

# 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, October 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/>

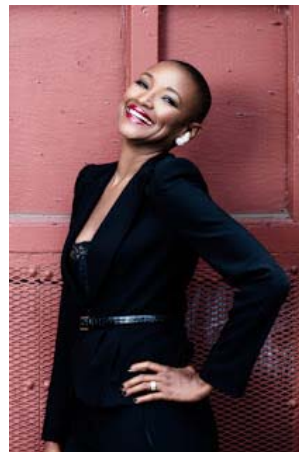
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## November 2019

### CHRISTINE PLATT, AN ADVOCATE USING THE CREATIVE MEDIUM OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS



photograph by Norman E. Jones

On November 14, Christine Platt will speak to the Children's Book Guild. Platt is a passionate advocate for social justice and policy reform and a believer in the power of storytelling as a tool for social change. Her literature centers on teaching diversity, equity and inclusion to people of all ages. She holds a bachelor's degree in Africana Studies from the University of South Florida, a master's degree in African and African American Studies from The Ohio State University and a J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Platt formerly served as the managing director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University.

Drawing on her academic and professional backgrounds, Platt will speak about the importance of windows and mirrors in children's literature. She believes that one of the easiest ways to teach race, equity, diversity and inclusion is by normalizing them through storytelling. Many young readers grow up reading "window" books; Platt can imagine how difficult it is to always be looking at the amazing story of someone else--someone who looks nothing like them. It affects readers' self-esteem and their desire to read and learn. One remedy is to accurately represent society and the importance of all cultures and histories in books, and she makes this a focus of her own writing. "I love that I'm still able to do advocacy work through a different creative medium," she has said.

In Platt's first eight-book series for young readers, main characters Ana and Andrew learn about African American history and culture through visits with their family and traveling around the world. In her latest series, *Sheroes*, young readers learn about important female historical figures. The first book in the *Sheroes* series introduces readers to Harriet Tubman and how she became a shero, freeing as many slaves as possible through the Underground Railroad. Other real wonder women of history include Sacagewea, Joan of Arc and Cleopatra. Platt's first middle-grade work, *Trailblazers: Martin Luther King Jr.*, will be published in fall 2020.

**Date: Thursday, November 14 (the second Thursday of the month)**

**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:**

- 1. The Children's Book Guild's Holiday Party**
- 2. DC Ward 3 Democrats' Book Drive**
- 3. Simon Boughton's New Imprint, Norton Young Readers**
- 4. Member News**
- 5. Opportunities with PEN/Faulkner**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD MONTHLY NEWS FOR 2019. LOOK FOR THE JANUARY 2020 ISSUE IN LATE DECEMBER. THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 16 AND WILL FEATURE A LECTURE BY ELLEN OH.**

You're invited to the Children's Book Guild's

2019



Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 PM

at the home of

Susan Stockdale and Todd Mann  
in Chevy Chase, Maryland  
(address will be provided via email)

Please RSVP to Susan  
at [susan@susanstockdale.com](mailto:susan@susanstockdale.com)  
by November 30 *only if you plan to attend*

and specify what you will bring:  
a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert.

Libations will be provided.

**Spouses and significant others are most welcome!**

### **DC WARD 3 DEMOCRATS' BOOK DRIVE: HOW GUILD MEMBERS CAN PARTICIPATE**

*by Rhoda Trooboff*

To help welcome children at the soon-to-be-completed (December 31, 2019) Short-Term Family Homeless Shelter on Idaho Avenue NW in Ward 3, the DC Ward 3 Democrats are sponsoring a book drive to create an on-site kids' library. To date, 497 new books have been contributed. Ribbon cutting for the shelter is projected to take place in early 2020, and the anticipated move-in date for the first residents is March 31, 2020. Politics & Prose has put together a list of books for donors to select and buy. Kids' Play is supporting this drive by offering 20 percent sales discounts only through November 1 (<https://www.ward3democrats.org/>).

At my request, the Ward 3 Democrats' Literacy & Library Task Force has kindly extended its drive for the Children's Book Guild through November to accommodate our timing. I encourage Guild members to participate in this book drive by donating their books to be passed along to the task force, to add to this welcome library. I have offered to be the Guild's intermediary.

If you wish to join this effort, please bring your signed, brand-new books to the Guild's November 23 Diversity Training Meeting. I will collect and deliver them to the Ward 3 Democrats for storage and curating prior to the ribbon cutting. What we amass will be presented all together as a gift from THE CHILDREN'S BOOK GUILD OF WASHINGTON, D.C. Your welcoming, encouraging inscription will personalize the gift as coming specifically from you.

**Specifications are:**

- only new books
- age appropriate for kids from birth to 18 years
- personally inscribed with a welcoming, encouraging message

Since these contributed books will be funneled through the DC Ward 3 Democrats (a political organization), they are not tax deductible.

Please contact Rhoda Trooboff ([rtrooboff@gmail.com](mailto:rtrooboff@gmail.com)) for more information.

**PUBLISHER SIMON BOUGHTON LOVES, LOVES, LOVES HIS NEW JOB**

*by Amy Hansen*

Simon Boughton is doing what he loves best. He is starting a new list of children's books. He is taking the usually academically oriented publisher W. W. Norton into the realm of multilayered picture books and broadening everyone's horizons.

Norton Young Readers is a new imprint of W.W. Norton, an employee-owned, century-old publisher well known for its anthologies of poetry and fiction that are staples of college classes. For W. W. Norton, children's trade book publishing is a new field. For Boughton, however, not so much.

After working at Simon and Schuster for Young Readers and Crown Books for Young Readers, he started Roaring Brook Press in 2000. He also helped launch First Second, the graphic-novel imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, eventually becoming the publisher of Farrar Straus & Giroux for Young Readers as well as the First Second and Roaring Brook Press imprints. He joined W. W. Norton in 2018.

"The most fun you can have is starting a list," he told members and guests at the October 17 Children's Book Guild lecture. "I enjoy editing books. And I enjoy the challenge of making them remunerative."

And making them sell well goes beyond buying wonderful manuscripts, he explained. It is also about display. "I enjoy the curating," he said, comparing his approach to his book list to a gallery owner thinking about artwork. "What book goes with what book? That's what's so fun."

For now, he expects his list to feature 20 books a year, with growth a possibility. He plans to take on fiction and nonfiction, picture books, chapter books, middle grade and teen, including graphic novels for any age range.

The first list checked several boxes on his wish list: best-selling picture book writer? He checked that one when David Shannon's agent called. Narrative nonfiction for middle grade? He acquired Karen Magnuson's *What Linnaeus Saw*. New Voice? The memoir *Free Lunch*, by Rex Ogle, checked that box.

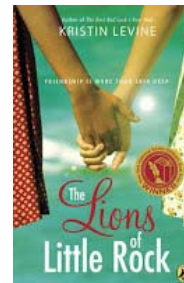
But all his books have something in common. They all create a discussion. "I want books that challenge conventional thinking," he said. "For better or worse, I want books that are provocative."

**MEMBER NEWS**



**LULU DELACRE** is happy to be presenting a family program on *Olinguito, from A to Z!* at the Read to Reef Program, hosted by the Enoch Pratt Free Library in partnership with the Baltimore Aquarium. This event is part of the Baltimore Book Festival. Join Lulu on November 3 at 1 p.m., in the Pratt Free Library tent!

Lulu is also excited to be a featured author at the Western New York Children's Book Expo this November: [WNY Children's Book Expo](#).



**KRISTIN LEVINE** is excited to share that her book *The Lions of Little Rock* was optioned by Addison Riecke, who costarred on the Nickelodeon series *The Thundermans* and is starting her own production company. You can read more about the deal at:

<https://deadline.com/2019/09/addison-riecke-the-lions-of-little-rock-film-adaptation-first-project-from-addison-reickes-new-production-company-1202744081/>



*Parenting*, by Sally Davies

Three of **SALLY DAVIES's** short time-lapse painting films, *Parenting*, *Almost 21* and *Air*, were selected for the International Utopia Film Festival. They will be screened on Saturday, November 16, at 6 p.m., at the Old Greenbelt Theater, Greenbelt, MD, with other short films from around the world. Here is a link to the festival schedule: <https://www.utopiafilmfestival.org/schedule.htm> For more information, visit <https://www.utopiafilmfestival.org/films2-905369-957475.html>.



*Air*, by Sally Davies



SHOUT MOUSE PRESS is releasing its next series of diverse and inclusive children's books, which will go on sale November 15. Book descriptions can be [found here](#).

Also, the press's fifth annual #BooksGiving holiday sale will run November 29 through December 3. It's a great chance to give back *and* give books! Shout Mouse Press is looking for folks to help amplify this giving opportunity by joining its volunteer corps of "Megaphones." Sign up to become a Megaphone at [www.shoutmousepress.org/megaphones](http://www.shoutmousepress.org/megaphones).

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#### **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](#).

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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 lists many upcoming programs that may be of interest to Children's Book Guild members: <http://www.politics-prose.com/events>. Among November's speakers is MINH LE.

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