the system...we use the backdoor to move forward.
- We cannot separate oppression – it impacts ALL.

We stand on the shoulders of many, but this is our legacy...it is our responsibility...it is the future of our students.

**An annotated list of resources from the session will be posted on the DLL website under Resources.**



**Division of Leaders  
and Legacy**

### **Collaborative Session-It Takes a Team: Serving Students who are 2e**

The Division for Leaders and Legacy also led the way on a collaborative session: It Takes a Team: Serving Students who are 2e. This exciting and informative session really did take a team!! Co-Sponsors for the session included: TAG; DLD; DEBH; DDEL; DVIDV; TED; and CASE. The session opened with a video of students, Josie, Sarah, and Nick, sharing their expertise and wisdom on being 2e. Next, Panel members Drs. Claire Hughes, Elizabeth Hughes; Christopher Cormier, and Thomas Farmer addressed key strategies for supporting student's success; addressing: mental health/social emotional concerns; academic/instructional supports; intersectionality of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality; and whole school services to provide wrap-around support, for students who are 2e.

The session then moved to solution-finding with interactive round-table discussions focused on issues of concern because getting it right for students who are 2e gets it right for all students!

Coming soon will be a summary of the things we learned and resources that we feel would be useful to you as you join this team to help meet the needs of students who are 2e – stay tuned!



### **Membership Update Mickie Wong-Lo, Membership Chair**

A warm welcome is extended to new committee members Barb Melnychuk, Cindy Perras and Julie Norflus-Good who will join Lorrane McPherson and Candace Borger in focusing on strategies to promote the recruitment and retention of its members.

Due to its success, our New Member Focus Groups will be continued this year.

New members and those just interested in learning what the Division of Leaders and Legacy is all about are encouraged to join a focus group. Focus groups will be held on April 19, August 16 and November 15 from 3:00 to 3:30pm ET. Watch for invitational links that will be sent to DLL and eligible members soon!

**Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award**  
**Dr. Robert A. Gable**



The Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award honors an outstanding professional who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and other organizations for an extensive period of time in various areas within the field including service delivery, teacher education and professional development, research, policy, assessment, and publications. The award is named for Romaine P. Mackie, a former US Commissioner of Education, an active CEC member, and a devout supporter of special education in the early years who promoted the mission of CEC in all her work. The Division of Legacy and Leadership introduces the 2023 award winner, Dr. Robert A. Gable.

Dr. Gable holds the Constance F. and Colgate W. Darden Professorship at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He is a past president of the Division for Emotional and Behavioral Health (formerly CEC-BD) and has presented at conferences domestically and internationally. He has authored over 300 publications and been awarded over fifty million dollars to support the improvement of education and life outcomes of students with disabilities. A Senior Fulbright Scholarship enabled several trips to Vietnam to support the development of special education services there.

Dr. Gable is a researcher, practitioner, and mentor who is passionate about the field of special education. When his former doctoral students speak of him, all highlight his caring personality and personal style of mentorship where he would meet with them weekly, fostering an intellectual curiosity that could not be taught while instilling a belief in oneself. He infuses in his mentees a sensitivity to and appreciation for issues of diversity in the field of special education. He ensures doctoral students have foundational knowledge of the history of the field with an appreciation of the leaders who helped shape special education.

## Bylaws Committee Report

Joan McDonald, Chair

I want to thank all the members who voted Dec. 2022 for the Bylaws changes that represented an important step in officially changing our Division's name from the Pioneers Division to the **Division of Leaders and Legacy** (to be referred to as CEC- DLL). The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the name change along with other changes made in the Bylaws to reflect actions/goals laid out in the Strategic Plan for CEC-DLL. Thank you for your commitment to CEC and our Division.



[Check out the latest from CEC Policy Insider](#)

## Treasurer's Report

Lorrane McPherson, CEC DLL Treasurer

The Division of Leaders and Legacy has had a great financial 1st quarter of 2023! Our membership numbers are trending up thus bringing in more dues revenue. The webinar series, " Students Exposed to Trauma, Maltreatment, & Neglect" was very well received and met our budgeted revenue goal. The expenditure for the Annual Board Meeting, Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony were all within our budget. Overall, DLL is in a stable financial position.

Other news:

- The 990N for tax year 2020 has been filed with the IRS.
- The name change to Division of Leaders and Legacy has been approved by the Secretary of State of Missouri and has been submitted to the IRS.

### Finance Committee is Looking for Members!

Interested in making and spending money? Join us on the Finance Committee! The role of the committee is help make decisions about how to best use our finances to support DLL in our strategic plan. We will meet monthly viz zoom. If you think you might be interested, please contact [Lorrane McPherson](#).

## Legacy Linkages Diane Johnson

This past August (2022), CEC-DLL member Mike Weinroth had a special opportunity to link past and present in a local community by presenting on behalf of the Georgia CEC unit an item of historical significance. The item, a bust of Dr. Mamie Jo Jones, a founding special educator in Georgia and a Past President of CEC, was returned to her hometown of Elberton Georgia. She grew up in Elberton, and her family was well known in the community.

Taking place as a special feature of the "ninth annual Friends Helping Friends (FHF) Club Jam Fest and Taste of Elberton", festivities began with Mike being introduced by Schools Superintendent Jon Jarvis to present the bust and pedestal of Mamie Jo to the Elbert County School System.

Mamie Jo Jones was the first Director of Special Education in the Georgia Department of Education serving from 1957 to 1969. While in this role, she provided a foundation for the current exceptional education programs in the state including acquiring resources from the state legislature. She served as President of CEC in 1963, and during her term of office presented testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor on behalf of the organization. This brought early attention to the educational needs of exceptional children prior to the passage of what is now IDEA.

She remained active in the Georgia CEC unit and Mike had the opportunity to get to know her. He shared the following story of one of her "post-

retirement" activities. Prior to the CEC Convention and Expo held in Atlanta in 1977, she organized a group of fellow Georgia CEC members to write the history of the "Georgia Federation" as state units were known at that time. The group's product was a published book that was sold at the convention with 12,000 potential customers in attendance.

The August event featured the Friends Helping Friends Club, a non-profit organization that supports students with exceptionalities in the community, and the Jam Fest and Taste of Elberton is an annual event that involves the entire community and also serves as a fund-raising opportunity. Below is a picture of the newspaper coverage of the event from The Elberton Star, that includes Mike along with other participants and the bust.

This event again illustrates the continuous link between the work done by those who were part of the beginnings of the field of special education providing a legacy for continuing and improving services today.



## **Division of Leaders and Legacy (DLL) President's Invitational Book Club**

Back by popular demand! DLL (formerly Pioneers) members and friends are invited to gather virtually to discuss contemporary books on a variety of topics facilitated by invited guests. Past participants have reported how much they valued the Book Club and the opportunity to engage in discussion with other DLL (Pioneers) members and friends.

It's as easy as 1,2,3 to participate!

1. borrow the book from your library or purchase from your favorite bookstore,
2. read the book,
3. use the registration link below to receive a Zoom invite to join the conversation on the dates listed.

Please contact Candace [candace16borger@gmail.com](mailto:candace16borger@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### **Registration links will be sent in the near future!**

**Thursday, May 18th, 6:45-8:00 pm ET**  
**Facilitator – Toby Karten, Inclusion Workshops**

[The Things We Cannot Say by Kelly Rimmer \(2019\) Graydon House](#)

In 1942, Europe remains in the relentless grip of war. Just beyond the tents of the Russian refugee camp she calls home, a young woman speaks her wedding vows. It's a decision that will alter her destiny...and it's a lie that will remain buried until the next century. *The Things We Cannot Say* is an unshakable reminder of the devastation when truth is silenced...and how it can take a lifetime to find our voice before we learn to trust it. (Good reads)

**Thursday, July 20th, 7:30-8:45 pm ET**  
**Facilitator – Diane Johnson**

[Haban: The Deaf-Blind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law by Haben Girma \(2020\) Grand Central Publishing](#)

"Haben" is the autobiographical story of Harvard's first deaf blind law school graduate. Her story, told in episodes from her childhood through professional life is one where she consistently proves that she could do what others said she couldn't, be it taking a college hike, learning to salsa dance from a blind instructor, or building a school in rural Mali. Now a disability rights advocate, who began her advocacy with demanding her college cafeteria provide an email menu that her computer could convert to Braille. She talks about a world designed for able-bodied people and the concept of "ableism." It's an eye-opening book, fairly short, and a rather easy read. (Good reads)





## Harry G. Dahl 1942-2023



The Council for Exceptional Children and the Division of Leaders and Legacy has lost a most dedicated member. Harry G. Dahl passed away on February 5, 2023.

Dr. Harry Dahl was a past president of The Council for Exceptional Children (1987) and the Canadian CEC. He served on the CEC Board of Governors and as a member of the CEC Executive Committee before becoming the organization's president. While working towards his M.Ed., Harry developed a manual for simulated learning experiences to educate teachers and others about students with special needs. He and several colleagues presented many specialized simulation workshops across Canada and the United States.

During Dr. Dahl's impressive career, he worked in Esterhazy, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in various education and health settings roles as a teacher, guidance counselor, educational psychologist, regional coordinator, and superintendent of children's services.

Harry's contribution to advancing special education in Saskatchewan will be remembered as a significant part of his legacy. His work was published in numerous articles and books. Harry was active in many educational and community organizations, but his lifelong passion and commitment were to the Council for Exceptional Children. Harry developed and taught one of the first remote classes in special education. He was a sessional lecturer at the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan CEC Provincial Unit honored Dr. Harry Dahl, naming a scholarship after him. He organized many conferences locally and province-wide. Colleagues praised Dr. Harry Dahl for being:

- "a soldier for the rights of exceptional children."
- "a mentor who never failed to assist and inspire."
- "a kind, gentle man with a great sense of humor."
- "a knowledgeable and inspiring administrator."
- "an educator with a genuine love for needy children."
- "a devil's advocate who left you wondering about what you knew, leaving you a stronger advocate for your teaching practice."

**The Division of Leaders and Legacy's thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of sadness and personal loss.**

**The DLL Legacy Proclamation and Necrology Committee**



### **The Loss of Disabilities Activist Judy Heumann**

Judy Heumann, a renowned activist who helped secure legislation protecting the rights of people with disabilities, has died.

Heumann, who lost her ability to walk at age two after contracting polio, has been called the “mother of the disability rights movement” for her longtime advocacy for people with disabilities through protest and legal action.

She lobbied for legislation that eventually led to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Judy Heumann also was involved in the passage of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified in May 2008.

Many CEC members remember Judy as assistant secretary of the U. S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services from 1993 until 2001. Later, in the Obama administration, she worked as a special assistant to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in charge of spreading ideas about civil rights worldwide.

She published her autobiography, [Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist](#), co-authored with Kristen Joiner and released in February 2020.

Judy said, “Disability only becomes a tragedy when society fails to provide the things we need to lead our lives—job opportunities for barrier-free building, for example. It is not a tragedy to me that I’m living in a wheelchair”.

**The Division of Leaders and Legacy’s thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time of sadness and personal loss.**

**The DLL Legacy Proclamation and Necrology Committee**

**2023 Division of Leaders and Legacy Board Members**



The following individuals serve on the 2023 CEC DLL Board of Directors. To email any board member, write to us at: [cecpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:cecpioneers@gmail.com)

**Officers**

- President:** Kathleen Puckett (2023)
- President Elect:** Mikki Garcia (2023)
- Immediate Past President:** Candace Borger (2023)
- Secretary:** Jamie Hopkins (2023-2025)
- Treasurer:** Lorrane McPherson (2023-2025)

**Committee Chairs**

- Awards & Honors Committee:**  
Gloria Taradash (2021-2023)
- Communications Committee:**  
Clinton Smith (2021-2023)
- Constitution and Bylaws:**  
Joan McDonald (2023-2025)
- DEC DLL: Legacy Committee:**  
Pamela Gillet (2023-2025)
- Finance Committee:**  
Lorrane McPherson (2023-2025)
- Membership Committee:**  
Mickie Wong-Lo (2023-2025)
- Nominations & Elections Committee:**  
Candace Borger (2023)
- Political Advocacy Committee (CAN):**  
Connie Lyttle (2023-2025)
- Professional Development Committee:**  
Mikki Garcia (2023)

**Other-Voting Members**

- Historian:**  
Diane Johnson (2023-2025)
- Representative to Knowledge & Skills Committee:**  
Debi Gartland (2022-2024)
- Representative to Project 2020:**  
Mary Ruth Coleman (2023)
- Representative to CEC Division Relations Committee:**  
Parthenia Cordell (2023)
- Representative to CEC Leadership Development Committee:**  
Kim Moffett (2023-24)

**CEC DLL Calendar**

**President's Book Club**

The Things We Cannot Say  
Led by Toby Karen  
Thursday, May 18th 6:45-8:00 ET

Haben: The Deaf Blind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law  
Led by Diane Johnson  
Thursday, July 20th 7:30-8:45 ET

**CEC DLL Board Meetings**  
**3rd Wednesday Monthly**  
**4:00 pm ET**



**Leaders & Legacy is published four times a year by the Division of Leaders & Legacy of the Council for Exceptional Children.**

Clinton Smith, Ed.D., BCBA-D, LBA  
Communications Committee Chair  
240K Gooch Hall  
Martin, TN 38237  
731-223-0080 (cell) 731-881-7193 (office)  
[csmit279@utm.edu](mailto:csmit279@utm.edu) or [clint1967@gmail.com](mailto:clint1967@gmail.com)