



School & Library Visit Directory

Eastern Pennsylvania SCBWI







Greetings from your Eastern Pennsylvania chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators!


School visits are a fantastic way for authors/illustrators to connect with students, offering content and perspective beyond the pages of a book. A visit from a book creator is a memorable experience that inspires students to read, write, and research. This guide lists locally available members of SCBWI who have developed special presentations to supplement their published works.

Please contact each author/illustrator directly to communicate your interest and request information about scheduling a visit and associated fees. While our chapter is thrilled to offer this guide of talented book creators, the details of all school visits are solely between the school and the author/illustrator.




DISCLAIMER: The works and presentations of the creators are the sole responsibility of the creators themselves. Eastern PA SCBWI is not able to review or vet the content of each creator, book, or presentation within this resource.





Use the shortcuts below to bring up a search box to find specific author/illustrator names, titles, genres, or type in the name of your county to find presenters who visit your area.

- MAC: Command + F
 - PC: Ctrl + F
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Genre Key:

PB - picture book

MG - middle grade

YA - young adult

JGN - juvenile graphic novel

NF - nonfiction



Hallee Adelman

www.HalleeAdelman.com

Hallee Adelman is a children's book author who writes small books about big feelings. Some of her titles are a part of the Great Big Feelings series, including *WAY PAST MAD*, *WAY PAST WORRIED*, and Kirkus-starred book *WAY PAST JEALOUS*. Hallee is also a documentary filmmaker and executive producer on award-winning projects such as *OUR AMERICAN FAMILY*, *THE SOCIAL DILEMMA*, *WRITING WITH FIRE*, and *DAUGHTERS*. In all of her work, Hallee strives to better the lives of children and families through education and story. With a PhD from Drexel University in Educational Leadership and Learning Technologies, she has taught elementary through university students and was nominated twice for the Disney Teacher of the Year Award. Her goal is for children, teens, and storytellers to have opportunities to imagine boundlessly, discover strengths, and create conversations for a better world. Hallee lives outside of Philadelphia with her family and dogs. She is a proud member of Eastern PA SCBWI. Please contact her at connect@waypastbooks.com.

Great Big Feelings Series (PB)

Visit Territory: Philadelphia and Surrounding Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-5

Lindsay K. Bandy

<https://lindsaybandybooks.com/school-and-library-visits/>

Lindsay K. Bandy is the author of two young adult novels, *NEMESIS AND THE SWAN* and *INEVITABLE FATE*, as well as several poems slated for publication in *HIGHLIGHTS HELLO* magazine. She has spent a decade on staff with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, works in the Conestoga Valley High School Library, and lives in Lancaster County with her husband, two daughters, and two cats. She runs an award-winning magazine program for teens through Lancaster Libraries, and in addition to writing, enjoys donuts, thrift shopping, and ghost stories.

Nemesis and the Swan (YA)
Inevitable Fate (YA)

Visit Territory: Lancaster, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Berks, Chester, Montgomery, Schuylkill, Lehigh, Bucks, Delaware Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: YA

Grades: 8-12;
Writing Presentations
for Gifted Students

Gene Barretta

<https://www.genebarretta.com/appearances>

Gene Barretta is an award-winning author and illustrator of critically acclaimed books, such as *Dear Deer*, *Lincoln and Kennedy*, *Now & Ben*, *Neo Leo*, and *Timeless Thomas*. In 2021, he received an NAACP Image Award nomination for writing *The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver*. He has also animated several films for *Sesame Street* and created storyboards and character designs for the Jim Henson Company. He lives outside of Philadelphia with his son.

Now & Ben (PB NF); **Neo Leo** (PB NF); **Timeless Thomas** (PB NF); **Lincoln & Kennedy: A Pair to Compare** (PB NF); **The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver** (PB NF); **Muhammad Ali: A Champion Is Born** (PB NF); **Starring Steven Spielberg: The Making of a Young Filmmaker** (PB NF); **Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones** (PB); **The Bat Can Bat: A Book of True Homonyms** (PB); **The Bass Plays the Bass and Other Homographs** (PB).

Visit Territory: Central and Eastern PA

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, NF

Grades: 2-6

Karen Leiby Belli

karenbelli@comcast.net

Karen Leiby Belli has read ghost stories since she was a little girl and enjoys writing them as an adult. She is a mom and a grandmom and enjoys using names of former middle grade students who inspire her characters.

The Ghost from the Stained Glass Window (MG)

Visit Territory: Bucks County

Virtual School Visits: No



Book Genre: MG

Grades: 5-7

J.R. Buchta

<http://warbucksbooks.com>

JR Buchta, a.k.a. Pops to Mack, Coop, and Leo, was born and raised in Philadelphia. As a youngster, he expressed an interest in music and spent most of his early life in the performing arts as a singer-songwriter. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, he entered the business world and made a career in marketing for various entrepreneurial ventures. Today ,he resides in Bucks County, PA, with his wife.

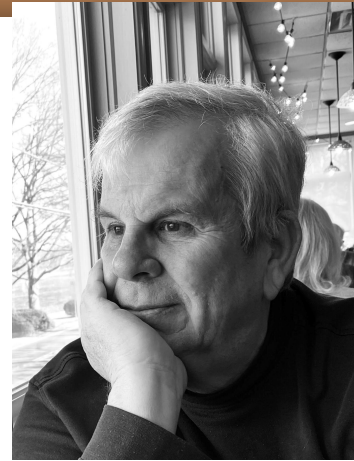
His interest in writing took a turn towards children's books when his grandchildren were born and he recognized the power of their imaginations and their enjoyment of reading. He is the author of the award-winning book *The Wonderful Once: A Christmas Story* and *Pop-Pop Smells Funny but We Love Him Anyway*.

The Wonderful Once: A Christmas Story (PB)

Pop-Pop Smells Funny but We Love Him Anyway (PB)

Visit Territory: Bucks, Chester, Delaware,
Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-3

Hilda Eunice Burgos

hhildauniceburgos.com

Hilda Eunice Burgos is the author of *Bodega Cats: Picture Purrfect*, which is the first in a series of three illustrated middle grade books about New York City bodega cats and their human friends. The second book in the series, *Bodega Cats: Just Kitten Around*, will be released in January 2025. Hilda also wrote the middle grade novels *Ana María Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle*, and *Miosotis Flores Never Forgets*. Additionally, she is the author of the picture book *The Cot in the Living Room* and is a contributor to the middle grade anthology *Calling the Moon: 16 Period Stories from BIPOC Authors*. The daughter of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Hilda grew up in New York City and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Law School. She lives in the Philadelphia area, where she and her husband raised their two grown children and where she works as a lawyer.

Ana Maria Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle (MG)

Miosotis Flores Never Forgets (MG)

The Cot in the Living Room (PB)

Bodega Cats series (MG)

Visit Territory: Philadelphia and surrounding counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, MG

Grades: K-5,
Middle School

Theresa Cocci

www.theresacocci.org

Theresa Cocci is an author, educator, and instructor. Her passion for storytelling and music led her to create children's picture books that inspire a love for literacy. With over thirty years of experience, she has worked as a classroom teacher, music education specialist, and piano instructor. She currently enjoys author visits and writing for several websites, which include www.teachingwithorff.com and www.musicconstructed.com. Theresa writes lessons that foster literacy growth using music as a powerful tool. Her first book, *Henry the Hungry Hound*, relives the mischievous antics of her beloved dog, Henry, and a clever plan to curb his unruly behavior. Her recently released book, *Harry's Horrible Hair*, is a Mom's Choice Gold Award winning book. For more information, visit her website at www.theresacocci.org.

Harry's Horrible Hair (PB) and **Henry the Hungry Hound** (PB)

Visit Territory: Berks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-2

Yona Diamond Dansky

<http://www.yonadiamonddansky.com>

I'm a former teacher of deaf students and administrator in special education, eager to share my stories with children. There are resources for follow-up activities on my website.

Wishes and Knishes (PB)
Mooshu Worries (PB)

Visit Territory: Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia
Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-3

L.E. DeLano

<https://ledelano.com/classroom-visits-workshops/>

L.E. DeLano lives in Pennsylvania with two adventurous kids and two ridiculous cats. Her 2021 novel, *BLUE*, received six literary awards including the SPARK Award by The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), a Gold Medal in Young Adult Fiction in the Reader Views Reviewer's Choice Awards, and was named an NYC Big Book Award Distinguished Favorite in Young Adult Fiction. L.E.'s debut novel, *TRAVELER*, was a Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA) Secondary Book Awards Finalist for 2018-2019.

Traveler (YA)

Dreamer (YA)

Blue (YA)

In the Dark of a Dream (YA)

Visit Territory: Berks, Lehigh, Montgomery, Chester, Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Dauphin Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: YA

Grades: 8-12

Andrea Denish

<https://www.andreadenish.com/author-visits>

Andrea Denish is an educator and the author of *The Way We Say Hello* with Starry Forest Books and *Everyone Loves a Parade!** by Astra Books for Young Readers. Andrea offers interactive story presentations appropriate for children in preschool - 2nd grade. Her books are upbeat and fun to read aloud, each adding something more to the story with educational backmatter. Find teaching resources and more by visiting www.andreadenish.com.

Everyone Loves a Parade!* (PB)
The Way We Say Hello (PB)

Visit Territory: Bucks, Montgomery,
Philadelphia Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: PreK - 2

B.E. Exon

<http://www.beexon.com>

B.E. Exon is a former award-winning elementary school teacher. She has taught children locally in Wallingford, PA, as well as internationally, from Ubud, Bali, Indonesia to Ballycastle, County Mayo, Ireland. It was inspiring for Mrs. X (as kids like to call her) to discover that children around the world speak a universal language of love and joy through play, song, and shared stories. Over the years, B.E. Exon has kept a journal of her own fanciful stories, and now, in life's next chapter, she is excited to share these tales with children of all ages, hoping to add to the JOYS of childhood! *Moxie and the Kite-Bite'n Ash* is her first illustrated picture book, a juvenile adventure, written in verse with 41 gouache illustrations.

Moxie and the Kite-Bite'n Ash (PB)

Visit Territory: Delaware, Philadelphia Counties

Virtual School Visits: No



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-5

Ona Gritz

<https://www.onagritz.com>

Ona Gritz is the author of two 2024 YA verse novels, *The Space You Left Behind*, featured in The Children's Book Council's Hot Off the Press roundup of anticipated best sellers, and *Take a Sad Song*, which earned a Kirkus starred review. Her 2023 novel for children, *August Or Forever*, was a Reader's Choice and Wishing Shelf finalist in middle grade fiction. Ona also writes poetry and nonfiction for adults. Her memoir, *Everywhere I Look*, won the Readers' Choice Gold Award for Best Adult Book, the Pencraft Best Book Award in Memoir, the Independent Author Award in New Nonfiction, the Independent Author Award in True Crime, and is an Independent Book Review 2024 Must-Read. Learn more about her work at [onagritz.com](https://www.onagritz.com).

The Space You Left Behind (Hi-Lo YA verse novel)

Take a Sad Song (Hi-Lo YA historical verse novel)

August Or Forever (MG novel)

Visit Territory: Delaware, Philadelphia, Montgomery Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: MG, YA

Grades: 3-6 (MG),
7-12 (YA)

Maureen Henry

<https://www.maureenhenryartist.com/about-2>

Maureen is a children's picture book author and illustrator. After illustrating her first children's book published in 2023, she progressed to writing and illustrating her own book, inspired by her childhood experiences living at Breyer Training Area in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Maureen lives in Montgomery County, PA, and she enjoys traveling with her husband, exploring the beautiful and unique state of Pennsylvania. You can read more about her journey at [maureenhenryartist.com](https://www.maureenhenryartist.com).



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-2

Adventures at Breyer Woods: The Case of the Missing Necklace (PB)

Visit Territory: Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Berks, Lehigh, Northampton Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes

Linda Oatman High

<http://www.lindaoatmanhigh.com>

The author of more than 25 books for children and teens who presents and teaches both nationally and internationally, Linda holds an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College.

Heather Whirl Weather Girl (Young MG climate science fantasy chapter book series)

One Amazing Elephant (MG)

Tenth Avenue Cowboy (PB)

Barn Savers (PB)

Beekeepers (PB)



Book Genre: PB, MG

Grades: K-6

Visit Territory: Central and Eastern PA

Virtual School Visits: Yes

Stephen Kozan

<https://www.readwithsteve.net>

Stephen founded ReadyAimWrite Publishing in 2015. He wrote five middle grade chapter books. *The Journal of a Lifetime*, *Town*, *Barn*, *The Great Green Tree and the Magical Ladders: Suburbia*, and *The Great Green Tree and the Magical Ladders: Metropolis*. He began touring schools across the country as part of author visits in 2016 where he's spoken to over 30,000 students.

In 2018 he founded ReadyAimWrite Kids, LLC, an imprint of ReadyAimWrite Publishing, which focuses on books written by kids for kids.

In 2019, he co-founded Student Author Movement, a nonprofit organization specializing in helping Title 1 students lower the achievement gap of 12% against non-Title 1 students by using author visits as a mentorship and education initiative. Click [here](#) for more information.

Town (MG); Barn (MG); The Great Green Tree and the Magical Ladders: Suburbia (MG); The Great Green Tree and the Magical Ladders: Metropolis (MG); The Journal of a Lifetime (MG)

Visit Territory: All Pennsylvania Counties

Virtual School Visits: No



Book Genre: MG

Grades: 3-9

Patricia Kreiser

<http://www.patrickreiser.com>

Patricia Kreiser is an author/illustrator and proud mom who absolutely loves creating picture stories! Some of her earliest and best childhood memories included endless hours with Breyer horses, drawing (not on the walls), and reading pretty much anything she could get her hands on. She hopes her stories will one day be someone's favorite childhood memory. She is a graduate of Pratt Institute and a member of SCBWI and the Society of Illustrators. Originally from central Pennsylvania, where she met and married her high school sweetheart, she currently resides with her supportive family in her studio-home just minutes from Philadelphia. Her first picture book, *Always Together*, debuted on January 1, 2024. You can view more of her work on her website.

Always Together (PB)

Visit Territory: Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks, Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, York, Counties and Beyond.

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-5

Joe Kulka

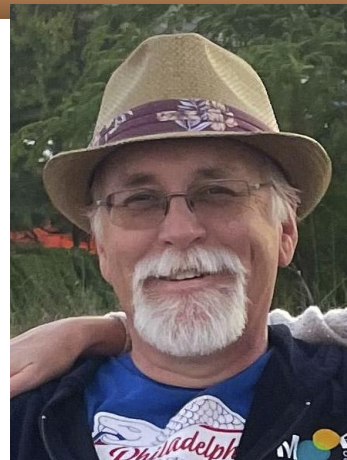
<http://www.joekulka.com>

Joe has illustrated over 25 books for children. His books have won multiple awards. His newest picture book is titled, *Fox Is Coming!*, which he co-wrote with acclaimed best-selling author James Patterson. Joe is honored that for the last 20 years he has been illustrating national icons Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl for the USDA Forest service, including picture books on each icon. Joe is a professor of Illustration at Moore College of Art and Design.

Fox Is Coming! (PB), **Undercover Ostrich** (PB), **The Christmas Coal Man** (PB), **My Crocodile Does Not Bite** (PB), **Vacation's Over: Return of the Dinosaurs** (PB), **The Story of Smokey Bear** (PB), **The Rope** (PB), **Wolf's Coming!** (PB), **Woodsy's ABCs** (PB)

Visit Territory: All PA Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-5

Terry LaBan

<https://terrylaban.com>

Terry LaBan knew he wanted to be a cartoonist at the age of six. He grew up to contribute comics and illustrations to hundreds of publications, to create three indie comic book series for Fantagraphics Books and Dark Horse Comics, and to write comics for DC Vertigo and Disney Egmont. His comic strip, “Edge City,” was syndicated by King Features and appeared in newspapers daily from 2001 to 2015. Terry lives with his wife just outside Philadelphia. He has two kids, two cats, and a studio with nice, big windows. His first middle-grade graphic novel, *Mendel the Mess-Up*, will be published by Holiday House in December.

Mendel the Mess-Up (MG GN)

Visit Territory: Montgomery, Berks, Bucks, Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Lehigh, Lancaster Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: MG

Grades: 5-8

Anne Lambelet

<http://www.annelambelet.com>

Anne Lambelet is the illustrator or author-illustrator of several published and forthcoming picture books, middle grades, and graphic novels. Anne illustrated the cover images for two New York Times bestselling authors: THE ELDEST CURSES series by Cassandra Clare, and GREYSTONE SECRETS series by Margaret Peterson Haddix. One of her most recent picture books, *CLOAKED IN COURAGE* (written by Beth Anderson, Calkins Creek, 2022), was a JLG selection and a Bank Street Best Book of the Year. Another, *HOW TO BUILD AN INSECT* (written by Roberta Gibson, Millbrook Press, 2021), is currently nominated for 2024 German's Children's Literature Award. Anne's debut author-illustrated graphic novel, *I'M A DUMBO OCTOPUS!* is forthcoming from Lerner in 2025 with a second title to follow in 2026. Anne lives in Philadelphia with her husband, Brice, her son, Elliot, and her dog, Eevee.

Maria the Matador (PB), Dogs and Their People (PB), The Poisoned Apple: A Fractured Fairy Tale (PB), I'm a Dumbo Octopus!: A Graphic Guide to Cephalopods (JGN)

Visit Territory: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, JGN

Grades: K-2 (PB),
2-4 (JGN)

Michael Wescott Loder

<https://wesloderwriter.cc/>

My name is Michael Wescott Loder, but I am usually called Wes. I was born and grew up in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. I have hiked, climbed, and caved my way across the United States, and I've been an Air Force officer, photographer, and park naturalist—and an academic librarian for more than 30 years. I have worked in eight different states but am now retired and live with my wife next to the family farm in a passive-solar, off-grid house we designed ourselves. I am the author of six books that range in topic from a history of Nikon cameras to novels for middle grade and young adult readers. I write at home, play the highland bagpipe, and occasionally weave rugs.

Taken Beyond the Ohio: The Indian Captivity of Marie LeRoy and Barbara Leininger (MG)

Beetle: The Autobiography of a Virtual Girl (YA)

Forbidden Games (YA)

Visit Territory: Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Schuylkill, Lancaster, Carbon Counties

Virtual School Visits: No



Book Genre: MG, YA

Grades: 6-9 (MG),
10-12 (YA)

Joan Marr

www.JoanMarrBooks.com

Joan Marr spends her days editing words for grown-ups and her nights writing stories for kids. She has a degree in English from the University of Notre Dame, where she learned to properly punctuate silly thoughts on paper, and she currently lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and two kids, as well as an orange cat and a very jumpy dog.



Izmelda the Fairest Dragon of Them All! (PB)

Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-2

Visit Territory: Chester County

Virtual School Visits: Yes

Kim Kluxen Meredith

www.kimkluxenmeredith.com

I am a retired secondary Spanish teacher living in Lancaster, PA. I have a varied career as a writer starting in 2010 with the publication of my first inspirational book *Listen for the Whispers*. Since then I published a second inspirational book *Ocean Whispers* (2014). I now focus on children's picture books with positive universal messages. *Henri's Home*, *Henri to the Rescue*, and *Heidi Saves the Day* along with my other books are featured on my website in the Works section www.kimkluxenmeredith.com. Recently, I started an elementary literary program called "Plant a Seed and Watch Your Story Grow," which is an incentive program for young readers and writers using my three children's books as authentic literature. I am expanding my appearance schedule and am open to future opportunities in the south central PA region. All inquiries are welcome.

Henri's Home (PB)

Henri to the Rescue (PB)

Heidi Saves the Day (PB)

Visit Territory: Lancaster, Montgomery, Delaware, Chester, York, Berks, Bucks, Lebanon, Dauphin, Adams Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-4

Lee Y. Miao

<https://www.leeymiao.com/>

Lee Y. Miao grew up in north central Pennsylvania surrounded by fabulous small-town libraries. After graduate school, she worked in international banking in California. Later, she became a writer for grades 6–8 English language arts and social studies educational material before turning to fiction. Both her two middle-grade novels, *Wei to Go!* and *It's a RHAP, Cat*, feature contemporary characters discovering connections to their past cultures.

Wei to Go! (MG); **It's a RHAP, Cat** (MG)

Visit Territory: Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: MG

Grades: 4-7

Kerri Monnerat

<https://kettlepotpress.com/author-visits/>

Kerri Monnerat has been a professional educator for over 30 years. She is an award-winning teacher, performer, and director. In her career, she has directed and choreographed over 150 musicals, created curriculums, and served as a board member for theaters in both Los Angeles and Denver. Most recently, she was Executive Director of the Colorado Children's Theatre (CCT), a musical theater and performance school with four schools and hundreds of students in the Denver and Foothill areas of Colorado.

And (MG)

Visit Territory: Delaware, Chester, Philadelphia, Montgomery, Lancaster Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: MG

Grades: 3-6

Vicenta Montgomery

<https://vicenta-montgomery.com>

My name is Vicenta Montgomery and I am an author, educator, and physician assistant. As the mother of a child on the autism spectrum, I combine my personal experience with my educational background and medical knowledge when creating my work as an author. It would be my pleasure to share my book *Ian's Show and Tell Surprise: A Story About Autism Spectrum Disorder* with your students. During my author reads, I create a fun, storytelling experience that provides awareness about some of the characteristics of autism spectrum disorder. I also engage the students with a question-and-answer session with props that bring the story to life! Please email rubydolphinbooks@gmail.com for more information or to schedule an author visit. For testimonials from my most recent author visit, please check out my website: <https://vicenta-montgomery.com/author-visit/>. Thank you.

Ian's Show and Tell Surprise: A Story About Autism Spectrum Disorder (PB)

Visit Territory: Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia, Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Lancaster Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-5

Frank Murphy

<https://www.frankmurphybooks.com/>

Frank Murphy is the author of several award-winning and best-selling picture books and easy readers. From *A Boy Like You* and *A Friend Like You* to *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*, Frank continues to publish high-interest books for young readers. His most recent picture books are *A Voice Like Yours* and *Heroic Heart* (a moving biography about Kansas City Chiefs heroic running back Joe Delaney). Frank currently teaches writing to sixth graders - his 33rd year teaching. His assemblies focus on writing, history, and leadership.

George Washington & the General's Dog (NF)
Ben Franklin & the Magic Squares (NF)
Brave Clara Barton (NF)
A Boy Like You (PB)
A Girl Like You (PB)
A Friend Like You (PB)

Heroic Heart (PB & NF)
Fearless Heart (PB & NF)
A Voice Like Yours (PB)
A Family Like Ours (PB)
A Teacher Like You (PB)
Babe Ruth Saves Baseball (NF)
Frederick Douglass (NF)



Book Genre: PB, NF

Grades: K-6

Visit Territory: Eastern PA

Virtual School Visits: No

Dainty Nix

<http://daintynixbooks.com>

Dainty Nix has a master's degree in Education and is an adjunct professor at Northampton Community College. She formerly taught at F.H. La Guardia High School of Music and Arts and Performing Arts, where she inspired many of our present and future artists. Dainty's major goal in life is to motivate and inspire the younger generation. She made the commitment to become a children's book author because she strongly believes that children and young adults should be inspired, while having fun, through reading. Through her books and her own life experiences, she hopes to touch the hearts of today's youths.

Rosa the Little Ant and the Great Big Elephant (PB)

Visit Territory: All PA Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: PreK-3

Laura Parnum

<https://www.lauraparnum.com/author-visits>

Laura Parnum is the author of the award-winning middle grade novel *Peril at Price Manor* and the forthcoming middle grade novel *The Haunting of Bellington Cottage*. She writes stories that blend humor and heart with a touch of spookiness. When she's not writing, she's editing other people's stories and helping out at local Philadelphia public school libraries. She currently serves as Co-Regional Advisor for the Eastern Pennsylvania region of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Laura lives with her family in Philadelphia. They have a turtle that bites and a snake that doesn't.

Peril at Price Manor (MG)

Visit Territory: Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Berks, Lehigh, Northampton, York, Lebanon, Dauphin, Schuylkill, Carbon, Monroe, Pike Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: MG

Grades: 3-6

Jenny Lynn Pease

<http://www.jennylynnpease.wordpress.com>

Jenny Lynn Pease has loved writing since a young age. In elementary school, she wrote a book about a witch who learns the value of friendship. She's been writing ever since. Jenny hopes her books make children feel happy, curious, and inspired. She lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, son, and dog. If she's not writing, she's probably singing and dancing to her favorite tunes, playing games with her family, or relaxing outside by a lake. She is a former early childhood educator and a current mental health advocate.



Book Genre: PB

Grades: PreK-1

I Love Harriet Kippley (PB)

Visit Territory: York, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster
Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes

Matt Phelan

<https://www.mattphelan.com/visits.html>

Matt Phelan is an award-winning, New York Times-bestselling author/illustrator of picture books, early chapter books, middle grade novels, and graphic novels for young readers. Matt's first graphic novel, *The Storm in the Barn*, received the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. Recent books include the Plum series (*Leave It To Plum!*, *A Snow Day for Plum!*); *The Sheep*, *The Rooster*, and *The Duck*; *Knights Vs. Dinosaurs* and its sequels; and the picture books *Sweater Weather* and *Turtle Walk*. He is also the illustrator of books by authors such as Linda Sue Park, Jeanne Birdsall, and Jane Yolen. Matt lives in Ardmore, PA.

Druthers, Pignic, Turtle Walk, Sweater Weather (PB)
Leave It To Plum & sequels (early MG)
Knights Vs. Dinosaurs & sequels, The Sheep, The Rooster, and the Duck (MG)
The Storm in the Barn, Around the World (NF), **Bluffton, Snow White** (JGN)

Visit Territory: All PA Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, MG,
JGN

Grades: K-8

Ellen L. Ramsey

<http://www.ellenramsey.com/>

Ellen Ramsey's love of reading and writing led her to careers as a teacher, technical editor, and author of stories for children. Her debut picture book, *A BOOK FOR BEAR*, features Bear's humorous adventures as he and his friend Ellen search for the perfect book to read together. The book celebrates friendship, inspires creativity, and encourages children to create books of their very own. *A BOOK FOR BEAR* has been nominated for a Keystone State Literacy Association "Keystone to Reading Elementary Book Award." Her work has appeared in many children's magazines; and one of her poems, published in Highlights's *High Five* magazine, won an SCBWI Magazine Merit Award for Poetry. She and her husband live in a house filled with thousands of books, many teddy bears, and lots of laughter!

A Book for Bear (PB)

Visit Territory: Chester, Lancaster, Berks, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, Lebanon, Lehigh, York, Northampton Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-3

Lisa Kahn Schnell

<http://www.lisakschnell.com/outreach>

Lisa Kahn Schnell is an interdisciplinary author, artist, and naturalist whose work celebrates positive, innovative relationships between people and the natural world. Her book *High Tide for Horseshoe Crabs* was inspired by her curiosity during a long walk on the beach and received multiple honors. Lisa is available for school visits and other engagements. You can learn more on her website (<http://www.lisakschnell.com/>) and through “Twig & Ink,” her free newsletter about the intersection of science, art, and writing (<https://lisakschnell.substack.com/>).

High Tide for Horseshoe Crabs (PB, NF)

Visit Territory: All PA Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: K-5,
Will customize for
older audiences

Tom Speicher

<https://www.facebook.com/TomSpeicherWrites/>

Tom Speicher is an award-winning writer of children's books in addition to serving as a writer/video producer at Pennsylvania College of Technology. *A Day with Waffles and Alexis*, published in the fall of 2023, is Tom's second illustrated children's book featuring his furry friend: Waffles the guinea pig. The previous year, he wrote and published *A Week with Waffles*, recipient of the Best Children's Picture Book Award from Reader Views. He is also the co-author of the 2021 young adult novel *Bucky Deacon's Dilemma*. Tom has written for publications and websites devoted to the Minnesota Vikings and has served as "The Man in the Crowd" for the Little League Baseball World Series Radio Network since 1998.

A Week With Waffles (PB); **A Day With Waffles and Alexis** (PB);
Bucky Deacon's Dilemma (YA)

Visit Territory: Lycoming, Clinton, Montour, Union,
Snyder, Columbia, Northumberland, Luzerne Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, YA

Grades: K-5,
Middle School

Heather Pierce Stigall

<https://www.heatherpiercestigall.com/author-visits.html>

Heather Stigall uses her experience with children and her degrees in Child Development, Psychology-Based Human Relations, and Social Work to create stories that speak to kids. She is the Critique Group/Meet & Greet Coordinator for the Eastern PA SCBWI Chapter, a member of the 12x12 Picture Book Challenge, and a wife and parent to five children and one pup. When she's not writing, you can find Heather hanging out with her kids (hopefully at the beach), reading, eating chocolate, baking, or creating all sorts of treasures. Her debut picture book, *PAISLEY'S BIG BIRTHDAY* (Clavis Publishing), released in August 2023, is available in five additional languages and is a 2023 Keystone to Reading Elementary Book Award nominee. Her second picture book, *GILBERT AND THE GHOST*, (Beaming Books) is due out August 2025. You can connect with Heather through her website, [HeatherPierceStigall.com](https://www.HeatherPierceStigall.com), and her social media links at <https://linktr.ee/HeatherStigall>.

Paisley's Big Birthday (PB)

Visit Territory: Eastern PA

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, NF

Grades: PreK - 5

Robert Scott Thayer

<https://www.kobeemanatee.com>

In addition to being a children's author, Robert Scott Thayer is also a recording artist who writes and sings in the pop, jazz, and children's genres. He was honored to have received several international songwriting awards including those from Billboard. Thayer's children's tune, "Kobee's Song," was produced by Grammy winner Jim Cravero. "It's upbeat, and has a fun reggae groove." The song is about Kobee Manatee, the protagonist in Thayer's award-winning Kobee Manatee® children's educational picture book series. Robert's newest title, *Kobee Manatee® Climate Change and the Great Blue Hole Hazard*, is a collaboration with Dr. Tracy Fanara, a popular NOAA Scientist. Dr. Fanara can be seen as a visiting expert on The Weather Channel, CNN, and FOX Weather. Learn more about school visits by clicking [here](#).

Kobee Manatee® Heading Home to Florida (PB NF)

Kobee Manatee® A Wild Weather Adventure (PB NF)

Kobee Manatee® Shipwreck Sea Friends (PB NF)

Kobee Manatee® Climate Change and the Great Blue Hole Hazard (PB NF)

Visit Territory: Bucks, Montgomery, Chester,
Delaware Counties

Virtual School Visits: No



Book Genre: PB

Grades: 1-2

Mr. Tom

<http://itsmrtom.com>

My work reflects what I most identify with: the wonderfully weird, slightly off or exaggerated "Acutely Believable Creatures" that live in the corners of the imagination. My monsters are my ode to the Children's Television Workshop that I grew up watching. Through my art and storytelling, I want to create a diverse universe that understands the joy in living with and caring for everyone, even if they look a little different than me.

The Mouse Who Played Football (PB)

Visit Territory: Chester, Delaware Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB

Grades: 1-2

Berrie Torgan-Randall

<https://www.berrietr.com/school-visit-information>

Berrie Torgan-Randall is an author/illustrator working from her home studio in Media, PA. In addition to being an author and illustrator, she is the Illustrator Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania SCBWI. Berrie's illustrations have appeared in Ladybug Magazine, and her debut early reader graphic novel, *Bella & Blue: Bella Meets Blue* was published by The Little Press Publishing in 2022. Berrie recently signed a contract with The Little Press for the second book in the *Bella & Blue* series to launch in October 2026 titled *Bella & Blue: Times Two*. In addition, Berrie's debut picture book, *Just Ducky: A Friendship Takes Flight*, was recently acquired by Cardinal Rule Press to be released October 2025.

Bella & Blue: Bella Meets Blue (JGN)

Visit Territory: Delaware, Chester, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Lancaster Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: JGN

Grades: K-5

Melissa Trempe

<https://www.melissatrempe.com/school-visits>

As an author and educator, Melissa Trempe is excited to share the fascinating stories behind her books and motivate young readers and writers to pursue their passions. *Ladybug Launch: Inspired by a True Story of Chinitas in Space* released in 2024 and tells the story of a Chilean class of children having a real impact on science and the world. Her next children's book, an astronaut biography coming out in late 2025, tells the story of Eileen Collins, NASA's first female pilot and mission commander. With themes of determination, STEM, and space, Melissa is eager to connect with the students at your school!

Ladybug Launch: Inspired by a True Story of Chinitas in Space (PB, NF tie in)

Eileen Collins: NASA's First Female Pilot and Mission Commander (PB NF Biography 2025)

Visit Territory: All Eastern PA Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, YA

Grades: K-5

Annette Whipple

https://www.annetwhipple.com/p/events_17.html

As an author and speaker, Annette Whipple celebrates curiosity and inspires others through her words. She challenges people to live with curiosity, wait with wonder, and raise readers in a world of screens. She is the author of more than a dozen children's books including *The Laura Ingalls Wilder Companion: A Chapter-by-Chapter Guide* (Chicago Review Press), *Whooo Knew: The Truth about Owls* (Reycraft Books), and *Quirky Critter Devotions* (Tyndale). Annette is a former teacher, nature lover, and chocolate chip cookie baker who lives in Oxford, PA. Learn more about Annette and her free resources at AnnetteWhipple.com.

Whooo Knew? The Truth About Owls (PB NF)
Chomp! The Truth About Sharks (PB NF)
The Laura Ingalls Wilder Companion (MG NF)

Visit Territory: All Eastern PA Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, MG

Grades: K-6+

Becca Wierwille

<https://beccawierwille.com/author-visits/>

Becca Wierwille is the award-winning author of the Road Trip Rescue series and other stories that show kids they are wonderfully created for the unique adventures in their lives. Born with only half of her right arm, she aims to help others find beauty in what makes them extraordinary. Mom by day and novelist by relatively early in the morning, she wishes she could eat peach pie as often as most writers drink coffee. Despite her dreams of sandy beaches and mountain peaks, Becca loves living in Pennsylvania with her family.

Road Trip Rescue (MG)

Road Trip Return (MG)

Visit Territory: All Pennsylvania Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: MG

Grades: K-7

Adrienne Wright

<http://www.adriennewright.com/school-and-library-visits.html>

Adrienne grew up in South Africa and moved to the United States where she worked as an art director and graphic designer in advertising agencies. She is a long-time member of SCBWI and served as the Illustrator Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania chapter for many years. She won the Work of Outstanding Progress Award from SCBWI for the manuscript that became her debut picture book, *Hector: A Boy, a Protest, and the Photograph that Changed Apartheid*. Published by Page Street Kids in the US in 2019 and by Jacana Media in South Africa in 2023, it has been translated into five languages there. *Hector* received starred reviews from Kirkus Reviews and ALA's Booklist and has other notable acknowledgments including the Children's Africana Book Award (CABA) for best picture book in 2020. She lives in Gulph Mills, PA, with lots of paints and pencils.

Hector: A Boy, a Protest, and the Photograph that Changed Apartheid
(Graphic novel-style PB)

Visit Territory: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties (see website for more).

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: JGN PB

Grades: 5-8

Virginia Zimmerman

<http://www.virginiazimmerman.com/>

Virginia Zimmerman is a middle-grade and picture-book author who lives in central Pennsylvania. She teaches Children's Literature and Victorian Literature at Bucknell University and loves having the chance to talk to children about her books and about books generally. Her picture book, *Pink: A Women's March Story*, was published in 2022 for the 5th anniversary of the Women's March. Her novel, *The Rosemary Spell*, was published in 2015 and received a starred review from Publisher's Weekly. When she's not reading, writing, or talking about books, she enjoys travel, movies, and swimming in the sea.

The Rosemary Spell (MG)

Pink A Women's March Story (PB)

Visit Territory: Union, Snyder, Centre, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Dauphin, Cumberland, Adams, York, Lebanon, Lancaster, Berks, Schuylkill, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Lycoming, Clinton, Tioga, Sullivan, Luzerne Counties

Virtual School Visits: Yes



Book Genre: PB, MG

Grades: 2-6 (PB)
4-10 (MG)