

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact for information and workshop reservations: Betsy Hurley, Lancaster Literary Guild, 717-431-4433, [efhurley@aol.com](mailto:efhurley@aol.com) or Heather Sharpe, Lancaster Public Library, 717-394-2651, ext. 119, [hsharpe@lancaster.lib.pa.us](mailto:hsharpe@lancaster.lib.pa.us).

## PA CHILDREN'S AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS GATHER FOR WORKSHOP

“Breaking In and Staying In: PA Authors and Illustrators Talk about Launching and Maintaining Their Careers” will be the focus of a writing for children workshop at the Lancaster Public Library, 125 North Duke Street, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 18, 2012. Pennsylvania children’s authors and illustrators Sandy Asher, Debbie Dadey, Lee Harper, Matt Novak, and Barbara Robinson will share “behind the scenes” stories about their early experiences getting their work published and recent strategies for staying in the game. (More info about presenters below.)

“Every one of our presenters has a unique story to tell,” says Sandy Asher, event organizer. “Barbara Robinson began by writing short stories, Lee Harper started out as an illustrator, Matt Novak has been a Disney artist, Debbie Dadey has created many series, and I’ve been all over the place, from poetry to plays to picture books. This is an opportunity to meet the authors, hear their publishing war stories, and ask questions. There will be something for adults interested in writing for young readers, and for teachers and librarians. We also welcome young people who want to know more about the books they enjoy reading and the Pennsylvania authors and artists who create them.”

The presenters are donating their time so that all proceeds from the event can benefit the sponsoring organizations: Lancaster Public Library, Lancaster Literary Guild, and the Eastern Pennsylvania chapter of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Books by each of the presenters will be available for purchase and autographing.

The fee for adult participants is \$55; \$50 for members of the Lancaster Literary Guild or the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Young people ages 10 - 17 and college students with current IDs are invited to attend the event at \$10 each. Food is not included. There will be a break for lunch on your own.

Space is limited. To register, send a check to the Lancaster Literary Guild, 113 N. Lime Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, no later than February 13. Walk-ins will be admitted only if space allows. For more information, call or e-mail the Guild at 717-431-4433; [efhurley@aol.com](mailto:efhurley@aol.com) or Heather Sharpe, Lancaster Public Library, 717-394-2651, ext. 119, [hsharpe@lancaster.lib.pa.us](mailto:hsharpe@lancaster.lib.pa.us) .

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BREAKING IN AND STAYING IN: PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS TALK ABOUT LAUNCHING AND MAINTAINING CAREERS

February 18, 2011

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lancaster Public Library

The Presenters:

SANDY ASHER lives in Lancaster, PA. She is an award-winning playwright and the author of 25 books, including picture books *Too Many Frogs*, *What a Party*, and *Here Comes Gosling*. Sandy has also edited five books of fiction, most recently *Writing It Right: How Successful Children's Authors Revise and Sell Their Stories*.

<http://usawrites4kids.drury.edu/authors/asher> .

DEBBIE DADEY lives in Furlong, PA. She's the author and co-author of ten series, including *The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids*, a Publishers Weekly bestseller and one of Scholastic's top three best-selling series of all time. With 152 books and 48 million copies in print of titles like *Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots* and *The Worst Name in Third Grade*, Debbie reaches even the most reluctant reader. Watch for her new series, *Mermaid Tales*, coming in the summer of 2012.

<http://debbiedadey.com>

LEE HARPER lives with his family in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Lee's latest book is *The Emperor's Cool Clothes*, which he both wrote and illustrated. Mr. Harper's other books include *Woolbur*, by Leslie Helakoski; *Turkey Trouble*, by Wendi Silvano; *Snow! Snow!*, and *Looking For The Easy Life*, by Walter Dean Myers.

<http://Leeharperart.com>

MATT NOVAK lives in Carlisle, PA. Among his many titles are *The Everything Machine*, *No Zombies Allowed*, and *Twelve Snails to One Lizard* (A Reading Rainbow Book). His awards include School Library Journal's Best Book of the Year for *Mouse TV*, and the International Reading Association's Children's Choice Award for *Newt*. While at Disney Studios, he worked on such films as "Rescuers Down Under" and "Beauty and the Beast."

<http://www.mattnovak.com>

BARBARA ROBINSON lives in Berwyn, PA. She's been a short story writer, with some forty to fifty stories in *McCall's*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Redbook*, etc.; a playwright; an occasional poet; and finally and most happily, an author of children's books, including the classic *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, its companion books *The Best Halloween Ever* and *The Best School Year Ever*, and *My Brother Louis Measures Worms*.

<http://usawrites4kids.drury.edu/authors/robinson>.