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Award-Winning Authors and Illustrators at Lafayette Library Oct. 24

Submitted by Fran Miller



Image Michael Slack

Five well-known, award-winning authors and illustrators - Gennifer Choldenko, Thatcher Hurd, Jordan Jacobs, Elisa Kleven and Michael Slack - will sign books and demonstrate illustration techniques from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 as part of the Children's Book Festival at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Performers from Town Hall Theatre's "Seussical the Musical" will kick off the free festivities with a musical performance at 11 a.m.

Gennifer Choldenko is best known for her Newbery award-winning "Al Capone Does my Shirts." With more than 2 million books in print, School Library Journal says Choldenko is "unsurpassed at interweaving plot with historical detail." Her Tales of Alcatraz trilogy is considered by Kirkus to be "a cornerstone series in contemporary children's literature." Choldenko will read from her latest novel, "Chasing Secrets."

Thacher Hurd graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts with a degree in painting. He has written and illustrated more than 25 books for children, among them "Mystery on the Docks," "Mama Don't Allow," "Art Dog," "Moo Cow Kaboom," "Sleepy Cadillac," and most recently "Bad Frogs." He has also written and illustrated two board books, one of which, "Zoom City," was a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year.

Elisa Kleven grew up in Los Angeles, and wished that the huge city could be more like the places in the books she loved - places where forests grew and seasons changed, where animals talked, people could fly, and anything was possible. As a writer and illustrator of children's picture books such as "The Lion and the Little Red Bird," "The Puddle Pail," and "Hooray, a Pinata," Kleven now creates the magical worlds she imagined as a young girl.

Jordan Jacobs is the award-winning author of the Samantha Sutton series of archaeological mysteries for tweens. His childhood passion for mummies, castles and Indiana Jones led to his participation in his first excavation at age 13. After completing a high school archaeology program, he followed his passion to Stanford, Oxford, and Cambridge. Jacobs' work for the Smithsonian, the American Museum of Natural History and UNESCO Headquarters in Paris has focused on policy and the protection of archaeological sites in the developing world.

Michael Slack is an artist, illustrator, and character designer. His character driven humorous art has been recognized by Society of Illustrators Los Angeles, Applied Arts, Pictoplasma, Computer Arts, and SBS Digital Design. Slack's illustrations have appeared in books, magazines, and on TV. His paintings and drawings have been exhibited in the U.S. and Europe.

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