

TITLE: Ozhibii'amaang Remedios: Writing the Story of Remedios

PRESENTERS:

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ABSTRACT:

“Remedios Dibaajimind” is the true story of Remedios, a male turtle, who, after fathering a child, transitioned to become a full-fledged egg-laying female turtle. Jourdain and W. Geniusz have worked together to write a children’s version of this story in Ojibwe and English. A. Geniusz worked with Remedios to illustrate the text. At the beginning of this presentation, audience members will hear the story in both languages, meet Remedios, and hear a brief discussion of her role in creating and illustrating this book. Then, the human presenters will discuss the creation of what is truly a bilingual text, rather than simply a story translated from one language to another. The process of simultaneously telling a story of gender change in a gender-neutral language, like Ojibwe, and in a gendered language, like English, was challenging, and the resulting story considers gender and gender change from two distinctly different human worldviews, while describing the life of a non-human being.