



Boston Authors Club

December 2022 Newsletter

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NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

***Pat Lowery Collins
and
Bridget Hodder***

Welcome to new BAC member Pat Lowery Collins. Pat is a poet, painter, and the author of many award-winning books for children and young adults including the Reading Rainbow selection, *I Am An Artist*, and the recent sequel, *I Am a Dancer*.

Her newest historical novels are *Hidden Voices*, *The Orphan Musicians of Venice* and *Daughter of Winter*. Pat's young adult novel in free verse, *The Fattening Hut*, won the Boston Author's Club 2004 Julia Ward Howe Award.



Q: What aspects of being a part of the BAC community of writers and appreciators of literature are the most important to you?

Writing is a lonely occupation, and it is supportive just to know that there are others in and around Boston who share your aspirations and your need for occasional approbation. I am so grateful for those selfless writers who take the considerable time necessary to read the work submitted for the end-of-year prizes.

Unique and powerful books are often discovered by this crew, and the celebration to honor the winners is always a treat for the spectators as well as the winners. The fact that the winning books are archived in a

place as renowned as The Boston Public Library is another huge plus.

Q: What works have shaped you as a writer?

At the beginning of my writing journey, I read books such as *Bird by Bird* by Ann Lamott and *A Writer's Life* by Eudora Welty, but I learned the most from reading the work of other writers. Francine Prose's book *Reading Like A Writer* expands on this idea. My concentration, while centered on the structure of a particular book, is also upon such things as the sentences themselves, the imagery, character development, pace, and nuance.



Welcome to new BAC member Bridget Hodder. Bridget is an author, language specialist, and autism therapist. She is Sephardic, and the daughter and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors.

Bridget's work has received awards and recognition from Kirkus, PJ Library, the International Literacy Association, the Mythopoeic Society, Book Riot, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other organizations. She is Chair of the Vanderbilt University Graduate School Advisory Board, a Board Member of Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley, and co-administrator of the 6000+ strong

community, "Our Sephardic Family."

Q: What aspects of being a part of the BAC community of writers and appreciators of literature are the most important to you?

Thanks so much for your warm welcome to the Boston Authors Club! Writing can be isolating, as it takes place one-on-one with the page. But even the most introverted writer hopes the words they send out into the world will find homes in the hearts of readers. We are communicators, reaching out, seeking a deep connection in an unusual way. So the joy of finding both other writers and other readers who can share and celebrate this experience with us is unique. When I dreamed of becoming a published author, I had no idea that the brilliant and uplifting kidlit community of writers, readers, librarians, and publishing professionals of all kinds would be one of the very best parts of living that dream!

Q: What works have shaped you as a writer?

For my first book, *The Rat Prince*, I was inspired by the works of Charles Perrault and the many forms of the Cinderella trope. But you might call it a backwards bit of inspiration, since the Cinderella story had way too many nonsensical plot gaps for my liking (not to mention some pretty distasteful female and male stereotypes). So I decided to have the Prince of the Rats get changed into Cinderella's footman on the night of the ball, and then team up with Cinderella to turn the whole legend upside down. My love of Reepicheep the Talking Mouse in the *Chronicles of Narnia* really shaped the brave, honorable character of the handsome Rat Prince--but only up to a point. Reepicheep would never take part in a sausage-eating contest.

When writing *The Button Box*--my latest Middle Grade work with co-author Fawzia Gilani--I drew upon my family's Sephardic Jewish oral histories. But the time-slip setting of the story stems directly from all the time travel books I adored as a child...from *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce, to *The Children of Green Knowe* by Lucy M. Boston, to *The Magic Treehouse* books I shared with my own children. I truly believe the wistful magic of imagining yourself in another time, with the power to change what happened there and create a better future, will never lose its luster. It also reminds us not to lose those opportunities when we find them in the present!

Interviews by Lisa Rogers

**NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL BAC READERS TO
JOIN US FOR 2023**

A cordial reminder that we welcome new members to the BAC - anyone

interested in literature and writing is eligible to become a member. If you have joined us in prior years, your membership is up for renewal now.

Please support the BAC's plans for providing members with more programs and services in 2023 by renewing your membership today.

Membership dues are \$50 annually for the calendar year. You can join and renew online at <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:

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



OUR SPECIAL ISSUE JANUARY NEWSLETTER CELEBRATES BAC AUTHORS (AND MEMBER BOOKSTORES). WE WILL FEATURE YOUR RECENT AND FORTHCOMING WORKS AND 2023 EVENTS

To be included, submit your news by 12/28/22 to bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com
THANKS!

PRESIDENT'S NOTE: December Musings

Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season. In recent years, Black Friday and Cyber Monday have added to the consumerist push we all feel as we strive to find and purchase those perfect gifts for family and friends.

Of course we bibliophiles often turn to books as our go-to sources of gifting. There's an art and a craft to finding the right book for those on our holiday lists. You want to find a book that someone would genuinely *want* to read, not just the book we aspirationally think they should. Sometimes you want to find a book that your giftee wouldn't have found, left to their own devices. Sometimes the perfect book presents itself months before the holidays and you have to purchase it then or remember to buy it (I have started keeping lists on my computer in my obsessive reading of book reviews throughout the year).

And then there's the question of where you find the right gift books. Though it's very convenient to shop on Amazon or wander the stacks in Barnes and Noble, sometimes you find just the right book in your local independent bookstore. And you can find it more easily, because well-read and knowledgeable staff offer their thoughts and suggestions and the collections are more curated. I also personally enjoy wandering around in used bookstores to find the gems of yesteryear that make unusual gifts.

Emily Dickinson once wrote that "Books are the dearest ones of time, the strongest friends of the soul." I'm certain she would agree that books are among the best gifts you could possibly give.

Happy holidays, and wishing you all the best for 2023!

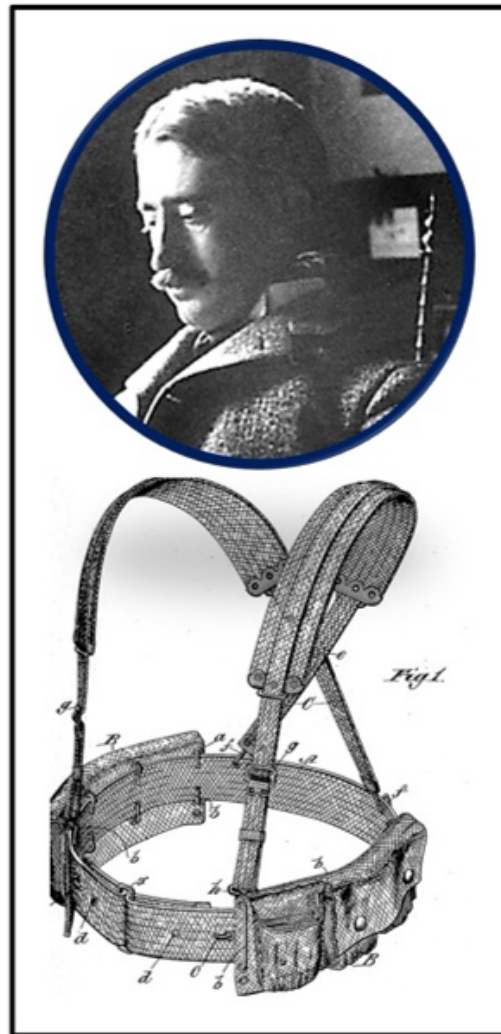


**Julie Dobrow
BAC President**

Yesteryear at the BAC: An Inventive Author and a Tale of

William Lindsey (pictured here with his invention) was born in Fall River in 1858. Lindsey wrote poetry as a child, but his priority during the last two decades of the nineteenth century was making money - lots of money - as a businessman. The foundation of his commercial success was the arms industry, in particular an innovative cartridge belt made of woven fabric rather than the traditional leather. Lindsey was granted one US patent, two Great Britain patents, and one French patent for his invention, becoming the first BAC member who was also a patent holder. He set up the Mills Woven Cartridge Belt Company in Worcester, MA to produce the belt.

To his frustration, Lindsey couldn't convince the US army to buy his invention. Undaunted, he moved his business, factory, and family to England in 1889. After persistent efforts and a number of field trials, he convinced the British military to adopt the belt in time for it to become standard issue for British forces in the Boer War and throughout the British Empire. Lindsey made his fortune, becoming wealthy enough to retire in his early forties, return to Boston in grand style, and take up his pen in earnest.



Lindsey joined the Boston Authors Club in 1905. It seems clear that he was warmly welcomed into the BAC's inner circle, since he served as the club's vice president for twelve years.

Little of Lindsey's literary output is remembered today. Poems from his first book of poetry, *Cinder-Path Tales*, were included in *The Anthology of American Poetry*. He also wrote plays and several novels. One of his plays, *Sermonda*, enjoyed forty-eight performances at the Criterion Theatre on Broadway in early 1917. The play was produced and directed by Julia Arthur. The Times reviewer was unimpressed: "The Criterion Theatre last evening was the scene of a respectable and interesting but quite uninspired attempt to restore the poetic romantic drama of another day and generation, when a new play named "Sermonda," by a new playwright named William Lindsey, was presented here for the first time, with the queenly Julia Arthur in the title role." Two of Lindsey's triolets ("...a poem of eight lines, typically of eight syllables each, rhyming abaaabab and so structured that the first line recurs as the fourth and seventh and the second as the eight...") were set to music by Mabel W. Daniels. A triolet set to music becomes a chanson. But I digress.

While the Boer War made Lindsey a wealthy man, the First World War brought family tragedy. There is another facet of Lindsey's story that has particular and poignant relevance to Boston which I'll delve into in the next column. Here's a teaser: "...the bridesmaids were the pallbearers."

By Scott Guthery

BAC Member's Gallery - Send Us Your Details

Every BAC member is welcome to be part of our new Member's Gallery, featuring your picture, a brief bio, publications, and your online sites. Take a look here:

<https://bostonauthorsclub.org/gallery>

Adding your information to Gallery is easy! Just email us if you are interested:



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