

THE KERLAN COLLECTION

Children's Literature Research Collections

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER | CO-SPONSORED BY THE KERLAN FRIENDS AND THE CLRC



John Coy Awarded the Kerlan Award



The Friends of the Kerlan have awarded the 2017 Kerlan Award to **John Coy** in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children's literature and in appreciation for generous donation of

unique resources to the Kerlan Collection for the study of children's literature.

John Coy is the author of young adult novels, the 4 for 4 middle-grade series, and fiction and nonfiction picture books. His most recent books are *Their Great Gift*, a story about immigration with striking photographs by Wing Young Huie, and *Gap Life*, a YA novel about a boy whose parents will pay for college as long as he studies what they want.

John has received numerous awards for his work, including a Marion Vannett Ridgway Award for best first picture book, a Charlotte Zolotow Honor, Bank Street College Best Book of the Year, Notable Book for a Global Society, and the Burr/Warzalla Award for Distinguished Achievement in Children's Literature.

John Coy's work explores the world of children's social emotional lives. Coy's writings encompass universal interests from history to community to sports.

John Coy has served as an ambassador for children's literature, literacy, and education across the globe from Dubai to Sweden to New Delhi, but he always returns home to Minneapolis. He is an avid and visible supporter of new writers and an active member of the children's book community.

John Coy works extensively with teachers and children as a writer-in-residence.

According to John, "One of the reasons I like visiting schools and talking with students so much is the opportunity to demystify the process of making a book. I show examples of my rough drafts and revisions and talk about the process I go through when writing and how it is similar and differs from the process the students use.

John Coy cont. on page 4

Kerlan Award Luncheon

When: Saturday, April 29, 2017, 12 noon luncheon.

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library.

This event is open to the public. Luncheon tickets are \$25 general public and \$20 Kerlan Friends.

Books will be sold by Red Balloon Bookstore.

To reserve tickets: z.umn.edu/kerlan2017 and for more information email, asc-clrc@umn.edu.

SAVE THE DATE
FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday Lecture: *Beyond Golden Books: The Art of Gustaf Tenggren*, April 7, 12:00 Noon, Elmer L. Anderson Library, Room 120



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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2016-2017 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 Spring 2017 newsletter is co-sponsored by the Kerlan Friends and the CLRC.

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Bird illustration by Gustaf Tenggren.



Kerlan Friends Update



Jean Stevenson



Mary Schultz

Dear Friends,

I have been honored to serve as the president of the Kerlan Friends Board. I am "turning the gavel" over to the extremely capable hands of Mary Schultz who has been an active board member for some time. Mary has worked all summer and fall with JoAnn Jonas (also a Kerlan friend and donor) on a major digital resource portfolio.

Although there is always a possibility for a few more icy winter blasts and snow, spring is always an exciting time at the Children's Literature Research Collection. This spring is no different. I hope you have made plans to attend the Chase Lecture on Wednesday, April 12th. Sibert Medal

winner Melissa Sweet, author of *Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade*, and *Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White*, will be speaking about her creative process.

I hope to see you all at the Kerlan Award luncheon on Saturday, April 29, 2017. John Coy, past member of the Kerlan Friends Board and award-winning author of picture books such as *Strong to the Hoop* and *Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game* and novels such as *Hoop Genius* and *Gap Life* will be honored.

As always we hope that our Kerlan Friends know that they are always welcome to make an appointment to explore the treasures of the Kerlan. We also have exciting volunteer opportunities working with the materials, assisting at events, and creating physical and digital exhibits. Most Kerlan Friends renew their memberships in the Fall, consider gifting a membership to a mentee or an upcoming graduate.

Thank you for your continued support. Please watch the website for breaking news and information.

Sincerely,
Jean M. Stevenson



Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop recipient of the Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 2017 American Library Association Youth Services Award Press Conference. Photo by Luann Toth.



Lisa Von Drasek

From the Curator's Desk

I am grateful to have completed my service on the 2017 Randolph Caldecott Committee on Monday, January 23rd. Over the 2016 year, I read and evaluated over 700 eligible picture books.

The work of the committee remains confidential, including the titles we discussed, how we came to our short list, the specific votes, etc.



The 2017 Randolph Caldecott Committee

I can and will describe my immense respect and admiration for my fellow jurors. They brought a lifetime of experiences with children and literature. They shared insights to the discussions that I would not have come to on my own and did not receive from any textbook, critical commentary, or art critique materials. The diversity of background and work experiences as children's librarians—school and public, academic scholars, and reviewers—informed our discussions. These conversations were a gift that I will always treasure. In my time on this committee, I not only honed my visual literacy skills but my listening ones, as well.

Behind the scenes on the morning of...

The ballots for the winner and honor books for the Caldecott were completed by Saturday evening. On Sunday morning the committee reconvened to write the press release describing the titles. The writing process gave us an opportunity to re-examine and revel in the richness of the art.

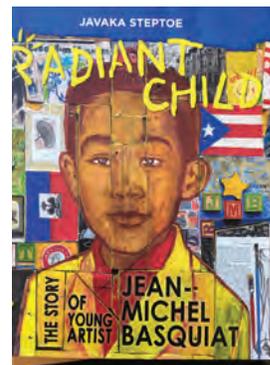
We were giddy with sleep deprivation, as well as the excitement of keeping the award secret until the next day. I awoke at 4:00 am on Monday morning. Committee members were due at the American Library Association

press office at the convention center at 5:45 a.m. My recommendation is that, in the future, vats of coffee should be available for committee members.

The committees gathered to make phone calls to the winners. Fifteen people crowded into a small space big enough for a desk, a telephone, and a computer. The committee chair is given a script to follow and the call is on a barely audible speakerphone.

With the calls completed at 7:30 a.m., the committee members dispersed for the caffeine hunt. At 7:50 we are herded into the auditorium for the announcements. We had no idea what the other committees had selected. I had not realized how excited I would be when the other awards were announced. The Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop! (I only realized I was screaming when I stopped.)

2017 Caldecott Medal Winner



Radiant Child:

The Story of Young Artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat, illustrated and written by Javaka Steptoe and published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Like Jean-Michel Basquiat's work, Steptoe's illustrations radiate energy and immediacy.

A patch-worked canvas of scavenged wood, painted and collaged with photos, and images of human anatomy, evokes the improvisatory nature of Basquiat's art. "Radiant Child" resonates with emotion that connects Steptoe with Basquiat and Basquiat with young readers.

"Steptoe's engaging art makes Basquiat approachable for children without minimizing his complexities," said Caldecott Medal Committee Chair Rhonda K. Gould.

New York City author and illustrator Javaka Steptoe, 45, began his career teaching art at the Brooklyn Children's Museum. Steptoe earned an art degree from Cooper Union. His debut book *In Daddy's Arms I am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers* garnered a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award in 1998.



John Coy Awarded the Kerlan Award *cont. from page 1*

This connection through writing provides a foundation for teachers to refer back to long after the visit is over.”

This devotion to demonstrating the writing process is one of the reasons his donations to the Kerlan Collection are invaluable.

Natalie Rusk of the MIT Media Laboratory noted that when John speaks to groups he has “a rare talent for bringing people together as a group and at the same time treating them as individuals. He engages listeners’ senses

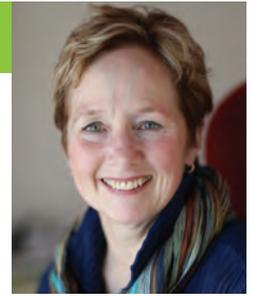
and awareness of themselves in the world, making the experience wonderfully memorable.”

John served on the Kerlan Friends Board for many years, generously giving his time and expertise to numerous committees and events.

Please help us celebrate on Saturday, April 29th at the 12:00 luncheon honoring John Coy and hear his acceptance speech.



2017 Naomi C. Chase Lecture



Melissa Sweet

Melissa Sweet has illustrated many award-winning books, including two Caldecott Honor books: *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* and *The Right Word: Peter Mark Roget and His Thesaurus*, both by Jen Bryant. She wrote and illustrated *Carmine: A Little More Red*, one of *The New York Times* Best Illustrated Books, and *Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade*, which garnered a Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal.

Melissa's first chapter book biography, *Some Writer!: The Story of E. B. White*, came out in 2016.



Explore Melissa Sweet's research and creative process at our digital exhibit, *BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY, MELISSA SWEET, AND THE ENGINEERING OF A PICTURE BOOK*. z.umn.edu/balloons

5:30-6:15 p.m. Reception
6:15-7:00 p.m. Melissa Sweet:
"The Way I See It: The Art of
Illustration and Biography"
7:00-7:30 p.m. Book Signing

This annual event is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education and Human Development, the Kerlan Friends, and the Children's Literature Research Collections.

2017 Chase Lecture with Melissa Sweet

When: Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (CDT)

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

This event is free but seating is limited.

To reserve tickets go to: z.umn.edu/chase2017

Hollinshead Scholar Report



Dr. Steven Herb

The Hollinshead Fellowship was essential for my research and I want to express my appreciation to Marilyn Hollinshead for providing this opportunity.

I learned early on that the most important materials in a children's literature research archive are the unpublished documents. I learned about how N.M. Bodecker worked on Edward Eager's *Half Magic* in great detail. (It also provided the probable cover for my *Encyclopedic Miscellany*.) I was disappointed that the publisher catalogs didn't go back to the period of my strongest interest—the 1920s and 1930s, but those from the 1940s proved especially helpful, and visits to other archives would prove helpful for the 1920s and 1930s. The Harper catalogs from the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s were fantastic. They allowed me to trace the prominence of several authors and illustrators, and to watch how Maurice Sendak stepped into the void created by Margaret Wise Brown's untimely death.

The most helpful find for me were the papers of Eleanor Cameron. I realized in the three days I spent with her correspondence that I would learn more about publishing in the United States in the 1920s and 1930s by visiting period author and editor archives than by any other single method. I learned that stories drive this process and that stories flesh out the data. It was one of the reasons that I added as many scholar and author interviews to my travels as possible, post-Kerlan. The visit to Minnesota also shaped my focus on catalogs and correspondence, and my move away from individual book titles.

Dr. Steven Herb (Pennsylvania State University) was the recipient of the 2016 Marilyn Hollinshead Visiting Scholars Fellowship. The Kerlan Collection was the first research stop of his six-month sabbatical. His work focused on a review of the papers of Edward Eager, Eleanor Cameron, Lynd Ward, N. M. Bodecker, Vera B. Williams, and publisher catalogs from the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.



2017 Caldecott Honor Books

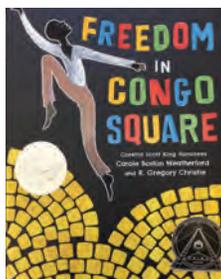
Note: the annotations were written by the respective committee members and published with permission of ALSC/ALA.



Leave Me Alone! illustrated and written by Vera Brosgol, and published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership.

At the end of her rope, Granny is desperate for time alone to finish knitting sweaters for a house

filled with dozens of rambunctious children. Brosgol's expressive watercolor and cartoon art presents a genre-breaking journey taking Granny from the traditional forest setting to the mountains to the moon and beyond.



Freedom in Congo Square, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, written by Carole Boston Weatherford and published by Little Bee Books, an imprint of Bonnier Publishing Group.

As they work throughout the week, slaves look forward to their afternoon

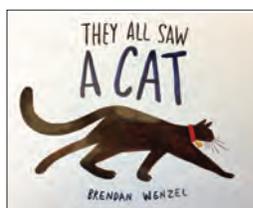
of music, hope, and community in Congo Square, New Orleans. Christie's folk-art inspired paint and collage images powerfully capture the emotions of this little-known historical event. Vibrant color and brilliant use of line heighten the impact of the rhyming couplets.



Du Iz Tak?, illustrated and written by Carson Ellis and published by Candlewick Press.

A diverse community of anthropomorphic bugs is intrigued by an unfurling sprout. Carson Ellis deftly depicts the mysteries of life in an imaginary, natural world.

Through intricate details and the witty humor of a made-up language, *Du Iz Tak?* is a treasure trove of visual and linguistic literacy.



They All Saw A Cat, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel, and written by Brendan Wenzel and published by Chronicle Books.

A cat's walk through the world becomes a surprise-filled

exploration of perspective and empathy. As the feline encounters a variety of creatures, the thoughtful composition paired with spare language and repetition focuses on each individual's perception of it. Wenzel's use of a range of art materials reinforces the idea that the essence of a cat might be in the eye of the beholder.

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.

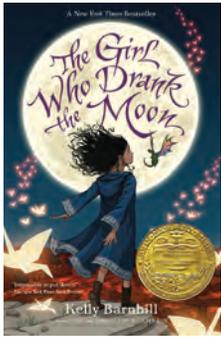


Thank you to our volunteer Payal Doshi for her continued work in creating the CLRC exhibits at Children's Theatre.



2017 Newbery Award Winner and Honor Books

2017 Newbery Medal Winner

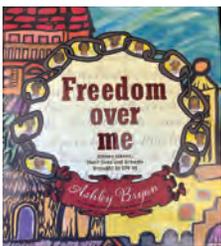


The Girl Who Drank the Moon, written by Kelly Barnhill and published by Algonquin Young Readers, an imprint of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, a division of Workman Publishing.

“Moonlight is magic. Ask anyone you like.” Barnhill’s story is also pure magic, distinguished by careful development of a complex plot and indelible evocation of unique characters. Love, heartbreak, hope, sorrow, and wonder all shine in exquisite, lyrical prose.

“This compassionate, hopeful novel invites children everywhere to harness their power, and ask important questions about what keeps us apart and what brings us together” said Newbery Medal Committee Chair Thom Barthelme.

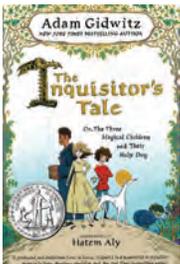
2017 Newbery Honor Winners



Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan, written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division.

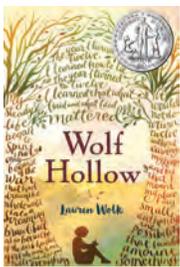
Inspired by an 1828 estate appraisal, Ashley Bryan honors the lives of eleven slaves in poetry and collage.

Conveying the terror of the paterroller and the hope of voices raised in song, Bryan imagines for each person a life of oppression and a dream for freedom.



The Inquisitor’s Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog, written by Adam Gidwitz, illustrated by Hatem Aly and published by Dutton Children’s Books, Penguin Young Readers Group, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC.

Informed by six years of research, and reminiscent of *The Canterbury Tales*, Adam Gidwitz has written a brand-new illuminated manuscript, a sometimes harrowing, sometimes hilarious epic about three magical friends on the run in 1242 France and their encounters with a dragon, a holy dog, and cheese.



Wolf Hollow, written by Lauren Wolk and published by Dutton Children’s Books, Penguin Young Readers Group, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC.

Set in rural Pennsylvania during World War II, this compelling story of consequences addresses complex issues of bullying, PTSD, and discrimination. At the center of this atmospheric novel, articulating themes of self-reliance, hope, and justice, is our heroine Annabelle who struggles to confront her tormentor and her own conscience.

An Unprecedented Four Awards for *March: Book Three*



March: Book Three written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell won the

Coretta Scott King Award for best African-American author, the Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults, the Robert F. Silbert Informational Book Award for most distinguished informational book for children, and the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults.

March: Book Three, is a first-hand account of the Civil Rights Movement through Lewis’ eyes. Using vivid language and dynamic visual storytelling, it details events from the Freedom Summer to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

“*March: Book Three* is a riveting and multilayered graphic personal history of the civil rights movement and a window into the mind and experiences of a living legend,” said Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury Chair Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop.

Co-author John Lewis is the U.S. Representative for Georgia’s 5th congressional district and an iconic African-American civil rights activist, who chaired the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).





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Gustaf Tenggren is known and beloved for his illustrations for books such as *The Poky Little Puppy*. A detail from original artwork of *Lion's Paw* production material, tempera.