Bentonville’s Inaugural
Youth Literature Festival
Bentonville, Arkansas

Saturday - May 2, 2015

Events Hosted at Bentonville Public Library
Musical Presentations | Summer Reading Sign Up | Authors
Illustrators | Giveaways | Workshops | Storytime | Crafts

For All Ages | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Children’s Book Week Poster & Tote Bag Giveaway
Free Comic Book Giveaway
— while supplies last
Free Comic Book Day Raffle—prizes awarded @ 4:00 p.m.
Photoshoot Opportunities—photographer not included
Sidewalk Chalk Art
Summer Reading Club Sign Up Station

For Youth | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Superhero Crafts (Kids & Teens)
Superhero Costume Contest—12:00 p.m. (Kids & Teens)
Superhero Training Camp (Preschool/Early Elementary)

10:00 a.m. Read Aloud Area (Preschool)
Trike Theatre’s Dramatic Book Club presents Jack’s Garden by Henry Cole

11:00 a.m. Walmart Community Room (Elementary/Middle School)
Children’s Book Illustrator Rich Davis presents Draw Your Own Comic Workshop*?

12:00 p.m. Rotary Room (Teen)
Young Adult Author Karen Akins presents a writing workshop*

12:30 p.m. Walmart Community Room (Adult/Teen)
Graphic Novelist Sean Fitzgibbon presentation

1:00 p.m. Read Aloud Area (Family/All Ages)
Local Author Book Readings including popular character Geronimo Stilton

1:30 p.m. Walmart Community Room (Adult/Teen)
Graphic Novelist Sean Fitzgibbon Beginning Illustrator Workshop*

3:00 p.m. Walmart Community Room (Family/All Ages)
Storybook Strings, a string quartet, presents musical interpretations of popular children’s literature.

* Registration is required and limited for marked events. Register online at http://tinyurl.com/bplylf2015

405 South Main Street | 479.271.6816 | www.bentonvillelibrary.org
Register online beginning March 20 at http://tinyurl.com/bplylf2015

- Online registration is required.
- Children and adults welcome, minimum age requirement 1st grade.
- Registrants may request author/illustrator presentations they wish to attend.
- Choices will be honored whenever possible.
- Scheduling will be completed in order of registration receipt.
- Registration is limited to the number of festival attendees who can be assigned to the author/illustrator scheduled sessions.

#### Featured Authors and Illustrators

- Karen Akins
- Mary Casanova
- Henry Cole
- Rich Davis
- Sean Fitzgibbon
- Cheryl Harness
- Ard Hoyt
- E.B. Lewis
- Kashmira Sheth
- Obert Skye
- Marie Smith
- Roland Smith
- Janet Wong

Karen Akins — Author @ BPL

Karen Akins writes humorous, light sci-fi for young adults and the young in spirit. When not writing or reading, she loves lightsaber dueling with her two sons and forcing her husband to watch BBC shows with her.

Karen has been many things in her life: an archery instructor, drummer for the shortest-lived garage band in history, and a shockingly bad tic-tac-toe player.

—from www.goodreads.com

Mary Casanova — Author

Mary Casanova is an award-winning children’s author of novels and picture books. Much of her work stems from her life on the Minnesota-Canadian border yet, increasingly, Casanova’s research takes her as far away as France and Norway. Wherever her stories are set, Casanova engages readers of all ages with stories that both entertain and challenge readers.

Her honors include two Minnesota Book Awards, a Fellowship in Literature by the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, and Career Opportunity Grants by the Minnesota State Arts Board. Nationally, her book awards include: American Library Association “Notable,” Aesop Accolades by the American Folklore Society, Parents’ Choice “Gold” Award, Booklist Editor Choice, and others. Voted on by children, her books frequently land on state children’s book award lists across the country. Mary recently received the George Morrison Artist Award in “recognition of her creative contributions to the genre of Young Adult Literature, often celebrating northern Minnesota, while impacting readers worldwide.”

—from www.childrensliteratenetwork.org

Henry Cole — Author/Illustrator

Henry Cole grew up on a dairy farm outside Purcellville, Virginia. Always interested in art and science, he studied forestry at Virginia Tech. He is a self-taught artist, although his mother was a professional illustrator and gave him many pointers along the way. His education required him to study nature closely, and his observation of such details helped him with his drawing. Henry worked in a number of jobs, including magazine illustration, and for sixteen years taught elementary grade science classes. He now lives in Washington D.C., and on the island of Aruba.

—from www.harpercollins.com

Rich Davis — Illustrator @ BPL

I have been an artist of Arkansas for the last 23 years. Currently I am in business for myself as an artist. My services include: Children’s book artist and writer; Freelance art for greeting cards, magazines and other publications; Children’s presenter at schools and libraries nationwide. My passion is to invigorate the God-given gift of creativity and imagination in all it’s many forms in all people that I meet and work with. I am committed in my work to help kids continue to grow creatively and reinvigorate many to return to creating that have told themselves that they “can’t do it.”

—from www.arkansasarts.org
Featured Authors and Illustrators
Karen Akins | Mary Casanova | Henry Cole | Rich Davis
Sean Fitzgibbon | Cheryl Harness | Ard Hoyt | E.B. Lewis
Kashmira Sheth | Obert Skye | Marie Smith | Roland Smith | Janet Wong

Sean Fitzgibbon — Graphic Novelist @ BPL

Sean Fitzgibbon is an artist and illustrator. He currently exhibits work on the east coast and in the Midwest. He has illustrated books and is currently illustrating a documentary-style graphic novel that chronicles the Norman Baker years (1938-1939), the darkest years of the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs, AR. Other work includes Small Wonders and DomestiCATed: Paths Once Crossed. —from www.amazon.com

Cheryl Harness — Author/Illustrator

I came into the world in Maywood, California, because that’s where my mom was on July 6, 1951. I grew up reading Mrs. Wilder’s tales of Laura & Mary and Maud Hart Lovelace’s books about Betsy & Tacy. Nowadays I live and work in my hometown, Independence, MO, the Queen City of the Trails.

My working life began with an art education at University of Central Missouri. Instead of teaching in classrooms, I ended up doing artwork in cubicles at Hallmark Cards, in KC, MO; Sunset Designs, a needlework kit company in California; and at Current, Inc., in Colorado Springs.

Going to Uri Shulevitz’ children’s book summer class in 1984 gave me the courage to pack up my portfolio and go to New York City for a few days in 1985 to show editors my willingness to illustrate their books. Four years and ten books later I quit my day job for the freelancing life. Books I did: the illustrations, then the words as well.

Along the way I found a feel for American History. Really, it was there all along, thanks to Laura Ingalls. —from www.cherylharness.com

Ard Hoyt — Illustrator

Ard Hoyt was born in Temple, Texas and raised on picture books. From a very early age he discovered that even though he wasn’t allowed to cross the street, he could go anywhere in a picture book. He fell in love with the worlds created by Robert Lawson, Steven Kellogg and H.A. Rey. This freedom grew to include his own pictures. Before long Ard discovered that with a white sheet of paper he could change the weather. He knew that he wanted to be a children’s book illustrator and dreamed of one day having a book with his name on it next to the great ones.

Ard graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California in 2001 and has illustrated over 25 children’s books since including two New York Times Best Sellers (I’m a Manatee by John Litchgow and The Hair of Zoe Fleefenbacher Goes to School by Laurie Halse Anderson). Ard hopes that you can open up one of his picture books and travel to a different world, just as he does. Enjoy! —from www.ardhoytbooks.com

E.B. Lewis — Illustrator

Earl Bradley (E.B.) Lewis was born on December 16, 1956, in Philadelphia, PA. Lewis began taking art classes while he was still in elementary school and developed an interest in watercolor. He studied graphic design, illustration, and art education at Temple University. After graduation, Lewis taught art in public schools for 12 years, while continuing to work on his own paintings.

E.B. Lewis’s interests in fine arts, illustration, and art education led him to coin the term “artistrator” to describe his work. As a children’s illustrator, Lewis has contributed beautiful watercolors to The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson, Fire on the Mountain by Jane Kurtz, Down the Road by Alice Schertle, and many other titles. Lewis’s Illustrations, which have been described as “simply stunning” and “uniquely captivating” have earned him the Coretta Scott King Award and a Caldecott Honor.

E.B. Lewis still juggles his illustration projects with his fine arts work — many of his paintings are in private collections and museums. —from www.readingrockets.org

Kashmira Sheth — Author

Kashmira Sheth grew up in Bhavangar, Gujarat for eight years. When she was three she joined Montessori school. She lived with her grandparents because her parents lived in Mumbai, which is three hundred miles away from Bhavangar.

At eight years Sheth, left Bhavangar for Mumbai. She did her studying there until she was seventeen. She left Mumbai to go to college in Ames, Iowa to do her BS at Iowa State University. Many people ask her why she chose Iowa. “I chose Iowa State, because my uncle worked there as a professor.” is the answer.

She is the author of seven books, two of them are picture books, called My Dadima Wears a Sari and Monsoon Rains. She has three books meant for teens.

Kashmira Sheth now lives with her two daughters, Neha and Rupa, and her husband in Madison, Wisconsin. —from www.goodreads.com

Obert Skye — Author

Obert Skye read his first book at age two. He wrote his first story at age four. And he was nearly trampled by a herd of water buffalo at age six. For a short time, he lived on the Isle of Skye in Scotland, where he spent time as a candy-taster. Several years ago, Obert Skye says, he discovered the existence of Foo. Publishing his story as a fictional series was not Obert’s first choice. Nevertheless he is content that the “history” is being told.

Hobbies and other interests: Collecting old maps, water polo, and roller coasters. —from www.goodreads.com
Marie Smith — Author

Author Marie Smith was born and raised in Oregon. She lives on a small farm outside of Portland that she shares with a horse, a goat, two dogs, two cats, and another author, Roland Smith. Together Marie and Roland have written five alphabet books (published by Sleeping Bear Press). Besides visiting schools and writing, she spends time traveling across the country visiting her four grandchildren. —from www.sleepingbearpress.com

Roland Smith — Author

Born in Portland, Oregon, Roland Smith knew what career path he wanted to take at an early age. When he was five years old, he received an old manual typewriter from his parents that quickly became his favorite possession. Roland’s passion for writing unexpectedly led him to working with animals. While pursuing an English major at Portland State University, Roland took a part-time job at the local children’s zoo. Little did he know that his part-time job would lead to a twenty-year career with the zoo and that his work with animals would take him all over the world.

Over the years, Roland has written numerous books for young readers, including Jack’s Run, Zach’s Lie, Cryptid Hunters, Peak, Tentacles, and the Storm Runners series. He is also the co-author of numerous picture books with his wife. His most recent novel is Shatterproof: Book 4 in the bestselling The 39 Clues: Cahills vs. Vespers series. Currently Roland is at work on the third book in his popular Cryptid Hunters series, Chupacabra.

A frequent speaker at schools and libraries across the country, Roland lives with his wife on a farm near Portland, Oregon. —from www.scholastic.com

Janet S. Wong — Author

Janet Wong was born in Los Angeles, CA, the daughter of a Chinese-immigrant father and a Korean-immigrant mother.

Janet’s first collection of poetry, Good Luck Gold, was published in 1994. Janet is the author of five collections of poetry and six picture books. Her poems have been reprinted in many textbooks and anthologies, as well as in some more unusual venues. “Albert J. Bell” from A Suitcase of Seaweed was selected to appear on 5,000 subway and bus posters as part of the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority’s “Poetry in Motion” program, and poems from Behind the Wheel have been featured on a car-talk radio show.

Janet’s awards include the International Reading Association’s “Celebrate Literacy Award,” for exemplary service in the promotion of literacy, and honors from the Claremont Graduate School and Penn State University. She also has been appointed to the Commission on Literature of the National Council of Teachers of English. —from www.scholastic.com