

# Illinois Language and Literacy Council



“Proud Sponsor of the Young Authors’ Conference”

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Newsletter

Spring, 2017

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## President’s Letter

From cookies to discount cards, coupons to special deals, it seems everyone is looking for additional funding from someone, somewhere. As our state and federal governments manipulate their funding priorities, it becomes even more important for us to stand up for the programs we believe in. One of those programs, we hope, is our Illinois Young Authors’ Conference (affectionately known as YAC). We are preparing to celebrate our 43rd annual Young Authors’ Conference this May. We have been honored to spend days with many exceptionally creative people over the years, including amazing published authors and awesome and aspiring young authors. We have worked with fabulous volunteers and wonderful parents and school personnel.

As we plan for and assess the costs for the facilities, purchasing books for each of our young authors to take home as a keepsake from the day, stipends and reimbursements for our published authors, etc. we realize that we need to be among those looking for additional funding sources if we are to continue offering this unique opportunity for students from across the state. While we could plan fee increases annually, we realize that our schools are also struggling with their budget deficits. Some of our authors simply donate their time, and of course our group leaders, lunch assistants, and others volunteer their time. We simply need an increase in funds to be able to begin planning YAC 44 for 2018. The ILLC Board has been trying to locate and contact possible sponsors, we have created an online funding page, and we have been working on creating other activities and events to help generate additional income. We do have a late summer event in the planning stages. Please watch for our flyers and consider attending this event.

While we can’t offer a tangible item to trade for our funding income, what we do create together is so much more for all of our YAC attendees. Thank you for your support—in any form—in the past, and for your continued support!

Leslie Forsman, President, ILLC

# Join Us for the 43rd Annual Young Authors' Conference May 20th - Illinois State University

Thank you to all our volunteers. We couldn't have the conference without the many people who act as group leaders and assistants, author escorts, site coordinators, and who fill many other roles.

A special invitation is extended to all of our volunteers to attend a Wine/Cheese reception and Guest Author panel on Friday evening, May 19th from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the bookstore in the Bone Center.

Early Check-in for volunteers begins at 7:00 p.m





**Suzanne Slade** is the award-winning author of over 100 children's books including *The Inventor's Secret* (2017 IL READS selection, 2017 NSTA Best STEM Book, NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book, CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book,) *The House That George Built, Friends for Freedom, The Soda Bottle School,* and *The Music in George's Head: George Gershwin Creates Rhapsody in Blue* (Booklist Top 10 Arts Book for Youth, JLG Selection, Parents' Choice Gold Award, Starred reviews - Kirkus, Publishers Weekly, SLJ, & Booklist.) Her newest book *Out of School and Into Nature: The Anna Comstock Story* (Kirkus starred review) released March, 2017.

- **Allan Woodrow** always wanted to be an author, but his teachers told him to write about what he knew. Unfortunately, he didn't know very much, and he didn't know very much for quite a long time. Eventually, Allan decided to start writing anyway. Now a popular speaker at schools and regularly appearing on author panels, Allan is the author of nine books for children, with more on the way—under his own name and other, semi-secret names. His titles include the novels *The Pet War, Class Dismissed* and its upcoming sequel, *Unschool* (August, 2017). Allan lives in the Chicago area with his family and maybe a ghost in the attic, although it could just mean the roof needs repair. For more information about Allan, please visit [allanwoodrow.com](http://allanwoodrow.com)

## **Grades 5-6**

**Liesl Shurtliff** is the New York Times bestselling author of *Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin* and other “fairly true” tales. Her books have been on more than twenty state award lists and have received many awards including an IRA Children’s and Young Adult Book Award. When she's not writing, Liesl enjoys spending time with family and friends, eating delicious food and sharing true life stories. A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, she currently lives with her husband and three kids in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago.

- **Michael Spradlin** is the New York Times Best selling author of several books for children including *Into the Killing Seas, The Enemy Above* and the *Youngest Templar* trilogy. His novel *Spy Goddess: Live and Let Shop* was a Mystery Writers of America Edgar nominee for Best Young Adult Mystery. His picture book *OFF LIKE THE WIND! The First Ride of the Pony Express* was the winner of the Wrangler Award from the Western Heritage Museum. His newest novel *Prisoner of War*, will be published by Scholastic in June. He lives in Lapeer, Michigan. With his wife and two occasionally cooperative dogs.

**Chris Rylander** is the author of the Codename Conspiracy series and the Fourth Stall saga. A fan of chocolate, chips, and chocolate chips, he lives in Chicago. You can visit him online at [www.chrisrylander.com](http://www.chrisrylander.com).



## Grades 7-8

**Mike Grosso** is an author, musician, and fourth-grade teacher who always keeps a guitar in his classroom. His father gave him his first lesson, and his mom taught him how to keep a steady rhythm. Mike continues to write and record music at his home in Oak Park, Illinois, where he lives with his wife, son, and a drum set he plays much too loud. *I AM DRUMS* is his first novel.

**Kathryn Atwood** is the author of several young adult collective biographies: *Women Heroes of World War II*, *Women Heroes of World War II: The Pacific Theater*, and *Women Heroes of World War I*. She also edited the memoirs of SOE agent Pearl Witherington, published as *Code Name Pauline*. Her writing has appeared in *The Historian* and *War, Literature, and the Arts*, and she has been featured on *America: Fact vs. Fiction* and *BBC America*.

### **Storytellers and Parent Speaker**

**Megan Wells**, a national award-winning story and theater artist, combines the worlds of theater, writing and storytelling. After earning her BFA (Illinois Wesleyan) and MFA (Illinois State), Megan began her artistic career in Chicago as a director and actress. Her credits include, *The Miracle Worker*, *A Ruffian on the Stair*, *The Assignment*, *In the Wake of the Welded*, *Seventy Scenes from Halloween* and *Good*, for which she was honored with a Joseph Jefferson

award. Playwright/directing credits include the *Riddle Quest*, *Bogmoon*, *Ravens and Writing Desks*, *Oz! Juliet's Potion*, *The Firebird*, *Cenci's Daughter* and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*, which was produced at the Leitch theater in England.

In collaboration with songwriter Amy Lowe, Megan created *Fire in Boomtown*, a story musical about the Chicago Fire which has won the 1999 Ed Press Distinguished Achievement Award, a Parent's Choice Gold and a Best 25 in 25 years, both from Parent's Choice magazine. Amy and Megan also perform *Progress Train* and *Ellis Island*.

Megan has most recently been honored as an Oracle by the National Storytelling Network, inducting her into the Circle of Excellence for storytellers in America. She is featured at festivals and tours her epic story experiences, *Helen's Troy*, *Dracula*, *Arrow of Love*, *Mozart's Sister* and many more. Her full repertoire of performances and her performance calendar is on her website at:

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



**Kim Sheahan** has been a central Illinois educator since 1991, incorporating oral traditions into her multicultural programs at the University of Illinois' Spurlock Museum. She added freelance storytelling about ten years later and has performed folktales and one-woman shows at storytelling festivals, school assemblies, city-wide celebrations, personal parties, and gatherings of all kinds ever since. Her enthusiasm is both unmistakable and contagious.

*Parent Speaker*

**Kathy Higgs-Coulthard** is the founder and director of Michiana Writers' Center and an instructor at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame. Kathy's teen writing conference and summer writing camps attract students from a tri-state region. Her middle grade book, *Hanging with My Peeps*, was released last spring. As the mother of two aspiring novelists, she is excited to share tips with other parents on how to support and encourage young writers.

## Writing Round-up

**Come  
help us  
rustle up  
some**



**cash for the Illinois  
Young Authors'  
Conference!**

In an effort to continue this important event we are holding a benefit, **“Writing Round-Up” on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville.** The evening's events will include a silent auction, dinner, games, Team Trivia, and more.

We hope you will join us and invite your friends to accompany you.

We are also seeking donations for our silent auction. If you have items of interest or gift certificates, please contact Sue Anderson at [anderbrose@aol.com](mailto:anderbrose@aol.com) or (630)988-9833. Gift certificates could be mailed to Sue at 537 South Oak Avenue, Westmont, IL 60559.

**Save the Date - Saturday,  
August 12th! Look for an  
EventBrite invitation soon.**

Keep the Illinois Young Authors' Conference Going!!

Like many organizations in the state of Illinois, the Illinois Young Authors' Conference lost state funding several years ago. The Illinois Language and Literacy Council has been able to continue sponsoring the Conference due to the financial reserves we had built over the years, but that is rapidly coming to an end and without further outside funding sources, this may be the last year for the Illinois Young Authors' Conference.

How can you help?

**Please help by donating to our Gofundme campaign. [gofundme.com/2467wgjk](https://gofundme.com/2467wgjk)**

You can also make a donation yourself to the Conference by submitting the form in this newsletter with your check. Your donation will be tax deductible.

Secondly, you can get the word out to your community, your PTA's, and any corporations, businesses or organizations that you know of that would be interested in supporting our conference. Ideally, we would love to partner with a corporation, business, or organization for ongoing sponsorship. Their name would be featured prominently in everything related to the Young Authors' Conference. For further information about sponsorship for the Conference, please contact Dr. Sue Anderson at [anderbrose@aol.com](mailto:anderbrose@aol.com).

**ILLINOIS YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE  
DONATION/SPONSORSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to sponsor the Illinois Young Authors' Conference in the amount of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check made payable to the Illinois Language and  
Literacy Council (ILLC).

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in being contacted about ongoing sponsorship, please  
contact me.

Mail to: Dr. Sue Anderson  
537 South Oak Avenue  
Westmont, IL 60559



# 2017 NCBLA Book Awards

(2016 Copyright)

**27 Magic Words** Written by Sharelle Byars Maronville, Published by Holiday House.

**Before Morning** Written by Joyce Sidman, Illustrated by Beth Krommes, Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

**Booked** Written by Kwame Alexander, Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

**A Child of Books** Written by Oliver Jeffers, Illustrated by Sam Winston, Published by Candlewick Press.

**Cloud and Wallfish** Written by Anne Nesbet, Published by Candlewick Press.

**Du Iz Tak?** Written and illustrated by Carson Ellis, Published by Candlewick Press.

**Fishbone's Song** Written by Gary Paulsen, Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

**Free Verse** Written by Sarah Dooley, Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons.

**Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life** by Ashley Bryan  
Written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan,  
Published by Atheneum.

**I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark** Written by Debbie Levy, Illustrated by Elizabeth

**Baddeley**, Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

**The Island of Beyond** Written by Elizabeth Atkinson, Published by Carolrhoda Books.

**Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous**

**Photograph** Written by Roxanne Orgill, Illustrated by Francis

**Vallejo**, Published by Candlewick Press.

**Mayday** Written by Karen Harrington, Published by Little, Brown and Company.

**OCDaniel** Written by Wesley King, Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

**¡Olinguito de la A a la Z! Descubriendo el bosque nublado: Olinguito, from A to Z!**

**Unveiling the Cloud Forest**, Written by Lulu DeLacre, Published by Lee and Low.

**Plants Can't Sit Still** Written by Rebecca Hirsch, Illustrated by Mia Posada, Published by Millbrook Press.

**A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day**

Written by Andrea Pinkney, Illustrated by Lou Fancher and Steve Johnson.

**Raymie Nightingale** Written by Kate DiCamillo, Published by Candlewick Press.

**Soar** Written by Joan Bauer, Published by Viking.

**Some Writer: The Story of E.B. White** Written and illustrated by Melissa Sweet, Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

**The Sound of Silence** Written by Katrina Goldsaito, illustrated by Julia Kuo, Published by Little, Brown and Company.

**Snow White: A Graphic Novel** Written and illustrated by Matt Phelan, Published by Candlewick Press.

**Speaking American: How Y'all, Youse, and You Guys Talk: A Visual Guide** Written and illustrated by Josh Katz, Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

**The Storyteller** Written and illustrated by Evan Turk, Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

**Treat** Written and illustrated by Mary Sullivan, Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

**Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems** Written and illustrated by Bob Raczka, Published by Roaring Brook Press.

**When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons** Written by Julie Fogliano, Illustrated by Julie Morstad, Published by Roaring Brook Press.

**When the Sea Turned to Silver** Written and illustrated by Grace Lin, Published by Little, Brown and Company.

**Wills Words: How William Shakespeare**

**Changed the Way You Talk** Written by Jane Sutcliffe, Illustrated by John Shelley, Published by Charlesbridge.

**Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs** Written by Linda Sue Park, Illustrated by Jennifer Black Reinhardt, Published by Clarion Books.

2017 Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts Selection Committee Members: Pamela Jewett-Professor Emerita, University of South Carolina, Diana Porter-Eastern Kentucky University, Jennifer Sanders-Oklahoma State University, Holly Sims-Western Oregon University, Jane Bean-Folkes-Marist College, New Jersey, Cynthia Alaniz-Coppell Independent School District, Texas and Sue Corbin-Notre Dame College, Ohio.

Submitted by Meg Pyterek

## 2017 USBBY Outstanding International Books

### GRADES PreK-2

deGennaro, Sue. **The Pros and Cons of Being a Frog.** Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster. (Australia)

Dubuc, Marianne. **The Animals' Ark.** Trans. from French. Illus. by author. Kids Can Press. (Canada)

Hirst, Daisy. **The Girl with the Parrot on Her Head.** Illus. by the author. Candlewick Press. (England)

Hohn, Nadia L. **Malaika's Costume.** Illus. by Irene Luxbacher. Groundwood Books. (Canada/set in the Caribbean)

Lantheier, Jennifer. **Hurry Up, Henry!** Illus. by Isabelle Malenfant. Puffin Books/Penguin Books. (Canada)

Leroy, Jean. **A Well-Mannered Young Wolf.** Trans. from French. Illus. by Matthieu Maudet. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. (France)

O'Leary, Sara. **A Family Is a Family Is a Family.** Illus. by Qin Leng. Groundwood Books. (Canada)

Rocha, Ruth. **Lines, Squiggles, Letters, Words.** Trans. by Lyn Miller-Lochman. Illus. by Madalena Matoso. Enchanted Lion Books. (Brazil)

Sanna, Francesca. **The Journey.** Illus. by the author. Flying Eye Books/Nobrow. (UK)

Stark, Ulf. **The Midsummer Tomte and the Little Rabbits.** Trans. by Susan Beard. Illus. by Eva Eriksson. Floris Books. (Sweden)

Viswanath, **Shobha. The Blue Jackal.** Illus. by Dilip Joshi.

### GRADES 3 - 5

#### **Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.**

(India)

Argueta, Jorge. **Somos como las nubes/We Are Like the Clouds.** Trans. by Elisa Amado. Illus. by Alfonso Ruano. Groundwood Books. (Canada)

Cornille, Didier. **Who Built That? Bridges: An Introduction to Ten Great Bridges and Their Designers.** Trans. by Yolanda Stern Broad. Illus. by the author. Princeton Architectural Press. (France)

Faber, Polly. **Mango & Bambang, The Not-a-Pig.** Illus. by Clara Vulliamy. Candlewick Press. (UK)

Fenton, Corinne. **Bob the Railway Dog, the True Story of an Adventurous Dog** Illus. by Andrew McLean. Candlewick Press. (Australia)

Hurst, Elise. **Imagine a City.** Illus. by the author. Doubleday. (Canada)

Krishnaswami, Uma. **Book Uncle and Me.** Illus. by Julianna Swaney. Groundwood Books. (Canada/set in India)

Kuhlmann, Torben. **Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon.** Trans. by David Henry Wilson. Illus. by the author. NorthSouth Books. (Germany)

Kuhn, Camilla. **Samira and the Skeletons.** Trans. by Don Bartlett. Illus. by author. **Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.** (Norway)

Lagercrantz, Rose. **Life According to Dani.** Trans. by Julia Marshall. Illus. by Eva Eriksson. Gecko Press. (Sweden)

Martins, Isabel Minhós. **Don't Cross the Line.** Trans. by Daniel Hahn.

### GRADES 3-5

Muller, Gerda. **A Year in Our New Garden.**  
Illus. by the author. Floris Books. (Germany)  
Parvela, Timo. **Bicycling to the Moon**  
Trans. by Ruth Urbom. Illus. by Virpi  
Talvitie. Gecko Press. (Finland)  
Pinfold, Levi. **Greenling.** Illus. by the author.  
Templar Books/Candlewick Press. (Australia)  
Rossell, Judith. **Withering-by-Sea.** Illus.  
by the author. Atheneum/Simon &  
Schuster. (Australia)  
Sanabria, José. **As Time Went By.** Trans.  
from German. Illus. by the author. NorthSouth  
Books. (Switzerland)

### GRADES 6-8

Bogart, Jo Ellen. **The White Cat and  
the Monk: A Retelling of the  
Poem "Pangur Bán".** Illus. by Sydney  
Smith. Greenwood Books.  
(Canada)  
Davies, Linda. **Longbow Girl.** Chicken  
House/Scholastic. (UK)  
Hardstaff, Jane. **The Executioner's  
Daughter.** Carolrhoda Books. (UK)  
Lea, Synne. **Night Guard.** Trans. by John  
Irons. Illus. by Stian Hole.  
**Erdmans Books for Young Readers.**  
(Norway)  
Lewis, Amanda West. **The Pact.** Red Deer  
Press.  
(Canada / set in Germany)  
Luurtsema, Nat. **Goldfish.**  
Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan. (UK)  
Stevenson, Robin. **Pride: Celebrating  
Diversity and Community.** Orca. (Canada)  
Svingen, Arne. **The Ballad of a Broken  
Nose.** Trans. by Kari Dickinson. Margaret  
K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster.  
(Norway)

### GRADES 9-12

Acioli, Socorro. **The Head of the Saint.**  
Trans. by Daniel Hahn. Arthur A. Levine/  
Scholastic. (The Netherlands/set in NYC)  
Wright, David and Luc Bouchard.  
**Away Running.** Orca. Delacorte  
Press. (Brazil)  
Downham, Jenny. **Unbecoming.** David  
Fickling Books/Scholastic. (UK)  
Harding, Frances. **The Lie Tree.** A  
Mulet Books/Abrams. (UK)  
Williamson, Lisa. **The Art of Being Normal.**  
Margaret Ferguson Books/Farah Straux  
Giroux. (UK)  
Woltz, Anna. **A Hundred Hours of Night.**  
Trans. by Laura Watkinson. (Canada/set in  
France)  
Wung-Sung, Jesper. **The Last Execution.**  
Trans. by Lindy Falk van Rooyen. A Caitlyn  
Dlouhy Book/Atheneum. (Denmark)

The annual list of USBBY Outstanding  
International Books is  
sponsored by the United States Board  
on Books for Young People. All  
books on this list were published or  
released in 2016 and chosen by a  
committee of  
USBBY members. Country names in  
parentheses.

Submitted by Meg Pyterek

ILLC Board and Committee  
Members  
2016-2017



Leslie Forsman, *President*  
lforsman@hotmail.com

Sharon Ball, *Secretary*  
sharonb277@aol.com

Stacey Keleher, *Treasurer*  
stacey.keleher@gmail.com

Lara Handsfield, *Past President*  
lhandsf@ilstu.edu

Christina Podraza, *Young Author  
Coordinator*  
cpodraza@naperville203.org

Sue Anderson, *Young Author  
Anchor*  
[anderbrose@aol.com](mailto:anderbrose@aol.com)

Ruth Stevig, *Membership Chair,  
Co-Fundraising Chair, Newsletter  
Editor*  
stevig@sbcglobal.net

Meg Pyterek, *Historian, University  
Rep*  
peterborough48@gmail.com

Ruth Quiroa, *University Rep*  
rquiroa@nl.edu

Doris Aimers-Voss, *Young Author  
Consultant*  
aimers-voss@live.com

Elaine Taylor, *Co-Fundraising Chair*  
eete@comcast.net

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBD - We will meet in June in Naperville. Exact date and place will be determined.

All members or interested parties welcome. Before attending, please contact Sharon Ball at [sharonb277@aol.com](mailto:sharonb277@aol.com) for updated information.