

**Young Writer's Day
Glen Acres Elementary School
December 14, 2018**

DESCRIPTION

Young Writers' Day took place on Friday, December 14th from 9:00-12:00 at Glen Acres Elementary School. Writers from around the area shared their expertise with students in grades K-5. Students in grades K-2 worked with one writer and students in grades 3-5 worked with two writers. A wide variety of writers attended. (See Writers' bios.)

Young Writers' Day brought real life experiences to students. Students were actively engaged in the presentations. They were challenged and encouraged to think creatively and stretch their imaginations. Through modeling and hands on practice, students learned effective written communication skills in line with the PA Common Core Standards.

GOAL

Our goal was to provide our students with exposure, modeling and practice of oral and written communication. This goal was met through the mini workshops provided by the guest writers in addition to follow up lessons with the classroom teachers. Each mini workshop resulted in a finished product. For instance, a "jingle" writer shared his published work and helped a class compose a class song. A storyteller modeled how to use props when telling a story and helped a class create a video using puppets and props. A freelance writer taught the students about the components of publishing an article and helped the students create a class newspaper.

This program is highly motivating to students and teachers. With the help of the West Chester Area Education Foundation, we would like to bring this program to Glen Acres Elementary School again next year. We will continue to invite local writers to promote written communication skills, a love for the arts and exposure to real life careers.

See the GAE Young Writers' Day article published in the Daily Local:

https://www.dailylocal.com/news/local/glen-acres-in-west-chester-hosts-sixth-annual-writers-day/article_2240ef30-1b68-11e9-811a-2ba345b5bbdc.html



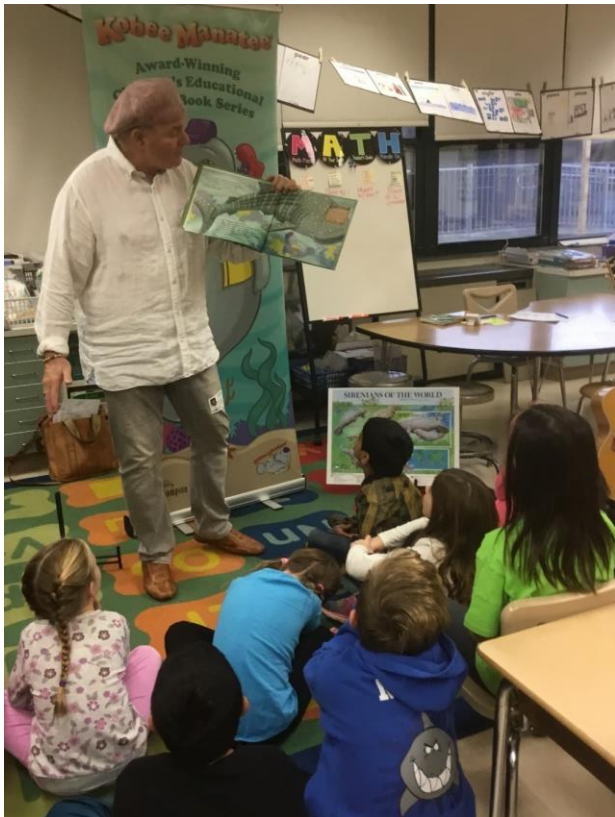
Rodney Whittenberg



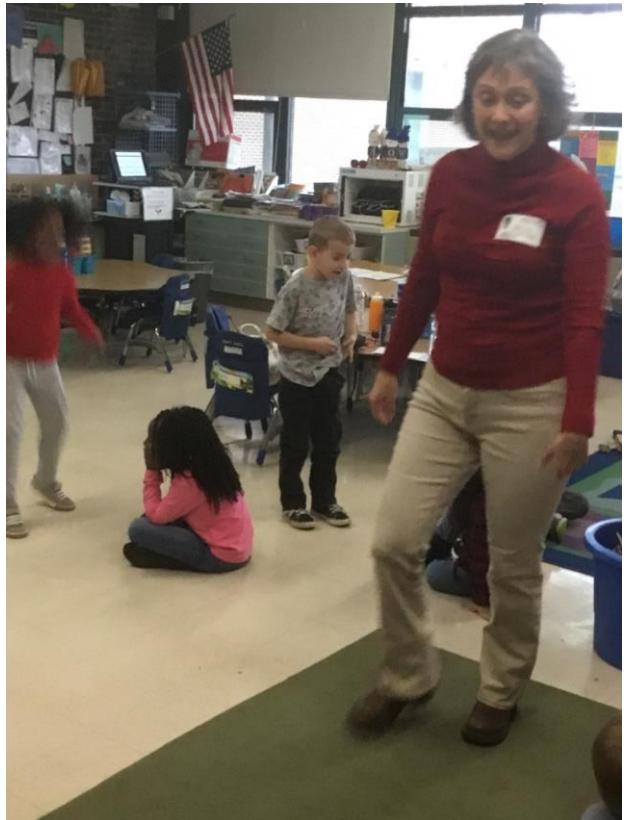
Matt Kelly



Jennie Avila



Bob Thayer



Vicky Town

WRITERS' BIOS

Mark Cofta - playwright and professor at The Art Institute of Philadelphia. Mark also reviews theater productions for the website *Broad Street Review* and is a Barrymore Awards judge. 309 Pomeroy St. Ridley Park, PA 19078 cmarkplay@aol.com

Maria Ceferatti writes fiction and non-fiction and has been published in *Philadelphia Stories* and several other publications. She teaches music at St. Lucy's School in North Philadelphia and has written and produced a video as part of her job here. Maria is currently earning an MFA at Rosemont College. mcef869@hotmail.com

Megan Hicks is a storyteller and origami artist who says, "Storytelling is like pulling art from the air!" She was featured as a New Voice at the National Storytelling Festival in 2011, and her credits range from small venues in rural America, to regional stages throughout the United States for the CD, "What Was Civil About That War..." which was also a 2005 Finalist for an Audies® award in the category of Best Original Work. She received the Parents' Guide to Children's Media Award for "Groundhogs Meet Grimm," a collection of her original parodies that was also tapped for Honors by NAPPA.

Bob Thayer, the author of the *Kobee Manatee*, part of a children's educational picture book series. Robert has always had a passion for manatees and a strong interest in weather, oceans, and sea life, all of which are subjects for other titles in his series. He has also won several international songwriting awards, and Grammy Award winner, Jim Cravero, produced Thayer's newest children's tune, *Kobee's Song*. Robert has a degree from Temple University and is a member of the Author's Guild, SCBWI, and Save the Manatee Club. www.robertscottthayer.com.

Sharon Chung is a freelance writer and chief copy editor for Payne Capital Management in Blue Bell with experience in journalism and copyediting. Sharon worked for the *Courier Post* in Cherry Hill, NJ and the Bucks County *Courier Times* as general assignment reporter. She has been both a general assignment reporter and editorial assistant for the Associated Press as well as a freelance reporter for *Philadelphia Weekly*.

Rodney Whittenberg is an Emmy award-winning composer whose television credits include programs airing on A & E, HBO Family, The History Channel, Oxygen, PBS, NBC, and TNT. He is the creator of Melody Vision, a production studio. Rodney sits on the board of the local Grammy Association and teaches video production at Rosemont College. www.rodneywhittenberg.com.

Bill Wood, a well-known and respected storyteller for 25 years, has delighted over half a million people of all ages with his warm, dynamic style. Past appearances include: The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Fox-TV, The National Storytelling Association Conference, The Appel Farm Folk and Music Festival and thousands of other venues. Bill also leads outdoor adventure trips for "at-risk" youth and conducts corporate leadership training seminars and team building programs. www.billwoodstoryteller.com.

Pam Newton is an author and an illustrator whose several books include *The Copper Braid of Shannon O'Shea* and *The Stonecutter*. The latter was chosen by Tomi DiPaola as one of his Whitebird Books. Pam teaches children's book illustration at Hussein Art School in Philadelphia.

Jennie Avila is a singer songwriter who has opened for legendary performers Pete Seeger, Janis Ian, Richie Havens, and comedian Robin Williams. She has released nine recordings that feature her original songs, with the most recent CD being a collection of compositions based on Civil War stories. The Maryland Symphony Orchestra has chosen three songs from Jennie's "Love & Lore of the Civil War" to perform at the 2013 Antietam Battlefield 4th of July Independence Commemoration. Jennie, a Smithsonian Folkways/Fast Folk Artist and teacher performs solo, in a duo called "Aca-Perco" and in a trio called "Hot Soup." www.jennieavila.com.

Vicky Town is a Professional Storyteller who brings international folktales to life using movement, voice, chants, and audience participation. Her infectious energy and enthusiasm will delight listeners of all ages as she creates a zany cast of characters.

From the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to the Kansas prairie to the city of Philadelphia----- Vicky has shared stories of heroes and sheroes, monsters and mayhem, narrow escapes, and loves both true and false.

She is currently living at Haven Farm in Fancy Gap, Virginia and is enjoying collaborating with the Northwest Regional Library System of North Carolina! Past projects include storytelling at the Kansas State Storytelling Festival, The Wayne Henderson Festival, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, Appalachian Summer Regional Governor's School, and many schools and libraries. This summer, Vicky looks forward to teaching and directing drama at the Wytheville Community College Governor's School in North Carolina.

Janine Kelly is a musician, writer, producer, and performer. She has been the principle composer for Children's Music Programming for the past 30 years. Her music has won 12 national and local awards such as: Best of Philly, Best of the Mainline, and Parents Choice. Janine has composed theme and motivational songs for corporations and private companies, and her "Grown Up" originals have been featured on Philadelphia radio. A frequent speaker at seminars and conferences, she teaches educators how to use the power of music in their classroom.

Caroline Park Kim – a graduate of Barnard College with a degree in economics and political science. Caroline Park Kim speaks four languages and comes to poetry after four years in the private and non-profit work world often as writer and editor of publications. She has worked with Sanctuary: A Migrant Poetry Workshop 2016, an outreach program founded by the Leeway Arts Foundation in partnership with the Asian Arts Initiative.

Darlene Beck Jacobson is a former teacher and speech therapist. She has been writing for children for many years and has had stories published in *Cricket*, *Cicada*, *Highlights*, and other magazines. Her middle-grade historical novel, *Wheels of Change* (Creston Books), is a Notable Social Studies Trade pick for 2015 by the National Council of Social Studies and the Children's Book Council. The book also received The Grateful American Book Prize Honorable Mention for 2015. <http://www.darlenebeckjacobson.com>.

Janice Gable Bashman is the Bram Stoker nominated author of PREDATOR (Month9Books 2014) and WANTED UNDEAD OR ALIVE (with New York Times bestseller Jonathan Maberry) (Citadel Press 2010). She is editor of THE BIG THRILL (International Thriller Writers' magazine) and has written for leading publications, including NOVEL & SHORT STORY WRITER'S MARKET, WRITER'S DIGEST, THE WRITER, and WILD RIVER REVIEW. Her short fiction has appeared in various anthologies and magazines. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Horror Writers Association, Mystery

Writers of America, and International Thriller Writers, where she serves on the board of directors as Vice President, Technology.

Matt Kelly is a composer and Associate Director of Comma Studios based in Chicago, Illinois. His music and vocals have been featured on numerous commercials and documentaries. Matt composes music for individual clients in addition to playing live throughout the Tri-State area. His original songs have been featured on radio stations in the Tri-State Area.

Missy Dougherty is a lifelong sports fan who spent close to 10 years in the classroom and coaching high school basketball before returning to school to study Sport Management. Dougherty was able to combine her love of sports and love of writing during a several year stint as the Assistant Sports Information Director at Haverford College. In this capacity, Dougherty helped cover 23 varsity sports which included updating the Athletic Department website and social media accounts.