

June 2000 Meeting

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Photos of our speaker taken at the June meeting (by Hunter Anderson and Al Villaire)



Marilyn Sachs - Bio- Books

Talent is easy - persistence is hard. Prominent children's author, Marilyn Sachs knows about persistence - it took her 10 years to get her first book, *Amy Moves In*, written and published. Since that first sale, she usually has more than one book in the pipeline, with *JoJo & Winnie* *Again* expected to be available later this year.

Sachs draws on her childhood for her diverse characters, noting, "I was born in the Bronx. The streets I lived on had no trees or flowers, but they had children - lots and lots of children." Drawing from her bottomless well of personalities, she expects to have no difficulty continuing to create in the future.

Throughout her childhood, she wrote and read constantly. After graduation from Hunter College, Sachs continued her love affair with books as a children's librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library. Her backlist of writing awards includes the New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year ('87), Parent's Choice Award ('87), New York Public Library 100 Titles for Sharing ('83) and her books fill the shelves of well-read children.

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Web sites for Marilyn Sachs -

[Backprint.com](#) Short-short bio + descriptions of four books.

[NYU](#) The Fat Girl - review.

[Carolhurst.com](#) At the Sound of the Beep - review.

[Penguin-Putnam](#) Short-short bio + book descriptions.

[Concord k12](#) Descriptions of three books.

[Barnes&Noble](#) Sixteen entries here - many w/ synopses.

[Amazon.com](#) Seventy-four entries.

[Borders Books](#) Ninety-six entries.

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Bio (by Marilyn)

"I was born in The Bronx, one of the least celebrated boroughs of New York City. The street I lived on had no trees or flowers, but it had children-lots and lots of children. The street didn't go anywhere important, and cars seldom came through. In the summertime, it was frequently closed to traffic.

"Every day after school, and all day Saturday and Sunday, the children spilled out of the tall apartment houses that ran down the block, and filled the empty spaces on the street and sidewalks. Something was always going on outside. Our family was poor, but so was everybody else on the street. We children played hard, and as we grew older, roamed confidently through other parts of the city.

"The only fly in the ointment was that I was a shameful coward. Small, skinny, and a crybaby, I was easy prey for the local bullies. My lack of courage was particularly disgusting to my older sister, who frequently had to fight my battles for me in order to uphold the family honor. How I admired her! She was the one who introduced me to books. On cold, wet days, or on days when somebody or other was after me, I stayed home or went to the library. My books brought me such comfort (and still do) that I determined quite early to be a writer. I have been writing just as long as I have been reading. To me, the two go hand in hand.

"I wrote all through elementary school, high school, and college. I worked on school newspapers and magazines. But when I graduated from Hunter College in 1949, I didn't seem to have much to write about. So I took a job with the Brooklyn Public Library as children's librarian, went to Columbia University for my master's degree in library science, and spent ten happy years working with children's books.

"During this time, I wrote my first book, *Amy Moves In*. It took ten long years before it was published. Since then, I have had many other books published and am usually working on one at any given time.

"My own childhood shapes my books. Growing up in a poor, urban neighborhood, I missed out on trees, and birds, and

babbling brooks. But I had people - so many people - fat ones, skinny ones, mean ones, friendly ones, smart ones, scared ones... They all lived on my block, and they are with me when I write my books. They push and shove each other and shout, 'I'm next! Look at me!' I doubt if I will ever in one lifetime get around to all of them.

"I have two grown-up children and live in San Francisco now with my husband."

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Books by Marilyn Sachs

MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS

Ghosts in the Family (1995)

What My Sister Remembered (1992)

At the Sound of the Beep (1990)

Matt's Mitt and Fleet-Footed Florence (1989)

Almost Fifteen (1987)

IRA-CBC Children's Choice

The Bears' House (1987)

Austrian Children's Book Prize

National Book Award Nominee

The New York Times, Outstanding Books of the Year

School Library Journal Best Books of the Year

Fran Ellen's House (1987) illustrated by Charles Robinson

Parents' Choice Award Final Selection

ALA Notable Children's Book

IRA-CBC Children's Choice

Fourteen (1983)

New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing

Child Study Association Children's Books of the Year

NOVELS

Thirteen Going on Seven (1993)

Circles (1991)

American Bookseller Pick of the Lists

Just Like a Friend (1989)

Thunderbird (1985) illustrated by Jim Spence

YASD Recommended Book for the Reluctant Reader

The Fat Girl (1984)

ALA Best Books for Young Adults

FOR ALL AGES

The Big Book for Peace (1990) edited by Marilyn Sachs and Ann Durell

NCSS-CBC Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies

American Bookseller Pick of the Lists

ALA Notable Children's Book

Child Study Association Books of the Year

IRA-CBC Teachers' Choice

Jane Addams Children's Book Award

ABC Choices for 1991

PUFFIN NOVELS

A Pocket Full of Seeds (1994)

Jane Addams Children's Book Honor Award

The New York Times, Outstanding Books of the Year (1973)

ALA Notable Children's Book

The Truth About Mary Rose (Spring 1995)

Silver State Pencil Award

School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

Veronica Ganz (1994)

ALA Notable Children's Book

NEWER BOOKS

Another Day (1997)

The Surprise Party (1998)

Jojo & Winnie : Sister Stories (1999)

Jojo & Winnie Again : More Sister Stories (2000)

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