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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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Thursday, October 25, 2018

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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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November 2018

ENCHANTED LION BOOKS: CREATIVE RESISTANCE, INCLUSIVE WORLDS



Claudia Bedrick was raised by publishers. Her father, Peter Bedrick, was executive vice president of the German-Jewish Schocken Books before founding Peter Bedrick Books with his wife, Muriel Bedrick, in 1983. The company published high-quality illustrated nonfiction for children. In 2003, after selling the successful enterprise, the couple founded Enchanted Lion Books with two of their daughters, with a similar focus. Claudia and her sister Abigail entered the family business as managing editor and sales and marketing manager, respectively.

Claudia Bedrick's interest lay in translating notable international children's books for the American market, a direction she pursued after her father's sudden death in 2004. Now the publisher, editor and art director of this small-but-mighty house—it publishes about 18 to 20 picture books per year—Bedrick seeks out books from foreign countries for translation and originates books with authors and artists in many different countries, all with the goal of offering something fresh and moving, both visually and verbally, to readers here. She also keeps an eye on titles worthy of bringing back into print and has reissued books from the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

An Enchanted Lion brochure describes the program this way: "We are sharing these books with you in the humanistic spirit of seeking out reality and bearing witness. These stories are rich and complex. They do not silence or whitewash, lie or build walls... There are worrying details about climate change, the loss of home, and the facts of war. Sometimes, confusing, even frightening, words are said. But nothing is presented in a way that fails to respect the emotional lives of children and youth. And there is abundant hope here, too, in the willingness to risk, dream, and act in the name of Life."

Collecting stars and accolades, titles such as *My Father's Arms Are a Boat*, by Stein Erik Lunde, *Bear and Wolf*, by Daniel Salmieri, and *Seasons*, by Blexbolex, hint at the range and depth of this publishing house. What qualities does Bedrick look for when searching for her next project? How would she compare European picture books to American titles? What experiences influenced her eye? What advice does she have for authors and illustrators? On November 15, bring your questions to the conversation between Bedrick and Wendy Lukehart, coordinator of youth collections at DC Public Library.



Date: Thursday, November 15
Time: 11:30 a.m. "social hour"; noon luncheon
Place: **Busboys and Poets**
 450 K Street NW **(PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION)**

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!

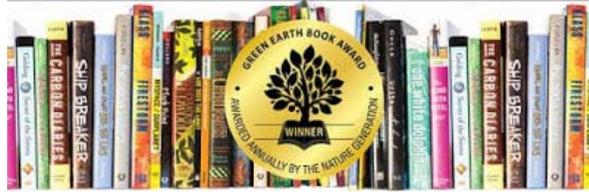
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1. Green Earth Book Award: Submissions Welcome
2. Member Nomination: Valerie O. Patterson
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5. Revisiting a Lecture by Katherine Paterson

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD MONTHLY NEWS FOR 2018. LOOK FOR THE JANUARY 2019 ISSUE IN LATE DECEMBER. THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 17 AND WILL FEATURE A LUNCHEON LECTURE BY AUTHOR CYNTHIA LEVINSON.

Now Accepting Submissions for the

2019 Green Earth Book Award



Submissions for the 2019 Green Earth Book Award are being accepted until December 3, 2018. Winners that best convey the message of environmental stewardship will be selected by an expert panel of judges in the picture book and children's and young adult fiction and nonfiction categories.

The short list will be announced in March 2019, and the winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2019. The award in each of the categories will comprise a monetary award of \$750 to the author and \$750 to the illustrator/photographer (or \$1,500 if the author and illustrator/photographer are the same person). In addition, Green Earth Book Award-winning books will be donated to Title I schools and military bases across the country.

[Click here to access the 2019 Green Earth Nomination Instructions and Form](#)

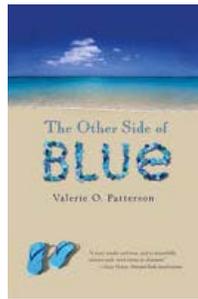


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MEMBER NOMINATION: VALERIE O. PATTERSON



Mary Quattlebaum nominates Valerie O. Patterson for membership in the Children's Book Guild of Washington, DC, in the author category. Lezlie Evans and Joan Waites both second this nomination.

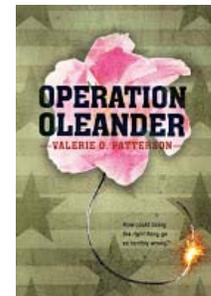


Valerie O. Patterson is the author of two novels for young readers. The first, *The Other Side of Blue* (2009), published by Clarion, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, was nominated for an Agatha Award. Her second, *Operation Oleander* (Clarion, 2013), was a Junior Library Guild selection and a VOYA Top Shelf for Middle School Readers.

In addition to writing for children, Valerie has moderated and participated on panels at various literary conferences and taught writing workshops for children and adults, including through Teachers as Writers. She also has participated in the PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program.

A longtime member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), she has volunteered in various roles over the years to help put on the annual Mid-Atlantic SCBWI regional fall conference. For more than five years, she has served as co-chair of the fall conference with Erin Teagan.

Valerie has an MFA in writing for children from Hollins University, where she twice won the Shirley Henn Award for Creative Scholarship. She also is a past recipient of an SCBWI Work-in-Progress grant.



Not only does she have a strong interest in writing for children and teens, but Valerie also writes for adults. Her short stories have appeared in anthologies, including Malice Domestic's *Murder Most Historical* (2017) and *Defying Gravity: Fiction by D.C. Area Women* (2014). Her articles have been published in *The Writer*, the *Washington Independent Book Review* and the *North Carolina Literary Review*.

In addition to SCBWI, she is a member of Mystery Writers of America and the Authors Guild. She lives in Virginia, where she writes and practices law for the federal government.

Valerie says she would like to be a member of the Children's Book Guild because the Guild offers a unique role in serving the larger community of writers for children—and is an important voice for advocacy in literature.

For more information, visit Valerie's website:
<http://www.valerieopatterson.com/>.

Members Are Invited to the Children's Book Guild's

Saturday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m.,

at the home of

Rhoda & Peter Trooboff
 in American University Park (DC)

(Address will be provided via email.)

Please RSVP to Rhoda
at rtruboff@gmail.com
by November 24 *only if you plan to attend*

and specify what you will bring:

a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert.

Libations will be provided.

Spouses and significant others are most welcome!

VICKY SMITH THOUGHTFULLY EXPLORES DIVERSITY AT KIRKUS REVIEWS

by Kitson Jazyuka

Vicky Smith, children's and teen editor at *Kirkus Reviews*, spoke to the Guild in October about the evolving landscape of children's literature and the challenges diverse books present, including reviewing books about and by authors from non-dominant cultures.

The Maine native and former Association for Library Service to Children board member and children's book librarian overviewed the history of western literary criticism from the time of Aristotle into the early 21st century. She compared the state of book reviewing today to breed shows for dogs in which individuals--dogs or books--are judged not against one another, but rather against an established standard. She shared examples from a range of books that represented diversity in all aspects of children's books, from topics, geographies and illustrations to authors and illustrators.

She noted the particular challenges related to perceptions of diversity in writing book reviews, noting that "it is impossible to read a book without seeing it through a lens of your own experience." *Kirkus* has transitioned to a model where, as much as possible, books about other cultures are reviewed by members of those cultures. "I'm proud to say we've gone from three reviewers of color in 2008, when I started as editor, to 53 today," she said. "And that makes up over 40 percent of our roster. And that, I believe, is an unmitigated good."

Smith noted challenges having to do with an author's or illustrator's creative vision. Whose assumptions should be challenged or explained if a reader or author is part of a dominant or non-dominant culture? Should there always be a glossary to explain vocabulary or context from a non-dominant culture, and what does that imply about the assumption that readers from non-dominant cultures entirely understand dominant culture?

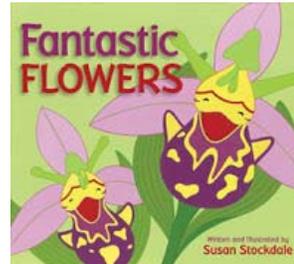
She also talked about the importance of paying attention to independent reviewers, many online, who don't have the backing of a well-known institution like *Kirkus*. "Online reviewers occupy more transitory structures," she said, "but their voices are equally important. I can't tell you how much I've learned from listening to people who disagree with me strongly, vociferously and sometimes even angrily."

Those attending the lunchtime lecture loaded Smith with questions about her thought-provoking presentation, the assumptions made about diversity, different types of diversity, the responsibility for explaining cultures, the pros

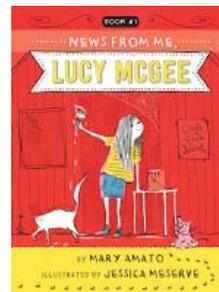
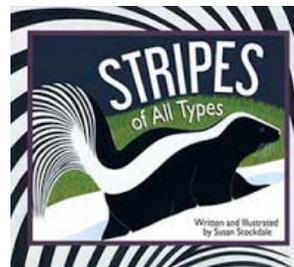
and cons of insider and outsider reviewers and things we can all do to aim for a more inclusive reader/writer experience.

“One of the great things about the world is that it’s a big place, and there’s room for lots and lots of different books and lots and lots of different readers,” Smith said. “But we need to get over the demand that it all be made easy for people who only speak one language...It’s hard to be a person in America who doesn’t speak English. Why shouldn’t English-speaking Americans get a little taste of that in their literature? It might make us all nicer to one another.”

MEMBER NEWS



SUSAN STOCKDALE is excited to present her picture books *Fantastic Flowers* and *Stripes of All Types* at the [Silver Spring Public Library](#) on Saturday, November 10, from 10:30 a.m. to noon; the [2018 NAEYC Annual Conference Picture Book Panel](#) in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, November 14, from 8:15 to 11:15 a.m.; and the [2018 NCTE Annual Conference Notable Children’s Book Panel](#) in Houston, TX, on Friday, November 16, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.



The first in a new chapter-book series (ages 7-10) from MARY AMATO is out! *News From Me, Lucy McGee* (Holiday House) focuses on friends and frenemies as Lucy joins her elementary school’s Songwriting Club. Each book includes songs, and as with many of Mary’s other books, readers can hear recordings of the songs, sing to karaoke tracks, download a song booklet and learn to play the songs. Check out the

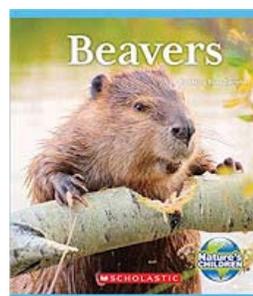
adorable kids singing at <https://www.maryamato.com/lucy-songs/>. The second book will be published in April 2019; the third book will be released when the first two come out in paper, in 2020; and Holiday House is signing up for a fourth.

JACQUELINE JULES is excited to report that *Light the Menorah: A Hanukkah Handbook* received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, which said, "The calm tone, scrupulous sourcing of information (as in the distinction between history and rabbinic lore), and clear instructions make this an excellent choice for families who are creating their first Hanukkah traditions." Read the full review here <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-5124-8368-0>.

ERICA PERL, CAROLINE HICKEY and PAMELA EHRENBERG have been awarded Arts and Humanities Fellowship grants from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (<https://dcarts.dc.gov/service/grants>). This annual award is open to DC residents, and applications are typically due in May; any of the three recipients will be glad to chat with other DC-resident Guild members who might be thinking of applying next year.



BRENDA SEABROOKE is pleased to announce the October 6 publication by Belanger Press of *The Rascal in the Castle: Sherlock's (Possible!) Dog and the Queen's Revenge*, the sequel to *Scones and Bones on Baker Street: Sherlock's (Maybe!) Dog and the Dirt Dilemma*.



MOIRA ROSE DONOHUE is thrilled to announce the September release of her book *Beavers* in the Nature's Children series by Scholastic Children's Press.



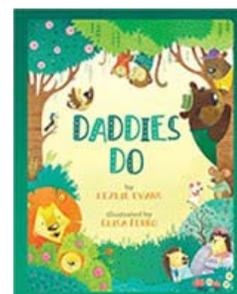
KATHERINE MARSH writes: "This spring, I'm inaugurating a program to encourage more literacy and books in underprivileged DC schools in conjunction with my multi-starred middle-grade novel *Nowhere Boy*. I will drop my full-day school visit fee from \$1000 to \$300 if a school buys 50 copies of *Nowhere Boy* for students at a Title 1 elementary or middle school. I will then do a full-day visit at the donor school *and* offer the recipient school a free author visit. The donor school can donate the money for books directly from its funds, or it can involve students by having them donate at holiday time or fundraise for the good cause of sharing an author with a school that might not be able to afford the books or author's fee.

"I'm offering this program to highlight the themes of generosity and kindness so important to *Nowhere Boy* through real-life community modeling. I'm limiting this to five schools (because that's really 10) for spring 2019; the Norwood School is already booked and enthusiastic.

"Please share with schools and/or school librarians who might be interested in *Nowhere Boy* and a give-back author visit program. Inquiries and interest can be directed to me at: nighttourist@gmail.com."



LEZLIE EVANS is looking forward to participating in a panel discussion with educator Corrine Wetzel and authors Erin Teagan and Carol Boston Weatherford at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, on November 17. Following the presentation, she will have the opportunity to meet educators and sign copies of *Daddies Do* (2018) in the Sterling Booth, as well as *Finding Christmas* (2017) in the Albert Whitman booth.



Later in November, Lezlie will be excited to return home and attend the Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Annual Conference, where she can't wait to meet the librarians from her own backyard.

"QUICK LINK..."

Thirty years ago this month, on November 17, 1988, Guild member Katherine Paterson delivered a lecture at the Library of Congress for the Year of the Young Reader. Katherine, two-time winner of the National Book Award and the Newbery Medal, was also the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature in 2010-2011. Her 1988 lecture was published by the Library of Congress with a foreword by Sybille Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center and a former Guild member. You can find the full lecture here: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED336748.pdf>.

Katherine lives in Vermont, where she maintains her Guild membership and continues to publish. Her newest book is *My Brigadista Year*, about a Cuban teen volunteering for Fidel Castro's national literacy campaign.

"Those of us who write for young readers try to put into words what at three or ten or fourteen, mouth and mind cannot quite express, but that which heart has heard of, ghost guessed. And friends, if [you] ask us why we write for the young, it is because we choose the passionate heart over the cold intellect every time." ~ Katherine Paterson, "Stick to Reality and a Dream," November 17, 1988.

CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD ROSTER

Our webmaster has made the changes requested after the email blast from Jacqueline Jules. If you need to access the roster and have lost the password, please contact Jacqueline: jjulesATjacquelinejules.com

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.](#)

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