

Adventures in Ink



UPCOMING NEWS + EVENTS





Fall is here!

Hey First name / friend ,

I know this time of year is full of football and leaf-pile-jumping and a thousand and one fall festivals, so I'll make this update quick. I have three new children's books coming in 2026, and a couple of surprises I'm super excited about! I'll let you know more about this soon.

For today, let's focus on the first 2026 release, which features poetry... and sports! I know what you're thinking: *since when is Irene a sports person?* Well, I'm not. *Poetry* is my sport! But I do find inspiration in athletes and their stories. And so, when Charles Waters pitched the idea of us collaborating on a sports-themed poetry anthology, I channeled my inner LeBron and leapt for the net. *Swish!*

FOR THE WIN

POEMS CELEBRATING
PHENOMENAL ATHLETES

selected by

IRENE LATHAM &
CHARLES WATERS



For the Win: Poems Celebrating Phenomenal Athletes, will be released by Lerner Publishing Group on March 3, 2026. This is mine and Charles' third anthology to curate! We're grateful to the good folks at DiverseVerse who hosted a 3-2-1 cover reveal earlier this month. Head on over to find out three verbs to describe the book; the complete list of (amazing!) contributors; and one take-away we hope readers experience upon reading these poems.

[READ NOW](#)

A FIRST FOR ME: PRESENTING WITH SON ERIC!





Many thanks to Nicole Tolbert, the career coach at Oneonta Middle School for inviting Eric and me to speak to students about our writing careers. (I write books; Eric writes...code!) We had a lot of fun sharing the stage, and I learned stuff about my 25-year-old kid! Pretty awesome, yes?

TWO-MINUTE WRITING TIPS ON YOUTUBE

Have a question about writing books? Hit “reply” and let’s chat!

ALABAMA LIBRARY EXPO



2025 Alabama Library Expo Program Agenda

7:45 – 10:30	Exhibits, Registration, & Refreshments
10:30 – 11:00	General Session & Awards
11:00 – 12:00	First Session
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:45	Second Session

Presenters' Schedule at each Location:

A – Cedric Threatt

Mobile
Montgomery
Moody
Decatur

B – Irene Latham

B - 11:00-12:00, **A** - 1:00-1:45
A - 11:00-12:00, **B** - 1:00-1:45
B - 11:00-12:00, **A** - 1:00-1:45
A - 11:00-12:00, **B** - 1:00-1:45

Presenters' Bios

A. Ahava Publishing, LLC specializes in books by author, consultant, and speaker, **Cedric "the Edu-trainer" Threatt**. For almost two decades, Cedric has been presenting at schools and conferences throughout the Southeast United States.



Cedric's Session: – The IMPACT of Being an IMPACT

Cedric is on a relentless mission to encourage and increase teacher retention through inspiration, motivation and a whole lotta love. His goal is to help teachers rediscover their "WHY" and realize that none of us would be where we are or who we are today without them. When teachers feel supported and appreciated, we all win. Teachers' well-being leads to students' well-being, which in turn leads to a healthy school, community, and society. See how a little appreciation can go a long way and not just help you make an IMPACT, but to BE an I.M.P.A.C.T.

You can learn more about Cedric at <https://cedricthreatt.com/>, or on social media connect with him on Facebook: [@clthreatt](https://www.facebook.com/clthreatt) or Instagram: [@cl3tt](https://www.instagram.com/cl3tt).



B. Irene Latham is an Alabama poet and author of more than twenty books, include the co-authored *African Town*, winner of the Scott O'Dell Award; *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship*, a Charlotte Huck Honor book; and *The Cat Man of Aleppo*, awarded a Caldecott Honor. Her latest adventure is curating poetry anthologies with her "Poetic Forever Friend" Charles Waters, including *The Mistakes That Made Us* (an NCTE Notable Poetry Book), *If I could Choose a Best Day*, and the forthcoming *For the Win*.

Irene's Session: Celebrate Alabama with "Backyard History" books

From *To Kill a Mockingbird* to *Forrest Gump*, Alabama is known for its rich, engaging stories populated by colorful characters. In this presentation, award-winning author Irene Latham will feature her books that portray Alabama "Backyard History" stories, including *African Town*, co-authored by Charles Waters and based on the true story of the survivors of America's last slave ship *Clotilda*; *Leaving Gee's Bend* (2010), set in 1932 Gee's Bend, Alabama where the now-internationally famous quilting tradition was already in full swing; *Meet Miss Fancy*, about Birmingham's most celebrated elephant resident; and *Don't Feed the Boy* (2012), a fictional tale about a boy who is trying to escape a zoo--modeled after the Birmingham Zoo--where he lives with his parents.

You can learn more about Irene Latham and read hundreds of Irene's poems for free at irenelatham.com, or on

her [blogspot](#) or on her YouTube Channel: [@IreneLatham](#).

Alabama educators, join me and Cedric Threatt LIVE in four different Alabama cities for Alabama Library Expo! This year's tour is Oct. 6-9. My presentation will cover:

- How to engage readers with “Backyard History” books.
- An introduction to some of Alabama's most inspiring characters.
- My top tips for how to get you and your students fired up about reading and writing historical stories.

REGISTER (FOR FREE!) HERE

Thanks for
reading. Wishing you a
joyful October!

with love,

Irene

p.s. Son Eric is also a poet! Urban Ganges recently featured his poem “Self Love” on a “poetry” diffuser. So cool. (Yes, I am one proud mama!)

9:17



◀ Messages

URBAN GANGES

◀ Back to Home





SELF LOVE by Eric Latham | Sandalwood



urbanganges.com



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