

Children's Book Guild News



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Thursday, September 27, 2018

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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 2018

REVIEWING CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY



As children's editor of *Kirkus Reviews* (a position she's held for 10 years), Vicky Smith has witnessed numerous trends in children's publishing. Some, such as spates of books featuring giraffes or octopuses, may be fleeting. But others, such as growing awareness of the need for books that reflect the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of

readers, are here to stay. She explains that one of her goals in the 21st century is to ensure that books "by and about people of color and other diversities will find readers across the country regardless of their personal identities."

For this reason, she instituted a policy at *Kirkus* whereby characters in children's and young adult fiction are identified in reviews by race or ethnicity. She has also diversified her roster of reviewers to foster sensitivity to cultural nuances in reviews.

A former children's librarian and later director of an independent public library in Maine, Smith has served on Newbery and Caldecott committees, and she chaired the 2010 Sibert Award Committee. In addition, she is an adjunct professor of children's literature at Simmons College.

Smith's interests are wide and include beekeeping and cycling. She was a contestant on *Jeopardy*, and she formerly held the Guinness world record for a team read-aloud marathon (which only proves, she says, that anyone who can read can break a record). She encourages everyone to read often and widely, offering this advice: "Approach each book you open with the willingness to be surprised."

On October 18, join Vicky Smith for a discussion of the evolving landscape of children's literature and the challenges it presents, including the joys and pitfalls of reviewing diversity.

Date: Thursday, October 18

Time: 11:30 a.m. "social hour"; noon luncheon

Place: Busboys and Poets
450 K Street NW

PLEASE NOTE: BUSBOYS AND POETS HAS MOVED! THE NEW LOCATION, 450 K STREET NW, IS ACROSS K STREET FROM THE OLD SITE AND SLIGHTLY TO THE EAST.

Menu: All choices \$25 (\$26 when paid online via PayPal)

:: CHOICE OF SANDWICH (served with a salad of baby greens and house-made kettle chips) ::

- Falafel sandwich (vegetarian/vegan) with house-made hummus, cucumbers, lettuce, tomato and onion on whole-wheat pita, served with tahini sauce (vegan without tahini sauce)
- Honey-roasted turkey sandwich with Havarti cheese, Dijonnaise, lettuce, tomato and onion on wheat bread
- Grilled-chicken panini with chipotle mayo, caramelized onions, pepper jack, lettuce and tomato on ciabatta
- Avocado panini with roasted red peppers and melted cheese on multi-grain bread

RSVP Now!

IN THIS ISSUE:

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HONORING HISTORY, CULTURE AND POETRY: CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD WILL RECEIVE THE 2019 CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD NONFICTION AWARD

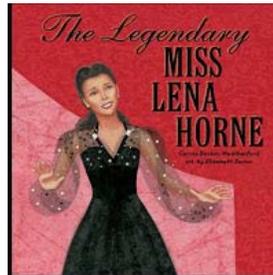
by Maria Salvadore, Chair, Nonfiction Award Committee



The Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C., has selected Carole Boston Weatherford as the 2019 Nonfiction Award winner. The award, given annually since 1977, honors authors or illustrators whose total work has contributed significantly to the quality of nonfiction for

children.

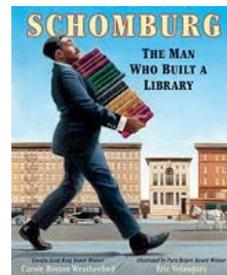
Weatherford combines poetry with carefully documented research to introduce young readers to a variety of topics and individuals, often focusing on African American history, traditions and music. Many of Weatherford's books have been honored. For example, *Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library* was awarded the 2018 Walter Dean Myers Award for Young Readers. Weatherford received a Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor for *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer*, *The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*; a Charlotte Zolotow Award for *Freedom in Congo Square*; and a Carter G. Woodson Award from the National Council for Social Studies for *The Sound that Jazz Makes*. Weatherford's books have also been recognized with the Coretta Scott King Award and the NAACP Image Award.



Many thanks to Nonfiction Award Committee members Rosalyn Schanzer and Cecilia Cackley and adviser Karen Leggett for thoughtful discussions and careful reading. Cecilia was especially impressed with the text in Weatherford's picture books, stating, "Whether she is writing in rhyming poetry, free verse or rhythmic prose, she has great respect for the child audience and doesn't talk down to the reader, even when writing about

difficult topics."

Weatherford will be honored at our Children's Book Guild Award Luncheon on May 11, 2019, in Washington, DC. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring family, friends and guests!



THE GUILD CONGRATULATES KATHERINE PATERSON...

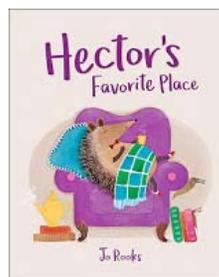


...this year's recipient of the Jella Lepman Medal, awarded by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). Katherine accepted the award, which recognizes her lasting contribution to children's literature, at the 36th IBBY International Conference in Athens, Greece. Read more about the Jella Lepman Medal here: <http://www.ibby.org/about/jella-lepman-medal/?L=0>.

MEMBER NOMINATION: MAGINATION PRESS

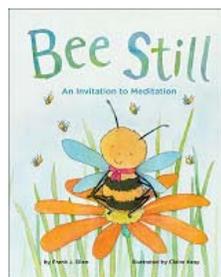


Jacqueline Jules nominates Magination Press as an organizational member of the Children's Book Guild. Susan Kusel seconds the nomination.



Magination Press is the children's book imprint of the American Psychological Association. By sharing mental health expertise and psychological knowledge, Magination Press books reach young readers and their parents and caregivers and make navigating life's challenges a little easier. It's the combined power of psychology and literature that makes a Magination book special. Some recent titles include *Hector's Favorite Place*, a book that helps children overcome their worries and break out of their comfort zones; *Bee Still: An Invitation*

to Meditation, which teaches children how to use meditation to focus, feel calm and soothe difficult feelings; and *Something Happened in Our Town*, a book that describes a police shooting from the perspectives of a white family and an African American family. Jason Wells, the marketing director, will be the organizational representative. He has attended Guild meetings and worked with Guild members during his 15 years in publishing. He recently moved to the Washington, DC, area. Visit maginationpress.org.



MEMBER NOMINATION: ERIN TEAGAN



Susan Stockdale nominates Erin Teagan for membership in the Children's Book Guild in the author category. Terry Catusus Jennings seconds the nomination.

Teagan is the author of several middle grade novels with a science focus. Most recently, she wrote the *Luciana* series for American Girl, published by Scholastic in 2018.

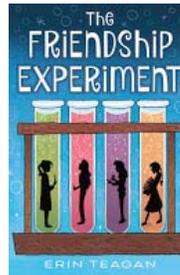
A boxed set contains paperbacks of three novels featuring Luciana Vega, an aspiring astronaut ready to take the next giant leap, to Mars. In the first book, *Luciana*, Luciana is picked to

lead her Space Camp team in a robot challenge. But instead of rocketing her crew to success, she steers them straight into trouble. Can she prove to her crew that they can depend on her? In *Luciana: Braving the Deep*, Luci is at youth astronaut training camp. She hopes to dive to an underwater habitat where real astronauts train for life in space—until an underwater crisis turns her world upside down. Will she have to kiss her dreams of becoming an astronaut goodbye? In *Luciana: Out of This World*, Luci travels to Chile, where she spends two days in the Atacama Desert beside real NASA scientists—and her rival from astronaut training camp. When disaster strikes, Luci's ability to work with and listen to others is put to the ultimate test.

American Girl partnered with NASA and Space Camp for the *Luciana* series. Teagan went to Space Camp twice and learned how to scuba dive.

Teagan has a master's degree in science from Johns Hopkins University and worked in biochemistry labs for more than 10 years. She drew from her lab experience to write her debut novel, *The Friendship Experiment* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), about a girl who writes standard operating procedures to survive middle school. In its starred review, *Kirkus* called it "highly enjoyable for aspiring scientists, budding artists, and

regular kids." Teagan's next book, *Survivor Girl*, a humorous adventure novel set in the Great Dismal Swamp of Virginia, is forthcoming from Clarion in 2019.



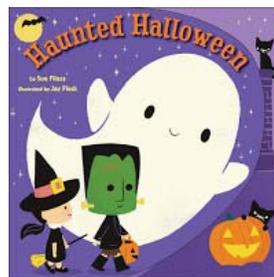
Even though Teagan grew up to be a scientist, math and science were always her greatest challenges in school. She loves sharing the best and most interesting (and most dangerous and disgusting) parts of science with kids, hoping to inspire the next generation of scientists. She is an active SCBWI member and the co-chair of the Mid-Atlantic Fall Conference. Teagan lives in Virginia with her family, a puppy named Beaker, and a bunny that thinks he's a cat.

Teagan has a great admiration for the Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C. She feels fortunate to call many Guild members friends and is thrilled for the opportunity to become a part of such a strong community of children's literature professionals. To learn more about Erin Teagan, visit www.erinteagan.com.



MEMBER NEWS

SUE FLIESS has two new holiday books out this fall: *Haunted Halloween*, illustrated by Jay Fleck (Cartwheel/Scholastic), and *Mrs. Claus Takes the Reins*, illustrated by Mark Chambers (Amazon/Two Lions).



Haunted Halloween: Halloween comes to life in this rhyming romp with five adorable trick-or-treaters and a spooky countdown, all leading up to one exciting holiday surprise--a party!

"Fliess counts spooky and creepy-crawly creatures in groups from one through 10 ('1 bat hangs, / Pointy fangs'). Flaps reveal each new scene, rendered in brightly contrasting blues and purples. The trick-or-treaters step up to a purple door, which

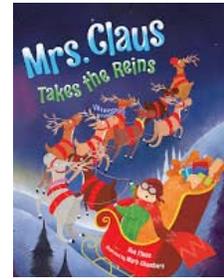
opens to show a sweet surprise for kids just getting to know the holiday."

~Publishers Weekly

"Not too scary, not too sweet—a pleasant-enough way to get the Halloween party started for older toddlers and young preschoolers." ~*Kirkus Reviews*

Watch the trailer: <https://youtu.be/8FqizBkwC6I>

Mrs. Claus Takes the Reins: It's Christmas Eve morning, and Santa Claus is still in bed! He's feeling stuffy and sneezy and slow as a yeti. Will Christmas have to be canceled? Not this year, because Mrs. Claus is ready to take the reins. Delivering gifts all over the world without Santa's magic won't be easy, but Mrs. Claus proves she has some holiday sparkle of her own.



"Young children will enjoy this exuberant adventure." ~*Kirkus Reviews*

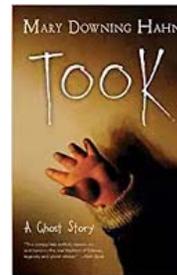
"It isn't Rudolph that saves the day. Nor is it the littlest elf, the deserving child, or an adorable critter-buddy team. It's the Main Mistletoe Mama herself, and it's about time!" ~*Story Monsters Ink*

Watch the trailer: <https://youtu.be/-x3CrFXRycE>

Sue's *The Bug Book* was selected for the second year in a row by Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and *Mary Had a Little Lab* was named to the Master List for Oklahoma's Redbud Read-Aloud Award.



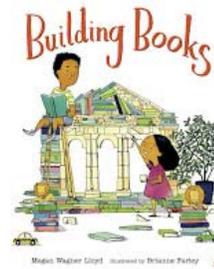
The Chinese edition of *A Fairy Friend* was just published as well!



MARY DOWNING HAHN will be in Kansas in October, to receive the William Allen White Award for *Took*. Kansas schoolchildren vote to select the winner of this award. Says Mary, "I'm looking forward to visiting Emporia and spending a few days with my friends Bev and Paul Buller."



Mary's newest ghost story, *The Girl in the Locked Room*, was published in September.



MEGAN WAGNER LLOYD has a new picture book coming out on October 2. Called *Building Books*, it is illustrated by Brianne Farley and published by Knopf.

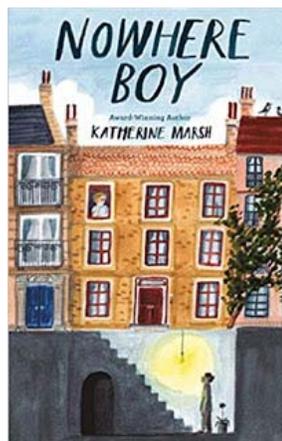
The world premiere of CECILIA CACKLEY's new play, *Between Earth and Sky* (*Entre la tierra y el cielo*), will be at GALA Hispanic Theatre, in Washington, DC, on three Saturdays, October 13, 20 and 27, at 3 p.m. It is intended for families with children ages five and up and was inspired by the life of Ynes Mexia, a Mexican-American plant collector who was born in DC and traveled throughout Latin America in the 1930s. More information is at the GALA website: <http://en.galatheatre.org/2018/07/entre-la-tierra-y-el-cielo-between.html>



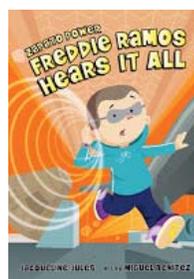
At long last, Chicago Review Press is publishing REBECCA JONES's *The School's on Fire! A True Story of Bravery, Tragedy, and Determination*. The book is set to come out October 2, in plenty of time for the 60th anniversary of the 1958 fire that killed 92 kids and three teachers in Chicago—and led to dramatic changes in school fire laws nationwide. Guild members ROSALYN SCHANZER, MARY DOWNING HAHN and CATHERINE REEF read advance copies and wrote blurbs for the back cover.



MARY AMATO's newest YA, *Open Mic Night at Westminster Cemetery* (Carolrhoda Lab), a novel in play format set in Edgar Allan Poe's Baltimore cemetery, is now available in hardcover and ebook.



KATHERINE MARSH's book *Nowhere Boy* was featured on NPR's *Morning Edition* and was a *People* magazine Kid Pick and an Amazon Book of the Month. It has received starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *School Library Journal* and the *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*.



JACQUELINE JULES is excited to announce the publication of the seventh book in her Zapato Power series: *Freddie Ramos Hears It All*, published by Albert Whitman on September 1. In his newest adventure, Freddie loves his new Zapato Power—super hearing! He can listen in on conversations and find hero jobs. But soon Freddie realizes the temptation to eavesdrop on everyone is too great. Can he find a way to use his super hearing without snooping? To learn more about the series, visit Jacqueline's website at http://jacquelinejules.com/zapato_power_series.htm

PAIGE BILLIN FRYE will now be illustrating the "Beatrice Black Bear" panels on the back page of *Click* magazine, one of the Carus Publishing family of magazines. (*Cricket* is also one of theirs.) Paige will be taking over

from Brian Floca, who's been illustrating this strip for 20 years. Says Paige, "I love working with the folks at *Click* and am so grateful to get this regular gig."



Paige Billin-Frye Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, MD December 4 - February 2

A show of Paige's photographs, "Small Worlds," will be at the Adkins Arboretum Gallery, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, from December 4 through February 2. There will be a reception on Saturday, December 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. The Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve with a commitment to conservation *and* the arts. Nature-themed art is shown regularly in its gallery. The arboretum is located at 12610 Eveland Road, Ridgely, MD. You can find more information at www.adkinsarboretum.org.

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>. October's speakers include MINH LE.

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