

Children's Book Guild News



CHILDREN'S
BOOK GUILD
of WASHINGTON, DC

Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

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Monday, December 23, 2019

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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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January 2020

ELLEN OH: AN INNOVATOR



Ellen Oh is a former adjunct college instructor and lawyer with an insatiable curiosity about ancient Asian history. She loves martial arts films, K-pop, K-dramas and cooking shows, and she is a rabid fan of *The Last Airbender* and *Legend of Lorra* series. She is a co-founder of [We Need Diverse Books](#) (WNDB), a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing

diversity in children's literature. WNDB has been extremely influential in helping identify and promote authors, illustrators and editors from diverse backgrounds.

Oh is the author of the middle grade novels *The Spirit Hunters* and *Spirit Hunters 2: Island of the Monsters* and the YA fantasy trilogy *The Prophecy Series*. She is the editor of WNDB's middle grade anthology *Flying Lessons and Other Stories* and the YA anthology *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*. Her work is innovative in the way she weaves her personal background and culture into the characters she creates. Originally from New York City, Oh lives in Bethesda with her husband and three children and has yet to satisfy her quest for a decent bagel in the DMV.

On January 16, Ellen Oh will speak to the Children's Book Guild about her journey as an author and advocate for diversity in children's literature.

Date: Thursday, January 16

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, chipotle mayo, lettuce, tomato and onion on white 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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NOVEMBER'S RACE AND EQUITY TRAINING STIMULATED THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

by Abby Nolan

The Children's Book Guild participated in a race and equity training program on the morning of November 23, at the Cleveland Park Library. It was facilitated by Social Justice Synergy founder and executive director Iris Jacob. Thirty-two members attended the training, which lasted about four hours, plus a lunch break. Attendees were asked to read an article by *White Fragility* author Robin DiAngelo before the session, and Jacob recommended reading the book whenever possible.

Jacob began by encouraging attendees to imagine a place of freedom and inclusion and justice, and asked them to keep that ideal in mind throughout the session and beyond. Over the course of the day, she separated attendees into smaller groups to discuss issues of identity, racism and inclusion. The first set of questions discussed in a small group was: What was the first time you knew you were the race you are? How did you know? What did it feel like?

Participants next created identity charts and put them on the walls of the conference room. They discussed which identities on the charts were the most salient for them. Jacob made the point that all people have some prejudices, but all people cannot enforce their attitudes through institutions and systems of power. Participants listed and discussed various forms of privilege, such as white, male, affluent, Christian, cisgender, able-bodied, heterosexual, English-speaking and adult/middle-age.

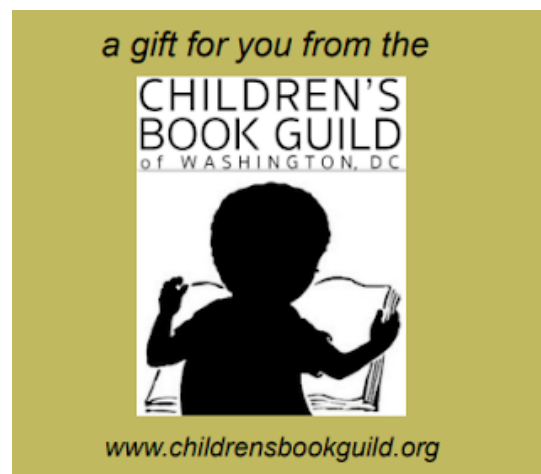
After the lunch break, Jacob separated attendees into four groups to discuss the Children's Book Guild. Each group focused on one of four questions: How does racism show up internally at the Children's Book Guild? How does the Children's Book Guild perpetuate white cultural norms and white privilege? How does the Children's Book Guild interrupt racism in the world? How does the Children's Book Guild address racism internally? Each group shared their ideas with the larger room. A discussion began about what actions—in terms of changing policies, rules, communications and cultural norms—the Guild needs to take to be truly inclusive.

In the final part of the training, Jacob asked for questions. Among her points was that there are so many resources concerning disrupting racism in the world, including lectures, books, online talks and community discussions, that whites don't need to burden friends of color with questions about racism and guilt. She also emphasized the value of being a change agent, rather than a more passive ally, in their own communities. Also, change is a really long process, and it's OK to make mistakes along the way as long as lessons are learned.

Thank you to the Children's Book Guild's board for sponsoring this opportunity for members.

BOOKS BY GUILD MEMBERS WILL WELCOME CHILDREN TO NEW SHORT-TERM HOUSING FACILITY

by Rhoda Trooboff



To help welcome children to DC's soon-to-be-completed Ward 3 Short-Term Family Housing (STFH), on Idaho Avenue NW, Guild members donated nearly 40 new books for inclusion in the STFH facility's onsite children's library. Guild members' gifts brought the library collection to nearly 1,000 beautiful new books, which have been donated by generous patrons of area book shops and curated by John Healy of the DC Ward 3 Democrats.

Every book contributed by Guild members includes a cheery bookplate identifying the Guild, and all books written or illustrated by Guild members also contain warm, welcoming, handwritten inscriptions.

Substantial completion of the 50-unit STFH facility will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting in early 2020; a move-in date for the first resident families is projected for late March.

MEMBER NEWS



The Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai has honored JOY HAKIM with the 2019 Shanghai Outstanding Popular Science Book Award for her series *The Story of Science*.



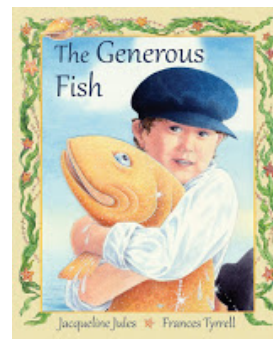
Romina, from the story "90,000 Children"

LULU DELACRE announces with pleasure that her portraits of Marla and Romina, two characters from her story collection *Us in*

Progress, will be showcased in [The 29th Annual Strathmore Juried Exhibition](#). The show, titled HOME, will run from January 11 through February 23, 2020. Lulu would be delighted for Guild members to join her at the opening reception, on Thursday, January 16, at 7 p.m.



MAGINATION PRESS authors Michael Genhart and Seamus Kirst will be attending ABA Winter Institute in Baltimore and ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia in January to promote their newest titles, [Accordionly: Abuelo and Opa Make Music](#) and [Papa, Daddy, and Riley](#).



JACQUELINE JULES is pleased to announce the publication of *The Generous Fish* by Wisdom Tales Press in January 2020. *The Generous Fish* is an environmental fable that *Kirkus Reviews* called "A well-told story with enough pathos to deliver its underlying message of environmental stewardship."

Become a "Writers in Schools" Author with PEN/Faulkner

PEN/Faulkner's Writers in Schools program works with DC school students in grades 3-12 and is currently accepting applications from authors interested in joining its list. The organization is especially interested in books for elementary grades and in books by or about Latinx/Hispanic writers and bilingual books/books in Spanish. Writers receive a modest honorarium for visits. More information on the program and how to submit a book for consideration can be found [on the website](#).

Volunteer with PEN/Faulkner

Read Up is PEN/Faulkner's volunteer program. Volunteers provide integral support to multiple facets of the organization, all of which are connected to books, writing and meaningful conversation. Volunteers help in many ways: serving as an author ambassador on school visits throughout the city; mentoring local public school students in writing, one on one or in small groups; or supporting the success of PEN/Faulkner's public reading series, Literary Conversations. More about specific opportunities is available [on the website](#).

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>.

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