

# CONFERENCE-AT-A-GLANCE INFORMATION SHEET

(Please read before registering!)  
SCBWI Mid-Atlantic Conference

Saturday, October 20, 2018

with optional workshops/sessions on Friday, October 19, 2018

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SCHEDULE.....	2
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018.....	2
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018 (Optional Workshops and Sessions) .....	3
CONFERENCE FEES.....	4
INTENSIVE/CONSULTATION FEES.....	5
PAYMENT OF FEES .....	5
CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY.....	5
FREE OPTIONAL EVENTS .....	6
CONFERENCE FACULTY.....	7
KEYNOTE SPEAKER.....	7
LITERARY AGENTS .....	7
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS .....	9
FEATURED SPEAKER .....	10
AUTHORS/ILLUSTRATORS .....	10
VENUE.....	15
ACCOMMODATIONS.....	15
REGISTRATION LINKS/TIPS .....	15
CONSULTATION GUIDELINES .....	16
FIRST & LAST PAGES SUBMISSION GUIDELINES.....	18
BLOGGING AND RECORDING POLICY .....	21

# SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018

(We welcome your input. To submit questions for the agents', editors', picture book, novel, and nonfiction panels—as well as the illustrators' breakout Q&A session—go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6Y9LTWB>)

7:30 Registration Desk Opens

7:45 Continental Breakfast/Book Sales/Art Display Drop-off

7:50 Conference Orientation for First-time Attendees hosted by Angele McQuade (20 minutes)

8:30 Welcome/Introductions

8:45 **Elise Howard: *Begin in the Middle: Crafting Opening Scenes to Intrigue and Engage Readers (and editors and agents).***

9:30 Break/Book Sales

9:45 **Literary Agents' Panel** featuring **Natalie Lakosil** (Bradford Literary Agency), **Cari Lamba** (Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency), **Sarah Landis** (Sterling Lord Literistic), **Shadra Strickland** (Painted Words) (Moderator: **Valerie Patterson**)

10:45 Morning Breakout Sessions:

- a. **Bonnie Bader, *Traveling through the World of Publishing***
- b. **Illustrator Session: *Staying Competitive in Today's Illustration Market/Q&A with Shadra Strickland*** (Painted Words) (Moderator: **Joan Waites**)

11:45 Lunch Break (Preordered boxed lunches provided)

11:45 Illustrators' Networking Lunch (Preordered boxed lunches provided)

1:15 **Keynote Address: Pat Cummings, *9 EPIPHANIES: Lessons, insights and bumps in the road...a crib sheet to smooth your career path.***

2:15 Break/Book Sales

2:30 Breakout Sessions:

- a. **Novel Panel: Kwame Alexander, L.M. Elliott, Mary Rand Hess, Jonathan Roth** (Moderator: **Erin Teagan**)
- b. **Picture Book Panel: Vashti Harrison, Jacqueline Jules, Ann Marie Stephens** (Moderator: **Lezlie Evans**)
- c. **Nonfiction Panel: Ginjer Clarke, Winifred Conkling, Debbie Levy** (Moderator: **Mary Quattlebaum**)

3:30 **Editors' Panel with First-Last Pages session\*\*\*** featuring **Kwame Alexander** (Versify), **Elise Howard** (Algonquin), **Rachael Stein** (Sterling), **Mekisha Telfer** (Roaring Brook Press) (Moderator: **Ellen R. Braaf**) (**\*\*\*To participate, please see details in the *First-Last Pages Guidelines at the end of this document***)

4:45 Wrap up/Evaluations/Book Sales/Faculty Book Signing

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018 (Optional Workshops and Sessions)

### Optional Intensive Workshops

You may choose a maximum of two workshops—one in the morning session, one in the afternoon session. Please note that lunch is not provided. O'Malley's Pub in the Holiday Inn is open for lunch. In addition, there are several local eateries within a five-mile radius of the hotel.

### AM Sessions (9:00am – 12:00pm)

#### **A. Pat Cummings: *THE PLOT THINS: GETTING BRUTAL, GETTING PUBLISHED...HOW HARSH SELF-EDITING CAN TURN UNSOLD PROJECTS INTO MARKETABLE STORIES***

Using a checklist of well-established guidelines can help polish your work before it goes out to agents, editors or even your writers group. If your project is almost there or in need of a diagnostic review before submitting it, this workshop offers an art director's and editor's-eye view of your work.

#### **B Bonnie Bader: *START***

Learn how to hook readers from the beginning of your book so they'll never let go. Through group exercises, discussions, and small-group work, learn if the start of your book provides key information without giving too much away. At the end of this class, you will discover if you are starting in the right place, the importance of opening lines, how to set up the stakes, and more. Please send in your first chapter to [schwbi.conference@gmail.com](mailto:schwbi.conference@gmail.com) with subject 'Bader Intensive Submission' no later than September 21st.

#### **C. Mekisha Telfer: *UNDER PRESSURE: RAISING THE STAKES IN YOUR MANUSCRIPT***

No matter the genre, tension and conflict are important facets of every engaging novel. From contemporary coming-of-age stories to thrilling third-world fantasies, we'll discuss how plot, pacing, and a satisfying dose of drama intersect to create the perfect "unputdownable" read.

### PM Sessions (2:00pm – 5:00pm)

#### **D. Jacqueline Jules: *CREATING MEMORABLE CHARACTERS***

While a good plot may intrigue, readers only become absorbed when they connect with the main character. How do you create a fictional character who will engage young readers from the first page? How can you make dialogue reveal your character's personality? Explore the elements of crafting fictional characters, both realistic and imaginary, with the award-winning author of two character-based series, Zapato Power and the Sofia Martinez series. The workshop intensive will include writing exercises and discussion. Participants are invited to bring copies of a character sketch or short (600 words) manuscript for group critique.

#### **E. Debbie Levy: *MATTERS OF FACT: WRITING (AND PITCHING) NONFICTION THAT SOARS***

This session will cover nonfiction, including biography, for a broad age range, from the picture book crowd to older readers. From discovering your subject, to choosing your format, to research, to

formulating and plotting a story arc, to writing opening pages, to creating a pitch or proposal, to later-stage research, to polishing your prose—but, wait, there’s more!—to understanding the expository/narrative writing divide, to voice, to suspense . . . we will explore the invigorating process of creating vibrant, kid-appealing nonfiction that can take off in today’s market.

#### **F. Elise Howard: *FINDING YOUR VOICE***

We’ll use exercises and discuss techniques for giving life and voice to your characters and your narration. This workshop is for writers with a work-in-progress as well as writers who are just getting started writing full-length fiction or non-fiction. Writers who would like to use this forum for critique *on narrative or character voice* may submit up to ten pages for attendees to read beforehand. Time spent on individual critiques will depend on the number of submissions. Specific questions to be addressed are welcome with the submission. Once registration has been confirmed, a link to a google folder will be provided for attendees to share their 10 pages.

#### **G. Vashti Harrison: *ILLUSTRATOR INTENSIVE: DIGITAL ART TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FROM DRAWING TO SOCIAL MEDIA***

This workshop will cover an overview of digital tools in the applications Procreate or Photoshop, explore digital drawing techniques, look at a "traditional-to-digital" media workflow, and share strategies for getting your work seen on social media.

**5:15 – 6:30pm PAL Roundtable** (Moderated by Lezlie Evans)

**5:00 – 7:30pm Peer Critiques** (Coordinated by Terry Jennings)

**8:00 – 9:30pm PAL Social** (Hosted by Lezlie Evans)

## **CONFERENCE FEES**

### **TUITION**

Tuition includes all conference sessions, a light continental breakfast, and a boxed lunch on Saturday. Tuition does not include the optional individual consultations or the pre-conference intensives on Friday.

**\$195 for SCBWI members; \$225 for nonmembers on or before October 1.**

**\$215 for SCBWI members; \$245 for nonmembers after October 1.**

**SCBWI student members will receive a 10% discount.**

To receive the member discount, your membership must be current at the time of registration and the conference. To check your membership status, log-in at [www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org) or call headquarters at 323-782-1010. If you need to renew, you can do so online or over the phone.

Not a member? Membership in SCBWI is just \$95 for the first year and \$80 per year after that. Learn about the benefits and sign up at <http://www.scbwi.org/about/membership-benefits/> Please note that the **optional consultations with conference faculty are available to SCBWI members only.**

# INTENSIVE/CONSULTATION FEES

## Optional Pre-Conference Intensives (Friday, October 19th)

You may choose a maximum of two workshops—one in the morning session, one in the afternoon session. (Please see additional information in the "OPTIONAL INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS" section.)

**\$70 – SCBWI member fee for each workshop**

**\$95 – Nonmember fee for each workshop**

## Optional Consultations with Conference Faculty

**SCBWI members registered for the conference** may sign up for an individual fifteen-minute consultation for an **additional fee of \$45**. Please see details under the "CONSULTATIONS" section before registering. Required materials must be **postmarked on or before September 15, 2018**.

# PAYMENT OF FEES

**We strongly urge you to use PayPal to pay all conference fees. That option will appear as a default.**

To pay by check, select the send payment by mail option on the drop-down list of payment methods. If you opt to mail payment, your registration will not be approved until all fees have been received. Consultation slots will not be assigned nor will space in the intensive(s) be reserved until your registration has been approved.

Please send check/money order (payable to SCBWI Mid-Atlantic)—along with a printout of your invoice—to:

SCBWI Mid-Atlantic  
P.O. Box 3215  
Reston, VA 20195-1215

Please note "2018 Conference Registration" on the envelope.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our Conference Registrar: Linda Budzinski ([lindaacorn@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaacorn@yahoo.com)).

# CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

All conference fees are nonrefundable. Registrations are nontransferable. Walk-in registrations will not be accepted. By registering for this conference, you acknowledge the cancellation/refund policy.

# FREE OPTIONAL EVENTS

Spaces in the following optional events are limited. If you intend to participate, please make sure you select the applicable options when registering.

## Friday Night Peer Critiques

Are you looking for a critique group? Interested in forming a group of your own? This is an opportunity for conference attendees to connect with other like-minded individuals. If you have never been a member of a writers group, you will be able to get the flavor of how critique groups operate. If you have experience in critiquing, this is a great opportunity to have different eyes on a piece or to find someone else with whom to form a group.

The Peer Critiques will be held on Friday evening, October 19, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Dulles (room TBD) from 5:00 to 7:30pm. There is no additional charge for this session. If you plan to participate, please make sure you select the “Peer Critiques” option on the registration form.

Those registered attendees wishing to participate need to contact Terry Jennings (SCBWI Mid-Atlantic Critique Group Coordinator)—at **terryjenn0708@gmail**—no later than September 30, 2018. Please put “Peer Critiques” in the subject line. Please note whether you are an author and/or illustrator; manuscript type (e.g. picture book, MG/YA novel, nonfiction, short story, etc.), your hometown, and a brief description of your experience giving/receiving critiques. If you have critique experience, please let us know if you would be willing to lead a group.

## Friday Night PAL Roundtable

This is an opportunity for Published and Listed (PAL) members registered for this conference to discuss industry concerns and issues, career challenges, and ways that our SCBWI region can better serve its PAL members. Moderated by Lezlie Evans, this session will be held from 5:15 to 6:30pm. If you are a PAL member and plan to attend, please make sure you select the “PAL Roundtable” option when registering. For info on membership levels: <http://www.scbwi.org/about/levels-of-membership-2/>

## Friday Night PAL Dessert Social

SCBWI PAL members registered for the conference are invited to a get-together at Holiday Inn Dulles Friday evening 8:00-9:30pm. Desserts provided. Cash bar. If you are a PAL member and plan to attend, please make sure you select the “PAL Dessert Social” option when registering. For info on membership levels: <http://www.scbwi.org/about/levels-of-membership-2/>

## First-Timers Orientation

When registering, please let us know that this is your first SCBWI Mid-Atlantic conference so we can send you additional details on this preconference information session scheduled for Saturday morning, 7:50 to 8:10am in the front of the main ballroom at the Holiday Inn Dulles. Contact Angele McQuade ([angemcquade@gmail.com](mailto:angemcquade@gmail.com)) with questions.

## Art Display

If you are interested in having your portfolio included in this year’s Art Display, you may reserve a spot when registering. (Space is limited.) Portfolios should be no larger than 11X17, approximately 10-15 pieces, (no original art). Bring it with you on Saturday. The Art Display tables will be set up in the

back of the main ballroom. You may drop off your portfolio any time after 7:45 am. Please be sure to pick it up no later than 4:30pm. Postcard samples/business cards may also be placed in or next to your portfolio. Contact Joan Waites ([midatlantic-ic@scbwi.org](mailto:midatlantic-ic@scbwi.org)) with questions.

## CONFERENCE FACULTY

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### Pat Cummings



Pat is the author and/or illustrator of over 35 books for young readers. Along with teaching children's book illustration and writing at Parsons and Pratt, she holds a summer Children's Book Boot Camp that brings writers and illustrators together with top editors and art directors. She sits on the boards of the Authors Guild, the Authors League Fund, and The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and also serves as Chair of the Founders Award Jury for the Society of Illustrators' Original Art Show.

Her most recent picture book, *Beauty and the Beast*, was set in west Africa. It was translated from the original French and retold by her husband, H. Chuku Lee, a founding member of NABJA. Her first middle grade novel, *Trace*, will be published in 2019. Both titles are with HarperCollins.

### LITERARY AGENTS

#### Natalie Lakosil (Bradford Literary Agency)



Natalie is an agent at Bradford Literary Agency. An honors graduate of the University of San Diego, California, Natalie holds a B.A. in Literature/Writing and has been an agent since 2009. Her specialties are all ages (PB, chapter book, MG, YA) of children's literature (fiction and nonfiction), adult cozy mystery/crime, female-driven thrillers, and upmarket women's/general fiction. She also represents illustrators and select adult nonfiction. In novels, she likes historical (primarily 1800s-1920s), multi-cultural, diversity, own voice representation, magical realism, LGBTQ, strong female leads, sci-fi that reads like fantasy, fantasy, gritty, thrilling and darker contemporary novels, and horror. In picture books, she likes short-texted (500 words or less), emotionally-resonant, quirky or character-driven. She likes softer, lyrical bedtime

books that are beautifully written, humor, strong voices, strong characters, and texts with fun, clever and unexpected twists at the end. She looks for unique perspectives and fresh ideas in nonfiction. In

adult, platform and innovation are key; in children's, she likes picture book biographies, STEM topics, and texts exploring feminist and social issues.

### **Cari Lamba (Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency)**



Cari Lamba is an Associate Literary Agent at the Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency actively seeking to represent authors of fiction and non-fiction picture books, middle grade commercial fiction, as well as adult commercial fiction. Prior to officially joining the team of agents, Cari interned for the agency for eight years. It wasn't long into her internship before she knew she wanted to join the publishing world and help writers bring their books to life. Cari graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature. She also studied literature at The Advanced Studies in England Program. She has experience as a bookseller and in content writing for online publications. Cari has been published in *Writer's Digest Magazine* and has taught webinars for *Writer's Digest* as well.

### **Sarah Landis (Sterling Lord Literistic)**



Before joining Sterling Lord Literistic in 2017, Sarah worked as an editor for fifteen years, holding roles at G.P. Putnam Son's, Hyperion Books, HarperCollins Children's Books, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers. Over the course of her career, Sarah has had the pleasure of editing many talented and award-winning authors including the likes of: Jodi Lynn Anderson, Kasie West, Claudia Gray, Michael Buckley, Eileen Cook, Erin Summerill, and Megan Shepherd. Sarah is looking for middle grade and young adult fiction and nonfiction across all genres. She is particularly drawn to middle grade fantasy and contemporary with heart, humor, and magic. In the young adult space, she has an affinity for southern voices, high-concept plots, grounded sci-fi/fantasy, historical, mysteries & thrillers, and emotionally compelling contemporary. Sarah graduated with a BA in English from the University of Virginia.

### **Shadra Strickland (Painted Words)**



Shadra Strickland studied design, writing, and illustration at Syracuse University, and completed her M.F.A. at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She won the Ezra Jack Keats Award and Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent in 2009 for her work in her first picture book, *Bird*, written by Zetta Elliott. Shadra is passionate about promoting positivity through her work, and her ultimate goal as a picture book author and illustrator is to teach children how to live their dreams. Her style is a whimsical blend of reality and imagination, and she loves to create stories that children can see themselves in. Shadra travels the country conducting workshops and sharing her work with children, teachers, and librarians. She currently teaches illustration at Maryland Institute College of Art in

Baltimore.

## EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS

### Kwame Alexander (Versify)



Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and the New York Times Bestselling author of 28 books, including *Swing, Solo, and Rebound*, the follow-up to his, Newbery-medal winning middle grade novel, *The Crossover*. Some of his other works include *Booked*, a National Book Award Nominee; *The Playbook: 52 Rules to help you Aim, Shoot, and Score in this Game of Life*; and the picture books *Out of Wonder*, *Surf's Up*, and *The Undeclared*.

The 2018 NEA Read Across America Ambassador, Kwame is also the host and producer of the literary variety/talk show, *Bookish*, which airs on Facebook Watch, the co-founding director of the LEAP for Ghana initiative, and the Founding Editor of Versify, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

### Elise Howard (Algonquin)



Elise Howard is the founding publisher and editor of Algonquin Young Readers, an imprint of Algonquin Books. Now approaching its fifth anniversary, the Algonquin Young Readers list publishes about a dozen books a year, primarily fiction for middle-grade and young adult readers, as well as select works of narrative non-fiction. Authors whose work Elise has edited at Algonquin include Avi, Tracey Baptiste, Winifred Conkling, Sara Farizan, Adele Griffin, Nova Ren Suma, and Will Ritter, among others.

Elise was previously senior VP and associate publisher at HarperCollins Children's Books. She is proud to count among the many works she has edited two Newbery Medal winners: *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, by Kelly Barnhill, and *The Graveyard Book*, by Neil Gaiman.

### Rachael Stein (Sterling)



Rachael Stein is an editor at Sterling Children's Books, an imprint of Sterling Publishing, where she works on books for kids of all ages. Before joining Sterling in September 2018, she was at Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, where she was lucky to work with some amazing and award-winning authors and illustrators, including Linda Sue Park, Gary D. Schmidt, and David Wiesner. If she's not reading, she's probably biking, eating, or working on her latest sewing project. Follow her on Twitter: @rachaeljstein.

## Mekisha Telfer (Roaring Brook Press)



Mekisha Telfer is an associate editor at Roaring Brook Press (Macmillan), where she is building a list of picture books, middle-grade, and young adult novels. She got her start in publishing in 2014 as an editorial assistant with Simon and Schuster BFYR/Salaam reads, and has also worked briefly at Glasstown Entertainment. Some titles she's had the privilege of working on include the *New York Times* bestselling series *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han, *Emergency Contact* by Mary H. K. Choi, *The Gauntlet* by Karuna Riazi, and Stuart Gibb's *Moon Base Alpha* series. Mekisha is committed to supporting unrepresented voices and is always on the hunt for character-driven stories with a mix of humor and heart.

## FEATURED SPEAKER

### Bonnie Bader



Bonnie Bader is Publishing Advisor for SCBWI, where she develops events and programming for the organization's published members. She is also the liaison between the Regional Teams and the SCBWI Headquarters, as well as a member of the Board of Advisors. Bonnie is the former Associate Publisher of Frederick Warne, where she oversaw the Peter Rabbit and Spot publishing programs, as well as the former Editor-in-Chief of Penguin Young Readers/Early Readers. She edited and acquired several bestselling series for Penguin including *Hank Zipzer* by Lin Oliver and Henry Winkler, and *Katie Kazoo*; *George Brown, Class Clown*; and *Magic Bone* by Nancy Krulik.

## AUTHORS/ILLUSTRATORS

### Ellen R. Braaf



Ellen R. Braaf has published works of fiction, nonfiction, and humor for children and adults in publications as diverse as *The Washington Post*, *Woman's Day*, *Odyssey*, and *Soap Opera Digest*. She has been a columnist and feature writer for *ASK* magazine since it was launched in 2002 by the Cricket Group and *Smithsonian* magazine. PowerKids Press (Rosen) published her six-book *Science Detectives* series written under the name Ellen René. An educator for more than twenty-five years and researcher for a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author, and historian for the past eight years, Ellen is SCBWI's Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisor.

## Ginjer Clarke



Ginjer L. Clarke writes fun, fact-filled nonfiction about weird, wonderful science stuff. She is the author of 24 picture books, beginning readers, and chapter books, including Publisher's Weekly best-selling titles *Freak Out!* and *Gross Out!* and her newest titles, *Life in the Amazon Rainforest* and *Life in the Gobi Desert*. Ginjer lives in Richmond, VA, and is available for energetic, educational, and engaging in-person K-6 school visits as well as Skype classroom visits. (<https://www.ginjerclarkebooks.com/>)

## Winifred Conkling



Winifred Conkling is an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction for young readers. Her books include *Sylvia & Aki*, winner of the Jane Addams Children's Literature Award and the Tomás Rivera Award; *Passenger on the Pearl*, winner of the Carter G. Woodson Award from the National Council of the Social Studies; *Radioactive! How Irene Curie & Lise Meitner Revolutionized Science and Changed the World*. Her book *Votes for Women!* was released by Algonquin Young Readers in 2018. Conkling studied journalism at Northwestern University and received an MFA in writing for children and young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. (<http://winifredconkling.com/>)

## L.M. Elliott



New York Times bestselling author, L.M. Elliott was a magazine journalist focusing on women's issues before turning to fiction. Her latest YA biographical novel is *Hamilton and Peggy! A Revolutionary Friendship*—an in-depth portrait of the youngest Schuyler Sister from the smash hit *Hamilton*. Her other works include *Da Vinci's Tiger*, about the young poet in Leonardo's first portrait, on display at the NGA; *Suspect Red*, a McCarthy-era story of two teens caught up in the Red Scare's paranoia, a NCSS/CBC Notable and TAYSHAS Recommendation; and *Give Me Liberty*, portraying a young Virginia fifer. Elliott is best known for her WWII story of a B24 pilot and the French Resistance, *Under a War-torn Sky*—a NCSS/CBC Notable, Jefferson Cup Honor Book, Bank Street College Best—and its companions, *A Troubled Peace* (NCSS/CBC Notable) and *Across a War-Tossed Sea* (a Jefferson Cup Overfloweth title). With award-winning illustrator Lynn Munsinger, she has also published five picture books. Learn more at [www.lmelliott.com](http://www.lmelliott.com)

## Lezlie Evans



Lezlie Evans is the author of numerous children's books including Oppenheim Gold Seal Award winners *Can You Count 10 Toes*; *Counting to 10 in 10 Different Languages*, and *Who Loves the Little Lamb*. Among her newest picture books are *Finding Christmas* and *Daddies Do*. She is an avid speaker and early childhood literacy advocate who enjoys teaching writing workshops and visiting with school children of all ages. Lezlie, a member of SCBWI for over 20 years, is the Published and Listed Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic region. She's also a member of the Washington DC Children's Book Guild, the mother of six, and grandmother of eight. She lives with her husband in Brambleton, Virginia

### Vashti Harrison



Part author - illustrator - filmmaker, Vashti Harrison is an artist originally from Onley, Virginia. She has a background in filmmaking and a love for storytelling. She earned her BA from the University of Virginia as a double major in Media Studies and Studio Art with concentrations in Film and Cinematography. She then went on to receive her MFA in Film and Video from CalArts where she snuck into Animation classes to learn from Disney and Dreamworks legends. There she rekindled a love for drawing and painting. Now, utilizing both skillsets, she is passionate about crafting beautiful stories for children and young adults in the film and kidlit worlds. <http://www.vashtiharrison.com/>

### Mary Rand Hess



Mary Rand Hess is a poet, screenwriter, mixed-media artist, and New York Times bestselling author, who has had the privilege of working with award-winning, high-profile figures in the literary, sports, and entertainment industries. She considers herself a true collaborator and loves working with other writers and artists of all kinds. She is the author of a handful of books, including *Solo* (Blink YA), which she coauthored with Newbery Medalist Kwame Alexander, the forthcoming young adult novel *Swing* (Blink YA), also written with Kwame Alexander, *Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures* (National Geographic), coauthored with Kwame Alexander and Deanna Nikaido, and *The Day I Met the Nuts* (Story Pie

Press), a bestselling food allergy book for children. Recently, she has been at work on a children's book about orphaned chimps with renowned photographer Gerry Ellis, and a couple of screenplays, among other exciting projects. Visit her online at <http://maryrandhess.com>.

### Jacqueline Jules



Jacqueline Jules is the award-winning author of forty books for young readers including the *Zapato Power* series, the *Sofia Martinez* series, *Feathers for Peacock*, *Duck for Turkey Day*, *Unite or Die: How Thirteen States Became a Nation*, and *Pluto is Peeved*. Her work has also appeared in magazines and anthologies such as *Cricket*, *Ladybug*, *Highlights for Children*, *The Poetry Friday Anthologies*, and *One Minute Till Bedtime*. Visit her online at [www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com)

## Debbie Levy



Debbie Levy is the author of more than 20 nonfiction and fiction books for young people, including *New York Times* best-selling *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*, winner of the Sydney Taylor Book Award and National Jewish Book Award. Other books include *Soldier Song: A True Story of the Civil War*; *We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song*; and *The Year of Goodbyes*. In 2019, Debbie will have four new books published, including two middle- grade nonfiction offerings: *This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality* (with Jo Ann Allen Boyce; nonfiction-in-verse) and *Becoming RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Journey to Justice* (biography in graphic novel format). A former lawyer and newspaper editor, Debbie lives in Maryland with her husband. They have

two grown sons. [www.debbielevybooks.com](http://www.debbielevybooks.com)

## Valerie Patterson



Valerie O. Patterson is the author of two novels for young readers, *The Other Side of Blue* and *Operation Oleander*, both published by Clarion, HMH. *Operation Oleander* was a Junior Library Guild selection for 2013 as well as a VOYA Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers. Valerie has an MFA in writing for children from Hollins University, where she twice received the Shirley Henn Award for Creative Scholarship, and is a former recipient of an SCBWI WIP grant. She lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband and serves as co-chair of the SCBWI Mid-Atlantic Fall Conference.

## Mary Quattlebaum



Mary Quattlebaum is the author of 26 award-winning picture books, chapter books, nonfiction, and books of poetry for children, most recently *Together Forever: True Stories of Amazing Animal Friendships*, *Hero Dogs*, and *Jo MacDonald Hiked in the Woods*. Her nonfiction picture book *Brother, Sister, Me and You* is forthcoming from National Geographic Kids in spring 2019. Her work appears frequently in anthologies and children's magazines, including *Cricket*, *Spider*, *Ladybug*, *Babybug*, *Highlights* and *High Five*. Mary teaches in the MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, and she enjoys speaking at schools and conferences. She reviews children's books for the *Washington Post* and *Washington Parent*, and is a frequent contributor to *KidsPost*.

Website: [www.maryquattlebaum.com](http://www.maryquattlebaum.com)

## Jonathan Roth



Jonathan Roth is an author-illustrator whose humorous sci-fi chapter book series, *Beep and Bob* (Aladdin/Simon & Schuster), began releasing in spring 2018 and will have four books on the shelves by December. Jonathan is also a public school elementary art teacher by day, and a longtime SCBWI member who credits his membership as crucial to his publishing journey. He lives with his wife, two kitties and three (maybe more!) bicycles in Rockville, MD and can be found at [www.beepandbob.com](http://www.beepandbob.com).

### Ann Marie Stephens



Ann Marie Stephens is the author of several picture books including *Scuba Dog*, *Cy Makes a Friend*, and forthcoming titles, *Arithmechicks Add Up* (2019) and *Arithmechicks Take Away* (2020). She has been an elementary teacher for over 27 years. She was a contributing writer for Kwame Alexander's *The Write Thing*, a co-writer for *Trait Crate Plus* for grades 3 and 5, and has had dozens of original ideas published in *Instructor* and *The Mailbox* magazines. Represented by Emily Mitchell at Wernick & Pratt Agency, Ann Marie is a seasoned presenter for both children and adults. She blogs for teachers at <http://2happyteachers.blogspot.com>. When she isn't writing or teaching, she's off scuba diving somewhere tropical. You can find her on Facebook (AMStephensAuthor) and on Instagram and Twitter @AMStephens\_.

### Erin Teagan



Erin Teagan is the author of the Luciana series, American Girl's 2018 Girl of the Year, *The Friendship Experiment*, and *Survivor Girl* (Clarion, 2019). She worked in science for more than ten years before becoming a writer and uses many of her experiences from the lab in her books. She loves sharing the best and most interesting (and most dangerous and disgusting) parts of science with kids. Erin lives in Virginia with her family, a hound dog named Beaker, and a bunny that thinks he's a cat. [www.erinteagan.com](http://www.erinteagan.com)

### Joan Waites



Joan Waites is an award winning author-illustrator, with more than 45 titles illustrated for the children's trade and educational markets. A former adjunct faculty member of the Corcoran Museum School of Art and Design's aspiring artists programs, Joan now operates her own art teaching studio for children. She has served as the Mid-Atlantic SCBWI Illustrator Coordinator

for the past 18 years, and is a member of the Children’s Book Guild of Washington D.C., and The National Art Educators Association. Her second author/illustrated picture book, *A Colorful Tail*, will be released in spring 2019.

## VENUE

Holiday Inn Dulles; 45425 Holiday Dr; Sterling, Virginia 20166.  
Local phone: 703-471-7411  
Website: <http://www.hidullesairport.com>

## ACCOMMODATIONS

The Holiday Inn Dulles has set aside overnight accommodations for conference attendees October 17-21, 2018 at a special rate of \$86 per night plus 13% tax. Please make reservations as soon as possible. **The group rate expires September 24.** Not sure of your plans yet? Take advantage of this great rate now. Unlike many of the discounted rates that you may receive, you may cancel your reservation, without penalty, up until 6pm on the day of check in.

**Reservation Link:** [Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Conference](#)

**Reservation Phone Number:** 1-877-875-9823

**Group Name:** “Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators Conference”

**Block Code:** S02

**Parking at the Holiday Inn:** While there should be ample free on-site parking, overflow parking is permitted at neighboring hotels.

## REGISTRATION LINKS/TIPS

<https://midatlantic.scbwi.org/events/annual-fall-conference/>

You will need to scroll down to the bottom of the page to begin registration. The form is streamlined and does not contain workshop/breakout descriptions, so keep a copy of this sheet handy when registering. Ignore the Coupon Code. It’s for administrative purposes.

# CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

**SCBWI members registered for the conference** may sign up for an individual consultation (manuscript critique or portfolio review) with a faculty member. Consultations include written feedback (on manuscripts) and a fifteen-minute, one-on-one meeting with the reviewer. The **additional fee for this option is \$45**. To reserve a consultation slot, you must register online AND send in your manuscript pages. No slots will be reserved until both steps are completed and payment is received. Select either Manuscript OR Portfolio/Picture Book Dummy Consultation when registering. **While we can guarantee a professional reviewer, we cannot guarantee a consultation with an editor, agent, or art director.** Please read the consultation guidelines before registering. Required materials must be **postmarked on or before September 15, 2018.**

**Requests that do not follow these guidelines will not be honored.** If you are unsure about anything related to consultations, please contact **Consultations Committee Co-chairs Deb Shumaker** (dkshumaker@gmail.com) or **Emily Cooke** (ebcook2@aol.com) with any questions. Note “Consultations” in the subject line.

**For Portfolio/Dummy Consultations:** Bring your artwork with you to your consultation. Do not send any artwork to the consultation coordinator (not even **photocopies**). We cannot be responsible for materials lost in the mail. **If you are an author/illustrator with a picture book dummy and you would like feedback on both your text and artwork, you may send in your picture book text (in proper manuscript format) and include a link to a site where the reviewer can look at your dummy online.** (Please follow the directions below and be sure to select Picture Book DUMMY when registering.)

**For Manuscript Consultations:** Following the guidelines listed below, mail your manuscript to **Emily Cook** with a postmark **date on or before September 15, 2018.** **MANUSCRIPTS SENT AFTER THE POSTMARK DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## MANUSCRIPT CONSULTATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. ALL manuscripts should be double spaced and written in 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. Margins should be 1” or 1.25”. Please adhere to the standard publishing guidelines outlined in “From the Keyboard to the Printed Page” in THE BOOK (pages 9 - 11). Members can access a copy on the SCBWI website under the “Publications” tab. You must be signed in to view/download: <https://www.scbwi.org/online-resources/the-book/>

2. ALL submissions must include your contact information (name, address, phone number, email) as well as the **manuscript type:** **YA** (Young Adult/Teen novel), **MG** (Middle Grade novel), **PB** (Picture book), **CB/BR** (Chapter Book/ Beginning Reader), **NF** (Nonfiction); **Poetry** on the first page. If you are represented by an agent, or if a current faculty member has reviewed your work previously, please enclose a note about that with your submission. The consultation committee will notify all participants via email of their consultation time and reviewer at the beginning of October.

3. For Picture Books (PB): Submit the complete text of ONE PB. No synopsis is needed. **If you are an author/illustrator with a PB dummy** and want feedback on your text and art, send in your PB manuscript only. In your contact information on the first page—**include a link to a site where the reviewer can look at your dummy online.**

4. For Middle Grade (MG), Young Adult (YA), Book-length Non-Fiction (NF) and Chapter books: Submit only the first TEN (10) pages, even if it cuts off mid-chapter, plus a ONE-page, single-spaced synopsis.

5. For poetry: You may submit up to ten double-spaced pages of poetry.

6. Note **“SCBWI Conference”** on the lower left corner of the envelope and mail to:

**Emily Cook  
20426 Cliftons Point St  
Potomac Falls, VA 20165-3105**

**DO NOT** send it in a way that requires a signature.

# FIRST & LAST PAGES SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

## THE CONCEPT

This year the editors' panel will be divided into three parts:

Part 1: Who I am and What I Publish

Part 2: The Story Arc: Craft Advice from Editors

Part 3: First and Last Pages Session

During the First and Last Pages Session, excerpts of attendees' works-in-progress will be read aloud while the editors make brief notes on craft (e.g. hook, character, voice, story arc). After each submission, they will tell the group what worked for them and what didn't, whether or not they'd continue reading and why, and suggest what might be done to improve the piece. These will be quick assessments, not detailed critiques.

## THE GOAL

We hope that during this "show and tell" portion of the panel, attendees will gain insights into the likes and dislikes of the panelists and come away with strategies they can apply to their own manuscripts to attract an editor's attention.

## THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

If you are a registered conference attendee interested in participating in this session, please mail excerpts from your book's first and last pages to:

SCBWI Mid-Atlantic  
 First/Last Pages Submission  
 PO Box 3215  
 Reston, VA 20195-1215

- You must submit excerpts from both the first and last pages of your unpublished manuscript.
- Please note the manuscript type, book title, and word count for each excerpt. (See sample submission, below)
- The total combined word count for the excerpts must not exceed 300 words.
- Please submit five copies of your excerpts.
- Manuscripts must be received by October 10.

- All manuscript types are welcome (e.g. Picture book, early readers/beginning chapter books, middle grade/young adult novels, nonfiction)
- We will get to as many manuscripts as possible, but not all manuscripts submitted will be reviewed.

## **SAMPLE SUBMISSION**

Type of Manuscript: Novel/Middle Grade  
Title: *Little Women*

### **FIRST PAGE (121 words)**

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy, with an injured sniff.

"We've got father and mother and each other," said Beth contentedly, from her corner.

The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheerful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly,—

"We haven't got father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it, thinking of father far away, where the fighting was.

### **LAST PAGE (150 words)**

"Yes, Jo, I think your harvest will be a good one," began Mrs. March, frightening away a big black cricket that was staring Teddy out of countenance.

"Not half so good as yours, mother. Here it is, and we never can thank you enough for the patient sowing and reaping you have done," cried Jo, with the loving impetuosity which she never could outgrow.

"I hope there will be more wheat and fewer tares every year," said Amy softly.

"A large sheaf, but I know there's room in your heart for it, Marmee dear," added Meg's tender voice.

Touched to the heart, Mrs. March could only stretch out her arms, as if to gather children and grandchildren to herself, and say, with face and voice full of motherly love, gratitude, and humility,—

"O, my girls, however long you may live, I never can wish you a greater happiness than this!"

**Please note: You will need to submit five copies/sets of your sample pages—one for each of the four editors, one for the reader. If your first/last excerpts don't fit on one page, please staple the two-page sets together.**

# **BLOGGING AND RECORDING POLICY**

By registering for this conference, you acknowledge that audio taping, videotaping and/or transmitting or aiding in any of the foregoing of any part of the conference (including, but not limited to, presentations, individual sessions and networking events) is prohibited. Additionally, the material in all handouts and presentations is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, blogged, written, orally transmitted, and/or reproduced without written permission of the copyright holder only. If you are found in violation of the above, SCBWI reserves the right to remove you from the conference and bar you from attending future conferences.

While we think it's great when bloggers share thoughts about their overall experience, offer a personal anecdote, and/or briefly talk about something that resonated with them, it is equally important that bloggers not give away that which is not theirs to give. The fair use policy issued by SCBWI above refers to speakers' rights, authors' rights, and illustrators' rights, under any circumstances, and it pertains to the content of our speakers' talks, workshops, and/or handouts. This falls into the category of protecting intellectual property. Again, personal impressions, a quote that is cited, and/or a general overview would be considerate. However, it would be a breach of copyright law to give away a detailed report of a presenter's material. Thank you in advance for taking this policy into account. Your professionalism is greatly appreciated.