

Children's Book Guild News



CHILDREN'S
BOOK GUILD
of WASHINGTON, DC

Monthly News

Authors • Illustrators • Children's Literature Specialists

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Saturday, December 26, 2020

Pages

[Home](#)

[Guild Member Blogs](#)

[Busboys and Poets](#)

[Monthly Luncheon Schedule](#)

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 2021

AUTHOR-ILLUSTRATOR JUANA MARTINEZ-NEAL TO DISCUSS HER CREATIVE PROCESS



Meet Juana Martinez-Neal in a Zoom webinar on Thursday, January 21, at 1 p.m. This Peruvian-born maker of books is the daughter and granddaughter of painters. Her debut picture book as an author-illustrator, *Alma and How She Got Her Name*, was awarded a 2019 Caldecott Honor. In 2020, Martinez-Neal received the Sibert Medal for *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*. Join the Zoom gathering to get a look at her creative process and a sneak peak at her upcoming book, *Zonia's Rain Forest*.



Guild member Susan Stockdale, herself an award-winning author and illustrator, will facilitate the Q & A for the program.

The Guild is providing the opportunity each month for making a donation to an organization that is working for racial justice in children's literacy and education. January's chosen organization is Teaching Tolerance. There is an option to donate after registering. To learn more about Teaching Tolerance and their important work, check out their website [here](#).

RSVP Now!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1. President's Letter**
- 2. Applications for Membership:**
Claudia Friddell
Ginger Park
- 3. Member News**
- 4. Look at My Books Campaign**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Happy New Year!

It is my wish that the holidays have provided each of you with moments of peace, reflection and community to fortify you during the wintry weeks ahead. I'm also hoping that the Guild has brought something positive to carry into the year—a new acquaintance, a creative inspiration or an opportunity to grow professionally. There is much to anticipate on the horizon.

Our first program of 2021 will be held on January 21, at 1 p.m. The

Guild will welcome author and illustrator [Juana Martinez-Neal](#) in a conversation moderated by Guild member Susan Stockdale. When you register, you'll be given the option of making a voluntary donation to [Teaching Tolerance](#), an educational group whose mission is "to help

teachers and schools educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy.”

On February 17, also at 1 p.m, the Guild will welcome author and illustrator **Jason Chin**. You'll be receiving more information on this program next month.

I'd like to welcome our newest Guild member: author, speaker and literacy activist Caroline Brewer. Caroline joins us motivated with ideas and purpose. She's organized a book donation campaign for the Guild, *Look at My Books!*, which I encourage all our members to take part in.

It was wonderful to share the evening with those of you able to attend the Guild holiday Zoom gathering on December 17. We heard news from some of our members, had fun with a children's literature trivia game and engaged in a couple of breakout sessions that provided the chance to commune in small groups. Please join me in thanking our Program Committee--Kathie Meizner, Maria Salvadore and Barbara Gowan--who worked creatively to provide a fun, festive time for all.

I concluded the evening with a toast to ring in the new year. Afterward, several folks asked if I would share my remarks in the newsletter. They follow here:

I want to begin by saying it's always a highlight of the holiday season for us to get together each year with our Guild family.

And, even if this year we're doing so virtually, this, of all years, calls for a toast. When we look beyond the trauma we've sustained, as individuals and as a nation, we see so much that merits our gratitude, right in our very midst.

Such as the reopening--albeit limited at the moment-- of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. After a three-year, \$211 million renovation and overall metamorphosis, the MLK Library has emerged as one of the nation's truest examples of what a modern, living library can be—and what it can mean for a great city and its people. I look forward to seeing it thriving and open for all of us in the near future.

Second, I'd like to celebrate the renaissance we're undergoing in children's literature—from the increasingly diverse voices of a new generation of writers, to the new ways artists are finding to tell the stories of our time in pictures and words—with the members of our Guild in the vanguard.

And, finally, I think it's worth noting, as we roll up this year of unexpected struggle, promise and change, the role that children's literature has played in helping to get us all through.

Books, literature, stories have the power to pull us together when everything else seems to be pulling us apart; to join us in the great community of writers, illustrators, publishers, librarians, literary specialists and others who remind us, through their work, of all that we have to learn from each other; to invite us into a deeper understanding of what it means to share in the human experience, through the stories that we're told, and the stories that we tell.

And so, I hope you'll join me in raising a glass to all we've been able to accomplish—working together, and working on our own—in this year of uncertainty and challenge.

Here's to brighter days to come in 2021.

CHEERS!

Karen Deans

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: CLAUDIA FRIDDELL

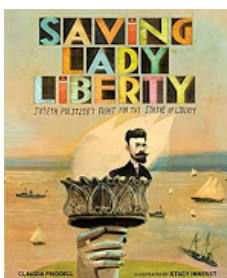
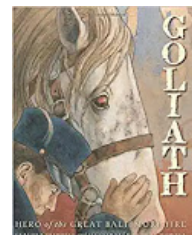


Author Claudia Friddell has applied for membership in the Children's Book Guild. She writes:

"As an elementary teacher for 20 years, it was one of my greatest joys to share narrative nonfiction books with my students. Seeing their excitement and interest in people and events from long ago, all because of a well-told story, inspired me to start digging for historical treasures and turn them into my own kid-friendly books. Growing up in Kansas, Virginia, North Dakota and Minnesota exposed me to the rich historical treasures of each unique

region. As a Kansas transplant in Virginia in the early 1970s, I experienced the first year of busing while bonding with a southern woman in her 90s. Born in the 1880s, Big Frances shared with me her life stories, ranging from horse and buggy rides to her uncle's Civil War death at the Battle of Antietam. Together we watched news of Watergate hearings, Vietnam and racial turmoil. Time traveling with her hooked me on American history.

"After raising a family and teaching in Baltimore, I now divide my time between Baltimore and St. Michaels, still digging for treasure— always on the lookout for kid-friendly, little-known and long-forgotten stories of consequential Americans whose accomplishments--and often-heroic feats--inspire readers, young and old alike.



"I am the author of *Goliath, Hero of the Great Baltimore Fire* (Sleeping Bear Press) and *George Washington's Spies* (Random House). My books with Calkins Creek are *Saving Lady Liberty: Joseph Pulitzer's Fight for the Statue of Liberty* (spring 2020); *Grace Banker and Her Hello Girls* (February 2021); *Road Trip! Camping with the Four Vagabonds: Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs* (fall 2021); and *To the Front! Clara Barton at the*

Battle of Antietam (spring 2022)."

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: GINGER PARK

I well remember meeting Ginger Park for the first time, more than 20 years ago. An array of colorful children's books beckoned from the

*display counter of a delightful downtown Washington chocolate boutique. And inside I met the talented, friendly Ginger, coauthor of the books and co-owner of the store (both with her wonderful sister, Frances). Of course, I left with chocolate—but also smiling from a fun chat with another new mom and fellow writer. I've so enjoyed keeping in touch with Ginger over the years, cheering her new books and trading updates on kids. Ginger's picture books *The Royal Bee* and *My Freedom Trip*—inspired by her mother and grandfather, respectively—have won awards and found an important place in schools and classrooms, and they have become favorites of my family. I also heartily recommend the warmhearted memoir Ginger coauthored with Frances, *Chocolate Chocolate: The True Story of Two Sisters, Tons of Treats*, and the *Little Shop That Could*, to anyone who delights in chocolate, DC history and human encounters of the good-humored and quirky sort. Ginger has a new children's book forthcoming soon, and I look forward to reading it. I'm thrilled to join membership co-chairs Joyce Schwartz and Winifred Conkling in welcoming Ginger to the Guild. ~ Mary Quattlebaum*



Ginger Park writes:

"According to my life-path number, three, I was destined to write (that is, if you believe in numerology, and I do). But as a youngster I was an athlete, a gymnast with boundless energy, and spent most of my time upside down,

turning cartwheels and doing backflips. I was too carefree to tap into my creative side.

"That all changed on my 17th birthday, two days after my father's untimely death. It was a gut-wrenching aha moment, a reflective day of tearful soul searching, when I realized that I knew very little about my parents—their lives and dreams growing up in Korea, their struggles to survive in a world of war, oppression and life-shattering events.

"For the next few months I was fretful, clinging to my mother, yearning to know her life story as well as my father's, fearing our time together was like sand in an hourglass. Night after night, we stayed up late sifting through old photos as my mother shared anecdotal events of the homeland. I was mesmerized, listening, interpreting and ultimately crafting my art while documenting my family's rich past, which spanned the Korean peninsula from the northern port city of Sinuiju to the southern capital city of Seoul.

"And so began my writing journey.

"While I never followed in my father's Harvard footsteps, writing books and owning a boutique chocolate shop in the heart of downtown Washington, DC, have been my true education. Yes, *Books and Chocolate*. As writer and entrepreneur, I've built a sweet life, surviving and thriving in an uncertain world.



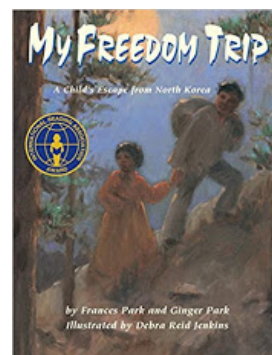
"With my sister, Frances Park, I've written a delicious chocolate memoir and a cookbook for allergy sufferers as well as some whimsical picture books, such as *Where on Earth Is My Bagel?* and *The Have a Good Day Café*. Do you see a theme here? Yes, I'm a foodie at heart! But it is the books inspired by my parents' experiences growing up in Japanese-occupied Korea and enduring the Russian invasion of their homeland and the Korean War that have deeper meaning, so I bring a tragic yet vibrant world back to life.

"Sadly, my mother passed away in 2019, but, like my father, she lives on through the books my sister and I have written, which have garnered many accolades, including the International Reading Association's Children's Book Award; the Paterson Prize for Books for Young People; the Joan G. Sugarman Children's Book Award, Outstanding Merit; Best Children's Books of the Year, Bank Street College; Parents' Choice Award; Junior Library Guild Selection; IRA-CBC Teachers' Choice Award; and NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People.

"My books have been published by National Geographic, Boyds Mills & Kane, Hyperion, Lee & Low, St. Martin's Press and Thomas Dunne. I'm honored to add Regal House Publishing to the list with the publication of my latest work, *The Hundred Choices Department Store*. Set in Sinuiju, this historical novel is inspired by my mother's remembrances of her family's painful struggles during the Russian invasion of their hometown and ultimate flight south, across the 38th parallel to Seoul, just prior to the outbreak of the Korean War.

"When I'm not writing or spending treasured time with my human and fur-baby family, I'm usually at my shop, behind the counter 'breaking chocolate' with my beloved customers. My shop motto is 'There's a chocolate for every mood.' But for me it's always something dark and earthy that lingers on the tongue long after the chocolate has melted.

"I've spent most of my professional career simply writing, but now I'm ready to put myself out there. In a nutshell, I've always been deeply touched by the letters penned by children (some as young as 5 years old) that arrive in the mail, and the many families who have visited our shop to meet the authors with book in hand for an autograph and photo to share with classmates and friends. But I suppose it was living through the pandemic and feeling helpless in a very divided country that prompted me to join the Children's Book Guild of DC, coupled with a series of discoveries: an ESL teacher in Indiana sending me a moving video of her Korean students learning English by working on a book project with *My Freedom Trip* (replete with music and students reading their book reports aloud), and searching the internet for a high-definition cover of one of my titles for the SCBWI Read Local Challenge, but instead finding YouTube videos of teachers and librarians soulfully reading my books, pausing to discuss the characters and storyline. These heartwarming discoveries made me realize that there are wondrous forces out there independently and collectively working to



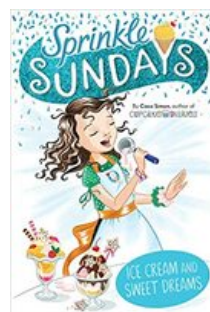
improve literacy in our world, and I felt the time was right to get involved.

"I liked the idea of a local organization, and since the Guild came highly recommended by Mary Quattlebaum a few years back, I thought, hmm... let's see where this takes me."

MEMBER NEWS

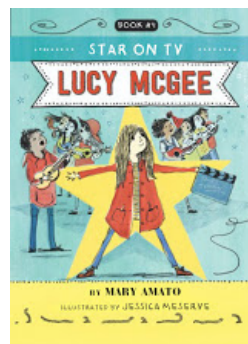


SUSAN KUSEL's debut picture book, *The Passover Guest*, is about Muriel, a young girl living in Washington, DC, during the Great Depression. She assumes her family is too poor to hold a Passover Seder, but an act of kindness and a mysterious magician change everything. The book will be released January 19, 2021, from Neal Porter Books, an imprint of Holiday House: <https://holidayhouse.com/book/the-passover-guest/>.



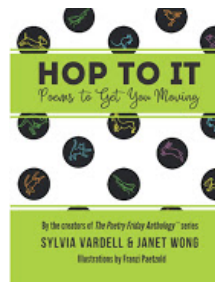
CAROLINE HICKEY's latest book in the Sprinkle Sunday series, #12: *Ice Cream and Sweet Dreams*, came out on December 8. This will be the last book in the series, and it follows main character Sierra as her friends convince her to enter a local singing contest, convinced she's destined for stardom. Unfortunately, at the tryouts Sierra discovers she's a small fish in a very large pond. Will she keep swimming (singing!), or move on to a new dream?

Caroline also had a picture book about Greek Myths published through Sterling Books/Starry Forest debut early this year.

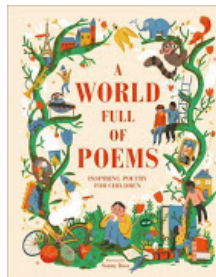


MARY AMATO celebrates the release of her fourth book in the Lucy McGee series, *A Star on TV, Lucy McGee* (Holiday House, 2020). When Lucy has the great idea of singing the weather report for the school's TV news show, she makes the mistake of not inviting her friends in the Songwriting Club to join in the fun. Scarlett takes revenge by snagging an opportunity to sing the weather on real TV and inviting her "best" friends. Will Lucy's desire to get on TV push her to make the kind of choices that will cause trouble not only with friends, but also at home? Find out in the final book of the Lucy McGee series. Best for ages 7-10. Readers can also hear and sing along with the book's songs: <https://www.maryamato.com/lucy-songs/>.

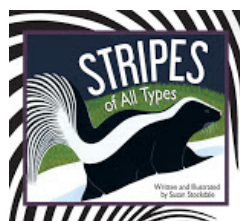
In January, Mary is launching a new effort, called the Creative Momentum Collective, to support members in reaching long-term project goals. If you're interested in finding out more about the collective, please contact Mary: Info (at) maryamato (dot) com.



JACQUELINE JULES is pleased to announce that her poem "Clear, Cool Blue" appears in *Hop to It: Poems to Get You Moving*, a new anthology edited by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong, published by Pomelo Books. *Hop to It* brings together 100 poems by 90 poets—with fun factoids sprinkled throughout, thematic mini-lessons and extensive back matter. Topics include life during a pandemic, virtual learning and staying connected with friends. Other poems encourage readers to stay active in these uncertain times. To learn more, visit https://www.qepbooks.com/Products/HOP-TO-IT-Poems-to-Get-You-Moving__Pom7299.aspx.



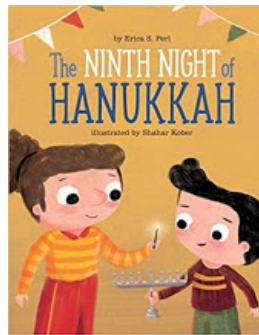
Jacqueline Jules is also pleased to announce that her poem “Bubbles” appears in *A World Full of Poems*, edited by Sylvia Vardell and published this fall by DK Children. This anthology explores poetry from a diverse selection of contemporary and historical poets, covering a broad range of topics—from personal subjects such as emotions and family, to the wonders of the natural environment. To learn more, visit <https://www.qepbooks.com/A-World-Full-of-Poems>.



Calling all families and animal lovers! SUSAN STOCKDALE will present a [virtual program](#) on her picture book *Stripes of All Types* for the National Museum of Natural History on Saturday, January 9, from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

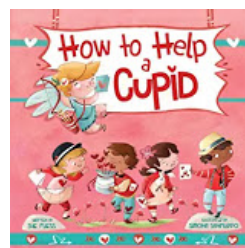


SUE FLIESS did a Zoom reading with Scrawl Books of her latest holiday book, *Christmas Cheer*, alongside fellow Guild member ERICA PERL, who promoted her new holiday book, *The Ninth Night of Hanukkah*.
Sue's reading: <https://fb.watch/2kQSuar52l/>
Erica's reading: <https://fb.watch/2kQU9IXZaf/>

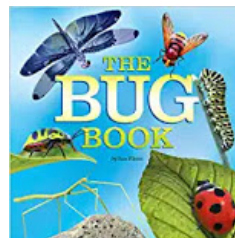
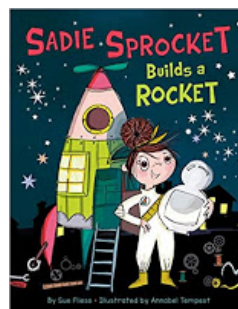


Sue has two new books coming out at the start of 2021:

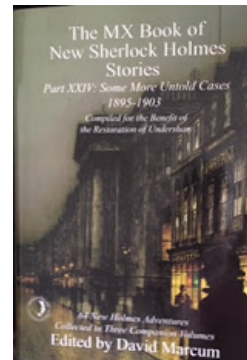
On January 5, her Valentine's Day book, *How to Help a Cupid*, illustrated by Simona Sanfilippo, publishes with Sky Pony Press. It is the sixth book in her Magical Creatures and Crafts series. Here's the new book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bRiLwYQvyk&feature=youtu.be>.



On February 1, the release of *Sadie Sprocket Builds a Rocket* by Amazon's Two Lions Press will fortuitously coincide with the landing of NASA's *Perseverance* rover on Mars. *Kirkus* just gave the book a lovely review: "A little girl's imaginative plan to become an astronaut and be the first to travel to Mars really takes off... Inspiring, adventurous fun for aspirational kids."



Sue's *The Bug Book*, which was part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library three years in a row, was shown (briefly!) in Dolly's Imagination Library documentary, which premiered on Facebook on December 9. Watch the documentary here: <https://www.facebook.com/dollysimaginationlibrary/videos/369048854395459>.



BRENDA SEABROOKE's Sherlock Holmes pastiche, "The Case of the Accused Cook," was just published in an anthology by MX Publications, London.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO GIVE TO THE LOOK AT MY BOOKS CAMPAIGN

Guild members have until January 16 to begin building home libraries for children involved in Turning the Page schools in Washington, DC. As described in the December newsletter, children's author/literacy activist/Guild member Caroline Brewer has created the [Look at My Books Campaign](#) to provide children with books at home, especially when access to school and public libraries is limited during the pandemic.

Please consider donating three to five books (or more)--your own and/or others matching the interests specified below. All families are African American, so we are seeking books that will be both windows and mirrors--but not all books need to match this list. When asked their children's reading interests, many parents said "Anything!"

Pre K: sports, adventure, fairytales, school, cars, animals

First grade: fairytales, animals, adventure

Second grade: animals, cars, adventure, mystery

Third grade: adventure, history, mystery, animals

Fourth grade: sports, science, adventure, mystery

Fifth grade: sports, animals, history, chapter books, adventure

There are a few sixth through eighth graders in these families as well.

See the email sent to Guild members on November 30 for drop-off information. You may contact Karen Leggett at karenleggett50@gmail.com for more information.

Virtual Programs at Politics and Prose

During the pandemic, Politics and Prose continues to host free events for children and adults--virtually. These can be viewed live, in real time, or afterward, as recordings. You can view P&P's events calendar and register for events at: <https://www.politics-prose.com/events>. (Advance registration is required to receive a link.)

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