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# 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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Monday, August 22, 2016

Pages

[Home](#)

[Guild Member Blogs](#)

[Busboys and Poets](#)

[Monthly Luncheon Schedule](#)

[How to RSVP](#)

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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## September 2016

### KATHERINE PATERSON TO DISCUSS BRINGING GILLY HOPKINS TO LIFE FOR FILM AUDIENCES



Acclaimed author and longtime Guild member Katherine Paterson, who is returning to Washington, D.C., for the National Book Festival, will speak to the Guild on September 22. Paterson's outstanding body of work has earned her an international reputation. She is known for such modern classics as

*Bridge to Terabithia*, *Jacob Have I Loved* and *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, as well as for more recent books including *Brother Sun*, *Sister Moon* and *Stubborn Sweetness and Other Stories for the Christmas Season*. Her memoir *Stories of My Life* was published in 2014.

Paterson is a two-time recipient of the National Book Award and the Newbery Medal. Among her other honors are the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award and the Astrid Lindgren Award. She currently serves as vice president of the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, and she is a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She lives in Barre, Vt.



In October *The Great Gilly Hopkins* will be released as a feature film starring Kathy Bates and Glenn Close, as well as Sophie Nelisse as the beloved title character. At the September meeting Paterson will tell the Guild what it was like to adapt her National Book Award and Newbery Honor-winning novel for the big screen.

**Date: Thursday, September 22**

**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!](#)**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- 1. President's Letter**
- 2. An Award for Liane Rosenblatt**
- 3. Member Nomination: Lenore Appelhans**
- 4. Chad Beckerman's Innovative Book Design**
- 5. Member News**
- 6. Remembering Libby Hoke**

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Dear Guild members,

Thanks to so many of you who are willing to serve on committees this year! You'll find a list of board and committee members on our site.

We're off to a good start. Our program heads Karen MacPherson, Alison Morris and Maria Salvadore have an exciting year planned. Newbery winner and longtime Guild member Katherine Paterson will be our first speaker at Busboys and Poets on Thursday, September 22! (Please note that this meeting will take place on the fourth

Thursday of the month. Other meetings will be held on the third Thursday.)

At our summer board meeting we agreed to continue supporting DC Public Schools by providing books to schools in need. Dara LaPorte and Heidi Powell from An Open Book, Jason King from Turning the Page and Wendy Lukehart from DC Public Libraries will work to identify schools and organize this effort. This year's budget allows us to increase our funding for this project. If you would like to help out with this please let me know. (Additional committee members as well as additional donations are most welcome!)

Several Guild members have expressed interest in revamping our website.

If you would like to brainstorm ideas we encourage your participation. Please contact Wendy Shang at dahwvs@hotmail if you are interested.

See you in September!

Kem Knapp Sawyer

## GUILD MEMBER LIANE ROSENBLATT HONORED FOR INNOVATIVE READING PROGRAMS



The Children's Book Guild congratulates Liane Rosenblatt, reference librarian at the Lamond-Riggs branch of the D.C. Public Library, who received a 2016 Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Award in recognition of distinguished DC Government Service for three reading programs entitled "Reading Africa,"

which help build positive awareness about the continent. Find out more about Liane's program and honor on

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkYLi7xhE3o&feature=youtu.be>

### MEMBER NOMINATION: LENORE APPELHANS

Ann Bonwill nominates Lenore Appelhans for membership in the Children's Book Guild. Jacqueline Jules seconds the nomination.



Lenore Appelhans is the author of the young adult novels *The Memory of After* (2013) and *Chasing Before* (2014) and the picture book *Chick-O-Saurus Rex* (2013), all published by Simon & Schuster. *The Memory of After* sold in six foreign territories, and movie rights were optioned by CBS. *Chick-O-Saurus Rex* was included in General Mills' Spoonful of Stories promotion in Cheerios® boxes and was awarded the Bank Street Irma Black Honor 2014 and the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award in the international region.

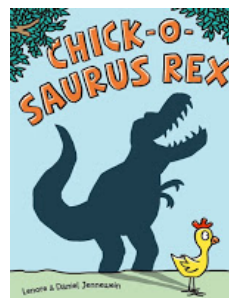
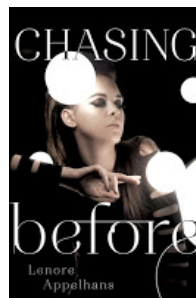


Lenore earned her MFA in writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts in July 2016. She moved to Burke, Va., last March after having lived for more than fifteen years in Germany, where she worked as an advertising copywriter and translator.

Lenore has attended several Guild luncheons as a guest of Ann Bonwill and Jacqueline Jules. She looks forward to getting more involved with the Guild and continuing to learn from such a great community of authors and children's book enthusiasts.

To learn more about Lenore Appelhans, visit her website:

<http://www.lenoreappelhans.com>, or her blog:  
<http://presentinglenore.blogspot.com>.



## FROM COVER TO COVER: CHAD W. BECKERMAN FINDS THE RIGHT DESIGN FOR EVERY BOOK

by Abby Nolan

Although Chad W. Beckerman, the featured speaker at the June Children's Book Guild meeting, graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) with "no idea what I wanted to do or where I would go," he now has his dream job as creative director at Abrams. Based in New York, he oversees the design of Abrams picture books, novels for young readers, graphic novels and ComicArts books.

Beckerman's first job after RISD, where he earned an MFA in Illustration, was with the animated TV series *The Family Guy*, but he soon realized he didn't have the attention span to do that work. His current position offers him both variety and an outlet for his creative talents.

Part of his RISD training involved figuring out his own illustrating sensibility, and he uses this approach when he is working with other illustrators. Every illustrator is different from the next, and each person is capable of different types of illustrations. This mindset helps Beckerman make informed, individualized suggestions, but he said two recommendations probably apply to everyone: don't overly complicate your drawings, and don't forget about white space.

Beckerman said he found his love of children's books while working at Greenwillow Books with editors such as Virginia Duncan. He started at Abrams in 2006 and has seen a big increase in the number of books on the list. For instance, five novels for young readers were published in 2006, and now there are 27 a season. Along the way, he has learned many strategies, such as "Don't put 'new' technology on a cover because it immediately gets

dated.” He also said that each element of the book, including its spine, title page and end papers, is carefully considered as part of a complete package. He likened a book’s first pages to the opening credit sequence of a movie.



In his visually rich presentation, Beckerman showed the many attempts it sometimes takes to hit upon the right cover image: “It’s constant failure until something sticks.” Displaying a quick succession of designs for books such as Cece Bell’s *El Deafo* and Andrea Beaty and Dan Santat’s *Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies*, he emphasized the need to make mistakes and try different things. The cover of *The Terrible Two*, by Mac Barnett and Jory John, is one of

Beckerman’s favorites because it was really challenging and had to be done really fast, along with all the sales materials. One of Abrams’s biggest sellers, the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, was a challenge from the start—for instance, “How do you get that character to pop?” And much time and energy still goes into finding the right color for each new cover.

Asked about where he finds illustrators, Beckerman said he looks everywhere. He follows artists on Instagram and other platforms to stay informed about what’s going on with illustration and how the field is evolving. He also stays in touch with agents, does portfolio reviews and works with the Society of Illustrators. He added that he thinks sending out a postcard is still an effective method for illustrators to show their work, as long as the postcard features a single favorite image.



Check out his blog at [chadwbecker.com](http://chadwbecker.com) if you missed the presentation or if, like me, you couldn’t quite keep up with the flurry of images. Like his visit last June, it is both informative and entertaining.

## MEMBER NEWS

Books and authors galore! Check out the annual National Book Festival, on Saturday, September 24, at the Washington Convention Center. Throughout the day six local authors—LULU DELACRE, Blanche Dudley, JACQUELINE JULES, ERICA PERL, Ann Marie Stephens and MADELYN ROSENBERG--will be reading from new picture books at the Washington Post booth downstairs, close to the signing line.

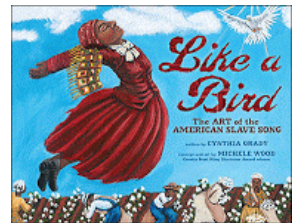


**JACQUELINE JULES** is pleased to share news of the publication of the latest two titles in her early reader series about spunky Sofia Martinez. In *The Beach Trip*, Sofia packs

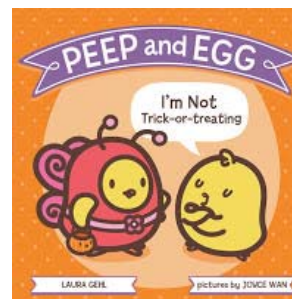
games rather than clothes for a family vacation--with unexpected consequences. In *Lights Out*, Sofia's family is without power after a strong storm. Sofia and Papá head to the store to buy supplies and come home with the perfect plan to have fun.



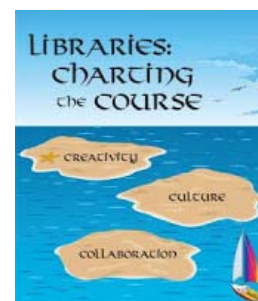
Jackie is pleased as well to announce that she won second place in the 2016 Spirit First Poetry Contest for her poem "Mirrored Light." To read the poem, visit the Spirit First website: [http://www.spiritfirst.org/poetry\\_contest.html](http://www.spiritfirst.org/poetry_contest.html).



CYNTHIA GRADY's second book, *Like a Bird: The Art of the American Slave Song*, will be released September 1 (Lerner).

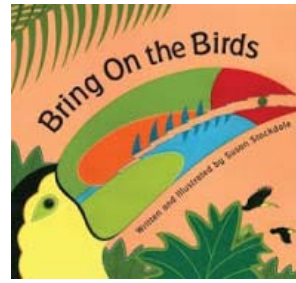


LAURA GEHL's newest book, *Peep and Egg: I'm Not Trick-or-Treating*, was released on August 9.

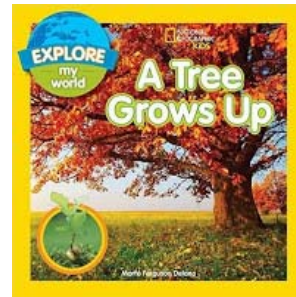


Several Guild members will be presenting at the annual conference of the Virginia Association of School Librarians in Norfolk, October 20 through 22: WENDY SHANG, MADELYN ROSENBERG, L. M. ELLIOTT, JENNIFER

O'CONNELL and KAREN LEGGETT ABOURAYA.



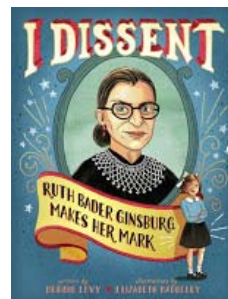
SUSAN STOCKDALE will be presenting *Bring On the Birds* and *Fabulous Fishes* at the [Baltimore Book Festival](#) on Saturday, September 24, at 1 p.m.



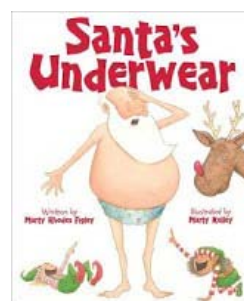
MARFE FERGUSON DELANO has a new nonfiction picture book and a new job to report. *A Tree Grows Up* was published in July by National Geographic. Also in July, Marfé began working for National Geographic Kids as executive editor for preschool content.



MARY QUATTLEBAUM's chapter book *Together Forever! True Stories of Amazing Animal Friendships* is just out from National Geographic Kids. The featured BFFs include a chicken and a disabled chihuahua, a goat and a donkey, and a cheetah cub and a dog.



DEBBIE LEVY's new picture book, *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*, tells the story of Glorious RBG from her childhood in Brooklyn to her tenure on the U.S. Supreme Court through the lens of her many disagreements. The takeaway: disagreeing doesn't make a person disagreeable, and important change can happen when one voices disagreement with injustice. Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley, the book has received starred reviews from *Booklist* and *School Library Journal* and is a Junior Library Guild selection. Debbie says, "Come to the launch of *I Dissent* at Politics & Prose on September 20 at 7 p.m.!"



MARTY RHODES FIGLEY announces the publication of *Santa's Underwear*, her new picture book illustrated by the very talented Marty Kelley. It's Christmas Eve and Santa can't find his special holiday undies. Will he be able to make his deliveries on time? *Kirkus Reviews* states, "A troupe of entertaining elves, a jolly Santa, and lots of underwear jokes add up to Christmas chuckles in this engaging story." Reports the *Midwest Book Review*, "Kids will love this adorably funny Christmas story for all its kinky details and for its underlying message of love."

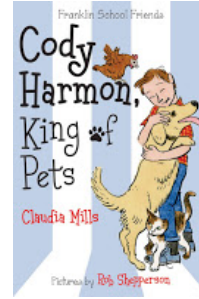
On Saturday, October 1, Marty will read and sign *Santa's Underwear* at the Joe Gibbs Youth for Tomorrow Country Fair and Auction event in Bristow, Va.



BRENDA SEABROOKE is thrilled to announce the publication of *Scones and Bones on Baker Street: Sherlock's (Maybe) Dog and the Dirt Dilemma* by Belanger Books, which publishes exclusively Sherlock Holmes



books, scholarly works pertaining to the Holmes books and books by the Baker Street Irregulars, whose members have included President Franklin Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill. Also, Brenda's story "Snow Devils" was accepted for *The Best New England Crime Stories 2016*.



CLAUDIA MILLS has three new books out this year: *Cody Harmon, King of Pets* (FSG), which received a starred review from *Kirkus* and was an Amazon Best Book of the Month for June; *The Trouble with Babies* (Knopf); and a middle-grade novel out in September from FSG, *Write This Down*, about the ethical dilemma a seventh-grade writer faces when her dream of publication can be achieved only at the cost of revealing a family secret.



## REMEMBERING ELIZABETH CONKLIN HOKE AUGUST 9, 1924-JUNE 25, 2106

by Annette Curtis Klause

This past summer, I was saddened to learn of the demise of a valued role model and fellow Guild member.

Libby Hoke became a representative to the Guild from the Montgomery County (Md.) Department of Public Libraries (MCPL) in 1978, about the same time that she became the coordinator of Children's Library Services for MCPL. She was Book Week Luncheon chair in 1979 and Nonfiction Award chair in 1981. She was a member of the Nonfiction Award Committee again in 1982. Libby was on the Membership Committee for the 1884-1985 season, and was head of that committee in 1993-1994. She also served as corresponding secretary from 1987 to 1988, and treasurer from 1989 to 1991. I expect she may have held other positions later, but I don't have the documentation.

Libby embarked on a career in children's literature after raising five children, whom she read to regularly, and traveling to many places as a navy wife. Wherever she moved, she combined postgraduate study in English literature with substitute teaching, and she spent a year teaching reading in a private school in California. When her family moved east, Libby spent a year learning about children's literature at the Bethesda Library and

then spent another year earning her masters in library science. After 15 years of public-library work and after also serving on the Library of Congress's children's book committee, she was promoted to coordinator of Children's Library Service for the MCPL.

That's how I, as a fledgling children's librarian, met Libby in 1981. And she was inspiring! I came to think of those times as the good old days of children's library service. Here are some examples of her leadership: MCPL regularly trained as many as 50 children's librarians to keep us fresh and up to date on the skills and materials necessary for our profession. She carefully steered in-library children's services at 19 different sites so all communities were served with great collections, story times and readers' advice. Children's librarians were united in their enthusiasm and regularly informed; they functioned as a cohesive unit, well versed in policies and procedures. If a member of the public complained about a book in the collection, Libby was always willing to write a thoughtful, eloquent defense. Individual projects were encouraged and not seen as a distraction from daily service on the desk, and creativity was valued. For several years, I produced an annual literary magazine called *Reepicheep* with Libby's full support and encouragement, and I created an extensive annotated list of historical fiction for children, among other self-directed projects. She always encouraged me and often took the time to write a thank you or a commendation. I still have these in my files. I, myself, wrote a very cheeky story about her, which I read at her retirement party. I still have that too.

Libby was not only active in children's literature locally, but she participated at the national level as well. She served on the American Library Association's Notable Books Reevaluation Committee and both the Caldecott and Newbery committees.

Libby also made many friends in the worldwide community of literature. I understand that in later years she even became good friends with J.R.R. Tolkien's daughter, Priscilla. Libby often made sure that Guild members and fellow librarians had the opportunity to socialize with distinguished guests. I remember a wonderful party at her house in the late 80s, when she was hosting Margaret Mahy, who was visiting from New Zealand. I was such a fangirl that I blithered excitedly about how I was writing a vampire book.

When Libby retired from the libraries, she continued to participate in the Children's Book Guild and children's literature-related events. It was always a delight to be greeted by her warm smile and outreached arms. Eventually, however, her husband's poor health, and then her own, caused her to withdraw from public life and concentrate on family. What a loss for us. I still miss seeing her in all the places I feel she should be. Her intelligence, enthusiasm for children's literature and hard work in spreading knowledge about her chosen field set an example that I tried to live up to my entire career. Come to think of it, I'm still trying.

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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>. September's speakers include MEG MEDINA and DEBBIE LEVY.

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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