

Fifth Period: Relate, Create, Innovate!



4 – 5:15 pm *Show Badge Required* **Fifth Period** **Clark / Washington Rooms**

Our featured speakers will be:

John Crocker, *Following Fifi*, Pegasus / Norton

Charise Harper, *The Amazing Crafty Cat*, First Second / Macmillan

Chelsea Martin, *Caca Dolce: Essays from a Lowbrow Life*, Soft Skull

Kathryn Otoshi, *Draw the Line*, Roaring Brook / Macmillan

Michaele Razi, *Frank, the Seven-Legged Spider*, Little Bigfoot / Sasquatch

Peter Rock, *Spells: A Novel Within Photographs*, Counterpoint

Adam Rothstein, *Orthogonal Procedures*, Resurrection House

Toni Yuly, *Thank You, Bees*, Candlewick

This signing/social will provide an opportunity to unpack and recap the day's lessons, plot practical applications back at the store or library, and trade new ideas for possible future PNBA education. 2017 Education Committee members will be on hand to receive thanks and feedback.

Following brief opening comments and introductions, attendees and all their ideas will meet and mix, in a reception setting, with authors, chosen for pursuing their individual crafts with particular personality and panache.

As a student, **John Crocker** was lucky enough to spend eight months in the Gombe forest working with Jane Goodall observing chimpanzees. While following the families of wild chimps, Crocker was particularly drawn to Fifi, a mother who showed extraordinary patience in dealing with her infant, Freud. After returning to the U.S., Crocker became a doctor of family medicine and found himself incorporating the lessons he had learned from Fifi into his dealings with his human patients. *Following Fifi* (Pegasus/Norton) is Crocker's illuminating memoir about how his time with our closest cousins gave him a clearer understanding of family bonds, the act of patience and the need for community. John Crocker practices medicine in Seattle, and is a popular speaker on primate behavior. *Following Fifi* is his first book.

Whenever second grader Birdie finds herself in a delicate situation, she calls on her secret alter-ego, Crafty Cat, who always knows just what crafty project will take care of the problem. **Charise Mericle Harper's** new graphic novel trilogy kicks off with *The Amazing Crafty Cat* (First Second/Macmillan), a charming, funny, and sweet tale for young readers. And to stimulate the Crafty Cat in all of us, Harper includes six easy-to-do craft projects in the book. Charise Harper has created many, many books for children of all ages, including the popular *Fashion Kitty* series, the *Just Grace* books, the *Sasquatch and Aliens* series, and *Henry's Heart*. She lives in Portland and has a studio in a former food truck called Noodle.

Caca Dolce: Essays from a Lowbrow Life (Soft Skull/IPS) is **Chelsea Martin's** revealing collection of memories from her childhood in a dead-end California town. Painfully self-aware, Martin's essays tell the story of her coming-of-age as an artist, episode by honest episode, a book about sex, class, feeling like an outsider and growing up poor. Elizabeth Ellen, author of *Person/a* writes "If David Sedaris were younger, hipper, and had once subscribed to *Cat Fancy*, he might write like this." Chelsea Martin is the author of several previous books, including *Even Though I Don't Miss You*, as well as being a comic artist and illustrator and the creative director of *Universal Error*. She lives in Spokane.



John Crocker



Charise Mericle Harper



Chelsea Martin



Kathryn Otoshi

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Michaela Razi

Award-winning author and illustrator **Kathryn Otoshi's** *Draw the Line* (Roaring Brook/Macmillan) tells a beautiful multi-layered story using subtle black and white drawings punctuated with splashes of bold color. Two boys play back to back, each drawing a line. They bump into each other, and discover that by joining their lines, they can create more fun together. Until the lines get crossed, and their game of tug-of-war grows fierce. Otoshi shows how even the deepest chasm that comes to divide us can be mended together again. Kathryn Otoshi is creator of the number/color series of concept books *Zero* (self-esteem), *One* (bullying) and *Two* (friendship). Kathryn Otoshi lives in San Francisco with her husband and two cockatiels.



Peter Rock

Everyone knows that spiders have eight legs. But what happens if a spider loses one of them? **Michaela Razi** considers that question in *Frank, the Seven-Legged Spider* (Sasquatch/PRH), a perfect read-aloud for even the most spider-averse child. Frank loves being a spider, but when he wakes up one morning to discover one leg gone, he hardly knows himself. Learning to adapt takes some getting used to, but eventually Frank figures out that only having seven legs does not change who he really is. Michaela Razi describes herself as "... a children's book illustrator, a children's book fanatic, a mother to two children's book fanatics and all around lover of all things children's books." She lives in North Bend, Washington. *Frank, the Seven-Legged Spider* is her authorial debut.



Adam Rothstein

Twenty years ago, while working as a museum guard, **Peter Rock** staved off boredom by making up stories for each photograph, painting and object in the museum. More recently reminded of the creative pleasure he derived from those stories, he embarked on a similar project with the help of five selected photographers. *Spells: A Novel Within Photographs* (Counterpoint/IPS) is the result; a completely unique work of narrative fiction prompted by 43 photographs, woven together by Rock's stylistically wide-ranging text. Peter Rock is the author of six other novels, most recently *Klickitat*. He currently lives in Portland and is a professor at Reed College. A show of the text and photographs of *Spells* was featured at the Blue Sky Gallery in Portland and is currently traveling around Oregon.



Toni Yuly

Portland writer **Adam Rothstein** vividly reimagines America's history in *Orthogonal Procedures* (Resurrection House/IPS), a fantasy novel that combines alternative history, alternative technology and a good dose of bureaucratic in-fighting. Since 1942 when the Postal Bureau (led by Theodore Roosevelt) ushered in a new age of science and sent the Nazis packing, there has been bad blood between the Shamans of Commerce and the Wizards of Technology. It's up to G-man Fred Mackey of the Electromagnetic Bureau, Domestic Interference Engineering Section, to figure out how to science America back on track. Adam Rothstein is a freelance writer, installation artist, and is currently co-curator of *Weird Shift*, a research and gallery project in Portland, Oregon. *Orthogonal Procedures* is his first novel.

Gratitude and connection are the gentle messages presented in **Toni Yuly's** new picture book *Thank You, Bees* (Candlewick). Yuly's spare and repetitive text paired with her simple and bright collage artwork will give even the youngest reader a sense of the connectedness of everyday things and events. Clouds bring rain, rain makes puddles, puddles are fun for splashing about. "Nature's gifts are recognized and celebrated in this minimalist picture book that links gratitude with life itself . . . Appreciation is emblematic in this attractive and uncomplicated narrative that may also serve as a nondenominational bedtime prayer for the very young." – Kirkus. Toni Yuly is also the author and illustrator of several previous picture books, including *Cat Nap* and *Night Owl*. She lives in Bremerton, WA.