



REGISTRATION STARTS OCTOBER 15, 2011

March 31st at Merrell Center
8:00am – 6:00pm
6301 S. Stadium Lane
Katy, Texas 77494-1057

www.merrellcenter.org

Join us for -

- Amazing speakers including editors, author, art director, and agents
- One-on-one manuscript critique sessions with speakers and local authors
- Portfolio critiques and showcase
- Selection of Joan Lowery Nixon finalists (*winner mentored by Newbery Honor Winner, Kathi Appelt*)
- Book signings
- Mexican dinner social
- Silent Auction
- Door prizes
- Opportunities to network

Check out the chapter website for updates and information.

www.scbwi-houston.org

2012 Speakers



Dan Yaccarino, Author-Illustrator

Dan Yaccarino, designated by *Animation Magazine* as “an American original,” lives in New York City with his wife and two children, creating quirky characters in a studio full of vintage toys. Known for contributions to Parent's Choice Award-winning *Oswald* (Nick Jr), Emmy-winning *Willa's Wild Life* (NBC), and character designs for *The Backyardigans* (Nickelodeon), he has created illustrated books, toys, and games. *Time Magazine* called his animated television series about the whimsical world of a lovable octopus one of the top six shows to watch on cable. His books, translated into many languages, have given him a world-wide following and earned an ALA Notable award as well as inclusion on the New York Times 10 Best Illustrated list. In addition, Dan's bold, stylized illustrations add wit and energy to the work of such prestigious authors as Margaret Wise Brown, Jack Prelutsky, Kevin Henkes and Patricia MacLachlan.



Jennifer Rofé, Literary Agent Andrea Brown Literary Agency, Inc.

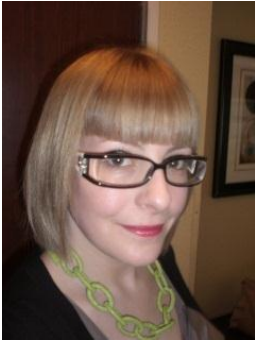
Jennifer handles children's fiction projects ranging from picture books to young adult. Middle grade is Jennifer's soft spot and she's open to all genres in this category, especially the tender or hilarious.

Jennifer is co-author of the picture book *Piggies in the Pumpkin Patch* (Charlesbridge). She has been on faculty at Andrea Brown for several conferences including the Pacific Northwest Writers Association and San Diego State University conferences, the Big Sur Writer's Workshop, and multiple SCBWI conferences. Jennifer earned a BA in English with a minor in Social and Ethnic Relations from UC Davis and has a background in secondary education.



Susan Sherman, Art Director Charlesbridge Publishing

Susan received a bachelor of fine arts from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1974 and a master of liberal arts degree in archeology from Harvard University in 2002. She has been designing children's books since 1977. Presently Art Director at Charlesbridge Publishing, in Massachusetts, she has been Art Director of Children's Trade Books at Houghton Mifflin, Creative Director at Little, Brown and Company, as well as running her own graphic design business, Ars Agassiz. She has taught at the Radcliffe Publishing Program, has been a member of the Rhode Island School of Design's Illustration Department Thesis Review committee, and has given workshops on children's book illustration at the University of Southern Maine. Susan has worked with Caldecott winners David Macaulay (*Black and White* and several others), Allen Say (*The Boy of the Three-Year Nap*), and Chris Van Allsburg (*Polar Express* and others). She has also worked with David McPhail on his recent Pig Pig books.



**Heather Alexander, Editor
Dial Books for Young Readers**

Heather Alexander has been at Dial Books for Young Readers for four years. In that time, she has edited the Charlie and Lola series, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* by Laurel Long, *Manners Mash-up: A Goofy Guide to Good Behavior*, the novels *Circle of Cranes* by Annette LeBox and *My Family for the War* by Anne C. Voorhoeve. She is currently hard at work with a new thriller writer. She loves innovative ideas and bold concepts and is looking for silly picture books with heart, high concept YA, sci-fi for all ages, or anything featuring the mob or a good heist, and realistic middle-grade. She does *not* love paranormal romance, but does enjoy a good paranormal horror story (yes to ghosts and beasts, but no to kissing them).



**Jenne Abramowitz, Senior Editor
Scholastic**

Jenne Abramowitz is a Senior Editor at Scholastic, where she acquires chapter book and middle grade fiction, as well as easy readers. She has had the pleasure of working with authors Marion Dane Bauer, Pam Muñoz Ryan, and Natasha Wing. Jenne's current projects include *Ghost Buddy*, a hilarious new middle grade series by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver, *Gus Gets Scared* and other easy readers in the series by Frank Remkiewicz, and the forthcoming chapter book series *Starring Jules* by Beth Ain.



**Kathleen Ortiz, Subsidiary Rights Director and Literary Agent
Nancy Coffey Literary Agency & Media Representation**

Kathleen is interested in acquiring all genres of YA (she especially gravitates to darker YA and would especially love a smart techno-thriller or cyberpunk), and darker middle grade for older kids (especially in the vein of *Labyrinth*). She is also interested in smart non-fiction for teens with a technology slant. Anything with a strong multimedia tie-in is something she wants to see, though it must be in the DNA of the project and the author must have the means to execute them.

She also loves chai, Disney princesses (and *Tangled*). She represents Jaime Reed's *Living Violet* (Kensington), Dawn Rae Miller's *Larkstorm*, a Disney animator and a few more projects to be announced in January 2012.



**Connie Hsu, Editor,
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers**

Connie Hsu, Editor, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, works with a wide range of books. Acquisitions include YA/graphic novel *Happyface*, hilarious MG novel *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*, and a Booker T. Washington picture book to be illustrated by award-winning artist Bryan Collier. Upcoming projects include Salina Yoon's *Kaleidoscope*, Tad Carpenter's *I Say, You Say* board book series, and two picture books by Dan Santat. Picture book/novelty list includes works by Samantha Berger, Elise Broach, Rachael Hale, Kathy Jakobsen, Jim McMullan, Scott Menchin, and Karma Wilson, and her middle grade authors include R.A. Spratt, Gitty Daneshvari (*School of Fear*), and Diana Lopez (*Confetti Girl*). She is currently focusing on acquiring novelty projects, picture books, middle grade, and select young adult fiction. She is drawn to hilarious and/or dark humored PB and MG, and to YA projects that lend themselves to

Houston's Very Own!

If this is the first *professional* critique for a particular manuscript, consider registering for a critique with one of our featured authors. They can give you pointers for making your manuscript publishable and save you from sending in a manuscript before it's ready to catch the attention of an editor or agent. *And remember, as a conference attendee you will be able to submit to the editors and agents after the conference when you have had time to polish your story.*

Non Fiction



Ana María Rodríguez writes nonfiction for children and adults. Her favorite topics include science, nature, cultures, and biographies. Some of her books are on the Best Books List of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and have received awards by School Librarians International. She has about 85 magazine articles published. "The Children Who Fought Smallpox", published in *Highlights for Children* received the magazine's History Feature of the Year Award 2000. Her latest books include the *Animal Secrets Revealed!* series and *Autism and Asperger Syndrome*. A new series about animals living in extreme environments will be available on January 2012. Her first teen and up memoir, *The Iron Butterfly*, was released on March 2011. Check her website at www.anamariarodriguez.com for details on her books, blogs, and presentations.

Middle Grade / Young Adult



Sherry Garland is the critically acclaimed author of thirty books for children, teens and adults. In addition to winning over forty awards and honors, her books have appeared on the Reading Rainbow TV program and on HBO. She has spoken at schools and conferences throughout the United States and traveled to Asia three times to speak at international schools. Before becoming an author, she worked in university libraries for many years.



Joy Preble writes YA fiction. Her novels are *Dreaming Anastasia* (Sourcebooks), its sequel, *Haunted* (Sourcebooks), the forthcoming *Again and Again* (Sourcebooks, Fall 2012) and *The Sweet Dead Life* (Soho Press, 2013). A former high school English teacher, Joy now writes full time. Visit her at www.joypreble.com.



Sara Cloots, a graduate of Rice University and the Columbia Publishing Course, began her publishing career as a reporter for *The Kingwood Observer* newspaper. After serving as an intern at Bloomsbury Children's Books, she worked four and a half years as an editor at Greenwillow Books where her editing ranged from board books through novels for young (and not-so-young) adult readers. Titles include Wendy Lichtman's *Do the Math: The Writing on the Wall*; Nancy Winslow Parker's *Organs!: How They Work, Fall Apart, and Can Be Replaced (Gasp!)*; Amy Brecount White's *Forget-Her-Nots*; and Deborah Underwood's *A Balloon for Isabel*, illustrated by Laura Rankin. A frequent speaker at SCBWI events, Sarah has worked freelance since 2009 through her own writing and publishing consulting company, ClootsAmini.com.

Picture Book



Kathy Duval is the author of *The Three Bears' Halloween* and *The Three Bears' Christmas* (Holiday House) which received a starred review in *Booklist* and was selected as a Bank Street Best Book of the Year. Upcoming is, *I Think I See A UFO* (Disney Hyperion, Spring, 2012). Her poetry appears in the anthologies, *I Invited A Dragon to Dinner* (Philomel) and *Ladybug, Ladybug and Other Favorite Poems* (Cricket Magazine Group).



Warren Hanson has written and/or illustrated 26 books for children and adults, including NYT Bestseller *A Cup of Christmas Tea*. Some of Warren's other books are *The Next Place*, *Kiki's Hats*, *Raising You Alone*, *Bugtown Boogie*, *Reading with Dad*, the popular *Peef* books, and many more. His most recent titles are *The Sea of Sleep* and *Today's Special*. Warren has many years of experience with large and small publishers. He lives in Spring, Texas.

Joan Lowery Nixon Memorial Award

The Joan Lowery Nixon Memorial Award was established to honor the writer who so generously shared her time and talents with our members. Joan volunteered to mentor a writer whose manuscript submitted for the SCBWI-Houston conference was deemed nearest publication. Following Joan's death in 2003, Kathi Appelt, Newbery honor winner for *The Underneath*, graciously took over the role of mentor.

Each speaker will choose one manuscript that they think is closest to publication. Kathi Appelt will select one of the seven manuscripts and mentor the writer for a year. This is an incredible opportunity! To learn more about the Kathi, please visit www.kathiappelt.com.

Critiques

Critiques are available to registered participants on a first come first serve basis. Please see the registration form for critique categories and fees.

For each critique please submit one piece, up to 10 pages. Include a cover letter (no longer than a half page) addressed to the person who is critiquing your manuscript. If submitting a young adult or middle grade manuscript, please include a synopsis (limited to one page). The synopsis and cover letter are in addition to the 10 pages. Your submission should be in standard manuscript format. Formatting guidelines can be found at www.scbwi.org. Each session is twelve minutes of one-on-one face time.

Register early to secure your slots. All manuscripts **must be postmarked by February 13, 2012**. After this date, no manuscripts can be accepted and NO REFUNDS can be given. Instructions for sending manuscripts will be included with your confirmation.

Portfolio Critiques

The portfolio can be leather or vinyl with page sizes from 8"x10"-11"x14." It should contain no more than 10-15 representational pieces of your BEST artwork and any dummies that you may wish to show. If you are bringing a book dummy, remember to attach it to your portfolio.

Remember **NO ORIGINAL ARTWORK** should be included in your portfolio. Have high-quality color copies of your art in your portfolio instead. Please label all artwork as well as the portfolio case.

Do NOT send your portfolio in advance; bring it to the conference. You will receive your critique time at morning registration. Further instructions regarding portfolio critiques and portfolio contest will be emailed to you by the Illustrator Coordinator.

New for 2012!!

Silent Auction

2012 brings SCBWI-Houston's first Silent Art Auction! All proceeds go towards future SCBWI illustrator events, but you don't have to be an illustrator or SCBWI member to participate. This year the challenge is to decorate a birdhouse with a literary theme. (Children's book title, character, theme, literacy, love of books, etc.) There are no restrictions to medium or alterations (3d elements) made to the birdhouses. Keep in mind these are for decoration purposes only, so do not worry about your designs being weather/animal-proof. Feel free to sign your house so the editor, art director, agent, author or illustrator who wins your *objets d'art* knows who the creator is!

To sign up as an auction participant, be sure to mark Silent Auction on the Registration Form. Birdhouses will be provided by SCBWI-Houston, and will be available for pick-up at the monthly meetings. If you cannot attend the meetings, feel free to purchase a birdhouse on your own from Michael's (or another craft store) as they are only around four or five dollars. SCBWI can reimburse you if needed. For further questions, please email Illustrator Coordinator, Diandra Mae at scbwi.hic@gmail.com.

Sunday Intensives

Also new this year, The Houston Regional Conference will offer two Sunday Intensives, one for authors and one for illustrators. The intensives will be held the day after the conference on April 1st from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Hilton Garden Hotel. Yes, that's April Fool's day, but we won't be fooling around about this! It'll be a great way to finish up a weekend dedicated to growing your craft!

The author track will be moderated by Heather Alexander and is limited to the first 60 who sign up. Heather's intensive is called *Voice Lessons: Making Your Manuscript Sing*. It will include exercises about the difference between authentic and inauthentic sounding voice in both narration and dialogue.

The illustrator track will be moderated by Dan Yaccarino and is limited to the first 30 who sign up. Dan's intensive will be open to both authors and illustrators and is called: *From Inspiration to Publication: The Essentials of A Picture Book Dummy*.

You'll find pricing information for the intensives on the registration sheet. Additional information will be provided later should you sign up for an intensive.

Please note: *while there will be coffee and water in the conference rooms, meals will not be provided for the Sunday intensives.*

Lodging

Hotel rooms are available at the Hilton Garden Inn. They are located at 2409 Texmati Drive, Katy, Texas, 77494. The conference rate is \$109/night (*includes complimentary hot breakfast*). To book a room, please call 281-644-2400. A block of rooms will be held under "Writers Conference." The conference rate is available until March 16, 2012.

Mexican Dinner Social

There will be a social/Mexican dinner immediately following the conference on Saturday night. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, just minutes from the Merrell Center at 2409 Texmati Drive, Katy, Texas 77494. The cost is \$20 and includes appetizers, dinner, dessert and ice tea. Sodas and alcoholic beverages are extra and can be purchased separately that evening. There is limited seating and will be given to the first 100 participants who register for conference and send in payment.

Questions

If you have questions, please email:

Vicki Sansum, Houston Regional Advisor
vsansum@earthlink.net
or

Millie Martin, Assistant Regional Advisor and Conference Co-Chair
millieTmartin@gmail.com
or

Diandra Mae, Illustrator Coordinator
scbwi.hic@gmail.com
or

Mary Wade, Conference Co-Chair and Registrar
maryDwade@aol.com
or

Linda Leschak, Conference Co-Chair
linda@laleschak.com

Conference Schedule

8:00 - 8:30	Registration and breakfast
8:30 - 8:45	Opening remarks
8:45 - 9:35	Dan Yaccarino, Author / Illustrator
9:35 - 10:25	Jennifer Rofé, Literary Agent - Andrea Brown Literary Agency, Inc.
10:25 - 10:40	Break (there will be door prizes during the last few minutes of the break)
10:40 - 11:10	Susan Sherman, Art Director - Charlesbridge Publishing
11:10- 12:00	Heather Alexander, Editor - Dial Books for Young Readers
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch, networking, portfolio viewing, book sales, silent auction & door prizes
1:15 - 2:05	Jenne Abramowitz, Scholastic
1.15 - 2:55	Breakout session for illustrators with Susan Sherman
2:05 - 2:55	Kathleen Ortiz - Nancy Coffey Literary Agency & Media Representation
2:55 - 3:15	Break and more door prizes
3:15 - 4:05	Connie Hsu, Editor - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
4:05 - 4:35	Panel Discussion with agents and editors
4:35 - 4:50	Announcements - JLN Award and Volunteer of the Year
4:50 - 5:05	Dan Yaccarino, Author / Illustrator
5:05 - 5:15	Closing Remarks
5:15 - 6:00	Autograph session with Authors
6:15 →	Dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn (reservation required)
9:00 - 12:00	Optional Sunday Intensives (separate from the conference)

Registration Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please specify if you are an: Author: _____ Illustrator: _____ Author/Illustrator: _____

Registration Fees:

Early Bird National SCBWI Member (postmarked by January 9th)	\$110	\$ _____
Early Bird Non-member (postmarked by January 9th)	\$135	\$ _____
National SCBWI Member (postmarked <u>after</u> January 9th)	\$125	\$ _____
Non-members (postmarked <u>after</u> January 9th)	\$150	\$ _____

Please circle lunch choice (cost included in registration fee): Lasagna (meat) Spinach Lasagna

Houston Faculty Manuscript Critiques - \$20 per 12 minute session - Limit 1/genre: \$ _____

Please number in the accordance of preference within each genre - 1st, 2nd choice

Non fiction: Ana Maria Rodriguez _____
Middle grade/Young adult: Sherry Garland _____ Joy Preble _____ Sara Cloots _____
Picture book: Kathy Duval _____ Warren Hanson _____

Speaker Manuscript Critiques - \$35 per 12 minute session - Limit 1: \$ _____

Please number in the accordance of preference - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th choice

Dan Yaccarino* _____ Jennifer Rofé _____ Heather Alexander _____
 Kathleen Ortiz _____ Connie Hsu _____ Jenne Abramowitz _____

*Picture book text and/or picture book dummy

Portfolio Critiques with Susan Sherman - \$35 per 12 minute session - Limit 1: \$ _____

Manuscripts must be postmarked by Feb 13th. After this date, no manuscripts can be accepted and no refunds can be given. Instructions for submitting manuscripts will be included with your confirmation.

Mexican Dinner at Garden Hilton - \$20 (Immediately following conference): \$ _____

Sunday Intensive - Please indicate: Dan Yaccarino _____ Heather Alexander _____

National SCBWI Member	\$40	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$50	\$ _____
Intensive only (non-conference attendee)	\$60	\$ _____

Grand Total: \$ _____

Mail registration form & check (payable to Houston SCBWI): Postmark your ten page manuscript by Feb 13 to:

Mary Wade
 17522 Brushy River Ct.
 Houston TX 77095

Maria Ashworth
 5818 Calico Crossing Lane
 Katy, TX 77450

Check here if you will be decorating a birdhouse for the Silent Art Auction _____

**Cancellations for the conference on or before March 23rd will be subject to a \$25 cancellation fee.
 Cancellations for the conference after March 23rd will not be refunded.**