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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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Sunday, May 28, 2017

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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 <https://childrensbookguild.org/>

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## June 2017

### JONATHAN BEAN TO DISCUSS HIS APPROACH TO PICTURE BOOKS AS ART



Most people think of *literacy* in relation to reading ability. But as award-winning author/illustrator Jonathan Bean explains, picture books must be read too. Picture books are unique because they require both reading skills *and* visual literacy.

In some cases, picture books represent the only prolonged exposure to art a person will have. If parents and teachers better understand how

pictures work, and are given an approach for thinking and talking about images, they can help others reach higher levels of visual literacy.

At the Guild's luncheon on Thursday, June 15, Bean will explain how he uses the formal elements of an illustration to bring a story to life—that is, how line, shape, color and composition can express a mood or idea that captures people's imaginations. He likes to call these formal elements the picture book's first line of communication. Even if the words are not read, a good picture book will convey something of the story through its formal elements alone, leaving an impression on the mind's eye long after the book is put down.

Bean grew up in Pennsylvania, where he enjoyed, among many things, hiking, bird watching and drawing the landscape. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Messiah College, he moved to New York City in 2003 to attend graduate school at the School of Visual Arts. He received his first job illustrating for children's literature when hired by Cricket in 2004. Since then, he's worked for numerous publishers, and his illustrations and writing have received widespread praise. His first two authored picture

books, *At Night* and *Building Our House*, won the prestigious Boston Globe-Horn Book Award and the Charlotte Zolotow Honor Award for writing. His illustrations for *The Apple Pie that Papa Baked* won the Ezra Jack Keats Award for new talent. *Publishers Weekly* named him a newcomer to watch.

Bean lives in Harrisburg, Pa., where he is currently working on his fifth authored picture book. You can learn more about his books at [www.jonathanbean.com](http://www.jonathanbean.com).



**Date: Thursday, June 15**

**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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**THE STORY HOUSE IS UP AND RUNNING!**

Hop aboard the Story House trolley! The Story House "Bookstore on Wheels" officially opened for business on April 24. Housed in a converted trolley bus, the Story House will be visiting schools, festivals and community groups to sell everything from board books to young adult



literature. Guild member Deborah Bodin Cohen opened the Story House as a way to bring high-quality diverse and local literature to children in our area. Deborah would love to partner with members of the Guild on author events and readings; she can be contacted at

Debbie@storyhouseonline.com. Visit [storyhouseonline.com](http://storyhouseonline.com) for more information and a list of upcoming events. Or like its Facebook page, StoryHouseBooks.





### **THE CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD WELCOMES A NEW ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER, EAST CITY BOOKSHOP**



East City Bookshop is an independent bookstore on Capitol Hill that opened in April 2016. It is located at 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, just down the street from Barracks Row and Eastern Market and half a block from the Eastern Market Metro Station (orange, blue, and silver lines). There is street parking in the neighborhood, and numerous bus lines serve the area.

East City Bookshop strives to be a gathering place for book lovers by offering author events, book clubs and other community events. The recently expanded children's section offers a diverse selection of books for young readers of various ages. Cecilia Cackley is the children's specialist and will be the Children's Book Guild representative. Cecilia looks forward to connecting with authors and illustrators to organize book events and school visits. You can contact Cecilia at [cecilia@eastcitybookshop.com](mailto:cecilia@eastcitybookshop.com).

To learn more about East City Bookshop, visit <http://www.eastcitybookshop.com/>.



Montgomery County Public Libraries and  
Friends of the Library, Montgomery County present

# CONTEMPORARY CONVERSATIONS

@MCPL

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 @ 4 PM

Silver Spring Library  
900 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

**FEATURING Hena Khan**

Author of picture books, *It's Ramadan*, *Curious George and Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*—a 2013 ALA Notable Book and a 2013 Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year—as well as *Night of the Moon*—a booklist 2009 Top 10 Religion Book for Youth.

Her *Amina's Voice* is the first book to be printed by the new publishing imprint, Balsaam Reads. Balsaam Reads aims to introduce readers of all faiths and backgrounds to a wide variety of Muslim children and families, and offer Muslim kids an opportunity to see themselves reflected positively in published works.



Registration required. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library) to sign-up.

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PL PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY MD  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

friends LIBRARY  
SILVER SPRING CHAPTER

This event is co-sponsored by the  
Friends of the Library, Silver Spring Chapter

## ANN BAUSUM: WITH PASSION AND PURPOSE, A WRITER LAYS DOWN PAVING STONES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION TO WALK

by J. H. Diehl

*Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain.*

Author Ann Bausum sang those lines from a well-known African American spiritual to begin her acceptance speech for the 2017 Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award on April 29 at Clyde's of Gallery Place. An audience of more than 100 Guild members, colleagues and friends honored Bausum for the excellence of her body of her work, which includes many books about issues of social justice, from immigration to civil rights to the Stonewall riots and the national Gay Rights Movement. Bausum said she selected that verse to open her talk about "the choices that have guided my feet through the years" because those lyrics have been a touchstone for her, "a reminder to 'stay on course, Ann. Stay on course.'"

In the first part of her talk, Bausum described how her fierce passion to write historical narratives for children is rooted in her years growing up in Lexington, Va., during the 1960s. Fourth grade, she said, was the year she fell in love with history. Her hometown was filled with sites and icons of Confederate history. Of particular importance to her then was Little Sorrel,

Stonewall Jackson's horse, which had been stuffed and placed on display in a museum. "I would visit him after school," she said, and "didn't realize it at the time, but I was falling in love with an artifact for the first time." Little Sorrel seemed so real to her, Bausum said, that she imagined he could walk out of his museum paddock.

In school she learned a warped version of U.S. history, however. "Only decades later did I realize how my history books had been a carefully constructed narrative," Bausum said. This narrative was filled with distortions intended to absolve whites of culpability for slavery.

"It took me years to realize," she said, that her school history books had presented a "glorification of the South's lost cause." Not until Bausum enrolled at Beloit College in Wisconsin in 1975 and saw that narrative challenged did her view of history change. She explained, "Over time, I learned I was the one who had been misled. I was in my early twenties before I had the first inkling that my textbooks had gotten things wrong."

Years later, Bausum obtained copies of her fourth- and seventh-grade history books. In the midst of reading egregious excerpts from one 1965 text aloud to her Guild audience, she paused to declare: "It's painful to read this, but I think this is what we need to know we taught our children."

Her desire to create accurate accounts of historical events drew Bausum to focus heavily on using documentary photographs in her books. "My appreciation for documentary imagery began with current events," she said. Again she was inspired by her early life, by recalling pictures from President John F. Kennedy's funeral, the first big news event Bausum remembers, which took place when she was in first grade.

Her interest in pictorial storytelling has made National Geographic, her longtime publisher, a wonderful match for her work on subjects ranging from investigative journalism to immigration and the Civil Rights Movement, Bausum said. Sometimes, photographs have given her ideas for books. This was the case, for instance, with *Marching to the Mountaintop*, one of her civil rights histories, which was inspired by a black and white image taken by famed photographer Ernest C. Withers during the 1968 sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tenn.

The second part of Bausum's talk concerned rage. "You cannot write about social justice, title after title, and not talk about rage," she said. She cited, for example, her account of the shooting of activist James Meredith, a black man shot by a white man on the second day of the 1966 civil rights demonstration that was the topic of Bausum's book *The March against Fear*. "While I write, 50 years later, black men are being shot as they go about their daily lives," she said. "It's as if nothing has changed." Of her book *Muckrakers*, Bausum said, "As someone who'd been swept up in journalism after living through Watergate, could I not write about early investigative [reporters]?"

The rage that fuels her work, Bausum said, draws on "my inner child, nine or ten, full of curiosity and confidence...who stayed with me as I grew to an adult. The girl who grew up on Watergate and the Vietnam War. The girl who trusted her history books and was betrayed."

"I can't not do this work," Bausum, at her most impassioned, declared movingly as she closed her remarks. "It's who I am. It's where my feet lead me." She added, "My goal is to lay down paving stones for the next generation...because in the end, I don't want to run this race in vain."

Then, prompted by Edie Ching, the Guild's Award Committee chair,

Bausum's audience joined her in reprising her opening verse:

*Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,*

*For I don't want to run this race in vain.*

## **ALVINA LING AND GRACE LIN: A LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

*by J. H. Diehl*

At the May meeting of the Children's Book Guild, editor Alvina Ling and author-illustrator Grace Lin inspired a full house with their insightful testament to the resonant power, joy and fruitful creativity of an enduring friendship. Often finishing each other's sentences, with laughter, delight and candid frankness, Ling and Lin recounted their journey from childhood schoolmates to collaborators on award-winning books for children.

Ling and Lin first met at age 10, in the summer before fifth grade, when Ling's family moved from New Jersey to the town where Lin lived in upstate New York. Both girls' parents had immigrated to the United States from Taiwan. Lin had always been the only Asian American girl in her class at school. "Until then, I was trying to pretend I wasn't Asian," Lin said, so that she wouldn't have to think about how different she looked from her classmates. "I curled my hair," she said, for example. She was not at all pleased when her parents arranged a get-together with Ling's family. Meeting another Asian girl was going to remind Lin she was different, she said.

Nevertheless, the two girls quickly became inseparable friends and entered middle school together. They bonded strongly over their mutual love of books—and the dearth of Asian characters in the books they read. Both friends recalled a popular series about cheerleaders and the token Asian member of the cheerleading squad, whom they were glad to read about even though she was given stereotypical interests and plot arcs.

In the middle of seventh grade, Ling's family moved again, to California. The friends wrote letters back and forth through the remainder of middle school and high school and into college. To illustrate how they kept in touch through the many stages of growing up, Ling fondly recalled a letter she wrote consisting solely of lyrics to a song by the band Bon Jovi. College continued to keep them apart: Ling studied communications at the University of California at Berkeley, while Lin headed to the Rhode Island School of Design, already determined to pursue a career as a children's book illustrator.

For a couple of years, the said, they lost touch. It was during that time, when Lin was studying abroad in Rome, that she started to embrace her cultural heritage. Meanwhile, Ling moved to Taiwan to study Mandarin and teach English. Eventually taking advice from another friend, Ling followed her love of books and pursued a career in publishing. She and Lin reconnected and became roommates, sharing an apartment in Boston as each was starting her career. It was then, they agreed, that Ling became Lin's informal editor. "Even before we started working together officially," Lin said, "I would run stories past her."

Lin's first book, *The Ugly Vegetables*, was published by Charlesbridge in 1999. The same year, Ling joined Little, Brown Books for Young Readers as an editorial assistant. She is now vice president and editor-in-chief.

The friends' first official professional collaboration began when Ling, at Little, Brown, encouraged Lin to turn an idea into a novel. It became *The Year of the Dog*. Ever since, they have worked together to publish the kinds of books they wished they had had when they were young, titles featuring Asian characters and their cultural heritage. These include *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, winner of a Newbery Honor, and *When the Sea Turned to Silver*, a finalist for the National Book Award.

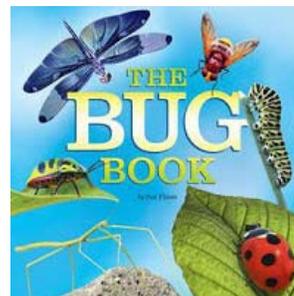
For a time, Lin said, she disliked being labeled a multicultural author. But, she said, "After I embraced the 'multicultural writer' label, that's when real mainstream acceptance started."

The tragic loss of Lin's first husband inspired her to write *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. When it won a Newbery Honor, she said, "I was Grace Lin, Newbery Honor author and illustrator. I love that the label changed, because that's what broadened my audience. But I have mixed feelings: the books are the same. Labels shouldn't be important."

Ling and Lin illustrated the story of their remarkable collaboration with endearing snapshots from their childhood, their apartment in Boston, their weddings, travels together in China and stacks of edited manuscripts on Ling's desk. Their mission to write and publish books they wished they'd had as children came full circle at the end of their presentation, with a sneak peek at Lin's forthcoming 2018 picture book, edited by Ling, *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*. It is a 'pourquoi' tale about the phases of the moon, which Lin wrote to explain the Moon Festival, a Chinese holiday, to bring her cultural heritage alive for her young daughter.

*Guild members interested in more detailed information about Lin's journey to embrace her heritage in her work can view her moving 2016 TED talk, which she referred to during her Guild presentation: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_wQ8wiV3FVo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wQ8wiV3FVo)*

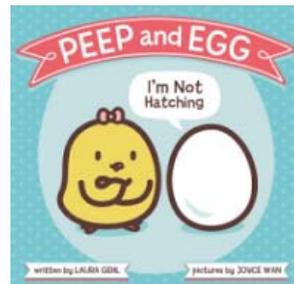
## MEMBER NEWS



SUE FLIESS's *The Bug Book*, which Grosset & Dunlap released in 2016, was chosen to be part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program for 2017.



In April Pangea released *All About Max*, the new novel by BARBARA BROOKS WALLACE.



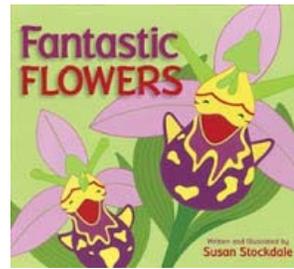
LAURA GEHL's *Peep and Egg: I'm Not Hatching* is on the International Literacy Association's Children's Choices Reading List for 2017.



SUSHMITA MAZUMDAR's 2017 community poetry book project, *Thou Art: The Beauty of Identity*, is a collaboration with Afghan artist Sughra Hussainy and 25 writers from the Studio Pause community.

The book connects with children because it inspired an elementary school to make its own community poetry book, which will be used as text in 2018. It also inspired a community-poetry-book activity at the Arlington Poetry Fest, and many kids who attended made their own books.

Learn more on the project page on Sush's website: [www.StudioPause.com/projects/thouart](http://www.StudioPause.com/projects/thouart). Also, an article about it can be accessed on the Global Virginia page of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities website: <http://virginiahumanities.org/2017/04/the-road-from-afghanistan/>.



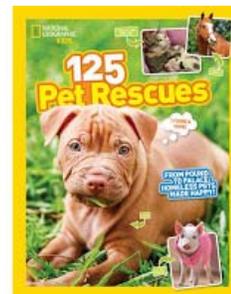
SUSAN STOCKDALE will read and sign *Fantastic Flowers* at [Soapstone Market](#) in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 17, at 10 a.m.

KITSON JAZYNKA announces three new books with National Geographic Kids:

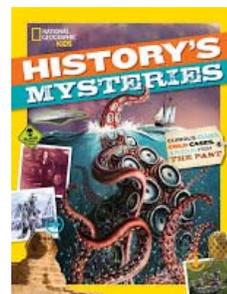
*Helen Keller* (January 2017)...



*125 Pet Rescues: From Pound to Palace* (April 2017)...

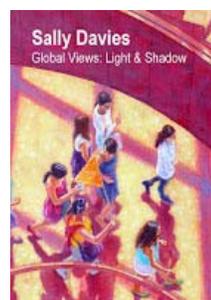


and *History's Mysteries* (October 2017).



Kitson also wrote the *Washington Post Magazine* cover story for April 9, 2017:

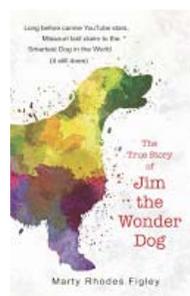
## COLLEGES TURN FAKE NEWS EPIDEMIC INTO A TEACHABLE MOMENT.



**SALLY DAVIES** invites Guild Members to see her upcoming solo show, *Global Views: Light & Shadow, Paintings on Canvas by Sally Davies*, which will be on exhibit at the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, Va., from July 6 through August 6, 2017: [www.theartleague.org/content/davies\\_2017](http://www.theartleague.org/content/davies_2017)

Members are also invited to the opening, on July 13, at 6:30 p.m. In addition, Sally will do a painting demo at the gallery on Saturday, July 22, at 2 p.m. The gallery asked Sally to photograph her artwork every few hours to make some time-lapse films. Here is the link for the films: [tinyurl.com/h4pav2u](http://tinyurl.com/h4pav2u) .

Sally writes: "My art in this show is huge (compared to my illustrations!) and all on large canvases. These paintings are of ordinary people in landscapes with interesting views or unusual compositions, featuring places around the world: England, France, Italy, Greece, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, Bermuda and around the USA, of course. The exhibition title, 'Global Views,' refers to both the high-up vantage point of the viewer and the many countries represented in this collection. There are recognizable architectural clues (such as the Pompidou Center funnels in Paris or the medieval walls of Sforza Castle in Milan or the Japanese lettering on a Yokohama sidewalk), but the people in my paintings look so familiar. They are doing ordinary things, like going to work, taking kids to school, cycling home and meeting with friends. 'Global Views' shows our planet as one whole place, a community. The mother you see holding her child's hand while crossing the street looks recognizable in any country. I want to show that bond of humanity throughout the world."



In July, RoadRunner Press will release *The True Story of Jim the Wonder Dog*, by **MARTY RHODES FIGLEY**.

Marty, **JACQUELINE JULES** and **MOIRA ROSE DONOHUE** will be among the authors featured at the "Write" Stuff Literacy, Writing and Research Festival, to be held July 7 and 8 at the National

Archives: <https://education.blogs.archives.gov/2017/04/27/write-stuff/>.

## TIME TO RENEW YOUR GUILD MEMBERSHIP!

Spring is here, and it is time to renew your membership in the Children's Book Guild. Please respond to the e-mail reminders and renew your membership before June 30, 2017. Dues can be paid online at <http://childrensbookguild.org/payments/608-dues-and-fees-payments>. If you have any questions please contact our membership chair, Jacqueline Jules at [jjulesATjacquelinejules.com](mailto:jjulesATjacquelinejules.com). Thank you!

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**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.

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**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 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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