

# RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

## *Special Category*

### **Joe's Favorite Christmas Story**

*The Christmas Present* by James Michener, published in Reader's Digest in 1967. [Read the story.](#)



### **Norwalk Schools Redesign Gifted and Talented Program for More Enrichment**

A little time out of the classroom for four Tracey Magnet School students could provide a big relief to Afghan refugees resettling in Connecticut. Read more from this online [THE HOUR](#) article.

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Free Spring Webinar Series Registration Now Open**

Thursday, February 10, 2022, from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Eastern time (Parent Focus)

***Parenting Gifted Boys to Become Awesome Young Men***

*with Dr. Thomas Hébert - University of South Carolina*

Boyhood is filled with wonderful possibilities and difficult challenges. Guys growing up gifted today must negotiate a culture that may not be supportive of their talents, interests, and favored ways of learning. This webinar explores parenting strategies to provide boys the tools they need to negotiate adolescent peer group pressures, remain actively engaged in school and achievement oriented, maintain supportive friendships, and develop the identity of a gifted male.

Saturday, February 12, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time (Educator Focus)

***Making it Real! Designing Curricular Units to be Meaningful and Relevant!***

*with Dr. Jann Leppien - Professor Emerita from Whitworth University*

Connecting curriculum and instruction to real world applications is key to students' engagement and growth in understandings. However, the "real world" has to be their world and has to connect to their existing schemas of what they understand and deem is important. This session will provide concrete strategies for teachers to design their units to be emergent and inclusive of students' personal experiences increasing their agency to make their own connections.

Thursday, March 10, 2022, from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Eastern time (Parent Focus)

***Talent Denied and Talent Lost: Challenges and Compromises of Gifted Girls and Women***

*with Dr. Sally Reis - University of Connecticut*

This session will focus on the loss of talents of girls and women across the country and the globe, and the implications of that phenomenon on diminished creativity, leadership, innovation, and creative productivity. The session will conclude with a positive call to action on how educators and researchers can make a difference in helping girls and women to develop their talents.

Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time (Educator Focus)

***Designing Type I Learning Experiences***

*with Dr. Brian Housand - University of North Carolina Wilmington*

A Type I Experience has the potential to supercharge students' innate curiosity and propel them toward a lifetime of inquiry and investigation, but how do we effectively tap into students' interests and purposefully construct a learning experience that promotes creative productive giftedness? In this session, we will explore ways to leverage readily available technology and resources to build meaningful and memorable Type I Experiences based on students' interests.

Saturday, April 9, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time (Educator Focus)

***Privilege, and Positioning: A Critical Time for Adopting a Critical Lens (tentative title)***

*with Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Fogarty - University of St. Thomas*

Power, privilege, positioning . . . what messages are portrayed in books, media, art, and WHY? Today's world requires citizens who can think critically about complex issues. This session will demonstrate the use of a critical literacy framework used to help gifted kids recognize and question the ethical issues in the world around them in order to create meaningful change.

Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time (Educator Focus)

***(Title forthcoming)***

*Dr. Dante Dixson - Michigan State University*

(Description forthcoming)

Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time (Educator Focus)

***Evaluating Your Gifted Program: Why? What? How?***

*Dr. E. Jean Gubbins - University of Connecticut*

Program evaluation is an ongoing process designed to raise questions about the match between identification systems and programming options to guide next steps in maintaining effective programs and practices. Explore the why, what, and how to evaluate your gifted program. Learn how to develop and implement a program evaluation plan matched to expected outcomes.

Register at <https://gifted.uconn.edu/events>

For more information, contact: Del Siegle at [del.siegle@uconn.edu](mailto:del.siegle@uconn.edu)

## Awards, Publications, and Presentations

### Shelagh Gallagher Speaks on Problem-Based Learning

Saturday, December 11, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon Eastern time (Educator Focus)

***Problem-Based Learning 101: Using Problems as Stories to Differentiate Curriculum***  
with Dr. Shelagh Gallagher - Engaged Education

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) uses the allure of stories to immerse students in engaging, relevant learning experiences. This session provides participants with an up-close look at how PBL units are constructed, and how they unfold in the classroom. The presentation will be supported with stories, pictures, and student products in several classrooms, including evidence that PBL excites interest even among typically disengaged students. Through practical stories of classroom experiences, research, and artifacts from many units at different grade levels, participants will learn the structure of PBL, how real-world problems lead to standards-based learning, how to differentiate for gifted students within a PBL unit, and the value-added benefit of student engagement PBL brings to the classroom.

Register at <https://gifted.uconn.edu/events>

For more information, contact: Del Siegle at [del.siegle@uconn.edu](mailto:del.siegle@uconn.edu)

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### MaryGrace Stewart (3 Summers) Receives Award

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is pleased to announce the 2021 Community Service Award recipient. Each year, the association recognizes a group or individual who has made a contribution that benefits the development of gifts and talents in young people in a community, state, or nation. This contribution must affect the larger community, state, or nation. Read more from this online [NAGC](#) announcement.

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### Assessment for Learning Presentation at NAGC

[What's Missing From the Identification for Underrepresented Students?](#) Joe Renzulli & Gilman Whiting discuss assessment for learning.



## *Fun and Useful Resources: From Us to You*

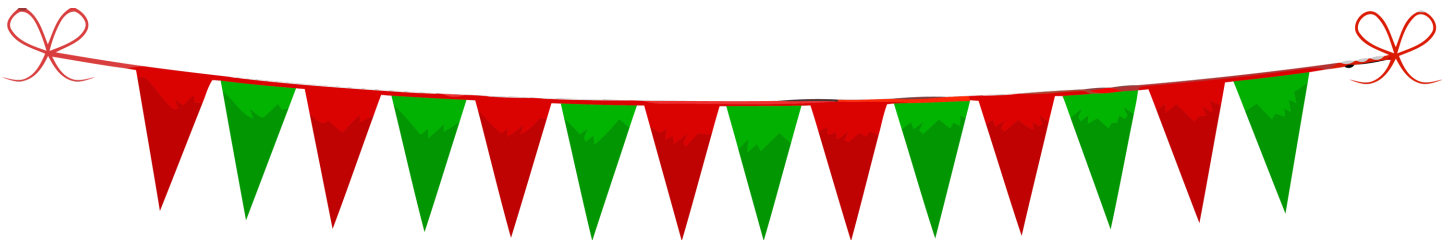
### **Free Downloadable Posters From the Renzulli Center**

The Renzulli Center is excited to offer these attractive posters you can [download](#), print, and share. Watch for our “In this classroom...” series coming soon.



### **UConn Holiday Video**

[Decking the Husky Halls | UConn](#)



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creativity, gifted education, and talent development