

# Children's Book Guild News



CHILDREN'S  
BOOK GUILD  
of WASHINGTON, DC

## Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

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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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## June 2022

And now for our season finale:

### Stuck in the Middle with Steven Weinberg Thursday, June 16th, 1pm via ZOOM

Our June meeting will be a conversation with Steven Weinberg, author and illustrator of the middle grade romp *The Middle Kid*. His children's books have been called "brilliant" by Dav Pilkey, "thrillingly shameless" by the *New York Times*, "guaranteed to fuel read aloud energy" by *Publisher's Weekly*, and have won awards and distinctions such as the Virginia Reader's Choice Award (*You Must Be This Tall*), YALSA Reader's Choice (*To Timbuktu*), the Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection (*Astronauts: Mission One*), *The Today Show's* Holiday Pick (*Big Job* series), and *Parents Magazine* Best Children's Book 2021 (*Washer & Dryer's Big Job*).



Weinberg is a writer, illustrator, and painter in the Catskill Mountains of New York. His work has appeared everywhere from books to beer cans to the Smithsonian. His fish and landscape paintings are shown regularly at Clove & Creek in Kingston and Hudson, NY. His fish have been featured in *Gray's Sporting Journal*, on the cover of Thomas McGuane's fly fishing classic *The Longest Silence*, and are on display at Jimmy Kimmel's fishing resort, South Fork Lodge.

Along with his wife Casey Scieszka, he owns and operates the Spruceton Inn: a Catskills Bed and Bar. Their annual Artist Residency has hosted more than 60 artists and counting.

Our donation this month will be to WE NEED DIVERSE BOOKS, an organization needing our support now more than ever.

**REGISTER HERE**

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**President's Letter**

Hello Guild members,

It was so nice to see so many of you in person at our Guild Nonfiction Award luncheon, honoring our 2022 winner, Gail Jarrow. And so nice to return to Busboys and Poets (and their yummy cookies!). Many thanks to the award committee, which was chaired by Abby Nolan with members Yukari Matsuyama, Catherine Reef, and Liane Rosenblatt. Thanks also to Mary Amato for doing so much work on this event, to Monica Valentine for receiving Mary's baton and carrying it to the finish line. And thanks to everyone who helped make this a successful event, including Karen Leggett, Ann McCallum Staats, Terry Jennings, Paige Billin-Frye, Karen Deans, and many more.



I look forward to the final two events on this year's Guild calendar: our rescheduled holiday party and our final meeting of the year, featuring author/illustrator Steven Weinberg. Please note that the Guild chicken (who I call "Loretta") has moved from my house to Jason's a little early this year, since our final Guild meeting will be online. Loretta and I enjoyed our time together, and I greatly appreciate the time I have had serving the Guild in this capacity. It gave me the chance to get to know some of you much better, and to feel connected to all of you in a way that has been a comfort during these somewhat isolating times. Thanks for being in the Guild. And, especially if you're new, please consider getting more involved. I can attest that it is worth it!

Erica

**Guild JUNE Holiday Party FAQ**

**Q: Wait... the Guild Holiday party is in June?**

**A: That's right! We didn't have our annual party in December. So, better late than never!**

**Q: Where is it? When is it?**

**A:** It's at [Denizen's Brewing Company](#), which is located at 1115 East-West Highway in Silver Spring, MD, on Sunday June 12th from 5-7 pm.

**Q:** Is there free parking? Is it accessible? Is the space outdoors or indoors?

**A:** Yes to all! The lower taproom, where we'll be, has indoor and outdoor space, and is fully ADA accessible. The best entrance for folks who are not able to use stairs is through the alley that connects to Blair Mill Way and Georgia Avenue. The most convenient free [parking](#) is the Kennett Street Garage, which is right behind Denizen's. If you need further information, call Denizen's at (301) 557-9818.

**Q:** Will there be food and drinks available?

**A:** Some light snacks will be provided. Drinks and additional food will be available for purchase.

**Q:** Can I bring a guest?

**A:** Absolutely! We're just setting an expectation that everyone who attends be fully vaccinated and boosted and only come if they're feeling healthy.

For more information and to RSVP, [here's the evite](#). See you there!

## Nonfiction Award Event Recap:

### Kids Require More Critical Thinking Skills Than Ever

*by Karen Leggett*



As a child, [Gail Jarrow](#) loved mysteries but her love of reading disappeared in middle school when teachers and librarians gave her adult books that simply didn't hold her interest. Later she became determined to write books "that will make kids want to turn the page" – especially those middle grade and young adult readers. Jarrow's ability to do just that earned her the Children's Book Guild 2022 Nonfiction Award, celebrated on May 19th at Busboys and Poets restaurant in Washington, DC. The celebration was the Guild's first in-

person luncheon since the pandemic.

Jarrow's books often delve into medical mysteries with a focus on people who bucked conventional wisdom. "Medical facts can take a long time to be recognized," says the writer who majored in zoology. In *Ambushed*, Jarrow tells the story of President James Garfield's assassination and the fact that he was killed not by a bullet but by faulty diagnoses and outdated treatments. With tragic irony, Jarrow paraphrased Garfield's inaugural address, in which he said that "if next generation is blinded by ignorance, the fall of the republic will be

certain.”\*

In *Poison Eaters*, Jarrow tells the story of chemist Harvey Washington Wiley’s campaign to remove harmful chemicals from foods in cans and jars, ultimately leading to the creation of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). *American Murderer*, coming out in September 2022, will be the newest title in her Medical Fiascoes series. It examines the parasite hookworm and how it sickened workers in the American South during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a topic she researched during the COVID pandemic.

Jarrow explained that she uses fiction techniques to tell nonfiction stories, but the most important part of her work is research. She wants young readers to learn not only how to locate information but evaluate it – especially as the Internet increasingly exposes readers to unreliable information. She wants “kids to be critical thinkers like the scientists in my book,” adding that “kids require more critical thinking skills than ever.”

Jarrow’s editor at Calkins Creek called her a “great collaborator, a great researcher and a better and better writer.” Abby Nolan, chairing the Guild’s Nonfiction Award committee, said Jarrow writes “nonfiction with narrative verve, fascinating facts, relevant information and wisdom.”

The Guild Award honors an author or author-illustrator “whose total work has contributed significantly to the quality of nonfiction for children.” The Nonfiction Award committee was chaired by Abby Nolan with members Yukari Matsuyama, Catherine Reef and Liane Rosenblatt.



Congratulations Gail!

[\\*President Garfield’s Inaugural Address](#)

## 2022 Youth Literacy Grants Report

by *Kem Sawyer & Karen Leggett*

For the last eight years, the Children’s Book Guild has awarded grants to schools to purchase books for their libraries, media centers, or classrooms. In 2022, we chose four schools:

Simon Elementary and Truesdell Elementary in Washington, DC, Springhill Lake Elementary in Greenbelt, and St. Francis International School in Silver Spring. We are grateful to members and friends of the Guild Caroline Brewer, Edie Ching, Amy Hansen, and Valerie Tripp for their recommendations.



Thank you to the librarians from these schools for making the book selections: Nikita Campbell, Carrie Gardner, Eboni Henry, and Carolyn Johnson. We are so glad several could join us at the Nonfiction Award Event. (Eboni Henry, Carolyn Johnson, and Nikita Campbell are pictured.)



Many thanks to Guild members for making these grants possible, to First Book for graciously facilitating the book purchases, and to librarians and teachers who share their love of books with Metro-area children—providing support in troubled times and the greatest gifts of all: stories that touch your heart or make you laugh.

Guild members agreed to add \$500 to this year's Youth Literacy Awards to benefit Afghan refugee children. [Hoopoe Books](#) and its [Share Literacy](#) nonprofit arm donated 75 paperback bilingual books (English-Dari or English-Pashto) to this project, and 158 titles were purchased from First Book, for a total of 237 books. These are being divided among four organizations housing Afghan refugee families:

- [Do Kind Works](#) summer program in Montgomery County
- [Guru Gobind Singh Foundation](#) in Rockville
- [Homes Not Borders](#) in Prince George's County
- [Lutheran Social Services in the National Capital Area](#)

Any of these organizations welcome additional donations of books or money – and Share Literacy is often seeking organizations which can use its bilingual books.

## Invite: Eat Local Read Local

*From Maggie Phalen, Loudon County Public Library*

We would like to invite you to participate in our annual Eat Local Read Local event, at Cascades Library in Loudoun County on Saturday, October 15th from 11:00am-2:00pm. We invite writers of fiction and nonfiction for adults, teens, and children to participate, and authors are invited to sell their works as part of the event. This is a free event for both authors and the public, and every year we strive to make it bigger and better than the year before.

Eat Local Read Local provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the many talented authors, illustrators, food trucks, and restaurants in our region. We will have vendors, food trucks, and musicians, all set up outside in our parking lot under tents. The library will provide one table per author, free of cost. Authors who would like to offer books for sale are responsible for providing the books and for having change

available. Whether or not we will have story times for children's authors will be decided at a later date as we are striving to hold the entire event outside.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of this event, please respond to the email address below by August 1st with your name as you would like it to appear in our program, your preferred email address, and your daytime phone number. If you are a children's author, please let us know if you would be interested in giving a 10-minute storytime – we will make decisions based on interest, availability, and of course, safety.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or anything else that is on your mind. [Margaret.Phalen@loudoun.gov](mailto:Margaret.Phalen@loudoun.gov)

## Member News

Lacey Dunham, Director of Education Programs, wants to share news of current opportunities at the PEN/Faulkner Foundation: [Lisa Page Writing Workshop Fellow](#) is open to applications through June 15th, and they'll also be hiring 2-3 Writers in Residence to work one-on-one with a single classroom of students in the coming school year. (The latter positions won't open until the summer.)



Caroline Brewer and [Reycraft Books](#) celebrated Cover Reveal Day in early May for *Say Their Names*, a poetic picture book about a 7-year-old girl's response to police killings. *Say Their Names* is written through the eyes, courage, and convictions of a child, in a child's voice. It's due out in late August and features illustrations by [Brooklyn Artist Adrian Brandon](#). You can pre-order [your copies of Say Their Names here](#).

Laura Gehl has a new early reader, *Pig Makes Art*, illustrated by Fred Blunt, out from Simon & Schuster. Laura also has a new board book, *Odd Birds*, out from Abrams, which celebrates some of the world's weirdest birds, with photographs of each bird in addition to Gareth Lucas' stunning illustrations. The minimal rhyming text is supplemented by additional information in the back matter.



Zara González Hoang has illustrated a new book coming out on August 16th from Abrams Appleseed. Written by Linda Elovitz Marshall, *Measuring a Year: A Rosh Hashanah Story* is a lyrical look back at the year passed and all the things learned and experienced.



Mary Bowman-Kruhm has a new book out, *Hatari! Danger!*, co-authored with Kenyan friend and safari guide Jackson Liaram. Publication date is July 2022.

In honor of AAPI Month, [Ginger Park](#) presented at the Gaithersburg Book Festival on May 21st. She read from both *The Royal Bee* and *The*

**Hundred Choices Department Store.** Ginger will be at the **Chesapeake Children's Book Festival** on Saturday, June 11th from 10am-2pm.



Terry Jennings' picture book (five years in the making!) *The Little House of Hope* and its translation *La casita de esperanza* will be released on June 14th. It is a Neal Porter, Holiday House book, and it is illustrated by award-winning Raúl Colón. It tells the story of Terry's own family's immigration to the United States. Terry will be signing books at ALA on Sunday, June 26th, 1-1:30pm.

SCBWI MidAtlantic will have a booth at ALA on Saturday and Sunday, June 25th & 26th. If you're there, stop by!

Susan Stockdale is happy to announce that an English-only version of her bilingual picture books *Stripes of All Types* and *Spectacular Spots* will be published in paperback on June 22nd by Peachtree Publishing Company.



Erica Perl is excited to share two new books that will be published in August. *Truth or Lie: Dogs!* is the next book in her popular Truth or Lie! nonfiction series, and it will be published by Random House Children's Books. In addition, Erica is the co-author, with R.J. Palacio, of *White Bird: The Novel*, which will be published by Knopf. This prose novel is based on the best-selling, award-winning graphic novel, *White Bird* (by R.J. Palacio). The novel's publication will precede the fall release of the major

motion picture version of *White Bird*, starring Helen Mirren, Gillian Anderson, and Bryce Gheisar.



Ann McCallum Staats' second book in the Women of Power series will be released July 19th. The book, entitled *High Flyers: 15 Inspiring Women Aviators and Astronauts*, is based on personal interviews with a senator, commercial and jet pilots, and astronauts. Each chapter describes one person's accomplishments, from humble beginnings to incredible leadership. The subjects are diverse high-flyers, dreamers and doers who believed, despite the odds, that soaring is possible

Ann Bonwill and Lenore Appelhans have an in-store event at One More Page Books in Arlington VA on July 30th at 2pm to celebrate their new releases, both picture books: *Thursday* by Ann, and *The Family Business* by Lenore. [Register here.](#)



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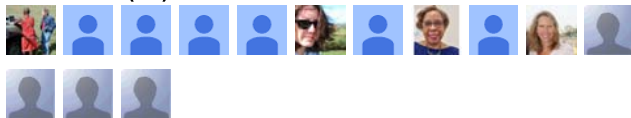
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