

SCBWI Mid-Atlantic: 2017 Conference Faculty
(October 27 & 28, 2017)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Gary D. Schmidt



Gary D. Schmidt is the author of more than fifteen books for children and young adults, including *The Wednesday Wars*, a 2008 Newbery Honor Award winner, and *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, which won a Newbery Honor award and a Michael L. Printz Honor award in 2005. His novel, *Trouble*, came out in spring 2008, and *Okay for Now* in 2012 - becoming a National Book Award Finalist. In *God's Hands*, a picture book co-authored with Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, was a runner-up for the 2005 National Jewish Book Award. His most recent picture book is *The Rose in the Desert: The Story of Martin de Porres*.

In addition to multiple "Best Book" lists, his work has been given a Horn Book Honor award and a Blue Ribbon award by the Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books. He has also authored or co-authored numerous textbooks, scholarly and academic books (including biographies of Katherine Paterson and Robert McCloskey), articles, and book reviews.

In 1985 he received his Pd.D. in medieval languages and literature from the University of Illinois. He is a professor in the English department and Calvin College and lives on a farm in Alto, Michigan. Gary recently published his first fantasy novel, *What Came from the Stars*. His newest YA novel, *Orbiting Jupiter*, was published in October of 2015, and has been listed to Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2015.

LITERARY AGENTS

Sarah Davies (Greenhouse Literary)



Sarah Davies was a London publisher for 25 years before moving to the USA and launching Greenhouse Literary, a transatlantic agency, in 2008. While she mainly represents fiction for children and teens (from young chapter-book series through middle grade to YA), she represents authors in their entirety, so also sells picture books, non-fiction and even adult fiction by existing clients and has helped many debut authors into careers as writers. Among Greenhouse's clients are NYT bestsellers Megan Miranda and Brenna Yovanoff, Morris Award winner Blythe Woolston, and Greenhouse authors have received countless starred reviews and other accolades. Sarah is open to all genres within MG and YA, so long as a unique premise is complemented by fresh, compelling writing with a voice. More than

anything she loves to see something she's never seen before! Sarah now divides her time between London and New York, and has addressed writers' events all over the USA and Europe. Greenhouse is where writers grow, and you can find out more at www.greenhouseliterary.com and @SarahGreenhouse.

Adriana Dominguez (Full Circle Literary)



Adriana Dominguez has 20 years of experience in publishing. Prior to becoming an agent at Full Circle Literary, she was Executive Editor at HarperCollins Children's Books, and before that, Children's Reviews Editor at *Críticas* magazine, published by Library Journal. She is also a professional translator and a member of the Brooklyn Literary Council that organizes the Brooklyn Book Festival. She represents fiction and narrative nonfiction for all ages and is actively building her list of author/illustrators. Adriana has a long trajectory of publishing underrepresented authors and illustrators. Her growing list of author/illustrators includes Ana Aranda, Tania de Regil, Rafael López, John Parra, Tony Piedra, Lorena Siminovich and Lila Quintero Weaver. Her author client list includes award winners and best sellers such as Michaela and Elaine DePrince, Reyna Grande, Katheryn Russell-Brown and Angela Cervantes. Some new releases in 2017: illustrator debut Ana Aranda's *The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra*, written by Marc Tyler Nobleman (Nancy Paulsen/Penguin), author debut Emma Otheguy's biography of poet and Cuban national hero *Martí's Song for Freedom* (Lee & Low), and *Bravo!*, by award-winning team Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael López (Macmillan). Adriana is based in NYC.

Larissa Helena (Pippin Properties)



Larissa Helena came to the USA with a couple of suitcases, was deemed an Alien of Extraordinary Abilities in Publishing by the government, ended up at one of the top literary agencies in New York... and often wonders whether all of this is real or she's a character in a movie. M.A. in Comparative Literature from the Sorbonne, Larissa dedicated her academic and professional career to Children's and YA books. Between Brazil and France, she was an Executive Editor, worked as a translator and in International Rights. Larissa wants diverse narratives of all kinds: voices rarely seen in literature, unconventional stories, quirky characters. Her favorite kind of book doesn't try to follow a trend or play by the rules. Her favorite genre? Genre bending.

ART DIRECTOR

Giuseppe Castellano (Penguin Random House)



Giuseppe Castellano is an award-winning Designer, Illustrator, and Executive Art Director at Penguin Random House; with over eighteen years of book publishing experience. He oversees the imprints of Grosset & Dunlap, Mad Libs, Frederick Warne and Co., the Penguin Young Readers, Penguin Young Readers Licenses, and Cartoon Network Books.

A board member for ICON (The Illustrators Conference), Giuseppe continues to be a guest speaker, critic, and teacher at schools including: Art Center College of Design, Brigham Young University, Falmouth University, Fashion Institute of Technology, Maryland Institute College of Art, Northern Michigan University, Parsons, Pratt Institute, Rhode Island School of Design, Ringling College of Art and Design, Savannah College of Art and Design, School of Visual Arts, Syracuse University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and University of Hartford.

EDITORS

Susan Dobinick (Bloomsbury)



Susan Dobinick is nonfiction editor at Bloomsbury Publishing, where she works on books that range from picture book through young adult as well as crossover projects with the adult team. Some upcoming projects include *Down the Hill*, a nonfiction in verse co-authored by Debbie Levy and Jo Ann Allen Boyce, who was one of the first twelve students to desegregate a high school in the south; *Something Rotten*, a Mary Roach-style middle grade narrative that follows the author's journey to understand what becomes of roadkill; and *You Are Mighty*, a kids' guide to activism. She is always looking for diverse voices, immersion with primary sources and unpublished research, and fresh, kid-friendly approaches to topics. She will also consider the occasional literary middle grade novel and quirky and heartfelt author/illustrator picture books. Tweet her @sdobinick.

Alyson Heller (Simon & Schuster)



Alyson Heller joined the Aladdin team in 2008 after a two-year stint in the Simon & Schuster Associates Program. She acquires picture books, chapter books, middle grade, and the occasional YA, but her heart is in contemporary middle grade. As an only child, she is drawn to stories that explore the nuances of siblings, and interesting family dynamics. She is also proud to have many debuts on her list, and is actively looking for own voices, strong female characters who kick butt and take names, and stories that represent the under-represented in our world today. Some recent and upcoming books she's edited range from nonfiction projects, (*Life in*

Motion Young Readers Edition by Misty Copeland, *The Distance Between Us Young Readers Edition* by Reyna Grande), picture books (*Way Past Bedtime* by Tara Lazar, illustrated by Rich Wake) to series (*Goddess Girls* by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams), to contemporary MG reads (*Star-Crossed* by Barbara Dee, *Mrs. Smith's Spy School for Girls* by Beth McMullen). Tweet her @EditorAlysonH

Tiffany Liao (Henry Holt)



Tiffany Liao is an editor at Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. She's had the pleasure of editing authors such as Tomi Adeyemi, K.D. Halbrook, Kristin Tubb, Jay Asher, Lesley Livingston, Simon Van Booy, and Henry Lien, among others. She acquires young adult and middle grade fiction of all stripes, as well as the occasional nonfiction title. A Bay Area native, Tiffany now resides in Brooklyn where she continues to pine for a good avocado. She (mostly) tweets about bookish things at @tiff_liao.

Julie Scheina (Scheina Editorial Services)



Julie Scheina is a freelance editor of children's and young adult fiction. As a senior editor at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, she had the pleasure of working with talented authors and artists on books for ages 0–18+. Since founding Julie Scheina Editorial Services, Julie has collaborated with debut and bestselling authors as well as publishers, packagers, and agents. During her career, she has edited numerous acclaimed and bestselling books for children and teens, including #1 New York Times bestsellers, a Lambda Literary Award finalist, a William C. Morris Young Adult Debut Award finalist, an Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy nominee, an

Edgar Award nominee, Bram Stoker Award nominees, and a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book.

MEDIA SPECIALIST

Matthew Winner



Matthew Winner is an elementary library media specialist in Elkridge, Maryland. He is the co-founder of *All The Wonders*, a children's literature website and more, and host of the *All The Wonders* podcast, a weekly podcast where Matthew talks to authors, illustrators, award winners, up-and-comers, and everyone in between. He is the author of *Asha Went Walking*, a webcomic for young readers illustrated by Lorian Tu-Dean about a girl, her arctic fox companion, and her magic bag. For more information, connect with Matthew on Twitter at

@MatthewWinner or online at MatthewCWinner.com.

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 thirty years, she holds a BS in Bacteriology and an MS in Biology. Ellen teaches for The Writer's Center headquartered in Bethesda,

MD, where she served on their Board of Directors for ten years. She is SCBWT's Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisor.

Kathryn Erskine



Kathryn Erskine is the author of six children's novels including National Book Award winner, *Mockingbird*, Jane Addams Peace Award honor book *Seeing Red*, and most recently, *The Incredible Magic of Being*, and the picture book, *Mama Africa: How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with her Song*. She draws on life stories and world events in her writing and is currently working on several more novels and picture books.

<http://www.kathyerskine.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*. Her newest picture book, *Finding Christmas*, will be released October 2017. 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 seven. She lives with her husband in Brambleton, Virginia

Maria Gianferrari



Maria Gianferrari is a picture book reading/writing, tea-drinking, dog-loving, birdwatching author of the Penny & Jelly books, illustrated by Thyra Heder, *Coyote Moon*, an ALA Notable Book and a Junior Library Guild Selection, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline and *Officer Katz and Houndini*, illustrated by Danny Chatzikonstantinou. Her newest picture book, *Hello Goodbye Dog*, is illustrated by Patrice Barton. Maria lives in northern Virginia with her scientist husband, artist daughter, and rescue mutt, Becca. To learn more about Maria, visit her website: mariagianferrari.com and on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

Leah Henderson



Leah Henderson has always loved getting lost in stories. When she is not scribbling down her characters' adventures, she is off on her own, exploring new spaces and places around the world. She is the author of the middle grade novel, *One Shadow on the Wall* (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster). Leah received her MFA in Writing from Spalding University and currently calls Washington D.C. home. You can find her on Twitter @LeahsMark or through her website at leahhendersonbooks.com.

Sara Lewis Holmes



Sara Lewis Holmes is the author of *The Wolf Hour*, a fractured fairy tale about the deep magic of Stories (Scholastic, Fall 2017.) Her other books are *Operation Yes*, which was nominated for seven state awards, and *Letters from Rapunzel*, which won the Ursula Nordstrom Fiction Prize. Thanks to her husband's service in the Air Force, she has written stories and poems in eleven states and three countries, and now lives in Hampton, VA. She loves both the city and wild places, and has found magic in both. Please visit her online at www.saralewisholmes.com and

@SaraLewisHolmes.

Sylvia Liu



Sylvia Liu is a picture book author and illustrator. She is inspired by aliens, robots, cephalopods, ghosts and more. Her debut picture book, *A Morning with Grandpa*, illustrated by Christina Forshay (Lee & Low Books 2016) was the 2013 Lee & Low New Voices Award winner. Her website is www.enjoyingplanetearth.com and she co-runs the kid lit resource website, www.kidlit411.com, named by *Writer's Digest* as one of the 101 Best Websites for Writers for the past three years. Sylvia lives in Virginia Beach with her husband, two daughters, and a hypoallergenic cat.

Angele McQuade



Angele McQuade is the author of two books about investing, including *Investment Clubs for Dummies*. For the past seventeen years, she's been a monthly columnist for *Better Investing* magazine, where she's published more than three hundred cover and feature articles and profiles. She's taught workshops about personal finance, writing, and creativity at regional and national events across the United States (including RWA's annual conference) and in Berlin, Germany, and teaches Cash & Creativity workshops in person and online. Angele also writes middle grade and young adults novels, and is a member of SCBWI, RWA, WRW, YARWA, and the Authors

Guild. She is represented by Jennifer Laughran of the Andrea Brown Literary Agency. You can find her online at www.angelemcquade.com, on Twitter at @angelemcquade, and on Instagram at @angele_mcquade

Valerie Patterson



Valerie O. Patterson was raised in the Florida panhandle where the Gulf of Mexico inspired a love of blue and a fascination with the horizon and what lies beyond. Valerie graduated in May 2008 with an MFA in Children's Literature from Hollins University, where she twice received the Shirley Henn Award for Creative Scholarship. She has also received a Work-in-Progress grant from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). In addition to SCBWI, she is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, the Children's Literature Association, and the Authors Guild. Her first novel *The Other Side of Blue* was a finalist for an Agatha Award. Her second novel *Operation Oleander* was a Junior Library Guild selection for 2013 as well as a VOYA Top Shelf Fiction for

Middle School Readers for 2013. Valerie lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband. She is the SCBWI Mid-Atlantic Conference Co-chair.

Mary Quattlebaum



Mary Quattlebaum is the author of 25 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 chapter book *Amazing Rabbits* is forthcoming from National Geographic Kids in summer 2018. 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

Wendy Shang



Wendy Shang is the author of *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*, *The Way Home Looks Now*, and *This Is Just A Test* (written with Madelyn Rosenberg), all published by Scholastic. Her books have been on numerous state reading lists and selected twice by the Junior Library Guild. An early version of *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu* was the recipient of an SCBWI Works-in-Progress grant. Wendy is a native of northern Virginia.

Fran Slayton



Fran Cannon Slayton is a children’s book author who has been on an “unexpected journey” since January 17, 2016, when she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Her debut novel, *When the Whistle Blows* (Philomel/Penguin 2009), was hailed by Kirkus as “an unassuming masterpiece.” Her first picture book, *Snowball Moon* (Little Bee Books, Nov. 2017), was a surprise sale that came just six months after her cancer diagnosis and five months after her craniotomy to treat it. For Fran, *Snowball Moon* is a book about the joy of life’s “unexpected” moments – even the ones that are extremely challenging – and how a light can suddenly appear to draw you out of

your own little world into something much larger than yourself.

Writing has always been how Fran processes life, and she openly shares her cancer journey on her blog (including posting directly from her craniotomy, during which she had to be awake!). Fran is grateful for the support of her community – including her online and in-person SCBWI communities – which has rallied around her as she processes her illness. Please join Fran at her blog: FranCannonSlayton.com.

Erin Teagan



Erin Teagan is the author of *The Friendship Experiment* (HMH, 2016) and has three books coming out with American Girl in 2018. Erin worked in science before becoming a writer. She uses many of her experiences from the lab in her books and loves sharing the most interesting (and dangerous and disgusting) parts of science with kids. Erin is also the SCBWI Mid-Atlantic Conference Co-chair. www.erinteagan.com. @EKTeagan

Joan Waites



Joan Waites Is an award winning author-illustrator, with more than 45 titles published for the children’s trade and educational markets. A former adjunct faculty member of the Corcoran Museum School of Art and Design, Joan now operates her own art teaching studio for children. She has served as the Mid-Atlantic SCBWI Illustrator Coordinator for the past seventeen years, is a member of the Children’s Book Guild of Washington D.C., The Picture Book Artist’s Association, and The National Association of Art Educators. Her latest author/illustrated picture book, *An Artist’s Night Before Christmas* will be released in September 2017.