

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators - Oregon
announces our sparpungent

SCBWI-OR Annual Fall Retreat

Thursday-Sunday, October 8-11, 2009
Silver Falls Conference Center - Silver Falls, Oregon

featuring special guests:

Authors/Illustrators:

Kathryn O. Galbraith, Laura McGee Kvasnosky and Mary K. Whittington

Editors et al:

Mary Kate Castellani, Walker Books for Young Readers

Kohel Haver, Arts Attorney

Maggie Lehrman, Abrams Books for Young Readers



illustrations by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

Early Bird Rate for those who register before September 10, 2009
We usually fill up before that date!

Please print the registration, fill it out, make a copy, and mail it in soon.
Follow all instructions and include a deposit of \$100.00

mail to:

SCBWI-OREGON 2009 RETREAT

Robin Michal Koontz
P.O. Box 336
Noti, OR 97461



SCBWI-Oregon Retreat 2009 Faculty

Mary Kate Castellani, associate editor, has been with Walker Books for Young readers for just over two years, starting out as an editorial assistant. Mary Kate acquires books for all age levels, and especially likes quirky, kooky picture books that celebrate personality, and middle-grade fiction with a light-hearted, honest approach like her current middle-grade project *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z.* She is also looking to find new YA voices for the Walker list, especially ones that have a more literary feel, but also likes issue-driven stories, such as her upcoming project *Dirty Little Secrets*, a story that explores the effects of compulsive hoarding on a family. Her acquisitions wish list also includes historical fiction with a strong hook, coming of age stories handled with humor, and explorations of spiritual or cultural identity. Before joining Walker, Mary Kate worked as an assistant to a literary agent.

Kathryn O. Galbraith: I have 13 books to my credit with two more under contract. I'm aiming for at least 25 so I have a ways to go. I did have my brief flash of fame when my most recent picture book, *BOO, BUNNY*, was mentioned in *People* magazine. However, when the next issue came out, I was back doing the laundry. I love teaching and for the past eight years, I've taught a 30-hour, 10 week course on Writing for Children at the University of Washington, Seattle. In addition I've taught at various SCBWI conferences and retreats including this one and I'm dee-lighted to be invited back.

Kohel Haver practices in the areas working with creative people and the arts - including a specialty in copyright and related intellectual property, technology and business law. Kohel has been serving the arts community for all of his professional life - including service on the boards of directors. He is the recipient of the 2009 Humanitarian Award from Willamette Writers. ((www.artcop.com; www.smhllaw.com)

Laura McGee Kvasnosky: I am a general maker of things: gardens, quilts, ukulele songs -- and books. Sixteen picture books in 18 years. Awards include: SCBWI Kite honors for *ZELDA AND IVY*; ALA's Theodor Suess Giesel award for *ZELDA AND IVY THE RUNAWAYS*. I've taught writing for children at Vermont College and UW.

Maggie Lehrman, Editor, has been with Abrams Books for Young Readers and Amulet Books for four years, after starting her career at HarperCollins. At Abrams she edits middle grade and YA fiction, as well as non-fiction and fiction picture books, including the *Sisters Grimm* series by Michael Buckley, *My Life in Pink & Green* by Lisa Greenwald, and *Hush*, *Little Dragon* by Boni Ashburn. She graduated from Harvard with a degree in English, focusing on theater.

When bookworm **Mary K. Whittington** was 11, her mother handed her a collection of H.P. Lovecraft stories, which she devoured, committing certain terms to memory (e.g. "ichor"). At 14, she saw her poem, "Dead Tree," in the Girl Scouts national magazine (she wasn't a member). After graduating from U.C. Santa Barbara, she taught writing skills to university students. In 1979 she moved to Washington, where she began writing children's fiction, eventually publishing picture books, including *Winter's Child* and *The Patchwork Lady*, and scary stories in anthologies. For over 30 years, she has taught creative writing workshops for adults and children and has professionally critiqued/edited manuscripts. Also, she served as a Picture Book Text judge for the 1997 Golden Kite Awards. Mary lives in Kirkland with her long-time friend, Wini Jaeger, along with Pacho the Dog and Maya the Cat.

The 2009 Retreat Agenda

(subject to last minute changes - a final agenda will be given to you at registration)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 3-4:30 p.m. **Check in** (cash is okay, but sorry, no credit cards)
5:30 p.m. **Supper** in the Dining Hall
7-8:30 p.m. Say Hello to our Guest Speakers, then we'll Meet and Greet!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast** with new friends!
9:00 a.m. Morning announcements
9:15-10 a.m. **Mini Book Launch: Your Five Minute Story** (you must pre-register and have books for sale)
10-11:30 a.m. **Laura McGee Kvasnosky**, author & illustrator: *The Anatomy of a Picture Book*
I'm going to kill a picture book (euthenization, of course) and dissect, so we can look at the bones, muscles and organs: the structure. Participants will do their own dissections (I'll supply books), then work on storyboarding their own manuscripts while I collate our lab results. This seminar is offered in a spirit of experimentation. Together we'll identify as many specific attributes of picture books as we can. We'll also try to articulate what isn't there, that ineffable something that makes the best the best. Bring your own picture book manuscript and/or a favorite picture book.
11:30 a.m. **Retreat Time** (walk, nap, work - it's up to you!)
12:00 noon **Lunch and booksales**
1-2:30 p.m. **Maggie Lehrman**, editor: *KEEPING YOUR SECRETS: Hiding and Revealing Information in Your Middle Grade or YA Novel*.
Characters and narrators with secrets can be used to engage your readers, and all novelists engage in some sort of selective storytelling—that's how you decide what to write and what to leave unsaid. This will be a discussion of voice, character, and plot centered around the way that novelists dole out key information, and using examples and close readings from published books to see the different ways that secrets are kept and revealed, and how these secrets can be used most effectively.
3-4:00 p.m. **Illustrators Networking Session** with **Laura McGee Kvasnosky & Robin Koontz**
Upper Smith Creek Meeting Hall
3-5:00 p.m. **Critique Group Meetings** and **Individual Critiques** (schedules will be posted)
5:30 p.m. **Supper with friends**
7-8:30 p.m. **Open Mic** (sign up in advance and please limit your reading to 5 minutes)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast with old friends!**
9:00 a.m. Morning Announcements
9:15-10 a.m. **Portfolio Powerpoint Presentation** (illustrators - please pre-register and I'll be in touch)
10-11:30 a.m. **Mary Kate Castellani, Associate Editor**, editor: *How to lure an editor hook, line, and sinker*
In an increasingly challenging and crowded market, it can be difficult to stand out from the pack. This will be a discussion of how to approach writing and presenting your manuscript so that you can entice editors with an intriguing hook; show them that you have a layered story with a strong voice and characters; and then seal the deal with your knowledge of the market and readiness to be a published author.
11:30 a.m. **Retreat Time** (walk, nap, work - it's up to you!)
12:00 noon **Lunch and booksales**
1-2:30 p.m. **Kathryn O. Galbraith**, author: *Writing Aerobics*
Need to refill the well? Prime the pump? Have some fun while exploring new ideas? Writing Aerobics is a hands-on writing workshop that will jump-start our writing by using all of our senses. Bring pen and paper and let your writing reveal yourself.. to yourself..
3-4:00 p.m. **Kohel Haver, Attorney: Q&A Session for writers and illustrators**
Kohel will meet with anyone who has a question about contracts and publishing.
3-5:00 p.m. **Critique Group Meetings** and **Individual Critiques** (schedules will be posted)
5:30 p.m. **Supper with friends**
7-8:30 p.m. **Open Mic** (sign up in advance and please limit your reading to 5 minutes)

SUNDAY October 11

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. **Mary K. Whittington**, author: *Just Where Has That Owl Gone?*

Designed to inspire, this hands-on workshop will leave you with a nest of ideas to take home with you.

11:00 a.m. Check-out time (by noon, please)

12:00 noon Lunch, evaluations, and fond farewells, sob!

CRITIQUE GROUP MEETINGS: Facilitated critique groups will be formed at the retreat to meet in the afternoons from 3-5. Bring part of a manuscript to share (7-8 copies), and be ready to make long-lasting and very valuable friendships. A copier is available on the premises on Thursday and Friday only.

INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUES: These fill up very quickly so don't delay!

ONE PROJECT PER CRITIQUE. THERE ARE ENOUGH SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR TWO CRITIQUES, BUT ONLY ONE EDITOR PER CUSTOMER. FOLLOW THE CRITERIA FOR EACH CRITIQUER. INCLUDE YOUR MANUSCRIPT OR ART SAMPLE PACKET (NO ORIGINALS!) WITH YOUR REGISTRATION.

Please make sure that your manuscript is polished and ready. YOU MAY NOT SUBMIT A REVISION LATER, OR DURING THE RETREAT! Also, please choose the best possible person for your critique, don't choose an editor or author who does not critique your genre. And please remember that the goal of a critique is to get some good advice that could make your manuscript stronger; it is not a pitching session.

Individual critiques will last 15 minutes and there is an additional fee of \$35.00 per critique. Meetings will take place Friday and Saturday. The number after the name indicates the maximum number the critiquer is scheduling. Each critiquer has different criteria which we allow as a courtesy to them. I will make sure the right number of pages goes to your critiquer. Double space your manuscript and use 12 point type. SEND IT FLAT, please do not fold up and stuff in an envelope. **No refunds for critiques.**

Mary Kate Castellani, Associate Editor: Walker Books for Young Readers (16): I'm happy to critique picture books or novels, fiction or non-fiction. For picture books, the complete manuscript is preferred. For novels, a synopsis and the first 25 pages is ideal.

Kathryn O. Galbraith, author (10): picture books & non-fiction picture books -- no longer than 6 pages; novels: complete first chapter and a one page synopsis.

Laura McGee Kvasnosky, author & illustrator: (16): I am glad to critique picture book manuscripts and/or dummies of 1000 words or less, fiction or non fiction. I would be glad to critique portfolios, but please note that I am not an art director.

Maggie Lehrman, Editor: Abrams Books for Young Readers (16): I prefer middle grade and young adult fiction critiques, but can also comment on picture books (fiction or non-fiction). A maximum of 15 pages, please, for longer works, preferably from the beginning of the work.

Mary K. Whittington, author (6+): Picture books: the whole manuscript (no synopsis needed); novels: three chapters and synopsis. Non-fiction is okay, just so it's not too technical.

FIRST TIME? The SCBWI Oregon Retreat is not a conference with break-out sessions, it was designed primarily to give you a chance to recharge, be with your peers, be inspired, and maybe, get a little work done in a beautiful setting. Your room (which you may be sharing with a complete stranger) is equipped with two single beds, a closet, and a desk. Towels and linens are provided. There are two restroom facilities in each of the four lodges, and the lodges hold 12 people in each plus we have a couple of 2-3 person cabins available. Please request the handicap-accessible lodge if you need it. 3 meals a day are served in the dining hall and special dietary needs are provided for if you let us know. There is no cell phone service, but a card-phone is available and a full-time manager is on call for emergencies.

Confirmation letters with directions and other details will be emailed (or mailed if necessary) in mid-September. Please contact me if you sign up and don't hear from me by then. Meanwhile please contact me if you have any questions: robink@scbwior.com or 541-935-8760 (EMAIL is best). **AND DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR MANUSCRIPT IF YOU ARE SIGNING UP FOR A CRITIQUE!**