



*Boston Authors Club*

## October 2019 Newsletter

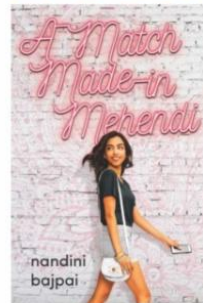
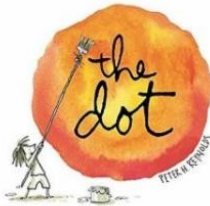
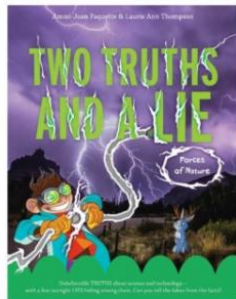
To join BAC or to renew your BAC Membership for 2020  
**CLICK HERE**

### In This Issue

**Back by Popular Demand -- October 16 at Blue Bunny Books**

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- Yesteryear at the BAC: A Story in Stained Glass
- Author! Author! BAC Member News

## So, you want to write a children's book?



Join the Boston Authors Club and authors Nandini Bajpai, Erin Dionne, Nancy Tupper Ling, literary agent/author Ammi-Joan Paquette (Erin Murphy Literary Agency) and our host and author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds for a lively and informative discussion on writing and publishing children's literature of all genres! Located at **The Blue Bunny Bookstore** ([www.bluebunnybooks.com](http://www.bluebunnybooks.com)) at 577 High Street, Dedham, MA

**WED OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00 pm ~ FREE ~ ALL WELCOME**

**Celebrating Boston Authors at the Julia Ward  
Howe Awards Program on September 17**



The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Julia Ward Howe awards program celebrated outstanding Boston area authors in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Young Reader categories. Pictured on the right are: Renny Harrigan, BAC Nonfiction reader's committee with Julie Dobrow, Nonfiction Finalist for *After Emily*; Maureen Riordan, Young Reader committee chair with Tara Lynn Masih, Young Reader Winner for *My Name is Hannah*; joined above by M.T. Anderson, Young Reader Finalist for *The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*, Eric Jay Dolin, Nonfiction Finalist for *Black Flags, Blue Waters*, and Susan Bernhard Fiction Winner for *Winter Loon*.

## Featured Author: Susan Bernhard



**Susan Bernhard is this year's Julia Ward Howe Winner in Fiction for her debut novel, *Winter Loon*.**

***In this interview, Susan talks about the evolution of the characters in *Winter Loon*, seeing her work in print, and advice for authors on the brink of publication.***

**Q: At the BAC Awards Program, you spoke so movingly about the many and complex female characters in *Winter Loon*. While you were writing and editing the manuscript, did you become particularly fond of some characters and perhaps impatient with others?**

**A:** I was certainly impatient with Wes. I was eager for him to find agency, to take charge, to stop making dumb mistakes. Maybe that's the mother in me. But the writer—and maybe the mother, too—knew it would take him time, so I gave it to him. Like many of my readers, I became quite fond of Ruby, difficult as she is. She tells Wes that she comes from “the hard place” and, while I know I'm the one who put her there, I'm glad for both of us that she was able, in the smallest measure, to display her humanity, to spare Wes in the only way she knew how. And, in the end—and only because I spent years getting to know them—I came to really understand Moss and Valerie, how guilt and sorrow can be the messy glue that holds together people who would likely be better apart.

**Q: Did you rethink your perspective on any of the main characters over time, or delete anyone from the story over your five years of writing and revising?**

**A:** In the early going, I used both Lester Two Kills and Kathryn Rook more as plot devices. When I allowed them to develop, they ended up playing critical roles in Wes' life and in the arc of his story. Wes'



relationship with Jolene's family stayed largely the same but the stories that Troy tells Wes are now more accurate thanks to the guidance of an Ojibwe storyteller who worked with me on that section.

**Q: *Winter Loon* was published last fall. After all your time in writing, revising, and pitching the book, you've now spent the past year as a debut novelist, busy with pre-and post-publication promotions and book talks. Can you reflect on the joys and the challenges of life after publication?**

**A:** When I finally got to hold the novel I wrote—edited, revised, laid out beautifully, the fonts, the design decisions, the beautiful cover, all of it—that was the dream for me. Beyond that, I had few concrete expectations. So what a joy it is to share *Winter Loon* with friends who have been incredibly supportive, with readers who send deeply personal emails and leave heartfelt reviews about how the novel resonated for them. I was fortunate to be on this journey with other debut authors especially James Charlesworth, Katrin Schumann, William Dameron, and Marco Rafalà. My husband Ben totally won over the crowd at my launch and I shared some particularly lovely moments at readings with my children, Olivia and Miles. Public speaking is always a challenge for me. I'm an emotional person and it's difficult to harness that when I read my own work or discuss touchy topics. I've gotten a little better and have learned not to apologize for it, which I think is important. The writing experience is solitary by nature but when you publish a novel, suddenly you're expected to be good at so many other things like public speaking, social media, self-promotion, and marketing. Everything is new and the learning curve can be steep. I will admit to being overwhelmed by it all at times. Thankfully, my village was there for me.

**Q. Any advice that you would give to pre-published novelists based on your experience?**

**A:** As much as you possibly can, get to work on the next thing. Try to get it growing roots before your novel comes out. Writing, especially generating new work, while promoting your debut novel in all the fantastic ways, with the myriad opportunities you'll be afforded, is incredibly difficult.

*Interview by Mary Cronin*

## Yesteryear at the BAC by Scott Guthery A Story in Stained Glass

**Any biographical sketch of a member of the Boston Authors Club that starts out "...sometimes called 'The Playmate of Apollo'..." begs to be read in its entirety. The sketch is of Charles J. Connick and it does go on to say that abroad he was known as the Number One Living American Master Craftsman. While he wrote articles for many journals and magazines, and a 1937 book entitled, *Adventures in Light and Color*, Connick was first and foremost an artist whose medium was stained glass.**



Connick opened his studio, Charles J. Connick Associates, at 900 Harcourt Street in 1913. In its 73-year history the studio designed over 15,000 windows for over 5,000 churches, libraries, and other public buildings; a rather staggering accomplishment. Connick's first window was installed in All Saints Church in Brookline, as was the last window that his studio produced. There is an excerpt from a film about Connick, his studio, and the last window called, not unexpectedly, *The Last Window*, on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=7&v=2WsuS3bibKI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=2WsuS3bibKI)

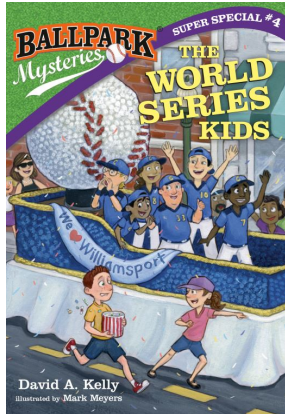
Perhaps because of how we first became aware of them as our mind and eyes wandered during the sermon, stained glass windows are associated with religious and allegorical topics. But closer examination even of windows in religious settings would reveal artistic whimsies and what engineers call "Easter eggs". And Connick's stained glass windows are not necessarily religious. A window made by Connick in 1939 for the Newtonville Branch Library, reproduced at the top, is based on Emily Dickinson's poem, "There is no Frigate like a Book."

There are two large repositories of Connick's work and the output of his studio. One is at the Boston Public Library and the other at MIT's Rotch Library. Both have posted digitized images of Connick's work. Those of the BPL are available at: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/boston\\_public\\_library/albums/with/72157639314469165](https://www.flickr.com/photos/boston_public_library/albums/with/72157639314469165)) and those in

MIT's Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation Collection can be accessed here: <https://dome.mit.edu/handle/1721.3/74802>. The second image reproduced here, titled "The Deacon" is from this collection. One can't help but wonder what the title of the book the Deacon is holding might be. Connick's entry in Notable Boston Authors ends with a poem written by Winfield Scott during his high school years and said to be prized by Connick "until [his] very last moment". There is, however, no clear explanation of how Connick came to be known locally as the Playmate of Apollo.

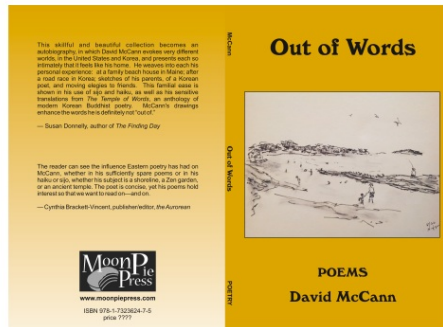
## authors! AUTHORS!

## News About BAC Authors



**David A. Kelly's** latest Ballpark Mysteries book, *THE WORLD SERIES KIDS*, was published by Random House on September 10th. It's a baseball mystery set in Williamsport PA at the Little League World Series.

This book is the 19<sup>th</sup> book in the Ballpark Mysteries series. It's dedicated to West Newton Little League, where David's two sons played baseball for many years.



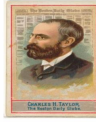
**David McCann's** new book of poems, *Out of Words*, was published in August by Moon Pie Press in Maine. It is David's tenth collections of poems; his third with Moon Pie.



Forest Hills Cemetery and Forest Hills Educational Trust presents

## Literary Boston

Please join historian **Anthony Sammarco** for an afternoon Cemetery Walking Tour



**Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm**  
**Forest Hills Cemetery – Visitor's Circle**

Admission: \$12 day of tour or \$10 Advance Tickets at [www.foresthillscemetery.eventbrite.com](http://www.foresthillscemetery.eventbrite.com)



Join Anthony Sammarco for a tour visiting the gravesites of some of the prominent literary figures memorialized at Forest Hills. Some are well-known: poet e.e. cummings, playwright Eugene O'Neill, historical author William Hyslop Sumner and members of the dynasty behind *The Boston Globe*: Charles H. Taylor and William O. Taylor. But there will be some surprises as well, such as Susanna Haswell Rowson, whose lurid yet pious novel *Charlotte Temple* was America's first best seller, and Annie Haven Thwing, who compiled a history of Boston on 125,000 index cards and was the author of the classic *Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston*. Did you know that Lewis Edson Waterman, the inventor of the fountain pen is buried at Forest Hills?

*Walking Tour lasts up to 90 minutes with frequent stops over varied terrain. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.*

**The Writer's Block** with John Ronan, which features poets and other writers, will launch its **30th** season on October 3, 2019. It is one of the longest-running cable shows in New England - and, says John, perhaps the universe.

**Anthony Sammarco** led a Literary Boston walking tour of the Forest Hills Cemetery on Sunday, September 29, visiting the grave sites of e.e. cummings, Eugene O'Neill, and other well-known writers.

***The BAC newsletter is published the first week of every month, except during the summer. Please send news about your activities, speaking, and new books (along with related pictures) to [bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com](mailto:bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com) by October 30 for publication in the November newsletter.***

***Full membership dues are \$50 annually for the calendar year. If you renew or join any time before the end of this year, you will be a paid up member through December 2020. You can join and renew online by [clicking here](#). If you would rather pay by check, please make your check out to Boston Authors Club and mail it to the following address:***

**Nancy Tupper Ling  
Boston Authors Club  
1600 Providence Highway #247  
Walpole MA 02081**

| BOSTON AUTHORS CLUB | [bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com](mailto:bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com) |

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*Boston Authors Club*

