

GUILD QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2024

The Children's Book Guild of Washington, DC



A learning and sharing community for
DC-area children's literature professionals since 1945

From the Desk of Monica Valentine

Greetings Guild Members,

We're in the home stretch of the 2023-2024 Guild season. My hope is that I will see many of your faces on Thursday, June 20th at Busboys and Poets. We'll finish this year's speaker series with 2023 Schneider Family Book Award winner Christina Harrington, author of *Wild Oak*. I had the pleasure of meeting Christina last month and she is delightful. Don't miss it! We will also have important announcements about Guild leadership next year and the event chosen to replace the Non-Fiction Award program. Thank you to everyone who offered suggestions for a new program and voted for their favorite choices.



This year our Guild events included: A look into how the Library of Congress serves youth and families, 4 incredible author events, a festive post-holiday party, a productive annual business meeting, a panel discussion about relationships with agents, and a terrific writing workshop. A warm thanks goes to Edie Ching, who coordinated the schedule, and to all the members who suggested a featured guest or format for programming and worked with Edie to make it happen. The talent and dedication of Guild members has been on full display this year! I also want to thank our Guild Executive Committee for the many hours spent discussing how to move the Guild forward while maintaining the spirit of this organization and honoring our mission. We are fortunate to have long term members and new members working side by side to

continue our legacy and explore new ideas.

I appreciate each of you for trusting me with leadership of the Guild this year and for doing all that you do for the organization with such skill and passion. I have been honored to serve as your President this year. I am excited about our future, and I look forward to supporting new leadership!

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Hearts of Guild

INTERVIEWS WITH OUR MEMBERS



Tracey Kyle is the author of six rhyming picture books, including *Gaspacho For Nacho* and *The Lucky Grapes: A New Year's Eve Story*. She taught Spanish for 30 years at the secondary level and enjoys sharing her love of the Spanish language and culture with kids. She lives in Virginia with her husband and their two cats, and in her free time likes to read and practice yoga.

What are your goals in the world of children's literature?

My main goal is to teach kids something new, but also entertain them. When I taught middle school, and even high school, I made every effort to incorporate "fun" into the lesson. I want to expose them to things they might not have heard about or experienced, but also connect them to a part of their own culture. My hope is that kids will learn a little Spanish, or perhaps a new tradition, or even be excited to see themselves in a book. I don't know if this is a good thing or a bad thing, but when I have an idea for a story, my first thought is *How can a teacher use this with his or her students?*

What do you love most about your work?

Now that I'm retired, I can do school visits, both virtual and in-person, that I didn't have time for in the past. It keeps me interacting with students. When I was teaching, designing presentations was a big part of my day and I loved it. I still do that now for school visits. It's fabulous getting the kids excited about Spanish language and culture, as well as reading and writing. I also really enjoy the kidlit community and the support of authors in the Guild and the SCBWI, so I'm making an effort to attend more workshops, talk to more authors and keep learning.

Which of your projects has been most important to you, and why?

Of all my books, *Pepe & the Parade: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage* is special for me. I wrote that book with my own students in mind. I had been teaching a class called "Spanish for Fluent Speakers" to 8th graders who were bilingual and learning the history, culture and language of the Spanish-speaking world. So in September when I said, "Hey! Hispanic Heritage Month is coming up! Let's do something fun!" and they stared at me, confused, I knew we needed a lesson. That lesson eventually became *Pepe & the Parade*. The names of Pepe's friends were the names of students in that class. I'm not Latina, so writing that story required a lot of care and research. When I read it, the Latino kids light up at the mention of their countries, and the non-Hispanic students enjoy the connection to their Hispanic friends.

What are you up to right now?

Right after I retired, I spent late fall translating *Pepe & the Parade* into Spanish. *Pepe y el Desfile: Una Celebración de la Herencia Hispana* comes out September 3rd, right on time for Hispanic Heritage Month, and I'm super-excited. I'm slowly working on a few more stories; it takes me time to find the right angle. I'll be visiting a few schools over the next few months, and I also took over as the Social Media Liaison for the Mid-Atlantic SCBWI. The thing taking up most of my time, however, is the kitten we recently adopted. She is into everything!

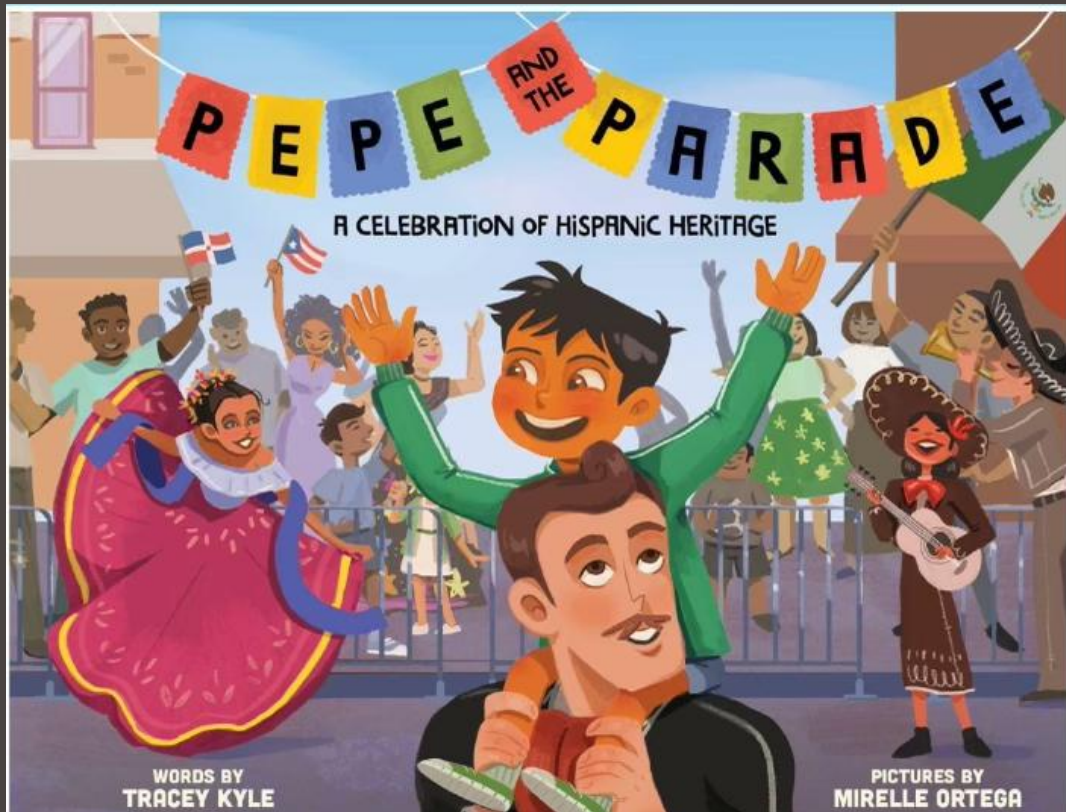
What aspects of being a Guild member have been most supportive to you and your work?

For me, the Speaker Series has been fabulous! I love to hear authors talk about their research, the writing process, and the background of a book's publication. I also love our luncheons. I'm very social, and in general I think kidlit authors are incredibly supportive of one another. Our in-person events are a way to talk shop, see the books members have published, and network. I've met so many talented kidlit writers.

Do you have any ideas/suggestions for ways the Guild can better serve members and the chil-lit community?

I think authors are required to do more and more each year for their books. It would be valuable to hear speakers who are experts in marketing and publicity. I'd also like more in-person gatherings.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Tracey.



THANK YOU FOR READING!

For the newsletter archive, click [here](#). We've enjoyed bringing these missives to you for the past three years. Be well!

Jane Harrington & Kitson Jazyuka

The Children's Book Guild of Washington DC



The Children's Book Guild | Washington DC | Washington, DC 20001 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!
