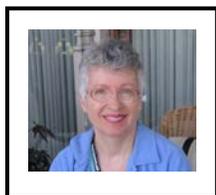
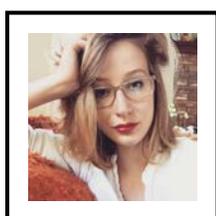


## FACULTY BIOS



**Darlene Beck Jacobson, Author** is a former teacher and author of *WHEELS OF CHANGE*, a MG Historical with Creston Books (2014). *WOC* was chosen as a 2015 notable trade book by the Children's Book Council and National Council of Social Studies. It also received The Grateful American Book Prize Honorable Mention in 2015. Darlene's stories have appeared in *CICADA*, *CRICKET*, and other magazines. She enjoys sewing, tea parties, travel and reading good books. Her favorite destination is Australia, where she fed a kangaroo, held a koala and snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef. Her blog features recipes, activities, crafts, and interviews with children's book authors and illustrators.



**Carolyn Bull, Art Designer, Hachette Book Group, Little Brown.** Carolyn is a designer working in the Licensing Department at Little, Brown and Company at Hachette Book Group. Some of the brands she works with include Marvel and My Little Pony. She has also worked with designers at Penguin Random House and Macmillan in multiple departments, all revolving around children's books. Carolyn graduated from Pratt Institute and holds a BFA in Illustration and Graphic Design.



**Dana Chidiac, Assistant Editor, Dial BFYR, Penguin.** Dana is an assistant editor at Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House. She is interested in acquiring chapter books, middle grade, and YA novels that feature unforgettable voices, and picture books with strong and innovative visual storytelling. Dana has worked on books by Tone Almhjell, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, Marilyn Nelson, Richard Peck, Jenn Marie Thorne, and Deborah Underwood. Originally from Michigan, Dana was an indie bookseller in Washington, DC and a children's literature graduate student in Boston before coming to Dial in 2013. She would drop everything to read a middle grade novel about the national spelling bee. Follow her on Twitter @chidiaqian.



**Kristin Daly Rens, Executive Editor, Balzer & Bray, Harper Collins.** Kristin first became interested in children's books as a career in high school, when she worked in her local public library shelving—and often covertly reading books in the children's room. She began her publishing career as an Editorial Assistant at Golden Books. In January 2002, she moved to HarperCollins, and in May 2008 she joined the team at Balzer + Bray. Kristin has been privileged to work with authors and illustrators such as Sudipta Badhan-Quallen, Michelle Markel, Melissa Sweet, Crystal Allen, Robert Sharenow, and New York Times bestselling authors Sara Raasch, C.J. Redwine, Megan Shepherd, and Evelyn Skye. She is also working on a number of exciting new projects, including the middle grade novel *TWO NAOMIS* by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich & Audrey Vernick; the YA fantasy debut *OF FIRE AND STARS* by Audrey Coulthurst; and the upcoming YA fantasy *THE GLASS SPARE* by bestselling author Lauren DeStefano.

## FACULTY BIOS



**Lorraine Dey, Author/Illustrator**, has been a professional illustrator and designer for over 35 years, working in various Art Director and Designer positions as well as working from her own illustration and design studio for several years. She has illustrated over 25 books for companies such as Rockport Publishers, Rodale Press, Delta Publishing and Simon & Schuster. Her work can also be seen on various home decor, kitchen accessories, giftware, greeting cards, and children's apparel.



**Christa Heschke, Literary Agent at McIntosh and Otis Literary Agency**. Christa graduated from Binghamton University with a major in English and a minor in Anthropology. She started in publishing as an intern at both Writers House and Sterling Lord Literary, where she fell in love with the agency side of publishing. Christa has been at McIntosh and Otis, Inc. in the Children's Literature Department since 2009 where she is actively acquiring for all age groups in children's.



**Tara Lazar, Author**, Street magic performer. Hog-calling champion. Award-winning ice sculptor. These are all things Tara Lazar has never been. Instead, she writes quirky, humorous picture books featuring magical places that everyone will want to visit. Tara has published books with Simon & Schuster, Random House, Sterling and Disney\* Hyperion. She is the founder of Picture Book Idea Month (PiBoldMo), an annual writing challenge, and a council member of the Rutgers Council on Children's Literature.



**Mike Malbrough, Author/Illustrator**, was born in Reisterstown, Maryland where he learned to draw and tell stories with art gypsies in his hometown. When he was all grown up he moved to New Jersey where he worked as an illustrator for 10 years. After an eternity of client-centered work in comics, apparel advertising and beyond, Mike rediscovered the world of picture books in 2015. By the summer of 2016, Mike had signed with Lori Kilkelly at Rodeen Literary Management and found a home for his debut picture book MARIGOLD BAKES A CAKE with Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin/Random House.



**Robin Newman, Author**, was once a practicing attorney and legal editor, but she now prefers to write about witches, mice, pigs and peacocks. She's the author of HILDIE BITTERPICKLES NEEDS HER SLEEP (Creston Books) and THE CASE OF THE MISSING CARROT CAKE, A WILCOX & GRISWOLD MYSTERY (Creston Books). THE CASE OF THE POACHED EGG, A WILCOX & GRISWOLD MYSTERY (Creston Books) and NO PEACOCKS! (Sky Pony Press) will be out in 2017. She's a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and the City University of New York School of Law. She lives in New York with her husband, son, goldfish and two very spoiled English Cocker Spaniels.



## FACULTY BIOS

---



**Alexa Pastor, Assistant Editor at Simon and Schuster BFYR.** Alexa joined Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, and Margaret K. McElderry Books in August of 2014. Prior to landing her dream job, Alexa interned at both Bloomsbury Children's Books and Running Press Kids, was a bookseller at Barnes and Noble, and graduated summa cum laude from Villanova University. She completed her master's degree in Children's and Young Adult Publishing at Rosemont College in 2015. She is the lucky editor of the ANNA, BANANA chapter book series by Anica Mrose Rissi and debut middle grade novel ONE SHADOW ON THE WALL by Leah Henderson. She is acquiring picture books, middle grade, and YA with fresh, honest voices, unique story structure, and pitch perfect emotional heart. You can follow Alexa on Twitter @Alexa\_Pastor926.



**Wendy Pfeffer, Author,** is an award-winning author of 50 books published by HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, Dutton, Sterling, Marshall Cavendish and Scholastic. She offers writing workshops and leads interactive presentations with adults and children; teaches how to write narrative non-fiction that inspires children to write stories themselves; has lectured on writing at many colleges and universities; has won many prestigious science and nature book awards, among them are The GIVERNY Award for the best science picture book and the Science Teachers award for the best science book. Wendy resides in Pennington, NJ.



**Jessica Sinsheimer, Agent at Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency** Jessica has been reading and campaigning for her favorite queries since 2004. Now an Associate Agent at the Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency, she's known for #MSWL, ManuscriptWistList.com, #PubTalkTV—and for drinking far too much tea. Always on the lookout for new writers, she is most excited about finding picture books, YA, upmarket genre fiction (especially women's/romance/erotica, thrillers, mysteries) and—on the nonfiction side—psychology, parenting, self-help, cookbooks, memoirs, and works with highbrow sentences with lowbrow content, smart/nerdy protagonists, vivid descriptions of food, picture books with non-human characters, and justified acts of bravery. You can follow her on Twitter at @JSinsheim.



**Jess Tice-Gilbert, Senior Art Director and Novelty Designer at Cartwheel, Scholastic.** Jess is many things: an experienced designer, a paper engineer, an innovator, an artist, and a creator of publishing novelties. But, most of all, she considers herself a 'Military Brat' who discovered a lifelong passion for the arts, thanks to her family's numerous travels during her youth. It was in 2004 that her travels led her to New York, where she began an internship with pop-up book authors Robert Sabuda and

# FACULTY BIOS

---



## *Jess Tice-Gilbert Cont'd*

Matthew Reinhart. It wasn't long before she was invited to join their studio full-time and contribute to such best-selling titles as *ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: DINOSAURS* (2005), *STAR WARS: A POP-UP GUIDE TO THE GALAXY* (2007), and *BEAUTY & THE BEAST* (2010). During this time, she also headed up the Museum of Modern Art holiday card line for

7 years, earning her studio --and herself-- a bevy of prestigious awards. Today, you can find Jess' work and keen eye for design under Scholastic's Cartwheel imprint, where she spends her days as a full-time Senior Designer of novelty books and picture books. Notable titles include *Carry and Learn COLORS* (2015), *ARE YOU MY DADDY?* (2015), *IF YOU'RE A ROBOT AND YOU KNOW IT* (2015). Jess lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two very demanding cats, Cleo and Pepe. Outside of work, she loves to paint in watercolors, try new recipes and cocktails, and is attempting to learn to surf.



**Roseanne Wells, Associate Literary Agent at The Jennifer DeChiara Literary Agency.** Roseanne joined The Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency as an associate agent in 2012. Previously with the Marianne Strong Literary Agency, she has also worked as a proofreader and a special sales/editorial assistant. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with degrees in Literature and Dance. An avid reader, Roseanne discovered her passion for book publishing during her internship at W. W. Norton, and she approaches agenting as a writer's advocate, editor, and partner. She is a member of SCBWI and a volunteer for Housing Works Bookstore Cafe in Soho, NYC. You can find her on Twitter @RivetingRosie.



**Yvonne Ventresca, Author.** Yvonne's latest young adult novel, *BLACK FLOWERS, WHITE LIES*, was published by Sky Pony Press in October. Her debut YA novel, *PANDEMIC*, won a 2015 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award. Yvonne's other works include the short story "Escape to Orange Blossom," which was selected for the dystopian anthology *PREP FOR DOOM*, along with two nonfiction books, *PUBLISHING* (Careers for the 21st Century) and *AVRIL LAVIGNE* (People in the News). You can learn more about Yvonne and her books at [YvonneVentresca.com](http://YvonneVentresca.com).



**Natalie Zaman, Author,** of *MAGICAL DESTINATIONS OF THE NORTHEAST* (Llewellyn, 2016) and co-author of *SIRENZ* and *SIRENZ BACK IN FASHION* (FLUX) and *BLONDE OPS* (Thomas Dunne Books). A regular contributor to various Llewellyn annual publications, she also writes the recurring feature "Wandering Witch" for *Witches & Pagans*

# FACULTY BIOS

---



Magazine. When not on the road, she's busy chasing a flock of free-range hens around her magical back-garden.