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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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Wednesday, August 23, 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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September 2017

TOM ANGLEBERGER'S APPROACH TO HUMOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ANGST



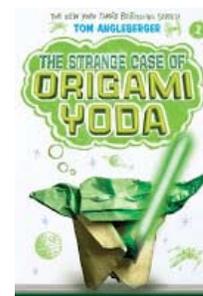
Tom Angleberger grew up in a storytelling home. His parents told and retold stories, embellishing them until they became hilarious, larger-than-life tall tales. Angleberger learned, he said, "That's how you communicate." As he explained, "You get these stories and you polish them up and you make them funny."

This method has served Angleberger well. Today he is a prolific author, best known for his bestselling *Origami Yoda* series. He is also the author of several other series, including the *Quikpick Papers*, *Rocket and Groot* and *Inspector Flytrap*. His juvenile fiction includes as well *Fuzzy*, *Horton Halfpott* and *Fake Mustache*, and among his picture books are *McToad Mows Tiny Island* and *Crankee Doodle*.

Angleberger's books are full of his trademark silliness and humor. "I'm not necessarily all that creative," he has said. "I'm more of a puzzle putter together. I take all these little puzzle pieces—Yoda, middle school problems, Cheetos—and I fuss and fuss with them until I fit them together."

He also draws on what he calls his "Superpower," his experience with Asperger's syndrome, especially when writing about middle school. "Obsessions, neuroses, echolalia, awkward social interactions," he elaborated, "those are what my books are made of."

After studying art at the College of William and Mary and spending years as a reporter for the *Roanoke Times*, Angleberger is now a full-time children's book writer. He and his wife, author and illustrator Cece Bell, live in Christiansburg, Va. On Thursday, September 14, Tom



Angleberger will speak to the Guild about his offbeat, imaginative work.



Date: Thursday, September 14

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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TEN YEARS LATER...

RECALLING THE GUILD'S COLLABORATION WITH THE HOUSE OF SWEDEN

by Karen Leggett

On September 29, 2007—just 10 years ago this month—Pippi Longstocking (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pippi_Longstocking) met Lucy Rose (<http://www.katykellyauthor.com/meet-lucy-rose.html>) at the House of Sweden. It all began when Sweden opened a brand new embassy overlooking the Potomac River in Georgetown. The elegant House of Sweden was celebrated with great fanfare that included several months of children's events and a collaboration with our own Children's Book Guild.

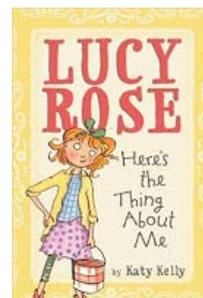


“Every child in Sweden knows Astrid Lindgren and her books, and we wanted to introduce them to more American children,” said Joran Bjallerstedt, then minister of the Swedish Embassy, to Mary Quattlebaum, who wrote about the embassy’s project for *The Washington Post*

(<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/27/AR2007092700567.html>). Katy Kelly, 2017-18 Guild president and author of the Lucy Rose series, was invited to read from her own books while young American visitors learned about Pippi

Longstocking. Lucy and Pippi were both spirited, adventurous girls who lived *not*-boring lives, Pippi with her funny shoes and superhuman strength and Lucy with her red cowboy boots and a grandmother who said she was a handful.

Just a few weeks later, in November 2007, Katherine Paterson addressed an overflow crowd at the House of Sweden to celebrate the hundredth birthday of Astrid Lindgren. Katherine had won the 2006 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (<http://www.alma.se/en/>), becoming the first American author to do so. (This is the largest financial award in the world for children’s literature, which Katherine noted at the time is funded by Swedish taxpayers, and is not an endowment.) Katherine told the gathering, “Children’s books are vital nourishment on the path to becoming fully human.” Author Johanna Hurwitz, whose biography of Lindgren was published in 1989, also addressed the celebration and wrote about meeting Lindgren for the Guild website <https://childrensbookguild.org/other-activities/johanna-hurwitz-presentation>: “The day following my visit to [Lindgren’s] home, I discovered a set of ten postage stamps each featuring a different character from her books. Modestly, she didn’t even mention them to me.”



The House of Sweden (<http://www.houseofsweden.com>) continues to host regular public concerts and other special events.

ONE TUTOR. ONE CHILD. INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

by Laura Krauss Melmed



This is the motto of Reading Partners, an organization I’ve been volunteering with for the past three years. My weekly sessions with first grade students at Whittier Education Campus have been meaningful and filled with the joy of seeing a student’s hard work pay off in finding the key to literacy.

Reading Partners engages communities in providing students with proven, individualized reading support. The goal of the program is to have students reading at grade level by fourth grade; research shows that students who

accomplish this have a greater opportunity to succeed in school and in life. Reading Partners is currently in 14 metropolitan areas across the United States, including Washington and Baltimore. There are 20 Reading Partners centers in DC schools.

Volunteers are trained to work with students one-on-one for 45-minute sessions, usually once or twice a week. Tutors guide students through a structured, research-based curriculum. On average, Reading Partners students more than double their rate of learning while in the program. In 2016-17, 95 percent of Reading Partners' K-2 students mastered the foundational reading skills needed to read at grade level. Ninety percent of students met or exceeded their end-of-year literacy growth goal.

As authors, illustrators and others deeply involved with children's books, we know the importance of learning to read in securing a child's future. Children who go through the Reading Partners program become not only capable readers, but enthusiastic ones as well. Please consider helping a child achieve this success. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.readingpartners.org, or contact me if you have questions.

PASSING ALONG THE CHICKEN

Some organizations speak of passing the torch. Sometimes it's a pink flamingo. The Children's Book Guild does neither—we pass along a chicken. Our mascot looks more like a colorful rooster, and it sat on my bookshelf for the last year.

Now that the chicken has found a new presidential home at Katy Kelly's, I'd like to thank everyone in the Guild for all you did this past year to make things happen, from the amazing programs featuring authors, illustrators and book specialists, to our Nonfiction Award luncheon celebrating Ann Bausum and the gifts of books to DC Public Schools. Thanks too to members who planted the seed for a new publishing venture, kept our books (the financial ones) in order and provided fulsome accounts of the funny stories and words of wisdom from our speakers. And special thanks also go to Cathy Reef for serving as newsletter editor and keeping us all in the know.

With Katy, our president, and Rhoda Trooboff, our vice president, I know we're all in good hands.

See you in September!

Kem Knapp Sawyer
Past President

JONATHAN BEAN'S EMBRACING STYLE

by J. H. Diehl

"Embraced is how the readers of Jonathan's books often feel," said Alison Morris in her introduction of illustrator Jonathan Bean, the Guild's June speaker at Busboys & Poets. She cited, for example, the apple-pie comfort conjured by the warm palette Bean created for his 2008 Ezra Jack Keats Award winner, *The Apple Pie that Papa Baked*, with text by Lauren Thompson.

Bean spoke to the Guild in meticulous detail about visual literacy, "the way that we can look at an image and talk about an image." When people talk

about style, he said, “they’re really talking about the form an illustration takes.” In other words, he explained, they are referring to the sum of the image’s formal elements: color, gradation, composition, line, edge, shape and repetition. He led the audience through a revealing series of slides of his illustrations to examine the effects produced on the page by the multiple choices he makes to create a mood or underscore a feeling. Bean also described how he works with Pantone colors and makes the separations himself, layering them to achieve his final effect. The process, he said, “forces me to think very clearly about what I’m doing with the color.”

Bean’s style has sometimes been compared to the work of mid-20th-century illustrators Wanda Gag and Virginia Lee Burton, whom he acknowledged as influences. A pivotal moment in his development as artist occurred during his junior year of college, he said, when he illustrated the graveyard scene from the beginning of Dickens’s *Great Expectations*. Bean drew the gravestones vertically; his professor pointed out that the image would feel more oppressive if the stones leaned in. In that moment, Bean said, he understood how drawings on a page could affect people’s feelings.

In another series of slides, he took the audience through his thought process for illustrating a book about moving to a new home. Bean said he “struggled for a while about how to create the sense of time in transitions and how to communicate a sense of busyness and hectic-ness”—until he developed a way to layer transparent drawings, inspired by movie images, “one dissolving into the next, to give a sense of ‘and then this led to that.’” For a different project with a similar theme, “the challenge was to find how to represent a father and young girl moving to a gritty urban environment to make a new life for their family: how to find the right shapes to convey the energy of the city and the passage of the characters through time.”

Bean credited the positive experiences of his childhood in Pennsylvania as a boon to his career as an illustrator. “I have a feeling for a good, loving home. I spent a lot of time observing this one place.” Indeed, Bean’s slide-by-slide presentation showcased his talent for close observation of people and places, and his tremendous ability to translate both human emotions and the natural world into the formal elements of illustration. Of the warm effect he created for the lyrical, folktale-like text of *The Apple Pie that Papa Baked*, for instance, Bean said, “The rhyme is about things coming back and returning,” so he “used curvilinear shapes that are always returning...I had this sudden realization that the world should actually be in the shape of a pie.”

By the end of his talk, the audience was ready to follow the lines of Bean’s fascinating explications further—and at least some of us were in the mood for pie.

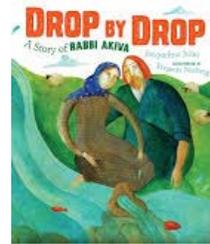
MEMBER NEWS



JOAN WAITES's new book, *An Artist's Night Before Christmas*, will be released on September 6 by Pelican Publishers.

SALLY DAVIES's artwork will be featured on MPT (Maryland Public Television) this fall, on season six of *Artworks*, in the segment "Pop-Up Exhibits." The program will highlight the paintings from Sally's solo exhibit "Global Views: Light & Shadow, Paintings by Sally Davies" at the Torpedo Factory. Notes Sally, "Artist are featured on the *Artworks* special segment by invitation only, so I feel very honored."

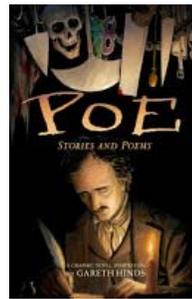
CYNTHIA GRADY is the new poetry editor for SCBWI's *Bulletin*. Says Cynthia, "[SCBWI Executive Director] Lin Oliver was eavesdropping on a conversation within a Facebook poetry group, and we were discussing whether SCBWI supports poets enough. A week later I had an email asking if I'd be willing to take over the poetry submissions. So of course I said 'YES!'"



JACQUELINE JULES is excited to announce the publication of *Drop by Drop: A Story of Rabbi Akiva* (Kar-Ben Publishers). This picture book recalls the struggles of the famous Rabbi Akiva, who learned to read at age 40. Akiva's story demonstrates how complicated subjects can be tackled in small pieces over time. Little by little, like water carving through a stone, we can achieve any goal. For more information about the book, see the post "A Model of Learning" on the Kar-Ben blog: <https://karbenbooks.blogspot.com/2017/07/a-model-of-learning-drop-by-drop-story.html>.

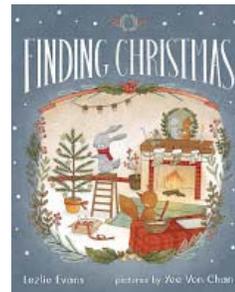


LAURA GEHL's newest book, *Koala Challah*, released in August from Kar-Ben. *Kirkus* called the book, which tells the story of a little koala trying to find her place in the family--and persisting, "warm-spirited family holiday togetherness."



GARETH HIND's *Poe: Stories and Poems* was released on August 1. It has received positive reviews from *Kirkus* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and a starred review from *School Library Journal*. Gareth enjoyed an excellent launch event at Takoma Park Library, and he has more events scheduled around the area. For the latest information see <http://www.garethhinds.com/POE.php>.

MICHELLE Y. GREEN attended SCWBI's regional meeting in August with her 93-year old mother, Willie Pearl Mahone Young, and sister, Adrienne Young-Battle. She spoke about the Tuskegee Airman Project (www.highflight.org) and sold her book *A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie Peanut Johnson*. With her was talented children's book illustrator Johnny Ray Moore. Her marketing director, William E. Holmes, was unable to attend. In other news, Michelle's kidney function is now up to 40 percent, and the kidney transplant is definitely off the table.



LEZLIE EVANS's new book, *Finding Christmas*, illustrated by Yee Von Chan and published by Albert Whitman, will be officially released October 1. Hare, Mouse and Squirrel are putting the finishing touches on their holiday preparations when an unexpected turn of events helps them discover that the best gifts are not always wrapped. Lezlie looks forward to reading this story, along with a couple of others, at the Washington Post's booth at the National Book Festival on September 2.



LULU DELACRE is thrilled with the release of *Us, in Progress: Short Stories*

About *Young Latinos*, on August 29. Notes Lulu, "Since 2007 I've been working on and off on this collection of stories that tackle a range of issues close to my heart, mostly inspired by articles that have appeared in the news. I'm grateful for the warm critical reception it's having, including two starred reviews, from *Booklist* and *Kirkus*. I look forward to sharing and signing the book during the Washington Post's storytime at the National Book Festival on September 2!"



PAIGE BILLIN-FRYE recently completed a sidewalk mural on the storm drain cover at the corner of 17th and Church Streets NW as part of a project sponsored by the Anacostia Watershed Society and the DC Department of Energy and Environment to draw attention to the fact that what goes down the storm drains ends up in the river (#TrashFreeDC). There was an open submission for designs, and four were chosen to be executed over several blocks of 17th Street. The guidelines were that the mural should have an environmental theme and reflect the LGBT character of the neighborhood. So Paige included species of fish and turtles that swim in the Potomac on a background of water in the colors of the rainbow flag. Writes Paige, "I think my career in textbook illustration, making art that is instructional but engaging, prepared me well for this. My design was one of the four chosen, so I got to spend several days sprawled on the sidewalk, painting and chatting with passersby. It was a whole lot of fun. And I have to say, since I'm usually working alone in my studio with only my own worst critic for company, it was a nice change to have people walking by and thanking me for beautifying the neighborhood, complimenting my work, etc.!"



"QUICK LINKS"

The National Network of State Teachers of the Year has assembled a helpful "Social Justice Book List": <http://www.nnstoy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/NNSTOY-Social-Justice-Book-List.pdf>

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>. Laura Elliott will be among September's featured authors.

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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