

Children's Book Guild News



the
children's
Book Guild

of Washington, D.C.
Since 1945

Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

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Friday, May 27, 2016

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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 <http://www.childrensbookguild.org/>

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June 2016

CHAD BECKERMAN: DESIGNING BOOKS FROM FRONT COVER TO BACK



Chad W. Beckerman has his "dream job," he says. "I get to work with amazing artists, authors, and designers all in pursuit of making a book."

Beckerman is an award-winning designer and creative director at Abrams, where he oversees the design of picture books, novels and graphic novels under the Abrams Applesed, Abrams Books for Young Readers, Amulet Books and Abrams ComicArts

imprints.

He is the designer behind such successful children's series as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Origami Yoda*, *NERDS*, *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*, *Frank Einstein* and *The Terrible Two*. He also oversees the design of the Abrams ComicArts imprint, designing and providing art direction for such books as the Eisner-nominated *The Art of Rube Goldberg*, *The Art of the Simon and Kirby Studio*, *Bazooka Joe and his Gang* and *Out of Line: The Art of Jules Feiffer*. In addition, he has recently acquired *Vegetables in Underwear*, by Jared Chapman, and *Drawing Is Magic: Discovering Yourself in a Sketchbook*, by John Hendrix.

Beckerman has been a judge for several illustration competitions, such as Society of Illustrators Annual 53; Communication Arts Illustration Annual 54: 2013 (<http://www.chadwbeckerman.com/chadwbeckermanblog/2013/02/i-was-communication-arts-judge-for.html>); American Illustration 32, 2014; SCBWI New York Show Illustration; and the New York Book Show 2104. He studied illustration at the Rhode Island School of Design. Follow him @chadwbecks on Instagram and Twitter.

On Thursday, June 16, Beckerman will speak to the Children's Book Guild

about his impressive and influential career designing children's books.

Date: Thursday, June 16

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 (all sandwiches 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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HOW SCHOOL VISITS RESONATE

The nonprofit An Open Book Foundation (AOB), an organizational member of the Children's Book Guild, promotes literacy among disadvantaged children and teens in the Washington, D.C., area by connecting students and schools with books and the people who create them. In its April newsletter AOB highlighted the visits of two Guild members to show the lingering impact that interaction with authors and illustrators can have:



Librarian Melody Soopper reports that since Mary Quattlebaum's visit to Bunker Hill Elementary School, Mary's "books are often messed up on the shelves because they are handled so often," laughing as only a dedicated librarian can that the books are "rarely returned on time and we know this is a good thing." AOB books get savored and revisited at home and in school, across every reading level. Because every student, classroom and library visited receives a book to keep, there is always more to read after an

AOB event!

Sometimes an idea that originates during an AOB event has legs--or flippers, as was the case for author/illustrator Jennifer O'Connell's December visit to Langdon Elementary School. Compelled by the whale's tale in O'Connell's nonfiction picture book *The Eye of the Whale*, Langdon students worked with their librarian to form a Save the Whales club and

with their art teacher to create pieces inspired by Jennifer's presentation.



REVIEWERS WANTED!

The online resource Children's Literature (www.childrenslit.com) is always on the hunt for new, talented reviewers. The staff receives review books for babies and teens plus all those in-between, as well as parent and teacher materials from more than 100 publishers. These board books, picture books, chapter books, novels, graphic novels, Spanish-language books, LGBTQ titles and nonfiction books on every subject imaginable would be yours to review. Children's Literature works hard to establish a profile of each reviewer's preferences and whenever possible to send appropriate books his or her way.

Join the Children's Literature reviewing team to be among the first to see these books and be on the cusp of children's literature. Email Emily Griffin (emily@childrenslit.com) for further information.

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR UNIQUE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 47th Annual Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature One-On-One Plus Conference (RUCCL), which matches aspiring children's authors and illustrators with mentors from the world of children's publishing for an entire day. The conference will be held on Saturday, October 15, on the Rutgers University campus. Registration for the day, which includes a light breakfast and lunch, is \$225. Applications must be postmarked by June 27, 2016, in order to be considered for acceptance.

Founded by nonfiction author Vivian Grey and established with the support of Rutgers University President Mason Gross to fill a void for children's authors and illustrators seeking help with their craft, this conference offers participants the opportunity to work one-on-one with professionals who write, illustrate, edit, promote and publish books for young readers.

This year's conference will include a keynote address from Ellen Oh, author of the Prophecy series, (Harper Teen, 2013-2015) and co-founder and president of We Need Diverse Books; a "success story" from Sheela Chari, author of *Vanished* (Disney Hyperion, 2011); and a panel discussion focusing on "Tough Love: An Agent's Role in Today's Market," moderated by Linda Epstein, agent and council member.

The Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature is comprised of Rutgers University faculty and dedicated industry professionals who volunteer their time to plan the event, review applications and enlist editors, agents and published authors to participate as mentors. All council members have donated their time and expertise with the intent of encouraging new and promising voices in the children's writing market.

RUCCL encourages all serious aspiring authors and illustrators to apply. Diverse voices are especially welcome, whether one's focus is on picture books, middle grade or young adult, in both fiction and nonfiction. Two scholarships are available to promising authors and illustrators who are financially unable to attend the conference otherwise. Scholarship applications must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2016. Download an application and find full program information and scholarship details at www.ruccl.org.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

A CONVERSATION WITH AUTHOR MICHAEL GRANT, TWO FEMALE COMBAT SOLDIERS AND
SPECIAL GUEST DR. JILL BIDEN

Sponsored by the Young Readers Center, Center for the Book and
co-sponsored by the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress



Dr. Jill Biden is joining this conversation - comparing and contrasting real and imagined events during World War II with 21st century combat and military life. She is co-chair with Michelle Obama of "Joining Forces," has written a book for children called "Please Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops," and is a member of her own military family.

Michael Grant, popular YA author, will discuss "Front Lines," historical fiction about a reimagined World War II in which girls are eligible for the draft. "Front Lines" chronicles three young women of diverse backgrounds who are now placed in combat alongside their male counterparts.

ALSO FEATURED

- **LCDR Kristen M. Hansen** is a current combat Navy fighter pilot. Hansen made her first deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and then joined Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. After graduation from Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), she became a Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor. Kristen has 66 combat sorties over Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, and 472 carrier landings.
- As a public affairs officer, **Rebecca Murga** has captured the soldier's story in combat. She was attached to a Special Operation Command supporting SEAL teams and Special Forces in Afghanistan and received the Bronze Star for this service and the Meritorious Service Medal for service in Iraq. Currently, she is a captain in the Office of the Chief Army Reserve (OCAR).

For more information, contact the Young Readers Center: YRC@LOC.GOV or 202-707-1950

WHEN: Monday, June 6, 2016 10:30am – 11:30am (followed by book signings with Dr. Jill Biden and Michael Grant)

LOCATION: Coolidge Auditorium, The Library of Congress

Request ADA accommodations five days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or ada@loc.gov

BOOKSELLERS AND SALES REPS DISCUSS THEIR ENDURING PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP

by Abby Nolan

Covering a wide range of topics and titles, the booksellers and sales reps participating in the panel discussion at May's Guild luncheon explained how they have worked together in the past and explored what the future might hold.

Jewell Stoddard, longtime Guild member, a co-founder of the Cheshire Cat and for many years head of Politics and Prose's Children and Teens Department, began by saying that it was not easy starting a children's bookstore in the late 1970s. She and her Cheshire Cat co-founders knew that it was a feasible and worthwhile venture from seeing successful children's book stores in England and South Africa, but it posed many challenges, including having to develop the necessary contacts with sales reps. She said they soon "learned that sales reps were our best friends."

In a bit of "show and tell," Stoddard brought out a crucial (and hefty) resource from those days to demonstrate how book selling has changed. The one-volume directory *Children's Books in Print 1975* listed all the children's books that could be ordered by stores, libraries and schools in the United States. At the back was a list of American publishers and their addresses. Many fewer books were available then. Furthermore, today this sort of information can easily be found via Internet searches and emails.

Stoddard remembered that the Cheshire Cat got its first computer in 1982, and that it was used just for ordering.

Her fellow bookseller on the panel was Mary Alice Garber, who is now the buyer for the Politics and Prose Children and Teens Department. She said that the bookstore still uses physical catalogs along with Edelweiss, a website that gathers 40 to 50 electronic catalogs.

Charlie Young and Geoff Hughes, the two sales reps on the panel, have spent decades selling books and working with a variety of companies, including wholesalers, chain bookstores and independent bookstores. They agreed that it was a smart business practice to meet with astute booksellers like Stoddard and Garber early on. Such booksellers offer helpful feedback on the next season's list, sometimes even finding mistakes that can be corrected before a book is published.

Many other aspects of the business have changed in the last few decades through corporate mergers and technological improvements, but it was agreed that the continued health of independent bookstores was a positive development. Hughes said he has feared that eBooks might kill off print books, but he doesn't see that as likely anymore.

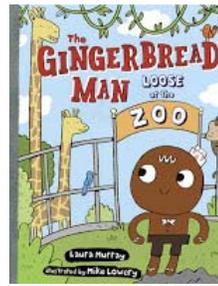
The four panel members all expressed appreciation for originality in children's books. Stoddard mentioned "language and pictures that are fresh and reach out to children." Garber acknowledged the appeal of series but said that she keeps looking for "stand-alone books that will last." Hughes said that sales reps are keenly aware of gifted editors such as Richard Jackson and their high standards. Similarly, Young mentioned David Levithan, who started as an intern at 19 and has become a groundbreaking author and editor. Young also spoke of the significant marketing efforts of authors such as Maggie Stiefvater, who has steadily built up a huge audience for her books.

By the end of the discussion, the panelists had made it clear that sales reps and booksellers are working hard to get great books into the hands of children and teens. In that mission, they welcome the help and involvement of authors and illustrators.

MEMBER NEWS



LAURA MURRAY's *The Gingerbread Man Loose at Christmas*, book and audio version, will be featured in the Scholastic Book Clubs & Fairs this fall.



And the latest adventure in the series, *The Gingerbread Man Loose at the Zoo*, which will be out in August, is a Junior Library Guild selection.



On May 10 Henry Holt/Christy Ottaviano Books released Sue Fliess's new book, *A Fairy Friend*, illustrated by Disney animation artist of *Tangled* and *Frozen* fame Claire Keane.

Soar into an enchanting miniature world full of fairies. These playful creatures are all around us, if you know just where to look. And if you want to have one come to you, build a fairy house of twigs and blooms and wait patiently for a fairy to take up residence.

Kirkus Reviews called *The Fairy Friend* "Enchanting stuff for lovers of fairies." *School Library Journal* praised its "simple verse and detailed charm." "Full of wonderful whimsy and sparkle, this bedtime tale is a nightly gem in our house," stated Newbery Medal-winner KWAME ALEXANDER. Hear the story behind the book on Mr. Schu's blog: <http://mrschureads.blogspot.com/2016/05/a-guest-post-by-sue-fliess.html>



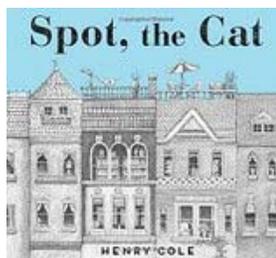
In April Pangea released its edition of BARBARA BROOKS WALLACE's memoir *Small Footsteps in the Land of the Dragon*. Bobbie is pleased to share its new cover with her fellow Guild members.



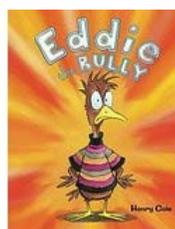
LAURA KRAUSS MELMED announces the publication of *Before We Met*, her new picture book from Beach Lane, illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong. In it a mommy-to-be speaks of her dreams and longings while waiting for her child to be born. "Melmed captures the unconditional love an expectant mother has for her baby. The book's soothing rhymes are an invitation to repeated bedtime readings." ~ *Kirkus Reviews*

SUSAN STOCKDALE will participate in the [Chesapeake Children's Book Festival](#) in Easton, Md., on Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many other Guild members will be taking part as well.

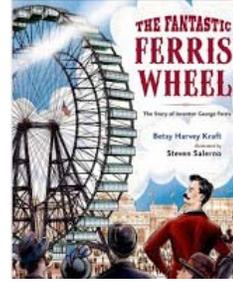
LULU DELACRE, JENNIFER O'CONNELL, JANET STOEKE and SUSAN STOCKDALE are excited to have their art be part of Strathmore's "[Turning the Page: Children's Book Illustration](#)" exhibition, which includes illustrations from the Mazza Museum. An opening reception will be held on June 16 at 7 p.m. They would love to see you there!



HENRY COLE has several new books out. They include two heavily illustrated chapter books, *Brambleheart* (Katherine Tegen Books) and *The Somewhat True Adventures of Sammy Shine* (Peachtree), and two picture books: *Spot, the Cat* (Little Simon), which has received starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *Booklist* and *School Library Journal* and a great review in the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Maxi the Little Taxi*, by Elizabeth Upton (Scholastic).



Henry also has several picture books on the way later this summer: *Eddie the Bully* (Little Bee); *Ferocious Fluffity*, by the amazing ERICA S. PERL (Abrams); *Ralph and the Rocket Ship*, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (Simon Spotlight); and *A Teeny Tiny Halloween*, by Lauren L. Wohl (Persnickity Press).



***The Fantastic Ferris Wheel: The Story of Inventor George Ferris*, by BETSY HARVEY KRAFT, has been selected as an outstanding trade book for curriculum use by the International Literary Association and is featured on its Teachers' Choices 2016 Reading List.**

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>.

And remember, Politics & Prose is now the bookstore at the 5th and K Streets location of Busboys & Poets. Politics & Prose plans to have copies of our featured speakers' books available for purchase at this location on meeting dates whenever possible.

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