



## A Highlight on SEL



Hi everyone,

Okay, so for some of you it's actually October already. Our newsletter is jam-packed full of information this month, so it took time to put it together. Thank you for your patience!

Our SENIA virtual conference is fast approaching. We've had hundreds of registrations already. When I've asked people what they're most excited about, many have answered that they're particularly

interested in the Social Emotional Learning (SEL)/Mental Health Strand. One school told me recently that their entire counseling department will be joining us.

During this rather strange time in history, we must prioritize our own mental health as well as the mental health of our students. That's not news, of course. Sometimes it's hard to know how to do that, however. That's why I'm excited about this conference. We have close to 15 hours of content focused on this topic and each presenter gives practical strategies for us to try in our own classrooms, homes, or therapy centers.

This month I had the opportunity to podcast with Michelle Garcia Winner, one of our keynote presenters, about Social Thinking. I also spoke with Leah Kuypers, the creator of The Zones of Regulation. Each of these amazing individuals have given so much to the education field. I'm excited for you to hear their podcasts AND see their presentations at the upcoming conference. I guarantee you will learn a ton and be motivated to try their approaches in your setting.

In this newsletter, we've featured some great work by our SENIA Youth chapter, highlighted another World changer, and announced some exciting developments by our local chapters. We also shared how this year's conference will offer the chance to earn university credit, great group rates, and an opportunity to participate in our first job fair. Then, make sure you read to the end for an exciting announcement about our in-person conference in Bonn, Germany coming up in the spring.

Read on, SENIA friends, and enjoy the month of October.

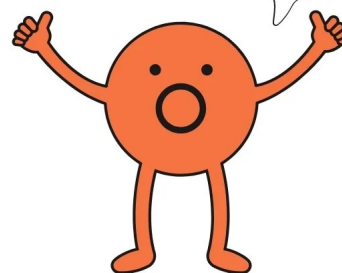
Lori Boll, SENIA Executive Director

# 65 DAYS TO GO

It's so close. I  
can't wait!!!



We need to  
register!



That's right, peeps. The SENIA conference will be here before we know it!

See below for our fabulous group rates. The more people, the better the discount. So why not bring your whole school?

Be sure to [contact us](#) for more information on how to get these super great rates.

See you in 67 days!

# SPECIAL GROUP RATES

**10 - 20**

**\$125**

per person

**21 - 50**

**\$99**

per person

**51 +**

**Flat Rate**

Contact Lori Boll for more info



INCLUSIVE PRACTICES - MENTAL HEALTH / SEL - INTENSIVE NEEDS  
LITERACY STRATEGIES - MATH STRATEGIES

**Thank You**

UNIS HANOI



## Group Highlight

We would like to thank UNIS Hanoi for being one of the many schools that signed up ALL of their staff for the SENIA 2021 virtual conference. Make sure to check out the special group rates for this year's conference.

51+ participants = \$5,000

21 - 50 participants = \$99 per person

## World Changer Award: September



**WORLD CHANGER AWARD WINNER**

**DYMPHNA SIMON**  
Malaysia

For more info, go to:  
[www.seniainternational.org/senia-world-changer-awards/](http://www.seniainternational.org/senia-world-changer-awards/)



Congratulations to Dymphna Simon as the 2021 September SENIA World Changer Award Recipient!

Dymphna Simon has pioneered sign language poetry performance as an alternative for Malaysian special needs individuals to partake in performing arts that often require oral skills. She recorded her own sign language poetry entitled “Ngakak” in which she won 1st prize at an online art festival “American Charm” in July 2021. Her individual victory earned national publicity as she was able to break the barriers in performing arts that have excluded individuals who communicate through sign language from taking part actively as performers. Additionally, she led her team to win first place at the Portugal Art Carnival in May 2021.

Also, she is an avid badminton player who has won several tournaments for people with differing abilities.

[Dymphna's YouTube](#)

[Nominate a World Changer](#)



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## Student Voices: New Initiative from SENIA Youth



Our SENIA Youth are a remarkable group of young people who have started a movement in the international world. Check out their webpage and learn all about them. They are also calling for submissions for their [digital magazine](#). If you know a youth who advocates for inclusion, have them submit their writing [here](#).

If you would like to start a youth inclusion club at your school, [start here](#).

We couldn't be more proud of these individuals making the world more inclusive day by day.

[Learn More - SENIA Youth](#)

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## Look Who's Coming to SENIA

# REGISTRANT SPOTLIGHT

## Nicola Fader

Elementary School Music Teacher  
American International School of Johannesburg

"Over the last seven years, American International School of Johannesburg has been intentional in serving the needs of the students with learning disabilities. Recently, I've enrolled in workshops and courses to help keep me up to date with inclusive practices including the 2021 SENIA conference.



SENIA CONFERENCE 2021



The American International School of Johannesburg officially registered 31 participants from their two campuses. AISJ takes pride in the diverse roles in the roster of teachers that are participating in this year's conference - from Art, Language, Counseling and subject-area teachers. Nicola Fader from the Johannesburg elementary campus shares why she chose to sign-up for the upcoming SENIA 2021 virtual conference.

[SENIA 2021 Conference](#)

[Conference Registration](#)

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## SENIA Student Award: Scholarship



**DO YOU KNOW AN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD OR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES WHO IS RAISING AWARENESS OR ADVOCATING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**



**NOMINATE TODAY!  
DUE OCTOBER 15, 2021**

Applications & regulations are found on our website  
[www.seniainternational.org/senia-student-award-home/](http://www.seniainternational.org/senia-student-award-home/)

SENIA is pleased to announce the **2021 SENIA Student Award**. Do you know of a student who advocates and promotes inclusion in their community? Then nominate them today!

The recipient of the award receives a scholarship, plaque, certificate and the opportunity to present their inspirational story at the SENIA International conference, as well as be featured in future SENIA publications.

The deadline for all nominations is **October 15, 2021**. A full list of rules and regulations can be found [here](#).

Nominate a Student Advocate Today!

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## Check Out These Impressive Speakers



**Dr. Bonnie Singer**

SLP- Founder of  
Vivido  
Literacy Strand



**Greg O'Connor**

Technology Expert  
Math Strand



**Caty Romero**

Math  
Coach/Teacher  
Math Strand



**Cath Brew**

Artist/Advocate  
LGBTQ+  
SEL Strand



**Dr. Josh Flosi**

Director of Support  
Services  
Inclusion Strand



**Stef Donnelly**

Educator  
Intensive Needs  
Strand

Here is just a sampling of the fantastic speakers we have coming to #SENIA2021.

We have MORE on our [website](#)

We have over 50 presenters and all videos will be available for **FOUR** months! That's more than 70 hours of content.

Seriously, this conference is beyond our wildest dreams!

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## What We're Reading

Review by Nicole Demos, SENIA Europe  
Board Member

### NEW

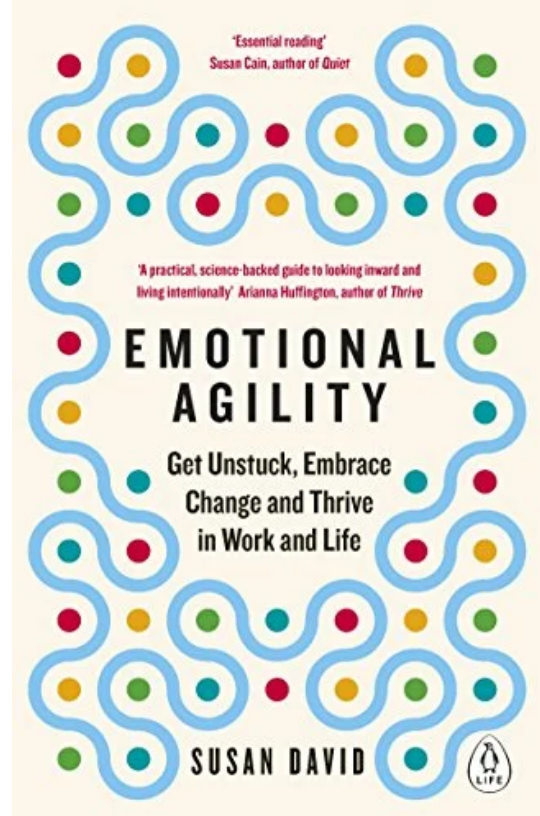
[Goodreads](#) / [Book Depository](#)

Emotional Agility : Get Unstuck,  
Embrace Change, and Thrive in Work  
and Life by Susan David, PhD



In these challenging times how often are we ruled by emotions that grip us to our very core and prevent us from moving forward? Why is it so critical to find balance between our personal and professional lives? How can we model honoring our positive and negative emotions, accept them and as a result, change our behavior for the better? If relationships are at the root of our existence there must be a way for each of us to overcome obstacles, become unstuck and thrive? I embarked on finding answers to these questions by listening to one of Susan's TED talks, by taking the emotional agility quiz, for free, on her website

<https://www.susandavid.com/> and then ordering this book.



This inspiring science based research approach intertwined with Dr. Susan David's personal and professional experiences is a breath of fresh air to read. Susan defines "emotional agility as a process which allows you to be in the moment, change or maintain your behaviors to live in ways that align with your intention and values". This process is outlined in four essential parts: **showing up, stepping out, walking your why, and moving on**. I am enjoying and learning every moment and highly recommend this gem.

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## What We're Watching



We are always watching Shelley Moore videos. This one talks about the evolution of inclusion, which she'll be discussing at our upcoming conference.

## News from our Terrific Sponsors

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IDS



**WITH DR ROSS GREENE, PH.D.**  
Clinical Child Psychologist

## COLLABORATIVE & PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS

Moving From Power and Control to Collaboration and Problem-Solving in the Covid-19 pandemic



**14th & 21st October 2021**



**6.00 pm - 10.00 pm  
(MYT, UTC +8)**



**Register Here :  
[tiny.cc/OPRossGreene](https://tiny.cc/OPRossGreene)**



[enquiries@oasisplace.com.my](mailto:enquiries@oasisplace.com.my)



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**Earn Grad Credits for Attending**



# #SENIA2021



## GET GRADUATE CREDIT FOR ATTENDING

Conference attendees have the opportunity to earn 1-3 graduate credits through SUNY Buffalo.



[Contact Us](#)

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## Interested in Hosting a Watch Party?



## SENIA **HAPPY HOUR** PODCAST

Hosting a SENIA  
Watch Party: It's  
Easy, Fun, &  
Impactful



***Laura Cox***

[www.seniainternational.org/podcast/](http://www.seniainternational.org/podcast/)

What is a Watch Party, you ask? Ah, good question. Laura Cox, the PK 12 Inclusion Services Coordinator and Coach at the American International School of Johannesburg hosted a Watch Party at her school last year. Laura is an educator and leader who believes that our questions inform our learning journey. And this belief inspired her to hold a watch party at her school last year. Listen to our podcast to learn how Laura and her team organized the event, what it looked like for them, and how they got their administration on board with the idea. We hope that you will consider hosting a watch party at your school, as we believe that when we learn and discuss together, we all grow as individuals and as a group collectively.

You can find our free Watch Party Kit Here:

- [Watch Party Kit](#)

Find Our Podcasts Here

# Looking to Hire the Best Special Educators in the Field?



For schools looking to hire teachers or specialists in the field of special education, we are happy to announce our first job fair.

Where else can you find such a large group of experienced and dedicated support teachers? Whether you are hiring this year or for future, this is a fantastic opportunity to meet some candidates from all over the world.

Are you looking for a new teaching opportunity? This will be a great chance for you to connect with school leaders as well.

And did we mention that it's FREE with your price of admission into the conference?

If your school is interested, please [contact us](#) and we will get you all the details to start setting up your virtual job fair booth.

If you are a candidate, stay tuned for more information.

## Become A SENIA Teacher Rep



The SENIA TR keeps your school abreast of SENIA events/conferences. In addition, the SENIA reps encourage their faculty to attend local and international SENIA conferences, help motivate teachers to submit proposals to present at SENIA, and keep schools informed about inclusion PD in the region.

Consider appointing/nominating an individual whose role involves meeting the needs of diverse learners and is committed to advancing best


practices in education for all students. Ideally, the appointed individual has attended at least one SENIA conference.

Contact us at [TeacherRep@seniainternational.org](mailto:TeacherRep@seniainternational.org) to learn more.

Contact us to nominate a TR

## Voices of Children International Project– News from SENIA Beijing





# Voices of Children International Project 2021 – 2030 China Children's Collection

1<sup>st</sup> Voices of Children International Online Gallery  
March – June 2022

Malala Yousafzai once said, “We realize the importance of our voice once we are silenced.” In today’s world of change, we often hear the opinions of our executives, our citizens, our teachers, but what about our children?

SENIA International’s Beijing Chapter, SENIA-Beijing has partnered with the Bright Start Foundation on two initiatives to give our children in China “a voice.”

The first initiative is to serve on a round table panel for the Bright Start Foundation’s November Conference, *Early Years, Excellence in Practice*. During the November 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> event, SENIA Beijing will have five panelist, Ms. Stacy Andell, Ms. Charlotte Knight-Benjafield, Ms. Stephanie Lee, Ms. Suzanne Robare and Dr. Tina Stephenson, speak during the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strand of the conference to discuss critical issues in Early Years development and education.

Our second initiative is to create a Voices of Children –Children in China Collection. The concept behind the initiative is to give early years’ children a voice through art. The aim is to get enough schools to sponsor and provide artwork (500 or more pieces) so we are able to have a showcase exhibition in China. Please visit the [Voices of Children website](https://www.voicesofchildren.org) or contact [beijingchapter@seniainternational.org](mailto:beijingchapter@seniainternational.org) for more details. Sponsorship will provide proceeds for SENIA awards and scholarships in addition to donations that support the Bright Start Foundation. Let’s not keep our children and silence any longer but give our children a voice!

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# Thank You

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## Would you like to sponsor SENIA in 2021-2022?

Do you know of an organization who would like to sponsor us?  
Sponsoring SENIA is a great way for organizations who share our  
mission to interact with SENIA members worldwide. Check out all our  
great [sponsorship opportunities](#). Interested? Contact [Lori Boll](#) today.



## Join Us for our in-person conference

***BONN, GERMANY***

March 30- Preconference, April 1-2 Conference

Stay tuned to our social media and newsletters for information coming in  
October!

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## Stay in Touch

Our conference is fast approaching and we'll be sharing lots of information about it. Stay updated by joining one of our social media channels. Just click on the social media channel of your choice below.



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### **SENIA International**

A Non-profit organization 501(c)(3)

Based in Oregon, USA

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