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Children's Book Guild News



CHILDREN'S
BOOK GUILD
of WASHINGTON, DC

Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

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Tuesday, December 26, 2017

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Monthly News

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January 2018

EDITOR NEAL PORTER TO SPEAK TO THE GUILD



Neal Porter has been in and around the children's book publishing industry for 40 years.

His first job in publishing was in the college textbook department of St. Martin's Press. He moved from there to marketing jobs with Avon paperbacks, Farrar, Straus and Giroux and Atheneum. He went from the marketing department to editorial when Atheneum was sold to Macmillan. He later moved to London to work for Walker Books UK. He returned to the United States as publisher

of the Macmillan hardcover imprint. He later became the president and publisher at Orchard Books/Grolier and the vice president and publisher at DK Publishing.

In 2000 he stepped away from administration to focus exclusively on editing. That year he helped found Roaring Brook Press, now an imprint of the Macmillan Children's Book Group, where he served as publisher of Neal Porter Books for 17 years. He recently left Roaring Brook and is currently vice president and publisher of Neal Porter Books at Holiday House.

Authors and illustrators he has worked with include Laura Vaccaro Seeger, Philip C. and Erin E. Stead, Yuyi Morales, Nick Bruel, Jason Chin, Patricia MacLachlan, Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, Brian Floca, David Pelletier, Stephen Savage, Robert Andrew Parker, Shane W. Evans, Leda Schubert, Candace Fleming, Eric Rohmann, Richard Jackson and Jerry Pinkney.

Books he has edited have won a variety of accolades from the American Library Association, including: the Caldecott Medal for *A Sick Day for Amos*

McGee; Caldecott Honors for *Viva Frida*, *Green*, *First the Egg* and *The Graphic Alphabet*; Geisel Honors for *Supertruck*, *One Boy* and *First the Egg*; Sibert Honors for *Giant Squid*, *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring* and *Action Jackson*; Pura Belpré Awards for *Niño Wrestles the World*, *Viva Frida* and *Just In Case*; and the Coretta Scott King Award for *Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom*. His books have also received Orbis Pictus Awards (*Grand Canyon*, *Monsieur Marceau: Actor without Words* and *Ballet for Martha*) and the Boston Globe Horn Book Award (*Dog and Bear: Two Friends and Three Stories*). In 2015 he received a Carle Honor in the category of Mentor for his contribution to picture books.

Neal Porter will speak to the Children's Book Guild on January 18.

Date: Thursday, January 18

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

Place: [Busboys and Poets](#)

1025 Fifth Street NW (at K Street)

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!](#)

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JANUARY 6 HOLIDAY PARTY REMINDER

Please respond to Susan Stockdale at susan@susanstockdale.com if you plan to attend the Guild's annual potluck dinner on Saturday, January 6, at 6:30 p.m., and let her know what you plan to bring. Susan and her husband, Todd Mann, will host the dinner at their Chevy Chase home. Attendees will receive an email with Susan and Todd's home address before the party.

THE SKILL AND MAGIC OF E. B. LEWIS

by Tammar Stein

E. B. Lewis, illustrator of more than 70 books for children, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award and recipient of a Caldecott Honor, spoke to the Guild during the November luncheon about his journey to the second most important day of his life. Your first important day, he explained, quoting Mark Twain, is the one when you are born. The second most important day, he said, is the one when you discover what you were meant to do.

For the young E. B. Lewis, that day came in the sixth grade, when his beloved uncle took him to an art class. Due to learning disabilities, school had been challenging for him, and he had felt lost. But the moment he smelled that wonderful scent of linseed oil and turpentine, he fell in love. He had found his calling.

"Don't ask what you want to be," he said. "Ask what you want to do." Those art classes helped him find the way to answer that question.

Lewis refers to himself as an *artist*. "The difference between art and illustration is that art is self-generating. The messages from illustrations are generated by someone else," he explained "Artists have something to say."

Renowned for his ability to capture the nuances of human emotion, Lewis shared his process to achieve that realism. After hiring children to serve as his models, he sets up various scenes for the story and takes multiple photographs from multiple angles until he captures the look, light and perspective he needs, much as a movie director might set up a shoot. Adding some art magic, he transforms the photograph into vivid watercolor paintings set around the world. After sharing slides to compare the photos and his finished paintings, and taking a quick look at the depth and range of his subjects, Lewis left Guild members enchanted with his subjects and inspired by his art.

TAKOMA PARK MARYLAND LIBRARY'S MOCK CALDECOTT EVENT

Guild members and friends are invited to participate in the third annual Mock Caldecott for Adults, which will be held at the Takoma Park Maryland Library (101 Philadelphia Ave.) on Saturday, January 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. The group will read each of 20 or so "finalist" books (or part of a book, if it's a long one), discuss the books briefly (keeping careful track of the time) and then vote for a mock 2018 Caldecott Medal winner at the end of program, using the same procedure as the "real" Caldecott Committee. The discussion will be fueled by fruit, cheese and crackers, and seltzer and juice, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Kids are welcome to watch, but this is an event specifically aimed at adults. (For anyone with kids, the library's kid-friendly Caldecott Club program will read through 10 finalists and choose a mock winner on Monday, January 22, at 7 p.m. Lemonade and cookies will be provided.) Registration for Mock Caldecott for Adults is encouraged but not required; folks are welcome to come for all or part of the program, as their schedules allow. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents and look for the listing for Mock Caldecott for Adults.

2018 CHESAPEAKE CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL, EASTON, MD

Author applications are now available for the 2018 Chesapeake Children's Book Festival. This year's festival will be held on June 16, in conjunction with the Talbot County Juneteenth Celebration. It will honor Frederick Douglass, who was born in Talbot County, on the 200th anniversary of his birth. Applications can be downloaded here: <http://chesapeakechildrensbookfestival.com/Author-Info.html>

A GUILD PUBLISHING PROPOSAL FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

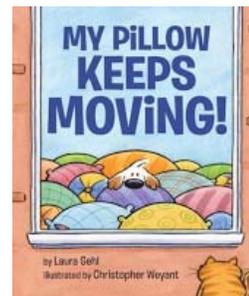
Should the Guild publish an anthology of members' work in honor of its 75th anniversary in 2020? Does this proposal excite you enough to want to submit original work for this anthology? Would you be willing to volunteer some time to make this publication possible?

These questions--plus pros, cons and practical considerations involved in such an undertaking--have been discussed this fall by members of the Executive Board and Exploratory Publishing Committee, including Katy Kelly, Terry Jennings, Karen Leggett, Joyce Schwartz, Karen Deans, Tammar Stein and Rhoda Trooboff.

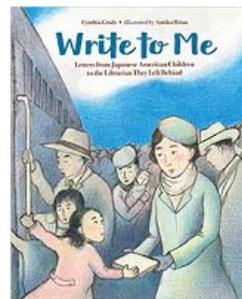
The next step is to poll the membership on the above questions. All members will be sent a brief Survey Monkey email shortly. In addition, paper copies of the survey will be available at the January 18 luncheon meeting. Both options will invite comments.

If you wish to comment or ask questions at this time about the Guild publishing proposal, please [click here to send an email](#) to Guild Vice President Rhoda Trooboff, who is chairing the Exploratory Publishing Committee.

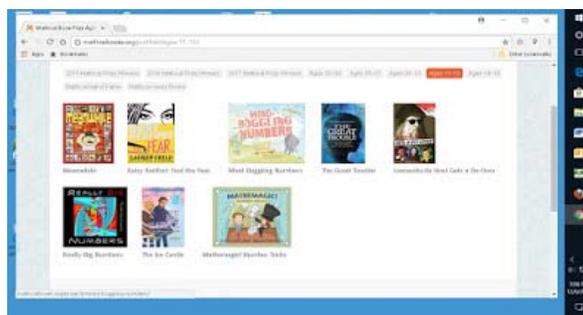
MEMBER NEWS



LAURA GEHL's new book, *My Pillow Keeps Moving*, illustrated by Christopher Weyant, will be released on January 16. *Publisher's Weekly* called the book "increasingly silly and delightful," while *Kirkus* deemed it a "sweet gigglefest."



CYNTHIA GRADY's new book, with illustrations by Amiko Hirao, will be released by Charlesbridge on January 9. *Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind* has earned a starred review from *Booklist*.



MARK FRIEDLANDER's book *Leonardo da Vinci Gets a Do-Over* has been included on the 2017 Mathical Book Prize Honor Roll (in the 11-to-13-year-old group) for the third straight year. The Mathical Book Prize aims to share books that inspire a love of math in the everyday world. Each year winners and honor books join a selective and ever-growing list of fiction and nonfiction titles for kids of all ages. The Mathical Book Prize is a project of Mathematical Science Research in partnership with the National Science Foundation.



JACQUELINE JULES is pleased to announce that Spanish editions of her Sofia Martinez series are being released in January 2018.



LEZLIE EVANS and JOAN WAITES had a wonderful time at Frostburg's Storybook Holiday on Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2. On Friday they visited with students at Wiley Ford Primary School, as well as with a group of Frostburg State University's early childhood education students. On Saturday Joan and Lezlie were treated to a ride down Main Street in the parade trolley with the university president and his family. Afterward, they did readings for the community and signed books. Lezlie and Joan would like to thank Dr. William Bingman and Frostburg State's Children's Literature Centre for hosting them at this wonderful event. The community of Frostburg, MD, certainly knows how to ring in the holiday season!



Joan and Lezlie pose with two of Frostburg's elves.

REMEMBERING KATHLEEN KARR (1946-2017)

by Catherine Reef



In the early 2000s, when I was still new at writing for young readers, I took part in an evening event for local children's authors at Politics & Prose. I knew few of the other writers, if any, so I felt happy and grateful when one introduced herself. She was a small, friendly woman with short red hair and a quick sense of humor, and her name was Kathleen Karr. Kathleen made spirited conversation with my son and me, and she urged me to come to meetings of the Children's Book Guild.

I had heard of the Guild and hoped that one day I might be invited to join. Now, with encouragement from Kathleen and from Karen Leggett, whom I also met around this time, I began to attend meetings and soon became a full-fledged member.

At Guild meetings I got to know Kathleen better, and I loved hearing her talk about the research that went into her books. I was going to call it hands-on research, but experiential or immersive might be a better word for it. For one book Kathleen learned to ride a camel, for example; for another she became chummy with a regional Gilbert and Sullivan society. I will never forget seeing her lace up boxing gloves to demonstrate her newly acquired skill in the ring. In time the insidious progression of multiple sclerosis made it too difficult for Kathleen, a longtime member and past president of the Guild, to attend meetings or lead the active life that she so enjoyed. She died on December 6, 2017, at age 71—far too young.

She was born Kathleen Csere on April 21, 1946, in Allentown, PA, and raised on her family's chicken farm in Dorothy, NJ. Her childhood provided inspiration for her 1998 novel *The Great Turkey Walk*, which remains in print. Kathleen graduated from Catholic University in 1968 and in the same year married Lawrence F. Karr, with whom she had two children. In 1971 she earned a master's degree in English literature from Providence College. She worked for the American Film Institute, in Washington, DC, and taught at the high school and college levels.

Always an avid reader, Kathleen one day complained to her husband that she could write a better novel than the one she was currently reading. When he dared her to do it, a rich, prolific writing career was launched. Her first novel, *Light of My Heart*, was published in 1984. Like Kathleen's other early books, it is a love story aimed at adult readers. She turned to writing for children when her daughter and son begged her to write a book for them, and in so doing found her true calling as a writer.

Kathleen Karr's two dozen or more books for young readers include *The Seventh Knot*, for which she won a 2003 Edgar Award, and *The Boxer*, for which she was honored in 2000 with the Golden Kite Award. Let's not overlook *Exiled: Memoirs of a Camel*, *Gilbert and Sullivan Set Me Free*, *Fortune's Fool* and all her noteworthy titles. From a boy in 19th-century New York fighting for fairness in the boxing ring and in life, to incarcerated young women performing *The Pirates of Penzance* in the early 20th century,

to the aforementioned turkeys and camel, her subjects were broad and varied. They reflected her many interests and enthusiasm for life.

Kathleen's family informs the Guild that there will be no memorial service. The most fitting tribute to this fine writer, they say, is for people to reread her books.

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>.

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