



*SCBWI presents the*

## ***14<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern NY Regional Conference: Making Connections***

Saturday, June 12, 2010

Mercury Grand Hotel, 2170 South Road (Rt. 9), Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

phone: (845) 462-4600

### ***Schedule***

8:00 - 8:30            Registration

Coffee, tea and continental breakfast

8:30 - 8:45            Introductions

Nancy Castaldo, SCBWI Regional Advisor

8:45 - 9:30            Keynote

Emily Arnold McCully: "Oh, Grow UP!"

9:45 - 10:45          Session 1

A. Ellen Wittlinger: "How Does a 60-Year- Old Write Novels for Teenagers (And Why Does She Want to?)"

B. Peter McCarty: "Finding Stories in Everyday Routines"

11:00 - 12:00        Session 2

A. Eve Adler: "The Road to Publication"

B. Mary Watson: "Developing Your Character's Environment"

12:00 - 1:30          Lunch and Bookstore

1:30 - 2:30            Session 3

Dianne Hess, Executive Editor at Scholastic Books.

Session description TBA

2:45 - 3:30            Panel Discussion

3:30 - 4:00            Book Sales, Autographing and Door Prizes

One-on-one critiquing scheduled throughout the day

## *Session Descriptions*

**Ellen Wittlinger: “How Does a 60-Year-Old Write Novels for Teenagers (And Why Does She Want To?)”** What’s so great about writing for teens? Why do they need our books so much? Hear why, as an author, Ellen never gets tired of being inside a 16-year-old’s brain.

**Peter McCarty: “Finding Stories in Everyday Routines”** At one time or another, all creative people go through blocks. Peter will discuss methods to “unblock” and pull stories from everyday life.

**Eve Adler: “The Road to Publication”** Do you ever wonder how editors make decisions about which manuscripts to acquire? What is it about a story that makes them fall in love with it? And once they’ve acquired it, how exactly does the revision process work? In this workshop, Eve will demystify the acquisition and revision process. She will also give you tips on how to best improve your chances at getting published, and once that happens, how to become your editor’s favorite author.

**Mary Watson: “Developing Your Character’s Environment”** It’s not enough to paint a nice-looking main character. Creating an exciting place for your character to live is essential to making your illustrations marketable. Mary will take you behind the scenes of a picture book’s creation by using before and after examples from the sketchbooks of three illustrators. The types of changes these artists made to their original sketches may be just what you need to make your character’s world come to life.

**Dianne Hess: *Session Information TBA***

## *Faculty*

**Eve Adler** is an Associate Editor at Henry Holt Books for Young Readers and has worked with such award-winning authors as Kimberly Willis Holt, Laurie Keller and Elise Broach. She's looking for manuscripts across all genres: picture books, middle grade and young adult. Topics that interest her most include mysteries, historical fiction, magical realism, stories with strong female protagonists – above all, manuscripts with a fresh voice and exceptional writing. For picture books, she's looking for texts that have a curriculum tie-in. Prior to joining Holt, Eve worked in the adult imprint of G. P. Putnam's Sons. Before entering the publishing world, Eve lived in France, Thailand and Germany.

**Dianne Hess** is Executive Editor of Scholastic Books where she acquires and edits an eclectic mix of picture books, middle grade novels, chapter books, and middle grade nonfiction. She loves humor, fantasy that is grounded in reality, history, and books that reflect the many cultures of America. It is important that a book has authentic emotional and spiritual resonance, and that it gives readers a richer understanding of their world. Good storytelling, whether in fiction or nonfiction, is the most important thing of all. Her books include two Caldecott Honor Books: Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine, illustrated by Kadir Nelson; and Zen Shorts by Jon J. Muth. Other award-winning books include: The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti; Truce by Jim Murphy; Testing the Ice by Sharon Robinson, illustrated by Kadir Nelson; The Ravenmaster's Secret by Elvira Woodruff; Bruce Coville's Unicorn Chronicles; and many more.

**Peter McCarty** is an award winning author/illustrator. He comes from a long line of artists and states his grandmother, Grace Boyd, was the best. His first professional art job was illustrating a science book, Frozen Man, written by David Getz. That assignment landed him another, this time illustrating Night Driving, written by John Coy. After Night Driving, he was offered his dream job of "creating his own story." That was the beginning of his life as an author and illustrator of children's books. His first book was Little Bunny on the Move. Other books include Jeremy Draws a Monster and Henry in Love.

**Emily Arnold McCully** is an award winning author/illustrator. Her early assignments included writing for book jackets, magazine stories and pharmaceutical ads. A poster displayed in subway cars caught the attention of a children's book editor and a new career was launched. After working as an illustrator for several years and publishing two adult novels (A Craving and Life Drawing), she began writing her own picture books. She has been awarded the Caldecott Medal, the Christopher Award, the Jane Addams Award, the O'Henry Award and many others.

**Mary Watson** graduated from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She has written and illustrated many books for children, among them The Market Lady and the Mango Tree, The Butterfly Seeds, My Own Big Bed and Some Place Like Home. She is the Creative Director of Shenanigan Books, a company founded “to keep the magic in children’s books alive.”

**Ellen Wittlinger**, a former children’s librarian, is the author of 15 novels for middle grade and young adults, including such titles as Sandpiper, Blind Faith, Parrotfish and Love & Lies. Her newest middle grade is called This Means War! Her novel Hard Love won a Michael L. Printz Honor Award and a Lambda Literary Award in 2000. Many of her novels have been listed on the yearly best books list of the New York Public Library and the American Library Association; she’s also won state book awards in Massachusetts, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

### *Additional Critique Staff*

**Connie Hsu** is an Assistant Editor at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. She has edited The Devouring series, The A-List Hollywood Royalty, and Moonshadow. She has an affinity for Edward Gorey and Roald Dahl, and has acquired a similarly hilarious middle grade novel, The Adventures of Nanny Piggins, a fully illustrated young adult novel, Happyface, by comic creator Stephen Emond and a picture book biography based on Booker T. Washington by Guggenheim Fellow Jabari Asim. Prior to May 2006, Connie worked as a reporter for *In Touch* magazine and *TV Guide*, where she wrote in-depth articles about Paris Hilton’s Chihuahua and watched television for a living.

**Martha Mihalick** is the Associate Editor of Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins. In her eight years, she has worked with many acclaimed authors and artist, including Kevin Henkes, Lynne Rae Perkins, Peter Sis, Megan Whalen Turner, Chris Crutcher and Naomi Shihab Nye. Martha edits books for children and teens of all ages, from picture books to young adult novels. She edited the forthcoming Mistwood by Leah Cypess, Do Not Build a Frankenstein by Neil Numberman and Me and the Pumpkin Queen by Marlane Kennedy.

**Kelly Smith** is a Senior Editor at Sterling Publishing. She edits a varied list of books ranging from middle grade to nonfiction to sticker books, activity books and board books. She edited the Sterling Biographies series and co-edited the Mysteries Unwrapped series. She is currently developing children’s books with the American Museum of Natural History and is interested in nonfiction projects that relate to natural history topics. Kelly is fascinated by giant squids.

**Pete Watson** is Editor-in-Chief of Shenanigan Books, A New Jersey company that publishes children’s books. He is the author of technical manuals, children’s books and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. For many years, he has produced educational materials and programs for children at Mercer County’s

Howell Living History Farm, a 130-acre historical site that interprets New Jersey history and heritage. Pete is chair of the New Jersey Living History Advisory Council and is on the national board of directors of the Association of Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums. He enjoys volunteering as a reader in local elementary schools and serving as a critiquer for the annual Union County Teen Arts Festival.

## ***Registration Information***

### **Individual Manuscripts or Portfolio Critiques**

A limited number of conferees may submit a manuscript or artwork for critique with a faculty member on a first come, first served basis.

Limit is one manuscript or portfolio critique per person.

Cost is \$35 **plus registration fee** for a 15-minute critique.

### **Writers**

You may submit fiction or nonfiction for critique. **Our critique schedule is full. Sorry!** You may submit one book or one magazine piece or the first fifteen pages from a book for critique.

Manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, with one-inch margins.

Name and address must appear on the first page plus name and title on succeeding pages.

Mail your check for \$35 **plus registration fee (separate checks, please!)** and

to Karen Orloff at the address listed on the registration page.

Manuscripts will be posted at the conference.

**Deadline is May 1, 2010** for critique and registration fees. If the critique schedule is full, you will be notified and your check and manuscript returned at the conference when you check in.

**Deadline is June 1, 2010** for conference registration only.

### **Illustrators**

Do not mail your artwork. Bring your portfolio to the conference.

Mail your check for \$35 **plus your registration fee** to Karen Orloff at the address listed on the registration page.

**Deadline is May 1, 2010** for critique and registration fees.

### **Books**

SCBWI members are invited to display a copy of their latest books.

Merritt Bookstore will be selling books by our faculty.

## **Refund Policy**

For a registration-only refund, cancellation must be in writing and postmarked by **June 1, 2010**. Critique fees are non-refundable, unless the schedule is full.

## **Questions**

For general information questions, phone Karen Orloff at (845) 896-8038 or email Val at valmarch@optonline.net.

## ***Directions to the Mercury Grand Hotel***

### ***(formerly the Best Western Inn & Conference Center)***

From Rt. 9 and the Mid-Hudson Bridge, travel approximately 4 1/2 miles south. The Mercury Grand Hotel will be on your left.

From Rt. 9 and I-84, travel approximately 9 1/2 miles north on Rt. 9. The Mercury Grand Hotel will be on your right.

Amtrak and Metro North trains stop at the Poughkeepsie train station. Consult the local directory for taxi information.

## **Conference Accommodations**

A limited number of discounted rooms are available at the Mercury Grand Hotel, formerly the Best Western Inn & Conference Center in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Call (845) 462-4600 and ask for the SCBWI rooms.

**Deadline is May 17, 2010** for discounted rooms.

## Conference Registration Form

If signing up for an individual critique, deadline for critique and registration fees is **May 1, 2010**. Writers, remember to include your manuscript.

Illustrators, include your critique and registration fees only by **May 1, 2010**. Remember to bring your portfolio to the conference.

Conference registration-only deadline: **June 1, 2010**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

County \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For an individual critique, please check either:

Manuscript \_\_\_\_\_ Illustration \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee: \$80 SCBWI Member

\$90 Non-Member

Critique fee: \_\_\_\_\_ \$35

Registration form and fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus ~~separate check~~ for manuscript/portfolio critique (if having one): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: Registration plus critique fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: SCBWI Eastern NY

Mail to: Karen Orloff, 19 Buroak Drive, Hopewell Jct., NY 12533

Continental breakfast and lunch included

Please check our regional Web site for updates: [www.scbwi-easternny.org](http://www.scbwi-easternny.org)