

# THE KERLAN COLLECTION

## Children's Literature Research Collections

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER | CO-SPONSORED BY THE KERLAN FRIENDS AND THE CLRC



### Betsy and Ted Lewin are awarded the 2016 Kerlan Award



The Kerlan Award is given by the Friends of the Kerlan Betsy and Ted Lewin, both Caldecott Honorees for separate books, have written and or illustrated over 250 picture books between them. They have also collaborated on six books that are the result of their world travels to wild places. Betsy grew up in Clearfield,

PA, and Ted in Buffalo, NY. Both entertained childhood dreams of travel to see the world's wild places. They are both graduates of Pratt Institute where they met, and together eventually made those dreams come true.

*Travels Across Six Continents* about their forty years of travel is available now. The Kerlan Collection holds materials from more than 80 Lewin titles.



*Gorilla Walk*

The Kerlan Award is given by the Friends of the Kerlan Collection of the Children's Literature Research Collections in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children's literature. The Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota is one of the world's great children's literature research collections. The Collection includes books, original manuscripts and illustrations, and many related materials. Teachers, librarians, students, authors, illustrators, translators, and critics who come from Minnesota and other states as well as from countries around the world study the materials in the Collection.



*Click, Clack, Quackity-Quack*

Betsy has just finished illustrating the 8th in the Click, Clack, Moo series and is now at work on another. Ted has just won a national award

for excellence in young reader literature for his book *Look!* And both have been inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame.

Their collaboration for a new book titled *How To Babysit A Leopard, and other True Stories From Our*

#### Kerlan Award Luncheon and Ceremony

**When:** Saturday April 30, 2016  
12 noon Luncheon  
1:00 p.m. Award ceremony (Open to the public)

**Where:** Elmer L. Andersen Library

For ticket information, visit: <http://z.umn.edu/kerlan16>



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**2015-2016 Kerlan Friends Board Members**

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The Children’s Literature Research Collection’s Kerlan Collection is an internationally recognized center of research in the field of children’s literature. The Collection contains original materials, including manuscripts, artwork, galleys, and color proofs for more than 18,000 children’s books. These materials represent eight decades of American children’s books and selected titles published in other countries. The Kerlan Collection also includes more than 110,000 children’s books.

The Winter 2016 newsletter is co-sponsored by the Kerlan Friends and the CLRC.

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 Ribsy illustration by Louis Darling for *Henry and Beezus* by Beverly Cleary



# Kerlan Friends Update



Mary Schultz

Friends care for one another. As a Kerlan Friend, and a member of the Kerlan Friends Board, I began taking part in events, visiting with authors, editors, and illustrators whom I had previously known only on the pages of books. I inhaled their lectures, asked profound questions and came away on fire. On First Fridays, while balancing lunch on my knee, stories about contested spaces within the contents of the caverns awed and amazed me. All of this was a great, one sided friendship.

As a St. Paul teacher working with students who are deaf/hard of hearing and as an adjunct faculty working with graduate students in Special Education/ Deaf Education at the University of Minnesota, children’s literature was a common thread that inspired students’ learning. Whether I was preparing to read with a preschooler using *My Hands* by Alikei, or for graduate students to engage in an animated discussion of *Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco, children’s literature became the foundation for establishing strong teaching and life long learning. I have now retired, but want to see other teachers and librarians kindle this passion. These days, you can find me volunteering in the fish bowl on the 3rd floor assisting in processing materials that will be archived. I am also preparing to use the archives to develop a program that will allow researchers access to materials in CLRC based on the medium and style of illustrations. I would invite you to nurture your friendship and get involved with Kerlan Friends. You can still “go wild” over Peter Brown at the Chase Lecture and “safari” with Betsy and Ted Lewin at the Kerlan Award Luncheon, but I would also invite you to make this a two way friendship. I hope you become a Kerlan Friend today.

## Kerlan Collection materials on display at the Twin Cities Book Festival



## From the Curator's Desk: Lisa Von Drasek

Most Kerlan Friends know that the Children's Literature Research Collections loans materials for exhibits world-wide. Art from *Leo the Late Bloomer* is presently being shown in Paris, France. Images from the Paul Bunyan Collection resided at the Walker for a time. Reproductions of the art in Tenggren's *Arabian Nights* had an audience in Saudi Arabia. A recent exhibition at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis featured Minnesota artist Betsy Bowen's original woodblock prints from *The Troll with No Heart in His Body*.

What most Friends do not know is that we hold full sets of original art for picture books. If a publisher would like to do a reprint, given improvements in digital technology, re-imaging the original art makes sense to produce the most clean and crisp illustrations. Most recently we loaned the art of Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona* to Simon and Schuster. The fortieth anniversary edition looks spectacular. Check out a sneak peek of the art on the back page.

Many of us have noticed the trend in adult coloring books. Ruth Heller was a pioneer of the form. See page 5.



Gustaf Tenggren's *Arabian Nights* exhibited as part of the Imagine Children's Book Festival, King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia, October 27, 2015

## 2015 Hollinshead Scholar

The Hollinshead Research Grant is made possible by the generous gift of Marilyn Hollinshead. The 2015 Fellow is Lindsey Wyckoff, Bank Street College of Education's Archivist & Special Collections Librarian. Ms. Wyckoff requested the grant to explore manuscripts, art, and correspondence of founding members of the Bank Street Writers Lab.

We asked Ms. Wyckoff if there were any unexpected discoveries during her research. She reported back:

*"I found such useful material for the research that I'm doing on the influence of the Bank Street Writers Lab. Edith Thacher and Clement Hurd's correspondence was fascinating. Digging in to their correspondence with Ursula Nordstrom and Margaret Wise Brown provided insight that I would not otherwise have had*

*access to. Mentions of Lucy Sprague Mitchell (Bank Street's Founder) early on were not surprising to me, however I was surprised to see mentions of Bank Street by Clement, Edith, and Ursula Nordstrom well into the 1970s. This seems to attest to the impact Lucy and Bank Street continued to have on their work.*



Lindsey Wyckoff

*Clement's original art for Goodnight Moon and Bumble Bugs and Elephants is just stunning. That map that was originally present in the great green room in Goodnight Moon is just fascinating and I can't help but share in your conjecture that it pays homage in some small way to Margaret's experience in map making classes at the Cooperative School for Student Teachers."*



CLRC presents *That's Not Funny: Humor in Children's Books*, First Friday, April 1st at Noon. More info at: [www.continuum.umn.edu/event/first-fridays-april-2016](http://www.continuum.umn.edu/event/first-fridays-april-2016)



## Upcoming Events

### Happy 100th Birthday Ezra Jack Keats!



Ezra Jack Keats (1916-1983) was a pioneer in American children's literature. He based the lives of his multiracial characters on his childhood but added loving parents, friends and pets.

He wanted no child to be an outsider. "If we could see each other exactly as the other is," he wrote, "this would be a different

world." Ezra Jack Keats broke the color barrier in children's literature with the mainstream success of *The Snowy Day*, in 1962. He believed that all children should be able to see themselves in books they love. *The Snowy Day* was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1963, the most distinguished honor available for illustrated children's literature at the time. Peter appears in six more books, growing from a small boy in *The Snowy Day* to adolescence in *Pet Show!*

The techniques that give *The Snowy Day* its unique look—collage with cutouts of patterned paper, fabric and oilcloth; homemade snowflake stamps; splatterings of India ink with a toothbrush—were methods Ezra had

never used before. "I was like a child playing," he wrote of the creation process. "I was in a world with no rules."

Using the royalties from his books the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation builds on Keats's commitment to diversity in children's books through its programming. The Ezra Jack Keats Book Award, which recognizes emerging writers and illustrators whose books reflect our diverse culture. The Foundation also supports fellowships for the study of children's literature, including the The Ezra Jack Keats/Kerlan Memorial Fellowship

The Ezra Jack Keats/Kerlan Memorial Fellowship provides \$1,500 to a "talented writer and/or illustrator of children's books who wishes to use the Kerlan Collection for the furtherance of his or her artistic development."

This fellowship is intended to provide financial assistance for writers and illustrators who wish to use the original manuscripts, illustrations, and books of the Kerlan Collection in course of their professional development. Special consideration will be given to those who would find it difficult to finance a visit to the Kerlan Collection.

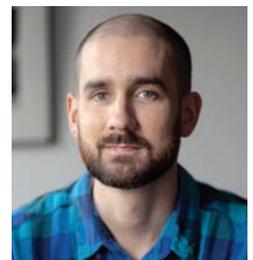
### 2016 Chase Lecture

Peter Brown has always loved using words and pictures to tell stories. When he took several children's book classes while studying illustration at Art Center College of Design, he knew that he had found his calling.

Since then, Peter has published over a dozen books for children. His books have earned him numerous honors, including a Caldecott Honor, two E.B. White Awards, a New York Times Best Illustrated Book award, a Children's Choice Award for Illustrator of the Year, and five NY Times Bestsellers. His titles include *My Teacher Is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)*, *Creepy Carrots!*, *Children Make Terrible Pets*, *The Curious Garden* and *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*. Join us if you are wild about Peter Brown's work or writing with pictures!

This annual event is free and open to the public.

Have questions about Naomi C. Chase Lecture 2016 "Peter Brown: Writing with Pictures"? Visit: <http://z.umn.edu/chase2016>



Peter Brown

#### 2016 Chase Lecture with Peter Brown

**When:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (CDT)

**Where:** Elmer L. Andersen Library,  
University of Minnesota, West Bank  
222 21st Ave. S., Rm 120, Minneapolis, MN 55455

### SAVE THE DATE

Andrea Davis Pinkney in Conversation with Lisa Von Drasek. The Loft Literary Center. Friday, May 6 – 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.



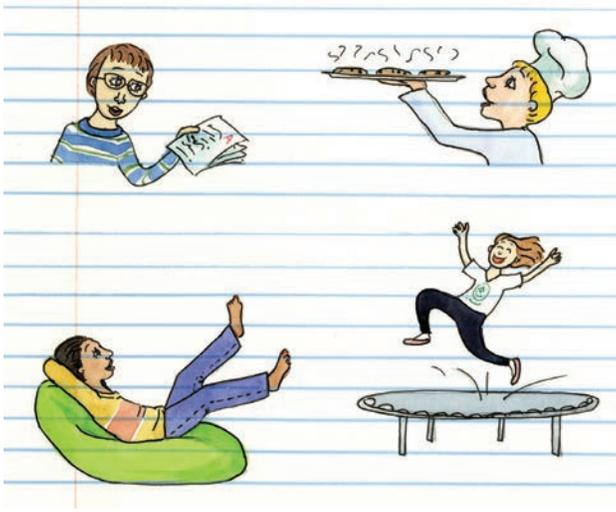


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## Recent Acquisitions

**Marissa Moss** sent illustrations for her book *Vote 4 Amelia* to add to her existing collection.



*Vote 4 Amelia* by Marissa Moss

**Debra Frasier** grew the size of her collection exponentially by dropping off two van loads of her artwork, documenting her notable career in children's literature, in preparation for her move out of Minnesota.

Picture book author **Toni Buzzeo** contributed typescripts, correspondence, and production material for several of her works, including *My Bibi Always Remembers* and *Just Like My Papa*.

Artist **Constance Bergum** donated her original illustrations for 13 children's books.



*Dancing with Katya* illustrated by Constance Bergum

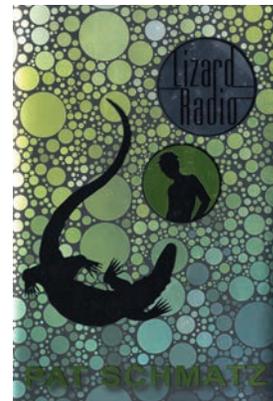
Meg Diskin, daughter of award-winning poet **Valerie Worth**, donated several boxes of her mother's writing.

Former Kerlan Friends board member and longtime donor **John Coy** added manuscripts to his collection for seven new titles.

Local novelist **Pat Schmatz** donated drafts and production material for her most recent work *Lizard Radio*.

**Donna Jo Napoli** sent a manuscript for her novel *Dark Shimmer*.

2016 Kerlan Award winners **Ted** and **Betsy Lewin** donated process artwork and books for five of their titles.



*Lizard Radio* by Pat Schmatz

**Ralph Fletcher** added typescripts, correspondence, dummies, and other materials for five works, including both picture and chapter books, to his existing collection.

Newbery-winner **Karen Hesse** sent typescripts and related material for *Brooklyn Bridge*, *Safekeeping*, and *Spuds*.

**Ellen Wittlinger** donated typescripts and correspondence for many of her short stories and novels.

## Become a Kerlan Friend!

Become a Kerlan Friend with an annual donation! There are four levels of membership:

Student (full-time)	\$10
Kerlan Friend	\$25
Kerlan Collector	\$100
Special Patron	\$1,000

Please consider buying a gift membership for someone else.

If you would like to become a Friend, donate online at [z.umn.edu/kerlanfriends](http://z.umn.edu/kerlanfriends).



## Remembering Vera B. Williams

“I think everyone who met Vera felt like she was suddenly an old friend.” Paul Zelinsky. No truer words were said. I was heartbroken when I heard that **Vera B. Williams** passed away on Friday, October 19, 2015. We had the good fortune to host her in Minnesota last year. Our condolences to her family, her friends and to all who loved, admired, and knew her from her books.

Her generosity was immense and her kindness abundant. She spoke for those who were without and encouraged those who were at a loss. It is true that she will live on in our hearts and minds.

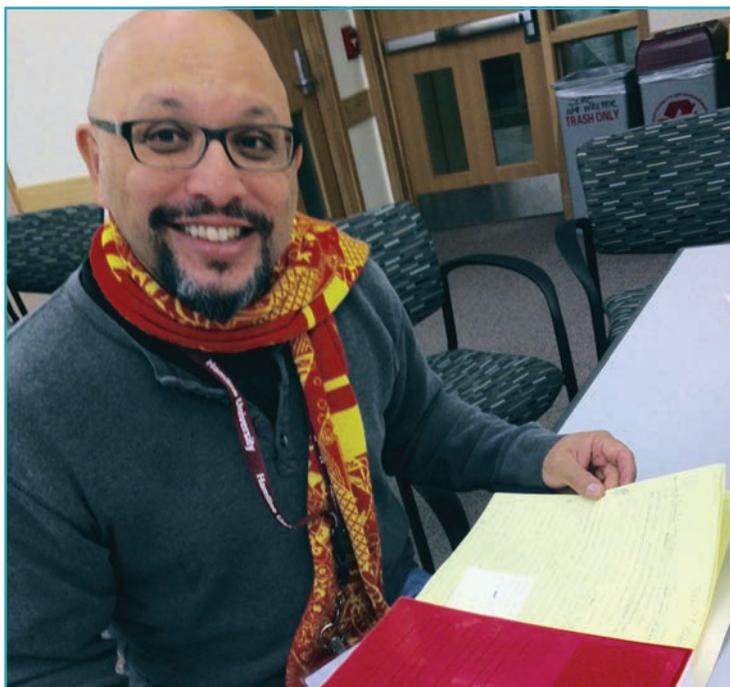


Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams

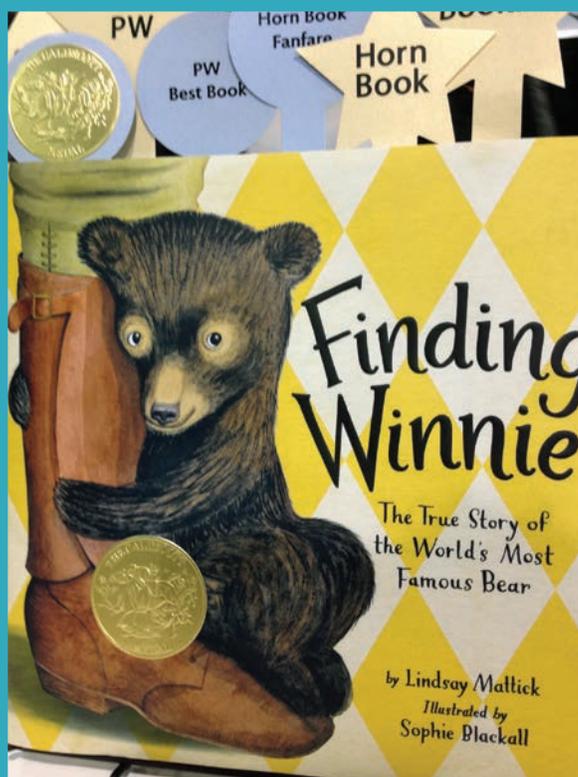


Vera B. Williams

Portrait of Vera courtesy of [www.DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org](http://www.DelawareValleyArtsAlliance.org)



**G. Neri**, faculty at the Hamline University MFA in Creative Writing and author of the middle-grade novel *Tru and Nelle*, based on the real-life friendship of Truman Capote and Nelle Harper Lee, explored our collection this January.



We congratulate children's book illustrator and donor Sophie Blackall her 2016 Caldecott Medal.





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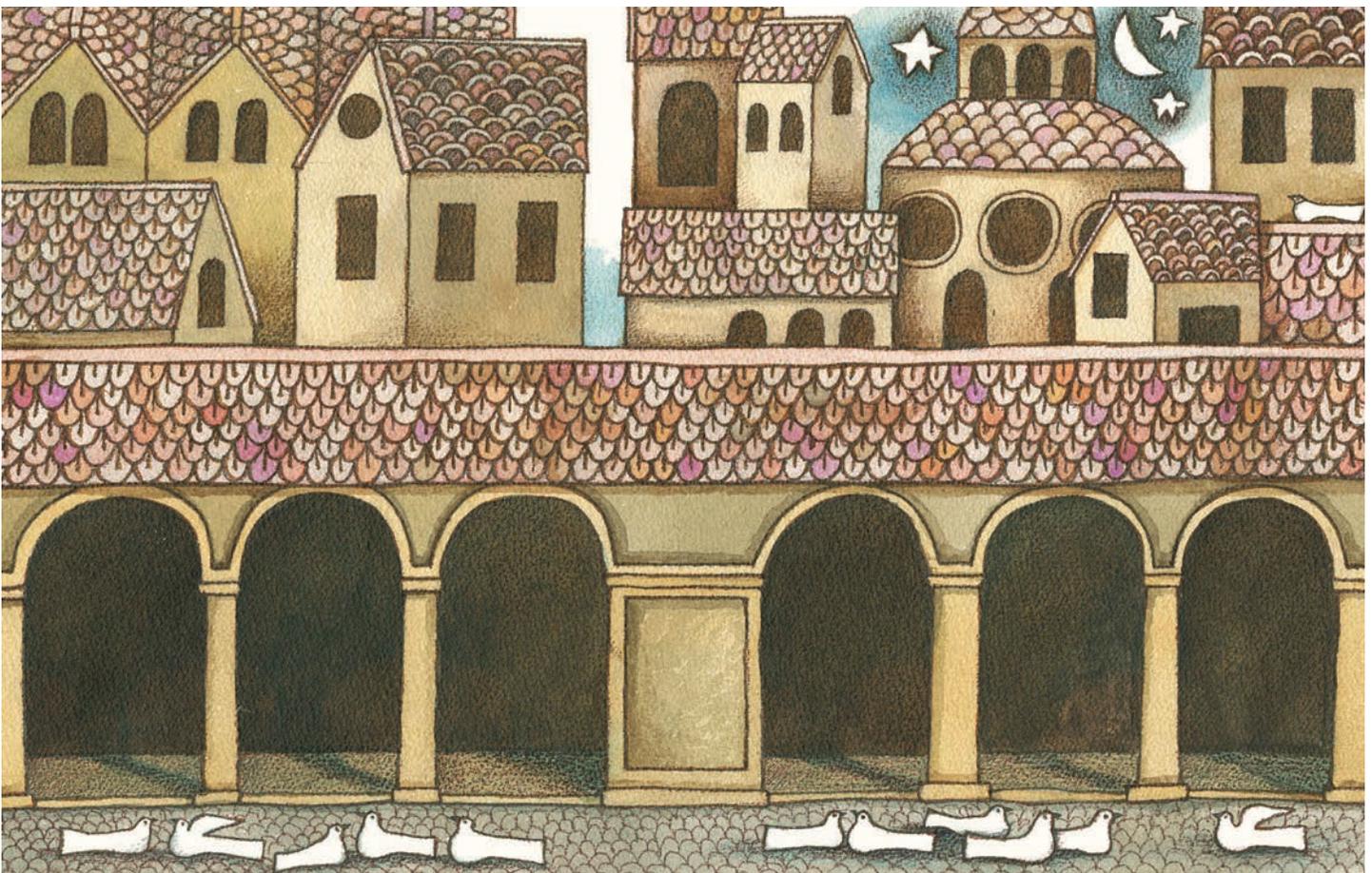


Illustration from *Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola