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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, February 24, 2019

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/>

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March 2019

CHANGING THE STORY: SHOUT MOUSE PRESS AMPLIFIES THE UNHEARD VOICES OF MARGINALIZED YOUTH



On Thursday evening, March 21, Kathy Crutcher, founder of Shout Mouse Press (www.shoutmousepress.org), and a panel of the press's young authors will talk about their work "changing the story" through writing and publishing books by marginalized youth. This intimate conversation will shine a light on the "story behind the story" for each of their celebrated books while highlighting principles for effective engagement with youth writers. Shout Mouse asks: Who can be an author? Whose story matters? Who benefits from hearing the stories of those whose voices go unheard? Their answers: Anyone. Everyone's. All of us.

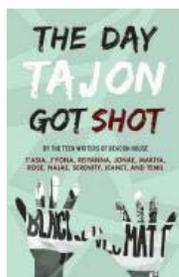
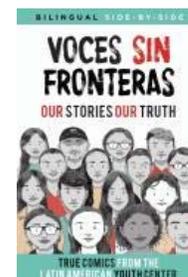
Shout Mouse Press is a nonprofit writing and publishing program dedicated to amplifying unheard voices. Writers from marginalized communities are coached to tell their own stories and, as published authors, to act as leaders and agents of change. Its authors include incarcerated, at-risk, immigrant and otherwise marginalized teens; their books include original children's books, novels, comics and memoir and poetry collections. Shout Mouse Press is building a catalog of mission-driven books to expand empathy, affirm the vulnerable and increase understanding of unheard perspectives.

Some featured books:

- *Voces Sin Fronteras*: a bilingual graphic memoir collection by Latinx youth immigrants from the Latin American Youth Center
- *The Day Tajon Got Shot*: a collaborative novel about police violence written by teen girls from Beacon House in Northeast

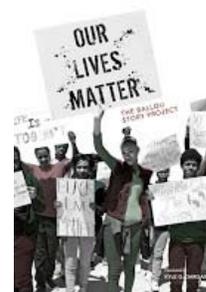
DC

- Ballou Story Project Series: memoirs by students from Ballou High School in Southeast DC
- Reach Children's Book Series: illustrated children's books by teen tutors with Reach Incorporated



For two years in a row, Shout Mouse titles earned Top Prize in the national "In the Margins" Book Awards, which celebrate books that engage marginalized youth: *Voces Sin Fronteras*, Top Nonfiction Prize (2019); *The Day Tajon Got Shot*, Top Fiction Prize (2018). *The Day Tajon Got Shot* also won 2017 Book of the Year in national INDIES Awards, category "Young Author," and was named #1 in "Top 10 Books to Read After *The Hate U Give* in *School Library Journal*.

Date: Thursday evening, March 21, 2019
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Place: Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Ave. NW (lower-level meeting room)



The first part of the evening will be devoted to the Guild's annual business meeting, which is open to members only. The public is welcome to attend Kathy Crutcher's presentation, which should begin at 7:15. This will be a "brown-bag" event. Please bring your own refreshments from home or from take-out eateries, which abound in the immediate neighborhood. There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP if you plan to be there.

Note: Although there are parking lots and street parking in the vicinity, the Cleveland Park Metro Station (Red Line) is steps away from the newly renovated library.



Author and Guild member Meg Medina poses with student authors of *Voces Sin Fronteras*.

RSVP NOW!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1. Call for Book Donations**
- 2. Controlled Digital Lending and Your Books**
- 3. Nomination of Joy Hakim for Guild Membership**
- 4. Elizabeth Acevedo Is Determined to Be Heard**
- 5. Book Reviewers Needed**
- 6. Member News**

BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED FOR GIFT BASKETS

It's that time of year again—please help fill the book baskets that will be given to designated local schools (TBA) at the annual Nonfiction Award luncheon, on Saturday, May 11. Erica Perl has graciously agreed to assemble the baskets this year and is ready to accept your donations. Members can bring donated books to Guild meetings on March 21 and April 11 (the final meeting at which books can be accepted). Or, if you prefer, you may bring the books to Erica at 4438 Ellicott Street NW, Washington, DC 20016, or mail them to her there. However you choose to get your books to Erica, please make sure that all donated books are in her hands by April 30, so that she has time to put together the baskets.

CONTROLLED DIGITAL LENDING: DOES IT AFFECT YOU AND YOUR BOOKS?

by Stephanie Tolan

My subject is CDL, which stands for controlled digital lending, something that the Authors Guild is challenging on the basis of copyright law, and specifically the website Open Library. I had never heard of Open Library until the Authors Guild alerted members to check whether their books are available for free download on the site. In the last couple of weeks I checked it for my books and was shocked to see that *all my books were there except **Applewhites Coast to Coast***, which came out last year. It was complicated. Of my 28 books for young readers, fewer than a dozen were listed under my name, and of these the last two in the list were said to have been by me and someone named Alex Hill, whom I had never heard of. (Of course none of my books had been collaborations with him.) So I clicked *on his name* and found *all my books were listed there*, and none of them had my name on them. *They were all said to be "by Alex Hill."*

Back to the page under my name: My out-of-print books were there, but so were the seven books that are still in print, three of which I put back in print myself through CreateSpace (now called KDP). *Listen!*, *Surviving the Applewhites*, *Applewhites at Wits End* and *Wishworks, Inc.* were there as ebooks for free download, though HarperCollins and Arthur Levine (Scholastic) still have them in print. And although Internet Archive claims to function like a library, allowing only one reader to access a book at a time, the truth is that on Open Library, any tech-savvy person can download the whole text of the scanned book and save it, share it with others or do anything they want with it. Clearly, Open Library scanned my books without permission, as I had never heard of them. Can't *imagine* what's with the "Alex Hill" thing, where all my books were listed as written by him.

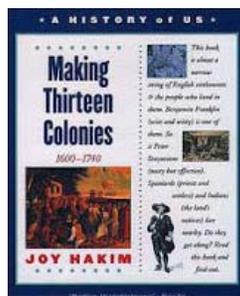
I informed my agent and my editor at HC. Harper's legal team is working on the issue with some others--this is obviously harmful for

authors and publishers alike!

I filled out two forms the site offers under "contact us," one under the category of "Editing Issues," where I told them Alex Hill has nothing at all to do with *any* of my books, much less all of them. Within 24 hours all my books were off his page and his name was off the two on my page that had been listed as by me *and* him. The other form I filled out was under the category "Other Questions," where I told them that seven of my books were still available for sale and that I, as their author, need the royalties from their sales and that I consider it a violation of my copyright that they had scanned and offered them for download without my permission and without any compensation for me. I also pointed out that two of my books had a button by them that said "Join the waiting list," so they were clearly being downloaded! It took another day for anything to be done about that one, but they did put a "not available as ebook" notice on all my titles, which they claimed they were doing "as a courtesy."

They also included in their email to me the justification that they use for doing this--but it is not the truth about what they are doing, and what they are doing is not at this time legal. *Check out your name and your titles* on their site: <https://openlibrary.org/>.

MEMBER NOMINATION: JOY HAKIM



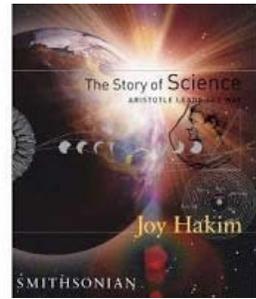
Karen Leggett nominates Joy Hakim for membership in the Children's Book Guild in the author category. Edie Ching seconds the nomination.

Joy Hakim was a freelance journalist who had been a reporter and editorial writer when she covered a meeting of the Virginia State School Board. The board members made it clear that there was not a good U.S. history for young readers, and that one was needed. So Joy decided she would write one, and that it would

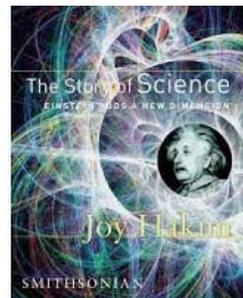
take about a year. In the end, it took seven years and turned into 10 small, user-friendly, illustrated books, all published by Oxford University Press under the title *A History of US*. The books were written to teach reading as

well as history and span text and trade markets. The series won for Hakim the James A. Michener Prize in Writing, the McGuffey Longevity Award in Humanities and Gold and Silver Parents' Choice Awards for Social Sciences.

Later, after receiving two letters from young fans asking her to write science books, Joy wrote *Aristotle Leads the Way*, *Newton at the Center* and *Einstein Adds a New Dimension*. All were published by Smithsonian Books, and all have been translated into Chinese and Korean. She decided to keep writing about science and is now finishing three books on evolutionary biology—an exciting and timely subject.



Joy has attended several Guild meetings and looks forward to attending more. To learn more about Joy and her books, please visit her website: <http://www.joyhakim.com/index.htm>.



ELIZABETH ACEVEDO: "I REFUSE TO BE SILENT"

by Karen Leggett



Elizabeth Acevedo says the main character in her award-winning novel, *The Poet X*, is “sometimes feisty, sometimes fragile.” There is absolutely nothing fragile about Acevedo when she takes a microphone in her hand and speaks about “writing the story that feels necessary in your heart.”

Acevedo addressed an overflow crowd and received a standing ovation at the Guild's February luncheon. In her presentation she recalled a single middle-school teacher who “recognized that I was someone who could be a writer,” said

Acevedo. This teacher encouraged her to write to author Angela Johnson when she had questions about a secondary character in Johnson's book *Heaven*. Acevedo didn't get an answer until Johnson published that character's story in *The First Part Last* and dedicated it to “Elizabeth Acevedo and the rest of the students in the 1999-2000 sixth-grade class at

the Manhattan School for Children.” So it is no surprise that Acevedo’s *The Poet X* was dedicated to “Katherine Bolaños and my former students at Buck Lodge Middle School 2010-2012.” The school is in Prince George’s County, MD, where Acevedo was an AmeriCorps teacher. Katherine had asked, “Where are the books about us?” And, “What’s next?” *The Poet X* is Acevedo’s answer.

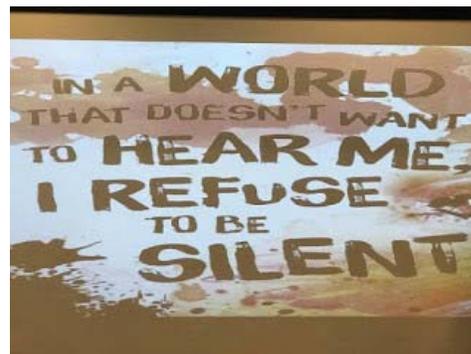
The Poet X has won the National Book Award and the Printz, Walter and Pura Belpré Awards. It also won the Odyssey Award (for the audio book, which Acevedo recorded herself). Introducing Acevedo, Guild Program Committee member Wendy Lukehart said she needed to sit down before that list was out of date! And Acevedo says she still feels like she has to prove herself over and over—that she has a limited moment in the sun.

Acevedo grew up in New York City, the daughter of Dominican immigrants, studied performing arts at George Washington University and received an MFA in creative writing from the University of Maryland. She felt very much the outsider in her MFA program. When the professor asked each student to write an ode to an animal, Acevedo thought of the frequent dictum “write what you know” and proudly said she would write about rats. The professor was not impressed. Guild members were—you can watch her perform that ode here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-c3y3pYZ1g>

She wrote *The Poet X* by printing out the manuscript and moving around the individual poems, filling in the gaps to tell the story of Xiomara Batista. (That’s “see-oh-MAR-ah.”) Acevedo urges fellow writers to create a mission statement for their work, and she is perhaps echoing Xiomara when she writes,

*I only knew that learning to believe in the power of my owns words
has been the
Most freeing experience of my life. It has brought me the most life.
And isn't
That what a poem is? A lantern glowing in the dark.*

Elizabeth Acevedo’s next book, coming in May, is *With the Fire on High*, actually written during that MFA program and featuring a young woman whose talent, dreams and travels revolve around the kitchen.



The opening screen for Elizabeth Acevedo's February 21 presentation.

BOOK-REVIEWING OPPORTUNITY

The [Jewish Book Council](#) (JBC) is currently seeking new children's book reviewers. All reviewing positions are volunteer, though reviewers receive a

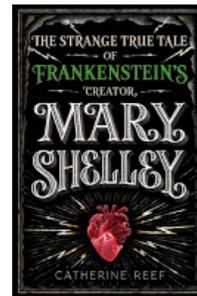
free copy of every book they review, plus a yearly copy of the JBC's literary journal, *Paper Brigade*. Reviewers have about a month to six weeks to complete each review, and can review as frequently or infrequently as they like. According to Natalie Aflalo of the JBC, "it's fantastic for resume building as well as a lovely way to get great new reading material!" Interested parties should reach out to Natalie at natalie@jewishbooks.org.

MEMBER NEWS

MARY AMATO is establishing a new annual retreat fellowship for a stay-at-home mother who is a member of either the Children's Book Guild, SCBWI Mid-Atlantic or SCBWI MD-DE-WV. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2019. Please see <https://www.maryamato.com/the-jan-koepke-memorial-retreat-fellowship/> for more information.

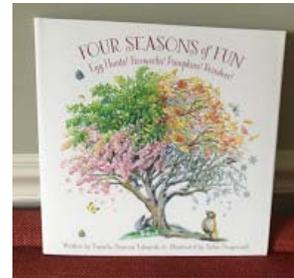
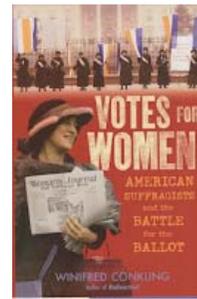


JOAN WAITES's new book, *A Colorful Tail: Finding Monet at Giverny*, will be released in March by Schiffer Publishing.



The Peabody Institute Library, of Peabody, MA, has honored *Mary Shelley*, by CATHERINE REEF, with a 2018 NOBLE Book Award in Young Adult Nonfiction.

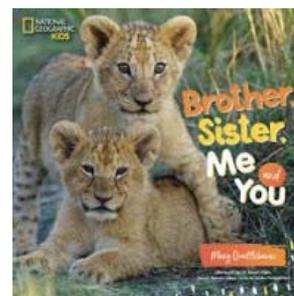
Also, *Mary Shelley*, along with *Votes for Women!*, by WINIFRED CONKLING, was selected for YALSA's 2019 Excellence in Nonfiction list.



In December, Sleeping Bear Press released PAM EDWARDS's new book, *Four Seasons of Fun: Egg Hunts! Fireworks! Pumpkins! Reindeer!* Copies have been purchased to appear in the PBS magazine, *Signals*.



Also, sub rights to Pam's *Winston Was Worried*, published by Pan Macmillan, have been sold to "somewhere"! Pam asks, "Does anyone have a clue what language this is? The editor is on maternity leave, and I have no idea to which country this book has been sold. So funny."



MARY QUATTLEBAUM's nonfiction picture book about animal siblings, *Brother, Sister, Me and You*, is out from National Geographic. Mary is especially grateful to her three brothers and three sisters, to whom the

book is dedicated, and to her amazing editor, Guild member MARFE FERGUSON DELANO.

On March 9, at 11 a.m., Mary and Joan Waites will read and sign their new animal books at Scrawl Books in Reston, VA. And on March 30, Mary will speak on picture books as part of a panel on "Belonging: Creating a New Tradition in Gender Identity" at the Associated Writing Programs (AWP) conference in Portland, OR.

In addition, Mary, DEBBIE LEVY and SUSAN STOCKDALE will present a program called "Facts are Fun: Writing, Researching and Publishing Nonfiction for Children" at the [SCBWI MD/DE/WV Regional Conference](#) in Linthicum Heights, MD, on Saturday, March 23, from 1:40 to 2:30 p.m. Debbie and Mary will also be on the "Writing Outside the Lines" panel, about writing books for different ages and in multiple genres.

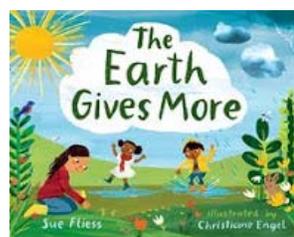
CYNTHIA COTTEN is a recipient of a 2018 Jane Yolen Mid-List Author Grant, awarded by SCBWI. The grant recognizes winning authors' contributions to children's literature and raises awareness of their works in progress.



SUE FLIESS has three new books out! *Ninja Camp* (Running Press Kids) is about a group of kids who attend Ninja Camp to learn how to become ninjas, which won't be easy. They'll have to be sly and swift, strong and speedy. *Booklist* says, "there is solid messaging about working hard, facing your fears, and practicing without complaint..and the triumphant story is satisfying." Watch the trailer: <https://youtu.be/UIQdrOs9ILs>

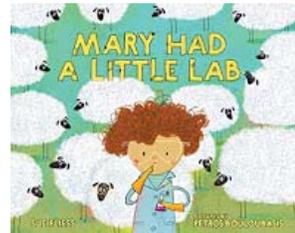


How to Track an Easter Bunny (Sky Pony Press): Legend has it that the only way to find all the hidden Easter eggs is to track an Easter Bunny's every move. But be careful--Easter Bunnies hop fast! Watch the trailer here: <https://youtu.be/E5ZKXSQv28Q>.

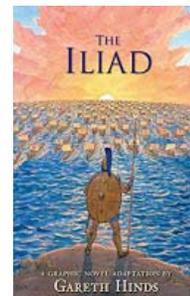


The Earth Gives More (Albert Whitman & Co.) is a love letter to Mother Earth. From leaves falling and becoming fertilizer to raindrops bringing plants to life in the spring, every season offers something to enjoy. *Publishers Weekly* says: "As the seasons pass, Fliess returns to the phrase 'the Earth gives more,' finally closing this genuine celebration of nature with a plea: 'Do your part. Use what you know./ Help the Earth to thrive and grow.'"

Sue will be reading her new books at several Northern Virginia locations in March and April. Check the calendar on her website for specifics: <https://www.suefliess.com/calendar>.



Also, Sue has received the 2018 Angie Karcher Best in Rhyme Award for *Mary Had a Little Lab*, illustrated by Petros Bouloubasis and published by Albert Whitman and Co.



GARETH HINDS's new graphic novel, *The Iliad*, comes out March 12, and has received two starred reviews. Gareth has scheduled several local events--at Politics and Prose, the Takoma Park Maryland Library, the Curious Iguana in Frederick, MD, and other locations--in celebration, and would love to see Guild members at any and all. You can find these and other events listed on [the Iliad page on his website](#).

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>. March's speakers include GARETH HINDS, Elizabeth Acevedo, Laurie Halse Anderson, Linda Sue Park and J. Albert Mann in conversation with MARY QUATTLEBAUM.

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