

November 2022 Newsletter

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SPOTLIGHT ON: Marc Colagiovanni



WELCOME to new BAC member Marc Colagiovanni, a career attorney and soon-to-be debut picture book author.

Marc grew up in Rhode Island, and currently lives in Cranston with his wife and three daughters. He has been a practicing attorney for over 20 years, but his true passion has always been writing. Marc's long-time dream of becoming a published children's book is coming true in duplicate, with the release of his debut picture book, When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left, in March 2023. A second picture book, The Reflection in Me, will follow in 2024. Both books are published by Scholastic and illustrated by Peter Reynolds. The Reflection in Me, is based on a film that Marc created and produced in collaboration Peter Reynolds and FableVision. It has attracted 1.3 million views on YouTube since its release as a short video in

2016. Visit www.fablevisionstudios.com/reflection for more details.

In this interview, Marc shares his thoughts about what motivated him to join the BAC.

The aspect of being part of a community of writers and appreciators of literature that is most important to me is the opportunity to surround myself with creative people and creative energy. Being part of this community provides me with the creative outlet that I cannot obtain through the practice of law. And while I am very grateful for my legal career, the opportunity to exercise the creative part of my brain through this community is an aspect I will cherish greatly.

Due to the fact that I am brand new to the Boston Authors Club, it is challenging for me, at this time, to determine how the BAC can better serve the community. However, from what I have read on-line, this organization has done amazing things for over a century. During my research of the BAC, I read a quote that I really loved: "The Boston Authors Club: Defending books in the age of distraction."

As a parent raising children during this technological boom, it is a constant battle keeping my kids away from their electronic devices. And while I am a big fan of technology, I feel it has created a very impatient generation. My children have grown so accustomed to obtaining answers with just the click of a button, that anything that requires more than 30 seconds of patience results in frustration.

Preventing them from getting distracted from the beep of a new text message or wanting to leave the dinner table to learn a new TikTok, is a daily struggle. I am always encouraging them to read a book because it is the greatest exercise in focus and concentration. A good reader leads to a good writer which leads to a good communicator...and communication in all aspects of life is the key to success.

That's why "Defending books in the age of distraction" spoke so deeply to me. I cannot think of a better mission statement for the Boston Authors Club to live by in serving the community.

Interview by Lisa Rogers

Reminder: In- Person Panel Event on 11/7/22

Our SO YOU WANT TO WRITE A CHILDREN'S BOOK? program is back by popular demand - expanded to include illustrator and agent perspectives!

On Nov. 7, 2022, at 7 p.m., join children's authors Cynthia Levinson, Lisa Rogers, and Ray Anthony Shepard AND illustrator/author Brian Lies, AND agent Elizabeth Bennett AND moderator/author Tracy Geary at Whitelam Books, 610 Main St., Reading, MA (whitelambooks.com) for an informative and fun evening. You will hear all about what it takes to turn an idea into a fiction or nonfiction picture book, middle grade or YA title—and then how to attract an agent to sell it!

November Notes: JWH 2021 Books Are Arriving

The books have started arriving!

Each year we put out a call to a growing list of publishers about our annual Julia Ward Howe prizes. We ask for two copies of titles written by authors who lived or worked within a 100-mile radius of Boston, were published in 2022, and are not textbooks, reference books, self-published or digital only books. There's an entry fee of \$35, that can be paid online (see https://bostonauthorsclub.org/). Entries have to be received by January 31, 2023.



For someone who loves books, I have to say that it's a joy to get these boxes. It's exciting to open the box, to reach in and pull out these newly minted titles with their glossy covers. I always find numerous books that I want to read, myself, beyond the ones I've committed to read for one of our reading committees. It's especially fun when I receive titles written by people I know, or by authors I truly admire. I've also become very friendly with our local postal worker and UPS delivery man!

Please help us make sure that we have a diverse set of entries in each of our four categories: fiction, nonfiction, poetry and young readers. If you have published a book in 2022, have your publisher send it to us! And if you know a Boston author who has, encourage them to submit their work. Anyone interested in joining one of our four reading committees should also let us know; it's wonderful to get to read a number of books you might not otherwise have read, and talk about them with other thoughtful and critical readers.

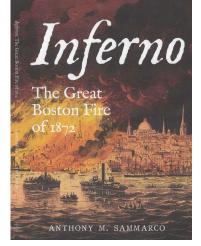
Happy November!

Julie Dobrow BAC President

BAC Author News

Anthony Sammarco reports that his latest book, Inferno: The Great Boston Fire of 1872, was just published by Fonthill in London.

Inferno was written to commemorate the 150th anniversary of a devastating fire that destroyed sixty-five acres of land in Boston, from Washington Street, between Summer Street and Milk Street, fanning eastward towards the wharves projecting into Boston Harbor. The fire was said to have destroyed 776



buildings in Boston's downtown, causing over \$73 million [1872 dollars or \$1,682,000,000.00 in 2022 dollars] in damage, killing an estimated twenty people and which led to stricter building regulations in Boston.



Jessica Lander cordially invites everyone to her 11/14 book talk at the Harvard Book Store to celebrate her newly released book Making Americans.

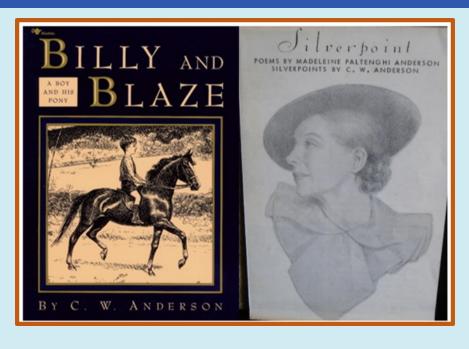
Jessica notes that her parents first took her to the Harvard Bookstore when she was 3 months old; she is pictured here excited to find copies of her book in the front window this month. For more of the 11/14 book talk details visit https://www.harvard.com/book/making_americans/

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The BAC MEMBER GALLERY IS OPEN! ALL CURRENTLY PAID MEMBERS CAN ADD THEIR PROFILE. For details on adding your information, just email us at: bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com



Yesteryear: The Multi-Talented Mrs. & Mr. Anderson



What was the first series of books you read growing up? Clara Barton? Tom Swift? Nancy Drew? The Hardy Boys? Lassie? Or perhaps it was the Billy and Blaze series,

chronicling the adventures of a boy and his horse, with 10 titles published between 1936 and 1969. This popular series was the collaborative work of a husband and wife team who joined the Boston Authors Club back in 1954. The husband was Clarence William (C.W.) Anderson (1891-1971) and the wife was Madeleine Paltenghi Anderson (1898-1971). The two are memorialized on adjoining pages in Boston Authors Now and Then by Mildred Buchanan Flagg, our dauntless BAC historian of yesteryear

Madeleine Paltenghi Anderson was an accomplished poet and singer, as well as the author of four books of children's stories. C.W. Anderson was a novelist and an artist, best known for his silver point drawings of horses. The *Billy and Blaze* title pages make no mention of Madeleine being a co-author, even though there is biographical evidence that she was the impetus for the series as well a regular contributor. One reviewer suggests that this was a deliberate marketing decision since at the time the series was launched in 1936 C.W. was an established name in publishing, while Madeleine was not.

C.W. authored over forty books, mostly about horses with the notable exception of his inaugural work, *And So To Bed*, a collection of spicy-for-the-time adult cartoons. Judging from Google results, Madeleine's best remembered book is a collection of poems, *Silver Point (1962)*. In addition to being the title of her poetry collection, silver point is the media that C.W. used to illustrate the book. About silver point, C.W. says `This method allows for no correction. The solid silver pencil allows the artist to draw with such delicacy that stray lines may lend interest." As a side note, the attitude "If you can't fix it, feature it" is a hoary dodge in many creative endeavors other than silver point artistry. Computer software comes easily to mind.

Madeleine was born and grew up in Mason, New Hampshire. She met Clarence in Greenwich Village in the 1920s. When she moved back to Mason in the 1930s, Clarence left the big city to follow her. They shared a love art, music, and literature as well as being horse enthusiasts.

Clarence Anderson was born and grew up in Wahoo, Nebraska. After graduating from the Chicago School of Art, he moved to NY to pursue a career in drawing and writing. To my mind, there's something touching about finding Clarence honored on the Wahoo High School website as a distinguished alum: https://www.wahooschools.org/vnews/display.v/ART/47ca35e999248

Boston Latin also calls out some of its famous graduates on the extensive history page at its website.

Boston English is silent about its past alums. So is Lakewood High School, this author's alma mater.

By Scott Guthery



Send us your news by 11/29/22 for inclusion the December BAC Newsletter:
bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com
THANKS!

JOIN NOW FOR EXTENDED MEMBERSHIP

Become a member, OR RENEW NOW, for Membership through 2023! Membership dues are \$50 annually for the calendar year. Join now and your membership will extend through December 31, 2023. You can join and renew online by clicking here. https://bostonauthorsclub.org/join-and-renew

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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