

Children's Book Guild News



CHILDREN'S
BOOK GUILD
of WASHINGTON, DC

Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

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Saturday, April 1, 2023

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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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April 2023

SPEAKER SERIES: APRIL

Megan Wagner Lloyd & Michelle Mee Nutter

Thursday, April 13th
7pm ET via ZOOM

This month our Children's Book Guild Speaker Series will feature author Megan Wagner Lloyd and illustrator Michelle Mee Nutter. Megan and Michelle, co-creators of Indie Bestselling middle grade graphic novels, will share with us their process of collaborating as author and illustrator, how their partnership came to be and more!



Megan is the author of the graphic novels *Allergic* and *Squished*, co-created with Michelle, and the *Super Pancake* graphic novel series, co-created with illustrator Abhi Alwar. Megan is also the author of the children's novel *Haven: A Small Cat's Big Adventure*, the picture book *Finding Wild*, illustrated by Abigail Halpin, and several more picture books. She lives with her family in the Washington DC area.

Michelle is a two time Indie Bestseller and Eisner Nominated cartoonist. In addition to co-creating *Allergic* and *Squished*, she has illustrated two picture books, *Peyton Picks the Perfect Pie*, written by Jack Bishop, and *The Girl Who Built an Ocean*, written by Jess Keating.

Michelle got her BFA in Illustration from Massachusetts College of Art & Design in Boston. She remains in the Boston area while working on her next graphic novels. You can stay up to date with her projects and process through Instagram and TikTok @buttersketch.



Register Here

You'll want this on your calendar, too!

BOOK GUILD NONFICTION AWARD EVENT



By Abby McGanney Nolan

Please save the date for the next Nonfiction Award event. We will be honoring author/illustrator Don

Brown on Thursday, May 18th, at 12 noon ET. The price for the event is \$30 per person, and you will soon be receiving information about how to register. It will be held at our usual in-person, non-Zoom location: Busboys and Poets, 450 K Street, NW, Washington, DC. We hope you can attend!



In his long and wide-ranging career, Don Brown has written and illustrated books about pioneers, explorers, and historical events, making them immediate and memorable to young readers. In many of his books, he has delved into difficult episodes of American history, such as the 1918 flu epidemic, the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, Hurricane Katrina's impact on New Orleans, and the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He has created distinctive, affecting images of damage and destruction, but he balances them with clear explanations of the world and of the people who made positive, often heroic, contributions under great stress. His latest book addresses a continuing crisis, the War in Ukraine, by focusing on one city's struggles. Like *The Unwanted*, Brown's 2018 book about Syrian refugees, *83 Days in Mariupol: A War Diary*, helps teenagers see beyond their own national borders.

In case you missed it...

MARCH SPEAKER SERIES RECAP

By Betsy Kraft

Award-winning Guild author Terry Catusus Jennings spoke at the March luncheon, opening her remarks with a tribute to the support she has received from fellow members and her association with the group's mission to provide light and hope to young readers.

Drawing on her own experience as a young immigrant from Cuba, Jennings told of the painful experience of attending school in the U.S. before she knew English. Later, after having learned her new language, she was accused of plagiarism because she used the word "strident" in a creative writing assignment. She could not possibly know the word, the teacher assumed, because she was born and raised in another, non-English speaking culture.

To avoid being ostracized by her peers Jennings did not tell her classmates she was from Cuba and accepted being referred to as "olive-skinned." But when she began to write stories for children, she realized the richness of her own background and shared her experiences in books like *The Little House of Hope*, a Junior Literary Guild Selection, and her series *Definitely Dominguita*, named a Best Book of 2021.

Jennings shared some of her views about writing for or about marginalized children or those of different backgrounds. Avoid labels, she cautioned, and don't "hit readers over the head" by identifying the character's ethnicity or differences too early in the book. First give the character a chance to establish a personality, showing their interests, sense of humor, or difficulties.

Drawing from the motto followed by medical doctors she concluded with: "First, do no harm." Not bad advice in writing--and in life.

So glad to have you aboard!

NEW GUILD MEMBER: Jonathan Roth

The Children's Book Guild Membership Committee crew landed another out-of-this-world author/illustrator, Jonathan Roth. Check out [his website](#) to learn more about him (e.g., "he never smooshes spiders") and his books (the *Beep and Bob* and *Rover and Speck* series).

From Jonathan: "Thank you for welcoming me into the Children's Book Guild! Having a community of children's book creators and enthusiasts has been important to me ever since I began this journey. Through SCBWI, local book events, and a recurring meetup that I organize, I have been lucky to meet many of you already, and I look forward to connecting if I haven't. When I'm not teaching art to elementary kids in Montgomery County Public Schools, I can be found writing and illustrating chapter books, graphic novels and picture books. My published books so far all seem to have a space theme, but I'm partial to Earthly matters too. I also love to do school visits and presentations to help inspire young readers! I live in Rockville with my wife Lisa and our cat Tucker."



If you're looking to chil-lit...

TRY MONDAY MORNING MEDITATIONS

Gareth Hinds is organizing a weekly Zoom meditation group for people in the children's literature world. Sessions are Monday mornings from 11:30am-12:00pm, and are run by authors who are also experienced meditators from different traditions (including Gareth himself plus Mary Amato, Laurie Calkhoven, and Padma Venkatraman). All levels of experience are welcome. Just fill out [this form](#) if interested.

CBC wants a few good

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD COORDINATORS

FROM THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL (CBC): We are now accepting applications for coordinators for the 2024 Children's Favorites, Young Adult Favorites, Teacher Favorites, and Librarian Favorites Award Lists. This is a detailed, intensive, and multi-step process from August to March with the goal of creating 12 lists of 30 books each. These award lists span four grade categories where each book is read and rated by three distinct groups: young people, teachers, and librarians. These will create the Favorites Awards, a great nationwide resource for teachers, librarians, and booksellers since 1975. We will choose 80 schools and libraries across all 50 states to receive books starting this August to be stickered, cataloged, displayed, and promoted to the young people in your school or library. Due to the scope of the work, it is most useful for teachers and the school librarian to team up, or in a public library setting, to form a team. For booksellers, a school, library, or local literacy partner is needed.

Email sommer.wissner@cbcbooks.org with questions about the process and application.

And finally, here's the ALWAYS AMAZING...

MEMBER NEWS ROUNDUP

Shout Mouse Press announces a [launch party in DC](#) on April 4th at 6pm for *What It Cost Us: Stories of Pandemic and Protest in DC*, a collaborative novel by ten diverse young writers who recreate the historic year 2020 through fictional stories inspired by their own lived experiences. Told chronologically from the onset of the pandemic to the insurrection of January 6th, their stories of change and resilience are accompanied by maps, social media, original artwork, and real-life headlines to create an immersive experience of an unprecedented coming of age. Pre-order the book from [Shout Mouse Press](#). Reviewers can request the book on [Edelweiss](#).



Laura Elliott (L.M.) is thrilled to share the publication of *Bea and the New Deal Horse*, an older middle-grade/younger YA historical fiction set in Virginia during the Depression, a tale about persistence, hope, and found family. Elliott calls it her homage to the breathtaking symbiosis possible between horse and rider, the no-nonsense devotion of fierce trainers for their students, women who embody the best of old-school feminism and sisterhood.

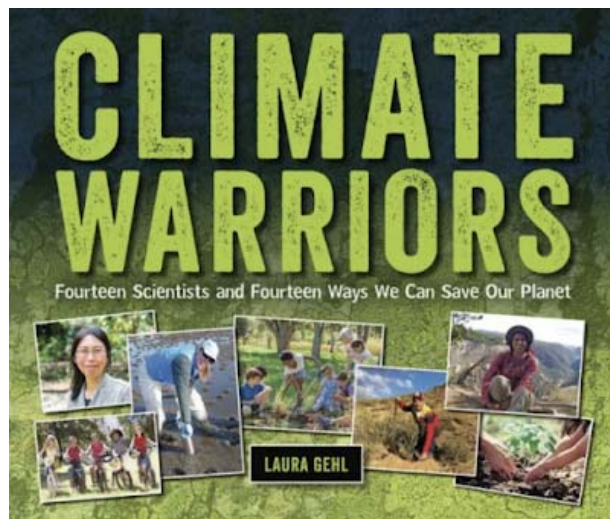
Elliott will speak at [Scrawl Books](#) in Reston Thursday April 6th at 6pm with [Lift Me Up!](#) They'll discuss the healing power of horses and the organization's therapeutic horseback riding programs. LiftMeUp! seeks "to help people develop physically, mentally, and emotionally in a caring environment that empowers the rider in a very different way from traditional therapy, helping students sit and stand unassisted, walk independently, improve their focus and attention span and enhance social and communication skills."



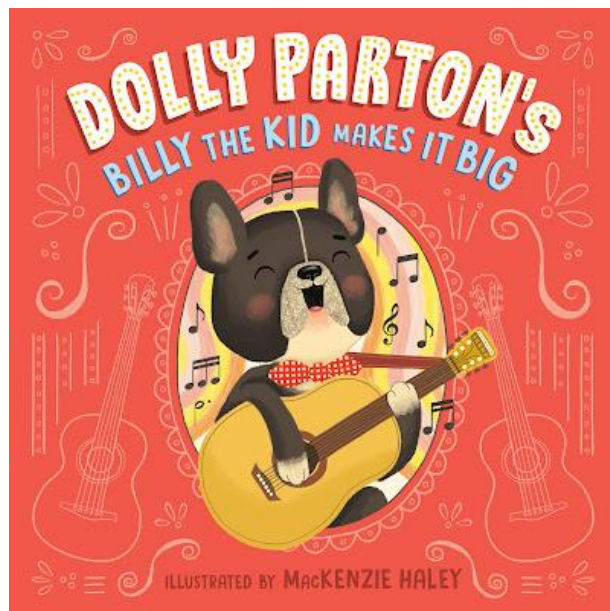
Moira Rose Donohue is pleased to announce that National Geographic will be releasing on April 4th her title *Can't Get Enough Dog Stuff*, co-written with Stephanie Gibeault



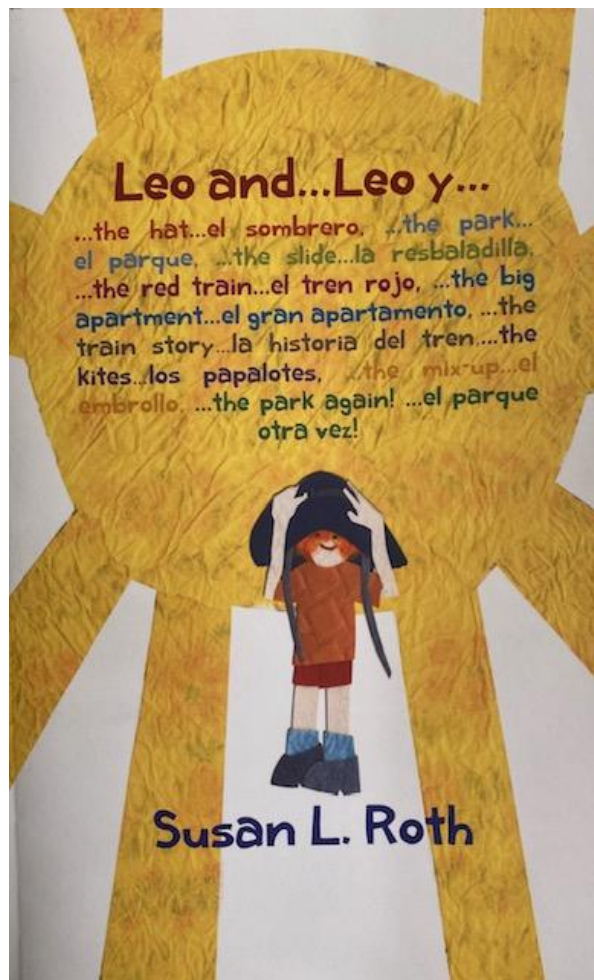
Laura Gehl's first middle-grade nonfiction, *Climate Warriors*, is out this month from Millbrook/Lerner. Kirkus Reviews calls it "practical, creative, and empowering," and says, "Unlike many books on climate change, this one emphasizes possibility and hope over doom." From Booklist: "The featured climate warriors are not only a balanced mix of men and women scientists with racial and ethnic diversity, but they also depict an amazing array of science itself, from ecology and materials science to psychology and economics."



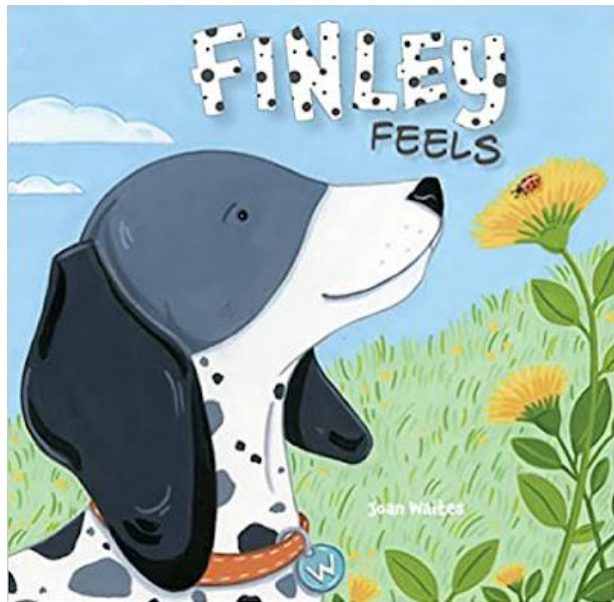
Erica S. Perl has a new picture book coming out on April 25th, with a co-author who needs no introduction: *Dolly Parton! Billy the Kid Makes It Big*, illustrated by MacKenzie Haley, is about the adventures of Dolly Parton's "official god dog," a French bulldog named Billy the Kid (who is also an [Instagram influencer of sorts](#)). Like many country-music-loving pups, Billy dreams of forming his own band. However, when he arrives in Nashville, the welcome is not as warm as he might have hoped. In time, and with the help of some new friends, Billy finally feels ready to take the stage. But does this little dog have what it takes to make it big?



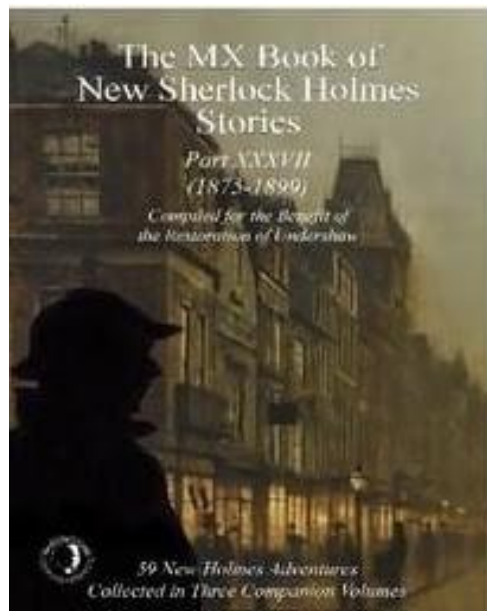
Susan L. Roth's newest book is the bilingual *Leo and...Leo y...*, a collection "for the little kid who wants a big book, 9 picture books in 1 volume." Should be out this month from Barranca Press.



Joan Waites' first author-illustrated board book, *Finley Feels*, will be released on April 28th from Schiffer Kids Publishing. "Follow along with this little dog as he deals with all the emotions of being adopted. From initially feeling shy and curious to eventually feeling playful and happy, Finley slowly adjusts to his new home and a jealous kitty. Through playful illustrations, young readers will easily identify with this sweet puppy, especially the excitement he feels when his new best friend comes home for school. All pets deserve a loving home, and this adoption story leaves you feeling just as loved as Finley is by his new family."



Brenda Seabrooke's 15th (yes, 15th!) Sherlock Holmes tale has been published in *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories, Part XXXVII (1875-1899)*.



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