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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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Wednesday, April 24, 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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May 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE GUILD'S LEADERSHIP

April 25,

2019

The Board and members of The Children's Book Guild of Washington, D.C., apologize for the incident that occurred at our luncheon recently. It is clear that this interaction and subsequent steps caused a guest pain and demonstrated racial and cultural insensitivity.* Please know that these actions were not intentional and do not reflect the core values of the Guild. We apologize for the additional distress caused when the complaint was shared with the member involved in the incident.

The Guild and its members will continue to reflect on and expand our awareness, openness and diversity. We are committed to being a welcoming and safe place for all. To that end the Guild will:

- Study, listen to, and learn about points of view and perspectives of Indigenous people, people of color and LGBTQ people;
- Develop reading lists on positionality and how it applies specifically to children's literature, including resources offered by Dr. Debbie Reese;
- Continue the Guild's programs of speakers of diverse backgrounds;
- Continue efforts to welcome a more diverse membership;
- Post and implement a Code of Conduct; and
- Adopt an anti-harassment policy and take other steps to prevent harassment or intimidation of any form at Guild events.

As a footnote, the Guild does not have an "author of the day." We apologize for the inadvertent Facebook re-posting about a local book festival and removed that post as soon as it came to our attention.

We hope that as we learn from this experience, we will be part of a future that amplifies marginalized voices, recognizes good writing and celebrates

the power a story has to teach us, to heal us and to bring us together.

**The wording has been revised to reflect the statement originally approved by the Board of the Children's Book Guild.*

THE MAY 11 AWARD LUNCHEON HONORING CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD



Join the celebration as author and poet Carole Boston Weatherford receives the 2019 Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award on Saturday, May 11, 2019, at Clyde's Restaurant of Gallery Place, 707 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC., from noon to 3 p.m. [Tickets are now available.](#)

Weatherford has written more than 40 books that have received numerous accolades. This recognition includes Caldecott Honors for *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* and *Freedom in Congo Square*; the Jefferson Cup and Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for

Becoming Billie Holiday; and the Golden Kite Award and a Walter Dean Myers Award Honor for *Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library*.

Her most recent book, *The Roots of Rap: The 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop*, explores the origins of this contemporary art form and provides a look at it today. Perhaps the starred review in *Kirkus* says it best: "No way around it, this book is supa-dupa fly, with lush illustrations anchored in signature hip-hop iconography for the future of the global hip-hop nation."

Weatherford often uses poetry to introduce young readers to historical figures and periods, bringing both well- and little-known people and times to life in an accessible, engaging style. Her talk is sure to be as stimulating as her writing.



[Reserve your seat now!](#)

(If you are unable to attend the May 11 event, please consider purchasing a ticket for a teacher, librarian or friend.)

IN THIS ISSUE:

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3. **Katherine Marsh, Francisco X. Stork and the Literature of Witness**
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GUILD MEMBERS: BRING YOUR BOOKS TO THE MAY 11 NONFICTION AWARD LUNCHEON!

There will be a table at the Nonfiction Award luncheon where Guild members' books will be displayed. Please bring your books (no more than two per member, please) the day of the luncheon and place them on the table when you arrive. (Remember to take them home when you leave.) This is a wonderful opportunity to publicize your work!

COMING IN JUNE: ELOISE GREENFIELD

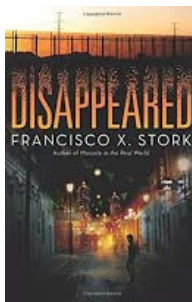


The June 20 luncheon meeting of the Children's Book Guild will feature a conversation with award-winning author and poet Eloise Greenfield. Mark your calendar now, because you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear--and learn from--this accomplished writer who was declared a "Living Legacy" by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

TWO AUTHORS BEARING WITNESS

by Catherine Reef

At the April 11 meeting of the Children's Book Guild, moderator Edie Ching offered a phrase attributed to radio interviewer Terry Gross to describe recent books by the day's principal speakers, Francisco X. Stork and Katherine Marsh. Both Stork's *Disappeared* and Marsh's *Nowhere Boy* might belong to "the literature of witness," Ching suggested. The authors agreed. "Bearing witness was important to me," Guild member Marsh said. Not only does her novel, which concerns a friendship between an orphaned Syrian refugee and an American boy living in Belgium, bear witness to the plight of Middle Easterners fleeing violence and seeking a home in Europe, but, she added, it also explores the nature of heroism, "even on a small scale."



Stork further defined the literature of witness as "books that try to reflect a suffering that is taking place." He went on to say that witnessing adversity and anguish created in him "a response that needed to be expressed." *Disappeared* stemmed from Stork's memories of time spent in Juárez, Mexico, where the abduction of women, likely for sex trafficking, is an ongoing problem. His main characters, a brother and sister, face tough moral choices as they seek safety and freedom in the United States.

Asked to pinpoint the moment his book was born in his imagination, Stork mentioned the 2016 U.S. presidential election, when then-candidate Donald Trump described Mexican immigrants in negative terms. Stork's anger and sadness were initially hard to express. But, he said, "poetry comes out of emotions that you can't find words for." He resolved, in his book, to show "real Mexicans."

Marsh's novel had its origins in her family's recent adventures as Americans living in Brussels. At the time, Syrian refugees were pouring into Belgium, many of them younger than fourteen. Terror attacks were also taking place in Belgium and other European countries. "This book became something I had to write," Marsh said.



In response to a question from Ching, both authors said that they avoided sending an overt political message through their books. Marsh stated that she deliberately presented opposing points of view, humanizing characters who remained wary of refugees and their effect on society as well as those who welcomed them. Stork said that he made a similar effort, which he likened to a Buddhist discipline, the need to put aside one's own biases and see things as they are. "The clearer that I see, the clearer the reader is going to see," he said.

What's next for these novelists? Stork is at work on a sequel to *Disappeared*, in which he shines a light on what happens to his characters as undocumented immigrants in the United States. Marsh, however, is going in a different direction. For her next book she is delving into mythology, or as she put it, "bearing witness for Greek gods."

MEMBER NOMINATION: THE PEN/FAULKNER FOUNDATION

Edie Ching nominates the PEN/Faulkner Foundation for organizational membership in the Children's Book Guild. Terry Jennings seconds the nomination.

The PEN/Faulkner Foundation is devoted to developing the next generation of readers and writers through Writers in Schools (WinS), which brings free works of contemporary literature into DC schools for students in grades 3 through 12 and arranges for the authors to visit classrooms for rich discussions on literature and the writing. (The program is expanding into third grade this fall.) In the last year, the foundation has partnered with more than 125 individual educators and writers at 25 low-income DC schools to donate 6,000 books to more than 3,500 students. Through WinS, PEN/Faulkner also offers a slate of core programs:

Nuestra Voz: a program that helps amplify Latinx/Hispanic voices and narratives in DC schools. Nuestra Voz engages youth with bilingual Spanish/English books, by bringing Latinx-identified writers into schools and by focusing on Latinx/Hispanic narratives. Nuestra Voz visits may be conducted in Spanish or bilingually (Spanish and English).

Together We Read: a multi-school book club that fosters connections and conversations across the greater Washington, DC, area. The club brings together students from different schools (public, charter, private) for engaging activities, a book-club conversation and an opportunity to meet an author, in the belief that through sharing ideas and perspectives, and encouraging students to engage in dialogue with others, connections and insights into the larger, global community can occur.

Writing Workshops: designed for middle and high school students, to help young writers take a personal approach to writing through the development of a personal essay. Guest Teaching Artists are all

professional writers, and students are guided through the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting to revision to editing. Along the way, they receive personalized mentoring from volunteers and the opportunity to submit their final product to the Youth Essay Contest, which offers a monetary prize and public reading.

The PEN/Faulkner Youth Writer Camps are interactive opportunities for students entering grades 3 through 12 to continue their storytelling journey during the summer months through writing and reading activities, author visits and free books. Each summer, the foundation partners with different programs and schools to develop learning opportunities to engage youth through the power of words.

PEN/Faulkner also offers multimedia and literary extension activities to help educators contextualize and connect the books brought to their classrooms in innovative ways, all aligned with Common Core Standards. These extension activities are created in partnership with the George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

There is also an annual film/book program (Andre Aciman: *Call Me by Your Name* in 2018 and Angie Thomas: *The Hate You Give*) designed for younger audiences, to have the authors discuss their books and answer questions from the audience. These have proven to be some of the foundation's most popular programs.

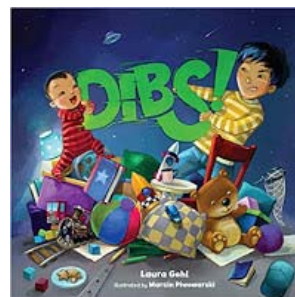
PEN/Faulkner loves to partner with other organizations, including Shout Mouse Press, the Library of Congress, the National Museum of Women in the Arts and tThe Folger Shakespeare Library, among others. To learn more about the Pen/Faulkner Foundation, please visit their website: <https://www.penfaulkner.org/>.

MEMBER NEWS

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) has selected books by five Guild members--KWAME ALEXANDER, LAURA GEHL, MEG MEDINA, MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN and CATHERINE REEF--for its 2019 CCBC Choices list: https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/CCBC_Choices_2019_citations.pdf



Three new books by LAURA GEHL will be released in May: *Baby Astronaut* (HarperFestival, May 7), *Dibs!* (Carolrhoda, May 7) and *Except When They Don't* (little bee, May 21).



On May 18, CATHERINE REEF will join fellow panelists Tonya Bolden and Deborah Heiligman and moderator Ray Shepard in New York City to discuss biography for young readers at the 10th annual conference of Biographers International Organization (BIO). Later in the day, Catherine will lead a round-table discussion on young adult biography: <https://biographersinternational.org/conference/>.

The Children's Literature Assembly has selected books by three Guild members--HENA KHAN, MINH LE and MEG MEDINA--as 2019 Notable Books in the Language Arts:

https://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/uploads/1/1/8/6/118631535/2019ncblalist.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0N_wT_7ie0oKBNERiIzV7cqGAsXwhN5-e24RndJXpc28d6D2YkZOeesho.



MARY BOWMAN KRUHM, with historic preservationist G. Bernard Callan, Jr., has written *Shutter Dogs & Boot Scrapers: A Walk through Old Frederick*. Photos are by Douglas Hemingway, spouse of Guild member EDIE HEMINGWAY. This guide to the basics of historic buildings takes the reader on a virtual or actual walking tour of homes on East Second Street in Frederick, MD. Copies are available at Schifferstadt Architectural Museum, 1110 Rosemont Ave., Frederick; the Frederick Visitor Center; and other local book-sale venues. The book may also be purchased online (fredericklandmarks.org). All proceeds go to the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation, a 501(c)3 that works to preserve local historic sites.



MEGAN WAGNER LLOYD's picture book *Paper Mice*, illustrated by Phoebe Wahl, comes out on May 21. With a snip and a clip, two paper mice are made. They are given names: Della and Ralph. Each alone, they explore their new house in the dark. Della dashes up the stairs; Ralph skitters through the dining room. There is so much to see and discover! But a big, dark house can be scary for those so small, until they find...each other. Beautiful cut-paper illustrations bring to life this lyrical story of adventure and friendship.



The first book in ERICA PERL's new Step Into Reading series, *Truth or Lie: Sharks!*, will be released by Random House Children's Books on May 28, 2019. The illustrator is Michael Slack. It's perfect for summer reading (and summer critical thinking!), because it uses a quiz format. Kids "spot the lie" from among a selection of facts, then turn the page to see if they're correct and learn even more shark facts. Future *Truth or Lie* series titles include *Dinosaurs*, *Inventors and Inventions* and...*Presidents!*

And Erica is excited to make a splash about *Truth or Lie: Sharks!* on its launch day at a school event organized by An Open Book Foundation.

SUSAN STOCKDALE will lead a "Let's Create Fabulous Fishes" [children's art workshop](#) at the Gaithersburg Book Festival, in Gaithersburg, MD, on Saturday, May 18, from 10:15 to 11 a.m.



The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art has chosen LULU DELACRE "as one of a select group of distinguished artists" to be featured at this year's Carle Honors Art Auction. Lulu feels humbled to be invited for a second time to be part of the Gala, which will be held in New York on September 26 (<https://www.carlemuseum.org/content/carlehonorshonorees2019>). The curators selected the G/H spread from *Olinguito, de la A a la Z!* Lulu thought it would be fitting to give art from this book since the artist being honored is Melissa Sweet, who won the Orbis Pictus Award the same year *Olinguito* won an Orbis Pictus Honor. Lulu adds, "I'm also thrilled that REFORMA has been chosen in the Angel category."



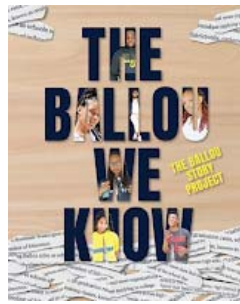
The Stonewall Award-winning MAGINATION PRESS book *This Day in June*, by Gayle Pitman, was listed in the American Library Association's Top 11 Most Challenged Books from the Office of Intellectual Freedom, tied for #10 with *Two Boys Kissing*, by David Leviathan. Pitman observed that challenging a book can involve removing it from a shelf or burning it in a trashcan. "These are attempts to erase, silence, and destroy our communities," she said. "This is an opportunity for all of us to stand up for the freedom to read, as well as for the right to see ourselves reflected in books and for our communities to exist without oppression."



Celebrate Children's Book Week at the Magination Press Book Fair! Connect with the Magination Press team and discover the magic of Magination Press books, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Thursday, May 2, at American Psychological Association's office. Meet the Magination Press editors, chat with Nyasha Chikowore (author of *Giraffe Asks for Help*), win prizes and take advantage of the special book-fair discount to stock up on MP titles. APA's office is at 750 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002. The book fair will take place in the lobby.

On May 9, SHOUT MOUSE PRESS will release *The Ballou We Know*, the fifth volume in the Ballou Story Project series. This collection of personal essays and nonfiction poems by the students of Ballou High School is available for preorder and sale at shoutmousepress.org/cart1/ballouweknow. Proceeds will go to a scholarship fund at Ballou and to empowering new authors.

On December 15, 2017, students from Ballou High School traveled to the Wilson Building in Washington, DC, to defend their school. They brought testimonials to read before the DC City Council; they brought passion, composure and steely reserve. A few weeks earlier their school had become the focus of a media storm alleging that their recent triumph--every



graduate's acceptance into college--was undeserved. Suddenly their story was no longer about celebration, but about condemnation, and the Ballou community felt unfairly maligned. The ensuing months brought citywide investigations, removals of leadership and heated debate about policies across the school system.

This book is about the young people who showed up that day: their perspectives, frustrations, ambitions and pride. These young people initiated the writing of this book, to illuminate the Ballou not often represented in the media--one full of love, hard work and transformation. They set their mission: to change the story about their school and the people who call it home, to combat stereotypes and assumptions and to motivate the next generation to persevere and believe in themselves. These young people remind us that there are many sides to every story, and that all voices should be valued and heard. "This is our last line of defense," they write. "These are our stories. This is *The Ballou We Know.*"



The student authors were photographed outside Frank W. Ballou High School.

"QUICK LINKS..."

HENA KHAN's essay on anti-Muslim hate speech in schools appeared in the *Washington Post's* "On Parenting" section, on April 9: [Parents We Need to Teach Our Children](#).

Bank Street College of Education has posted its "Best Children's Books of the Year," featuring titles published in 2018. A number of books written or illustrated by Guild members were selected:

<https://www.bankstreet.edu/library/center-for-childrens-literature/childrens-book-committee/best-childrens-books-of-the-year/>.

TIME TO RENEW GUILD MEMBERSHIP

Please respond to the email notices to renew your membership in the Children's Book Guild for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Dues are \$75 a year for residents of the Washington, DC, area and \$35 for nonresidents. You can renew online at <https://childrensbookguild.org/membership-payments>.

(There is a \$2 service charge to renew online.)

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 our webmaster at bigalhecATAol.com. If you have any questions, contact Jacqueline Jules.

For examples of Member Pages, please see:

<https://childrensbookguild.org/index.php/jacqueline-jules>

<https://childrensbookguild.org/index.php/kitson-jazyanka>

Please note: There are no extra fees for a Member Page. It is a perk of membership dues.

UPDATED LUNCHTIME LECTURE PAYMENT POLICY*

Beginning in June 2019, reservations for lunchtime lectures may be cancelled and refunded only prior to three days before the event. After that time, you are responsible for payment.

If you cancel a reservation prepaid through Paypal before the registration deadline date, you may do either of the following:

- a) Request our registrar to apply your Paypal payment to the cost of a future lunchtime lecture; or
- b) Request a refund from our registrar. Please note, however, that in this case Paypal's processing fees are nonrefundable.

If you have made a reservation but wish to cancel later than three days prior to the event:

- a) You can transfer the ticket reservation to someone else. You may ask a friend to assume your reservation and settle up privately with her/him/them; or
- b) You remain responsible for payment, via Paypal or check. Please send checks payable to the Guild in care of Treasurer Terry Jennings. If you don't know Terry Jennings's mailing address, you can request it by emailing childrensbookguild@yahoo.com. (Please note purpose of payment on your check.)

*This update is necessitated by changes at Busboys & Poets and Paypal.

GUILD EVENTS CALENDAR IS LIVE!

Members are encouraged to submit details (event name, date, time, location and a short description) of public events at which they'll appear for inclusion in the Guild's online calendar. Please send info to Pamela Ehrenberg: PMEhrenberg@pamelaehrenberg.com.

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>.

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