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## MEGAN DOWD LAMBERT ST. MARIE

[WWW.MEGANDOWDLAMBERT.COM](http://WWW.MEGANDOWDLAMBERT.COM)

[WWW.MODERNMEMOIRS.COM](http://WWW.MODERNMEMOIRS.COM)

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[MEGAN@MEGANDOWDLAMBERT.COM](mailto:MEGAN@MEGANDOWDLAMBERT.COM)

[MEGAN@MODERNMEMOIRS.COM](mailto:MEGAN@MODERNMEMOIRS.COM)



(413) 253-2353

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### OBJECTIVES

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To harness the humanizing power of stories and art through writing, reading, teaching, listening, and helping others tell their stories.

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### SKILLS

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Writing, interviewing, editing, reviewing, public speaking, leading storytimes, teaching, and training. Conversational French, beginning Spanish.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### PRESIDENT & CO-OWNER MODERN MEMOIRS, INC., AMHERST, MA

*Company purchase and assumption of duties, July 2019*

I purchased this private publishing company from its founder, Kitty Axelson-Berry. My husband is company co-owner, and we oversee a staff of regular and freelance employees to offer clients interview, writing, editorial, genealogy, design, and production services under our company name and our imprint, White Poppy Press. Gross revenues have tripled under our leadership, and our staff size has expanded, with an average of 25 projects initiated per year.

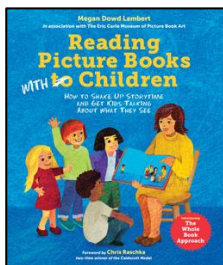
Most projects are **Commissioned** (based on interview transcripts) or **Assisted Memoirs**, and **Family Histories** or genealogy books. We also work with clients on books ranging from **Celebration** and **Tribute Books**, to poetry, essay, and art collections. Clients usually publish their books to give to friends and family. We assist interested clients with setting up POD service and global distribution if they request such services but are otherwise uninvolved in their commercial efforts outside of a small shop page on our website that we opened in January 2023. My regular responsibilities include:

- Administration of office operations and vendor relationships
- Client communications, contracts, and billing
- Client interviews for Commissioned Memoirs
- Design oversight: preformatting; page proofs; consultation on layout and cover designs
- Editing client manuscripts: developmental editing; line editing; proofreading; research and writing; permissions
- Marketing & client recruitment: social media; blog posts; television and radio spots; print mailings; website updates; monthly e-newsletter; press inquiries, sponsorships
- Personnel supervision: hiring, oversight of 4 full- and part-time employees, plus 2–8 freelancers and interns annually
- Project administration & wrap-ups in coordination with the Director of Publishing and Bookkeeper
- Writing Services for (Advance) Obituaries, Ethical Wills, and other smaller-scale services
- Workshop offerings on writing (Advance) Obituary writing and Memoirs

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## STORYTIME GUIDES, CHAPTERS & BOOKS

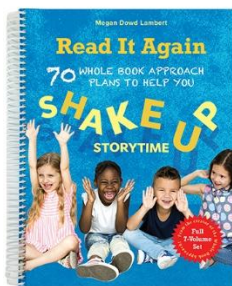
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*Reading Picture Books with Children:  
How to Shake Up Storytime and Get  
Kids Talking About What They See*

CHARLESBRIDGE 2015; PB 2020;  
EXPANDED 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION  
FORTHCOMING IN SEPTEMBER 2025

**SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL  
STARRED REVIEW**



*Read It Again: 70 Whole Book Approach  
Plans to Help You Shake Up Storytime*

DIGITAL AND PRINT EDITIONS WITH  
WHITE POPPY PRESS, AN IMPRINT OF  
MODERN MEMOIRS, INC., 2023

### LECTURER IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, SIMMONS UNIVERSITY, BOSTON AND AMHERST, MA

First hired, 2003. Promoted, 2009 and 2014. Departed, 2020.

After several adjunct appointments between 2003 and 2008, I served as contract faculty from 2009–2020. I split teaching 7 courses annually between the main campus in Boston and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art satellite site in Amherst. In Spring 2018 I took a funded Professional Development Leave devoted to creative writing projects and studying the teaching of writing. I shifted to a 4/7 course-load during my final year of teaching, 2019–2020.

**Courses:** Criticism of Children's Literature; The Picturebook; The Child and the Book; Survey of Children's & YA Literature; A Whole Book Approach; Creators & Ideologies: Jacqueline Woodson; Special Topics: Visual Literacy & Visual Rhetoric.

**Administrative & Service Duties:** overseeing MFA students' mentorship placements with publishing professionals; planning biennial Children's Literature Institutes, including associated art exhibits in the Trustman Gallery; supervising Teaching and Research Assistants; advising Independent Studies; supporting program assessment; conducting admissions events at The Carle, and reviewing MFA and MFA/MA applications; academic advising for two dozen students annually; representing the university at professional conferences such as NESCBWI and ALA.

### EDUCATOR

#### THE ERIC CARLE MUSEUM OF PICTURE BOOK ART

September 2001 – January 2011

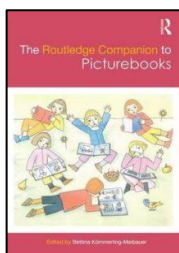
**Storytime & Professional Development Programming:** I led storytime at The Carle's information office for a year before its grand opening, then onsite throughout my tenure. I received several promotions as I developed and led book-centered programs for children and adults arising from my original Whole Book Approach storytime model. Outreach programs reached 25,000 participants.

**Administrative Tasks:** supervising 5–10 work-study, volunteer, and support staff each semester; maintaining two non-circulating book collections comprised of roughly 6,000 titles; collaborating with nonprofits and educational institutions; working with Education Department staff to plan and deliver events for children, families, and professional audiences.

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(STORYTIME GUIDES, CHAPTERS & BOOKS  
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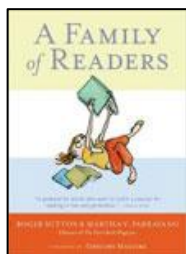
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**“Layout in Picturebooks”**

ESSAY IN *THE ROUTLEDGE COMPANION  
TO PICTUREBOOKS*, ROUTLEDGE 2018

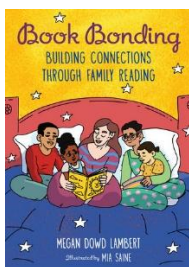
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**“Reading about Families in My Family”**

ESSAY IN *A FAMILY OF READERS: THE  
BOOK LOVER’S GUIDE TO CHILDREN’S  
AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE*,  
CANDLEWICK, 2011

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***Book Bonding: Building Connections  
Through Family Reading***

IMAGINATION PUBLISHING, AN IMPRINT  
OF CHARLESBRIDGE, 2023

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**PAST ADJUNCT AND GUEST FACULTY WORK**

**Adjunct teaching posts in Children’s Literature between 2003 and 2009** held at: Simmons University; Bay Path University; Mt. Holyoke College; Boston University; UMass-Dartmouth; and Greenfield Community College. I also served as a reader and advisor for graduate student work at Lesley University and Plymouth State University.

**Guest Lectures in Graduate & Undergraduate Courses**

Colleagues at the following institutions hosted me in their classes:

- Bates College
- Bay Path University
- The College of Education at the University of Arizona
- Eastern Connecticut State University
- Hampshire College
- Harvard University School of Education
- Lesley University
- Middlebury College
- Mt. Holyoke College
- Simmons University
- Smith College
- Tunxis Community College
- UMass-Amherst
- University of Washington iSchool
- Wellesley College

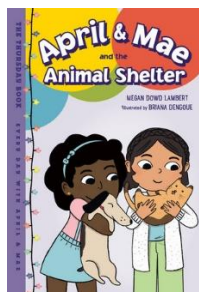
**FREELANCE WRITER, REVIEWER, AND AUTHOR**

**My books for children and adults** are linked in the left margin. Other publications, [linked here](#), date back to 2001 and are found in:

- The Beginning of Your Life Book Club podcast
- *Book Q&As with Deborah Kalb*
- *Bookbird*
- *Charlesbridge Children’s Book Blog*
- *Children & Libraries*
- *The Children’s Literature Association Quarterly*
- *CREArTA*
- *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*
- *Diverse BookFinder Blog*
- The Early Risers Podcast
- *EmbraceRace*
- *The Five Owls*

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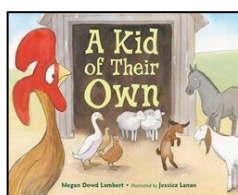
## CHILDREN'S BOOKS



**Every Day with April & Mae**  
7-BOOK EARLY READER SERIES  
ILLUSTRATED BY BRIANA DENGUE  
AND GISELA BOHÓRQUEZ

(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2022 & 2023;  
2024 PAPERBACK EDITIONS)

- *April & Mae and the Tea Party*  
(A 2022 NYPL BEST BOOK FOR KIDS  
TITLE)
  - *April & Mae and the Book Club  
Cake*
  - *April & Mae and the Soccer Match*
  - *April & Mae and the Talent Show*
  - *April & Mae and the Animal Shelter*
  - *April & Mae and the Sleepover*
  - *April & Mae and the Movie Night*
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**A Kid of Their Own**  
ILLUSTRATED BY JESSICA LANAN

(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2020; CHINESE  
TRANSLATION 2022, HUNAN JUVENILE &  
CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING HOUSE)

- **KIRKUS STARRED REVIEW**
  - **CCBC CHOICES 2021 TITLE**
  - **A 2021 MA BOOK AWARDS MUST  
READ PICTURE BOOK**
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*(freelance publication list continued.)*

- *Good Reading*
- *Harper Stacks*
- *The Horn Book*
- *The Huffington Post*
- *#KidLitWomen*
- *Kirkus Reviews*
- *Le Forum*
- *The Public Humanist*
- *Reading While White*
- *Shelf Awareness*

**Book Reviewer at *Résonance***, a literary journal published under the Franco American Studies program at U-Maine Orono, since 2022, where I've published reviews of:

- *The Truth about Baked Beans: An Edible History of New England* by Meg Muckenhoupt, 2022
- *Mutinous Women: How French Convicts Became Founding Mothers of the Gulf Coast* by Joan DeJean, 2023
- *French Boy: A 1950s Franco American Boyhood* by Denis Ledoux, 2024
- *Secrets of the Asylum: Norwich State Hospital and My Family* by Julianne Mangin, forthcoming in 2025

**Guest Reviewer at *The Horn Book*** since 2013, where I annually write signed reviews of 5–10 books for young readers.

**Reviewer at *Kirkus Reviews*** since 2009, where I annually write roughly 36 unsigned reviews of books for young readers.

## ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

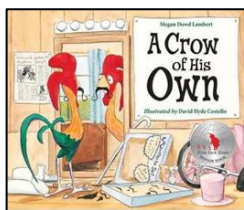
**Youth Services Librarian, Gaylord Memorial Library**, South Hadley, MA, Sept. 2001–Jan. 2003, where I: led weekly storytime and craft sessions and other patron programs; oversaw collection development; wrote successful grants; wrote monthly reports to the Board of Trustees; hired and supervised department assistants; ran the annual statewide summer reading program sponsored by the MA Board of Library Commissioners and MA Regional Library Systems.

**Manager, Booklink Booksellers**, Northampton, MA, Jan. 1999–Jan. 2001. I started as a bookseller at this independent bookshop and was promoted to Children's Book Dept. Manager, and then Manager.

**Associate/Asociada, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)**, Washington, D.C., Aug. 1996–Aug. 1998. Office manager for this non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization affiliated with Human Rights Watch.

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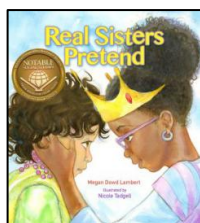
(CHILDREN'S BOOKS CONTINUED)



*A Crow Of His Own*  
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID HYDE  
COSTELLO

(CHARLESBRIDGE, 2015; PB 2019;  
CHINESE TRANSLATION PUBLISHED 2022  
WITH HUNAN JUVENILE & CHILDREN'S  
PUBLISHING HOUSE)

- 2016 EZRA JACK KEATS  
NEW WRITER HONOR
- SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB  
EDITION, 2017



*Real Sisters Pretend*  
(TILBURY HOUSE, 2016; PB 2019)

- 2017 NOTABLE SOCIAL  
STUDIES TRADE BOOK FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE
- A 2017 MA BOOK AWARDS  
MUST READ PICTURE BOOK

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## PROFESSIONAL HONORS & EDUCATION

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### PROFESSIONAL HONORS

- **Selected** as a mentor Queer Kidlit Mentorship program, 2022
- **Appointed** to give the NESCBWI 2020, 2019, and 2018 Peg Davol Scholarship Critique
- **Awarded** a 2016 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor for my first picture book, *A Crow of His Own* (Charlesbridge 2015)
- **Appointed** as a 2012 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Judge
- **Elected** to serve as a Member of the 2011 Randolph Caldecott Medal Committee of the ALSC
- **Named** a 2009 MA Literacy Champion by Mass Literacy
- **Appointed** as a Member of the 2009 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Committee of the ALSC

### EDUCATION

**PhD in Religion & Philosophy, Women's Spirituality concentration, California Institute of Integral Studies**, San Francisco, CA, degree candidate, anticipated completion 2032.

Accepted to begin coursework in fall 2025, with an emphasis in Women and World Religions.

- WSE Retreat Scholarship recipient, fall 2025
- 2025/2026 Miraa Alfasa "The Mother" Scholarship recipient

**MA in Children's Literature, Simmons University**, Boston, MA (formerly Simmons College), received January 2002.

A Children's Literature Scholarship Fund and Virginia Haviland Scholarship recipient, I was awarded a TA position in my final semester. My culminating Independent Study with The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art led to my creation of the Whole Book Approach storytime model.

**BA, Magna Cum Laude, Smith College**, Northampton, MA, received May 1996.

Double major in Government and African American Studies, as a First Group Scholar (top 5% of my class), Dean's List for all six semesters enrolled under a 3-year accelerated degree program. In Fall 1995, I participated in the Jean Picker Semester in Washington, with an internship at Rainbow-PUSH. A final semester Independent Study on multicultural education built on two years of work-study with an anti-racism consultancy group, Communitas, Inc., and a j-term service-learning trip to Nicaragua with the Global Women's Project.



## WORKS IN PROGRESS



For adults:

*The Sentimental Archivist: Writings  
Inspired by Heirlooms and Objects*

(FORTHCOMING FROM MODERN  
MEMOIRS, INC.)

*Cheers to 30 Years: A Company History  
of Modern Memoirs, Inc.*

(FORTHCOMING FROM MODERN  
MEMOIRS, INC.)

*As a Child I Believed in Angels: Writings  
on Heritage, Faith, and the Sacred  
Feminine*

(EARLY DRAFT IN PROGRESS)

For children:

*We Gather Around the Advent Wreath*

(ON SUBMISSION)

*Candlemas Crêpes for Everyone!*

(ON SUBMISSION)

## PRAISE FOR MY WORK

**IBRARY:** “One of the reasons Megan’s approach hit home for me is that she respects kids. Plain and simple. The focus of her storytimes aren’t the songs, rhymes, or books – it’s the kids who attend them and their ideas, opinions, and observations.”

**KIRKUS:** “Striking is how much Lambert *believes* in picture books and the power they can have in children’s lives.”

## SPEECHES, TRAININGS, CONSULTANCIES, VOLUNTEER WORK

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

A full chronology appears on my author website’s [Events page](#). Highlights from the past decade include events at the following sites:

#### Keynote Speeches, Solo Presentations, and Webinars

- Children’s Literacy Foundation Community Literacy Conference, Fairlee, VT, with Breanna J. McDaniel, April 4, 2025
- Rural Library Conference, hosted by the Children’s Literacy Foundation, November 3, 2023
- Franco American Centre at U-Maine-Orono webinars on family history, presented with my father, Ray Lambert:
  - [Dans les Pas de Nos Ancêtres \(In the Steps of Our Ancestors\): A Father-Daughter Trip to France](#) (2023)
  - [Pain at the Root: Le Grand Dérangement and Our Family History](#) (2022)
  - [Les Filles à Marier](#) (2022)
  - [Nous et vous et les filles du roi!](#) (2021)
- EmbraceRace, with Melissa Giraud, Andrew Grant-Thomas of, and Elissa Gershowitz of the Horn Book May 25, 2023
- Literacy Committee of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) April 18, 2023
- Massasoit Community College, Brockton, MA, April 13, 2023
- NEIBA Virtual Meeting, with artist Mia Saine, January 19, 2023
- LGBTQ Literature Course at Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, Amherst, MA, January 9, 2023
- Woodruff Arts Center Educator Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, with author Breanna J. McDaniel, June 2, 2022
- Children’s Librarians of NH virtual conference, May 20, 2021
- Studio Institute, New York City, online training, January 20, 2021
- 12x12 Picture Book Challenge webinar, April 14, 2020
- Massachusetts Library Association webinar, Jan. 10, 2020
- University of Maine, College of Education and Human Development, Orono, ME, keynote April 30, 2019
- Week of the Young Child Conference keynote sponsored by Elms College School of Graduate & Professional Studies at Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA April 6, 2019
- Educational Book and Media Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX, Jan. 2019
- KidLitCollege webinar, “Studying Picture Book Success,” with editor, Julie Bliven, July 2018

**KIRKUS:** “[A KID OF THEIR OWN] is a sweet and unusual new baby story with an uncommonly broadening vocabulary.”

**JERRY PINKNEY:** “Everything one needs to know about bookmaking and book sharing is bound up here, in one well-considered, strikingly designed volume, *Reading Picture Books with Children*.”

**ANNE SIBLEY-O'BRIEN:** “The Whole Book Approach invites me to consider how my choices as an illustrator might add layers of meaning for child readers as they engage with the entire book as art.” (SCBWI FALL 2019 BULLETIN)



## REFERENCES

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

from past employers, colleagues, and clients

*(Keynote Speeches, Solo Presentations, and Webinars, continued)*

- 31st Annual Conference on Children’s Literature, Broward County Library, Fort Lauderdale, FL, April 2018
- Bank Street Book Fest, New York, NY, Oct. 2016
- Educator’s Night with Christian Robinson, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA, Oct. 2016
- “Get the Picture” Exhibit Program, the Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA, July 2016

## Panels

- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference, moderator with authors Tracey Baptiste, Hannah Moushabeck, and Maria Scrivenr, Springfield, Massachusetts, September 14, 2024
- Adoption Journeys, Florence, MA June 5, 2023
- “Picturing the World: Nonfiction Picture Books,” Boston Book Fest, panel moderator with Hayley Barrett, Karlin Gray, Lesa Cline-Ransome, Gloria Respress-Churchwell, Boston, MA, Oct. 19, 2019
- “Telling Our Stories, Sharing Our History” panel moderator with Joseph Bruchac, Lesa Cline Ransome, and Pam Muñoz Ryan at the We the People: Stories of Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times, JFK Presidential Library, Boston, MA, May 9, 2019
- “LGBTQ+ Picture Books” KidLitCon19: Reaching Readers, panelist with Christian Trimmer, Andrea J. Loney, Alli Harper, and moderator Jeanette Bradley, Providence, RI, March 2019
- New England Independent Booksellers Association conference, panelist Providence, RI, Sept. 2018
- Assoc. of Jewish Libraries, panelist Boston, MA, June 2018
- Literacy Essentials Conference, Central CT State University, panelist New Britain, CT, April 2018

## Consultancies

- EmbraceRace: Staff Blogger; Community Conversations webinar series; Reading Race in Picture Books (2017–2023)
- Story Starters Boston: inaugural family meetings (2019, 2020)
- MERGE for Equality Children’s Book Campaign (2017–2019)
- Link to Libraries: 2018 Smart Stories Campaign; 2019 Family Fun Event; and Link Live Storytime Series in spring 2020

## Volunteer Work and Self-Directed Continuing Education

- Member of the Elected Leadership Team, First Church Amherst, 2025



Whole Book Approach storytime photo taken  
at Crocker Farm School, Amherst,  
Massachusetts, 2023

*(Volunteer Work and Self-Directed Continuing Education, continued)*

- Participant in the Mary Magdalene Revealed Retreat led by Meggan Watterson, the Omega Institute, Rhinebeck, New York, Summers 2024 and 2025
- Member of the House of Mary Magdalene online community, led by Meggan Watterson since 2024
- Participant in several online learning programs hosted by FutureChurch, starting in 2024
- Participant in several online learning programs hosted by the Center for Action and Contemplation, starting in 2025
- Member of the OurShelves Curation Team (2018–2021)
- 2018 We Stand Together Hanukkah Ally Action Northampton
- March 2018 #KidLitMarchesForKids / #MarchForOurLives action, Northampton, MA.