

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS

Adele Moss and Leslie Bloomfield are two Berkeley High School creators of *Hecter the Collector*-- bay-area based comic series that they have written and illustrated collaboratively. Not everyone can easily comprehend the fact that both Bloomfield and Moss draw, write, ink, etc., but if you ask them about it they will tell you about their amazing and mind boggling partnership. Since their debut in 2003, Bloomfield and Moss have self-released four issues, in addition to the first chapter of their upcoming graphic novel *Peter the Insect Boy*, which also contains issue #5 of *Hecter the Collector*. They are currently working on *Peter #2 / Hecter #6* but have experienced a couple setbacks most notably that their light table melted.
<http://www.freewebs.com/leslieandadele/>

Dvora Klein is BAM's own fifth grade teacher and recently published a book called *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Modern First Lady*. She is a Scorpio who is an avid reader and who loves cooking, music swimming, watching movies, and art. Check out her BAM blog: http://misskleinshomeworkblog.blogspot.com/2008_09_01_archive.html.

Elisa Kleven says, "I write and illustrate picture books because I've never outgrown a deep childhood urge to enter a magical world. As a child growing up in Los Angeles I used to wish that my huge, congested city were more like the places in the books that I loved - places where forests grew and seasons changed, where animals talked and anything was possible. I envied those characters who slid down rabbit holes, or visited with Charlotte and Wilbur, or flew with Peter Pan, or floated with Mary Poppins, or journeyed to Oz." She is the author and illustrator of *A Carousel Tale*, *The Puddle Pail*, *Ernst*, *The Lion and the Little Red Bird*, *Sun Bread*, *The Paper Princess* (and its two sequels), *Hooray a Piñata!*, *The Wishing Ball*, *The Apple Doll*, and *Our Big Home*. <http://www.elisakleven.com/aboutelisa.html>

Elizabeth Partridge grew up in a large, eccentric family in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her grandmother was photographer Imogen Cunningham, and her grandfather, Roi Partridge, was an etcher. There were five kids in her family, and they lived in an enormous house full of dogs and cats, chameleons, fish, tortoises, and even a pet tarantula. She is the author of *Oranges on Golden Mountain*, *Annie and Bo and the Big Surprise*, *Kogi's Mysterious Journey*, *Moon Glowing*, and *Clara and the Hoodoo Man*. <http://www.elizabethpartridge.com/>

Elizabeth Scarboro grew up in Boulder Colorado and Phoenix Arizona and has an undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago, as well as a Masters in Education from U.C. Berkeley and an MFA in creative writing from San Francisco State. She wrote her first children's book, *The Secret Language of the SB*, while she was in college, and finished her second book, *Phoenix, Upside Down* while living and working in Berkeley. Elizabeth taught sixth grade at Martin Luther King Junior High for a number of years, and now works full time as a writer. She lives in Berkeley with her husband, two children, and their dog.

Lea Lyon is an award-winning children's book illustrator, painting teacher and portrait artist who has made a childhood dream come true. Lea loved to draw and paint as a child. She took art classes from a tiny white-haired artist who had converted her garage into a magical children's painting studio. Lea graduated to oil paints when she was 11. And - she wanted to be a children's book illustrator when she grew up. She is the illustrator of *Keep Your Ear on the Ball* and *Say Something*. <http://www.lealyon.com/>

Robert San Souci lives in San Francisco but his travels have taken him all across the country, where he has found inspiration for many of his books: *Kate Shelley: Bound for Legend* (Iowa), *The Talking Eggs* (Louisiana), *Little Gold Star* (New Mexico), and *Cut From The Same Cloth : American Women of Myth, Legend, and Tall Tale* (representing 15 areas of the United States). He loves it when a book lets him celebrate his home state - such as *Two Bear Cubs*, a retelling of the traditional Miwok story set in Yosemite Valley. He says, "Books delighted and inspired me as a child - they continue to do so! I feel privileged to be a writer - and nothing is more wonderful then to have a young reader come up to me after a presentation at a school or library and say: 'I love your books. They take me places I wish I could be. They make me feel happy. They teach me things. I think I want to be a writer, too!'" <http://www.rsansouci.com/>

Thacher Hurd is the artist and author of such favorite picture books as *Mama Don't Allow*, *Mystery on the Docks* and *Art Dog*. Thacher began his artistic career in fine art before authoring and illustrating children's books. His entertaining stories engage a wide range of topics from the rhythm of jazz music in *Mama Don't Allow* (1982) to alien bovine abduction in *Moo Cow Kaboom* (2003). Thacher's most popular titles include *Art Dog* (1997), and *Zoom City* (1998). <http://www.thacherhurd.com/>.