



Boston Authors Club

September 2022 Newsletter

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The Boston Authors Club's Awards Ceremony

Please join the Boston Authors Club
as we celebrate the winners and finalists
of the 2021 Julia Ward Howe prizes and
the Discovery Award winners

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 7 PM

METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS MUSEUM
2450 BEACON ST, CHESTNUT HILL, MA 02467

Hope to see you there!



2022 BAC Discovery Contest Winners

Congratulations to the 2022 BAC Discovery Award Winners, Karen Naylor and Mary Newton Lima. This year's contest focused on Young Adult manuscripts by New England authors who have not yet had a book traditionally published.



Karen Naylor, first place winner for *Dancing with the All-Stars*, is a mother and educator, currently teaching seventh grade English Language Arts in Scituate, MA. Karen says she “spent the pandemic finding hope while writing this novel. As a mother of four and longtime teacher of middle and high schoolers, I know how sometimes it feels like you have little control over your success; that life seems to hand things to some, while taking from others. As Livvie, the main character in the novel learns, real winning is less about how much life takes from or gives to you, and more about how much you give to life.”

*“Winning this award gives me the validation necessary to continue to work towards publication of *Dancing with the All-Stars*. I am hopeful that with feedback and guidance regarding revisions and process, that this novel will be published one day.”*



Mary Newton Lima, second place winner for *Lost in the Darkness* has been writing young adult fiction for over ten years. Creative writing is her outlet and relaxation strategy from her day job at MIT. A scientist by training and program administrator by day, her overly developed organizational skills have given her mad plotting skills, but her favorite moments in writing are when her characters take the reins and lead her down fascinating paths she never expected.

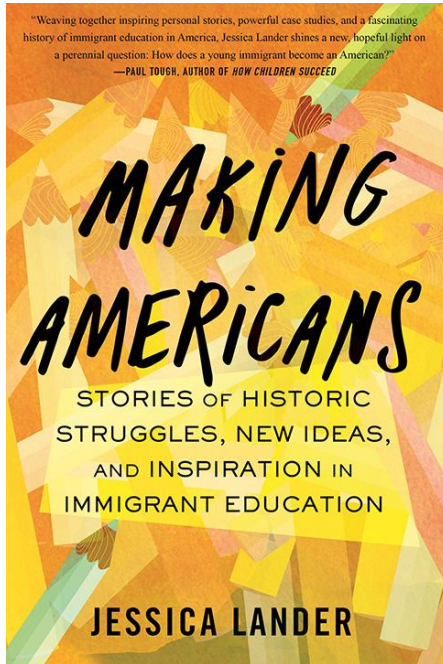
Mary says that the Discovery Award is “a wonderful boost that will help me continue the quest for publication.” She’s ecstatic that her beloved characters and their story captured the hearts of the judges and is hoping it will soon capture an agent’s attention as well!

BAC Author News

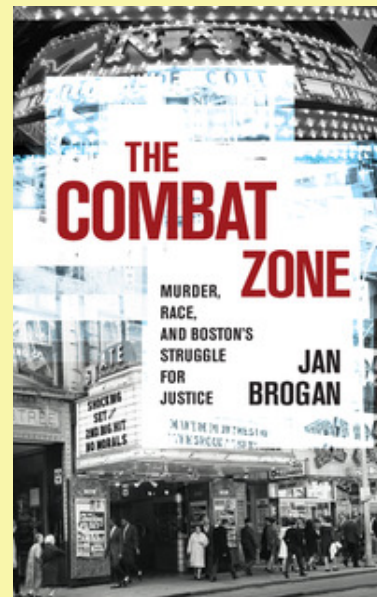
Jessica Lander is excited to share that her new book *Making Americans: Stories of Historic Struggles, New Ideas, and Inspiration in Immigrant Education*, will be published on October 4.

Advance reviews call this work “An eye-opening, crucial, and riveting account of how schools and educators have shaped the immigrant experience in the United States. It is an essential history of our nation, interwoven with narratives of students and teachers who are today reimagining what it means to become American..” (Bina Venkataraman) and “...a beautifully written account...With masterful interweaving of legal history, classroom case examples, and powerful student stories, what emerges

is a compelling and timely work that informs as much as it inspires.”(Sarah Ladipo Manyika)



Congratulations to Jan Brogan!
Her book *The Combat Zone: Murder, Race, and Boston's Struggle for Justice*, was shortlisted for an Agatha award earlier this year for best nonfiction of 2021, and was recently nominated for an Anthony award for best nonfiction.

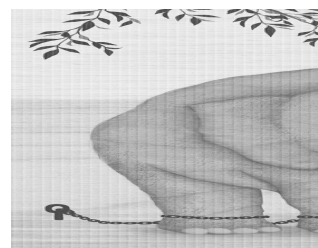


Book Arts Intensive 2022

This workshop offers three days of designing papers, creating books, and constructing boxes and portfolios. Joelle Webber, Mermaid Binder, shares that she will be teaching it, along with Cynthia McGuirl and Sandy Weisman

September 9th - 11th
at 26 Split Rock Cove

Ralph Fletcher's new picture book, *The World's Loneliest Elephant*, illustrated by Naoko Stoop, will be published by Christy Ottaviano Books/Hachette in September.



President's Note: Book Collecting Traditions

My father, almost 93, has been a book collector his entire life. I recently asked him why it was that he started collecting books. He explained to me that his father, a general practice physician back in the days when doctors still made house calls, was not much of a reader, himself, but thought that books were an incredibly important part of anyone's education. My grandfather made sure that his two sons, both of whom became doctors, too, grew up surrounded by plenty of books.



And so my dad grew up valuing books. An omnivorous reader, he collected books about military history, about the American West, about photography, first editions of writers he particularly admired like Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Cather and more. My brothers and I grew up in a household where books were revered. When we brought home outstanding report cards or made a great play on the baseball diamond or made first chair in the orchestra, there was always a trip to the Magic Circle Bookshop or the Little Professor Bookstore to mark the occasion. We grew up knowing that making pilgrimages into New York always meant going to The Strand, Brentano's or Rizzoli's. And family vacations to Arizona each year meant a visit to Guidon, a bookstore that specialized in books on Western history.

Throughout college and graduate school, I loved to peruse used bookstores. I still do. But I also like to haunt our local independents.

Of course all these trips to bookstores coupled with my father's complete inability to throw anything out meant that there lots of books in our home. Giving books away? Unthinkable! My brothers and I each inherited our dad's penchant for collecting books and his valuation of what having books in our lives (and in our homes) meant. We all have lots and lots of books, a trait we've also passed along to our children. (They might be more likely than we are to get some of their reading material electronically, but they, too, have inherited the book collecting gene!) My husband and I always told our four kids that they should not scrimp on books in college, that this was the time to start building their own collections.

As for my dad, he is still reading widely. And he's still collecting, too.

Wherever you read and get your books, wishing you all many more great editions. Have a good end to summer and start to fall, and be sure to check out upcoming BAC events!

Julie Dobrow
BAC President

Yesteryear at the BAC: A Boston Author's Crooked Streets

Annie Haven Thwing (1851-1940) was a Boston author who savored details. Thwing (pictured at right) followed in the literary footsteps of an earlier Boston author who also took joy in marshaling vast herds of facts, Hannah Adams (1755-1831).



Thwing's marquee work, ***The Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston (1630-1822)***, published by Marshall Jones in 1920, is not a page-turner and undoubtedly appeals mostly to readers who skip from the Table of Contents directly to the Index to find out how the book comes out.

This style of writing---giving the readers a curated dictionary of paragraph-size stories and letting them construct their own book---is still very much in academic vogue today, as witness *An Infinite History: The Story of a Family in France over Three Centuries* by Emma Rothschild. Think a giant box of literary Legos.

What is unique in the case of Thwing is that we still have the source documents for *Crooked and Narrow*---125,000 handwritten index cards and twenty-seven volumes of typescript extracts from Boston estate records---all safely kept under temperature control at the Massachusetts Historical Society. The New England Historic Genealogical Society undertook a massive five-year effort to digitize the cards and make them available for a small fee on a CD-ROM. In fact, at one time, you could query the CD on the NEHGS website, but no more. As far as I know, the only remaining copy of the CD is also at MHS.

Readers and writers of curated lists may be thought of as living apart from the world of letters. Maybe

that's why Annie Haven Thwing was never invited to join the Boston Authors Club. But I find there's nothing so enjoyable as settling down to evening's read of a well-worn copy of *Stimpson's Boston Directory* and discovering that Eleazer J. Hewes sold mathematical instruments at his shop at 250 Commerce Street and lived at 2 Harvard Street. Now just imagine that.

By Scott Guthery

authors!
AUTHORS!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

PLEASE SHARE YOUR PUBLICATIONS, HONORS, AND EVENTS. FOR INCLUSION IN THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER, **Email your news items to: bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com by 9/28/22**

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