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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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Friday, February 24, 2017

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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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March 2017

THE POWER OF STORY AND THE PROCESS OF GETTING THERE: A LOOK AT DIFFERENT WAYS OF TELLING STORIES



Deborah Taylor, coordinator of school and student services for the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, noted reviewer and library and literacy advocate, will moderate a panel of Guild members to explore different ways stories are told: through narrative nonfiction, traditional novels and graphic novels. On the panel will be narrative nonfiction writer Catherine Reef, novelist Phyllis Reynolds

Naylor and graphic novelist Alexis Frederick-Frost.

Catherine Reef finds her stirring stories in our shared past. She has written more than 40 books for young people and adults, among them *The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne*; *Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life*; and, most recently, *Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse*. In November Clarion will release her newest book, *Victoria: Portrait of a Queen*. Catherine has received the Sydney Taylor Award, the Joan G. Sugarman Award and Jefferson Cup, Orbis Pictus and National Jewish Book Award honors. In addition, her books often appear on year-end "best" lists. Catherine lives and works in College Park, Md.



Phyllis Reynolds Naylor is the author of more than 145 books for children, teens and adults, including the popular 12-book *Boys vs. Girls* series and the 28-volume *Alice* series, which follows a girl named Alice McKinley and her friends from girlhood into adulthood. Critically acclaimed and beloved by readers, the "Alice" books also are among the frequently challenged books in the United States because of Naylor's frank discussions of teens and sexuality, bullying and racism.



In 1992, Phyllis won the Newbery Medal for *Shiloh*, the story of a young boy and the beagle he rescues from an abusive home. *Shiloh* was followed by three sequels: *Shiloh Season*, *Saving Shiloh* and *A Shiloh Christmas*. The first three *Shiloh* books were made into films. Phyllis's latest children's book is *Going*

Where It's Dark, released in January 2016; she has another book, *Zack and the Turkey Attack!*, due out in October.

Alexis Frederick-Frost is coauthor and illustrator of the critically acclaimed *Adventures in Cartooning* series of graphic novels and picture books. Combining instructional material and an exciting comic, *Adventures in Cartooning: How To Turn Your Doodles into Comics* was named a Top Ten Graphic Novel and Top Ten Art Book for Kids by *Booklist*. Called "a rather stupendous new high for children's graphic novels," this boundary-blurring book has encouraged many young artists to create their own comics.

Hocus Focus, the latest in a series of genre-expanding publications cowritten and illustrated by Alexis, uses sequential art in a picture-book format. Utilizing a simplified panel structure and accessible writing, these hilarious stories appeal to young readers. Illustrated end papers provide drawing instructions for the main characters, inspiring a new generation of illustrators to draw. A graduate from the inaugural class of the Center for Cartoon Studies, Alexis lives with his wife in Gaithersburg, Md.



Date: Thursday, March 16

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Chevy Chase Neighborhood Library
5625 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20015

Metro: Friendship Heights Station

Parking: Parking is available behind the community center near the library.

Menu: \$10 (\$11 when paid online via PayPal)

A light dinner from local specialty restaurant Julia's Empanadas will be provided. A vegetarian option is available. If you want a vegetarian meal, please mention it when you RSVP.


Note: the March business meeting is open to Guild members only.

And remember: the April 29 Nonfiction Award celebration is fast approaching. Please bring books for the donation baskets to the March meeting.

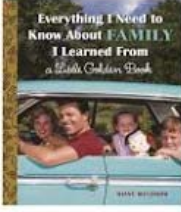

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IN THIS ISSUE:

1. A Celebration of Golden Books
2. Library of Congress Literacy Awards: Applications Being Accepted
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Celebrate 75 Years of Golden Books!





Join the conversation with authors
Diane Muldrow and **Leonard Marcus**
 surrounded by the beautiful art of Golden Books' artist, Aurelius Battaglia.

We are grateful to the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities for supporting the art and recent restoration of the Battaglia murals.

Thursday, March 9
7 p.m.
Mount Pleasant Library

Books will be available for purchase and signing.
 This program is for adults.



Mt Pleasant Library
 3160 16th St NW Washington, DC 20010
 202-671-3125
dclibrary.org/mtpleasant

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS LITERACY AWARDS: APPLY NOW

The Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program is now accepting applications. The Literacy Awards Program supports organizations working to promote literacy, both in the United States and worldwide, and is made possible through the generosity of David M. Rubenstein.

Three prizes will be awarded in 2017:

The David M. Rubenstein Prize (\$150,000) is awarded for an outstanding and measurable contribution to increasing literacy levels to an organization based either inside or outside the United States that has demonstrated exceptional and sustained depth in its commitment to the advancement of literacy.

The American Prize (\$50,000) is awarded for a significant and measurable contribution to increasing literacy levels or the national awareness of the importance of literacy to an organization that is based in the United States.

The International Prize (\$50,000) is awarded for a significant and measurable contribution to increasing literacy levels to an organization based outside the United States.

Application rules and a downloadable application form may be accessed at www.read.gov/literacyawards/. Applications must be received no later than midnight on March 31, 2017, Eastern Standard Time.

AFRICA ACCESS AND FIRST BOOK: TWO MEMBER NONPROFITS SUCCEEDING IN THEIR MISSION TO IMPROVE LITERACY AND DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

by J. H. Diehl

On Thursday, February 16, the Guild's scheduled meeting date, its regular venue, Busboys & Poets, closed for A Day Without Immigrants, the national strike. The Guild, in solidarity, selected not to relocate to another restaurant and instead convened for a brown-bag lunch in a meeting room at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace. Kudos to Guild President Kem Sawyer and the other board members who made this last-minute switch happen smoothly.

Appropriately, the February program concerned the work of Brenda Randolph and Kyle Zimmer, founders of nonprofits that are organizational members of the Children's Book Guild. Both focus on diversity in children's literature and on meeting the needs of our country's increasingly diverse student population.

Randolph, founder of Africa Access, began her talk with moving recollections of childhood experiences in segregated schools and public libraries in Richmond, Va. Randolph's background motivated her powerfully when she worked as a librarian and the only black staff member at an affluent, mainly white elementary school in a Boston suburb. She described a poignant moment when the mother of one of the school's few black students came to her to complain about the racist portrait of African characters in a children's classic in the library collection, *Dr. Doolittle*. From that day forward, Randolph began studying representations of Africa and African people in the literature published for children in the United States. In graduate school, she studied Africa's media image in the West and the ways in which literary stereotypes have been exploited to maintain a racist status quo. Though the world has changed, she said, some newer books still recycle old stereotypes or use outdated imagery to make statements of casual disrespect.

In 1989, Randolph founded Africa Access so that books published about Africa in the United States could be reviewed by people with expert knowledge of the region. Subsequently, "to celebrate books that get it right," she said, Randolph created the Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA). "We try to recognize as many books as we can," she noted. Sponsored jointly by Africa Access and the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association, CABA is now in its 25th year. In the days leading up to the award event, First Book and other organizations bring CABA winners into schools for author visits. Randolph encouraged Guild members to attend the 2017 CABA dinner on Friday, November 3, at St. Francis Hall. The following day, the celebration will continue with a festival including activities for children.

Africa Access also leads professional development workshops for scholars and teachers and offers library programs for children. Read Africa Week

brings books and resource kits into libraries so that children can learn about a particular country in Africa. The 2017 country focus is Ghana. Information about Africa Access and CABA can be found at <http://africaaccessreview.org/>.

First Book, founded by Kyle Zimmer, is also celebrating its 25th year. In those 25 years, it has distributed 160 million children's books in 30 countries. The organization reaches 3 million kids annually, Zimmer said. She cited two staggering current statistics: more than 50 percent of kids in U.S. public schools are from low-income families, and 79 percent of fourth graders from those families are reading below proficiency.

First Book's goal, Zimmer said, is "to use business strategies to make an impact on social issues." The organization has developed two distribution models to "crack open the book market so every kid and educator has access to books and resources they need." One, the National Book Bank, essentially serves as a way for publishers to manage the 30 percent of published print inventory that gets returned, which publishers typically find costly and time-consuming. First Book relieves the problem by taking on the excess inventory, storing it in donated warehouse space around the country and then giving it away to qualifying classrooms for only the cost of shipping and handling.

The second model, The First Book Marketplace, started 10 years ago. Zimmer called this ecommerce site "the most important thing we do." First Book commits to purchasing large quantities of high-quality titles from a publisher—a million dollars' worth—on a nonreturnable basis. "When you say that to publishers in New York, choirs of angels sing," she said.

In exchange for its nonreturnable bulk purchases, First Book negotiates low prices. In order not to undercut the retail market, however, First Book makes its discounts available only to qualifying schools and programs serving children in need. As a result, First Book has become "one of the largest specialty book buyers in the U.S." and can exert influence on the market. For example, Zimmer said, First Book once requested a bilingual edition of *Goodnight Moon*. At the time, such a book did not exist. When First Book committed to purchasing 30,000 copies, the publisher complied. Subsequently, that bilingual version became widely available. First Book's Marketplace model, Zimmer said, "reduces risks for publishers to expand diverse offerings," which in turn helps to build "new and future book audiences."

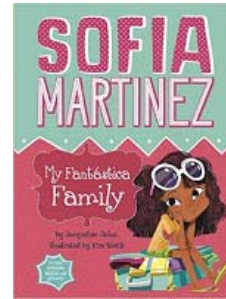
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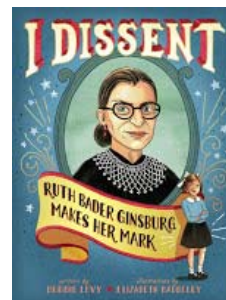
On Valentine's Day, National Geographic Kids released MOIRA ROSE DONAHUE's new chapter book, *Dog on a Bike!*



On March 1, Peachtree is releasing FRED BOWEN's new basketball book, *Outside Shot*. This is Fred's 22nd book.



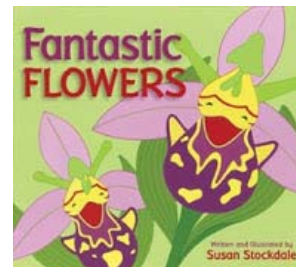
JACQUELINE JULES is excited to share the newest release in her Sofia Martinez series, *My Fantástica Family*. Sofia Martinez loves her *familia*! Her cousins, aunts, uncles and *abuela* are a huge part of her life. Whether at a sunny beach or stuck in a dark house without electricity, the Martinez family knows how to make the best of every situation. Join Sofia and her *fantástica familia* on three fun adventures in this early chapter book, which includes a Spanish glossary.



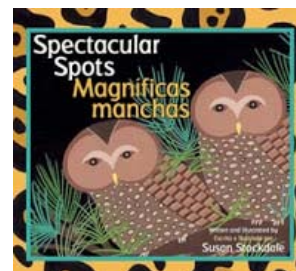
I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark, by DEBBIE LEVY, and *Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse*, by CATHERINE REEF, have been selected as Notable Social Studies Trade Books for 2017.



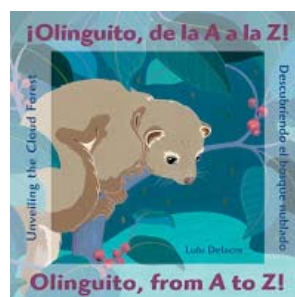
Also, Catherine's book *The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne* is on YALSA's 2017 list of Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults.



SUSAN STOCKDALE is thrilled to announce the publication of two new picture books: a bilingual English/Spanish *Spectacular Spots/Magnificas Manchas*, and *Fantastic Flowers*, which celebrates flowers that resemble other things, creatures and even people. *Kirkus* called *Fantastic Flowers* “optically striking” and “a book to closely pore over.” Susan invites Guild members to her book launch events at [Hooray for Books!](#) on March 1, [Politics & Prose](#) on March 7, [Takoma Park Maryland Library](#) on March 8, the 2017 [SCBWI MD/DE/WV Annual Conference](#) on March 18 and the 2017 [SoMIRAC Annual Conference](#) on March 29.



Samurai Rising, written by Pamela Turner and illustrated by GARETH HINDS, is an ALA Notable book and a finalist for the YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award. Gareth comments, "It now has a shiny silver sticker on it, and while I consider that to be Pam's award much more so than mine, I'm tickled pink to be involved."



¡Olinguito, de la A a la Z!, by LULU DELACRE, has received a few more accolades. It was recently recognized as a Notable Book for All Ages by ALA. In addition, it was selected as a New York Public Libraries Best Book of 2016 and a BookLinks Lasting Connections title.

On March 25, Lulu will be participating in a wonderful panel titled [Drawing and Writing Libros: A Conversation about Children's Publishing](#). Held at the Virginia Festival of the Book in Charlottesville, it will also feature MEG MEDINA, Juana Medina and Angela Dominguez. All are welcome.

Finally, Lulu has been selected as a judge for *School Library Journal's* 2017 Battle of the Kids' Books: <http://blogs.sj.com/battleofthebooks/2017/02/07/2017-judge-lulu-delacre/>

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>. March's speakers will include Susan Stockdale, Fred Bowen, Hena Khan 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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