

[More](#)[Create Blog](#) [Sign In](#)

Children's Book Guild News



CHILDREN'S
BOOK GUILD
OF WASHINGTON, DC

Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

[Printer-Friendly Version \(pdf\)](#)

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

[Pages](#)[Home](#)[Guild Member Blogs](#)[Busboys and Poets](#)[Monthly Luncheon Schedule](#)[About Me](#)

Monthly News

The Children's Book Guild of Washington, DC is a professional organization of authors, illustrators and children's literature specialists promoting high standards in children's literature since 1945. Visit us at <https://childrensbookguild.org/>

[View my complete profile](#)[Follow by Email](#)

January 2019

HOW NONFICTION WRITER CYNTHIA LEVINSON APPROACHES THE TRUTH



As a nonfiction writer, Cynthia Levinson delves into an often-gnarly question: "What happened?" In her January 17 presentation, Levinson will look at this query from a variety of angles, including:

- (1) What truly happened?
- (2) What should a writer do about widely accepted untruths?
- (3) What if no one knows the truth?
- (4) What happens when the truth is embarrassing? and

(5) Well, the final angle is personal; you'll have to come and hear for yourself!

Levinson writes nonfiction for young readers from elementary through high school. Focusing on issues of social justice, her books have won numerous awards, including the Crystal Kite, Carter G. Woodson, Julia Ward Howe, Jane Addams, IRA, Orbis Pictus honor and Sydney Taylor notable awards. Levinson loves visiting schools, including with An Open Book Foundation, and giving presentations to teachers and other writers. She divides her time between Austin and Boston and visits her daughter and family in Washington, D.C., as often as possible.

Date: Thursday, January 17

Time: 11:30 a.m. "social hour"; noon luncheon

Place: [Busboys and Poets](#), 450 K Street NW

Menu: All choices \$25 (\$26 when paid online via PayPal)

:: CHOICE OF SANDWICH (served with a salad of baby greens and house-made kettle chips) ::

- **Falafel sandwich (vegetarian/vegan) with house-made hummus, cucumbers, lettuce, tomato and onion on whole-wheat pita, served with tahini sauce (vegan without tahini sauce)**
- **Honey-roasted turkey sandwich with Havarti cheese, Dijonnaise, lettuce, tomato and onion on wheat bread**
- **Grilled-chicken panini with chipotle mayo, caramelized onions, pepper jack, lettuce and tomato on ciabatta**
- **Avocado panini with roasted red peppers and melted cheese on multi-grain bread**

RSVP Now!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1. 2019 Walter Dean Myers Awards Coming in March**
- 2. "Love Your Neighbor" Book Lists**
- 3. Takoma Park Maryland Library's Mock Caldecott Event**
- 4. A New Debut for James Baldwin's Children's Book**
- 5. Member News**
- 6. Remembering Barbara Brooks Wallace**

WE NEED DIVERSE BOOKS™ PRESENTS

The 2019
Walter Dean Myers
Awards Ceremony

AND

Diversity in Children's
Literature Symposium
at the Library of Congress

SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY · MARCH 29TH, 2019 · 9 AM TO 1 PM



wneedb.org



THE WALTER DEAN MYERS AWARDS
FOR OUTSTANDING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The **Walter Dean Myers Awards Ceremony and Symposium** will be held on Friday, March 29, 2019, at the esteemed Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The event is cosponsored by the Library of Congress's Education and Outreach Division and We Need Diverse Books (WNDB).

Newbery medalist and bestselling author **Linda Sue Park** will serve as the awards ceremony's emcee. Also, honored guest Christopher Myers, son of the late Walter Dean Myers, will speak.

The Walter Award for Outstanding Children's Literature, also known as "the Walter," will be given in two categories: **Teen** (ages 13-18) and **Younger Readers** (ages 9-13). One Walter Award winner and one or two Walter honorees will be announced in each category.

A morning symposium, titled "**On Writing, Voice and Courage: A Conversation with Walter Honorees,**" will precede the awards ceremony. Pura Belpré Award-winning author (and Guild member) **Meg Medina** will act as symposium moderator. The panelists will include the to-be-determined 2019 Walter honorees.

For more information, please contact WalterAward@diversebooks.org or visit WNDB's website at <http://diversebooks.org/our-programs/walter-award/>

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" BOOK LISTS



In response to the October 27, 2018, Pittsburgh synagogue tragedy, the Association of Jewish Libraries organized a series of lists of children's books intended to provide children and their families with a greater understanding of the Jewish religion and its people.

JACQUELINE JULES's *Never Say A Mean Word Again* was included in Book List #1, which features stories of Jews and non-Jews standing

up for one other, working out differences and confronting prejudice: <https://jewishlibraries.org/blog/id/403>.

Jacqueline's picture book *Drop By Drop: A Story of Rabbi Akiva* and ERICA S. PERL's novel *All Three Stooges* were included in Book List #2, which features books for children and teens that take place in synagogues, feature rabbis and other clergy and demonstrate a variety of Jewish rituals: <https://jewishlibraries.org/blog/id/404>.

Book List #3 emphasizes titles that explore Jewish life in the United States, from the nation's earliest days to the present: <https://jewishlibraries.org>

[/blog/id/405](#). On this list are books by four Guild members: *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*, by DEBBIE LEVY; *This Is Just a Test*, by MADELYN ROSENBERG and WENDY WAN-LONG SHANG; and *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*, by MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN.

Book List #4 includes stories of Jews and non-Jews enjoying one another's company: <https://jewishlibraries.org/blog/id/406>.

Guild member SUSAN KUSEL served on the selection committee, together with Jewish librarians from around the country.

TAKOMA PARK MARYLAND LIBRARY'S MOCK CALDECOTT EVENT

Guild members and other children's book lovers are invited to the Takoma Park Maryland Library's fifth annual Mock Caldecott for Adults, which will take place on Saturday, January 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. Attendees will read and discuss a dozen favorite contenders for the 2019 Caldecott Medal and then vote on the one that seems to best match the Caldecott Medal criteria. It's always interesting to see how close the group can come to the actual 2019 Caldecott Medal winner, which will be announced on Monday, January 28, at the American Library Association's midwinter conference.

Savory and sweet snacks, plus lemonade and seltzer, will be provided at the program to fuel the discussion, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. It's not necessary to have read all the dozen "finalists," but reference copies will be available at the library for those who wish to come and read the books ahead of the program. Registration is encouraged, to ensure there will be enough snacks for everyone; to register, please go to: www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call the library at 301-891-7259. This is always a wonderful event, with a rich and interesting discussion of the books using the Caldecott criteria, so please consider attending! One final note: this is an event for adults, although children are welcome to watch. Questions? Please contact Guild member Karen MacPherson, the library's children's & teen services coordinator, at karenm@takomaparkmd.gov.

CELEBRATING THE REPUBLICATION OF JAMES BALDWIN'S *LITTLE MAN, LITTLE MAN*



On Friday, December 14, 2018, Guild members celebrated the republication of James Baldwin's only book for children, *Little Man, Little Man: A Story of Childhood*, at a reception on the eve of the Museum of African American History and Culture's major program "*Little Man, Little Man: Another View of James Baldwin*":

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/event/little-man-little-man-story-childhood---another-view-james-baldwin>.

The Guild cosponsored the reception, which was hosted by Nicholas Boggs, coeditor of the republished *Little Man, Little Man*, professor of English at New York University, Baldwin scholar

and former student of Guild President Rhoda Trooboff.



Left to right: coeditors Jennifer DeVere Brody and Nicholas Boggs, Rhoda Trooboff and Aisha Karefa-Smart.

At the reception, Baldwin's niece Aisha Karefa-Smart read from *Little Man, Little Man* and spoke about her brother Tejan asking their uncle, "Why don't you write a book about me?" Then she shared how excited she and Tejan were when they opened the box containing copies of *Little Man, Little Man* and realized that "Uncle Jimmy" had indeed written a book about them and the other kids and grownups on their busy block on New York's Upper West Side on one day. Later, in her comments at the museum's program, Karefa-Smart reminded her audience that books for children are "mirrors, windows and sliding doors," inviting their young readers to see themselves, the world and their opportunities.



Aisha Karefa-Smart reads from her uncle's book; Guild member Fred Bowen can be spotted among the listeners.

Professor Boggs thanked the Guild for its generosity in cosponsoring the reception and also introduced and expressed appreciation to longtime Guild member Barbara Ann (Wolfson) Porte for her enthusiastic review of *Little Man, Little Man*, "Growing Up Too Soon," published in *Newsday* at the time of the book's first publication, in 1977. The Wolfson/Porte review, until now not online and thus unavailable to Baldwin scholars, is copied below.

* * * * *

Barbara Wolfson [now Barbara Ann Porte]. Review: "Growing Up Too Soon: *Little Man, Little Man: A Story of Childhood*," by James Baldwin, illustrated by Yoran Cazac. Dial Press, 1977. *Newsday*, September 18, 1977.

James Baldwin, the famous James Baldwin, has written a children's book. But not exactly. What Baldwin, born in Harlem in 1924, has done, is write down the story of a childhood in his own home town.

"Little Man, Little Man," is TJ, 4-years-old and living with his Mama and his Daddy. His Mama, "she love TJ and she tell him everything he need to know... 'I want you to be proud of your people,' TJ's Daddy always say."

"Little Man, Little Man" is WT, 7-years-old and watching out for TJ. WT's Daddy gone and his Mama ain't hardly never home.

The deceptively simple story is about a day in the life of some friends.

Playing ball. Skipping rope. Almost getting killed by a bottle falling from the roof. *Little Man, Little Man* could be about any child in any city, growing up too soon.

The illustrations by Yoran Cazac provide a precise panorama of the street. Blinky in them eyeglasses; Miss Lee, color like watermelon and honey; Miss Beanpole, old as time. Underlying both the words and pictures is a unifying feeling of humanity. TJ's block has kids on dope, sure, and garbage cans. But it also has a satisfying kind of order. There are grown-ups on the block who care about the children.

Little Man, Little Man, written in what linguists call Black English, is sure to evoke controversy in the suburbs. Enough to say here, there are some writers, in any language, who set down words and make them sing. James Baldwin is such a writer.

Who will read this book? Children maybe, whose parents let them. Who don't mind TJ having "to run like a mother and jump on a roof to get him to another block," even if only in his daydreams. Young adults maybe, who will say with genuine delight, "Hey man, will you look at this book. You remember that old lady used to live on the corner, used to send us to the store for her?" Grown-ups maybe, fans of Baldwin, who don't mind a book with pictures that looks to be for children. Anyone, maybe, who knows what counts about a book is what it's saying to you when you read it.



Barbara Ann (Wolfson) Porte kindly provided the review.

MEMBER NEWS



The Art of Turning Pages: Illustrations by LULU DELACRE for Sonia Sotomayor's Life Story is a beautifully curated show at the Zimmerli Art

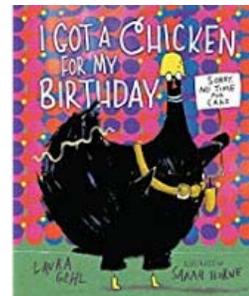
Museum of Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, NJ. Free to the public, it runs until March 17, 2019. This is Lulu's first solo show, and she is beyond happy with the care and ingenuity with which it has been curated. Details such as the show being entirely bilingual and having interactive components are highlights. If in New Jersey, do go!



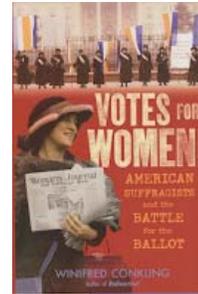
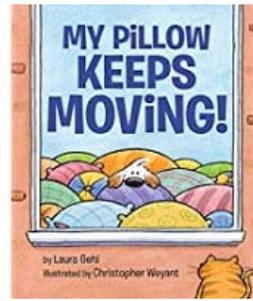
Also, in September Lulu was honored with a [Champion of Children's Literacy Award](#) from Reading Is Fundamental. It was a great honor, especially because she was one of three honorees, the other two being Senator Patty Murray and Justice Sonia Sotomayor.



BRENDA SEABROOKE's mystery story "Bait and Switch" was published in October in *Landfall: Best New England Crime Stories*, by Level Best Books. The cover is by Angela Trapp.



LAURA GEHL happily reports that *I Got a Chicken for My Birthday* was on *Kirkus's Best Picture Books of 2018* list, and *My Pillow Keeps Moving* was on the New York Public Library's *Best Books of 2018* list.



Kirkus also selected *Votes for Women!*, by WINIFRED CONKLING, for its list of Best Young Adult Nonfiction of 2018.

JANE HARRINGTON was awarded a residency in November by the Fairhope Center for the Writing Arts (Fairhope, AL) to work on her latest project, *Women of the Fairy Tale Resistance*, a YA nonfiction book about the forgotten female writers who launched the first fairytale craze of the western world but later had their work suppressed. As writer-in-residence she also had the opportunity to share her work with the creative community and devote a full month to writing!

REMEMBERING BARBARA BROOKS WALLACE, 1922-2018

by Catherine Reef



Longtime Children's Book Guild member Barbara Brooks Wallace died of natural causes on November 27, 2018, days before her 96th birthday. Barbara, called Bobbie by her friends--and her fellow Guild members were all her friends--wrote some 30 books over a career that spanned 50 years. In 1983 she won the William Allen White Award for *Peppermints in the Parlor*. She twice won the Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Mystery Writers of America, for *The Twin in the Tavern* (1994) and *Sparrows in the Scullery*

(1998).

In addition to these and other mysteries set in the Victorian period, she wrote novels focusing on young people living in more recent times, such as *Claudia* and *Andrew the Big Deal*. Bobbie also delved into fantasy with her novels featuring Miss Switch, a teacher who was also a witch, and other books. Miss Switch became the subject of two highly rated ABC television specials. Bobbie's last novel, *All About Max*, published in 2016, is just as imaginative. It relates the adventures of a spoiled, wealthy boy who, following a sudden catastrophe, is transformed into a penniless orphan.

Barbara Brooks was born in China, where her parents—a salesman for a U.S. oil company and a Russian-born nursing student—met and married. Her experiences in China formed the foundation for Bobbie's memoir, *Small Footsteps in the Land of the Dragon*, which was first published in 2005 and reissued with a new cover in 2016. The Brookses returned to the United States following the 1937 Japanese invasion of China. Bobbie went on to earn a degree in international development from UCLA in 1945, but instead of working overseas, she took a job with an advertising agency in Hollywood, CA, and then joined the staff of the American Red Cross in San Francisco. In 1954, she married James V. Wallace, a U.S. Air Force officer, with whom she had a son, also named James. The family made northern Virginia its home.

When she was no longer able to attend Guild meetings, Bobbie kept up with the group's activities through the newsletter. She especially liked to read the summaries of lunchtime lectures that our recording secretaries provided.

You can find the *Washington Post's* obituary

here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/barbara-brooks-wallace-author-of-peppermints-in-the-parlor-and-other-childrens-mysteries-dies-at-95/2018/12/05/dd1802e0-f718-11e8-8d64-4e79db33382f_story.html?utm_term=.e494ad770551

Click on this link to read a tribute by former Guild member Uma Krishnaswami, which in turn will connect you to more thoughts and memories of Bobbie: <https://umakrishnaswami.org/2018/12/05/remembering-barbara-brooks-wallace/?fbclid=IwAR1Aifo9XotgwlhWOIH65ry5qAzgYOHlwiebEC7RWnyQeCkIaMN1wDFCANo>

WINTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 8

The Guild's winter Executive Committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m., on Tuesday evening, January 8, 2019, at the home of Guild President Rhoda Trooboff. All Guild members are welcome to attend. For details, please contact Rhoda at rtrooboff@gmail.com.

THE GUILD EVENTS CALENDAR IS LIVE!

Members are encouraged to submit details (event name, date, time, location and a short description) of public events at which they'll appear for inclusion in the Guild's online calendar. Please send info to Pamela Ehrenberg: PMEhrenberg@pamelaehrenberg.com.

NOTE ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD NEWS: Would you rather print your newsletter than read it online? Current and past issues are now available for printing on the Guild's website at <http://www.childrensbookguild.org/guild-newsletters>. Look for the "Newsletter" tab on the left side of the Guild website. There is also a "Printer Friendly Version" link on the top left-hand side of this blog.

LITERARY EVENTS SPONSORED BY POLITICS AND PROSE: The literary calendar at Politics and Prose lists many upcoming programs that may be of interest to Children's Book Guild members: <http://www.politics-prose.com/events>. January's speakers include DEBORAH KALB and DEBBIE LEVY.

Posted by Monthly News at [9:47 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



[Home](#)

[Older Posts](#)

[View mobile version](#)

Subscribe to: [Posts \(Atom\)](#)

Followers

Followers (7)



[Follow](#)

Powered by [Blogger](#).