



*Boston Authors Club*

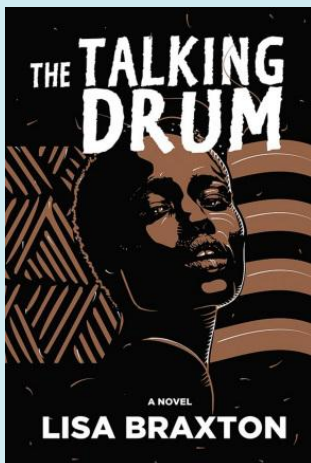
## January 2020 News

### Author Spotlight Issue

2020 Publications and 2019 Updates From BAC Authors

**PLUS**

- February 2 Hands-on BAC Book-Making Workshop
- President's Message: New Year Resolutions
- Yesteryear at the BAC: Cooking as Literature



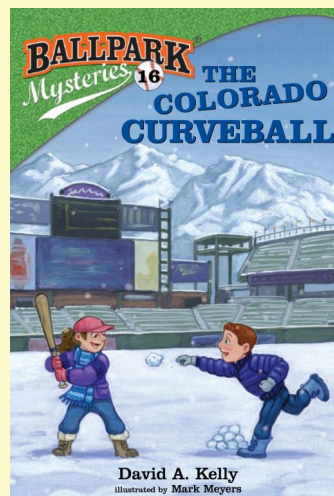
*The Talking Drum*, a debut novel by Lisa Braxton will be published by Inanna Publications in May 2020. *The Talking Drum* takes place in the early 1970s in a fictional eastern Massachusetts port city. Through the eyes of three young couples, the novel explores gentrification, intra-racial, class, and cross-cultural tensions, along with the meaning of community and belonging.

For more information, visit <https://lisabraxton.com/>

*The Colorado Curveball*, the 20<sup>th</sup> book in David Kelly's Ballpark Mysteries series, is coming out in February 2020. This episode takes place at the Colorado Rockies stadium in Denver with a dinosaur (or two!) and specially-maintained baseballs in the Rockies' humidior (they need to keep the baseballs at the right humidity level or the teams hit too many home runs).

David has scheduled a Colorado book launch tour in early March, plus a baseball opening day celebration at the Carey Memorial Library in Lexington on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more events, see [www.davidakellybooks.com](http://www.davidakellybooks.com)



**Echo Mountain Coming in April**

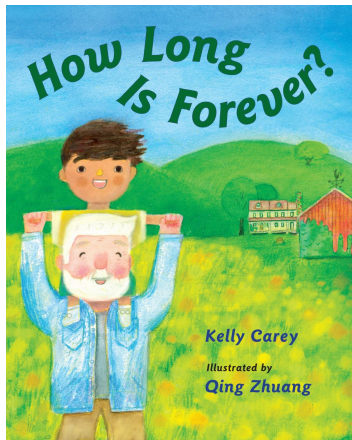


Lauren Wolk, a BAC honored author for *Beyond the Bright Sea*, has a new book coming out from Penguin in April 2020: *Echo Mountain*. Wolk's latest work is described as "a stunning tale of resilience, persistence, and friendship across three generations of strong women, set against the rough and ragged beauty of the mountain they all call home."

For more information visit: <http://www.laurenwolk.com/>



## How Long is Forever? by Kelly J. Carey



*How Long is Forever?* Kelly J. Carey's debut picture book will be published by Charlesbridge in April 2020. Illustrated by Qing Zhuang, this is a heartwarming story about that special love parents and grandparents feel for the children in their lives – that forever love. Carey has been publishing short children's fiction for over ten years. She also teaches writing classes for adults and for children.

Learn more at; [www.kcareywrites.com](http://www.kcareywrites.com)

## BAC Book-Making Workshop \* February 2, 2020

*Join members and friends of the BAC to make one or several small pamphlet-type books to hold a poem, picture, or some small memorabilia. This book-making workshop will be held in the Wellesley Free Library at 530 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02481, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. No experience is necessary, and everyone will leave with something they love. All materials—including beautiful cover papers—will be provided. If you choose to handwrite in your booklet, you may want to bring along your favorite pen.*

*Space is limited to 20, so please RSVP to [martha.pott@tufts.edu](mailto:martha.pott@tufts.edu). We'll communicate with you a bit closer to the event and if you have any questions, please write to Martha Pott at the email address above.*

## President's Message - BAC Resolutions

*New Year's greetings to all my fellow BAC members! May your 2020 be filled with happiness, health and a lot of good books.*

BAC members can look forward to a number of things in the new year. We are hoping to

launch a brand new BAC website early in 2020. We'll be hosting a number of events in different locations (see the notice about our upcoming book-making workshop elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter). We will soon commence our reading committees in pursuit of honoring some of the best books by Boston-area authors from the previous year. And we'll be looking to expand our membership, and our partnerships with other organizations.

To the extent that an organization can have New Year's resolutions, here are a few for the BAC:

- To continue to find ways of supporting, celebrating and promoting literature
- To develop relationships with independent bookstores and support their missions
- To begin to find ways of linking our literary goals with goals of civic engagement

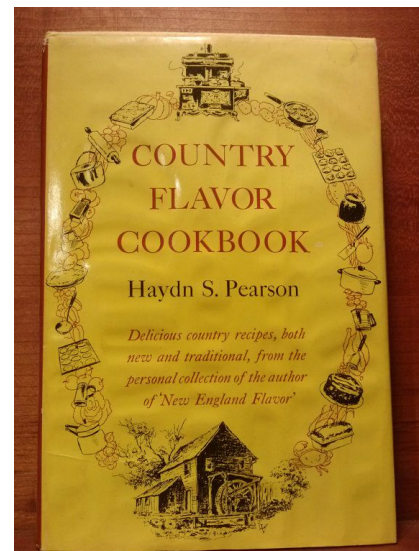
Happy 2020, everyone!

*Julie Dobrow, BAC President*

## Yesteryear at the BAC: Cooking as Literature

**The International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) awards the Julia Child First Book Award each year** "...to the first cookbook by a writer who has not previously authored or coauthored a food or beverage related book." This is only one of fifteen categories of cookbooks that the IACP recognizes each year. Cookbooks eligible for the Julia Child award must contain recipes and the category "... requires recipe testing/evaluation by the judges."

I don't know if cookbooks are eligible for the Boston Author Club's Julia Ward Howe Award. A cookbook might be considered a reference book in which case it wouldn't be. On the other hand, one of the IACP categories is "Literary or Historical Food Writing" which, we are assured, does not require recipe testing by the judges. So maybe we'll see a BAC cookbook someday, presumably in the Non-Fiction category.



**Haydn S. Pearson was a cookbook author who joined the Boston Authors Club in 1948. According to Notable Boston Authors, Pearson was known as "Mr. New England" presumably because he wrote the Country Correspondence column for the New England States edition of the Boston Herald.**

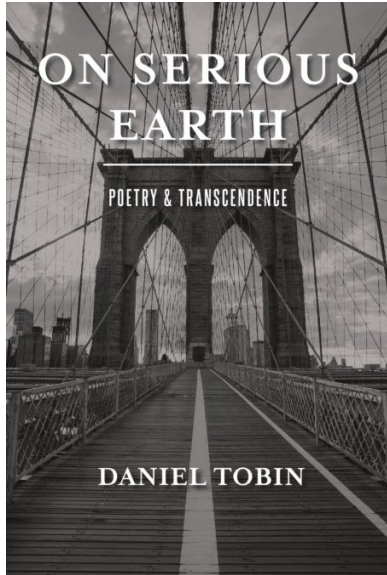
Pearson's most famous cookbook is the **Country Flavors Cookbook** first published by himself in 1954 with a second edition published by Norton in 1962. The book contains recipes which, I imagine, would appeal to New Englanders but I'd be hard pressed to come up with a characterization of this collection even after reading over the recipes. Maybe that's just because my childhood midwestern favorites such as city chicken and creamed succotash aren't among them. One does find Uncle Thaddeus' Tomato-Rice Casserole, Dora's Sausage Flavored Cinnamon Sponge Cake, and Blanche's Bran-Prune Muffins. (No bran-prune muffin ever made it west of the Appalachians.)

In addition to the 115 recipes, all of which are spiced with Pearson's comments (Mrs. Jacob's Date Swirls includes some facts about palm trees taken from the 1949 Yearbook of Agriculture), there are 70 of what Pearson calls "Country Flavor Essays". These are one-page downhome remembrances which I'd wager are reprints of Pearson's Herald column and they are delightful reading. Penny candies, box suppers, and seed catalogs are just a few of the subjects covered.

The deadline for submitting books for the 2020 Julia Ward Howe Prize is January 31, 2020. If you wrote a cookbook in 2019 and live within 100 miles of Boston, why not go ahead and enter it in the contest? I can't promise it will be declared eligible but I will promise to try one of the recipes. Just not the bran-prune muffins.



## BAC MEMBER UPDATES FROM 2019

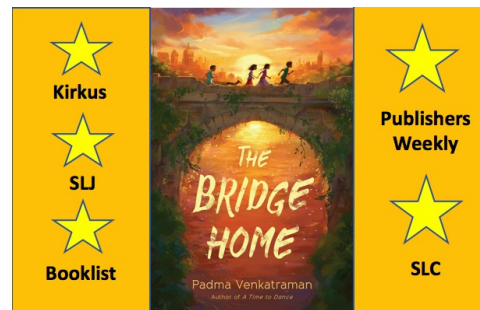


**Daniel Tobin, Emerson professor and author of eight books of poems reports that *On Serious Earth: Poetry & Transcendence* was published by Orison Books in November 2019.**

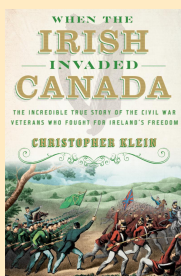
Tobin is an honored BAC author and the Julia Ward Howe prize winner for his 2016 book **From Nothing**.

**Padma Venkatraman's latest book, *The Bridge Home*, was released in February 2019 to 5 star reviews in Kirkus, Booklist, SLC, SLJ, PW.** It has since been included on best book lists by Washington Post, NYPL, Chicago Public Library, ALA Booklist, Kirkus, CSMCL, and Goodreads. Padma's previous books have been honored by the BAC.

The audiobook, which Padma herself narrates, is a Junior Library Guild selection, Booklist Editor's Choice, and SLJ Top 10 Audio book.



## MORE EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS IN 2020



***When the Irish Invaded Canada* by Christopher Klein will be available in paperback from Anchor Books in February 2020.**

Books in February 2020.

Klein will be speaking about his book on:

**February 27 at 12:15** at the Springfield Museums

**March 19 at 7 PM** at the

**Helen Marie Casey** will be reading one of her poems about the suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway at the convention of the League of Women Voters of MA in honor of the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in the USA.

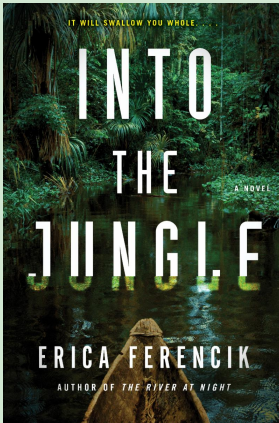


Casey will also be reading poems to appear in *The Paterson Literary Review* in Paterson, NJ, in February.

Kingston Senior Center

**March 22 at 2 PM** at the Stevens Memorial Library in North Andover.

Her recent poems have appeared in *The Christian Century*, *The Worcester Review*, and *The Moving Force*.



Erica Ferencik's novel *Into the Jungle* will be released in paperback on March 3, 2020. Erica will be speaking about her book and her month-long research trip into the Peruvian jungle at the following events:

Thursday, March 12, 7pm, Billerica Public Library  
Monday, March 23, 7pm, Hamilton/Wenham Public Library  
Saturday, May 16, "A Novel Occasion," 12noon, Lunch With Your Favorite Author, Primavera Restaurant, Millis, sponsored by Friends of Millis Library, Millis, MA.

For more information visit: <https://ericaferencik.com/>



*The BAC newsletter is published the first week of every month except for the summer months. Please send news about upcoming events, awards, and new books to [bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com](mailto:bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com) by 1/28/20 for publication in February.*

## REMINDER Your BAC Membership for 2020

**BAC membership dues are \$50 annually for the calendar year. 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:**

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*Boston Authors Club*

