

KITE TALES

SPRING 2014
VOLUME 29

SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK, WRITERS & ILLUSTRATORS - LOS ANGELES

IN THIS ISSUE

Regional News

Los Angeles	2
Orange County/Inland Empire	4
Central-Coastal	5
Bonnie Bader/Sonya Sones Interview	
Tri-Region Calendar	7

Features

Author's Perspective By Maggie Grinnell	9
Ezra Jack Keat Exhibit	10
ALA Winners' Award Lists	12
Tri-Regions Calendar	16
Toot Your Horn	17
SCBWI-LA Sue Alexander Grant Details	19
Poet's Perspective By Phoenix K. Brown	20
A Pendant for Poetry The Dreamers Couplet	22

Columns

Definitions from Editorial Anonymous	21
Volunteer in the Spotlight By Rene Rawls	23
Illustrator's Gallery By Suzy Engelman Block	24
Illustrator's Perspective By Marilyn Scott-Waters	26
News from the Internet By Narda Lacey Fargostein	28
A Hint of Humor By Debbie Ohi Ridpath	28
Bulletin Board	29
List Serve Etiquette	30
Writing Connections	31
Down the Rabbit Hole	32

MARK YOUR CALENDARS *for* MAY 2-4, 2014

Our Annual Spring Writer's Retreat at the South Coast Winery Resort and Spa is tucked in the heart of Temecula's wine country. It is the ultimate getaway.

Picture yourself strolling along a serene path through a tranquil vineyard surrounded by lush gardens and waterfalls. It is the perfect setting for a writer's retreat. Our tentative line-up of editors includes: Editor Sara Goodman, St. Martins Press; Senior Editor Martha Mihalick, Greenwillow Books; Editor Noa Wheeler, Henry Holt; fourth editor TBA.

Join us for editor-led roundtable critiques, first page critiques, VIP reception, craft workshops and much more. If you are a published author or working on your first book, this is the retreat for you!

For details contact Francesca, zfrancesca@aol.com

Come sail away with us at the South Coast Winery Writer's Retreat.

WHO'S WHO IN SCBWI-LOS ANGELES

Regional Advisors:

Sarah Laurenson (RA), Lee Wind (RA)
Sarah at sarah.laurenson@gmail.com,
Lee at iamleewind@gmail.com
Sally Jones Rogan (Assistant RA)

Conference Coordinators:

Illustrator's Day: TBD
Writer's Days: Sarah Laurenson & Lee Wind
Working Writer's Retreat: Marilyn Morton, Claudia Harrington, & Sarah Laurenson

Down The Rabbit Hole Sunday Field Trip: Dawne Knobbe
Creative Toolbox: Sally Jones Rogan
PAL Member Liaison: Candace Ryan
Contest Coordinator: Nutschell Windsor
Volunteers Wanted: Illustrator's Day Coordinator, Critiquenic Coordinator, Catering Coordinator

Schmooze Organizers:

Rita Crayon Huang (Schmooze Schmizard)
Karol Ruth Silverstein & Charlie Cohen (Westside Writers)
Suzy Block (Westside Illustrators)
Laurisa White Reyes (Santa Clarita Valley Writers)
Deborah Fletcher Blum & Jean Perry (Hollywood Writers)
Jennifer Swain (SFV-Glendale Illustrators)
Heather Banis & Ronna Mandel (West San Gabriel Valley Writers)

Advisory Board:

Jeffrey Cox, Stephanie Jacob Gordon, Maggie Grinnell, Claudia Harrington, Rita Crayon Huang, Dawne Knobbe, Sarah Laurenson, Marilyn Morton, Beth Navarro, Sally Jones Rogan, Candace Ryan, Lee Wind, Nutschell Windsor. Emeritus: Judy Enderle, Julie Williams, Edie Pagliasotti.

www.scbwisocal.org
Webmaster: Jeffery Cox
jeffery00cox@gmail.com

SCBWI International

Executive (International) Office:

Steve Mooser, Lin Oliver
For general info, membership & other national SCBWI business: 8271 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90048 TEL: 323-782-1010,
membership@scbwi.org
www.scbwi.org

US

RA Coordinator: Tracy Barrett
Assistant RA Coordinator: Patricia Wiles
Illustrator Coordinator: Priscilla Burris

Int'l RA Chair: Kathleen Ahrens
Assistant Int'l RA Chair: Angela Cerrito
Int'l Illustrator Liaison: Bridget Strevens-Marzo
Int'l Publications and Crystal Kite Awards:
Christopher Cheng

SCBWI-L.A. REGIONAL NEWS

One of the best things about being co-regional advisor for SCBWI Los Angeles is that I get to help shape one of our region's biggest events of the year: Writer's Days, coming up this March 22 and 23, 2014.

It's exciting to bring in...



STAR POWER TO INSPIRE US, such as author Katherine Applegate, who just won the Newbery Award for her remarkable middle grade novel, *The One and Only Ivan*. Katherine will be giving a keynote on Saturday, and even the title of her talk is great (and made me laugh)! "Frog and Toad at The Hunger Games: 10 Rules for Genre-Jumping and Career-Building from a Seasoned Hack ... I mean, *Pro*." I can't wait to hear Katherine speak!



MASTER TEACHERS TO HELP US IMPROVE OUR CRAFT, such as acclaimed "Plot Whisperer" Martha Alderson, whose books on writing and workshops "take writers beyond the words and into the very heart of a story." Martha will be giving a Saturday presentation: "15 Tips! How-to Write Picture Books, Middle Grade Fiction and Young Adult Novels with a Blockbuster Plot." On Sunday she will be offering a full-day plot intensive, "Develop a Multi-Layered Plot for your Middle Grade Fiction and Young Adult Novels." I'm so excited to learn from her!



EXPERTS TO HELP US BETTER UNDERSTAND THE BUSINESS OF WRITING, such as bookseller (and YA novelist) Catherine Linka, who will share in her Saturday keynote "What Every Writer Needs to Know About Retail Book Buying Today." I love that Catherine is able to take what she's learned from wearing both hats and is going to share that knowledge with us!



THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE OUR CAREERS FORWARD with editors and agents actively looking for new writers. While not everyone will 'strike gold' and have work that clicks with our faculty professionals, their expertise and perspectives will help us all improve our game and make us better writers! We have ...

Heidi Fiedler, a children's and teen book editor who does both work-for-hire (at Teacher Created Materials) and trade publishing (at Argosy Press).

Danielle Smith, associate agent at Foreword Literary Agents, where she represents picture books and middle grade authors and illustrators.

And Jen Rofe, agent at Andrea Brown Literary Agency, who handles children's fiction projects ranging from picture books to young adult.

WHO'S WHO AT KITE TALES

KITE TALES is a newsletter published by the L.A. Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators for the SCBWI Tri-Regions of Southern California. Information published in *KITE TALES* does not constitute an endorsement by SCBWI and/or SCBWI-L.A.

KITE TALES Editors

Maggie Grinnell and Beth Navarro
Managing Editors
walkingthruwords@yahoo.com,
kitealeseditor@gmail.com

Sarah Laurenson & Lee Wind

SCBWI-L.A. Editors

Mary Ann Fraser, Cen Cal Editor,
805-581-1906 or

MaryAFrase@aol.com

Francesca Rusackas & Q.L. Pearce,
Orange/Long Beach/Riverside/
San Bernardino Editors,
ZFRANCESCA@aol.com or
qlpearce@earthlink.net

KITE TALES Layout & Production

Gabriela Iniguez
g.lizbeth.i@gmail.com

KITE TALES Proofreader

Marcelle Greene

KITE TALES Illustrator Liaison

Jane Smith
superjane_js@yahoo.com

KITE TALES Subscriptions

Mary Peterson,
mary@marypeterson.com

KITE TALES Ads

Maggie Grinnell,
walkingthruwords@yahoo.com

KITE TALES is free at <http://www.scbwisocal.org/htmls/kiteales.htm>. Join the online mailing list to receive *Kite Tales* announcements via e-mail at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KiteTales/>

Snail mail subscriptions (4 issues)
www.scbwisocal.org/htmls/ktform.htm

Submission Deadlines:

Spring - Jan. 15 for March 1 issue
Summer - April 15 for June 1 issue
Fall - July 15 for Sept. 1 issue
Winter - Oct. 15 for Dec. 1 issue

Send comments, articles, great news, questions, etc. to Maggie Grinnell at walkingthruwords@yahoo.com or Beth Navarro at kitealeseditor@gmail.com.

Columns - 500 words max
Features - 800 words max
Interviews - 1400 words max
Poetry - 150 words max

Critique Connections:

Contact Sheryl Scarborough at
mediasherpa@gmail.com



[L.A. REGIONAL NEWS]

There are also contests, a first pages panel, social media consultations with MG author and social media guru Greg Pincus, the awarding of the Sue Alexander Service and Encouragement Award, and lots more cool things. Some of the cool things (like our agent/editor manuscript critiques, agents picture book intensive, agents novel intensive, and the one-on-one plot consultations with Martha Alderson) sold out in the first two days of our conference registration!

But as of this writing, there are still spaces available for the amazing Saturday conference, Martha's blockbuster Sunday plot intensive, Greg's social media consults and Sunday's intimate editor intensive with Heidi.

And maybe most of all, Writer's Days is **a chance to connect with our community**. *Your* community. Writing and illustrating can be solo activities, but you don't have to be isolated! Los Angeles is one of the largest SCBWI chapters in the world, with more than 1,300 members in our region. And while many of us attend the giant international conference in Los Angeles in August, Writer's Days is *our* conference, where we get to connect with friends — familiar and new — and feel connected.

But of course, Writer's Days is just one of our region's amazing offerings — we have our creative field trip, Down the Rabbit Hole, coming up on Sunday, May 18, and Critiquenic on Saturday, June 7.

Stay tuned for some exciting collaborations and events being cooked up by our all-volunteer team, and drop by one of our wonderful schmoozes (we have more than 50 meetings year-round all over Los Angeles county) to really connect with your fellow local scbwi-ers!

Want to get involved? Drop by our new website at <http://losangeles.scbwi.org/> to find out more about volunteering.

We hope to see you soon!

Illustrate and Write On,

Lee Wind
Co-Regional Advisor
SCBWI Los Angeles

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TO REGISTER FOR SCBWI LOS ANGELES WRITER'S DAYS 2014, PLEASE VISIT: <https://losangeles.scbwi.org/events/2014-writers-days/>

ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND EMPIRE NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

So far 2014 has brought good news and several changes in the SoCal Region. We were thrilled to hear Doubleday Associate Publishing Director Frances Gilbert acquired a picture book manuscript from her Editor's Day visit in 2012. She explained that at first she rejected it, but the author made changes and Doubleday will be publishing it in fall 2015. Dr. Mike Mahin also sold a manuscript at the same Editor's Day and we couldn't be more pleased!

Speaking of Editor's Day, there is a change to our schedule. Editor's Day and Agent's Day will alternate yearly for the next few years. For 2014, Agent's Day will take place in the fall on October 4, 2014, at CSUF. The Cal State University Fullerton Titan Theater will accommodate additional attendees. Those attending will appreciate the improvement in acoustics and the easy parking. So save the date for the next Agent's Day, October 4, 2014.

Speaking of saving-the-date, our Spring Retreat at the South Coast Resort and Spa will continue to take place in May. Pencil us in for May 2-4, 2014. We are currently lining up a great group of speakers including Martha Mahalik, editor from Greenwillow, and Noa Wheeler, editor from Holt. Registration is now open. For registration information email me at: zfrancesca@aol.com

We're also happy to announce that SCBWI SoCal will be joining with the dA Center for the Arts in Pomona to promote literacy and celebrate children's books! The center is home to a terrific array of events including art exhibits, poetry readings, live theater, and musical performances. It also houses facilities for art classes. Our region will have a presence at the upcoming 2014 San Gabriel Valley Literary Festival and we are hoping to offer a fun social for new members at the gallery. Several of our members will also be participating in readings and book signings throughout the year. The culmination of the program will be an exhibition of children's book illustrations in 2015.

On a sad note, we had to say farewell to our wonderful independent children's book store, Mrs. Nelson's Toy and Book Shop. After 28 years, Judy and Byron Nelson have decided that it is time to focus solely on their schoolbook fair company. For those of us who have considered the "little blue book shop" a second home, it was a teary goodbye. With all our hearts we say thank you to the Nelson family for the support, the author visits, the programs and the joy they brought us for nearly three decades.

Many of you may have heard about the new study that shows working in a messy environment may help to promote a more innovative atmosphere. But, if you find that your creativity is smothered by your disorganization you may want to take a peek at the new column on our website written by the queen of clutter control, Kelly Gash. Kelly will be writing a monthly column with tips on controlling the mess that may be putting the kibosh on your creativity.

Here is one of our favorite quotes that's now part of my 2014 New Year resolutions:

Exercise the writing muscle every day, even if it is only a letter, notes, a title list, a character sketch, a journal entry. Writers are like dancers, like athletes. Without that exercise, the muscles seize up.

— Jane Yolen

We hope to see you soon,

Francesca Rusackas, RA
Q. L. Pearce, ARA

VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA REGIONAL NEWS

[An Interview with Bonnie Bader]

By Jody Fickes Shapiro

Bonnie Bader, associate publisher of Frederick Warne and editor-in-chief, Penguin Young Readers/Early Readers, will be in Ventura on Saturday, March 8, 2014, to present an all-day workshop intensive on writing successful early chapter books and beginning readers.

We posed some questions to her to prepare participants for this long-needed and eagerly anticipated day.

Jody: As you know, our members find the beginning reader/early chapter book genre challenging. Although we don't want to give away too much about your upcoming workshop, we are curious what you think is one of the biggest stumbling blocks for authors in this genre?

Bonnie: The biggest stumbling block with the beginning/leveled readers is being able to tell a good story using controlled vocabulary. You have to be able to work with the art to tell some of your story. I would say that is the biggest one, but others include: not talking down to the reader, making your material age-appropriate, not making your story too complicated.

J: What do you think are the quintessential titles and series that anyone tackling the BR/ECB should have read before attending your workshop?



Bonnie Bader

B: For beginning/leveled readers: anything in the Penguin Young Readers line, *Pearl and Wagner*, *Young Cam Jansen*, *Tiny*, *Guppy Up*, *A New Friend*, *Dog on His Bus*, *Clara and Clem*. For early chapter books: *Here's Hank*, *Magic Bone*, *Princess Posey*, *Life of Ty*, *Mercy Watson*, *Stink*.

J: Will there be space in the day for people to share their work ... perhaps anonymous first pages as part of the day's program?

B: Yes, I am open to first pages, although with the leveled readers, I would be open to seeing more since there is not a lot of text on the first page!

J: And one last nosey question ... what was one of the books in your reading life that you wish everyone could read?

B: Gee, that is too nosey! My favorite book as a child was *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. I also loved *The Story of Ferdinand* and *The Story of Ping*.

[Q and A with Sonya Sones]

By Angela Russell

Award-winning poet, Sonya Sones, will be leading a workshop in using the techniques of the poet — similes, imagery, rhythm, repetition, personification, and more — to enhance our prose, on Saturday, April 5, 2014. Her five novels in verse for teens have been highly successful, despite the fact that there are no vampires in them. Sonya has also written a *Los Angeles Times* bestselling novel for grownups, *The Hunchback of Neiman Marcus*, which was optioned by Michelle Pfeiffer — a coming of *middle*-age story about learning to grow old disgracefully.

Angela: Why is poetry important — especially for prose writers?

Sonya: Poetry has the unique ability to bring you straight to the center and truth of things while using the fewest words to achieve the greatest emotional impact. And that's what all of us are trying to do, right? We're trying to distill our words down to those perfect few — those perfect few that will move people to laughter or to tears.

A: What is one thing students will learn from your workshop?

S: I'll share a simple technique for describing your character's feelings. This technique will allow your readers not just to witness those feelings, but to actually experience them, right along with your characters. And this will draw them more deeply into your stories.

[continued next page]

[VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA REGIONAL NEWS]

A: What are your three favorite words?

S: Yikes! My three favorite words? The answer to that question would be different on any given day, depending on my mood and circumstances. But today, I choose “cottage” because it evokes such feelings of coziness and safety, “shenanigans” because it has a lovely rhythm and is brimming with mischief, and “caramel” because ... well ... because I’m hungry!

A: Is there anything else you want the participants to do/bring before your workshop?

S: Participants should come armed with pencil, paper, and a passion for cookies.

Sonya hopes to see everyone in Goleta, but in the meantime, you can visit her at SonyaSones.com, follow her at twitter.com/SonyaSones, or friend her at facebook.com/pages/SonyaSones/175441839174257?fref=ts



Sonya Sones



Participants of the CenCal 2014 Retreat at Old Mission Santa Barbara



Participants listening to the panel of editors

SAVE THE DATES!

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.SCBWICENCAL.ORG/EVENTS.SHTML



MARCH 8, 2014

Workshop Intensive
Writing Successful
Early Chapter Books
with Bonnie Bader
Ventura

APRIL 5, 2014

Workshop
Poetic License
with Sonya Sones
Santa Barbara

MAY 17, 2014

ArtWorks: Portfolio
Boot Camp
Instructors: Lauren Rille
and Marla Frazee
Thousand Oaks

JUNE 22, 2014

SketchCrawl
Fillmore

JULY 27, 2014

Critiquenic
Simi Valley

BOOK TALK ONLINE

Book Talk is a monthly book discussion group taking place on the Central-Coastal California SCBWI listserv. Discussions begin on the first of each month, facilitated by Lynn Becker (lynnb@mac.com) Readers may join anytime during the month with comments or questions about the featured book.

Book Talk is open to all members of the Southern California SCBWI who are signed up for the regional listserv. To **BECOME A MEMBER** of the listserv, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/SCBWI-CCal/>

MARCH: *Counting by 7s*, by Holly Goldberg Sloan (MG) A 12-year-old genius reshapes her world, and everyone in it, after losing her parents.

APRIL: *The Very Honorable League of Pirates: Magic Marks the Spot*, by Caroline Carlson (MG) Engaging plot spun with a fun and fabulous voice — it includes pirates and an escape from finishing school.

[continued next page]

[VENTURA/SANTA BARBARA REGIONAL NEWS]

MAY: *This is NOT a Good Idea!* By Mo Willems (PB)

Formatted to resemble a silent film, starring Fox, Goose, and Goslings, this funny, clever picture book begs to be read aloud.

JUNE: *Doll Bones*, by Holly Black (MG)

From a master of supernatural fantasy, a spooky china doll leads three friends on an adventure.

JULY: *Mr. Wuffles*, by David Wiesner (PB)

Cat-toy-sized spaceship full of aliens meets Cat, in this almost wordless graphic novel format.

WRITING WORKSHOP

POETIC LICENSE
IN THIS WORKSHOP
AWARD-WINNING POET

SONYA SONES

WILL EXPLAIN HOW THE TECHNIQUES USED BY
POETS CAN BE ALSO USED BY NON-POETS
TO ENHANCE THEIR PROSE

SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2014
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
EDUCATION OFFICE AUDITORIUM
4400 CATHEDRAL OAKS ROAD
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93160

\$40 | **\$50**
SCBWI | NON-
MEMBERS | MEMBERS

REGISTRATION:
cencal.scbwi.org/poeticlicense

INSPIRATION CORNER

It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all — in which case, you fail by default.

- J.K. Rowling

AUTHOR'S PERSPECTIVE

BACK TO SCHOOL

By Maggie Grinnell

I have always loved writing stories and am a kid at heart, so it is no wonder that these two have led me to write picture books for children.

My first picture book, *The Ketchup Bottle* and *The Takeover*, was published on October 22, 2010. I am proud of my book. What makes me swell up with more pride is being asked to speak about my book and myself as a writer to a fifth grade class.

How this came about all started with Facebook. One of the girls I went to high school with befriended me on Facebook. She saw that I had published a children's picture book and asked me to speak to her fifth grade class. I was nervous but accepted.

So I made sure to have enough books for the entire class and then made a list of writing prompts for a writing exercise. I also had postcards to promote my next children's picture book, *Isabella and Penelope*.

So, on April 8, 2013, I drove to Fitzgerald Elementary in Rialto, CA. In my black bag, I had copies of my book, the writing prompts and postcards.

I checked in at the front office and was instructed to go to Room W5. As I walked down the hallway to the classroom, my hands were sweating. Just when I thought I had reached the classroom, I realized I was at the wrong side of the building. So I went back to the office and walked down the other side of the building.

As I was peering into the room, a young boy opened the door. I see Yvette, the teacher who is my old high school classmate, standing in

the middle of the class.

After we say our hellos and how we haven't aged, I am shown the desk where I will sit.

I didn't prepare what I was going to say. I decided to just go with how the children responded to me. As all eyes are on me, I can feel my face heat up and beads of sweat start to form on my forehead. I asked the children how many of them are shy. All of them raised their hands. I felt better and started not to be as nervous.

I talked about how my passion for reading led to writing.

A girl asked what books I read as a child. I told her and the children that there were four books that I read over and over: *Winnie the Pooh*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Nancy Drew Series* and *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.

I always loved teddy bears as a little girl; so, reading *Winnie the Pooh* with the main character a teddy bear ... count me in!

Spiders have always spooked me. But I told the children that Charlotte, the spider in *Charlotte's Web*, has such human qualities that she made me embrace her.

The Nancy Drew Series, about a young girl who wants to be a detective because of her inquisitive nature, sounded just like me. Somehow I thought I could relate to her.

When I read *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, I searched for my own secret wardrobe closet to lead me to a magical land. So I went to a bedroom in my house that has a small door inside the closet. When I crawled through the small door, I was underneath my house. There was no magical forest, no mystical



creatures.

All I saw was a dead rat, and all I felt was dirt and dust.

So I crawled out of there so fast. The children reacted to this story with several "Eeks" and "Ughs."

Next, I pulled out copies of a list of writing prompts for them to perform a creative exercise. I thought they wouldn't want to do this exercise because it would be more schoolwork. But they were willing. So I passed out the prompts. They each selected one prompt and started to write. I didn't know that some of the children would want to read their work out loud. I had doubt about bringing the prompts, but when I heard them read what they wrote, the doubt disappeared.

A few minutes before I left, I passed out autographed copies of *The Ketchup Bottle* and *The Takeover*, and postcards for my new book. It was like Christmas to them. Joy filled my heart to see their excitement.

As I packed my stuff, I was given a card signed by each student. I was so touched by that gesture. The children clapped and then thanked me for speaking at their school.

Maggie Grinnell is a children's book author of The Ketchup Bottle and The Takeover and Isabella and Penelope. She is a member of SCBWI and a co-editor of Kite Tales. www.maggiegrinnell.com

EZRA JACK KEATS

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS EZRA JACK KEATS

By Jason Porter

If we all could really see ('see' as perceive, understand, discover) each other exactly as the other is, this would be a different world.

- Ezra Jack Keats

This April the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles will present a retrospective exhibition on the work of groundbreaking author and illustrator Ezra Jack Keats. Keats' landmark book, *The Snowy Day* (1962), was the first modern, full-color book to feature an African American protagonist, Peter, a little boy who ventures out by himself on a morning after snow blankets his city neighborhood. Published during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the book propelled Keats' career in children's literature and became an inspiration for generations of readers, writers, and artists.

I myself as a child growing up in the '70s read this quiet, beautiful book until its pages were tattered and staples in the binding came loose. Looking back, I'm not sure what captivated me, the magical quiet of the city completely altered by the blanket of snow or the sweet-natured character of the little boy, Peter, who chooses to spend his snow day making angels and building a snowman instead of getting into a snowball fight with some older boys.

It was only later, around the time I became a parent myself, that I realized the importance of this book as a turning point in children's literature. The fact that Keats made his protagonist an African American boy — and subsequently wrote about a diversity of children whom he encountered as a child growing up in Brooklyn in the '30s and '40s — and that the character's "blackness" was not a detail that matters to the plot, was at once reflective of the changing social times and true to Keats' desire to tell stories about everyday people in the urban settings he loved. Keats was quoted as saying that Peter became his main character



Ezra Jack Keats: "Crunch, crunch, crunch, his feet sank into the snow." Final illustration for *The Snowy Day*, 1962. Collage and paint on board. Ezra Jack Keats papers, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi. Copyright Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

"simply because he should have been there all along." While Keats may have given this simple rationale for making Peter an African American, the impact of this choice on children's literature remains significant, especially as we authors and illustrators observe and reflect on the changing demographics of our own neighborhoods and shifting social mores.

The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats opens at the Skirball on April 10. It features more than 80 original works by Ezra Jack Keats, ranging from preliminary sketches and "dummies," or preparatory books, to final paintings and collages, including examples of Keats' most introspective but lesser-known works inspired by Asian art and poetry. A separate gallery

[continued next page]

[EZRA JACK KEATS]

will be filled with interactive elements that will encourage visitors to tell stories, make art in the style of Keats, and explore his full catalogue of books. The exhibition will have great appeal to artists, who will get an up-close-and-personal look at Keats' painting, collage, and assemblage techniques, and to lovers of children's literature, who will gain insights into the biography and creative process of this giant in the field.

Through a partnership between SCBWI-LA and the Skirball, we are offering a number of opportunities to visit the exhibition for special programs and events. Members of SCBWI will also be eligible for \$2 off Skirball Museum admission throughout the exhibition, which runs through September 7, 2014. Print this article to redeem at the Skirball admissions desk using code 99807. Limit 2. Of course, if you are a teacher, you are always welcome at the Skirball for free, as long as you present your school I.D. We also are offering a full slate of art workshops, adult and family tours, school and teacher programs, a family "Snow Day" in mid-August, all of which you can learn more about at www.skirball.org during the next few months. We look forward to sharing this fabulous exhibition with our friends at SCBWI!

Jason Porter is the assistant director of education at the Skirball Cultural Center and a long-time member of SCBWI.



IS YOUR MANUSCRIPT GIVING YOU THE BLUES?

Are you ready to be published but your picture book manuscript isn't? Maybe you need a *new* way of looking at your work?

- Learn the Diagramming Method and you will understand the underlying structure of a story and what makes successful picture books "tick."
- Discover how to revise your current and future work to get published.
- Study independently on-line with an award winning picture book author and UCLA Extension Writers Program instructor.

Professional Critique Services provide:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Detailed writing suggestions | Line edits |
| • Grammar and punctuation | Story Diagram |
| • Verse rhyme and scansion | Publishing Market Advice |

Don't you think it's time the world saw your work?

Merrily Kutner

merrilyjk@gmail.com (714) 343-6956 www.merrilykutner.com

ALA AWARD WINNERS

...AND THE WINNER IS...

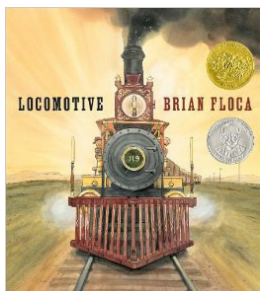
Major Awards for Children's Literature from the American Library Association

John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature: *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* by Kate DiCamillo, published by Candlewick Press.

Newbery Honor Books: *Doll Bones* by Holly Black, published by Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division; *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.; *Paperboy* by Vince Vawter, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children: *Locomotive* written and illustrated by Brian Floca, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Caldecott Honor Books: *Journey* written and illustrated by Aaron Becker, published by Candlewick Press; *Flora and the Flamingo*, written and illustrated by Molly Idle, published by Chronicle Books LLC; *Mr. Wuffles!* written and illustrated by David Wiesner, published by Clarion Books, an imprint



of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

Printz Honor Books: *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell, published by St. Martin's Griffin (Macmillan); *Kingdom of Little Wounds* by Susann Cokal, published by Candlewick Press; *Maggot Moon* by Sally Gardner, illustrated by Julian Crouch, published by Candlewick Press; *Navigating Early* by Clare Vanderpool, published by Delacorte Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House LLC, Penguin Random House Company.

Coretta Scott King Book Award – **Author** recognizing an African American author of outstanding books for children and young adults: *P.S. Be Eleven*, by Rita Williams-Garcia, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Coretta Scott King Book Award – **Illustrator:** *Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me*, illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Daniel Beaty, published by Little, Brown and Company, Hachette Book Group.

King Honor Books – **Author:** *March: Book One* written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, published by Top Shelf Productions; *Darius & Twig* by Walter Dean Myers, published by Amistad, an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers; *Words with*

Wings by Nikki Grimes, published by WordSong, an imprint of Highlights.

King Honor Book - Illustrator: Nelson Mandela, illustrated and written by Kadir Nelson, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe New Talent Award: *When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop* illustrated by Theodore Taylor III, published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership.

Coretta Scott King - Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement presented in even years to an African American author or illustrator for a body of published books for children and/or young adults, which has made a significant and lasting literary contribution: authors Patricia and Fredrick McKissack. Patricia McKissack and her late husband Fredrick, both natives of Tennessee, began their writing and research partnership in the 1980s. Their subject matter, from family-based folklore to nonfiction titles, includes scholarly research written with an authentic voice, which creates a cultural transmission of history. Their immense range of topics are informative, readable and enjoyable, covering accounts from slavery days to biographical studies of noted men and women in African American history past and present.

[continued next page]

[ALA AWARD WINNERS]

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults: *Midwinterblood* by Marcus Sedgwick, published by Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

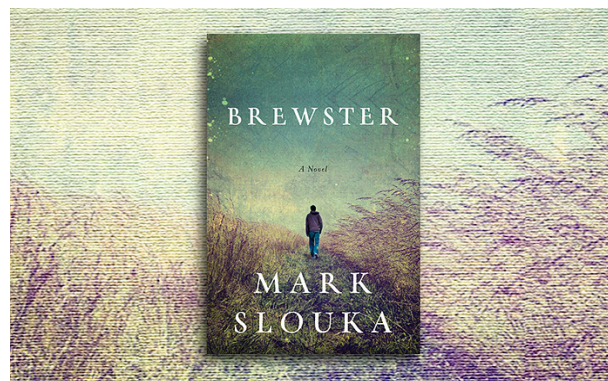
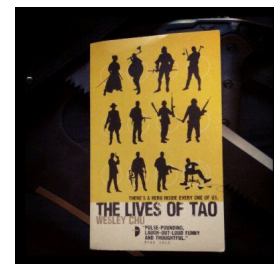
Schneider Family Book Award for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience: (ages 0-10) *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.; (ages 11-13) *Handbook for Dragon Slayers* by Merrie Haskell, published by HarperCollins Children's Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers; (ages 13-18) *Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein, published by Hyperion, an imprint of Disney Book Group.



Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video: *Bink & Gollie: Two for One*, producers Paul R. Gagne and Melissa Reilly Ellard of Weston Woods Studios, Inc. The video's cast is anchored by Kate Micucci and Riki Lindhome, with music by David Mansfield. Tony Fucile's artwork is brilliantly brought to life by Chuck Gammage Animation.

Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults: Markus Zusak, whose books include *The Book Thief* and *I Am the Messenger*, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books; and *Getting the Girl* and *Fighting Ruben Wolfe*, published by Arthur A. Levine, an imprint of Scholastic.

Alex Awards for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences: *Brewster* by Mark Slouka, published by W. W. Norton & Company; *The Death of Bees* by Lisa O'Donnell, published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Golden Boy: A Novel* by Abigail Tarttelin, published by ATRIA Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.; *Help for the Haunted* by John Searles, published by William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Lexicon: A Novel* by Max Barry, published by The Penguin Group, Penguin Group (USA) Inc.; *The Lives of Tao* by Wesley Chu, published by Angry Robot, a member of the Osprey Group; *Mother, Mother: A Novel* by Koren Zailckas, published by Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc. *Relish* by Lucy Knisley, published by First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership; *The Sea of Tranquility: A Novel* written by Katja Millay, published by ATRIA Paperback, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.;



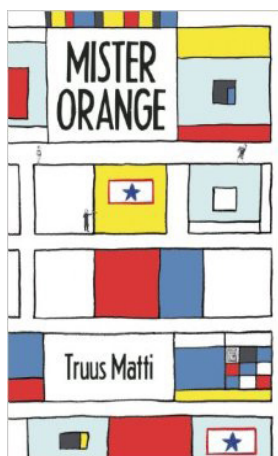
The Universe Versus Alex Woods by Gavin Extence, published by Redhook Books, an imprint of Orbit, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

May Hill Arbutnot Honor Lecture Award recognizing an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site: author and illustrator Brian Selznick, who graduated from Rhode Island School of Design intending to be a set designer for the theater, but a stint at Eeyore's children's bookstore in New York City changed his mind and his first book was published while working there. He left to pursue a full-time career in children's book illustration, but he still designs theater sets and is a professional puppeteer. Among his award-winning works are illustrations for two Sibert Honor Books and a Caldecott Honor Book. His groundbreaking "*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*" was awarded the 2008 Caldecott Medal.

[continued next page]

Mildred L. Batchelder Award

for an outstanding children's book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States, and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States: *Mister Orange* by Truus Matti, translated from Dutch by Laura Watkinson, published by Enchanted Lion Books.



Odyssey Award for best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States: *Scowler*, produced by Listening Library, an imprint of the Random House Audio Publishing Group, written by Daniel Kraus and narrated by Kirby Heyborne.

Odyssey Honor Recordings:

Better Nate Than Ever, produced by Simon and Schuster Audio, written and narrated by Tim Federle; *Creepy Carrots!* produced by Weston Woods Studios, Inc., written by Aaron Reynolds; *Eleanor & Park*, produced by Listening Library, an imprint of the Random House Audio Publishing Group, written by Rainbow Rowell, narrated by Rebecca Lowman and Sunil Malhotra; and *Matilda*, produced by Penguin Audio, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., written by Roald Dahl, narrated by Kate Winslet.

Batchelder Honor Books: *The Bathing Costume or the Worst Vacation of My Life* by Charlotte Moundlic, illustrated by Olivier Tallec, translated by Claudia Zoe Bedrick, published by Enchanted Lion Books; *My Father's Arms Are a Boat* by Stein Erik Lunde, illustrated by Øyvind Torseter, translated by Kari Dickson, published by Enchanted Lion Books; *The War Within These Walls* by Aline Sax, illustrated by Caryl Strzelecki, translated by Laura Watkinson, published by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Pura Belpré Award - Illustrator:

honoring a Latino illustrator whose children's books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience: *Niño Wrestles the World*, illustrated and written by Yuyi Morales, published by Roaring Brook Press.

Belpré Honor Books - Illustrator:

Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía una Llamita, illustrated and written by Angela Dominguez, published by Henry Holt and Company, LLC; *Tito Puente: Mambo King / Rey del Mambo*, illustrated by Rafael López, written by Monica Brown, published by Rayo, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale*, illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.

Pura Belpré Award - Author:

honoring a Latino writer whose children's books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience: *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* by Meg Medina, published by Candlewick Press.

[ALA AWARD WINNERS]

Belpré Honor Books – Author:

The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest Abolitionist by Margarita Engle, published by Harcourt, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company; *The Living* by Matt de la Peña, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House LLC, a Penguin Random House Company; *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale*, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

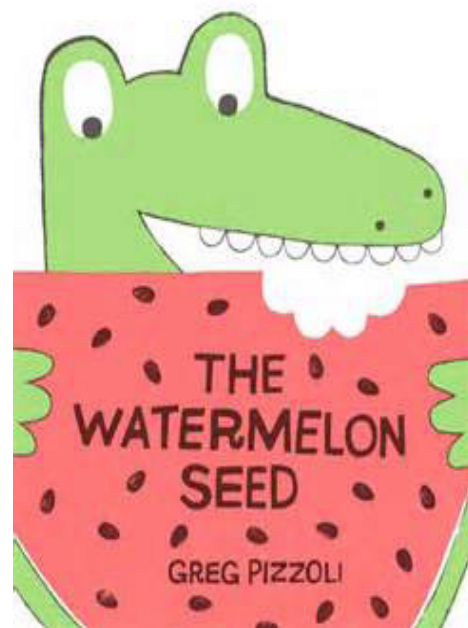
for most distinguished informational book for children: *Parrots over Puerto Rico* by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore, illustrated by Susan L. Roth, published by Lee & Low books, Inc.

Sibert Honor Books: *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.; *Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard* written and illustrated by Annette LeBlanc Cate, published by Candlewick Press; *Locomotive* written and illustrated by Brian Floca, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; *The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius* by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership.

[continued next page]

[ALA AWARD WINNERS]

FINALISTS: GO: *A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design* by Chip Kidd, published by Workman Publishing Company; *Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II* by Martin W. Sandler, published by Walker Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc.; *Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratroopers* by Tanya Lee Stone, published by Candlewick Press; and *The President Has Been Shot! The Assassination of John F. Kennedy*, by James L. Swanson, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.



Stonewall Book Award - Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award given annually to English-language works of exceptional merit for children or teens relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience: *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* by Kirstin Cronn-Mills, published by Flux, an imprint of Llewellyn Worldwide Ltd; *Fat Angie*, written by e.E. Charlton-Trujillo, published by Candlewick Press.

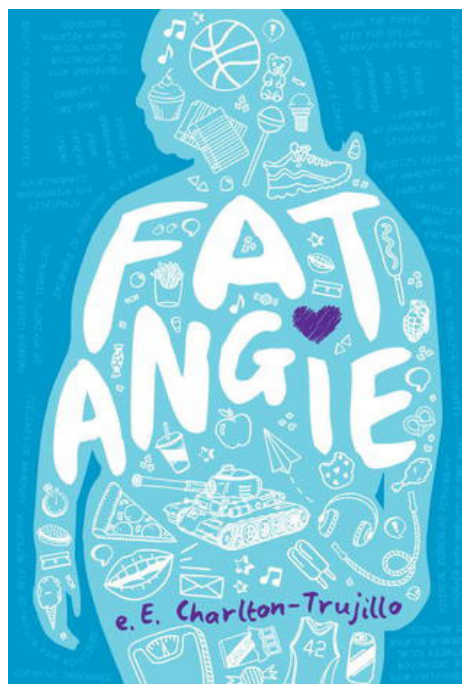
William C. Morris Award for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens: *Charm & Strange* by Stephanie Kuehn, published by St. Martin's Griffin, an imprint of St. Martin's Press, a division of Macmillan.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the most distinguished book for beginning readers: *The Watermelon Seed* written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli, published by Disney Hyperion Books, an imprint of Disney Book Group.

Geisel Honor Books: *Ball* written and illustrated by Mary Sullivan, published by Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company; *A Big Guy Took My Ball!* written and illustrated by Mo Willems, published by Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of Disney Book Group; *Penny and Her Marble* written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Stonewall Honor Books: *Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Federle, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division; *Branded by the Pink Triangle* by Ken Setterington, published by Second

Story Press; *Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.



FINALISTS: *Sex & Violence* by Carrie Mesrobian, published by Carolrhoda LAB, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group; *Dr. Bird's Advice for Sad Poets* by Evan Roskos, published by Houghton Mifflin, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company; *Belle Epoque* by Elizabeth Ross, published by Delacorte Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books; *In the Shadow of Blackbirds* by Cat Winters, published by Amulet Books, an imprint of Abrams.

YALSA AWARD for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults: *The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi* by Neal Bascomb, published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.

SCBWI EVENT CALENDAR



SAVE THESE DATES

MARCH

8

EVENT
CENTRAL COAST
Workshop
Intensive: Writing
Successful Early
Chapter Books

22
23

EVENT
LOS ANGELES
Writer's Days

1
30

DEADLINE
Don Freeman
and Barbara
Karlin work in
progress grant

APRIL

5

EVENT
CENTRAL
Workshop:
Poetic License
with Sonya Sones

30

DEADLINE
Sue Alexander
grant for the
Working Writer's
Retreat

MAY

2
4

EVENT
OC/INLAND
Spring Wirter's
Retreat

17

EVENT
CENTRAL
ArtWorks:
Illustrators' Day

Portfolio
Bootcamp

18

EVENT
LOS ANGELES
Down the Rabbit
Hole

JUNE

7

EVENT
LOS ANGELES
Critiquenic

22

EVENT
CENTRAL
Fillmore
SketchCrawl

JULY

27

EVENT
CENTRAL
Simi Valley
Critiquenic

TOOT YOUR HORN

Good Crooks Book One: Missing Monkey by **Mary Amato**, illustrated by **Ward Jenkins**, Egmont USA, ages 7-9, humorous fiction, ISBN: 978-1-60684-396-3

Good Crooks Book Two: Dog Gone! by **Mary Amato**, illustrated by **Ward Jenkins**, Egmont USA, ages 7-9, humorous fiction, ISBN: 978-1-60684-397-0

Guitar Notes (paperback edition) by **Mary Amato**, Egmont USA, ages 12+, realistic fiction, ISBN: 978-1-60684-503-5

Octopus: Escape Artist of the Sea by **Caroline Arnold**, Heinemann, ages 7-10, nonfiction, ISBN: 0-325-03606-3

Flora & Ulysses, the Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by **K.G. Campbell**, Candlewick, ages 8-12, ISBN: 978-0-7636-6040-6

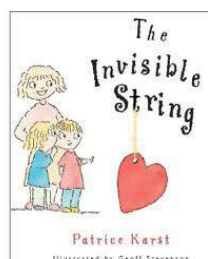
Tea Party Rules by Amy Dyckman, illustrated by **K.G. Campbell**, Viking, ages 4-8, ISBN: 978-0-670-78501-8

The Mermaid and the Shoe by **K.G. Campbell**, Kids Can Press, ages 4-8, ISBN: 978-1-55453-771-6

Spirit's Key by **Edith Cohn**, Farrar, Straus Children's, ages 8-12, mystery, ISBN: 978-0-374-30011-1

The Poem That Will Not End: Fun with Poetic Forms and Voices by **Joan Bransfield Graham**, illustrated by **Kyrsten Brooker**, Amazon Children's Publishing/Two Lions, ages 6-11, poetry picture book, ISBN: 978-1-4778-4715-2

The Invisible String by **Patrice Karst**, Scholastic, ages 3-8, picture book, ISBN: 978-0-87516-734-3



Prepped and Punked: Bringing 1980s and 1990s Flair to Your Wardrobe by **Allison Crotzer Kimmel**, Capstone Press, interest level 4-8, reading level 4-5, nonfiction, ISBN: 9781476540009 / 1-4765-4000-4

The Hunted: Polar Prey by **Sara Louise Kras**, Speeding Star, a subsidiary of Enslow, ages 6-10, fiction early chapter book, ISBN: 978-1-62285-080-8

Horses! Horse Riding by **Sara Louise Kras**, Cavendish Square Publishing, ages 6-10, nonfiction chapter book, ISBN 978-1608708376

All Dolled Up: Bringing 1920s and 1930s Flair to Your Wardrobe by **Rebecca Langston-George**, Capstone Press, grades 4-8, nonfiction, ISBN: 978-1476539973

A Girl Called Fearless by **Catherine Linka**, St. Martin's Press, ages 12+, young adult, ISBN: 9781250039293

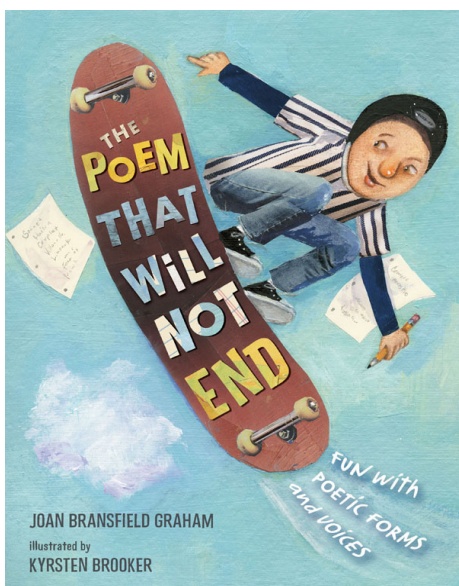
The Mystery of the Missing Ming by **Anne Loader McGee**, Vendera Publishing, ages 8-12, middle grade, ISBN: 978-1-936307-32-6

Suraj the Tiger Cub by **Farida Mirza**, illustrated by Nylah and Jason Pruett, Oxford University Press, ages 5-7 years, picture book, ISBN: 9780199400256

Yukon Sled Dog by **Judith Janda Presnall**, illustrated by **Mark Elliott**, Two Lions/Amazon Children's Publishing, ages 3-8, picture book, ISBN: 978-1477817315

The Last Enchanter by **Laurisa White Reyes**, Tanglewood Press, ages 8-12, ISBN: 9781933718934

The Misadventures of the Magician's Dog by **Frances Sackett**, Holiday House, ages 8-12, fantasy/adventure, ISBN: 0823428699



Skin and Bones by **Sherry Shahan**, Albert Whitman & Co., young adult contemporary fiction, ISBN: 978-0-8075-7397-6

A Less Than Perfect Peace by **Jacqueline Levering Sullivan**, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, ages 10-14, middle grade, ISBN: 978-0-8028-5431-5

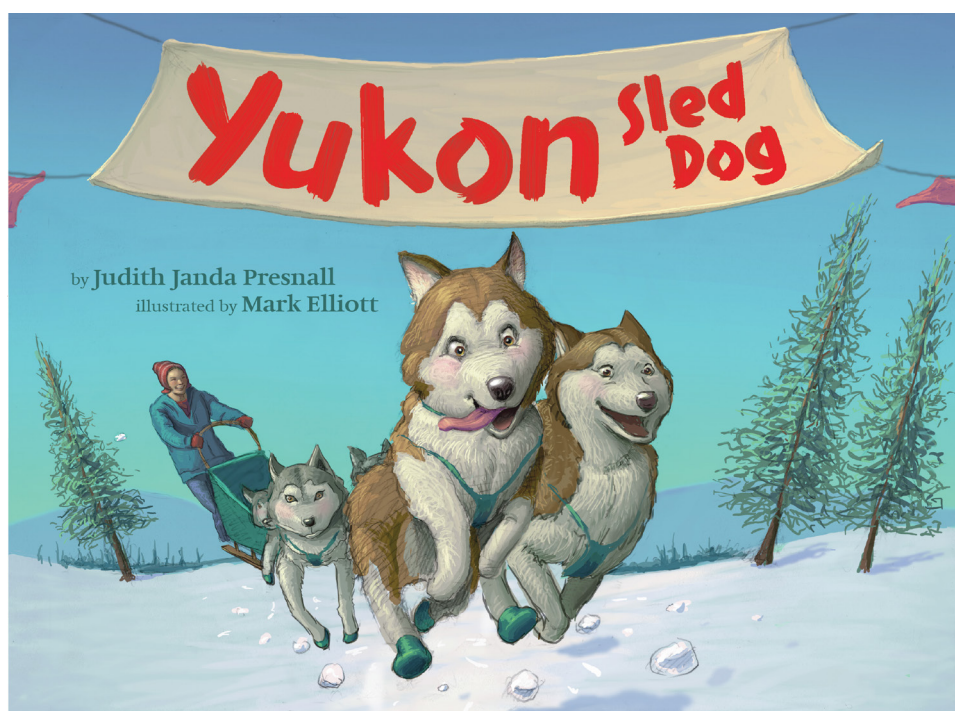
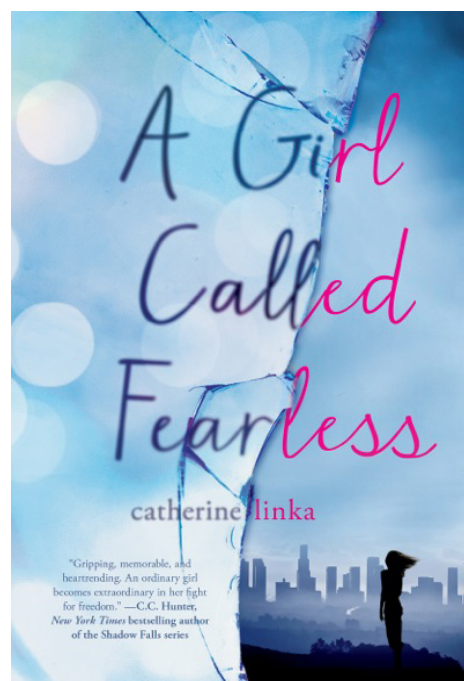
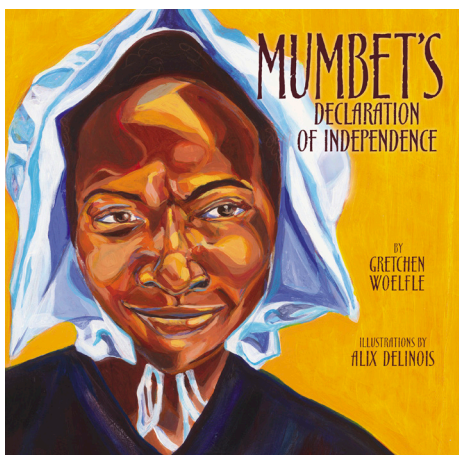
On, Mercy! The Secret Life of Mercy Otis Warren by **Gretchen Woelfle**, illustrated by **Alexandra Wallner**, Calkins Creek/Boys Mills, picture book biography, ISBN: 978-1-59078-822-6

Mumbet's Declaration of Independence by Gretchen Woelfle, illustrated by **Alix Delinois**, Boys Mills/Calkins Creek, ages 7-10, picture book biography, ISBN: 9780-7613-6589-1

STEM Trailblazers Bios: Google Glass and Robotics Inventor Sebastian Thrun by **Marne Ventura**, Lerner, ages 7-11, biography, ISBN: 978-1-4677-2459-3

[**TOOT YOUR HORN**]

STEM Trailblazers Bios: Astrophysicist and Space Advocate Neil deGrasse Tyson by **Marne Ventura**, Lerner, ages 7-11, biography, ISBN: 978-1-4677-2461-6



THE SUE ALEXANDER GRANT *for* THE WORKING WRITER'S RETREAT

The Sue Alexander Grant for the Working Writer's Retreat is open to ALL genres! Recipient receives full tuition to the SCBWI-L.A. Working Writer's Retreat. The recipient will be announced in the Fall Issue of *Kite Tales*.

The Working Writer's Retreat is popular and tends to sell out before the winner is selected. Be sure to reserve your spot at the retreat by signing up early (registration opens after Writer's Days). The winner will be reimbursed tuition. You do not need to register for the retreat to enter this contest.

CONTEST: Submit one unpublished manuscript (fiction or nonfiction) in one of these categories: picture book (text only, no illustrations or dummies), middle grade (first 10 pages), young adult (first 10 pages), poetry (a collection of 10 poems on a single theme).

RULES:

1. You must be a member in good standing of the SCBWI-L.A. region.
2. Published or unpublished SCBWI-L.A. members are welcome to apply.
3. The submitted manuscript must not be under contract for publication at the time of application.
4. Limited to one entry per person. Send 3 copies.
5. Submissions must be limited to a maximum of 10 double-spaced pages, or 10 poems in proper manuscript form (double-spaced and in 12-point type).
6. Do NOT put your name on the manuscript, only on the entry form (below).
7. Paperclip the entry form and manuscripts together.
8. Submissions will not be returned.
9. Please be sure to follow these submission guidelines. Submissions not in compliance with these rules will be disqualified.
10. Judges will remain anonymous.

All entries must be postmarked between March 1, 2014 and April 30, 2014. Go to www.scbwisocal.org for more information.

ENTRY FORM

Entries must be postmarked between March 1 and April 30, 2014.

Sue Alexander Grant for the Working Writer's Retreat

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Title of Manuscript _____

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill out this entry form.
2. Paper clip it to three copies of your submission.
3. Mail to:
Sue Alexander Grant for the Working Writer's Retreat
c/o SCBWI-L.A.
P. O. Box 1728
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

POET'S PERSPECTIVE

By Phoenix K. Brown

Recently I have uncovered an unconscious belief that I've been holding: that life transitions should feel smooth, having the same look and feel as a couplet. With couplets, no matter how intricate the poem, there is a certainty that we can rest in; the last words of each line must rhyme. That's it, that's the rule, that's the law. There's no way around it. If only life were that certain.

The catalyst for this discovery is the life transition that I am in presently. I felt the transition coming and I braced in my usual haphazard way, sure that the resolution was just around the corner, but four months into it and the snowball seems to be getting bigger and faster. Suddenly my life feels more like a free verse. And right here and right now, I'll tell you the truth — free verse freaks me out. Anything can happen. Things don't have to make sense; the poem might go on for miles and miles without form or metric pattern or be comprised of only two lines. With free verse, it's line by mysterious line. You have to take it as it comes. That's the rule, that's the law. There is no certainty.

Needless to say, finding myself as the lead character in some maniacal free verse is an unexpected, extra hard, thump on the noggin. And for some reason, the more I wish for a return to steady flow, the more things seem to spiral. At one point I literally stopped, looked up at the sky, and said to the heavens, "Is this a joke?" Okay, maybe it's naive, but I feel that there has got to be a way to skirt the rough edges of transition. I mean, if properly planned, shouldn't they be smooth for the most part? Look, I'm always in the market for learning new things, but — *phew!*

A good friend of mine accused me of thinking that things just magically appear. He has lovingly named me "Poof." I work hard, I say to him, but in some small way, I know he's right. To me, a little shifting here and a push or two there is tolerable, things settle and *poof!* All is well. Is there really a need for a grand heist of my mental capacity for change to take place?

Daily, I've tried not to nitpick myself for feeling like a spinning top gone rogue, but anxiety and panic have both found their way into my belly. I watch friends revel in the fact that they're changing careers — still passionate even when things appear to be going awry. Do they flinch or roll their eyes? Nope. No complaining, only a "give me more" attitude — rolling right along with however things seem to be going. And then I think ... *but they wanted their change.* In fact, they initiated it. But what if life forces you and transition is the only option offered? Change or sink. Shift or struggle.

I guess my take-away in my desire to have my life transitions feel more graceful is that while the free verse is happening on the outside, the couplet can hold the space for peace on the inside. Maybe instead of becoming entranced in the ever-changing story of life, it's more productive to keep both feet anchored in the bay of my soul. It's an idea that I've tried to put into practice from time to time when things start to bubble over, but bouts of amnesia keep me from making permanent change. This time, however, it's different.

Not only is it a must that I implement a permanent commitment to inner peace, but an even stronger commitment to

SCBWI Central - Coastal California Region Presents



**Your illustration career
depends on a
professional, quality portfolio.**

Whether you are:

in the early stages of compiling your illustration work, producing new illustrations to add to an existing portfolio, or refining your portfolio for a conference or posting online, this workshop will help you **achieve your goal!**

Presenters:

Marla Frazee

two-time Caldecott Honor winner.

Lauren Rille

Associate Art Director at Simon & Schuster.

\$80 SCBWI members | \$100 non-members

Thousand Oaks Public Library
1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

More information and registration at:

<http://cencal.scbwi.org/artworks>

[continued next page]

[POET'S PERSPECTIVE]



gratitude is paramount. Sure it sounds cliché, but it's true. It's easier said than done, but hey, I might as well add one more challenge to the list.

After all, if the universe has infinite possibilities to get me from one destination to another, then patience is required as it takes me down side streets and alley ways, squeezing me through dark corridors, holding me up in hostels and keeping me at extra long red lights. I'm learning to observe my physical and mental reaction when the scenery starts to change and I no longer recognize the street signs; to trust and breathe.

Though letting go of the need for certainty is challenging (I can feel the universe prying it out of my hands right now), I know that loosening my grip and opening my hands is only making the way for me to receive the next big adventure. After all, what if there's a mass conspiracy by the universe to create lasting change in my life? What if the universe is conspiring for my good — our good?

Phoenix K. Brown is an author and Screen Actors Guild BookPAL. She works as the education organizer for the Pasadena Playhouse.

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PERPLEXED: "ISSUE" BOOKS

If you write a book to help parents and kids deal with something everyone experiences (like bedtime), not everyone who experiences that thing will buy your book. This is obvious, right? Some of them will buy your book. Not all of them.

Good. So the next thing to realize is that if you write a book to help parents and kids deal with something only a few people experience (like the death of a loved one, or synesthesia, or satanic ritual abuse), not everyone who experiences that thing will buy your book. Some of them will buy your book. Not all of them.

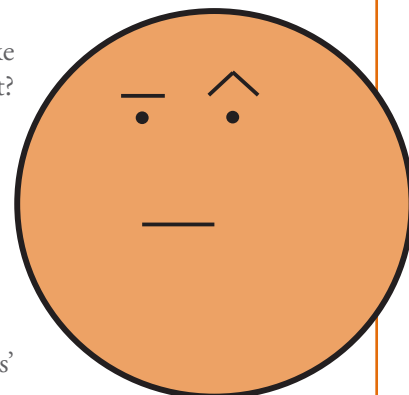
This is what publishers call an "issue" book: a book for a particular situation/problem in readers' lives —one which does not affect all people.

Because the audience for such books is narrowed by the number of people who are affected, and further narrowed by the fact that not all of those people will buy the book, "issue" books have very limited sales potential, and thus very limited appeal for publishers.

You may feel you are doing a public service in writing a picture book about little Samantha's ageusia. You may be frustrated by the unjust lack of books your child's kindergarten teacher can use to explain to the other children that when Timmy beats up on them, it's really just another of the ways God makes us all special and different.

But publishers have warehousing costs, in addition to many kinds of overhead. They are in the business of providing only those public services that serve more than a tiny fraction of the public, and only those services the public will pay for.

Thanks to Mary O'Dea for the link! (<http://awfullibrarybooks.wordpress.com/2009/12/09/satan-for-kids/>)



Next issue: Royalties, Advances, and Earning Out

THE DREAMERS COUPLET

By Phoenix K. Brown

We wonder sometimes where the heck we are going
Wearing tube tops and speedos, but outside it's snowing
Dancing through a China Shop, twirling two batons
Doing Booty-Boot Camp while eating bon bons
Roaming around, circle and square
Brushing our knees instead of our hair
Asking the mountain what we should do
Having the dream but not having a clue
Hustling and hoping we'll bump into purpose
Trusting and knowing that once it does surface
Crying will cease, complaints will fly free
Courage and wisdom will wind up the key
And heaven will happily shine down its rays
Lovingly hoping to capture our gaze
Soothing and softly singing with grace
If you'll just stay relaxed, you'll finish the race
Obstacles won't shake us, neither will fear
The truth of our path becomes mystically clear
Patience and Gratitude will open their door
To the mountains of treasures that life has in store.

VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RENE RAWLS

A made up mind is all it takes to get things done.

When I look back at how I started volunteering with SCBWI, I often think about this phrase because it perfectly summarizes my journey to becoming the Hollywood Schmooze coordinator.

It all started at 7:55 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2011. I'm able to provide these exact details because I still have the email I sent to Janice Yuwiler (co-regional advisor for the San Diego chapter), asking her about lodging in San Diego. I had just learned about the One-Day Conference with editors and agents, and despite not having adequate funds, I was determined to be there. So between securing a AAA discounted Amtrak ticket, calling in a few favors, and booking less than stellar hotel accommodations, I made it to the conference. And I'm so glad I did. For the entire day I was surrounded by beautiful, talented, and sincere people who fed my writing spirit in such a way that made me feel supported and secure. They had shared so much valuable information that when the day was over — I didn't want it to be over. Before leaving the conference, I made up my mind that it wouldn't be over.

As soon as I returned to Los Angeles, I reached out to SCBWI-L.A. to ask how I could be more involved and soon learned that Melanie Stagnaro was in the process of starting a Hollywood Schmooze. I immediately contacted her and volunteered to assist as the co-coordinator. She told me that one of the biggest challenges she faced with organizing the schmooze was finding a meeting space. Yet through her perseverance, the Hollywood Schmooze held its first meeting on February 24, 2011.

After this initial gathering, Melanie and I planned a year's worth of topics. We were determined to make things happen, and our catchphrase became "We're the Hollywood Schmooze, Baby!" But of course it wouldn't be the Hollywood Schmooze without its dose of drama. Towards the end of our inaugural year, that nagging issue of a meeting space came into play once again. Conflicts with other organizations vying for our meeting space forced us to cancel our schmooze events for two months.

Other obligations led Melanie to resign as our leader, and I couldn't find a new place for us to meet.



All seemed to be imploding, yet I was determined to make the Hollywood Schmooze continue. I sent out an email informing our faithful schmooze attendees of our dilemma. Luckily for us, Rhonda Hayter graciously opened her home, and we've been schmoozing there ever since. Just like at the San Diego conference, the Hollywood Schmooze is filled with warm, amazing, knowledgeable writers who I sincerely want to see succeed. Every single schmooze is planned with the hope that something will help attendees move closer to their dreams. With the information shared at our meetings and a little determination — there is no doubt they will.

Because a made up mind goes a long way.

Baby!

Rene Rawls is the proud creator of the Sule Series (www.suleseries.com), which is a television show she is producing independently for international distribution. She has also made up her mind to complete her YA novel this year! So of course, it will get done.

WRITING CONNECTIONS

zoit
mediainc
Where Ideas Come To Life

ILLUSTRATOR'S GALLERY

THE UNIVERSE AND ME

by Suzy Engelman Block

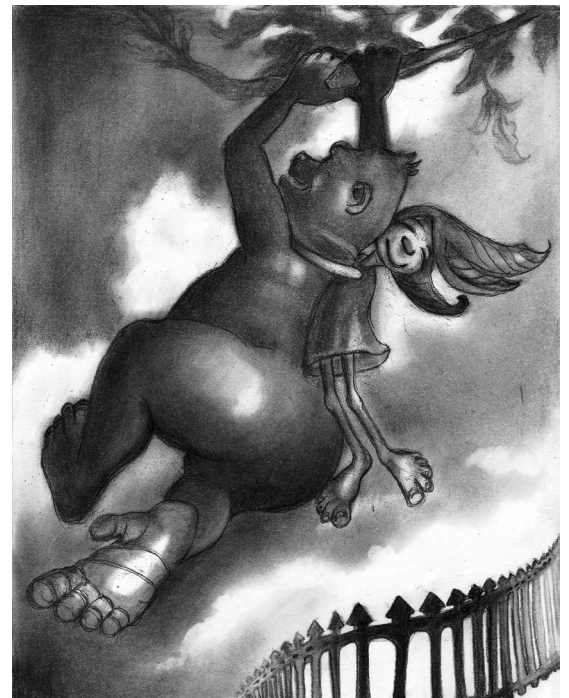
*“At the moment of commitment,
the universe conspires to assist you.” Goethe*

My isolated and complicated childhood saga does not entail cuddly laps and yummy bedtime stories. My obsession with children's picture books begins when I have children of my own. This is the dark ages ... pre-Google. We are a primitive generation of parents with only human contact and paper libraries. The mere act of reading to my children takes on a life of its own, a mysterious interactive dynamic I had not experienced as a child, but am addicted to as an adult.

I gravitate to the work of author/illustrator Patricia Polacco. Reading *The Keeping Quilt* out loud to my kids leaves me sobbing. As an artist, I am captivated by the power and beauty of her visual storytelling. As a writer, I am intrigued by this sublime mix of art and word. My kids learn to keep tissues nearby at story time and I learn I have stories of my own that need a voice.

Dear Universe ... please help!

The Pony Express delivers a Cal State Northridge Extension School catalog offering a course in “Writing and Illustrating Children's Books!” WHAT?! There are classes about my lonely obsession? I commit! The universe assists me by presenting artist/author/teacher Robin Rector Krupp. She unravels the mystery of picture book making and this secret world blossoms before my eyes.



[continued next page]

The years since then offer up high tech access to the world of children's literature. My personal storytelling emanates from ideas that are near and dear to my heart, my love for animals and tales that reaffirm the human spirit. I am joined by a cast of thousands supplied by SCBWI worldwide and I actually coordinate the SCBWI Westside Illustrator's Schmooze in Santa Monica. That wild and crazy universe ... it seems that I am not alone after all!

[ILLUSTRATOR'S GALLERY]



SEE MORE ART... SuzyEngelmanBlock.com

ILLUSTRATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

SELF PUBLISHING? ARE YOU CRAZY?

By Marilyn Scott-Waters

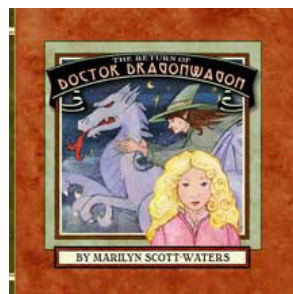
Last month I was signing books at a Barnes & Noble when someone asked the question that I always find difficult to answer, “How many books have you done?”

I usually reply, “Seven” because that’s how many books show up on my Amazon author page. But the real number of how many books I’ve ‘done’ depends on how you’re counting what makes a book.

- Self published paperback = 1
- Print on Demand through Lulu.com = 3
- eBook = 1
- Traditional publisher = 7
- Small Indy press = 3



per book that I sold, and that included me wrapping the books and schlepping them down to the post office. I sold out two print runs this way, more than 5,000 books. Keep in mind, I had a strong online fan base with a monthly newsletter of more than 30,000 subscribers. Sterling picked up the series and printed two books, *The Toymaker’s Workshop* and *The*



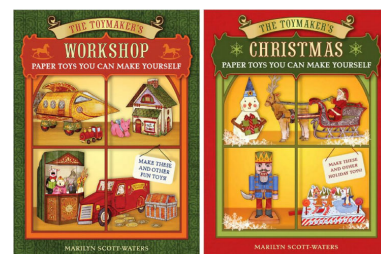
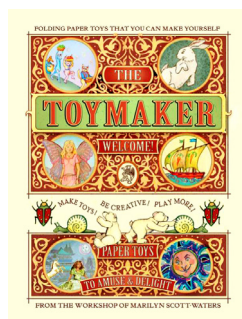
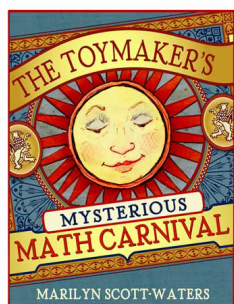
So 15 books in all, not including all the books and stories I’ve written that are sitting in a pile of limbo that may never see the light of day.

Twenty years ago there was really only one real road for getting a book to print. You would sell your manuscript

to a publisher, who hopefully then would whip it into shape, spending thousands of dollars editing, proofreading, designing a cover, printing stock and distributing your book to bookstores, libraries and schools. If you had big handfuls of money you could self-publish, but unless you were willing to spend countless hours peddling your book, you were most likely to end up with a garage full of inventory.

Then came the Internet, and for the first time it was possible for authors to easily sell directly to the consumer. When I self-published my first paper toy book in 2004, I had just started

www.thetoymaker.com, a website of paper toys that much to my surprise went viral. I was getting anywhere from 2,000 to 7,000 people a day visiting my site. Amazon had just started allowing authors to sell their self-published books online so I signed up. The profit margin was small. I only made \$1.65 profit



Toymaker’s Christmas.

My latest book is *The Toymaker’s Mysterious Math Carnival*. After a successful Kickstarter campaign, raising more than \$7,000 to create the book, I’ve made more than \$2,000 in online sales. I don’t have to do anything, just check my email and think, “Another \$4.98 just went into my Paypal account ... nice.”

It used to be that self-publishing your own book was a huge no-no. It would make you and your work untouchable by traditional publishing. The marketplace has changed. Now the buzzword of the day is “discoverability.” Publishers are looking to acquire self-published books that have large Internet followings. One example of this trend is Colleen Houck’s *Tiger’s Curse* series, which was picked up by Splinter, a YA imprint of Sterling. I chatted with her at a conference a couple of years ago



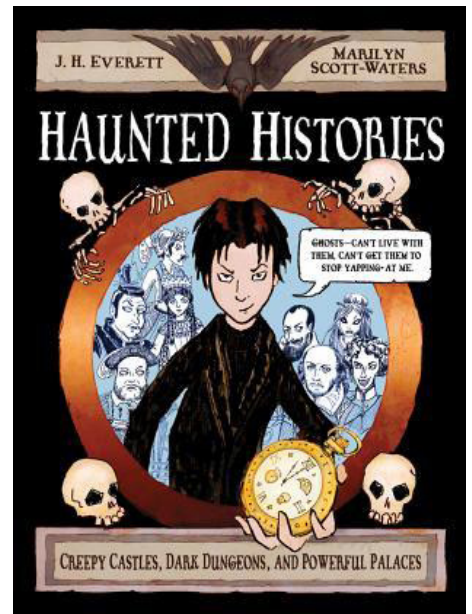
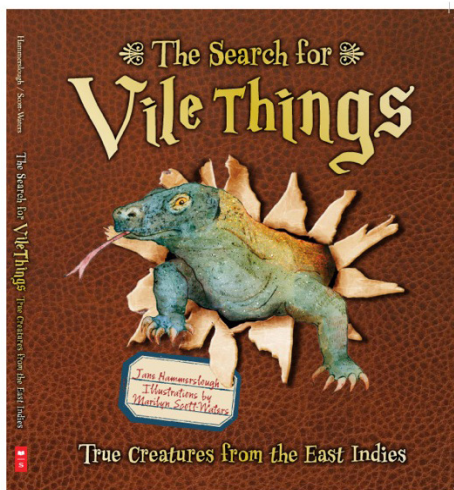
[ILLUSTRATOR'S PERSPECTIVE]

and she talked about how her book had become a self-published bestseller. She had spent considerable time and money promoting her book before it was picked up. She was smart and worked very hard, not just to write a good book, but also to get her book out to the people most likely to read it.

So is self-publishing for you? Are you willing to work very, very hard to make your book the best possible book it can be? Will you workshop your manuscript and pay for professional editing and proofreading? Are you willing to promote your book like a stage mom on *Toddlers and Tiaras*? Will you obsessively pour over the Internet looking for ways to connect with your audience? If you want readers more than diamonds or chocolate, go for it. Having people read your story is a very nice thing indeed.

Marilyn Scott-Waters is the creator of a paper toy craft book series The Toymaker's Christmas: Paper Toys You Can Make Yourself (Sterling, 2010), and The Toymaker's Workshop: Paper Toys You Can Make Yourself (Sterling, 2011). Ms. Scott-Waters illustrated The Search for Vile Things (Scholastic), and created paper engineering for Pop & Sniff Fruit (Piggy Toes Press).

You can sign up for her newsletter at www.thetoymaker.com



NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

ALL THE BOOKS IN THE WORLD WITH SO LITTLE TIME TO READ

by Narda Lacey Fargostein

First there was Netflix, a subscription service for movies. Then there was Spotify, a subscription service for music. For a flat monthly fee, the subscriber allows the companies to collect the kinds of movies they watch, if they actually watch them, and when they watch them. And then they can use this information to suggest other books, products and services that would interest them, popping up subliminally as they surf the web.

Jumping on the bandwagon of movies and music are the subscription e-book services such as Scribd, Oyster and Entitle (eReatah), who will be duking it out for dominance. Armed with their legions of bloggers, tweeters, and facebookers, they will vie for “eyeballs.”

Scribd content-sharing platform has about 80 million monthly readers, 40 million books and documents including an award-winning children’s section, and 100-plus countries use Scribd. Its e-book subscription service costs \$8.99. Just this month it announced a deal with Smashwords, one of the largest self-published e-book distribution platforms, to add 225,000 indie author titles to its more than 325,000 titles. As part of the deal, each of **Smashwords’** 70,000 authors gets a free year of Scribd’s service. In addition, their books will be for sale through the Scribd platform, which extends much farther than just its e-book subscription service. This is about adding writers as customers.

Oyster offers some of the Smashwords catalog but just signed books from the Perseus Books Group’s e-book distribution clients through its Constellation e-book distribution business. Oyster costs subscribers \$9.95 a month.

Entitle, now renamed eReatah, has a library of more than 100,000 titles and a whole section for young adult and teens, including Simon & Schuster e-books. Books can be read on any device that supports Adobe DRM including, but not limited to, Nook, Kobo, and Sony Reader. Entitle is not like a traditional rental plan. With eReatah, once you download a book, you own the book and it will stay on your app whether you maintain a subscription with eReatah or not. But the major selling point is that you will have access to its “advanced matching algorithm” to suggest books you’ll love based on your reading habits and ratings. Price, download and own two a month for \$14.99, three books a month for \$21.99, and 4 books a month for \$27.99.

For now, it’s early days when it comes to e-book subscription platforms, a model that, in the end, may not work. Will you become a subscriber? Will they be tracking whether you skip or skim, slow down or speed up when the end is in sight?

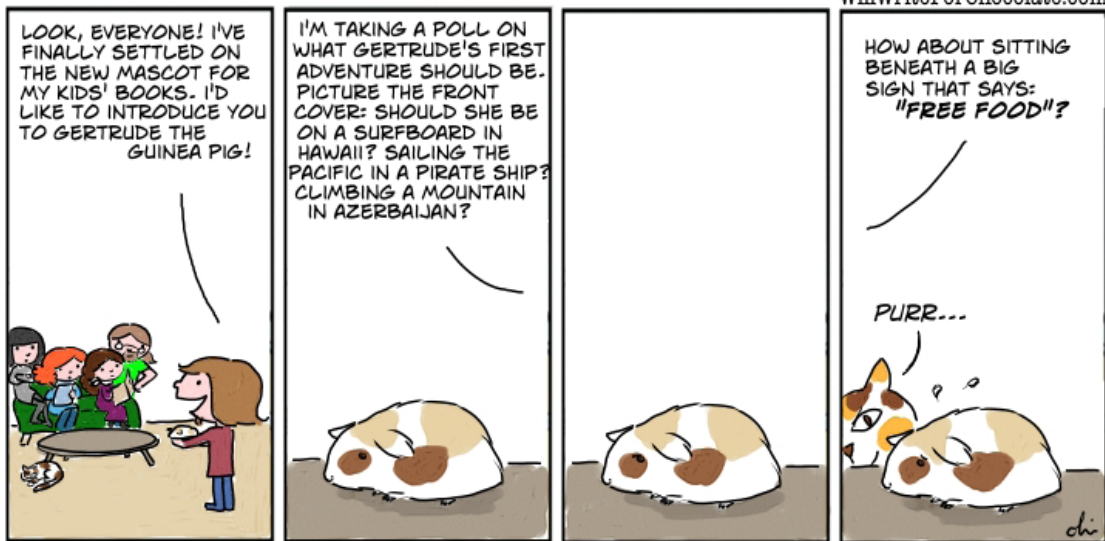
Narda Lacey Fargostein is the author of The Whole Computer Catalog and Articles on Women Writers, Vol. I and II. Her article on the Dodo bird in Alice in Wonderland was recently cited in More Annotated Alice. Contact Narda at nfargostein@yahoo.com



Armed with their legions of bloggers, tweeters, and facebookers, they will vie for “eyeballs.”

AHINT OF HUMOR

Cartoon by Debbie Ohi Ridpath
www.inkygirl.com



Will Write For Chocolate

Copyright©2006 Debbie Ridpath Ohi

BULLETIN

GREAT NEWS

Caroline Arnold's book *Too Hot? Too Cold? Keeping Body Temperature Just Right* (Charlesbridge, 2013) is a NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book for students K-12 and a picture book finalist for the AAAS Science Books and Films Award.

Just Because written by **Amber Housey** and illustrated by **Denise Clemmensen** won the Gelett Burgess Award in the category Helping Others and Philanthropy.

Michelle Markel won the 2013 PEN/Steven Kroll Award for picture book writing for *The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau* (Eerdmans).

Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909 by **Michelle Markel** (Harper Collins/Balzer & Bray) was selected as a Best Book of 2013 (nonfiction) by School Library Journal, and a Book Links Lasting Connections choice for 2013.

Fran Vischer's book *A Very Fuddles Christmas* was in stores October 1, 2013.

In addition to being an author/illustrator, she is also an animator and created a trailer for her book: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhwM7Feapx0

CLASSES

Art Center College of Design Night Program
626-396-2319 or www.artcenter.edu/atnight

Illustrating Children's Books, an intermediate course taught by Deborah Lattimore
2/3 to 4/21, 10 Monday meetings
(no class on 2/17 and 3/17)

Otis College of Art and Design
310-665-6850 or 310-665-6950. Email: otisce@otis.edu

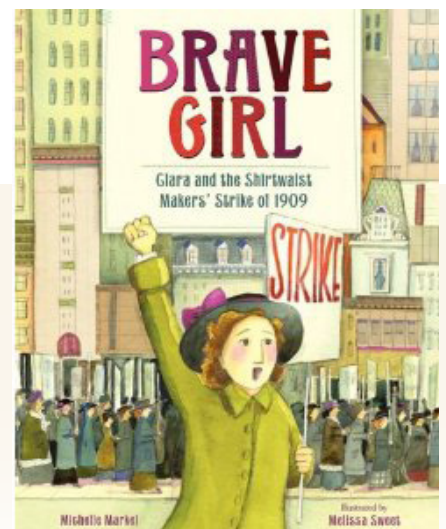
Otis College of Art and Design
9045 Lincoln Blvd.
L.A., 90045
310-665-6800



UCLA Extension Writers' Program www.uclaextension.edu/writers As the largest and most comprehensive university-related writing program in the nation, the UCLA Extension Writers' Program equips new and practicing writers with the tools they need to tell their stories and to seek out publication and production. UCLA offers more than 500 annual onsite and online writing courses in writing for the youth market, as well as fiction, memoir, personal essay, poetry, playwriting, publishing, feature film, and television writing. For more information: 310-825-9415. To enroll: 310-825-9971 or 818-784-7006.

EVENTS

Mary Amato, author of more than a dozen books, including *Invisible Lines* (a nominee for CA Young Readers Award 2012-2013), *The Word Eater*, and *Guitar Notes*, will be residing temporarily in Santa Barbara from February through April and would love to connect with other children's and YA authors. Her scheduled appearances include: Southern California Independent Bookseller's annual dinner on Feb. 22, book signing at Huntington Beach Barnes & Noble on Feb. 23, and book signing at Chaucer's Bookstore in Santa Barbara on April 6. You can find her at www.maryamato.com or via email at info@maryamato.com.



LIST SERVE ETIQUETTE

Suggested Etiquette for an Amiable Listserv | We have a caring community who wish each other well, applaud our successes and understand our disappointments. But there are times when our gut response of what is good and kind can override what is best on a listserv. All of us are busy. Extra time to read multiple emails can add to an already overwhelming task list. What we want from our listserv is a place to share information, successes, woes and ask questions.

So as one who has learned the hard way, by doing all these, I offer these recommendations to make our listservs better for all of us.

1. Hurray! We love success and the chance to applaud for one of ours. When someone has a success, email them off-line. Twenty congratulations and 20 replies to that congratulations might be a bit much. It's a lovely and kind gesture, but it is overdone. Email the person directly. We all know we're cheering for each other.
2. Rejections. The same goes for bad news. Off-line. Send a note to the person saying that you understand. Offer to take them out for coffee. Send a card, or an ecard, but to their email.
3. Bloggers. We all support your blogs and want you to do well. Once a month letting us know about your posts is sufficient. More is too much. The best way to get your blog out is with a tweet. Create a database on your listserv where bloggers can put up their blog addresses. We have one on ours.
4. Who are you? Yes, we're a small intimate community, so most of us know who you are by your email address. But, to be kind to those who may not, always include your name at the end of your email.
5. Not that anyone in our group EVER does this but, just to cover all the bases, remember not to use ALL CAPITALS. It is interpreted as shouting.
6. Here's the hard one. Be vigilant when you are replying to a specific person that you don't click on "reply all." Make certain you are sending the email to the correct person and not the entire listserv. All of us have made this mistake. Mostly, there is no harm, just a little embarrassment as you tell the entire listserv how your toddler is coming along with her potty training.

That's my two-cents. Any other suggestions for a well-moderated listserv?

Gwen Dandridge
SCBWI CenCal Listserv Moderator

CRITIQUE CONNECTIONS ONLINE FREE

Longing for a critique group? Why not join Critique Connections Online to find a buddy or two?

It's easy, and open to SCBWI members who reside in the Tri-Regions of Southern California. Critique Connections Online is not an online critique group or a manuscript exchange; it is a way to link up with like-minded people to allow you the possibility of creating your own critique group. Best of all, **IT'S FREE!**

To access the contact information or start your own group, join by emailing your request to critiqueconnect@yahoo.com. Questions can be addressed to the same email. Once you've joined the Yahoo! Group, you will be asked to provide information about yourself for a database and for an introductory email. Others in the group can then connect directly with you and you with them.

Sheryl Scarborough,
Critique Connections Online Coordinator - critiqueconnect@yahoo.com

WRITING CONNECTIONS

EDITORIAL SERVICES OF LOS ANGELES (ESOLA)

EDITORIAL SERVICES OF LOS ANGELES (ESOLA) is devoted to helping writers make their work the best it can be.

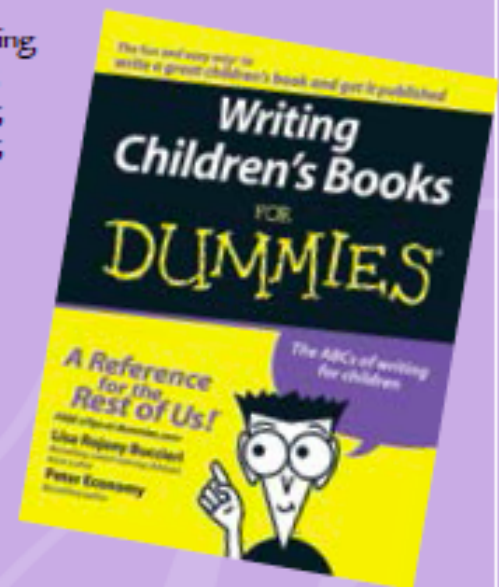
EDITORIAL SERVICES OF LOS ANGELES has been in business for over 20 years, and has helped many writers—of both children's and grown-up books—get published or improve their chances for publication.

ESOLA offers personalized, detailed services, everything from line editing to ghostwriting:

- Detailed line editing and critique letter
- Creative and publishing list development
- Proposal writing and editing
- Literary consultations
- Writing workshops
- Book doctoring
- Copy editing
- Ghost writing
- Proofreading

ESOLA can also help you craft a great query letter—so include it if you want help with that as well!

LISA ROJANY BUCCIERI
EDITORIAL SERVICES OF LOS ANGELES
Email: EditorialServicesofLA@gmail.com
www.editorialservicesofLA.com



Lisa Rojany Buccieri is a publishing executive with over 20 years' experience in the industry. Lisa has also written over 100 children's books. She was lead author on *Writing Children's Books for Dummies* (Wiley, 2005), and co-wrote the *New York Times* bestseller, *Fund Your Future* (Berkley, 2002) with Julie Stav. Lisa's latest comes this October: *Surviving the Angel of Death: The Story of a Mengele Twin at Auschwitz*, with Eva Kor (Tanglewood Books). Her books have received various accolades, such as reaching #1 on the Publishers Weekly Bestseller List two years in a row (*Make Your Own Valentines*, PSS/Putnam), and winning the American Bookseller's Pick of the List (*Giant Animal Fold-Outs: Kangaroo & Company*, PSS/Putnam). Most recently, she spearheaded the Intervisual Books launch of their first grown-up publishing program for Spring 2007. She was the founding V.P. & Publisher of Americhip Books, a children's book packaging company focusing on adapting technologies such as light, sound, paper-engineering, and animation for books. Lisa has also been Editorial/Publishing Director for Golden Books, PSS/Penguin Group, Intervisual Books, Gateway Learning Corp (Hooked on Phonics), and others. She charges by the hour for her editorial services, depending on the length of the manuscript or project. References available upon request.

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014



FOR OUR ANNUAL
SPRING WRITER'S RETREAT
at **CATALINA ISLAND.**

More details coming soon!