

Author Biographies – July 28, 2021 Authors' Event
East Greenbush Community Library/Farmers' Market

(In alphabetical order)

Robert and Elizabeth Bode are long-time residents of East Greenbush. *Gracie and the Real Santa Claus* is this husband and wife team's first children's book. This story helps parents answer the question, "Is Santa real?" by exploring how the legend of Santa Claus came to be. This book was inspired by countless hours of reading to their two children and six grandchildren. Robert is also the illustrator of Catherine Zampier's *One of Thirteen* and has held several local exhibits of his artwork. Check out their book and Bob's art at <http://www.RobertBode.com>.

Diane E. Bollman-Buyer's second children's book as author/illustrator in a series involving the mouse Pierre is entitled *Pierre's Forever Family*. She resides in East Greenbush. After retiring from the New York State Office for the Aging and was the former Director of the Allegany County Office for the Aging, Diane has volunteered as a teacher's aide to first and second graders in the Genet Elementary School for nine years. Witnessing the students' love for reading inspired her to write her books. She is the mother of two daughters, grandmother to five grandchildren, and five step grandchildren. Her passion is painting and enjoys quilting, gardening, traveling, and swimming.

Janine De Tillio Cammarata is an award-winning author of The Puzzle Quests' series: *Shimmer's Eggs, Saving Atlantis, Sketchy Dinosaurs, and Secret Treasures*. According to the *US Review*: This time-travel adventure "is perfectly matched to the minds of 8-12-year-olds and will captivate both boys and girls alike." Janine lives in Clifton Park with her family and teaches creative writing and journaling for all ages. For more information visit www.janinedetilliocammarata.com

Diane and Katherine English are a mother-daughter team. Diane (an engineer, definitely not an artist) has lived in the Albany, NY area for several years. Katherine (a gifted artist from the very start) grew up in the Albany area and now illustrates from Oregon. Their first collaboration, *Who Can See A Toucan?*, was originally created as a gift for impoverished children at a school in Belize. For many of those children, it was the first book they ever owned. Katherine's true-to-life paintings teach about the habits, habitats, and features of the wondrous native animals of Belize. It's a "take me to the zoo" book unlike any you've seen before!

Kate Falls, a native of Burnt Hills NY, has worked as a pediatric RN for over 30 years. Her debut picture book, *Jack*, is a heartwarming tale about a cat who does not want to hunt. Beautifully illustrated by Anthony Richichi, it celebrates the importance of being yourself, the value of open communication, and the unbridled joy of dance!

Susan Kralovic and Nadia EK DePaola are a mother-daughter writing team. *What's in Nonna's Frittata?* is their first book. Susan is a retired speech/language pathologist living in the

Albany, NY area. She loved teaching literacy skills during her professional life at Capital Region BOCES. She also loves to cook all kinds of foods. Nadia is a Physician Assistant, living and working in New York City. She loves to bake--chocolate chunk cookies with a sprinkle of sea salt are a particular favorite. Loop in love of family with their culinary creations and you get, *What's in Nonna's Frittata?*. Enjoy... guaranteed to make your mouth water and your tummy growl!

Amy (DeWeerd) Macris entered the field of children's publishing after a 21-year career as an early childhood educator in the East Greenbush School District. She has written and illustrated four children's books to date: *Scooter and Sophie*, *How a Mother Loves*, *Have You Seen God?*, and her brand-new book, *Who's That Hiding Behind The Apple Tree?*. At age six, Amy dreamed of being a teacher, writer and illustrator of children's books, and living on a farm. She doesn't live on a farm yet, but who knows what the future holds!

William Middleton, formerly of East Greenbush, lives in Grafton, NY. He is the author/illustrator of six children's books. Bill studied illustration at the Art Student League in New York City and worked most of his life in real estate. Bill is married and has five grandchildren to whom he has always loved to tell stories. His books are available on Amazon.

Marcus Mohalland is the coauthor of a series of books called *Silly Nomads* that target young readers ages 7-11. The books recount many stories from his childhood experiences while living on the island of Jamaica. The hilarious characters of Suhcrom and Naddih introduce children to Caribbean culture and the author's native language (Patois). Many have commented the stories bring a global perspective and have a universal appeal to children all over the world. Marcus currently lives in Albany with his wife and two sons Ethan and Elijah. He is employed by Saint Peters Hospital as a Patient Care Technician.

Bobbie Reno has resided near Albany, NY her entire life and presently is the Town of East Greenbush Historian. Bobbie is the author and illustrator of the children's picture books: *Hattie Hall is Really Too Tall!*, *Edmonia Lewis: A Sculptor of Determination and Courage*, and soon to be released, *Have You Ever Eaten a Cloud?*. Bobbie spent 18 years as a Court Clerk working for a total of six judges, and three years as a Committee Clerk of a New York State Senator. A former member of the Board of Directors for the Boght Arts Center in Latham, NY, Bobbie has been an artist her entire life. "I can't remember a time I didn't draw."

Catherine Zampier is a life-long East Greenbush resident. *One of Thirteen* is her first children's picture book, illustrated by Robert W. Bode who also resides in East Greenbush. Catherine's plans are to continue with a *One of Thirteen* series based on Olga Agnes and her adventures trying to understand her large family of thirteen children. Included in the book are questions for children to get to know their family heritage. Catherine is the mother of three adult sons and two granddaughters. Catherine loves discovering new picture books, playing tennis or pickle ball, tending to her flowers, trying new recipes, and dragon boating. She works at the Donald P. Sutherland Elementary School. For more information visit www.CatherineZampier.com.