

# Highlights<sup>®</sup>

## Foundation

intimate and inspiring workshops for children's authors and illustrators



# 2013 WORKSHOPS





For twenty-nine years, the Highlights Foundation has been fulfilling its mission of improving the quality of children's literature by helping authors and illustrators hone their craft.

We'd like to invite you to join us for a workshop or retreat at our conference center in the beautiful Pocono Mountains near Honesdale, Pennsylvania. Each year, we offer more than three dozen workshops covering a wide range of topics. The workshops are led by children's publishing professionals: editors, writers, art directors, publishers, agents, academics, and others who are there to help you realize your creative goals.

We have enjoyed the company of thousands of participants over the years and would welcome the chance to add you to our Foundation family.

C A T E G O R I E S



NONFICTION



CREATE



NOVEL



CRAFT



POETRY



PICTURE BOOK



SPECIAL MARKETS



@HighlightsFound

## 2013 WORKSHOPS At a Glance



### It's all about craft:

- Nature Writing Boot Camp ..... page 4
- Playing to Win: A Dramatic Approach to Solving Story Problems ..... page 11
- Writing Fiction for Children and Young Adults ..... page 12
- The Unfinished Manuscript and What to Do About It ..... page 18
- Kids' Book Revision Retreat ..... page 18
- Fairy Tales Revisited ..... page 18
- Advanced Illustrators Workshop ..... page 19
- Everything You Need to Know About Children's Book Publishing ..... page 24
- The Hero's Journey: Bringing the Power of Mythic Structure to Your Writing ..... page 25
- Writing Across Boundaries ..... page 26



### Clear your schedule and just create:

- Author's Retreat with Two Authors in Residence ..... page 9
- Guided Retreat: Writer in Residence ..... page 13
- More Room to Create ..... page 22
- Author's Retreat with Two Writers in Residence ..... page 29



### Just the facts! All about nonfiction:

- Science Writing Boot Camp ..... page 4
- A Concentrated Course in Nonfiction ..... page 8
- Writing Nonfiction for Children and Young Adults ..... page 16
- Writing Biographies ..... page 20



### Dedicate some time to working on your novel:

- Whole Novel Workshop: Fantasy ..... page 6
- Whole Novel Workshop: Young Adult ..... page 17
- Building a Novel: Scene, Summary, and Sentence ..... page 27
- Whole Novel Workshop: Historical Fiction ..... page 28



### Polish your picture book manuscript:

- Writing from the Heart ..... page 15
- The Power of a Picture Book ..... page 20



### If you're passionate about poetry:

- The Poet's Poetry Workshop ..... page 7
- Poetry for the Delight of It ..... page 21



### Take a deeper look at some special markets:

- Sharing Our Hope: Writing for Religious and Inspirational Markets ..... page 8
- Writing Jewish-Themed Children's Books ..... page 10
- Writing for the Educational Market ..... page 13
- A "Short" Cut to Success ..... page 23



# Nature Writing Boot Camp

May 5 – May 8, 2013 | Tuition: \$1295

Will your writing ignite a love of nature in young readers? Before children grow up and help solve the problems of the world, they need to have a deep connection with nature. They need to understand how humans and the many other living things in their environment depend on one another. Join multiple-award-winning authors Dianna Hutts Aston (*An Egg Is Quiet*, *A Butterfly Is Patient*) and Pamela S. Turner (*The Frog Scientist*, *A Life in the Wild*); Mark Baldwin, director of education at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History; editorial consultant and veteran book editor Eileen Robinson; and Andy Boyles, senior science editor at *Highlights* magazine. Laurence Pringle, celebrated author of more than 100 books for children, will join the workshop as a guest.

The workshop offers four days of immersion in the art and craft of writing about the natural world. Through nature-journaling

workshops, lectures, one-on-one manuscript critiques, and ample writing time, this workshop will give you the tools and insights you need to advance on your path to success.

## This workshop will help you

- use basic tools and techniques for nature observation and journaling;
- identify solid nature story ideas for various children's publishing markets;
- work with experts to improve the accuracy and depth of your writing; and
- draw on your observations and research to write cohesive books, articles, or other works for young readers.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, May 5, and ends Wednesday, May 8, after lunch. After lunch, at 1:30, there will be an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mill Press.

## Faculty

### Dianna Hutts Aston



Dianna Hutts Aston is the author of many books for children, including the award-winning *An Egg Is Quiet*, *A Butterfly Is Patient*

and *A Rock Is Lively*, all illustrated by Sylvia Long. *The Moon Over Star*, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, received a Coretta Scott Honor in 2009. Learn more at <http://diannahaston.com>.

### Mark Baldwin



Principal author of the *Natural History Atlas to the Chautauqua-Allegheny Region*, Mark has devoted the past sixteen years to

the development of nature education programs for the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. As director of education, Mark works with teachers throughout the country to infuse nature studies into their curricula.

### Andy Boyles



Andy is the science editor at *Highlights* magazine. Andy works to acquire articles that (1) help kids develop a deep, lasting connection

with nature or (2) show that science is an ongoing, self-correcting process or (3) both. Andy is a member of the National Association of Science Writers and the National Science Teachers Association. He was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2012.

### Pamela Turner



Pamela is the author of *Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog*; *Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes*; *Life on Earth—and*

*Beyond: An Astrobiologist's Quest*; *The Frog Scientist*; *A Life in the Wild: George Schaller's Struggle to Save the Last Great Beasts*; *Prowling the Seas: Exploring the Hidden Lives of Ocean Predators*; *Project Seahorse*; and the forthcoming book *The Dolphins of Shark Bay*.

### Eileen Robinson



Eileen has helped many writers become first-time authors during her years at Scholastic. For almost ten years, she acquired,

developed, and edited children's books for both Scholastic, as executive editor, and Harcourt Publishers, as editorial manager. She has also worked on projects for National Geographic, Santillana USA, Marshall Cavendish, Weekly Reader, and others.

### Laurence Pringle special guest



Laurence Pringle is an accomplished writer of nonfiction. He has written more than one hundred books for children about

animals and insects (*Dinosaurs and Their World*; *Cicadas! Strange and Wonderful*; *An Extraordinary Life: The Story of a Monarch Butterfly*, to name just a few), as well as humanitarian and environmental issues. Find out more at [www.laurencepringle.com](http://www.laurencepringle.com).

**In addition to our Nature Writing Boot Camp (May 5-8, 2013), we are also offering a Science Writing Boot Camp (May 8-11, 2013). Scheduled back-to-back in our picturesque Pocono Mountain setting, these workshops offer writers an opportunity to work on both disciplines. Join us for one workshop or attend both for \$1,800.00.**



# Science Writing Boot Camp

May 8 – May 11, 2013 | Tuition: \$1295

Powerful science writing can bring vital subjects into the light for young readers. Once children have that “Aha!” feeling and glimpse the creativity and insight that go into science, they are hooked. But first, dedicated writers must create books, articles, and other works with the potential to take kids on exciting adventures in science. Work alongside a vested science faculty that includes Gerry Bishop, award-winning photographer; Melissa Stewart, award-winning author of more than 150 books; editorial consultant and veteran book editor Eileen Robinson; Andy Boyles, senior science editor at *Highlights* magazine; and Jude Isabella, award-winning science writer and editor of children’s books and magazines and prolific science writer for adult publications. Laurence Pringle, celebrated author of more than 100 books for children, will join the workshop as a guest.

The work required to join the ranks of children’s science writers is challenging but rewarding. Through lectures, one-to-one manuscript critiques, and ample writing time, this workshop will

give you the tools and insights you need to advance on your path to success.

### This workshop will help you

- develop critical skills for interviewing scientists and other experts;
- identify solid science story ideas for various children’s publishing markets;
- work with experts to improve the accuracy and depth of your writing;
- draw on your interviews and other research to write cohesive books, articles, or other works for young readers; and
- compose better photographs.

Begins on Wednesday, May 8, with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mill Press, followed by dinner. Ends on Saturday, May 11, after lunch.

## Faculty

### Melissa Stewart



Melissa is the award-winning author of more than 150 science books for children. After earning a degree in biology and

science journalism, Melissa worked as a children’s book editor for nine years before becoming a full-time writer in 2000. She has written everything from board books for preschoolers to magazine articles for adults. Find out more at [www.melissa-stewart.com](http://www.melissa-stewart.com).

### Andy Boyles



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connection with nature or (2) show that science is an ongoing, self-correcting process or (3) both. Andy is a member of the National Association of Science Writers and the National Science Teachers Association. He was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2012.

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### Gerry Bishop



Gerry Bishop has been creating and selling photographs since the early 1970s. His images have appeared in many

publications, including *National Wildlife*, *Virginia Wildlife*, *Nature’s Best*, *Ranger Rick*, and *BBC Wildlife*.

### Jude Isabella



Jude Isabella has written for *The Walrus*, *New Scientist*, *the Loh Down on Science*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Medical*

*Post*, *Wild Magazine*, *Reader’s Digest*, *Archaeology Magazine*, *BC Magazine*, *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, *Spirituality and Health Magazine*, and *The Tyee*, focusing on science, health, and the environment. Find out more at [www.judeisabella.com](http://www.judeisabella.com).

### Laurence Pringle

special guest



Laurence Pringle is an accomplished writer of nonfiction. He has written more than one hundred books for children about

animals and insects (*Dinosaurs and Their World*; *Cicadas! Strange and Wonderful*; *An Extraordinary Life: The Story of a Monarch Butterfly*, to name just a few), as well as humanitarian and environmental issues. Find out more at [www.laurencepringle.com](http://www.laurencepringle.com).

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# Whole Novel Workshop: Fantasy

May 12 – May 18, 2013 | Tuition: \$2665

Founded in 2006, this session of the Whole Novel Workshop: Fantasy is specifically designed for those working in the fantasy genre. This unique program offers the one-on-one attention found in degree programs, but without additional academic requirements, lengthy time commitments, or prohibitive financial investments. Our aim is to focus on a specific fantasy work in progress, moving a novel to the next level in preparation for submission to agents or publishers. Focused attention in an intimate setting makes this mentorship program one that guarantees significant progress.

### Our novel mentorship program includes

- focused, one-on-one response to your entire novel-in-progress from an accomplished author, agent, or editor currently working in the genre of fantasy;
- group discussion and feedback;

- faculty seminars on technique, craft, query letters, and agent/editor submissions; and
- ample time to write and revise.

The Whole Novel Workshop offers writers the rare opportunity to have the entire draft of a novel read and critiqued prior to the workshop, followed by a week of intense, one-on-one mentoring. Each Whole Novel Workshop is limited to sixteen students. Each faculty member will work with only four students, providing undivided attention and several one-on-one sessions as well as a reading of your complete manuscript prior to the workshop.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, May 12, and ends Saturday, May 18, after breakfast.

## Faculty

### Franny Billingsley



Franny writes middle-grade and young-adult fantasies. Her most recent novel, *Chime*, was nominated for the National Book Award.

Her novel *The Folk Keeper* won the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award and the Mythopoeic Award. She teaches at Vermont College of Fine Arts and lives in Mexico. Read more at [www.frannybillingsley.com](http://www.frannybillingsley.com).

### Laura Ruby



Laura is the author of the children's mystery *Lily's Ghosts*, the children's fantasy *The Wall and the Wing*, and a sequel, *The Chaos King*. She also writes

contemporary fiction for older teens, and her debut young-adult novel, *Good Girls*, was a Book Sense Pick for fall 2006 and an ALA Quick Pick for 2007. Find out more at [www.lauraruby.com](http://www.lauraruby.com).

“The faculty went above & beyond to be available to writers.”

— Tracy Sottosanti, Waxhaw, NC

### Anne Ursu



Anne is the author of several books for young readers. Her book *Breadcrumbs* was a Publishers Weekly, School

Library Journal, BCCB, and Amazon.com Best Book of the Year. It was also featured in NPR's Backseat Bookclub. She is also the author of *The Cronus Chronicles* as well as two books for adults. She teaches in Hamline University's MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults. Find out more at [www.aneursu.com](http://www.aneursu.com).

### Christine Heppermann



A long-time reviewer for the Horn Book Magazine, Christine has a nonfiction book, *City Chickens* (Houghton Mifflin, 2012).

She received an MA in children's literature from Simmons College and is a recent graduate of Hamline University's MFA program in writing for children and young adults. Her young-adult poetry collection, inspired by her Catholic upbringing, *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty*, is forthcoming from Greenwillow.

### Cheryl Pientka

special guest



Cheryl Pientka spent her twenties working at trade magazines and for the Associated Press in Washington, DC, and New York. After pursuing an MS

in journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, she became a part-time assistant in a literary agency and has been happily involved in book publishing for eleven years. She is currently the subsidiary and foreign rights director and an agent with Jill Grinberg Literary Management.

### Deborah Kovacs

special guest



Deborah Kovacs is editorial director of Walden Pond Press, a joint imprint of HarperCollins and Walden Media, specializing in

middle-grade fiction. She has also been editorially responsible for Walden Media's partnership with Penguin Books for Young Readers. Deborah is the author of more than thirty children's books, both fiction and nonfiction.



# The Poet's Poetry Workshop

May 19 – May 23, 2013 | Tuition: \$1095

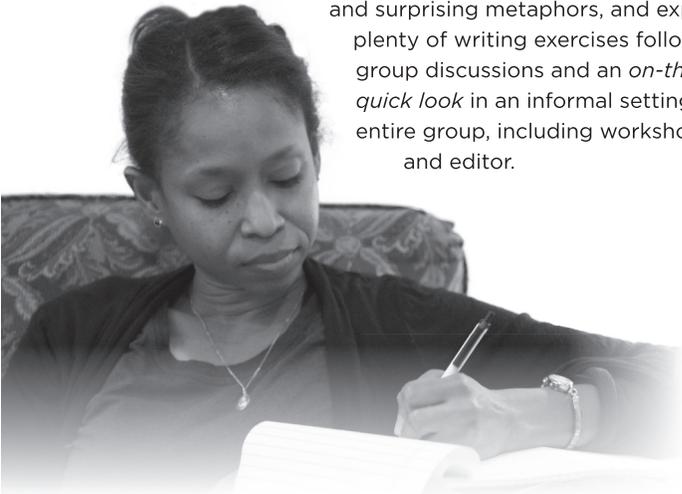
Whether your passion is writing poems for young ones or a more mature audience, our goal is to bring poets together to delve into all elements of poetry, to play with words, images, and sounds, and to polish your poetry skills. You will be immersed in discussing, learning, writing, revising, and working on the craft of poetry. This workshop offers plenty of interaction, direction, and creative writing time. We'll focus on all the elements of poetry, the importance of word choice

and surprising metaphors, and experience plenty of writing exercises followed by group discussions and an *on-the-spot quick look* in an informal setting with the entire group, including workshop leader and editor.

In addition, each attendee will have a one-on-one block of time with editor or workshop leader to discuss individual work.

As a group, we'll explore poetry from morning till night. We'll examine good models of poetry in published collections, from free verse to rhyming. Our days will include instruction, exercises, brainstorming, optional nature walks, journaling, quiet writing, shared writing, and group critiques and discussions.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, May 19, and ends Thursday, May 23, after breakfast. Following breakfast, there will be an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press at 10:00 a.m.



“Rebecca is among the best poets writing for children today. Her pen is blessed with magic.”

— Lee Bennett Hopkins, renowned poet anthologist

The workshop leaders provided a special balance between honest feedback and sincere encouragement. Masters of their own craft, they take the time to get to know attendees and offer helpful, specific advice. In a word, inspiring! The accommodations were perfect!

— Robyn Black, Gainesville, GA

## Faculty

### Rebecca Kai Dotlich



Rebecca's books have received such awards as Junior Library Guild Selection, 10 Best Books for Babies, IRA Children's

Choice, Indiana Best Read Aloud, the Gold Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Award, and an AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize Finalist. Her picture book *Bella and Bean* (Atheneum) was a 2010 SCBWI Golden Kite Honor Recipient for picture book text. Her poetry appears in many award-winning collections, in dozens of anthologies and textbooks, and in major children's magazines. Find out more at <http://rebeccakaidotlich.com>.

### Rebecca Davis

special guest



Rebecca M. Davis is a senior editor for Boyds Mills Press and for WordSong, the only imprint in the United

States dedicated to children's poetry. She has been editing children's books for more than twenty years, including approximately six years each at Greenwillow Books and Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. Rebecca has worked with numerous poets, including Lee Bennett Hopkins, Jane Yolen, Rebecca Kai Dotlich, Nikki Grimes, and J. Patrick Lewis. She is currently also one of the advisory board members for Poetry Advocates for Children and Young Adults (PACYA).

**Please note: Lee will be at the workshop through a Skype visit.**

### Lee Bennett Hopkins

special guest



Lee is a distinguished poet, writer, and anthologist whose poetry collections include the highly acclaimed *Hand in*

*Hand: An American History Through Poetry*, illustrated by Peter Fiore, and *My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States*, and *America at War*, both illustrated by Stephen Alcorn. Mr. Hopkins's numerous awards include the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion for "lasting contributions to children's literature" and both the Christopher Award and a Golden Kite Honor for his verse novel *Been to Yesterdays: Poems of a Life*. To read more about Lee, visit his website:

[www.leebennetthopkins.com](http://www.leebennetthopkins.com).



## Sharing Our Hope: *Writing for Religious and Inspirational Markets*

May 30 – June 2, 2013 | Tuition: \$990

Never has there been a greater need for inspirational stories, articles, and books for children and teens. Religious publishers and general-interest publishers alike are seeking hopeful books with solid values. Some material can “cross over” into both markets. If you want to write books offering hope to young people, join us for a weekend that’s both practical and inspiring.

### In this workshop, you will

- see the distinctions among the publishing terms religious, spiritual, Christian, inspirational, and crossover and decide where your own work fits best;
- learn how to write strong characters who are believable and multifaceted, yet flawed enough for kids to identify with;
- participate in discussions on surviving the writing life—and thriving—plus self-care for writers;
- learn how to infuse tension into your characters, plot, settings, and dialogue;
- explore inspirational market guides, plus find books especially for inspirational writers; and
- understand and learn to deal with “gatekeepers”: parents, gift-givers, librarians, editors, and agents.

Begins at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press; ends on Sunday, June 2, after lunch.



## A Concentrated Course in Nonfiction

June 2 – June 5, 2013 | Tuition: \$895

Use your imagination full force—as a nonfiction writer. Many writers believe that fiction offers more opportunity for creativity, but nonfiction authors beg to differ! Writing from reality requires just as much creativity as writing from fantasy. What differs is facts. Learn to write nonfiction with the same level of creativity fiction writers use, and you can tap into an almost limitless number of markets. This workshop delivers a concentrated course on nonfiction writing, from a thirteen-step process for the writer—including the critical concept of knowing your audience—to the self-editing that must be lavished on a complete manuscript.

### In this workshop, you will learn about

- securing the best information through reporting and research;
- clarity and completeness in copy;
- the long and the short of things;
- style and tone, and that mysterious, sometimes elusive matter called voice;
- power words of the language;
- beginnings and endings;
- structures that work to be inclusive and exclusive, narration, description, and exposition;
- the treasures in detail, and more.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, June 2; ends on Wednesday, June 5, after lunch.

### Faculty

#### Paula Morrow



Paula has been involved with children’s literature all her life, first as a child reader, then as a children’s librarian, and then as a longtime editor of children’s books and magazines at Cricket Magazine Group and Cricket Books. She currently has an independent editing service and is an instructor with the Institute of Children’s Literature. She has published hundreds of stories, articles, poems, and activities in children’s magazines, including *Highlights for Children*. In 2011 and 2012 she sold more than a dozen nonfiction picture books to educational publishers.

#### Kristi Holl



Kristi Holl is a Children’s Choice award-winning author of 42 books for children, 2 nonfiction books for writers and more than 150 stories and articles for children and adults. Her inspirational stories and books have been published by both general-interest publishers and Christian publishers. Kristi speaks at writers’ conferences, does private critiques, and writes full-time. She taught writing for children and teens for the Institute of Children’s Literature for twenty-five years, was their first Web editor for four years, and has blogged for the school for four years. For more about Kristi, visit her website at [www.kristiholl.com](http://www.kristiholl.com).

### Faculty

#### Peter P. Jacobi



Peter is professor emeritus of journalism at Indiana University and a consultant with magazines and corporations, helping CEOs, writers, and editors learn to express their ideas more effectively. His articles have appeared in *World Book*, the *New York Times*, *Highlights*, and others. His two guidebooks, *The Magazine Article: How to Think It, Plan It, Write It* and *Writing with Style: The News Story and the Feature*, are standard reference sources for journalists.



# Writing Retreat with Two Authors in Residence

June 2 – June 9, 2013 | Tuition: \$1495

## Faculty

Imagine . . . your very own cabin—nestled in a peaceful setting in the rolling wooded hills of northeastern Pennsylvania. It's early summer. The woods are warm, the winding trails inviting. You have no chores to do. No meals to cook. No kids calling for attention. All you have to do is the one thing you've been dreaming of having time to do: write.

Best of all, the cabins nearby will be home to a community of other writers, including two experienced authors (one is also an experienced children's book and magazine editor). You'll enjoy delicious meals together in The Barn—perhaps gather around the crackling fireplace in the evening for feedback, advice, support, and instruction . . . or just to chat. (Or not! Because this is *your* retreat and you get to decide.)

Solitude, space, time, and a writing community: it's all been planned so you can retreat into your writing and devote entire days to developing and grooming your work. Whenever you desire, you can emerge from your writing cabin to enjoy camaraderie and inspiration as you receive feedback on your writing, take advantage of individual critiques, conferences, and informally discuss the field of children's publishing.

Bring a work in progress or start something new! Attend social nighttime events or stay in and write. This is **your** time and **your** space. Shape it **your** way!

Authors Kim T. Griswell and Lori Ries will be your experts in residence—ready, willing, and able to answer questions, review manuscripts, discuss the writing life, give you an insider's look into the editorial process, and offer instruction on writing essentials.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, June 2, and ends with breakfast on Sunday, June 9.

I came away feeling inspired, charged up, and filled with ideas for charging ahead with my first novel. As always, comfortable, cozy, quiet cabins and meals and snacks, better than I have at home.

— Liz Hall, Manassas, VA

### Kim T. Griswell



Kim has written about everything from flesh-eating plants to exploding toilets and spends her days developing and editing children's books in a little red house in Ashland, Oregon. Kim has two master's degrees, one in literature and one in teaching writing from Humboldt State University. She has been a university lecturer, a magazine senior editor, a book development manager, and spent six years as coordinating editor of *Highlights for Children*. Kim has taught writing workshops all over the country and has published hundreds of short stories, articles, and columns in magazines and books. Her books include *Carnivorous Plants*, *Nonfiction Reading Practice (Grade 3)*, *Jim Abbott*, and a picture book, *Rufus Goes to School*, due out in fall 2013. Find out more about Kim at [www.kimgriswell.com](http://www.kimgriswell.com).

### Lori Ries



Lori Ries is an award-winning author for young children. *Good Dog, Aggie* was just announced as the Maryland Blue Crab for Young Readers Award winner and *Aggie the Brave* received an Oregon Spirit Honor award. Her first book, *Super Sam!* was conceived and written at the Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop at Chautauqua. Lori's books have been recognized as outstanding by *Horn Book*, *Parenting Magazine*, *Nick Jr. Family Magazine*, and Bank Street College. She gives great care to balancing childlike humor and sensitivity in all of her stories. Lori presents at schools and workshops across the country. Please visit Lori at [www.lorries.net](http://www.lorries.net).



# Writing Jewish-Themed Children's Books

June 9 – June 12, 2013 | Tuition: \$1095

Finally! A hands-on workshop specifically designed for writers of Jewish-themed content. Whether your manuscript has slight or overwhelming Jewish content, this is the workshop for you. Unlike a one-day conference, this workshop includes one-on-one manuscript critiques with a literary agent or editor and time to revise. There'll also be two group critiques.

There will be a keynote talk by noted Israeli author Pnina Moed Kass, well known for her books ranging from preschool to young adult.

## In addition, you'll learn

- the future of Jewish children's literature
- what agents and editors look for
- best practices in writing Jewish content for children
- We can't promise contracts, but we can promise craft, camaraderie, and community.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, June 9, and ends Wednesday, June 12, after lunch. Following lunch there will be an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press at 1:30 p.m.

## Faculty

### Barbara Krasner



Barbara Krasner received her MFA in Writing for Children & Young Children from Vermont College in January 2006. She is

the author of 100 articles that have appeared in *Highlights for Children*, *Appleseeds*, *Babaganewz*, *Calliope*, *Cobblestone*, *Footsteps*, and *Odyssey*. She has served as a judge for the SCBWI Magazine Merit Award and the Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards in the Life Stories category, and is now serving a four-year stint on the Association of Jewish Libraries' prestigious Sydney Taylor Book Award committee. Read more about Barbara at [www.barbarakrasner.com](http://www.barbarakrasner.com).

### Pnina Moed Kass



Pnina has lived in Israel since 1968. During the past few years she has authored children's books, scripted a TV series, and done a lot

of freelance writing both in Hebrew and in English. She has also garnered awards and recognition for her short stories and her contemporary novel set in the Middle East. Pnina's accolades include the International Reading Award for Best YA Short Story, inclusion in *Cricket* magazine's twenty-five-year anthology, *Celebrate*, and other citations by librarians and teachers. Her novel, *Real Time*, won the prestigious National Jewish Book Award, the Sydney Taylor Award, and other accolades. Read more about Pnina at <http://pninamoedkass.com>.

### Emily Seife

special guest



Emily Seife is an associate editor at Scholastic Press. She has worked on many picture books and novels, including *The Longest*

*Night: A Passover Story* and *I Will Come Back for You: A Family in Hiding During World War II*.

### Regina Griffin

special guest



Regina spent ten years at Scholastic, where she built up the movie tie-in program and oversaw the Apple and Point

paperback imprints. While there, Griffin also helped develop their new hardcover program, focusing on middle-grade and YA fiction.

### Debra Hess

special guest



Debra joined *Highlights for Children* as a senior editor in June 2009. She is the author of numerous fiction and nonfiction books for

children, including *Thurgood Marshall: The Fight for Equal Justice*, a NY Public Library Best Books for the Teen Age, and *Wilson Sat Alone*.

### Rebecca Short

special guest



Rebecca is an assistant editor at Delacorte Press, Random House Children's Books. She edits middle-grade and young-adult

novels. She particularly enjoys middle-grade adventure stories with a classic feel, both middle-grade and YA mysteries, and literary YA.





# Playing to Win: A Dramatic Approach to Solving Story Problems

June 12 - June 16, 2013 | Tuition: \$1395

Have your characters stopped talking to one another—and to you? Has your plot bogged down and left you stranded? Has your muse gone AWOL? Do your ideas feel tired and stale? Are you stuck in a writing rut, wishing you could just shake it all out and try something deliciously different? Well, we've got exactly what you need: Theater Games!

Come join award-winning author, playwright, editor Sandy Asher and youth theater director Joe Lauderdale as they get you thinking on your feet as well as on the page. Bring your story concerns with you, and together we'll reignite your creative spark and call that wayward muse home!

You say you're writing a book, not a play? Or perhaps magazine stories? We know! Theater Games can work wonders for fiction writers. Actors, directors, and playwrights use them to brainstorm, explore, delve more deeply into, and fully develop important story elements. We'll adapt each exercise to meet *your* needs and address the very problems you're struggling to solve. These tried-and-true, hands-on techniques will ignite your imagination and energize your writing. Joe will lead the games and Sandy will follow up with writing exercises guaranteed to get you further into your characters' heads and the world of their story.

But there's more! Even as we focus on the hitch in somebody else's story, you're an active participant. Whether you're helping your fellow writers play a game, observing a game being played, or taking part in the lively discussions that follow, you'll be freeing up all sorts of fresh ideas and discovering new approaches to your own work.

Begins at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press; ends on Sunday, June 16, after lunch.



Theater Games are all about story—and character—and feelings—and human interaction. They spur creativity and are fun besides. So useful are they to the making of my own fiction that I included a couple of good ones in *Applewhites at Wit's End*.

— Stephanie Tolan, author of the Newbery Award Honor Book *Surviving the Applewhites*

## Faculty

### Sandy Asher



Variety and quality characterize Sandy's work, which includes twenty-five books, among them the award-winning *Too Many Frogs!* and its companion books *What a Party!* and *Here Comes Gosling*; more than three dozen plays; and over two hundred articles, stories, and poems published in magazines. Her best-known play, *A Woman Called Truth*, has been produced by more than three hundred school, community, and professional groups, and among her playwriting honors are an NEA fellowship grant and the American Alliance for Theatre and Education's Charlotte Choppening Award for a distinguished body of work in theater for young audiences. She's also the editor of five collections of fiction, winner of the 1999 National Jewish Book Award in children's literature, and a frequent guest speaker at conferences and schools. Find out more about Sandy at <http://usawrites4kids.drury.edu/authors/asher/>.

### Joe Lauderdale



Joe was the Youth Theatre Director at the Laguna Playhouse from 1988–2005. While at the Playhouse he was honored by the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) with the Youth Theatre Director of the Year Award in 2001. He directed and/or produced more than seventy productions for both adults and youth. Since his retirement, Joe has directed productions in Salt Lake City (the premiere of *Family Matters* by Sandra Fenichel Asher), Torrance, and Irvine. Currently, he is on the board of No Square Theatre in Laguna Beach and serves as the resident director. In addition to directing and producing, Joe has been a theater educator for both youth and adults, teaching classes in theater games, creative drama, improvisation, acting techniques, and musical theater.



# Writing Fiction for Children and Young Adults

June 16 – June 22, 2013 | Tuition: \$1885

Short stories, picture books, poetry, and novels form fantastic and imaginative worlds. Prepare yourself for the world of writing fiction for children by attending this intensive, one-week workshop.

You will learn what all fiction writers must know about the creative and business sides of children's book writing. Explore the magazine and trade-book markets, talk to acquiring editors and agents, follow a book from conception to publication, and polish your manuscript, using the best revision and editing techniques.

Patricia Lee Gauch leads a faculty of authors, illustrators,

editors, and agents who will guide you through exercises in character, plot, tension, humor, and dialogue. Your one-on-one mentor will help you turn your fiction manuscript into a story ready for submission.

Note: Lodging will be in a comfortably furnished cabin with an in-suite bath, shared by two people. Based on your input, we'll do our best to pair you with a compatible roommate.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, June 16, and ends Saturday, June 22, after breakfast.

## Faculty

### Patricia Lee Gauch



Former vice president and editor at large of Philomel Books, Patti is now a full-time writer and lecturer. She has authored more than 40 picture books and novels

for young readers, holds a doctorate in English literature and has taught children's literature on the college level and reviewed for the *New York Times*. Patti has edited three Caldecott books, including *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen and John Schoenherr and *So You Want to Be President?* by Judith St. George and David Small. She has worked with many well-known authors and artists. Read more about Patti at her website: <http://patricialeegauch.com>.

### Kathryn Erskine

Kathy spent fifteen years as a lawyer before turning to her first love: writing. Her debut novel, *Quaking*, was one of YALSA's Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers. Her novel

*Mockingbird* won the 2010 National Book Award, Young People's Literature. She has published two other novels, *Ibhubesi: The Lion* and *The Absolute Value of Mike*. Read more about Kathy at [www.kathrynerskine.com](http://www.kathrynerskine.com).

### Rich Wallace

Rich Wallace is the author of many award-winning books for boys, ranging from his debut YA novel, *Wrestling Sturbridge*, to his popular sports series, "The Winning Season" and "Kickers."



He spent many years as an editor at *Highlights for Children* magazine and still pens the enormously popular comic strip "The Timbertoes" for that publication.

### Janet Taylor Lisle

Janet's books for young readers have received the Newbery Honor Award (*Afternoon of the Elves*), the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction (*The Art of Keeping Cool*), and Italy's Premio



Andersen Award (*How I Became a Writer* and *Oggie Learned to Drive*) among other honors. Lisle graduated from Smith College and spent a year working for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) before becoming a journalist. She found that she loved writing human-interest and "slice of life" stories, and honed the skills for observation and dialogue that would later serve her in her fiction. To read more about Janet, visit her at [www.janettaylorlisle.com](http://www.janettaylorlisle.com).

### Holly McGhee

Holly McGhee is the creative power behind Pippin Properties, Inc. The literary agency, started in 1998 by Holly, represents some of the finest authors and illustrators in the field of children's literature, including Kate DiCamillo, David Small, Jandy Nelson, Doreen Cronin, Harry Bliss, Kathi Appelt, Jon Agee, Renata Liwska, and Peter H. Reynolds. Holly has established an integrated agency dedicated to representing books that stand the test



of time and licensing those works for film, television, and merchandise as well.

### Jennifer Brown special guest

Jenny has been in children's books for more than twenty-five years. She was a children's book editor at HarperCollins and Pleasant Company, and was children's reviews editor at *Publishers Weekly*



for ten years. Jenny currently writes for *School Library Journal* and *Kirkus Reviews*, and is children's editor of Shelf Awareness, an e-newsletter for the publishing trade. In 2009, she founded the website Twenty by Jenny and was recently named the interim director of the Center for Children's Literature at the Bank Street College of Education in New York City.

### Peter P. Jacobi special guest

Peter is professor emeritus of journalism at Indiana University and a consultant with magazines and corporations, helping CEOs, writers, and editors learn to express their ideas more effectively. His articles have appeared in *World Book*, the *New York Times*, *Highlights*, and others. His two guidebooks, *The Magazine Article: How to Think It, Plan It, Write It* and *Writing with Style: The News Story and the Feature*, are standard reference sources for journalists.





## Writing for the Educational Market

June 23 – June 26, 2013 | Tuition: \$1120

If the words “educational markets” make you think of boring workbooks and textbooks, it’s time to think again! Today’s educational publishers are eager to see lively nonfiction, fast-paced fiction, poetry, and more. The rules for educational writing are different, but the end result is creative, exciting, and kid pleasing.

Whether your interest is straight informational nonfiction, narrative nonfiction, fiction, or poetry, this workshop will help you find your niche in the educational market. We’ll demystify the concept of reading levels, and we’ll practice writing and editing to match assigned grade levels. We’ll learn how to rewrite in response to editor requests. We’ll look at making nonfiction interesting, finding an age-appropriate hook, finding quick but reliable research sources, and even working with photos. We’ll lead you through entry points, including writing single-title books, pitching a series, and writing test passages.

### Join us for

- market-specific information;
- brainstorming techniques;
- plenty of hands-on writing; and
- practice at producing submissions packages.

Would you like to have editors actually contacting you and asking you to write for them? Welcome to the educational market!

Begins with dinner on Sunday, June 23, and ends Wednesday, June 26, after lunch. Following lunch there will be an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press at 1:30 p.m.



## Guided Retreat: *Writer in Residence*

July 1 – July 7, 2013 | Tuition: \$1295

This guided retreat offers time to write . . . and more.

Enjoy early-morning yoga sessions in the barn by the creek, one-on-ones, plenty of time to write, and time over meals to relax with other participants.

Go from yoga straight to quiet time and writing—with a simple breakfast in your cabin. Morning will be quiet, uninterrupted writing time. Begins with dinner on Monday, July 1, and ends with breakfast on Sunday, July 7.

### Faculty

#### Paula Morrow



Paula has been involved with children’s literature all her life, first as a child reader, then as a children’s librarian, and then as a longtime editor of children’s books and magazines at Cricket Magazine Group and Cricket Books. She currently

has an independent editing service and is an instructor with the Institute of Children’s Literature. Paula has served as a book reviewer for the national Church and Synagogue Library Association, a member of the advisory board for *The Little Christian* magazine, and a voting member on a number of awards committees, including the Newbery. She has published hundreds of stories, articles, poems, and activities in children’s magazines.

#### Jan Fields



Jan Fields had her first brush with educational publishing when an editor happened upon her website and asked if she’d write a book for their history line. Since then Jan has written thirty books for educational publishers including

Capstone, Heinemann, and ABDO. Of the thirty books, twenty-eight are fiction. She has also written fiction, nonfiction, plays, and poetry for educational testing companies. She’s the editor of the popular free electronic newsletter, *The Children’s Writer’s eNews*, from the Institute of Children’s Literature. She has taught writing for children both in distance learning and through community education.

### Faculty

#### Jillian Sullivan



Jillian is an award-winning author for children, young adults, and adults. Jillian’s books for early readers includes *Two Homes for David* and *Cool Grinds*. Her novels and short-story collections for teens cover universal topics of freedom, pride, and acceptance. Her non-fiction books include *Myths and Legends*, *the Gift of Stories from our Cultures*, and *Fishing from the Boat Ramp—a Guide to Creating*. In addition to writing, Jillian teaches workshops on the Hero’s Journey, teaches writing for children at Massey University and is a judge for national and regional writing awards. She has a Master of Creative Writing through Massey University. Please visit Jillian at <http://jilliansullivan.co.nz>.



# The Unfinished Manuscript and What to Do About It

June 30 – July 3, 2013 | Tuition: \$1200

Do you, like many writers, have a project that has been sitting on the back burner for years? Or perhaps the burner has been turned off, letting the story go cold. At one time this manuscript kindled passion and excitement in you, but no longer. What happened? How can you find the energy, knowledge, and passion to finish the story and seek a publisher?

Whether your project is a picture book, easy reader, chapter book, novel, or nonfiction, this intensive writing clinic with Susan Pearson and Juanita Havill will help you diagnose the problem, provide you with therapeutic exercises and time to accomplish them, and send you home with a prescription to help you recover from project stalemate.

Editor/writer Susan Pearson and writer Juanita Havill have each written and published nearly forty books for young readers with more titles forthcoming. With their experience in bringing a book project to completion, they will share their insights as well as offer one-on-one consultations and group therapy to serious procrastinators.

Bring the project that you believe in and think will benefit most from analysis, and come prepared to work. A guest editor/agent will share her expertise at the clinic.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, June 30, and ends Wednesday, July 3, after lunch. Following lunch there will be an with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press at 1:30 p.m.

## Faculty

### Susan Pearson



Susan Pearson began her career in publishing in the early 1970s and has held the position of editor in chief at Carolrhoda Books and later at Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. Over the years, she has worked with hundreds of children's book creators. Susan is also the author of more than thirty books for young people, including *Slugs in Love*, *Charles Darwin and the Mystery of Mysteries*, which she coauthored with AMNC anthropology curator Niles Eldredge, and, most recently, *We're Going on a Ghost Hunt*. Learn more at [www.susanpearson.net](http://www.susanpearson.net).

### Juanita Havill



Juanita's picture book *Jamaica's Find* (illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien), still in print after twenty-six years, has won numerous awards and was a Reading Rainbow Review Book. Juanita has written six more picture books about Jamaica and her friends, as well as more than thirty additional books for children. Her middle-grade novel *Eyes Like Willy's* was a Crown Lamplighter honor book. *Grow: A Novel in Verse* earned her the Carol D. Reiser Children's Book Award and the Santa Monica Green Prize for youth fiction. Juanita has taught writing for children at Phoenix College and Pima College in Arizona and continues to speak at schools and libraries across the country.





# Writing from the Heart

picture book

July 7 – July 13, 2013 | Tuition: \$1885

“Writing does take a lot of discipline if it’s to go anywhere, but none of it is arduous. It is all personally enriching and deeply satisfying. I find writing hard work but at the same time consider myself blessed in that my work is also my greatest pleasure.”

—Joy Cowley, *Writing from the Heart: How to Write for Children*

Join Joy and her exceptional colleagues—children’s book writers, illustrators, editors, and agents—on a writer’s journey through the heart. With thoughtful guidance and powerful dialogues, you will learn what it truly means to write from your heart with humor, compassion, and childlike wonder.

readers and their developmental milestones. Your craft will benefit from sessions on mining your memories, the picture-book process, developing plot, and revision techniques for limited word count. Your one-on-one mentor will help shape your early-reader manuscript into a shimmering and marketable story.

Writing from the Heart is a week-long study of children’s books for early readers. You will learn about the needs of the children’s book and magazine markets as well as the wants of young

Begins with dinner on Sunday, July 7, and ends Saturday, July 13, after lunch.

## Faculty

### Joy Cowley



Joy’s love for children’s literature is “a commitment that borders on obsession.” Her novels and picture books regularly receive

top honors. Countless children know her classic *Mrs. Wishy-Washy*. Among her recent titles are *The Rusty, Trusty Tractor*, *Big Moon Tortilla*, *Agapanthus Hum and the Eyeglasses and Red-Eyed Tree Frog*. Her books have twice received the New Zealand Children’s Book of the Year award and in 1990, New Zealand awarded its Commemorative Medal to Joy for her service to Children’s Literature. In 1992, she received the Order of the British Empire, which acknowledges her distinguished service to the arts and sciences, and in 2010 she received the Prime Minister’s Award for Fiction. Read more about Joy at [www.joycowley.com](http://www.joycowley.com).

### Jillian Sullivan



Jillian is an award-winning author for children, young adults, and adults and has written early readers, novels, short-story

collections for teens, and non-fiction. In addition to writing, Jillian teaches workshops on the Hero’s Journey, teaches writing for children at Massey University and is a judge for national and regional writing awards. She has a Master of Creative Writing through Massey University. Please visit Jillian at <http://jilliansullivan.co.nz>.

### Suzanne Bloom



Suzanne is the author and illustrator of several books for children, including *A Splendid Friend, Indeed—* chosen as the 2007 PA One

Book; *Treasure; No Place for a Pig*; and *We Keep a Pig in the Parlor*. She is also the illustrator of *Melissa Parkington’s Beautiful, Beautiful Hair; My Special Day at Third Street School*; and *Girls A to Z*. She lives in McDonough, New York. Visit Suzanne’s website at [www.suzannebloom.com](http://www.suzannebloom.com).

### David Martin



David Martin is the author of numerous award-winning picture books and books for early readers. His most

recent books are *Peep and Ducky, Let’s Have a Tree Party* and *Little Bunny and the Magic Christmas Tree*. His books have also appeared in the Brand New Reader series from Candlewick Press. David has been a teacher and an early literacy specialist and visits schools and libraries, leads writing residencies in elementary schools and conducts literacy workshops for parents, teachers and librarians. For more, visit [www.davidmartin.com](http://www.davidmartin.com).

### Peter P. Jacobi

special guest



Peter is professor emeritus of journalism at Indiana University and a consultant with magazines and corporations, helping CEOs,

writers, and editors learn to express their ideas more effectively. His articles have appeared in *World Book*, the *New York Times*, *Highlights*, and others. His two guidebooks, *The Magazine Article: How to Think It, Plan It, Write It* and *Writing with Style: The News Story and the Feature*, are standard reference sources for journalists.



# Writing Nonfiction for Children and Young Adults

July 14 – July 20, 2013 | Tuition: \$1885

Nonfiction matters. Publishers crave new and different nonfiction. Teachers and librarians desire stories about real people, real places, and really interesting world events. Kids yearn to fill their minds with facts. Everyone wants and needs nonfiction.

Writing Nonfiction for Children and Young Adults explores this need from all angles: editorial, business, and, most importantly, from that of the reader and writer. The Highlights Foundation offers you a chance to explore factual writing through a range of topics, including nonfiction voice, biography, memoir, nature writing, science writing, and creative techniques in nonfiction.

Your one-on-one mentor will help you polish your nonfiction manuscript and give it the accuracy and depth needed for publication.

#### Additional opportunities include

- connecting with acquiring editors;
- developing necessary research and interview skills;
- exploring today's magazine and trade-book markets; and
- exposure to visual design through illustration and photography.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, July 14, and ends Saturday, July 20, after lunch.

## Faculty

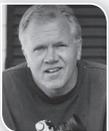
### Peter P. Jacobi



Peter is professor emeritus of journalism at Indiana University and a consultant with magazines and corporations, helping

CEOs, writers, and editors learn to express their ideas more effectively. His articles have appeared in *World Book*, the *New York Times*, *Highlights*, and others. His two guidebooks, *The Magazine Article: How to Think It, Plan It, Write It* and *Writing with Style: The News Story and the Feature*, are standard reference sources for journalists.

### Stephen Swinburne



Steve Swinburne is the author of more than twenty-five children's books. Primarily a nonfiction writer, he draws

on his life experiences for inspiration, including his job as a park ranger and his extensive world travel. Steve's book *Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job* recently won Pennsylvania's One Book, Every Young Child award. His books have been recognized by award

committees at the National Council of Teachers of English and the Society of School Librarians International. Steve is also an accomplished photographer. Visit Steve at his website, [www.steveswinburne.com](http://www.steveswinburne.com).

### Larry Dane Brimmer



Larry Dane Brimmer is the author of more than 150 books for children. While Larry has written both fiction and nonfiction

for children, he is best known for his gritty works about the Civil Rights movement in America. *We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin* won the Jane Addams Children's Book Award and the Norman A. Sugarman Children's Biography Award. *Birmingham Sunday* won a NAPPA Gold Award and NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor Book Award. Most recently, Larry's *Black & White: The Confrontation between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor* earned starred reviews and was named one of the Best Teen Books of 2011 by Kirkus. For more, visit [www.brimmer.com](http://www.brimmer.com).

### Lionel Bender



Lionel Bender is the author of more than seventy informational books for children. He is an editorial partner

of the book production group BRW (Bender, Richardson, and White). BRW specializes in illustrated nonfiction for children, how-to books and guides, and encyclopedias and dictionaries. Along with his partners at BRW, Lionel has edited nearly a thousand nonfiction books, covering a wide variety of factual topics, such as religion, dinosaurs, technology, and history. Lionel enjoys speaking at workshops in the United Kingdom and the United States about the production of nonfiction trade books. For more, visit [www.brw.co.uk](http://www.brw.co.uk).





# Whole Novel Workshop: *Young Adult*

August 4 – August 10, 2013 | Tuition: \$2665

Founded in 2006, this session of the Whole Novel Workshop is specifically designed for writers of young adult novels.

This unique program offers the one-on-one attention found in degree programs, but without additional academic requirements, lengthy time commitments, or prohibitive financial investments. Our aim is to focus on a specific work in progress, moving a novel to the next level in preparation for submission to agents or publishers. Focused attention in an intimate setting makes this mentorship program one that guarantees significant progress.

### Our novel mentorship program includes

- focused, one-on-one response to your entire novel-in-progress

from an accomplished author, agent, or editor currently working with young adult books;

- group discussion and feedback;
- faculty seminars on technique, craft, query letters, and agent/editor submissions; and
- ample time to write and revise.

The Whole Novel Workshop offers writers the rare opportunity to have the entire draft of a novel read and critiqued prior to the workshop, followed by a week of intense, one-on-one mentoring.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, August 4, and ends Saturday, August 10, after breakfast.

## Faculty

### Cynthia Leitich Smith



Cynthia Leitich Smith is the *New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly* best-selling author of *Tantalize*, *Eternal*, *Blessed*, *Diabolical*, and *Tantalize: Kieren's Story* (Candlewick). Her award-winning books for younger children include *Jingle Dancer*, *Indian Shoes*, *Rain Is Not My Indian Name*—for which she was named a Writer of the Year by Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers (all HarperCollins) and *Holler Loudly* (Dutton). She runs a popular website for authors at [www.cynthialeitichsmith.com](http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com), and her Cynsations blog at [cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com/](http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com/) was listed as among the top two read by the children's/YA publishing community in the SCBWI "To Market" column. A former member of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA faculty in Writing for Children and Young Adults, Cynthia now calls Austin, Texas, home.

### Greg Leitich Smith



Greg Leitich Smith is the award-winning author of *Ninjas*, *Piranhas*, and *Galileo*, which received a Parents' Choice Gold Medal, as well as *Tofu and T. rex* (both Little, Brown), *Chronal Engine* (Clarion), and the forthcoming *Little Green Men at the Mercury Inn* (Roaring Brook). In addition, he is the coauthor of *Santa Knows* (Dutton). His children's writing also has been published in Korea and Japan. Greg has taught children's and YA writing for several years at various workshops around the country, notably including WriteFest,

which generated multiple published novels, including two major ALA award winners. Greg can be found on the Web at <http://gregleitichsmith.com>.

### Tina Wexler



Tina Wexler is a literary agent at ICM Partners, representing authors in the children's and adult marketplace, with a focus on middle-grade and young-adult fiction. Current and forthcoming titles include *Croak* by Gina Damico, *How to Survive Middle School* by Donna Gephart, and *Breadcrumbs* by Anne Ursu. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wheaton College, she holds an MFA in poetry from Brooklyn College and currently serves on the board of the Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature.

### Nancy Werlin



Nancy Werlin is the author of eight young-adult novels that range from contemporary realism to mystery to fantasy. Her books include the *New York Times* bestseller *Impossible* (fantasy), the National Book Award and LA Times Book Prize finalist *The Rules of Survival* (realistic fiction), and the Edgar Award winner *The Killer's Cousin* (mystery/suspense). She just finished her ninth novel, *Unthinkable* (title tentative), a sequel to *Impossible*, to be published by Dial/Penguin in 2013. Find out more at [www.nancywerlin.com](http://www.nancywerlin.com).

### Sarah LaPolla special guest

Sarah is an associate agent at Curtis Brown, Ltd. She studied creative writing at



Ithaca College and has an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from The New School. She started working in the foreign rights department at Curtis Brown in 2008 and became an associate agent representing young-adult fiction in 2010.

### Bethany Hegedus special guest



Bethany's books include *Truth with a Capital T* and *Between Us Baxters*. Both novels were named Bank Street College Best Books in their respective publishing years, with *Between Us Baxters* garnering a star for exceptional merit. Forthcoming from Atheneum/Simon & Schuster is the picture book *Grandfather Gandhi*. Bethany has served as the *Hunger Mountain* young adult and children's editor since the prestigious journal went online in 2009. A graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults, Bethany teaches privately and speaks across the country.

### Amy Rose Capetta special guest



Amy Rose Capetta holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her debut, *Entangled*, is a young-adult science-fiction novel, forthcoming from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2013. She is currently working on the sequel. Amy Rose is an assistant editor for the *Hunger Mountain* literary journal. She has also written screenplays for independent film, including a feature that premiered at the Toronto ReelHeART International Film Festival.



## Kid's Book Revision Retreat | August 12 – August 17, 2013 | Tuition: \$1485

In this working retreat students will learn proven techniques for self-editing and revising, and work with faculty on their manuscripts. Mornings will be dedicated to revision techniques and afternoons to model critique groups, individual meetings, and writing time.

### Participants will

- learn about reader-response theory and how to use it to gain insights into a manuscript;
- explore ways to gain objectivity and more focused responses to manuscripts;
- try out a variety of techniques for self-editing, from big-picture revision down to copyediting;
- work together in a model critique group, formed at the retreat from students with similar interests, to critique one another's manuscripts;
- learn how to manage critique group dynamics to make them more productive;
- discover creative techniques, such as improvising new scenes or episodes as part of the revision process;
- take part in group discussions and share favorite techniques; and
- meet with an editor for individual consultations.

Writers with completed picture-book, nonfiction, or novel manuscripts may apply. Please send a sample of no more than 15 pages when you apply, accompanied by a synopsis for longer manuscripts. Six weeks before the retreat, writers will be asked to send up to 100 pages of their manuscript to enable Eileen and Harold to prepare their initial comments.



## Fairy Tales Revisited | August 24 – August 28, 2013 | Tuition: \$1195

Fairy tales have inspired writers since they were first recorded. You'll explore ways to harness their enduring appeal in your own versions. We'll work with fairy tales on both the light and dark sides, with their implied morality, their treatment of animals, the time gap between when they emerged and now, their relationship to historical fiction, and their odd logic. And we won't forget that fairy tales demand from us the same level of writing as any other form of fiction, so the focus will always be on craft. You'll hear talks, have prompts and time to write, plus participate in group and individual discussion of the work you produce.

Begins with dinner on Saturday, August 24, and ends Wednesday, August 28, after lunch. Following lunch there will be an with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press at 1:30 p.m.

### Faculty

#### Harold Underdown



Harold is an independent editor who works with authors and publishers. He has worked at Macmillan, Orchard, and Charlesbridge, and has experience in trade and educational publishing. He has edited a variety of fiction and nonfiction in both picture book and chapter formats. Harold enjoys teaching, and in that role wrote *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Children's Book Publishing*, now in its third edition. He founded and runs The Purple Crayon, a respected website with information about the children's publishing world at [www.underdown.org](http://www.underdown.org). He also speaks and gives workshops at conferences all over the country.

#### Eileen Robinson



Eileen has helped many writers become first-time authors. For almost ten years, she acquired, developed, and edited children's books for both Scholastic, as executive editor, and Harcourt Publishers, as editorial manager. She has also worked on projects for National Geographic, Santillana USA, Marshall Cavendish, Weekly Reader, and others. Now an editorial consultant, Eileen works with both published and unpublished authors, helping them to strengthen their writing, look at their work from a marketing perspective, and learn the part of the business that isn't writing so they have a better chance of getting published. Find out more at [FirstPages.com](http://FirstPages.com).

### Faculty

#### Donna Jo Napoli



Donna Jo is an award-winning writer of children's fiction, from picture books to young-adult novels. Her books have won the Golden Kite, the Sydney Taylor, the NJ Reading Association, the Kentucky Bluegrass, the Nevada Young Readers, the Bock Book, Anne Izard's Storytellers', and the Parents' Choice awards. She holds numerous degrees, has taught at various universities around the world, and has held grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Sloan Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation.

#### Gail Carson Levine



Gail writes for children and young adults—novels, picture books, nonfiction, and poetry. She's best known for her novel *Ella Enchanted*, which won a Newbery honor medal in 1998 and was made into a movie in 2004. Other books include the historical novel, *Dave at Night*, the historical fantasy, *Ever*, and the nonfiction *Writing Magic: Creating Stories that Fly*, a how-to for children. Learn more at Gail's website, [www.gailcarsonlevine.com](http://www.gailcarsonlevine.com), and her blog, [www.gailcarsonlevine.blogspot.com](http://www.gailcarsonlevine.blogspot.com).



# Advanced Illustrators Workshop

August 29 – September 2, 2013 | Tuition: \$1400

While your artwork is accomplished alone, it is only with guidance that an illustrator can begin to understand how to make it in today's picture-book world. Let some of today's top children's book illustrators be your guide. Explore the children's book market with them, learn new techniques, and enjoy the camaraderie of artists who understand your passion.

During this intensive workshop you'll immerse yourself in illustration—oil wash on board, printmaking, pen and ink, watercolors, and more. Daily hands-on workshops will challenge you to sharpen your illustration skills, all under the support and guidance of our highly talented mentors.

### In addition to illustration techniques, you'll also explore

- dummy preparation;
- character development;
- storyboarding;
- self-promotion; and
- continuity;
- finding a market.
- portfolio expectations;



Your work will receive personal attention through one-on-one critiques from your mentors, group critiques with peers and guest art directors, and feedback from special guests at our portfolio showcase.

Begins at 3 p.m. on Thursday, August 29 with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press; ends on Monday, September 2, after lunch.

## Faculty

### E. B. Lewis



To date, E. B. Lewis has illustrated more than fifty picture books and has received numerous awards, including a 2003 Coretta

Scott King Illustrator Award Winner for *Talkin' About Bessie*; a 2009 Coretta Scott King Honor Award for *The Bat Boy and His Violin*; a 2005 Caldecott Honor for *Coming on Home Soon*; and a 2009 Coretta Scott King Honor Award for *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*. Presently, Lewis teaches at the University of Arts in Philadelphia. For more, visit [www.eblewis.com](http://www.eblewis.com).

### Matt Tavares



*Zachary's Ball*, Matt's first published picture book, won an Oppenheim Gold Seal Award, a Massachusetts Book Award

Honor, and was named one of Yankee Magazine's 40 Classic New England Children's Books. Since then, Matt has written and illustrated several award-winning books, including *Becoming Babe Ruth*, *There Goes Ted Williams*, *Henry Aaron's Dream*, and *Mudball*. Matt's books have garnered starred reviews and won several awards, including four Parents' Choice Gold Awards, an Oppenheim Platinum Award, four Oppenheim Gold Seal Awards, an International Reading Association Children's Book Award, and an Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children. For more info, visit <http://www.matttavares.com>.

### Joy Chu



Joy teaches children's book illustration at UC San Diego Extension. She has art directed and designed hundreds of books for

more than 20 book publishers all over the country. She has worked with many award-winning artists, and her work has been cited by the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA); the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI); the American Library Association (ALA); Bookbuilders West; the National Book Awards; *Print*, *Step-by-Step Graphic*, and *Publisher's Weekly* magazines. For more, visit [gotstorycountdown.wordpress.com/](http://gotstorycountdown.wordpress.com/).



## Writing Biographies

September 15 – September 18, 2013 | Tuition: \$1350

Learn all about the art of biography—from picture books to chapter books to magazine articles—with this workshop, which will feature lectures on picture book and chapter-book biographies, working with an editor, writing for magazines, and marketing your work, as well as faculty readings and one-on-one critiques. Once approved for the class, attendees will be invited to submit either a picture-book biography, the first three chapters of a longer biography (3,000 words total), a magazine article, or a book proposal.

### Faculty

#### Candace Fleming



Candace is an award-winning author of numerous books for children, including *Ben Franklin's*

*Almanac*, *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!* and *Our Eleanor*. Her awards and recognitions include ALA Notable Books, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year and School Library Journal Best Book. Read more about Candace at [www.candacefleming.com](http://www.candacefleming.com).

Begins with dinner on Sunday, September 15; ends on Wednesday, September 18, after lunch.

#### Carolyn P. Yoder



Carolyn is the senior editor of history for *Highlights for Children* and the editor of Calkins Creek Books—the U.S. history imprint of Boyd's Mills

Press that specializes in nonfiction and historical fiction picture books, chapter books, and novels. Previously she was the editor-in-chief of *Cobblestone: The History Magazine for Young People*; *Calliope*; *Faces*; and *Odyssey*. She has written numerous articles on research and writing history for children and is the author of *John Adams: The Writer*; *Becoming George Washington*; and *George Washington: The Writer*.

#### Robert Burleigh



Over the past thirty-five years, Bob has published poems, reviews, essays, many filmstrips and videos, and more than forty children's picture books.

His books run a broad gamut and include biographies aimed at seven- to eleven-year-olds. While the subjects vary, Bob says his books are linked philosophically, stylistically, and structurally by his wish to capture where possible the emotional intensity—the essence—of whatever the subject is. He believes the hard facts (historical and biographical) are extremely important and always weaves them into the narrative. You can read more about Bob on his website at <http://robertburleigh.com>.



picture book

## The Power of a Picture Book

September 26 – 29, 2013 | Tuition: \$995

Picture books may be written for the small, but their power is mighty. Sweet and simple as these books may be, the formula for writing a picture book is quite complex. This workshop will show you how to pack the most power into your picture-book manuscript, with daily writing exercises, exposure to the best examples of picture-book writing, and one-on-one critiques of your work. Additionally, you will discuss today's picture-book market; what makes a good picture book; character development and plot, narrative vs. concept books, leaving room for your illustrator, revising for appropriate word count, the perils of rhyme and more.

Begins at 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 26 with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyd's Mills Press; ends on Sunday, September 29, after lunch.

### Faculty

#### Deborah Underwood



Deborah's books include *The Quiet Book*, *The Loud Book!*, *The Christmas Quiet Book*, *A Balloon for*

*Isabel*, *Part-Time Princess* and *Pirate Mom*. She has also written more than 25 nonfiction books for kids. Please visit her online at [www.DeborahUnderwoodBooks.com](http://www.DeborahUnderwoodBooks.com).

#### Lindsay Barrett George



Lindsay Barrett George has an MFA degree from the University of Wisconsin, where she majored in drawing

and printmaking. After working as a designer in a children's book department, she now spends her time creating children's books, including the popular "Who's Been Here?" books from Greenwillow. To read more about Lindsay, visit [www.lindsaybarrettgeorge.com](http://www.lindsaybarrettgeorge.com).

My dream has come true. Without the encouragement and direction I received, my years of work may never have paid off.

— Mary Hogan



# Poetry for the Delight of It

September 30 – October 3, 2013 | Tuition: \$1095

If you like to think, talk, write, and share poetry, this workshop is for you. From budding poet to published veteran, we learn and teach at every stage.

## Group activities will include

- Four key workshops;
- Conceiving ideas for poems;
- Rough drafting;
- Revising and rewriting;
- Tips on marketing;
- Discussions about and practice of poetic techniques;
- The pros and cons of verse and free verse;
- How to become better readers of our work;
- Learning what to look for in good/bad poetry;
- How to become better critics of our work

• Opportunities to meet and hear special guests

## Individual activities will include time to

- Practice writing what you're learning;
- Be still with your thoughts;
- Start something new;
- Meet one-on-one with your workshop leader;
- Have your work critiqued by your workshop leader;
- Participate in fun, impromptu gatherings to share poems;
- Learn from others

Begins at 3 p.m. on Monday, September 30 with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press; ends Thursday, October 3, after lunch.

## Faculty

### David L. Harrison



David's first book for children, *The Boy with a Drum*, was released in 1969 and eventually sold more than two million copies. In

1972, David won national recognition when he received the Christopher Award for *The Book of Giant Stories*. Since then he has published seventy-seven original titles that have sold more than fifteen million copies and earned numerous honors, been anthologized in more than one hundred books and has appeared in dozens of magazines and professional journals. In the last fifteen years, David has been a keynote speaker, banquet speaker, featured speaker, featured author, or presenter at eighty state, regional, and national conferences in twenty-seven states. Read more about David at <http://davidlharrison.com>.

### Rebecca Davis



Rebecca M. Davis is a senior editor for Boyds Mills Press and for WordSong, the only imprint in the United

States dedicated to children's poetry. She has been editing children's books for more than twenty years,

including approximately six years each at Greenwillow Books and Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Rebecca has worked with numerous poets, including Lee Bennett Hopkins, Jane Yolen, Rebecca Kai Dotlich, Nikki Grimes, and J. Patrick Lewis. She is currently also one of the advisory board members for Poetry Advocates for Children and Young Adults (PACYA).

**Please note: Pat will be visiting the workshop through a Skype visit.**

### J. Patrick Lewis



A professor of economics at Otterbein College for over two decades, Lewis discovered poetry, and writing for children, later

in his life. His first children's book was published in 1990. Today, Lewis is the author of over 77 books for children, most of them poetry. Lewis writes in many poetic forms, including limericks, haiku, riddles, shape poems, narrative poems, song lyrics and nonsense verse. In 2011, Lewis was named the third Children's Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation. He was also awarded the NCTE Excellence in Children's Poetry Award in 2011. One of Lewis's latest books

of poetry for children is *If You Were a Chocolate Mustache*. Find out more at [www.jpatricklewis.com](http://www.jpatricklewis.com).

**Please note: Renée will be visiting the workshop through a Skype visit.**

### Renée LaTulippe



Renée LaTulippe is the editor for All About Learning Press, for whom she also co-authors early readers and pre-

reading books, including *Lizard Lou: A Collection of Rhymes Old and New*. She earned her BFA in acting/directing from Marymount Manhattan College and her MA in English Education from NYU; worked and played in the theater for almost two decades; and taught English, theater arts, and public speaking in NYC. For her blog at <http://www.NoWaterRiver.com>, Renée creates poetry videos of her own children's poems and invites other poets to do the same. A big fan of poetry performance, her goal is to create an expansive video poetry library featuring a wide range of children's poets reading their own work.



# More Room to Create

October 6 – October 11, 2013 | Tuition: \$1295

A room of your own—in a peaceful and quiet cabin in the autumn woods—in which to write. Woodland paths blazing with fall colors on which to hike. A trickling stream. Delicious meals in The Barn at Boyds Mills and a community of writers around the crackling fire pit at night. Critiques and advice and support and instruction.

All writers need to give themselves time. Time to think. Time to imagine. Time to create. All writers need room. Room in their lives in which to write.

“More Room to Create” is a workshop/retreat led by award-winning authors Linda Oatman High and Sandy Asher. “More Room to Create” gives you the gift of solitude, space, and time, all in a setting sure to inspire. Immerse yourself in your writing with a retreat format that allows you to devote all day long to developing and grooming your work. And in the evening, enjoy the support and guidance of instructors and students. Enjoy camaraderie and inspiration as you receive feedback on your writing, take advantage of individual critiques/conferences, and informally discuss the field of children’s publishing.

Bring a work in progress or start something new! Attend social nighttime events or stay in and write. This is your time and your space. Shape it your way!

Begins with dinner on Sunday, October 6, and ends with breakfast on Friday, October 11. Following breakfast there will be an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press at 9:30 a.m.

The availability of the faculty was amazing and added so much to the experience.

— Beverley Olson Buller, Newton, KS



## Faculty

### Sandy Asher



Variety and quality characterize Sandy’s work, which includes twenty-five books, among them the award-winning *Too Many Frogs!* and its companion books *What a Party!* and *Here Comes Gosling*; more than three dozen

plays; and over two hundred articles, stories, and poems published in magazines. Her best-known play, *A Woman Called Truth*, has been produced by more than three hundred school, community, and professional groups in the United States and Canada. Among her playwriting honors are an NEA fellowship grant and the American Alliance for Theatre and Education’s Charlotte Chorpenning Award for a distinguished body of work in theater for young audiences. She’s also the editor of five collections of fiction, winner of the 1999 National Jewish Book Award in children’s literature, and a frequent guest speaker at conferences and schools. Find out more about Sandy at <http://usawrites4kids.drury.edu/authors/asher/>.

### Linda Oatman High



Linda is an author of books for children and young adults who presents at writing conferences and workshops throughout the United States. Her books include the young-adult novel-in-verse *Planet Pregnancy* (a VOYA

Top Ten), as well as more than twenty award-winning picture books, middle-grades, poetry books, and young-adult novels. Linda holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College and has been a professional writer for twenty-five years. In addition to writing books, she’s also a journalist, playwright, and screenwriter. More information about Linda may be found on <http://www.lindaotmanhigh.com>.



# A “Short” Cut to Success

October 15 – October 18, 2013 | Tuition: \$695

Breaking into children’s publishing can be tough. And although the majority of authors try to do it with fiction, that’s the hardest thing to sell. What’s the easiest? We like to call them “shorts.” They’re the crafts, games, puzzles, recipes, and other activities that fill magazine pages, blogs, and websites, and engage kids at every turn.

At this workshop, our faculty of “shorts” editors and writers will help you learn how to write different types of shorts, maximize their “fun factor” for kids, and research the markets for this type of material. It will involve writing exercises, feedback and critiques, and sharing your work with real kids—the true test!

Many established authors started their publishing careers by selling shorts. Each sale—no matter how small—can energize a writer and sometimes lead to larger projects. Not only does this “foot in the door” help new authors become familiar with the publishing process, but it also helps them build relationships with editors. And most importantly, these little activities bring big satisfaction to kids!

Begins with dinner on Tuesday, October 15, and ends with lunch on Friday, October 18.

## Faculty

### Judy Burke



Judy is the editor of *Highlights for Children*, where she has worked since 1995. She oversees the day-to-day management of the magazine under the editor in chief. Over the years, Judy has edited fiction, nonfiction, and activities for the magazine and has written several of its regular features. She has also served as the editor of *HighlightsKids.com*, worked closely with licensing partners on Highlights-branded products, and edited several books for Boyds Mills Press, the trade-book division of Highlights for Children, Inc.

### Annie Beer



Annie is the editorial assistant at *Highlights* magazine. She began working here in 2011 as editorial intern and never left. She edits the “Crafts” and “Your Own Pages” features in the magazine, as well as special calls for art, stories, and other creative content from readers. On any given day her desk is covered in either children’s art or Elmer’s glue—and she wouldn’t have it any other way! She has published crafts and recipes in *Highlights*, as

well as several stories, articles, and activities in the *Friend* magazine.

### Amie Jane Leavitt



Amie is an accomplished author, researcher, and photographer who has written more than fifty books for kids, has contributed to online and print media, and has worked as a consultant, writer, and editor for numerous educational publishing and assessment companies. Over the years, she has been a featured author and lecturer at several university-sponsored book festivals, elementary school assemblies, and writing workshops. Her entrance into the world of children’s magazine publishing came about by using her own specialized “shortcuts” methods of submitting creative fillers (puzzles, activities, recipes, games, etc.) to various magazines on a consistent basis. For more about Amie, visit [www.amiejaneleavitt.com](http://www.amiejaneleavitt.com).

### Andrew Gutelle



Andy is a writer, editor, and editorial consultant with a strong interest in sports, games, puzzles, and other nonfiction subjects. He has written books for

many publishers, including Random House, Putnam, Workman, and Time-Life Books for Children. As a project developer he has created many successful book clubs for Highlights for Children, including *Puzzlemania*, *Which Way USA*, and *Top Secret Adventures*. Andy developed the science magazine, *3-2-1 Contact* and wrote 20 episodes of *Reading Rainbow* for which he received five Emmy nominations.

### Linda Rose



Linda Rose is an associate editor with *Highlights* magazine. She currently edits most of the magazine’s puzzles, games, and activities, and writes “Goofus and Gallant” and “BrainPlay” for each issue. Linda has many years of experience critiquing nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and activity manuscripts at *Highlights*. She is excited about this workshop’s potential to help authors find a path to publication through material that kids gobble up.



# Everything You Need to Know About Children's Book Publishing: *A Crash Course*

October 18 – October 20, 2013 | Tuition: \$675

This intensive weekend is designed to give you a comprehensive look at how the children's book publishing industry works. You will gain understanding of all processes associated with producing, submitting, and selling a trade book or magazine article. You will learn from and make connections with children's publishing insiders.

Workshop leader Clay Winters has served in almost every job imaginable connected with trade publishing. Clay will be joined by children's book professionals, authors, illustrators, editors, agents, and publishers who will give you insights, answer your questions, and provide you with the tools you need to advance your writing career.

### Topics include

- An overview of children's book and magazine markets;
- What publishers are publishing;

- Getting help before you submit—critique groups, books, conferences;
- How to research and submit your manuscript
  - Selecting a publisher
  - Submission rules and practices;
- Rights, contracts, and agents—what authors need to know;
- Acquisition and the editorial process;
- Selling systems, marketing, and promotion;
- Opportunities in e-book and self-publishing

In addition, you will meet with a mentor for a one-on-one review of your manuscript.

Begins at 3 p.m. on Friday, October 18 with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press; ends on Sunday, October 21, after lunch.

## Faculty

### Clay Winters



Clay Winters has served in almost every job imaginable connected with trade publishing. He has sold and marketed books

as a retailer, wholesaler, and representative of trade publishing houses both giant and modest. Clay is a cofounder of Boyds Mills Press with Kent Brown and Larry Rosler. In his post previous to Boyds Mills Press, he recruited a young editor without experience, Patricia Lee Gauch. Clay has developed many talented publishing people, and his upbeat personality makes him a favorite of writers.

### Harold Underdown



Harold is an independent editor who works with authors and publishers. He has worked at Macmillan, Orchard, and Charlesbridge,

and has experience in trade and educational publishing. He has edited a variety of fiction and nonfiction in both picture book and chapter formats. Harold enjoys teaching, and in that role wrote *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Children's Book Publishing*, now in its third edition. He founded and runs The Purple Crayon, a respected Web site with information about the children's publishing world at [www.underdown.org](http://www.underdown.org).

He also speaks and gives workshops at conferences all over the country.

### Bobbie Combs



Bobbie has spent over 25 years exploring every corner of the children's book publishing industry. Her career has taken

her from manager of a children's independent bookstore to children's buyer and children's sales/marketing director of a book distributor to freelance children's book reviewer to website designer to cofounder and publisher at Two Lives Publishing, and finally to cocreator of the We Love Children's Books consulting agency, [www.welovechildrensbooks.com](http://www.welovechildrensbooks.com).

This week I took one small step in the publishing industry and one huge boost to my hope for further success.

— Kristen C. Strocchia, Pennsylvania





# The Hero's Journey: *Bringing the Power of Mythic Structure to Your Writing*

October 24 – October 27, 2013 | Tuition: \$995

## Faculty

Want to turn your manuscript into a book editors (and kids) can't put down? The "hero's journey" will show you what your work is missing and give you a clear trail to follow toward crafting publishable works.

The "hero's journey" is the mythic structure underlying all successful plots. You'll learn the stages of the journey and meet the archetypal characters that heroes encounter along the way. We'll delve into stacks of children's books, and you'll learn how to use the journey to inform your work. Tapping into the universal patterns within the hero's journey will strengthen your stories and guide you in your own journey—toward publication.

Begins at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press; ends on Sunday, October 27, after lunch.

### Kim T. Griswell



Kim has written about everything from flesh-eating plants to exploding toilets and spends her days developing and editing children's books in a little red house in Ashland, Oregon. Kim has two master's degrees, one in literature and one in teaching writing from Humboldt State University. She has been a university lecturer, a magazine senior editor, a book development manager, and spent six years as coordinating editor of *Highlights for Children*. Kim has taught writing workshops all over the country and has published hundreds of short stories, articles, and columns in magazines and books. Her books include *Carnivorous Plants*, *Nonfiction Reading Practice (Grade 3)*, *Jim Abbott*, and a picture book, *Rufus Goes to School*, due out in fall 2013. Find out more about Kim at [www.kimgriswell.com](http://www.kimgriswell.com).

### K. L. Going



K. L. Going is the award-winning author of numerous books for children and teens. Her first novel, *Fat Kid Rules the World*, was named a Michael Printz Honor Book by the American Library Association and was included on YALSA's Best Books for Young Adults list and their list of Best Books for the Past Decade. Her books have been Booksense picks, Scholastic Book Club choices, Junior Library Guild selections, New York Public Library Best Books for the Teen Age, and winners of state book awards. They've been featured by *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus*, and Children's Book Council as Best Books of the Year. For more info, visit [www.klgoing.com](http://www.klgoing.com).

*The food was amazing, the cabins were cozy, and the other workshop participants were spellbinding! I'm inspired, nourished, excited, and about five pounds heavier."*

— Deborah Holt Williams, Arizona





# Writing Across Boundaries

October 27 – October 30, 2012 | Tuition: \$1295

For any writer it's a challenge to write across gender, culture, or race. You worry that you won't know the subtleties of the language or the mannerisms of the characters. You wonder if it's even your story to tell. This workshop will help you identify and address the difficulties and joys of writing across boundaries.

Join our award-winning faculty as they give you tips on research, tell you how to put yourself in the characters' shoes, and discuss the issues to consider in language and milieu. Our special guest editor will give you insight into editorial questions considered with a novel written across boundaries. You'll leave with a richer understanding of how to write an authentic voice that resounds for readers.

During the class, you'll workshop the first ten pages, so please submit those pages two weeks prior to the workshop. Additionally, bring a summary and up to fifty pages of your novel to the workshop for reference and to use in workshop exercises.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, October 27, and ends with lunch on Wednesday, October 30, followed by an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press at 1:30 p.m.

## Faculty

### Mitali Perkins



Mitali was born in Kolkata, India, and immigrated at age seven to the United States with her family. Her award-winning

books for young readers include *Bamboo People*, *Monsoon Summer*, *Rickshaw Girl*, *Secret Keeper*, and the *First Daughter* books. Mitali speaks frequently about the transforming power of stories as windows and mirrors, blogs about "books between cultures" ([mitaliblog.com](http://mitaliblog.com)), tweets regularly (@mitaliperkins), and also connects with readers through Facebook ([facebook.com/authorMitaliPerkins](http://facebook.com/authorMitaliPerkins)). She lives in Newton, Massachusetts, with her husband, twin sons, and one plump black Lab. Find out more at [mitaliperkins.com](http://mitaliperkins.com).

### Sundee Frazier



Sundee T. Frazier is the author of *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It* (2007) and its sequel, *Brendan*

*Buckley's Sixth-Grade Experiment* (2012). For her debut novel, Frazier won the American Library Association's 2008 Coretta Scott

King/John Steptoe New Talent Award, and she was invited onto the *Today Show* for Al Roker's Book Club for Kids. Her novel *The Other Half of My Heart* was named one of *Kirkus Reviews'* "Best Children's Books" for 2010 and included in the Cooperative Children's Book Center's *Choices 2011*. Her novels have been nominated for twelve state children's choice awards. Frazier earned her MFA in writing for children from Vermont College in 2004. Find out more at [www.sundeerazier.com](http://www.sundeerazier.com).

### Patricia McCormick



Patricia, a two-time National Book Award finalist, is the author of five critically acclaimed novels: *Never Fall Down*,

*Purple Heart*, *Sold*, *My Brother's Keeper* and *Cut*. She was named a New York Foundation on the Arts fellow in 2004 and is the winner of the 2009 German Peace Prize for Youth Literature. She is a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and lives in Manhattan. You can read more about Patricia at [www.patriciamccormick.com](http://www.patriciamccormick.com).

### Regina Brooks

special guest



Regina is the founder and president of Serendipity Literary Agency LLC, based in Brooklyn, New York. Her agency represents a

diverse base of award-winning clients in adult and young-adult fiction, nonfiction, and children's literature. Brooks is a former executive editor at John Wiley and Sons and McGraw-Hill. She is the author of the children's book *Never Finished! Never Done!* as well as *Writing Great Books for Young Adults* and *You Should Really Write a Book*. Each November, her annual contest for new writers, the YA Discovery Contest, is held in partnership with Gotham Writers Center. Find out more at [www.serendipitylit.com](http://www.serendipitylit.com).





# Building a Novel: *Scene, Summary, and Sentence*

October 31 – November 3, 2013 | Tuition: \$1275

The basic building block of the novel is the dramatic scene. This workshop will offer strategies for improving your manuscript by exploring what makes a scene in a novel, how scene and summary serve the overall narrative arc, and how scenes build toward a dramatic climax. Additionally, the workshop will offer you a chance to revise the overall arc of your story, using the pacing of scene and summary, as well as consider revision and rewriting on the sentence (and word) level of the text. You will leave with a better understanding of how to build a novel and how to revise through the layers of word, sentence, summary, and scene.

Participants will ideally have a completed manuscript to work on (bring the full manuscript in electronic form—i.e., on your laptops), and will bring hard copies of the first and last ten pages.

Begins at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, with an optional tour of Highlights for Children and Boyds Mills Press; ends on Sunday, November 3, after lunch.

## Faculty

### Helen Hemphill



Helen Hemphill's debut novel *Long Gone Daddy* won the Teddy Award and was named to the New York Public Library's

Books for the Teen Age, 2007. Booklist named her second novel *Runaround* a 2007 Top Ten Youth Romance, and *The Adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones*, her most recent novel, was the recipient of the 2008 Virginia M. Law Award from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library and was named to VOYA Magazine's 2009 Top Shelf List for Middle School Readers. Helen holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College. To read more about Helen, visit [www.helenhemphill.com](http://www.helenhemphill.com).

### Linda Sue Park



Linda Sue Park has been writing stories for as long as she can remember. She was nine years old when she saw her words

published for the first time: a haiku in *Trailblazer* magazine. Thirty years and a world of experiences separated this poem and her first children's book, *Seesaw Girl*. Since then, Linda has gone on to write more than twenty stories for children, including the Newbery Award winning, *A Single Shard*, and the ALA Notable Book for Children, *Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo Poems*. To learn more about Linda, please visit her at [www.lindasuepark.com](http://www.lindasuepark.com).

### Alvina Ling

special guest

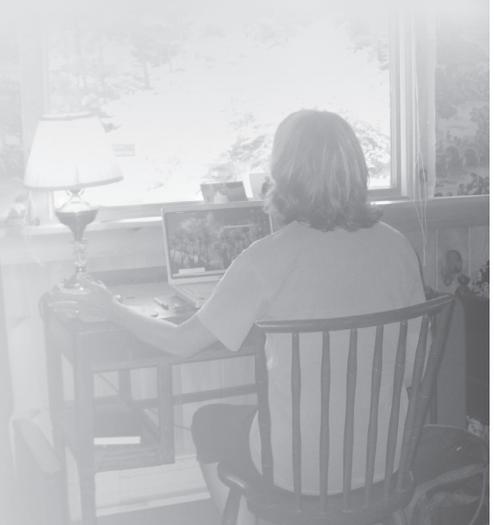


Alvina Ling is Executive Editor for Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. She edits children's books for all ages, from picture

books to young-adult novels, with some nonfiction mixed in. Books she has edited include *Eggs* by Jerry Spinelli; *The Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin; *Wabi Sabi* by Mark Reibstein, illustrated by Caldecott Award winner Ed Young; *Sergio Makes a Splash* by Edel Rodriguez, *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown and *Firegirl* by Tony Abbott. Alvina contributes to both [blurosegirls.blogspot.com](http://blurosegirls.blogspot.com) and [bloomabilities.blogspot.com](http://bloomabilities.blogspot.com).

*Thank you for making my first Highlights Foundation workshop so wonderful. The faculty was always available and gave the impression immediately that they were there to answer all our questions at any moment. There was great chemistry/balance of experience in faculty, too. The cabin was beyond comfortable, and I felt pampered, with exquisite, simple, and enriching foods. I look forward to returning in the future. And the Barn, I never wanted to leave the Barn to actually go back to my cabin to write. Everything was simply perfect!"*

— Colleen Tsironis, Ohio





# Whole Novel Workshop: *Historical Fiction*

November 3 – 9, 2013 | Tuition: \$2665

Founded in 2006, this session of the Whole Novel Workshop is specifically designed for those working in historical fiction. This unique program offers the one-on-one attention found in degree programs, but without additional academic requirements, lengthy time commitments, or prohibitive financial investments. Our aim is to focus on a specific work in progress, moving a novel to the next level in preparation for submission to agents or publishers. Focused attention in an intimate setting makes this mentorship program one that guarantees significant progress.

**Our novel mentorship program includes:**

- focused, one-on-one response to your entire novel-in-progress from an accomplished author, agent, or editor currently working in the genre of historical fiction;
- group discussion and feedback;
- faculty seminars on technique, craft, query letters, and agent/editor submissions; and
- ample time to write and revise.

The Whole Novel Workshop offers writers the rare opportunity to have the entire draft of a novel read and critiqued prior to the workshop, followed by a week of intense, one-on-one mentoring.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, November 3, and ends Saturday, November 9, after breakfast.

## Faculty

### Tracy Barrett



Tracy Barrett is the author of numerous books and magazine articles for young readers. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study medieval women writers led to the writing of her award-winning young-adult novel, *Anna of Byzantium*. She has taught courses on writing for children and on children's literature at various institutions, and she frequently makes presentations to groups of students, librarians, teachers, and others.

### Kirby Larson



Kirby Larson is the acclaimed author of the 2007 Newbery Honor Book, *Hattie Big Sky*, a young adult historical novel. A frequent speaker, Kirby enjoys sharing her passion for research, reading and writing. She has presented at more than 200 schools, workshops, and seminars in nearly twenty states and as far away as Germany, Lebanon and Qatar.

### Linda Pratt



Linda Pratt and her longtime colleague, Marcia Wernick, established the Wernick & Pratt Agency in January 2011 after working together for twenty years at the Sheldon Fogelman Agency. Their focus is not just on individual books, but the long-term careers of their authors and illustrators in the ever-changing world of publishing. Her clients work in all genres of children's books—writing and/or illustrating.

### Tamra Tuller



Tamra's career in publishing began at the Scholastic Book Clubs, and then she moved on to Scholastic's trade division at Blue Sky Press. She is currently an editor with Philomel Books and is interested primarily in modern, literary middle grade and young adult fiction as well as story-based picture books.

### Augusta Scattergood special guest



Augusta is a former school librarian. *Glory Be* is her debut novel. Her second middle-grade novel has just been purchased by Scholastic and is slated for publication in the fall of 2014.

### Nancy Castaldo special guest



Nancy is the author of several nonfiction books, including *Keeping Our Earth Green* and *River Wild*. Nancy holds a master of arts degree with a concentration in children's literature, and she is a reviewer for the Historical Novel Society. Nancy is the Regional Advisor for the Eastern New York region of the SCBWI.



# Writing Retreat with Two Authors in Residence

November 10 – November 15, 2013 | Tuition: \$1395

Authors Rich Wallace and Sandra Neil Wallace will host this autumn retreat, enabling you to write, revise, and receive feedback on your work in a peaceful and inspiring setting.

Your very own cabin—tucked into the woods—in which to write. Delicious meals in The Barn, and a community of writers—perhaps around the crackling fireplace at night. Feedback, advice, support, and instruction.

In addition to the gift of solitude, space, and time, you'll immerse yourself in your writing in a retreat format that allows you to devote all day to developing and grooming your work. In the evening, enjoy camaraderie and inspiration as you receive feedback on your writing and informally discuss the field of children's publishing.

Bring a work-in-progress or start something new! Attend social nighttime events or stay in and write. This is **your** time and **your** space. Shape it **your** way!

Rich and Sandra will be available for consultations throughout the day. In the evenings, they'll host optional Q&A sessions, group manuscript critiques, and informal discussions.

Begins with dinner on Sunday, November 10 and ends with lunch on Friday, November 15.

## Faculty

### Rich Wallace



Rich Wallace is the author of many award-winning books for boys, ranging from his debut YA novel, *Wrestling Sturbridge*, to his popular sports series, "The Winning Season" and "Kickers." He spent many years as an editor at *Highlights for Children* magazine and still pens the enormously popular comic strip "The Timbertoes" for that publication. Read more about Rich at <http://richwallacebooks.com>.

### Sandra Neil Wallace



Sandra was a news journalist and ESPN announcer before leaving television to write novels. Chosen by The Horn Book as a talented newcomer to the children's literature scene, Wallace writes realistic fiction for young people. Her first novel *Little Joe* was a finalist for the South Carolina Children's Book Award and is a national reading pick for the Department of Agriculture and the American Farm Bureau. Wallace's historical fiction novel *Muckers* is her first book for young adults. She has also written extensively for magazines, including *Highlights* and *Cobblestone*. To find out more, visit [www.sandraneilwallace.com](http://www.sandraneilwallace.com).

## FAQ

### How many attendees and faculty are in attendance at workshops?

Typically each workshop has from 10-30 students. There are usually several faculty members who are present throughout the workshop and various special guest faculty members who will visit.

### Do your workshops fill up fast?

Some popular workshops do fill up very quickly, so if you think you might be interested in attending, apply right away.

### How much writing time will I have at my workshop?

The schedule for each workshop is different, according to the type of workshop and the faculty's agenda.

### How do I apply to attend a workshop?

Applications can be found on our website and on the inside back cover of this catalog. After you submit your application, it is reviewed by faculty prior to acceptance. We will notify you of your acceptance.

### What if my desired workshop is full?

Applicants who qualify for a workshop after it is filled will be added to the waitlist.

### What is included in my workshop tuition?

Tuition includes all workshop activities and materials, as well as meals, lodging, and a shuttle from the airport if needed.

### Do you offer payment plans?

Yes. Payment plans can be tailored to meet your needs. E-mail [jo.loyd@highlightsfoundation.org](mailto:jo.loyd@highlightsfoundation.org), or call toll-free, (877) 512-8365. Payment can be made by check or credit card.

### Do you offer scholarships?

Scholarships are awarded on three criteria: seriousness of purpose, talent and financial need. To learn more, visit our website.

### Will I be able to use my laptop during my workshop?

Yes. All workshops will take place in the Barn. Classroom space has abundant electrical outlets. Writing tables are provided in the cabins for working on your own. The Barn also has a computer and printer available for student use.

### Does the property have wireless internet access?

Yes. Wi-fi is available in the Barn and in the cabins.

## What makes our workshops so unique?

### Our Exceptional Curriculum

Each workshop will be specialized according to the subject, but all programs offer:

- Sessions from children's literature professionals;
- Focused one-on-one feedback with faculty;
- Ample time to write, draw and revise;
- Special guests from the industry;
- Hands-on writing or drawing exercises;
- Group discussions

### Our Outstanding Faculty

There are over 100 faculty members in 2013. They are editors, writers, agents, publishers, academics and others committed to helping you hone your craft.

### Our Very Special Property

All workshops are held at our property near Honesdale, Pennsylvania, in the beautiful Pocono Mountains. Our campus consists of the Founders' farmhouse, twenty-one cabins, a 5,200-square-foot conference center known as The Barn at Boyds Mills, and The Lodge.

The Barn has several relaxed classroom-like areas, a Great Hall, an outdoor fireplace and a giant kitchen. There is space for meetings, meals and just hanging out.

Charming cabins with a rustic feel have modern facilities and are writer-ready with desk, chair and filled bookshelves. Be sure to read the guestbook to see who's been there before you! Farm-style meals are prepared by a top-notch chef and mealtimes are a time for lively discussion. Snacks are always available for late-night or early morning writing sessions. We will accommodate dietary restrictions.

There are trails for hiking, outside seats for contemplation, a word garden to putter in and yoga most mornings in the reclaimed horse barn.

## Further Information



**Applications** are reviewed by faculty prior to acceptance. We will notify you of your acceptance and provide you with additional registration information in a timely manner. Applicants who qualify for a workshop after it is filled will be added to the waitlist.

**Payment**—A deposit is required upon acceptance with the balance due before the workshop begins. Tuition includes all workshop activities and materials, as well as meals, lodging, and a shuttle from the airport if needed. Payment plans are available. Payment can be made by check or credit card. We accept all major credit cards.

**Scholarships**—The Highlights Foundation is a public, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. We receive support from a number of individuals who believe in our mission, several publishing companies and writers' organizations. We have provided financial aid for more than 600 writers and illustrators to attend our programs. For more information, visit <http://www.highlightsfoundation.org/scholarships>.

**Travel**—Honesdale is located 2 1/2 hours from New York City and approximately 45 minutes from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport. Complimentary airport shuttle service is provided.

Contact the Foundation directly by telephone at 570-253-1192. Or, e-mail us at [contact@highlightsfoundation.org](mailto:contact@highlightsfoundation.org).





# WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN’S WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a one-page resume or bio to the application form below and return along with a writing or illustration sample, or both, as appropriate. If artwork needs to be submitted, you have the option of sending us the link to online samples.

If applicable, please list any recent or important publishing achievements (books, magazines, awards, workshops, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your writing goals and discuss the kinds of writing you’ve been working on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours a day do you spend on your writing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please use a separate piece of paper and tell us in a page or less what attending this workshop would mean to you and your publishing career.

Have you previously attended a Highlights Foundation workshop? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list title and year. If no, please tell us how you heard about us \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Highlights Foundation**  
**814 Court Street, Honesdale, PA 18431**  
**Or fax: 570-253-0179**  
For additional information, e-mail us at  
**contact@highlightsfoundation.org** or call 570-253-1192.

Highlights®

Foundation

We'd like to invite you to join us for a workshop or retreat at our conference center in the beautiful Pocono Mountains near Honesdale, Pennsylvania.



[highlightsfoundation.org](http://highlightsfoundation.org)

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Honesdale, PA 18431

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