



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

FALL RETREAT

Thursday-Sunday, October 6-9, 2011

Silver Falls Conference Center - Silver Falls, Oregon

Join us for a fun-filled low-key weekend featuring presentations, workshops, critique groups, individual critique opportunities, networking, and relaxing with your peers! Since 1987, this annual event has sparked lifelong friendships and helped to launch a few careers as well!

featuring special guests:

Susan Blackaby: *author*

Emma D. Dryden: *editor and consultant, drydenbks*

Karen Grencik:

Red Fox Literary Agency

Ellen Hopkins: *author*

Michele Torrey: *author*

Early Bird Rate for those who register before September 6, 2011
We usually fill up very quickly!



illustration by Carolyn Conahan



Please read the details, then go to our online registration form.

Questions? Email Robin Koontz - robink@scbwior.com

General information, please read carefully:

The SCBWI Oregon Retreat 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. We have five presentations throughout the weekend, plus opportunities for critique group meetings and individual critiques with our faculty members.

The early bird rate for SCBWI members is \$335.00. Priority will be given to Oregon SCBWI members for this event, including editorial/agent critiques. A link to the online registration form is on the last page of this document.

Three meals a day are served in the dining hall and special dietary needs are provided for if you let us know. The Silver Falls Conference staff goes out of their way to keep us well fed!

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 large restroom facilities in each of the four lodges, and the lodges hold 12 people in each. There is a nice living room with a fireplace in the middle of each. ***Please request the stairs-free lodge if you need it.***

You might also find yourself “up the mountain” in one of the little rustic cabins. These house two people and have a toilet and sink, but the shower is a few steps outside to a nice bathhouse. If you do NOT want to be in such an accommodation, please let me know. If you prefer such an accommodation, also let me know!

A few people in the past have anonymously requested that I designate a “quiet lodge” at our retreat. I tried it one year, and two of the “quiet” people were extremely noisy, upsetting everyone else in the lodge. The reality is that the walls are very thin and people like to talk. All we can ask is that people respect others and hold it down after 10 p.m. I will designate one lodge for night owls and we’ll have the Saturday gathering there. That’s when we sing, tell bad jokes, talk about our writing/illustrating lives, and laugh a lot. There is usually some alcohol involved, which is why we have a minimum age of 21 for this event. The dining hall also has beer, wine, and espresso for an extra charge.

CRITIQUE GROUP MEETINGS: Facilitated critique groups will be formed at the retreat to meet in the lodge living rooms on Friday and Saturday from 3-5. If you plan to participate, sign up on the registration and 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.

Confirmation letters with directions and other details will be emailed (or mailed if necessary) in early September. Please contact me if you sign up and don’t hear from me by then. Your Paypal receipt or your canceled check is your receipt for payment. Meanwhile please contact me if you have any questions: robink@scbwior.com or 541-935-8760 (EMAIL is best).

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ONLINE FORM AND PAY EITHER WITH PAYPAL OR BY MAILING A CHECK WITHIN THREE DAYS OF REGISTERING. IF YOU ARE SIGNING UP FOR A CRITIQUE, MAIL YOUR MANUSCRIPT IMMEDIATELY AND ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA LISTED HERE.

SCBWI-Oregon Retreat - 2011 Faculty

Suz Blackaby has worked in educational publishing for 30 years. On the clock, she hones her skills writing fiction and nonfiction titles for the K–8 audience, including leveled readers, early chapter books, and high-low fiction and nonfiction aimed at helping children who are truly at sea. On her own time, she writes whatever is working OK at the time...or not. She is the author of *Rembrandt's Hat* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002), named one of the top ten picture books of the year by the Washington Post; *Cleopatra: Egypt's Last and Greatest Queen* (Sterling, 2009); a collection of poetry entitled *Nest, Nook, and Cranny* (Charlesbridge, 2010), recently included on the New York Public Library's 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing; and *Brownie Groundhog and the February Fox* (Sterling, 2011). She lives in Portland in a lab-mandatory neighborhood.

Emma D. Dryden started her career in children's publishing at Viking and Random House, followed by a position with Margaret K. McElderry, of Macmillan Children's Books, where she eventually became Vice President, Editorial Director of McElderry Books, and in 2005, Vice President, Publisher of Atheneum Books for Young Readers and Margaret K. McElderry Books, imprints of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, a position she held until May 2009.

Emma has edited over five-hundred books for young readers across all genres, including work by Ellen Hopkins, Karma Wilson, Susan Cooper, Alan Katz, David Catrow, Raul Colon, Shelia P. Moses, Marjorie Priceman, Lee Bennett Hopkins, David Diaz, and Paul Zelinsky, among others. In March 2010, Emma launched her own editorial consulting firm, drydenbks (www.drydenbks.com), through which she edits children's books; consults with authors, illustrators, agents, and foreign publishers; is a creative consultant with several e-book and app publishers; is a collaborative writer; and does some of her own poetry and fiction writing, as well as keeps a blog (www.emmaddyden.blogspot.com). A highly sought-after speaker for regional and national conferences, where she often speaks about story and the digital landscape, Emma is also on the SCBWI Board of Advisors.

Karen Grencik became a literary agent because of a man she admired. She wanted the world to know his story, so she set out to make that happen. Within a year she'd accomplished her goal. *Double Luck, Memoirs of a Chinese Orphan*, written by Lu Chi Fa with Becky White, went on to win The Parents' Choice Gold Award for Best Nonfiction.

Karen quickly found herself on the New York publishing circuit, in regular contact with editors and publishers, while also finding time to be a favorite presenter at several west coast writers' conferences. She signed new clients and sold award-winning titles.

In 2006, Karen left agenting to pursue adventures in the tropical rainforests of Costa Rica. But when she attended the 2010 SCBWI National Conference, she knew she was back where she belonged. While there Karen reconnected with Tricycle Press editor Abigail Samoun, who'd edited Sarah Wilson's picture book *George Hogglesberry, Grade School Alien*, winner of the coveted Golden Kite Award. Not bad for a first collaboration!

When Tricycle Press's doors closed early this year, Karen and Abigail decided to join forces and form Red Fox Literary, a boutique agency that specializes in picture books, middle-grade, and young adult fiction and nonfiction. Karen and Abi look forward to bringing many more award-winning titles to the bookshelves!

Ellen Hopkins is the award-winning author of 20 nonfiction books for children and seven NY Times bestselling young adult novels in verse—*Crank*, *Burned*, *Impulse*, *Glass*, *Identical*, *Tricks* and *Fallout*. Her eighth YA novel, *Perfect*, publishes September 2011, followed in October by her first adult novel-in-verse, *Triangles*.

Michele Torrey is a two-time Thurber House Residency in Children's Literature nominee, plus a two-time winner of PNWA's Zola Award. Among other honors, her books have received starred reviews from "Publisher's Weekly" and "Kirkus," been chosen by the Junior Library Guild, and nominated for numerous state medals. Torrey's books include the *Doyle and Fossey: Science Detectives* chapter book series (Sterling) and the *Chronicles of Courage* seafaring series for middle-grade (Knopf). Torrey lives on Fox Island, WA, with her husband and calico cat. You can visit her online at www.micheletorrey.com.



illustration by Carolyn Conahan

SCBWI-Oregon Retreat - Agenda

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

3-4:30 p.m. **Check in** (please let me know if you will be arriving after 4:30)

5:30 p.m. **Supper** in the Dining Hall

7-7:30 p.m. **Say Hello** to our faculty and each other!

7:30-8:30 p.m. **Open Mic** (Alumni Mic-ers launch the first night of open mic! Limit 5 minutes ea.)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

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 PAL books for sale; any questions, contact me)

10-11:30 a.m. **Karen Grecik, Literary Agent:**

Finding your Authentic Voice and Writing from the Heart

Karen will discuss the evolution of a story from beginning to end and the need to take time before you begin to write in order to quiet your mind so as to hear the words framed within your heart. When you tap into your essence, you'll discover your purpose, and you will be able to contribute to the world in a way that only you can. The workshop will also include a spontaneous exercise that will be revealed at the conference. No preplanning allowed! So please bring pencil and paper and get ready to let the words flow through you.

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. **Michele Torrey, Author: *Navigating the Rewriting Road***

Rewriting can be a confusing journey filled with potholes, blind corners, and foggy dead ends. This session will help you navigate the "Rewriting Road" by providing you with the necessary signposts to ensure you arrive safely at your destination – with a polished manuscript ready for submission.

3-4:00 p.m. **Illustrators Networking Session** with **Emma Dryden** Meeting Hall (illustrators only)

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** (Newbie Night: you must limit your reading to 5 minutes or less)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast with old friends!**

9:00 a.m. **Morning Announcements**

9:15-10 a.m. **Portfolio Powerpoint Presentation** (illustrators - send me 3 JPEGs: robink@scbwior.com)

10-11:30 a.m. **Ellen Hopkins, author: *So What?***

Character motivation is key to creating multi-layered, realistic characters. Learn WHY your characters need/want what they do in this hands-on workshop.

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. **Emma D. Dryden, former children's book publisher; founder of drydenbks, a children's book editorial consulting firm:**

Traversing the Digital Landscape: Where We've Been and Where We're Headed

I will be talking about how the developments in digital are affecting authors, illustrators, agents, publishers, touching on what we all need to be thinking about as we move through this new terrain. My focus, too, will be on the continued importance of "story" (i.e. authors and editors) regardless of format and how that story is delivered.

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** (Last But Not Least: you must limit your reading to 5 minutes or less)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Suz Blackaby, author: *Pitfalls and Promises: Get Going and Set Goals***

You've taken great notes and you've filled your quiver with great ideas thanks to the swirl of creative energy around the dining hall, the meeting hall, and the living room at Dogwood. Now comes the hard part: Going home and just do it. What are the obstacles we put between ourselves and our best efforts? Suz will reveal our biggest fears and suggest ways to overcome our worst habits. Get ready for soul searching, goal setting, follow-through, and follow-up. And a group hug.

10:30-11:00 a.m. **Book Signing! Authors and Illustrators with books for sale: please be there!**

11:00 a.m. **Door Prizes, turn in evaluations, and fond farewells, sob!**

11:30 a.m. **Check-out time** (by noon, please)

12:00 noon **Lunch**

INDIVIDUAL CRITIQUES

These fill up very quickly so please don't delay!

ONE MS PER CRITIQUE. THERE MAY BE ENOUGH SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO HAVE TWO CRITIQUES, BUT YOU WON'T GET AN EDITOR AND AN AGENT. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE ON YOUR REGISTRATION FORM. IF YOU ARE BRAND NEW TO WRITING FOR CHILDREN, YOU MIGHT BE HAPPIER CHOOSING AN AUTHOR FOR YOUR CRITIQUE.

FOLLOW THE CRITERIA FOR EACH CRITIQUER AND MAIL YOUR MANUSCRIPT WHEN YOU REGISTER. Please make sure that your manuscript is polished and ready. Also, please choose the best possible person for your critique; you don't want to choose an editor or author who does not offer to 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 from 3-5 (it is okay to leave your critique group for your individual meeting). 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 your manuscript in an envelope. ***Sorry, no refunds for critiques.***

Suz Blackaby: (16) Picture books, early chapter books, EZ readers, poetry

Emma Dryden: (10) I would like to receive a cover letter, one-page (single spaced, 12 pt type) synopsis (if a work of fiction); and the complete MS for a picture book (double spaced, 12 pt type) or the first 10 pages of a novel (double spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt type). I will critique picture books, poetry, MGF and YAF.

Karen Grecnik: (16) I do prefer fiction, PB through YA. No dystopia, high fantasy, or science fiction, please! Will read the full PB or the first 10 pages of a longer manuscript.

Ellen Hopkins: (16) Will critique anything (including nonfiction); prefer no more than 10 pp plus synopsis of longer works.

Michele Torrey: (16) Fiction only: chapter books, middle-grade and YA novels. Please no non-fiction, no picture books or beginning readers. Submission must include a one page synopsis (single-spaced), and first two chapters (double-spaced), not to exceed twenty pages in total.

**MAIL YOUR MANUSCRIPT/S WHEN YOU REGISTER!
Robin Koontz / PO Box 336 / Noti, OR 97461**

Go here to register: www.formstack.com/forms/?1093912-UmYjVyNjUJ