

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, September 26, 2020

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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 <https://childrensbookguild.org/>

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October 2020

YOUNG ADULT AUTHOR TIFFANY D. JACKSON TO DISCUSS HER AWARD-WINNING WORK



Meet critically acclaimed young adult author Tiffany D. Jackson on Thursday, October 15, at 1:00 p.m. Jackson's novels have garnered numerous accolades, including the Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe New Talent Award for *Monday's Not Coming*; two NAACP Image Award nominations; and a Walter Award Honor.

Her new book, *Grown*, is a riveting look at pop culture and its impact on young women. (It's also a whodunit!) Jackson is a storyteller in more than one way.

In addition to being an author, Jackson is a TV professional with a bachelor's degree in film from Howard University and a master's in media studies from the New School. In her bio, the Brooklyn native says she is a "lover of naps, cookie dough, and beaches, currently residing in the borough she loves, most likely multitasking."

There is no cost to attend this virtual meeting, but registration is required. Those who register will receive an email with details on how to join the Zoom program. The Guild will provide the option each month to make a donation to an organization that is working for racial justice in children's literacy and education. October's chosen organization is Teaching for

Change. For more information about Teaching for Change and its work, please visit: <https://www.teachingforchange.org/>.

Don't miss what is sure to be a fascinating discussion!

[RSVP Now!](#)

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HOW RAUL THE THIRD BECAME AN ARTIST AND FOUND HIS AUDIENCE

by Joy Jones

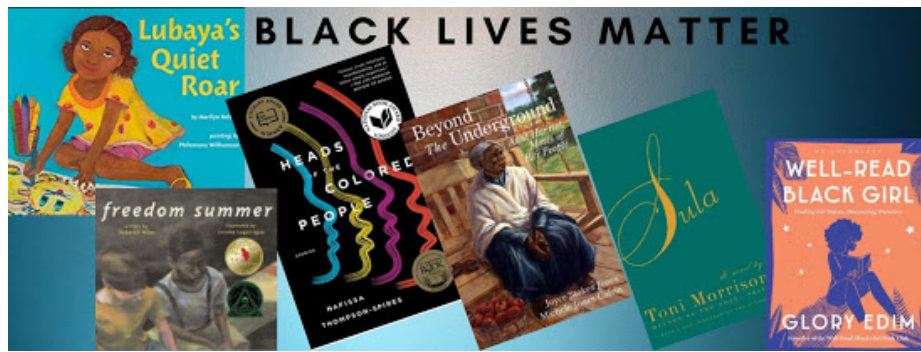
Library + museum + a passion for drawing = Raul the Third, our September speaker. He is a comic book and picture book author and illustrator. He spent endless hours during his childhood hanging out at the library and wandering museums. He pored over the graphic novels at the library, and while growing up in Boston, he lived near a museum that he frequented often. He developed his artistic skills by drawing and copying the images he saw there.

How does an artist get discovered? Raul the Third opted for a technique he called strategic public drawing. As a young adult, he would spend time in coffee shops near art museums doing drawings in the hope that he would catch the interest of an important person. He didn't. What proved more helpful was working in a group called Miracle 5, a collective of artists. He did posters, murals and zines to cultivate and disseminate his work.

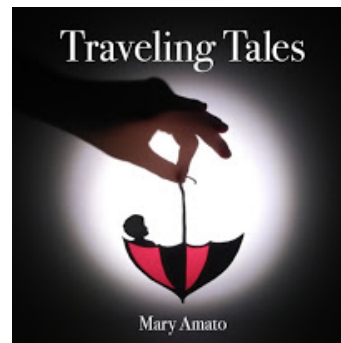
Starting at age 16, he also worked for many years at Bill's Comics. At that job he learned about the San Diego Comic Book Convention. And it was at that convention and through other similar networking projects that his work and opportunities grew. Building community and staying open proved to be his career's building blocks. He advises people to say yes to a variety of opportunities; don't restrict oneself to a favorite art form.

During the pandemic, many of us were on lockdown, but his work continued on an upswing. Over the course of the pandemic, he wrote three books and started a fourth. His books we have to look forward to are *Clockwork*, *Stroller Coaster* and *El Toro*, all coming out in spring 2021, and for fall 2021, *Vamos: Let's Cross the Bridge*.

The next program will be October 15 at 1:00 p.m., featuring Tiffany D. Jackson, author of *Grown*.



MEMBER NEWS



MARY AMATO is celebrating the release of a new audiobook. *Traveling Tales* is a collection of three long-form stories with rich language and imagery: "The Chair," "The Umbrella Maker and her Son" and "Goose Child." The audiobook is meant for young children and adults to enjoy together. Written by Mary Amato, narrated by the talented actress Kate Reading and showcasing the gorgeous music of Amy K Bormet, each story features an engaging character who takes an unexpected journey.

The first story in the collection, "The Chair," is also available as a shadow-theater production for free online viewing. Since 2000, Mary has been working as a shadow-theater artist and director with her company, Firefly Shadow Theater (fireflyshadowtheater.com).

To purchase the audio book:

<https://awesound.com/MaryAmato/audiobook/traveling-tales>

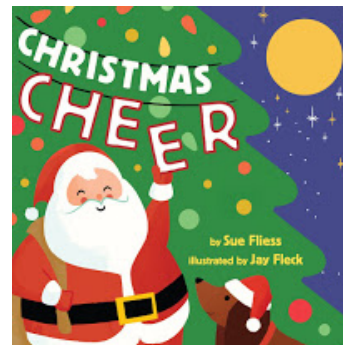
To view the film:

<https://youtu.be/uPSbjg9Pw8>

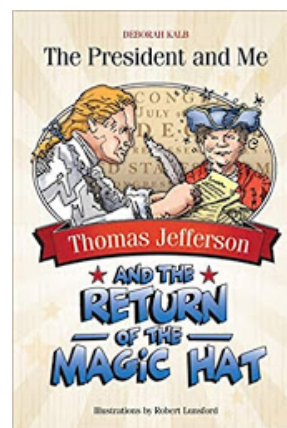
Additionally, Mary is hosting a weekly online session called *Writer's Studio with Mary Amato*, on Fridays from 1 to 1:30 p.m. Each 30-minute session will feature a short, lively nugget of info related to the writing process, and then Mary will facilitate an on-the-spot writing exercise. Think of it as a short yoga class for your creative brain. Join for just \$5 per session. <https://www.maryamato.com/events/writers-studio-for-adults-teens/>



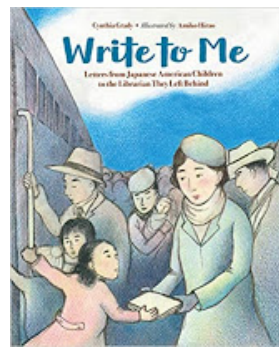
SUE FLIESS has two new books out this October: a counting board book with Scholastic/Cartwheel (October 6) called *Christmas Cheer*, which follows two children in a mixed-race family through night-before-Christmas activities while waiting for Santa, and on October 13, Penguin Random House will publish the Spanish-language edition of her bestselling Little Golden Book, *I'm a Ballerina!*, *Soy bailarina de ballet*.



Four other books by Sue were released during the pandemic: *How to Meet a Mermaid* (June), *The Princess and the Petri Dish* (April), *How to Find a Unicorn* (March) and *Flash and Gleam: Light in Our World* (March). See all Sue's books: <https://www.suefliess.com/books>.

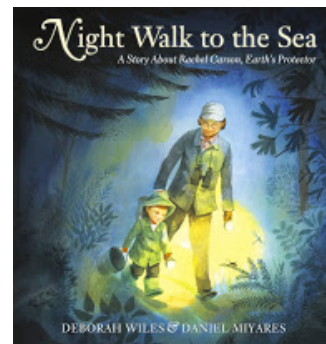


DEBORAH KALB'S new book, *Thomas Jefferson and the Return of the Magic Hat*, will be published September 28 by Schiffer Kids. It's the third in Deborah's middle grade series that began with *George Washington and the Magic Hat* and continued with *John Adams and the Magic Bobblehead*.



CYNTHIA GRADY's *Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind* has been selected for the 2020 One Book, One San Diego community reading program. George Takei's graphic memoir *They Called Us Enemy* was the adult/YA/Spanish selection. Cynthia notes, "This year marks the first time the committee has chosen books on the same topic for all categories (and the first time one book was chosen for three categories- - but that's Mr. Takei's good news, not mine)."

Cynthia hopes to be doing school visits, library visits and possibly a spot on the local PBS station next spring. She is keeping her fingers crossed that the coronavirus will cooperate.



Random House Kids released DEBORAH WILES's new picture book on September 15. *Night Walk to the Sea: A Story About Rachel Carson, Earth's Protector* was illustrated by Daniel Miyares. Deborah writes: "I spent a week last summer at Rachel Carson's Maine cabin as the culmination of 20 years of trying to write this story. I started it while living in the DC area, and kept at it for these 16 years I've lived in Atlanta. Sometimes it just takes time. I tried to capture the sense of wonder in a night walk to the sea after a storm, and the surprise of bioluminescence at the shore, which Carson wrote about in a 1956 letter to her friend Dorothy Freeman. Daniel captured that wonder so beautifully." Read a brief excerpt from the book on Deborah's website: <https://deborahwiles.com/night-walk-to-the-sea-by-deborah-wiles/>.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR FAVORITE FRIEND'S WIFE BECOMES HIS EX AND *HER* NAME IS STILL PRINTED IN YOUR BOOK

by Susan L. Roth

Etiquette, it had seemed to me, required that one must invite both the person and the spouse to, for example, intimate dinners. Marriage is surely a public--a legal--declaration that where one goes, the other follows. So, when it came time to dedicate my 50th or so (I've lost count) children's picture book, I thought, this person, this man, good

friend of both my husband and myself, is the one to whom I would gift this precious creation, at that moment. Yes, I thought, I ought to include his wife. And so I did: perfectly proper.

But right after the book went to print, the couple divorced. Ever since my copies came to me, they have sat on a far corner of my desk. I have been immobilized by propriety.



This morning: salvation. *Playing with Osito, Jugando con Baby Bear* (written by Lisa Maria Burgess, illustrated by me, Barranca Press, 2018), is about to go back to press in a French translation. I have been given permission to revise the cover. (I want to improve it!)

And, at this writing, the history is being rewritten. Permission for further change was further granted! I am happily rededicating the book, precisely and *only* to our friend, alone...even though he now has fallen in love with another woman.

And so I decided to share these new, hard-learned words to the wise: *be careful with your gifts-in-print!*

I am further comforted by remembering one of my favorite titles by one of my favorite children's book writers, Bernard Waber (who also wrote the famous *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*): *Nobody Is Perfick*.

WATCHWORD: PERSEVERE

by Joan Carris

I am about to begin yet another rewrite on a book I began in the late 1990s. Off and on, I've rewritten it, trying to figure out how to say what I want to say without editors thinking "too mature for the audience," or "pretty grim" in spots, and so on.

My agent at McIntosh & Otis has now shown the latest effort to a few editors and has decided that *as is*, she cannot sell it. Our own Maria Salvadore read the manuscript and gave me her honest, no-holds-barred assessment. That's exactly what I wanted, and I'm grateful!

The result, arrived at slowly and painfully, is that if I still feel strongly about my characters and their story, I need to try *one more time*. After all, it took 10 years for Madeleine L'Engle to sell *A Wrinkle In Time*. *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* sold to the 40th publisher and went on as number one on the *New York Times* best-seller list for two years, an unprecedented feat.

Persevere seems to be our watchword--for today and all year long. Writers write. Illustrators create memorable images. During this strangest of all years, we can still do what we were meant to do.

Joan invites everyone to check out her website, newly updated with help from her brilliant granddaughter
Margie: <http://www.joancarrisbooks.com/>.

"QUICK LINKS..."

Writing in *The Tablet*, DEBBIE LEVY described the joyful experience of working with Ruth Bader Ginsburg the *mensch* while authoring two books about the late Supreme Court

Justice: https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/community/articles/ruth-bader-ginsburg-mensch?fbclid=IwAR091ICUL5DaJF7DfrOjilWxIDNDR7RbJSkASGHqA_rniM0JBjLjvxmiAFc.

During the summer FRED BOWEN was interviewed by County Cable Montgomery about his new book, *Gridiron: Stories From 100 Years of the National Football League*, published by Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. Here is a link to a YouTube posting of the segment: <https://youtu.be/iQ1DwsK0bUc>.

Virtual Programs at Politics and Prose

During the pandemic, Politics and Prose continues to host free events for children and adults--virtually. These can be viewed live, in real time, or afterward, as recordings. You can view P&P's events calendar and register for events at: <https://www.politics-prose.com/events>. (Advance registration is required to receive link.)

Posted by Monthly News at **7:54 AM** **0 comments** 

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