

Jane Addams Peace Association

777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, 6TH FL., NEW YORK NY 10017

TEL: 212-652-8830 EMAIL: info@janeaddamspeace.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED

APRIL 25, 2016... Recipients of the 2016 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards were announced today by the Jane Addams Peace Association.

New Shoes, written by Susan Lynn Meyer, illustrated by Eric Velasquez and published by Holiday House is the winner in the Books for Younger Readers Category. ***Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*** by Lynda Blackmon Lowery as told to Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley, illustrated by PJ Loughran, and published by Dial Books an imprint of Penguin Group LLC, is the winner in the Books for Older Readers category.

New Shoes depicts Ella Mae, who after being dismayed and humiliated by a common shoe store practice of the 1950's that forced African Americans to trace their feet rather than try on shoes for size, hits upon an alternative that offers dignity and respect. She and her cousin, Charlotte, after collecting used shoes, polishing them, then scrubbing or replacing their laces, open a shoe store for the black community where finally everyone is allowed "to try on all the shoes they want."

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March is the thrilling and moving account of Lynda Blackmon Lowery's experiences as the youngest member of the Selma to Montgomery March, one of the iconic moments of the Civil Rights Movement. Using many of Lowery's own words and written in an extremely accessible style, the narrative makes clear the courage it took to march repeatedly, especially given the lingering effects of violence protesters suffered. These narrative details underscore the triumph of the marchers and their mission.

Three Honor Books were named in the Books for Younger Readers category.

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation was written by Edwidge Danticat, illustrated by Leslie Staub, and published by Dial Books For Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group LLC. Saya is a young Haitian-American girl whose mother has been incarcerated as an illegal immigrant. Night after night, Saya listens longingly to recordings of her mother's songs and bedtime stories. As she and her father await a decision on her mother's immigration status, Saya finds a way to share her story in hopes of making the family whole again.

Jane Addams Peace Association

777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, 6TH FL., NEW YORK NY 10017

TEL: 212-652-8830 EMAIL: info@janeaddamspeace.org

The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, and published by Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc. Fueled by determination and belief in the power of words to change lives, Louis Michaux opened the National Memorial African Bookstore in 1930's Harlem with a handful of books, a storefront, and little capital. Up to and throughout the Civil Rights era, that bookstore became a gathering place for black intellectuals and activists, including Malcolm X and Langston Hughes. This nonfiction picture book shares the courageous story of a bookstore and its founder as they empowered a community.

Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shane W. Evans, and published by Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books. Elderly Lillian's walk up a hill to vote is reminiscent of her people's climb toward freedom and is marked by memories of them, from her enslaved great-grandparents to those who fought and died during the civil rights movement. When Lillian places her finger on the button at the polling station, we understand that the act of voting is sacred, honoring the sorrows, sacrifices, and triumphs of her people.

One book was named an Honor Book in the Books for Older Children category.

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton published by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Group LLC, tells in vivid free verse the story of twelve-year-old Mimi who dreams of being an astronaut. It is 1969, and Mimi's family has just moved from sunny California to frosty New England. Their new community doesn't know what to make of this family of mixed African-American and Japanese heritage. Mimi especially struggles with her feelings of alienation, but with the help of her parents, she learns how to stand strong in her sense of self and to bring about change in the community.

Since 1953, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award annually acknowledges books published in the U.S. during the previous year. Books celebrated by the Award excel in literary and visual artistry and address themes or topics that engage children in thinking about peace, justice, world community and/or the struggle for equality for all.

A national committee chooses winners and honor books for younger and older children. Members of the 2016 Jane Addams Children's Book Award Committee are Marianne Baker (VA), Kathryn Bruce (TN), Ann Carpenter (co-chair, MA), Sonja Cherry-Paul (NY), Julie Olsen Edwards (CA), Susan Freiss (WI), Ilza Garcia (TX), Ijumaa Jordan (CA), Jacqui Kolar (IL), Lauren Mayer (WA), Beth McGowan (IL), Mary Napoli (PA), and Heather Palmer (co-chair, MN).

Jane Addams Peace Association

777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, 6TH FL., NEW YORK NY 10017

TEL: 212-652-8830 EMAIL: info@janeaddamspeace.org

Regional reading and discussion groups of all ages participated with many of the committee members throughout the jury's evaluation and selection process.

The 2016 Jane Addams Children's Book Awards will be presented on Friday, October 21, 2016 in New York City. Details about the award event and about securing winner and honor book seals are available from the Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA.) Contact by phone 212.682.8830 or by email info@janeaddamspeace.org.

For additional information about the Jane Addams Children's Book Awards and a complete list of books honored since 1953, as well as a poster and bookmark featuring this year's winners, see www.janeaddamspeace.org.

-End-