

# children's literature conference

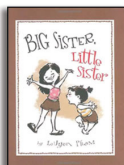
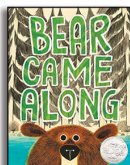
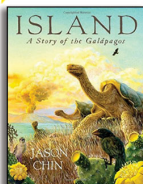
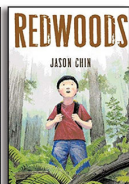
Western Washington University  
Children's Literature Conference

Saturday, February 29, 2020  
Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall



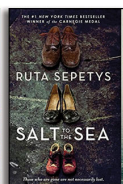
Mac  
BARNETT

Jason  
CHIN



LeUyen  
PHAM

Ruta  
SEPETYS



Dear Conference Participant:

We're so pleased to welcome you to the 2020 Children's Literature Conference. It feels like an auspicious year, this 2020, an important year for civics. We celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, protecting the right of citizens to vote regardless of their sex, and the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment, protecting the right of citizens to vote regardless of their race. And we participate in a decennial census, so that all in the country are counted.

An auspicious year.

Being a good citizen means thinking clearly, looking with 2020 vision at the things we share and the place(s) we inhabit together, and making choices that make all of our lives better. How lucky we are to have authors and illustrators like the ones with us today, artists with keen vision of their own, employed in such a rich variety of storytelling and information delivery. Jason Chin, who examines with detailed precision, the scientific wonders of the world, from the magnificence of the Grand Canyon to the intimacy of a mother's womb. Mac Barnett, who illuminates truths embedded deep within a story, disguised as admonitions to a misbehaving rabbit or elegant turns of phrase describing a biographical life fulfilled. Ruta Sepetys, who mines the annals of history to expose the traumas we inflict on one another, and explore the integrities with which we meet them. And LeUyen Pham, who sees every story from a unique perspective, be it the top of a waterfall or the bottom of a middle school pecking order. How very lucky we are.

As you spend this day together we hope you'll find some bits of brilliance to help you see more clearly. We hope you'll engage your curiosity and share insights and epiphanies with your fellow participants. We hope you'll hone your own 2020 vision.

*2020 WWU Children's Lit Conference Advisory Board*

**WWU Children's Literature Conference**  
**Saturday, February 29, 2020**  
**Performing Arts Center ~ Concert Hall**

- 8:00-8:55 a.m..... Registration, Continental Breakfast  
Book Sales & Autographing  
***PAC lobby areas***
- 9:00 a.m ..... Welcome: Sylvia Tag  
***Concert Hall***
- 9:10-10:10 a.m..... Author/Illustrator Presentation  
***~ Jason Chin***  
Introduced by Julie Mauermann
- 10:20-11:20 a.m..... Author Presentation  
***~ Mac Barnett***  
Introduced by Rebecca Van Slyke
- 11:30-12:55 p.m ..... Lunch (box lunches)  
*Where to eat? See map in folder & follow the signs  
and volunteers.*
- Noon-12:55 p.m ..... Book Sales & Autographing  
***PAC lobby areas***
- 1:00-2:00 p.m ..... Author Presentation  
***~ Ruta Sepetys***  
Introduced by Amy Nysten
- 2:10-3:10 p.m ..... Author/Illustrator Presentation  
***~ LeUyen Pham***  
Introduced by Giordanne Panis
- 3:10-3:30 p.m ..... Panel of Speakers ~ Q & A

Closing Remarks ~ Announcement of 2021 speakers!  
Lucky Draw for Complimentary 2021 Conference Registration  
Followed by Book Sales & Autographing in PAC lobby areas until 4 p.m.  
*A privacy room is available. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.*

# Jason Chin

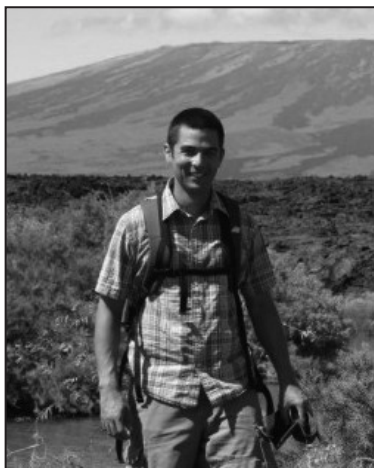
## A Snapshot of His Life

*"In terms of what a book would be or could be, I try to wait until I have a spark of inspiration. If I were to sum it up, what I try to capture in my books is my experience of learning."*

(<https://www.publishersweekly.com>)

There are few illustrators who can capture the wonder and awe of such sweeping subjects as the Grand Canyon, deep space, or the ocean, but Jason Chin is certainly one of those who has mastered the intersectionality of ideas and information. The pages of his books overflow with gorgeous watercolor and gouache illustrations that both inspire and teach.

Jason's passion for illustration and non-fiction appeared early in life. A self-proclaimed reluctant reader as a child, he found non-fiction books held his interest. This was paired with his insatiable curiosity about the natural world. Raised in Lyme, New Hampshire, Jason loved to draw and was taken under the wing of author/illustrator Trina Schart Hyman, whose inspiration was a guiding force from an early age.



After studying illustration at Syracuse University, Jason moved to New York City where Hyman helped usher him into the publishing world. He became a bookseller at Books of Wonder, long a fixture of the children's bookselling scene, and it was there he realized that children's books were where he wanted to focus his work. It was a subway ride during which he read an article in *The New Yorker* on redwood trees, that sparked the idea to write and illustrate his first book.

Jason rejects the notion that practice makes perfect. Rather, "practice makes progress" is his motto. He believes we're always striving and with each effort, we learn a little bit more and make a little bit more progress, and that is what makes the journey worthwhile.

Jason Chin lives in Vermont with his wife, author/illustrator Deirdre Gill and their children. He attributes his success to the fierce determination that he has had since he was a child.

### **A Selection of Jason Chin's Work**

*Your Place in the Universe*, Neal Porter Books, Forthcoming 2020

*Nine Months: Before a Baby Is Born*, written by Miranda Paul, Neal Porter Books, 2019

*Pie is for Sharing*, written by Stephanie Parsley Ledyard, Roaring Brook Press, 2018

*Grand Canyon*, Roaring Brook Press, 2017

*Water is Water: A Book about the Water Cycle*, written by Miranda Paul, Roaring Brook Press, 2015

*Gravity*, Roaring Brook Press, 2014

*Island: A Story of the Galapagos*, Roaring Brook Press, 2012

*Coral Reefs*, Roaring Brook/Flashpoint, 2011

*Redwoods*, Roaring Brook Press, 2009

### **Some Significant Awards and Honors**

2019 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor – *Nine Months: Before a Baby Is Born*

2018 Caldecott Honor, 2018 Sibert Honor, 2018 NCTE Orbis Pictus Award, 2018 Kirkus Best Books of the Year List – *Grand Canyon*

2011 Kirkus Reviews Best of 2011 list, 2011 Junior Library Guild Selection – *Coral Reefs*

2010 FOCAL Award, 2009 Horn Book Fanfare Title, 2009 Washington Post Best of 2009 list – *Redwoods*

# Mac Barnett

## A Snapshot of His Life

*“Writing a picture book is a visual act, even for someone (like me) who can’t draw. If I finish a manuscript and it makes sense without illustrations, it’s a failed text. Part of writing a good picture book manuscript—maybe the most important part—is creating opportunities for the illustrator.”*

(<https://www.artofthepicturebook.com>)

Mac Barnett is a *New York Times*-bestselling author of stories for children. Over the past decade, he has produced dozens of books on a myriad of topics: a girl with an endless supply of yarn, boys digging for treasure, animals who set up house in the belly of the beast that swallowed them. The thing that all his work has in common is humor: some of it droll, some of it absurd, some of it sly. Mac likes to laugh, and more importantly, he likes to make kids laugh.

Mac grew up in northern California and knew early on that he wanted to write but claims he “had no idea that was a real job.” After graduating from Pomona College, and inspired by Jon Scieszka, Mac took a chance and sent him a manuscript. Scieszka sent it to his agent, who took on Mac as a client and sold ***Billy Twitters and His Blue Whale Problem*** to Disney-Hyperion.



Mac says, “I read books all the time that show me something didn’t even know a picture book could do.... It’s a form that’s so full of possibilities.” Because of this, he believes working with different formats keeps his writing fresh. He’s enthusiastic about “A Jack Book,” his easy reader series illustrated by Greg Pizzoli, that features a troublemaking monkey, and believes this form offers an important challenge. “Up until the point where a kid starts reading on his own, it’s been social, something you do with your parents or with your whole class, but now the reader gets to choose. There’s no excuse for easy readers to be dull. This is where kids are falling in love with reading on their own. We can’t let them down.”

Mac is on a mission to get kids—even the ones who say they don’t like to read—to choose books when they have free time and is willing to go to

great lengths to convey the message that books are fun. He lives in Oakland, California.

### **A Selection of Mac Barnett's Work**

*Paolo*, illustrated by Claire Keane, Abrams, Forthcoming 2020

*A Jack Book (Series)*, illustrated by Greg Pizzoli, Viking Books for Young Readers 2019-2020

*Mac B., Kid Spy (Series)*, illustrated by Mike Lowery, Orchard Books, 2018-2020

*The Important Thing About Margaret Wise Brown*, illustrated by Sarah Jacoby, Balzer + Bray, 2019

*Just Because*, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault, Candlewick, 2019

*The Terrible Two (Series)*, written with Jory John, illustrated by Kevin Cornell, Abrams, 2018

*The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse*, illustrated by Jon Klassen, Candlewick, 2017

*Leo: A Ghost Story*, illustrated by Christian Robinson, Chronicle Books, 2015

*President Taft is Stuck in the Bath*, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen, Candlewick, 2014

*Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*, illustrated by Jon Klassen, Candlewick, 2014

*Telephone*, illustrated by Jen Corace, Chronicle Books, 2014

*Chloe and the Lion*, illustrated by Adam Rex, Disney-Hyperion, 2012

*Extra Yarn*, illustrated by Jon Klassen, Balzer + Bray, 2012

### **Some Significant Awards and Honors**

2019 New York Times/New York Public Library Best Illustrated Books – *Just Because*

2019 Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year: Picture Book – *The Important Thing About Margaret Wise Brown*

2018 E. B. White Read Aloud Award – *The Wolf, the Duck, and the Mouse*

2016 E. B. White Read Aloud Award – *Leo: A Ghost Story*

2014 E. B. White Read Aloud Award, 2014 Irma Black Award, 2014 Wanda Gag Read Aloud Book Award – *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*

2014 BuzzFeed Best Picture Book, Reading Today Best Picture Book – *Telephone*

2014 Northern California Independent Booksellers Association Picture Book of the Year – *President Taft Gets Stuck in the Bath*

2012 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award – *Extra Yarn*

# Ruta Sepetys

## A Snapshot of Her Life

*“Through characters and story, historical statistics become human and suddenly we care for people we’ve never met, we can find their country on a map, and then—the history matters. Through historical fiction we can give voice to those who will never have a chance to tell their story.”*

(<http://rutasepetys.com/about/>)

Ruta Sepetys is drawn to secrets and has found history to be full of them. Considered a crossover novelist whose books are avidly read by both adolescents and adults, she is an internationally acclaimed, *New York Times* bestselling author of historical fiction published in over sixty countries and forty languages. Sepetys’s books have won or been shortlisted for over forty book prizes, are included on over thirty state reading lists, and are currently in development for film and television. She is the recipient of the 2017 Carnegie Medal for her novel *Salt to the Sea*.



Known for giving voice to under-represented history and those who lived it, Sepetys’s books demonstrate her commitment to preserving the memories and experiences of individuals who might never have a chance to tell their stories. Her own story has been one of variety and exploration. The daughter of a Lithuanian refugee, she was born in Michigan and raised among a family of readers, artists, and music lovers. Before taking up writing, she attended college to study opera and was involved in the music industry for over 20 years, managing bands and helping singers and songwriters explore story through song.

Sepetys’s love of travel has also allowed her contact with a multitude of stories. She is deeply passionate about the power of history and narrative in global connectivity and her writing continues to foster global dialogue. Ruta has been invited to present at NATO, European Parliament, the U.S. Capitol,



the Library of Congress, and embassies worldwide. She was awarded The Rockefeller Foundation's prestigious Bellagio Fellowship for her studies on human resilience. In addition, Ruta was bestowed the Cross of the Knight of the Order by the President of Lithuania for her contributions to education and memory preservation and was recently honored with a postage stamp in Lithuania containing her image.

Currently, Ruta lives in a treehouse in the hills of Tennessee where she writes with young adults in mind, viewing them as authentic readers with a pure sense of emotional truth. She continues to be extremely proud of her Baltic heritage, even if that means she has a name no one can pronounce. Hint: It's Roota Suh-pettys!

### **A Selection of Ruta Sepetys's Work**

*The Fountains of Silence*, Philomel Books, 2019

*Salt to the Sea*, Philomel Books, 2016

*Out of the Easy*, Philomel Books, 2013

*Between Shades of Gray*, Philomel Books, 2011

### **Some Significant Awards and Honors**

2019 Nerdy Award for Young Adult Literature – *The Fountains of Silence*

2017 Carnegie Medal, 2017 Golden Kite Award for Fiction, 2017 Amelia

Elizabeth Walden Honor, 2017 Audie Award for Young Adults, 2016

Goodreads Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction – *Salt to the Sea*

2016 Goodreads Choice Awards Best Young Adult Fiction – *Salt to the Sea*

2015 Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Fellowship

2013 Lithuania's Cross of the Knight of the Order

2012 Golden Kite Award for Fiction, 2012 Amelia Elizabeth Walden Honor  
– *Between Shades of Gray*

# LeUyen Pham

## A Snapshot of Her Life

*"Why do I make books? That's easy. A book sits with you in your secret corner or in your favorite chair on a rainy day, and whispers in your ear, 'You're okay, I'm here. Let me tell you a story...' It's like a hug made solid. That's what I do. I make hugs for a living."*

(<https://theauthorvillage.com>)

LeUyen Pham is the award-winning and critically acclaimed illustrator of more than one hundred books for children. Her versatile illustrations can be found in picture books, graphic novels, and middle grade books. LeUyen's work has been recognized with numerous honors, most recently a 2020 Caldecott Honor for ***Bear Came Along***.

Born in Vietnam, LeUyen fled her birth country with her family during the final days of the Vietnam War. Growing up in Southern California, she loved to doodle and draw, but her mother insisted she become a lawyer. LeUyen attended UCLA, where she majored in political science. The head of the art department spotted her artistic talent and helped her change course. "We were an immigrant family, refugees, and art was not a big part of our childhood. I think the Vietnamese work ethic has definitely affected how I work. I'm one of those illustrators who will remain strapped to the drawing table for days on end if somebody doesn't stop me." Following college, LeUyen worked as a layout artist for DreamWorks Feature Animation and illustrated books on the side. Her first picture book was ***Can You Do This, Old Badger?*** written by Eve Bunting.

LeUyen works with a variety of media, including brush pens, watercolor, gouache, pencil, and the computer. "My goal is to always keep the people guessing as to how the illustrations are done...I'd love to illustrate a book for someone outside of the world of children's writers. I keep wishing Diablo



Cody would send me something. Or if David Sedaris ever felt like having one of his animal tales illustrated, I'd beg for that job."

LeUyen lives in Los Angeles with her husband Alex (who is also an artist), and their two sons. She adores traveling and speaking but given her choice, would spend all her time making Star Wars-themed birthday cakes.

### **A Selection of LeUyen Pham's Work**

***Robot Dog***, written by Curtis Manley, Roaring Book Press, Forthcoming 2020

***Princess in Black (Series)***, written by Shannon Hale & Dean Hale, Candlewick, 2014-2020

***Bear Came Along***, written by Richard T. Morris, Little Brown and Company, 2019

***The Becket List: A Blackberry Farm Story***, written by Adele Griffin, Algonquin Young Readers, 2019

***Best Friends***, written by Shannon Hale, First Second, 2019

***The Itchy Book! (Elephant & Piggie Like Reading!)***, Hyperion Books for Children, 2018

***Stop That Yawn!***, written by Caron Levis, Atheneum, 2018

***Fallingwater***, written by Marc Harshman and Anna Egan Smucker, Roaring Brook Press, 2017

***Real Friends***, written by Shannon Hale, First Second, 2017

***Freckleface (Series)***, written by Julianne Moore, Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2007-2016

***Alvin Ho (Series)***, written by Lenore Look, Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008-2014

***The Boy Who Loved Math***, written by Deborah Heiligman, Roaring Book Press, 2013

***Grace for President***, written by Kelly DiPucchio, Disney-Hyperion, 2007

***Big Sister, Little Sister***, Hyperion Books for Children, 2005

### **Some Significant Awards and Honors**

2020 Caldecott Honor, 2020 ALA Notable Children's Book – ***Bear Came Along***

2019 Bank Street College Best Book of the Year – ***Stop That Yawn!***

2018 SCBWI Golden Kite Honor for Illustration – ***Fallingwater***

2018 Nerdie – ***The Itchy Book!***

# Insights from Speakers

## Insights from Jason Chin

*When you have an extra day how do you spend it?*

In the winter, I go skiing. In the summer I go for a hike.

*What's your recommendation for an "extra day" book?*

*A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson is the book that I love. It's an easy, engaging, funny read about science and scientists.

*Would you rather have 2020 vision or 2020 hindsight?*

2020 vision. I spend too much time dwelling on the past as it is.

*If you could read a book again for the first time, which one, and why?*

*The Golden Compass*. When it was given to me to read, the person who gave it to me said, "I'm so envious that you get to read it for the first time." Now I feel the same way when I give it to someone else to read.

*Do you incorporate any ritual in your creative practice?*

I choose a beautiful image related to the book I'm making for my desktop wallpaper. This is not so important to the creative practice, but definitely a ritual. I always listen to audio books while I paint. This is really important because it motivates me to get back in the chair and work so can find out what happens next in the book. I'm not sure I'd ever finish my work without audio books.

## Insights from Mac Barnett

*When you have an extra day how do you spend it?*

Lately? Pulling trees out of my garden. I ran out of trees, but I don't get many extra days, so that's ok.

*What's your recommendation for an "extra day" book?*

I'd probably read some "extra day" magazines. Right now I'm liking *Dog*, *The Happy Reader*, *McSweeney's*, *The Paris Review*, *Seed Magazine*, and *Fantastic Man*.

*Would you rather have 2020 vision or 2020 hindsight?*

Is 2020 vision seeing the present perfectly, or the future? Either way, I'd choose vision.

*If you could read a book again for the first time, which one, and why?*

I wish I could read T.H. White's *The Once and Future King* for the first time again—I think about this a lot.

*Do you incorporate any ritual in your creative practice?*

I like to listen to music when I work, often stuff that's sonically jarring.

## Insights from Ruta Sepetys

*When you have an extra day how do you spend it?*

As the saying goes, "to go inside, I go outside." I try to spend days off outside, taking a hike or exploring a new area.

*What's your recommendation for an "extra day" book?*

*Big Magic* by Elizabeth Gilbert—to inspire creative courage.

*Would you rather have 2020 vision or 2020 hindsight?*

I'd rather have 2020 hindsight and see clearly after the fact. My many failures inspire my writing so I don't want to avoid those.

*If you could read a book again for the first time, which one, and why?*

I'd read *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl because it was absolutely enchanting!

*Do you incorporate any ritual in your creative practice?*

Yes, I give myself permission to fail miserably with early drafts. It's liberating telling myself, "Yes, it's terrible, but don't worry. Write now. Revise later."

## Insights from LeUyen Pham

*When you have an extra day how do you spend it?*

I haven't had an extra day in over 15 years, so I can't even begin to fathom what to do with a whole day. A dream day would be just hanging with my kids and husband, going on a hike and a picnic, then home to watch a movie together. Sounds mundane, I know, but the older you get, the more precious those moments really are.

*What's your recommendation for an "extra day" book?*

Ooooh! My favorite book I read last year was *Circe*, by Madeline Miller. Fun light reading that you could read in a day. For the kids, my favorite book of all time is *The Westing Game*, by Ellen Raskin, perfect to read on a day that doesn't really exist.

*Would you rather have 2020 vision or 2020 hindsight?*

2020 vision. No question about it. But, like, for the rest of my life.

*If you could read a book again for the first time, which one, and why?*

Probably *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, by Agatha Christie. I'd like to be able to see if I could have figured it out. I read *Murder on the Orient Express* to my 12 year old, and was amazed that he figured out who dunnit so quickly.

*Do you incorporate any ritual in your creative practice?*

You say ritual, I say bad habits. Lots of coffee before I start painting. Lots of napping when I'm drawing. Lots of hiking when I'm writing. Each discipline takes up a different quadrant of my brain, each of which requires a different stimulant. I'd like to say I'm a bit of a nut case, but I'm guessing there are worse things to need to get your brain going.

# 2020 Children's and Young Adult Literature Award Winners

*\* denotes past and present WWUCLC presenters*

## Newbery Medal

*New Kid* written by Jerry Craft (HarperCollins)

### *Honor Books:*

*The Undeclared* written by Kwame Alexander,  
illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Versify)\*

*Scary Stories for Young Foxes* written by Christian  
McKay Heidicker, illustrated by Junyi Wu (Henry  
Holt)

*Other Words for Home* written by Jasmine Warga  
(Balzer + Bray)

*Genesis Begins Again* written by Alicia D. Williams (Atheneum)



## Caldecott Medal

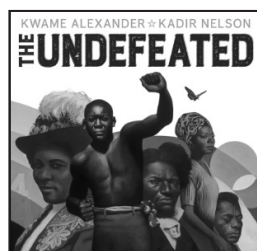
*The Undeclared* illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written  
by Kwame Alexander (Versify)\*

### *Honor Books:*

*Bear Came Along* illustrated by LeUyen Pham,  
written by Richard T. Morris (Little, Brown)\*

*Double Bass Blues* illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez, written by Andrea J.  
Loney (Knopf)

*Going Down Home with Daddy* illustrated by  
Daniel Minter, written by Kelly Starling Lyons  
(Peachtree)



## Coretta Scott King Author Award

*New Kid* written by Jerry Craft (HarperCollins)

### *Honor Books:*

*The Stars and the Blackness Between Them*  
written by Junauda Petrus (Dutton)

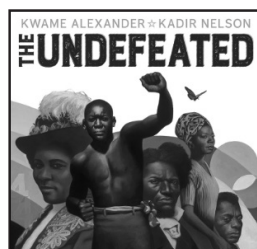


*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* written by Kwame Mbalia  
(Disney-Hyperion)

*Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* written by Jason Reynolds  
(Atheneum)

## Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

*The Undefeated* illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written  
by Kwame Alexander (Versify)\*



### *Honor Books:*

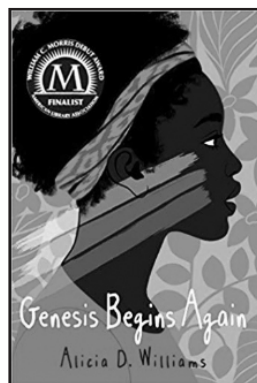
*The Bell Rang* illustrated and written by James E.  
Ransome (Atheneum)

*Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from  
World War II to Peace* illustrated and written by  
Ashley Bryan (Atheneum)

*Sulwe* illustrated by Vashti Harrison, written by Lupita Nyong'o (Simon &  
Schuster)

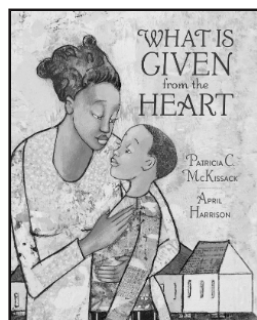
## Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award

*Genesis Begins Again* written by Alicia D. Williams  
(Atheneum)



## Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award

*What Is Given From the Heart* illustrated by  
April Harrison, written by Patricia C. McKissack  
(Schwartz & Wade)



## Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

This honor is given for a body of work which has  
made a significant and lasting literary contribution.  
**Mildred D. Taylor** is the 2020 recipient.



## Michael L. Printz Award

*Dig* written by A.S. King (Dutton)

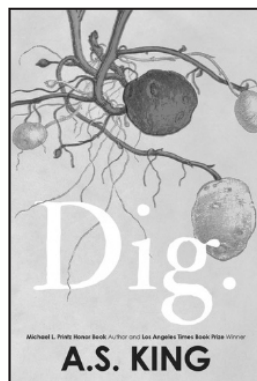
### **Honor Books:**

*The Beast Player* written by Nahoko Uehashi,  
illustrated by Yuta Onoda, translated from the  
Japanese by Cathy Hirano (Henry Holt)

*Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me* written  
by Mariko Tamaki, illustrated by Rosemary Valero-  
O'Connell (First Second)

*Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir* written by Nikki  
Grimes (Wordsong)

*Where the World Ends* written by Geraldine  
McCaughrean (Flatiron)



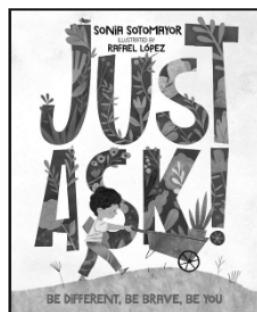
## Schneider Family Book Award

*Children's: Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be  
You* written by Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by  
Rafael López (Philomel)

**Honor Book:** *A Friend for Henry* written by Jenn  
Bailey, illustrated by Mika Song (Chronicle)

**Middle Grade:** *Song for a Whale* written by  
Lynne Kelly (Delacorte)

**Honor Book:** *Each Tiny Spark* written by Pablo  
Cartaya (Kokila)



*Teen: Cursed* written by Karol Ruth Silverstein  
(Charlesbridge)

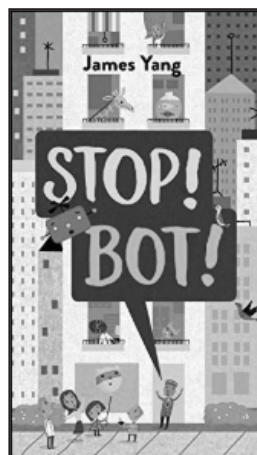
**Honor Book:** *The Silence Between Us* written by  
Alison Gervais (Blink)

## Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

*Stop! Bot!* written and illustrated by James Yang  
(Viking)

### **Honor Books:**

*Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot* written and  
illustrated by Cece Bell (Candlewick)





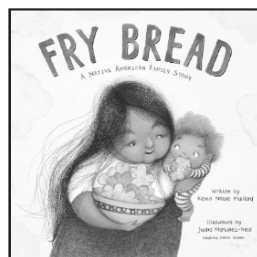
***Flubby Is Not a Good Pet!*** written and illustrated by J.E. Morris (Penguin Workshop)

***The Book Hog*** written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli (Disney-Hyperion)

## Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story***

written by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martínez-Neal (Roaring Brook)



### ***Honor Books:***

***All in a Drop: How Anthony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World*** written by Lori Alexander, illustrated by Vivien Mildenerger (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

***This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality*** written by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy (Bloomsbury Children's Books)

***Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir*** written by Nikki Grimes (Wordsong)

***Hey, Water!*** written by Antoinette Portis (Neal Porter Books)

## Pura Belpré Author Medal

***Sal and Gabi Break the Universe*** written by Carlos Hernández (Disney-Hyperion)



### ***Honor Book:***

***Lety Out Loud*** written by Angela Cervantes (Scholastic)

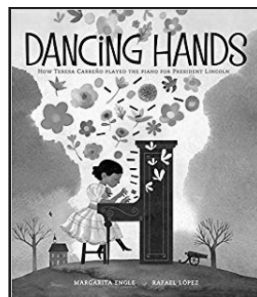
***The Other Half of Happy*** written by Rebecca Balcárcel (Chronicle)

***Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré*** written by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Paola Escobar (HarperCollins)

***Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War*** written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams)

## Pura Belpré Illustrator Medal

***Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for Abraham Lincoln*** illustrated by Rafael López, written by Margarita Engle (Atheneum)



### ***Honor Books:***

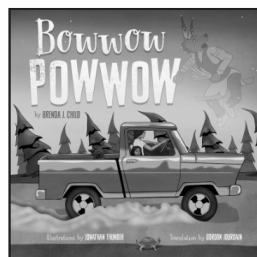
***Across the Bay*** illustrated and written by Carlos Aponte (Penguin Workshop)

***My Papi Has a Motorcycle*** illustrated by Zeke Peña, written by Isabel Quintero (Kokila)

***¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market*** illustrated and written by Raúl González (Versify)

## American Indian Youth Literature Award Picture Book

***Bowwow Powwow: Bagosenjige-niimi'idim*** written by Brenda J. Child (Red Lake Ojibwe), translated into Ojibwe by Gordon Jourdain (Lac La Croix First Nation), illustrated by Jonathan Thunder (Red Lake Ojibwe) (Minnesota Historical Society)



### ***Honor Books:***

***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*** written by Kevin Noble Maillard (Seminole Nation, Mekuskey Band), illustrated by Juana Martínez-Neal (Roaring Brook)

***Birdsong*** written and illustrated by Julie Flett (Cree-Métis) (Greystone Kids)

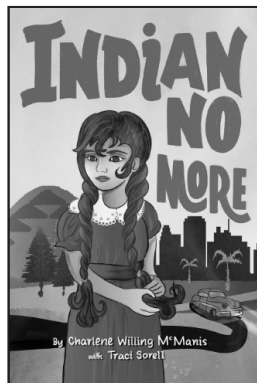
***At the Mountain's Base*** written by Traci Sorell (Cherokee), illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre (Tongva/Scots-Gaelic) (Kokila)

***We Are Grateful*** written by Traci Sorell (Cherokee), illustrated by Frané Lessac (Charlesbridge)

***Raven Makes the Aleutians*** adapted from a traditional Tlingit story and illustrated by Janine Gibbons (Haida, Raven of the Double-Finned Killer Whale clan) (Sealaska Heritage)

## American Indian Youth Literature Award Middle Grade

***Indian No More*** written by Charlene Willing McManis (Umpqua/Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde) with Traci Sorell (Cherokee) (Tu Books)



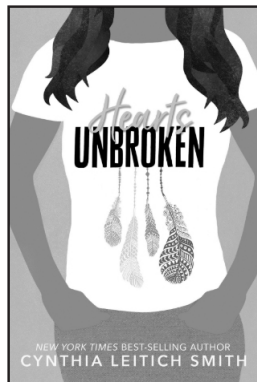
### ***Honor Books:***

***I Can Make This Promise*** written by Christine Day (Upper Skagit) (HarperCollins)

***The Grizzly Mother*** written by Hetxw'ms Gyetxw ("Brett D. Huson," Gitxsan), illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Métis Nation of British Columbia) (Highwater)

## American Indian Youth Literature Award Young Adult

***Hearts Unbroken*** written by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee) (Candlewick)



### ***Honor Books:***

***Surviving the City*** written by Tasha Spillet (Nehiyaw-Trinidadian), illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Métis Nation of British Columbia) (Highwater)

***Reawakening Our Ancestors' Lives: Revitalizing***

***Inuit Traditional Tattooing*** gathered and compiled by Angela Hovak Johnston (Inuk), photography by Cora De Vos (Inuk) (Inhabit Media)

***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People*** written by Debbie Reese (Nambé Owingeh) and Jean Mendoza, adapted from the adult book by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon)

***Apple in the Middle*** written by Dawn Quigley (Ojibwe, Turtle Mountain Band) (North Dakota State University)

## YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults

*Free Lunch* written by Rex Ogle (Norton)

### ***Other Finalists:***

*The Great Nijinsky: God of Dance* written and illustrated by Lynn Curlee (Charlesbridge Teen)

*A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust* written by Albert Marrin (Alfred A. Knopf)

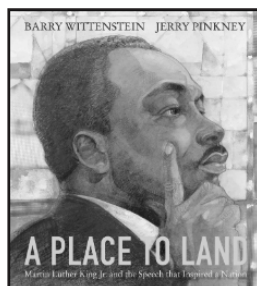
*A Thousand Sisters: The Heroic Airwomen of the Soviet Union in World War II* written by Elizabeth Wein (Balzer + Bray)

*Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of 'The Children's Ship'* written by Deborah Heiligman (Henry Holt)



## Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children

*A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech that Inspired a Nation* written by Barry Wittenstein, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Neal Porter Books)\*



### ***Honor Books:***

*Manhattan: Mapping the Story of an Island* written by Jennifer Thermes (Abrams)

*Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War* written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams)

*1919: The Year that Changed America* written by Martin W. Sandler (Bloomsbury)

*The Poison Eaters: Fighting Danger and Fraud in Our Food and Drugs* written by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek)

*Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré* written by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Paola Escobar (HarperCollins)

## Children's Literature Legacy Award

Honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children through books that demonstrate integrity and respect for all children's lives and experiences. The 2020 recipient is **Kevin Henkes**.\*

## Margaret A. Edwards Award

Given for a lifetime achievement in writing for young adults. The 2020 recipient is **Steve Sheinkin**.\*

## Children's Literature Lecture Award

Given to an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature, who then presents a lecture at a winning host site. **Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop** will deliver the 2021 Children's Literature Lecture Award.

## Mildred L. Batchelder Award

**Brown** written by Håkon Øvreås, illustrated by Øyvind Torseter, and translated from Norwegian by Kari Dickson (Enchanted Lion)



### *Honor Books:*

***The Beast Player*** written by Nahoko Uehashi, illustrated by Yuta Onoda, translated from the Japanese by Cathy Hirano (Henry Holt)

***The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree***

written by Paola Peretti, illustrated by Carolina Rabei, translated from the Italian by Denise Muir (Atheneum)

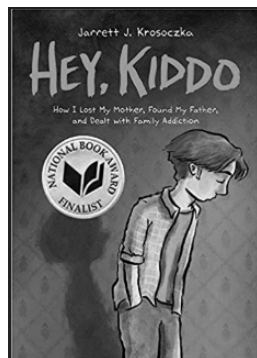
***Do Fish Sleep?*** written by Jens Raschke, illustrated by Jens Rasmus, translated from the German by Belinda Cooper (Enchanted Lion)

***When Spring Comes to the DMZ*** written and illustrated by Uk-Bae Lee, translated from the Korean by Chungyon Won and Aileen Won (Plough)

## Odyssey Award (Audio)

***Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction***

written by Jarrett J. Krosoczka and narrated by the author, Jeanne Birdsall, Jenna Lamia, Richard Ferrone and a full cast (Scholastic Audiobooks)



## Honor Recordings:

***Redwood and Ponytail*** written by K.A. Holt and narrated by Cassandra Morris and Tessa Netting (Hachette Audio)

***Song for a Whale*** written by Lynne Kelly and narrated by Abigail Revasch with the author (Listening Library)

***We Are Grateful: Otsaligelig*** written by Traci Sorell and narrated by Lauren Hummingbird, Agalisiga (Choogie) Mackey, Ryan Mackey, Traci Sorell, Tonia Weavel (Live Oak Media)

***We Are Not from Here*** written by Geoff Rodkey and narrated by Dani Martineck (Listening Library)

## William C. Morris Award

***The Field Guide to the North American***

***Teenager*** written by Ben Philippe (Balzer + Bray)

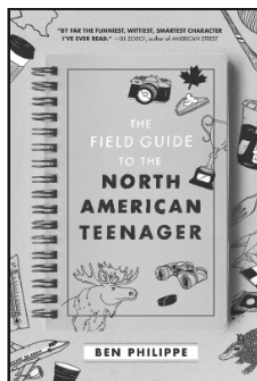
## Other Finalists:

***The Candle and the Flame*** written by Nafiza Azad (Scholastic)

***Frankly in Love*** written by David Yoon (G.P. Putnam's Sons)

***Genesis Begins Again*** written by Alicia D. Williams (Atheneum)

***There Will Come a Darkness*** written by Katy Rose Pool (Henry Holt)

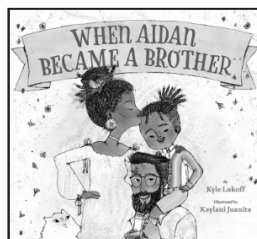


## Stonewall Book Award

**Children's: *When Aidan Became a Brother***

written by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita (Lee & Low)

**Young Adult: *The Black Flamingo*** written by Dean Atta, illustrated by Anshika Khullar (Hodder)





## ***Honor Books:***

***Pet*** written by Akwaeke Emezi (Make Me a World)

***Like a Love Story*** written by Abdi Nezemian (Balzer + Bray)

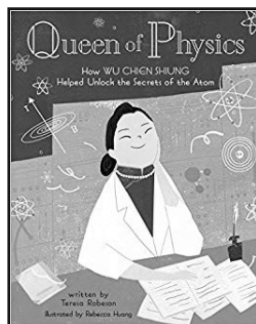
***The Best at It*** written by Maulik Pancholy (Balzer + Bray)

## **Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature**

**Picture Book:** *Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom*  
written by Teresa Robeson, illustrated by Rebecca Huang (Sterling)

**Children's:** *Stargazing* written and illustrated by  
Jen Wang (First Second)

**Young Adult:** *They Called Us Enemy* written by  
George Takei, Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott, illustrated by Harmony  
Becker (Top Shelf Productions)

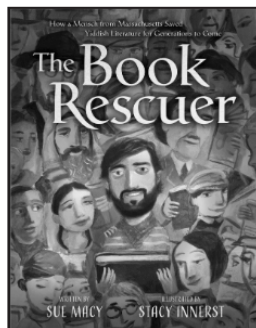


## **Sydney Taylor Book Award**

**Picture Book:** *The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come* written by Sue Macy, illustrated by Stacy Innerst (Paula Wiseman)

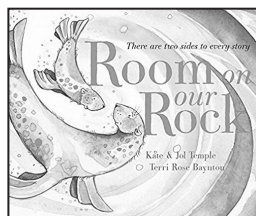
**Middle Grade:** *White Bird: A Wonder Story*  
written and illustrated by R.J. Palacio (Knopf)

**Young Adult:** *Someday We Will Fly* written by  
Rachel DeWoskin (Viking)



## **Charlotte Huck Award for Fiction for Children**

***Room on Our Rock***, written by Kate & Jol Temple,  
illustrated by Terri Rose Baynton (Kane Miller)



## ***Honor Books:***

***Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border***, written by  
Mitali Perkins, illustrated by Sara Palacios (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

***I Can Make This Promise***, written by Christine Day (HarperCollins)

***New Kid***, written by Jerry Craft (HarperCollins)

***When Aidan Became a Brother***, written by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by  
Kaylani Juanita (Lee & Low)

# Our Previous Speakers

WWU Children's Literature Conference speakers over the years . . .

## 2004

Keith Baker  
Pam Muñoz Ryan  
Suzanne Fisher Staples

## 2005

Avi  
Nina Laden  
Katherine Paterson  
Janet Wong

## 2006

Jon Agee  
Laurie Halse Anderson  
Emily Arnold McCully  
Deborah Wiles

## 2007

Candace Fleming  
Lois Lowry  
Pat Mora  
David Wiesner

## 2008

Chris Crutcher  
Christopher Paul  
Curtis  
John Rocco  
Eric Rohmann

## 2009

Joan Bauer  
Kadir Nelson  
Sara Pennypacker  
Brian Selznick

## 2010

Marla Frazee  
John Green  
Allyn Johnston  
Gerald McDermott  
Linda Sue Park

## 2011

Kirby Larson  
Chris Raschka

## 2012

Patrick Carman  
Laura McGee  
Kvasnosky  
Gary D. Schmidt

## 2013

Katherine Applegate  
Susan Campbell  
Bartoletti  
Michael Grant  
Brian Pinkney

## 2014

Nic Bishop  
Jennifer Holm  
Steve Sheinkin  
Laura Vaccaro Seeger

## 2015

Matt de la Peña  
Kate DiCamillo  
Yuyi Morales  
Joyce Sidman

## 2016

Peter Brown  
Cynthia Lord  
Melissa Sweet  
Gene Luen Yang

## 2017

Laurie Halse Anderson  
Christian Robinson  
Matt Phelan  
Rita Williams-Garcia

## 2018

Sophie Blackall  
Kevin Henkes  
Pam Muñoz Ryan  
Benjamin Alire Saénz

## 2019

Candace Fleming  
Barbara O'Connor  
Jerry Pinkney  
Eric Rohmann  
Neal Shusterman



## A Note of Thanks

As you take away the surprises, insights, and gifts of today, sharing them with friends, family, young people and colleagues, we hope that you bear in mind that this conference is the culmination of hours devoted by many dedicated and generous people. Special thanks to our Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College student volunteers for all their work over the last month and throughout today. We have steadfast supporters at WWU. Many thanks to the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Western Libraries, Woodring College of Education, English Department, Provost's Office, Conference Services, and the PAC facilities team. Thank you to those who contributed to our scholarship fund that supports reduced student registrations. Finally, it is with 2020 vision and a clear sightline that we acknowledge the extra-ordinary contribution of the following:

Tracey Bertels  
Kathryn Boyd  
Tess Boyd  
Gretchen Coulter  
Christy Fox and Shannon Fox  
@ Evolve  
Gaye Green  
Keith Kelley  
Caleb Klein  
Connie Mallison

Christen Mattix  
Julie Mauermann  
A New Leaf  
Kristine Nugent-Ohls  
Amy Nylen  
Giordanne Panis  
Jennifer Sires  
Keith Turley  
Rebecca VanSlyke  
Our team of booksellers at Village Books

### Children's Literature Conference Advisory Planning Team:

Thom Barthelmess  
Kristin Cleary  
Nancy Johnson  
Claire McElroy-Chesson  
EJ Pollard

Rachael Robbins  
Adam Shaffer  
AnnMarie Sheahan  
Sylvia Tag

### ***Evaluation***

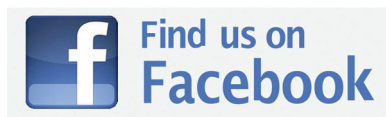
In about a week you'll receive an online survey requesting your feedback about this year's conference. We know it takes time to respond to a survey, but we also know the value of your specific comments, suggestions, and insight. Thank you in advance for making time to respond.

## Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

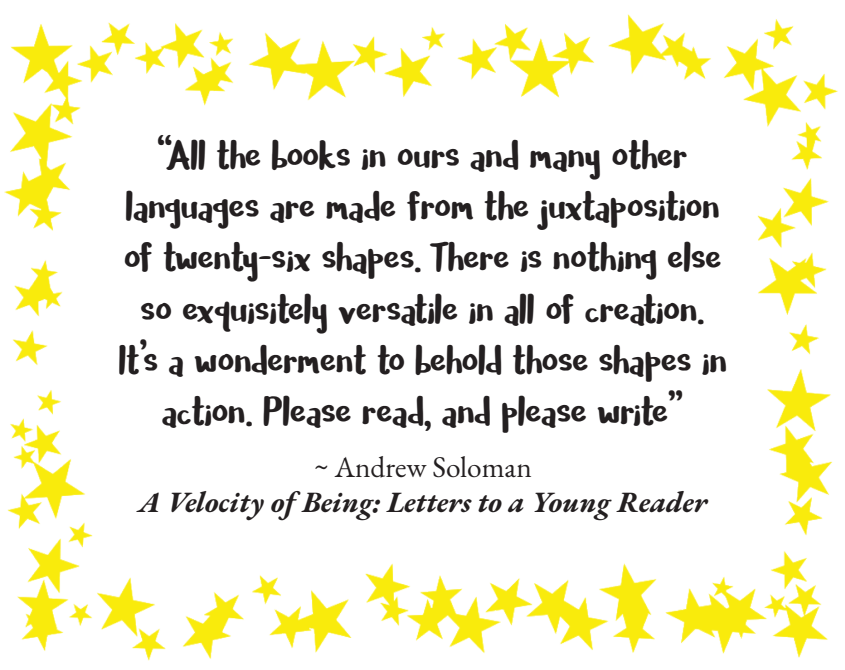
## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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2021 WWU CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CONFERENCE!

Scheduled for February 26, 2021  
[www.wwuclc.com](http://www.wwuclc.com)

A decorative border of yellow stars of various sizes surrounding the central text.

**"All the books in ours and many other  
languages are made from the juxtaposition  
of twenty-six shapes. There is nothing else  
so exquisitely versatile in all of creation.  
It's a wonderment to behold those shapes in  
action. Please read, and please write"**

~ Andrew Soloman

*A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader*