

**SCBWI MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE
ANN ARBOR BOOK FESTIVAL, MAY 13, 2006**



Kathryn Madeline Allen is a children's author whose credits include *THIS LITTLE PIGGY'S BOOK OF MANNERS* and *ONE LITTLE BENCH*, as well as poems and short stories published in anthologies. A writing instructor at Oakland Community College, Ms. Allen lives in the Detroit area. Her website: kathrynmadelineallen.com.

Jennifer Allison grew up in the Ann Arbor area and graduated from UM. Her first book for young people, *GILDA JOYCE: Psychic Investigator* was listed as a "best book of 2005" by School Library Journal and Booklist's "Top Ten Mysteries of 2005". Her second in the series, *The Ladies of the Lake*, comes out in May, 2006.



Jeanne Birdsall won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature for her first book, *THE PENDERWICKS*, a novel for middle readers. She lives in Massachusetts and is currently working on her second book about the Penderwick family.
(Photo by Tsar Fedorsky).

Steven Lee Climer lives in Metropolitan Detroit, and is also a PhD student at Wayne State University studying English Composition. He is also a professor of English at Baker College of Allen Park, MI. He has sold the motion picture rights of his novel *DEMONESQUE* to After Dark Productions, and is the recipient of several honors including the Darrell Award, Eppie for Best Horror Novel 2000, and 1997 finalist for Best First Novel from the International Horror Guild. Steve has published eight adult horror/fantasy novels, three works for children/Young Adults, a short story collection of horror stories, and over 20 short stories in various magazines. Steve was also a featured writer at Michigan State University's Michigan Writer series.



Shutta Crum is an award-winning writer of picture books for children, and an acclaimed novel for middle school readers, *SPITTING IMAGE*. Her poetry for adults has appeared in numerous journals including the *Ann Arbor (W)rites* anthology. *BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE* (Knopf) is a local best-seller. Visit Shutta at: <http://www.shuttacrum.com/>
(Photo copyright: paulthacker.com)

Nancy Edwards is the author of the children's mid-grade novel, *MOM FOR MAYOR*, and the picture book, *GLENNA'S SEEDS*, as well as numerous stories in children's magazines, one of which received an EdPress Award for outstanding children's fiction.



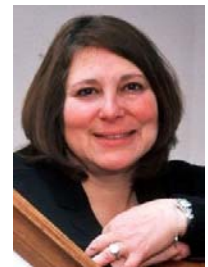
Lori McElrath-Eslick is an award-winning illustrator. A native of Muskegon, Michigan, she attended the Kansas City Art Institute and Kendall School of Design. Her illustrations have appeared in *Highlights for Children*, *Ladybug*, and *National Wildlife*. Besides *Mommy Poems*, Lori's book illustrations include *Read for Me, Mama* by Vashanti Rahaman (Boyd's Mill Press); *Does God Know How to Tie Shoes? And I Am Christmas* by Nancy White Carlson (Eerdman's Publishing), and *The Lark Who Had No Song*, by Carolyn Nystrom (Lion Publishing). Her artwork has been displayed by the Bologna Fair Children's Book Illustration Exhibition: Once Upon a Time Children's Book Traveling Exhibition, by Muskegon Museum of Art, and by many prestigious annual art shows.

Monica A. Harris is the author of *Wake the Dead* (Walker), *My First Book of Animals* (Publications International), *Dot-to-Dot Stories* (Fearon), numerous nonfiction easy readers, and more than 100 articles. She lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan where she enjoys teaching creative writing, relaxing with yoga, and strolling through cemeteries.



Leslie Helakoski has a degree in illustration and advertising design. Leslie's first book, *THE SMUSHY BUS*, Millbrook Press, was released last fall and is in its second printing. *THE BIG CHICKENS*, Dutton, is scheduled for a 2005 release and she just sold her third book, *WOOLBUR* to HarperCollins.

Marcy Heller Fisher is the author of books celebrating the cultural heritage of Detroit and the Great Lakes region. *THE OUTDOOR MUSEUM: THE MAGIC OF MICHIGAN'S MARSHALL M. FEDERICKS* received a Save Outdoor Sculpture Achievement Award from Heritage Preservation. *FIRE MAGIC: DETROIT'S PEWABIC POTTERY TREASURES*, published in the fall of 2003, was named as one of the best trade books published in 2003 by the Michigan Council for Social Studies. Fisher's new book *PAINTING FOR THE PEOPLE: DIEGO RIVERA'S DETROIT INDUSTRY FRESCOES*, is forthcoming.



Janet Ruth Heller teaches for the English and Women's Studies Departments at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Her new fiction picture book for kids is *HOW THE MOON REGAINED HER SHAPE* (Sylvan Dell, 2006). This multicultural legend, influenced by Native American tales, helps kids to cope with bullies. It has an appendix with scientific information about the moon.

Barbara L. Johns is a Clarkston resident whose career as a public relations professional and freelance writer drew her into children's writing. Her picture storybooks highlight an historic candle factory and a cat she once owned in north Oakland County. Steeple Ridge Publications released *THE CAT IN THE CANDLE FACTORY* in 2005 and *CHRISTMAS AT THE CANDLE FACTORY* is forthcoming in 2006. Johns has collaborated on both titles with illustrator Carolyn R. Stich, of Holland, whose credits include seven picture books.



Joe Novara is the author of a Young Adult series of horse stories set in Michigan. *WATONKA...CAMP COWBOYS* is the first in this series. He has been a regular contributor of humorous stories to *Mother Earth News* and *Horse and Rider* magazines. Joe lives in Kalamazoo where he teaches writing and visits schools with his latest YA novel, *TALES FROM THE DRAKE HOUSE OUTHOUSE*, about a pioneer home in his neighborhood.

Lynne Rae Perkins is the Newbery award winning author of *CRISS CROSS* and also the author of the award winning novel, *ALL ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE*. She has written and illustrated four picture books, including *THE BROKEN CAT*, *HOME LOVELY*, and *SNOW MUSIC*, which was a *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Honor Book and a Book Sense Top Ten. She lives in Cedar, Michigan. (Photo credit Kate Fairman)



Jacqui Robbins has filed resumes, sold children's books, written grants, driven a truck, worked the grill at a snack bar, and taught students from ages 6 months to 65 years. She has spent most of the last 13 years teaching reading and writing to second graders and college students. Currently, when not chasing her own three-year-old, she is a full-time writer. Jacqui's picture book, *THE NEW GIRL...AND ME*, is due out from Atheneum/Simon & Schuster in July 2006, to be followed by *TWO OF A KIND* and *DESMOND'S NEW SHOES*.



Nancy Shaw is the author of *RACCOON TUNE*, *SHEEP IN A JEEP*, and five other sheep stories. Her first book got started when she read animal rhymes to her children on a car trip. She lives in Ann Arbor.

Sue Stauffacher won the sixth grade spelling bee from Elizabeth Taylor Traub Elementary and she's been calling herself an award winner ever since (though she regrets the gold-embossing on her Webster's New World Dictionary is history, thus making her claim hard to substantiate). Most recently, she's penned the novels "Donuthead" (Knopf, 2003), "Harry Sue" (Knopf, 2005) and the picture book "Bessie Smith and the Night Riders" (Putnam, 2006). Find out more embarrassing facts about Sue at her web site, www.suestauffacher.com.



Debbie Taylor is the author of the picture book, SWEET MUSIC IN HARLEM. Her work has appeared in magazines including Spider Magazine, New Moon Magazine and Pockets.

Hope Vestergaard is the author of eight picture books including HILLSIDE LULLABY and HELLO, SNOW , as well as WEAVING THE LITERACY WEB, a book for teachers published by Redleaf Press. A long-time Ann Arborite, Hope attended Mack and Bach elementary schools and graduated from Huron. Hope was a teacher and director at Gretchen's House for many years before she began writing for children.



Sherry A. Wells' first book for children, *Father, Ford, \$5 a Day: The Mullers from Missouri*, covers an all-but-forgotten era in local history in the manner of Ingall's *Little House* books and began what will be a series of books about real families who came here after 1914. Her next series began with *Warm and Wonderful Stepmothers of Famous People*, dedicated to her stepmother and aimed for teens and adults.

Ann Arbor Book Festival Artist:

Heidi Woodward Sheffield is an award-winning illustrator and aspiring children's story writer/illustrator and is the creator of the notable Ann Arbor Book Festival poster series. She has also developed illustrations and designs for Borders, Shaman Drum, Ann Arbor District Library's popular publication, *Jump*, plus oodles of other projects. Heidi is also an active member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Her latest illustration was ranked in the top 10 out of 175 entries at SCBWI's New York conference. When she's not drawing or writing, Heidi enjoys cracking jokes with her husband Ray, playing with her *spug* named Taz and collecting fortune cookie sayings. She lives in Northville, Michigan and can be reached at xpoint@charter.net.

