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# Children's Book Guild News



CHILDREN'S  
BOOK GUILD  
OF WASHINGTON, DC

## Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

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Sunday, August 25, 2019

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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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## September 2019

### FOOD LITERACY: BUILDING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION THROUGH STORIES ABOUT FOOD



Philip Lee and June Jo Lee co-founded READERS to EATERS in 2009—a month after Michelle Obama launched the White House garden—to promote food literacy by publishing stories about our diverse food cultures. They further cultural literacy through something people of all cultures share every day: food! To the Lees, food

literacy means developing understanding of what and how we eat. They have partnered with educational and food organizations to create a connection between books and food for youthful audiences. This year they are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the founding of READERS to EATERS, and September is Food Literacy Month, making the Lees' September 19 presentation especially timely. Be on hand as they share stories about fostering community through food.

Before starting READERS to EATERS, Philip Lee was the co-founder and publisher of Lee & Low Books, a leading producer of children's books highlighting diversity. He started his publishing career at the college bookstore at the University of California, Berkeley, and then moved to New York to work in magazine publishing for Conde Nast. A native of Hong Kong, he immigrated with his family to Los Angeles when he was 14. He admits that today his spoken Cantonese is very rusty.

June Jo Lee is co-author of *Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix*, a 2018 Sibert Award Honor Book. She is also a food ethnographer studying how America eats. She speaks throughout the nation on food trends and consults with organizations such as Google. She was born in Seoul, South Korea, but grew up in the United States eating her mom's kimchi. Read more about June Jo Lee at [foodethnographer.com](http://foodethnographer.com).

(A book sale handled by East City Books and signing will follow the meeting.)

**Date: Thursday, September 19**

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

**Place: [Busboys and Poets](#), 450 K Street NW**

**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 multigrain bread**

**[RSVP Now!](#)**

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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#### **SUMMER NOTES FROM THE 2019-2020 CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD BOARD**

The 2019-2020 Children's Book Guild leadership board met for the first time on July 15 and voted to adopt several initiatives for the coming year:

- To create an assistance fund for members facing financial challenges when paying annual dues. Information about how to apply for assistance will be included on an updated dues form.
- To sponsor a four-hour Race and Equity Training Workshop open to all members, at no cost for attendance. Our workshop will be led by Iris Jacob of Social Justice Synergy. Jacob, an experienced consultant and educator, has worked with Teaching for Change, our member organization Reading Partners and numerous other schools and organizations, both in the DC metro area and nationally. This free workshop is part of the Guild's ongoing effort "to ensure an inclusive, supportive environment at meetings and events, while taking into account the complex dynamics of race, class, sexual orientation, gender, age, ability, religion, justice and equity." The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 23, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Cleveland Park Library. Information about how to register and additional details will be announced in September.
- To create a Children's Book Guild Advisory on Diversity, Outreach and

**Inclusivity.** Edie Ching has volunteered to chair this initiative for 2019-2020. This diverse group of four to six members will be available to DC metro area IBPOC children's literature professionals interested in attending one of the monthly programs at Busboys & Poets and/or joining the Guild. The advisory will also work to extend the Guild's outreach to young readers in the DC metro area and will work with the membership chair to facilitate member nominations.

- To draft an updated Mission Statement to better reflect the Guild's current outreach and goals. A new mission statement requires a change to the by-laws, which will be drafted and voted on during the coming year.
- To draft a proposal to update the Guild's website design, hosting and management, to be considered by the board during the coming year.
- To make several updates and changes to the Nonfiction Award event. The board voted to set the price for tickets to the event, beginning in 2020, at \$40 per ticket (an increase of \$4 from 2019); to end the book-basket program and substitute recognition for recipients of Children's Book Guild-DC Metro Youth Literacy Grants. Three grants of \$500 each will be awarded in 2019-2020. Two representatives from each grantee school or institution will receive invitations and free tickets to the event. Looking to the future, the board approved Event Chair Mary Amato's plan to poll members after the May 30, 2020, Nonfiction Award event at Clyde's of Gallery Place to see whether the majority wish to continue the event's Saturday format, or to host it in the Guild's regular monthly venue, on a Thursday at Busboys and Poets.

Submitted by Guild President Jean Diehl

## **FOR ELOISE GREENFIELD, LANGUAGE HOLDS MUSIC**

*by Catherine Reef*

Two recipients of the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement took the stage at Busboys and Poets on June 20, when Guild member Deborah Taylor interviewed author Eloise Greenfield about her life and work. Greenfield has published nearly 50 books for children, including poetry collections, picture books, biographies and fiction. Individually and as a group, they have earned her prestigious awards and honors—too many to count. Taylor, who recently retired from the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, has served on several ALA award committees and teaches courses in young adult literature in the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies.

Taylor began by leading Greenfield back to early childhood and her first connections with literature. Greenfield spoke of trips to the public library with her father and brothers. She mentioned that when her older brother was in first grade and starting to read, she learned alongside him at home. As a result, she entered first grade ready to tackle books on her own. Greenfield also recalled that her father loved to debate any topic, which meant that lively, wide-ranging discussions were part of family life. These conversations contributed to her love of words, she said.

Growing up as an avid reader in Washington, DC, Greenfield had no youthful dreams of authorship, however. Rather, a boring job as a clerk-typist in adulthood inspired her to try writing. She studied books on the writer's craft, sent out her work and received numerous rejections, but never felt discouraged. "It's a good thing I got accustomed to rejections," she joked. In 1962, after 10 years of trying, she saw a poem of hers in print. It was about her love of music, specifically the sound of the violin. Short stories for adults in the then-popular *Negro Digest* followed, and in 1973 she published her first book, a children's biography of Rosa Parks.

Greenfield found a mission in writing for young readers, "to let children know how important they are, that they are loved," she said, adding that she hopes especially to reach African American children with this message.

Greenfield had much to say about music, about what she called the "musicality" of words. "I love hearing the sound of music in the words," she said. "We talk in melody. When I write I want to capture that melody." To help the audience hear that music, Taylor read from Greenfield's recent book *Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me*, which includes poems in varied styles, from rap to free verse. Greenfield said that she most enjoys writing free verse, explaining, "I can put my music in it."

When asked to name writers who had influenced her, Greenfield stated that none had, although she expressed fondness for the work of Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks. "I looked to the craft," she said, stressing that learning, practice and "the hard work of writing" were her keys to success.

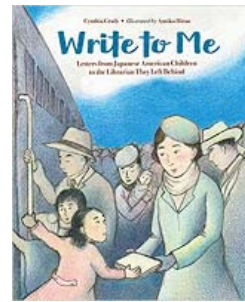
Eloise Greenfield, who turned 90 in May, continues to write and publish. Her newest book, *The Women Who Caught the Babies: A Story of African American Midwives*, will be released on September 1. Set during the Civil War, it explores through verse the lives of women who performed a valued and necessary role among the enslaved. Taylor spoke about a particularly powerful poem in which news of the Emancipation Proclamation reaches a midwife's community while a baby is being born. The poem "shows people concerned about their freedom and also concerned about safety, about safely delivering the baby," Taylor said. "It's wonderful."

## MEMBER NEWS



ERICA S. PERL announces a new *Arnold and Louise* book (#3, for those keeping count!), *Happy Fell* (illustrated by Chris Chatterton), which Penguin released on August 27. Arnold wants to celebrate the start of the cozy autumn season indoors. Louise does not. How can they celebrate "Fell" if they're not celebrating together? In this story designed to engage early readers, charming characters combine with short chapters, lively illustrations and laugh-out-loud humor to help boost kids' confidence and create lifelong readers.

Also, the *Arnold and Louise* series will soon be available as audio books, "which is nice," Erica says, "because the audio books will provide scaffolding for emerging readers!"



***Write to Me*, by CYNTHIA GRADY, has won the Virginia Library Association's Jefferson Cup for biography. Cynthia will travel to Norfolk, VA, in October for the VLA conference. She writes, "I hope to see some old friends, but no guarantees at this point, as I am not in charge of my travel plans."**

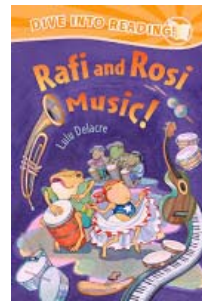
***Write to Me* has also received the Social Justice Literature Award from the International Literacy Association.**



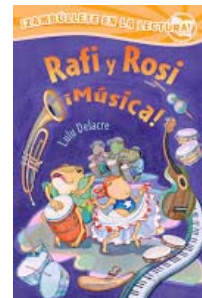
**LAURA GEHL's *Juniper Kai: Super Spy*, illustrated by Alexandria Neonakis, releases on September 3. *Kirkus* stated, "Harriet the Spy would approve of this sharp-eyed investigator...This will be a read-aloud favorite for little supersleuths, particularly those with junior agents on the way."**



**LULU DELACRE reports that the paperback edition of *Us, in Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos* has just been released.**



Also, this September 17, Rafi and Rosi Coquí are back! *Rafi and Rosi Music!*, the fourth title in the beginner series featuring the busy tree-frog duo, explores Puerto Rican *bomba*, *plena* and *salsa*. A book launch is in the works for October 19, at the Sitar Arts Center Theater in Adams Morgan. Notes Lulu, "With the help of fabulous performers from Hijo'e Plena, we will bring the story 'Fiery Bomba' to life in an interactive and inspiring program. For more details visit my [calendar](#)."



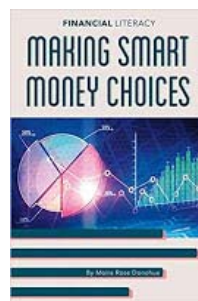
"And I'm honored that for the second time I have an illustration in the annual Carle Honors Art Auction. A piece from *Olinguito, from A to Z!* is among art from some of the industry's most celebrated artists. Anyone can [bid](#) to help the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art!"



JACQUELINE JULES announces book #8 in the *Zapato Power* series: *Freddie Ramos Adds It All Up*. In this new adventure published by Albert Whitman, a boy with super-powered purple sneakers must find a way both to help a first grader who is being bullied and to raise his failing math grade.

In addition to her usual Washington and Lee University course offerings (Controversies in Children's Literature; Children's Literature: The Fairy Tale), JANE HARRINGTON is very excited to be teaching a new creative writing course this academic year: Writing for Children. Jane would love to

hear from any Guild members who can suggest resources or children's books that might enrich any of her courses. Contact: [harringtonj@wlu.edu](mailto:harringtonj@wlu.edu).



MOIRA ROSE DONOHUE is happy to announce the release of *Making Smart Money Choices* from ABDO this August. It is one in a series of middle grade financial literacy books.

### REMEMBERING GLORIA KAMEN CHARNEY



Author, illustrator and former Guild member Gloria Kamen Charney died in her sleep on August 18, at age 96, in Phoenix, where she had been living. Using her maiden name, Gloria Kamen, she illustrated many books, including *The Betty Crocker Cookbook for Boys and Girls* (1957) and several books by late Guild members Peggy Thomson and Barbara Brooks Wallace. Gloria also wrote eight books for children and young adults, among them *"Paddle," Said the Swan* and a biography of composer Fanny Mendelssohn.

Born to Russian Jewish parents in Queens, New York, on April 9, 1923, Gloria claimed that she became an artist at age 9, while coloring in chalk on the sidewalk in front of her Brooklyn home. Frustrated when rain washed away her artwork, she turned "in despair" to drawing on paper and cardboard, she told the *Washington Post* in 1981 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1981/05/28/two-successful-artists-and-their-media/2198e2b9-1db7-43dd-83b1-b2a2b46d49e5/>).

Gloria earned a degree in fine art from Pratt Institute and married Elliot Charney, a research chemist, with whom she had three daughters. Elliot

was employed by the National Institutes of Health, and the family lived in Maryland. Gloria's love of music led her to paint 25 portraits of composers. She also loved theater, and her sketches of actors in rehearsal often accompanied theater reviews in the *Washington Post*. In addition, Gloria presented many "chalk talks" at elementary schools, to introduce children to the world of book illustration.

Later, she and her husband designed and built a farmhouse in Vermont, where they retired in 1993. There they hosted friends, family and, especially, their grandchildren.

Those wishing to do so may donate in Gloria Kamen Charney's name to the [Starkey Hearing Foundation](#) or [Reach Out and Read](#).

### "QUICK LINKS..."

SUE FLIESS was profiled in the fall 2019 issue of *SU Magazine*, the alumni magazine of Salisbury University, her alma mater. Scroll down to page 6: [https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/advancement-and-external-affairs/marketing-and-public-relations/publications/\\_files/su-magazine/SU-Magazine-2019.pdf](https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/advancement-and-external-affairs/marketing-and-public-relations/publications/_files/su-magazine/SU-Magazine-2019.pdf).

### UPDATE YOUR MEMBER PAGE

Have you visited your page on the Children's Book Guild website recently (<https://childrensbookguild.org/members>)?

Do you have an outdated page or provide only a link to your website? Would you like to feature your latest book or advertise your author visits? If so, send your information in a Microsoft Word document with attached images to Alan, our webmaster, at [bigalhecATaol.com](mailto:bigalhecATaol.com).

A member page is a perk of membership dues. You are welcome to update your page throughout the year.

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**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.

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**LITERARY EVENTS SPONSORED BY POLITICS AND PROSE:** The literary calendar at [Politics and Prose](http://www.politics-prose.com/events) lists many upcoming programs that may be of interest to Children's Book Guild members: <http://www.politics-prose.com/events>.

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