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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, September 24, 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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October 2017

AUTHOR-ILLUSTRATOR MATT TAVARES



Matt Tavares was born in Boston and grew up surrounded by books and reading. From the time he was very young, his mother read to him every night, and his family made countless trips to the public library. Years later, as a studio art major at Bates College, he rediscovered his love for picture books and decided to try to make his own.

For his senior thesis project, Tavares wrote and illustrated a story called *Sebastian's Ball*, about a boy who caught a magic foul ball at a Boston Red Sox game. Three years later, after much revision, *Sebastian's Ball* became *Zachary's Ball*, Tavares's first published picture book. *Zachary's Ball* went on to win a Massachusetts Book Award Honor and was named one of *Yankee Magazine's* 40 Classic New England Children's Books.

Since then, Tavares has published 18 more books and has won several awards, including three Parents' Choice Gold Awards and an Orbis Pictus Honor. He has had two ALA Notable Books. His artwork has been exhibited at the Museum of American Illustration, the Brandywine River Museum and the Mazza Museum of Picture Book Art.

Tavares lives in Maine with his wife, Sarah, and their two daughters. When not working in his studio on his latest book project, he travels the country speaking (and drawing) at schools, libraries, conferences and bookstores. He has presented at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Eric Carle Museum and the White House Easter Egg Roll, and he's even done a few book signings at Fenway Park. His talk on October 19 will mainly focus on *Red and Lulu*, his new book out from Candlewick this fall.

Date: Thursday, October 19

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)

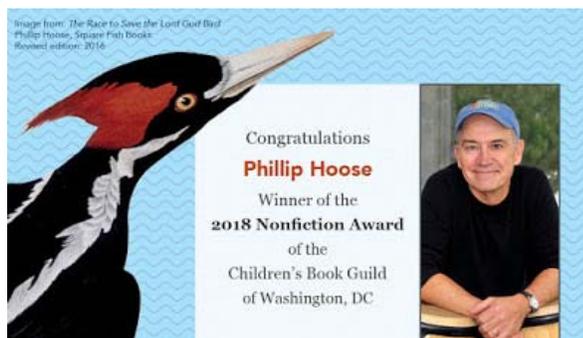
:: CHOICE OF SANDWICH (served with a salad of baby greens and house-made kettle chips) ::

- **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!

IN THIS ISSUE:

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The Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C., has selected Phillip Hoose (pronounced HOSE) as its 2018 Nonfiction Award Winner. The award, [given annually since 1977](#), honors authors or illustrators whose total work has contributed significantly to the quality of nonfiction for children.

Hoose's books explore important topics through protagonists whose stories compel readers "to turn to the next page because they want to know what's going to happen to someone or something they care about," Hoose told *Book Links*. His protagonists range from teenagers such as Claudette Colvin and Knud Pederson to creatures such as the tiny red knot bird and the great ivory billed woodpecker. "I like to find stories that have not been told that I think will inspire young readers," says Hoose. He infuses his narrative nonfiction with the imagination and courage of young people making a difference, and he transforms such challenging issues as extinction and civil rights into stories that engage young readers.

Hoose has won numerous honors for individual books. *Claudette Colvin: Twice toward Justice*, the story of an impassioned teenager who refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala., won the National Book Award as well as Newbery and Robert F. Sibert Honor Awards. Hoose received another Robert F. Sibert Honor Award for his most recent title, *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pederson and The Churchill Club*, the story of teens who challenged the German occupation of Denmark.

Many thanks to Nonfiction Award Committee members Brenda Randolph and Lulu Delacre, and adviser Edie Ching. Brenda was particularly moved by Hoose's attention to the role of young people as social activists, the focus of *We Were There, Too! Young People in U.S. History*. The companion book, *It's Our World, Too*, introduces readers to 14 children working for social causes and includes a handbook for modern-day young activists.

"One of the things I most admire in Phillip Hoose's work is the extent to which he'll leave no stone unturned when conducting the scholarly research that informs his writing," said Lulu. Hoose spent six years researching and writing *We Were There, Too!* After several more years patiently waiting for Claudette Colvin and Knud Pederson to agree, Hoose conducted hours and days of interviews with each one.

Hoose will be honored at our Children's Book Guild Award Luncheon on April 7, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring family, friends and guests!

—Karen Leggett, Chair, Nonfiction Award Committee



**25th Annual
Children's
Africana
Book
Awards
(CABA)**

Dinner Festival

The Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA) are presented annually at the CABA Dinner to the authors and illustrators of the best children's and young adult books on Africa published or republished in the U.S. The awards were created by Africa Access and the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association (OSA) to encourage the publication and use of accurate, balanced children's materials about Africa.

Friday, November 3, 2017
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

St. Francis Hall
1340 Quincy Street NE
Washington, DC

Tickets are \$100 each.
Please register at
africaaccessreview.org/CABA-Dinner-2017

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Bring the family
and enjoy: meeting the authors,
art activities, storytelling, face painting
and delicious food!

Saturday, November 4, 2017
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Smithsonian
National Museum of African Art**
950 Independence Ave SW,
Washington, DC 20560

AFRICAACCESSREVIEW.ORG/CABA-2017

For more information contact Brenda Randolph at AfricaAccess@aol.com.



This event was developed in part using grant # P12CA00027 from the U.S. Department of Education. However, funds awarded do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should assume no endorsement by the Federal Government.

This year Africa Access is celebrating 25 years of the Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA), 25 years of turning the spotlight on exceptional children's and young adult books about Africa and the authors and illustrators who produced them. This achievement will be honored at two events in early November: the 25th anniversary dinner, on Friday, November 3 (6 p.m. at St. Francis Hall, 1340 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC); and the CABA Book Festival on November 4 (11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art). Twenty CABA winners--current and former--will attend the dinner and sign books at the festival.

MEMBER NOMINATION: MEGAN WAGNER LLOYD

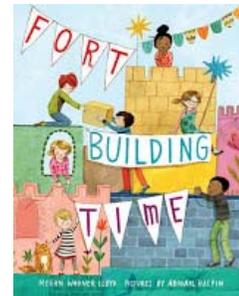
Jacqueline Jules nominates Megan Wagner Lloyd for membership in the author category. Madelyn Rosenberg seconds the nomination.

Megan Wagner Lloyd is the author of the picture books *Finding Wild* (2016) and *Fort-Building Time* (2017), both illustrated by Abigail Halpin and published by Knopf. *Finding Wild* was a summer 2016 Kids' Indie Next List selection, a summer 2016 ALSC Notable Children's Book nominee and a Green Earth Book Award 2017 Long List selection. It will soon be published in Chinese and Spanish. *Fort-Building Time* is a fall 2017 Kids' Indie Next List selection.



Megan's upcoming picture books include *Building Books* (fall 2018, Knopf), *Paper Mice* (Spring 2019, Paula Wiseman Books) and *The ABCs of Catching Zs* (date TBD, Chronicle).

Megan lived in the San Francisco area for eight years before moving to Arlington, Va., three years ago. She has attended several Children's Book Guild luncheons in the past year and a half and is excited to come to more events and to learn from and become more involved in the Guild community. To learn more about Megan, visit her website: www.meganwagnerlloyd.com or see what she's been up to on Instagram @meganwagnerlloyd.



MEMBER NOMINATION: COURTNEY PIPPIN-MATHUR

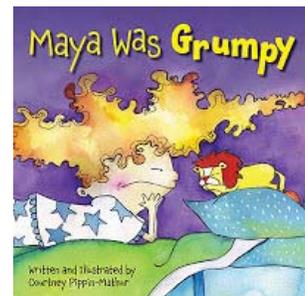
Erica Perl nominates Courtney Pippin-Mathur for membership in the Children's Book Guild as an author/illustrator. Jacqueline Jules seconds the nomination.

Courtney Pippin-Mathur's first picture book, *Maya was Grumpy*, was published in 2013 by Flashlight Press. It was an Indie Next Top Ten Kid's Read for summer 2013, was selected for the 2013 ABC Best Books for Children Catalog, was nominated for the 2014 New Hampshire Ladybug Picture Book Award and was a 2014 Christopher Award winner. Artwork from the book was featured at the Appleton Museum in Ocala, Fla., for the exhibition "Sendak & Co." Her second book, *Dragons Rule, Princesses Drool*, was published in May 2017 by Little Simon, S&S. Stated *Booklist*, it is

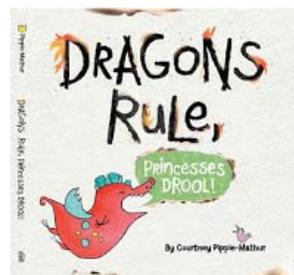


“a delight from start to finish, and its empowering conclusion is a welcome bonus.”

Courtney grew up in East Texas and now lives in a suburb of Washington, D.C., with a knight, a princess and two dragons, which leads to many exciting adventures with lots of breaks for reading. Visit her website: <http://www.pippinmathur.com>.



About the Guild, Courtney says: “I have been a huge fan of the Children’s Book Guild since I attended my first meeting a year ago. One of my goals was to apply for membership to this honored institution after my second book was published. Thank you for creating such a wonderful community and inviting amazing speakers to share their knowledge and expertise.”



TOM ANGLEBERGER ON THE CHALLENGES (AND FUN) OF WRITING LICENSED PROPERTY

by Tammar Stein

On Thursday, September 14, bestselling author Tom Angleberger spoke to the Guild about writing licensed property. A quick review: writing licensed property means creating original fiction using preexisting beloved characters, e.g., Yoda or Strawberry Shortcake.

Angleberger used his lightning-fast wit and comedic timing to keep the room laughing, even while discussing the pros and cons of this kind of

writing. These included the joys of having a built-in audience for his licensed books (pro), the potential for disappointed fans (con), a lack of reviews (con) and mega sales—hopefully at an independent bookstore (pro).

His compelling argument was that despite a few real cons, writing licensed property allowed him to have a lot of fun while putting his mark on beloved icons of modern culture. Because story lines tend to be established, authors may need permission to introduce plot elements. Angleberger needed approval from LucasFilms, for example, to make his novelization of *Return of the Jedi* pass the “Bechdel Test,” a criterion created by cartoonist Alison Bechdel: it contains two named female characters who speak to each other about something other than a man.

To illustrate how entertaining it can be creating original stories using existing characters, Angleberger led the entire room in a group storytelling exercise. He warned that he does this with schoolchildren all the time, and they come up with wonderful stories. “If this doesn’t work, it’s your fault,” he said to a roomful of laughter.

But never fear, a roomful of authors, egged on by Angleberger’s zany, simultaneously sketched illustrations, created a terrific story. With Guild audience suggestions, the raccoon and tree named Rocket and Groot (two characters from the popular movie franchise *Guardians of the Galaxy*) had an epic adventure that included bombs, poop and an evil squirrel exerting mind control on certain unnamed world leaders. Luckily, all ended well. The poop that landed on Groot acted as fertilizer, allowing Groot to grow a giant acorn, and after tossing it down a deep hole, Rocket got the evil squirrel to jump in after it. (Look for this tale at your local independent bookstore. It’s going to be a sure hit.)

At the end of his talk Angleberger asked for a show of hands. “Who’s ready to write licensed property?” he asked. The response was by no means unanimous, but there were hands in air of Guild members ready for some fun.

THE GUILD DONATES TO DISASTER RELIEF

Guild members voted during the September 14 meeting to make donations in support of hurricane relief for libraries in Florida and Houston. We have sent \$150 to the Texas Library Association Disaster Relief Fund (<https://squareup.com/store/txla/>) and \$150 to the Florida Libraries Disaster Relief Fund (<http://www.flalib.org/>).

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!

Please visit this link <https://childrensbookguild.org/> and take a look at the newly designed Children’s Book Guild website. Many thanks to our website committee, including Karen Deans, Wendy Shang, Jackie Jules and our webmaster, Alan Hechtkopf.

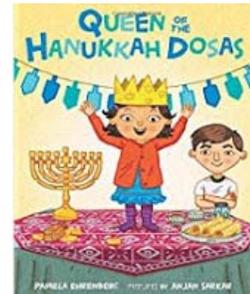
MEMBER NEWS



PHYLLIS NAYLOR's newest book is *Zack and the Turkey Attack!* Inspired by the old tom turkey on her grandparents' farm that used to chase her about the place and terrorize her, Phyllis tells the story of a kid who's out to get even. The book, for readers age 7 through 11, will be released on October 3.

A story by BARBARA ANN PORTE, "Oral History: Strudel," based on details told to her several decades ago by her aunt Betty, has been published on the *Jewish Currents* website as part of its "Wednesday Night Fiction" series: <http://jewishcurrents.org/wednesday-night-fiction-oral-history-strudel/>. Check it out!

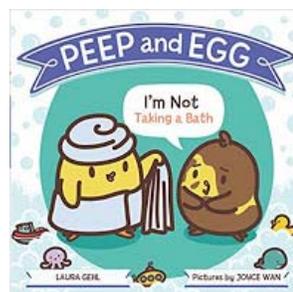
Barbara's poem "Dance of the Mayflies" appears in the current issue, no. 89, of *Earth's Daughters*. And her poem "Why Old Women Leave Their Money to Art Museums" is included in *Gargoyle*, no. 67, which was scheduled for release in mid-September.



PAMELA EHRENBERG is excited to share that *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas* will be released October 10 from Farrar, Straus & Giroux; it will also be a PJ Library selection later this fall. The book, with illustrations by Anjan Sarkar, is a multicultural story about a family that incorporates Indian food into its Hanukkah celebration. It's also a story about love for a younger sibling who climbs on everything—and a time when climbing skills are exactly what's needed. *Kirkus Reviews* loved the endpapers (and also liked the story in between). October events include Fall for the Book (October 11, 4:30 p.m., in Chantilly, Va.) and the YABBA Fest (October 14 in Warrenton, Va.)

The other Guild members taking part in YABBA Fest are EDIE HEMINGWAY, KEM KNAPP SAWYER, LEZLIE EVANS, MARY BOWMAN-KRUHM, MARY QUATTLEBAUM, MARY RAND HESS, and JOAN WAITES: <http://allegrocsa.org/new/events/yabba-fest/>.

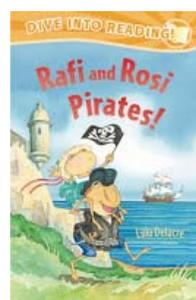
CATHERINE REEF will speak at the Southern Festival of Books, which takes place in Nashville, October 13 through 15: <http://humanitiestennessee.org/programs/southern-festival-books-celebration-written-word>.



The third book in LAURA GEHL's *Peep and Egg* series, *Peep and Egg: I'm Not Taking a Bath*, is out on October 24. *Kirkus* calls it "another delightful addition to the series."



MARY QUATTLEBAUM's nonfiction chapter book *Hero Dogs! True Stories of Amazing Animal Heroes* has been published by National Geographic Kids.



October brings the release of *Rafi and Rosi: Pirates*, the third book in LULU DELACRE's *Rafi and Rosi* series. A bit of the Puerto Rican version of Frog and Toad, these Coquí siblings have rollicking adventures once Rafi

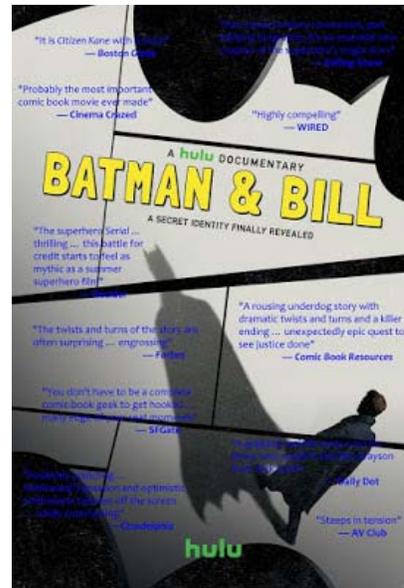
discovers they are direct descendants of Cofresi, the last pirate of the Caribbean who is —of course— Puerto Rican.

Also, Lulu's book *Us, in Progress: Short Stories about Young Latinos* made the Teenreads Ultimate Reading List. Says Lulu, "I am thrilled and humbled to have the collection in such stellar company!"

Batman & Bill, the first documentary inspired by nonfiction for young readers (*Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman*), follows author MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN's unprecedented nine-year campaign to correct a 76-year-old cultural injustice despite experts saying the effort was futile. It vividly shows the power of children's literature to bring about significant real-world change.

Reaction to the film from both [the press](#) (see one-sheet, below) and [the public](#) has been overwhelming. *Batman & Bill* has been called the best documentary of the year, best film of the year, even best doc ever. People are regularly tweeting that the movie made them cry, often more than twice. One said "I feel like I just watched *Rocky* for the first time."

It's on Hulu, which offers a free trial.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Guild's annual holiday potluck party will be held on Saturday, January 6, at the home of Susan Stockdale and Todd Mann.

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>. Kwame Alexander and Mary Rand Hess will be among October's featured authors.

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