

# Cathey Graham Nickell

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## SUMMARY

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I am a Houston-based author and elementary school speaker. In 2017, the Texas Association of Authors awarded my book, *Arthur Zarr's Amazing Art Car*, first place in their Children's Picture Book/All Ages category. I talk to children about writing, creativity, and how to find that spark of inspiration.

## EDUCATION

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**M.A. in Liberal Arts**, Louisiana State University-Shreveport, December 2013 (Shreveport, La.)

**B.A. in Journalism and Marketing/Management**, Baylor University, May 1985 (Waco, Tx.)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Writer, Speaker and Owner of Twenty-Eight Creative**

**7/2010 to present**

Elementary school speaker; I present a talk called "Amazing Book Ideas: Where Do They Come From?" where I discuss writing, editing and publishing, along with anecdotes about my art car children's picture book.

**Publications Director, Baylor College of Medicine**

**4/1998 to 12/1998**

Served under VP of Development John Scales during the \$500-million *Investment & Discovery* fundraising campaign; wrote articles and supervised production of the Development Office's quarterly newsletter, *Discovery Dateline*; ghostwrote fundraising letters for the President and CEO, the late Dr. Ralph Feigin.

**Marketing Director, Columbia Highland Hospital**

**4/1997 to 4/1998**

Served as Director of Marketing and P.R. staff supervisor for a 150-bed medical center in Shreveport, La.

**Public Relations Director, Louisiana State University-Shreveport**

**4/1994 to 4/1997**

Served as the campus Public Information Officer and Director of Public Relations for a public university with a student enrollment of 4,500 in Shreveport, La.

**Freelance Writer, Forum Magazine**

**1/1992 to 4/1997**

Wrote news and feature articles for a monthly magazine with a circulation of 23,000 in Shreveport, La.

**Media Relations Coordinator, Schumpert Medical Center**

**10/1989 to 4/1994**

Started as Community Affairs Assistant and was promoted to Media Relations Coordinator; served as the main spokesperson and media point person for the 400-bed medical center in Shreveport, La.

**Publications Director, Plastic Surgery Center**

**8/1986 to 10/1989**

Managed the writing and development of all publications (newsletters, brochures, advertising, etc.) for a day surgery center and private medical practice of three physicians in Shreveport, La.

**Reporter/Page Editor, The Shreveport Times**

**6/1985 to 8/1986**

Started as a Staff Reporter and was promoted to Assistant State Editor for a daily city newspaper with a circulation of 110,000 in Shreveport, La.

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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Houston, Texas

12/1998 to 7/2010

Served in numerous volunteer positions, including gala chairperson and gala auction chair, at several private schools: River Oaks Baptist School, St. Stephen's Episcopal School, The Joy School, and the Monarch School.

## PUBLISHED WORK

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1. *STORGY*, an online literary magazine, for my fiction short story, "Yellow" (Feb. 16, 2018). Summary: Raquel has been a devoted wife, and she adores their three grown children; but after spending forty years following Mark's career across the country, she decides it's her turn.
2. *Parent.Co*, an online magazine, for my personal essay about gratitude, "If These Scars Could Talk" (Nov. 4, 2017). Summary: I'm grateful for my scars, because they provide a skin road map of life that allows me to retrace my varied experiences. <https://www.parent.com/if-these-scars-could-talk/>
3. *Vitality Stories*, an online writer's blog [Teri Case], for my personal essay, "Dear Me: Gifts Come in Surprising Ways" (May 18, 2017). Summary: Birthday advice to my younger self. <http://www.tericase.com/dear-me-by-cathey-graham-nickell/>
4. Won 2<sup>nd</sup> place [out of 154 entries] in Susanna Leonard Hill's online Valentiny Writer's Contest for my 214-word children's fiction story, "Kandie's Kiss" (Feb. 26, 2016). <https://susannahill.com/2016/02/26/2016-valentiny-contest-winners/> or go here to read the full story: <https://www.catheynickell.com/teensy-weensy-valentiny-writing-fun/>
5. *Arthur Zarr's Amazing Art Car*, Fiction, ISBN: 978-0-9961150-0-1 (2016). Summary: Children's book about a man whose life starts off plain, but through the process of building an art car, he taps into his creativity and makes friends along the way. Published in hardcover by Twenty-Eight Creative.
6. *Uniting Faith Medicine and Healthcare: A 60-Year History of the Institute for Spirituality and Health in Texas Medical Center*, Non-fiction, ISBNs: 978-0-692-42612-8 (2012) and 978-0-692-42613-5 (2015). Summary: A historical record of this non-profit organization's sixty-years' of beginnings and growth. Published by Twenty-Eight Creative for ISH Press.
7. Editor and publication consultant for *Conscious Transformations: A Healing Journal Through Poetry*, by author Marla Maharaj. ISBNs: 978-0-9965022-0-7 and 978-0-9965022-1-4 (2015). Published by Sharinglightandlove Press.
8. *UpRiver Magazine*, for my personal essay about divorce, "Home Alone With Children" (Vol. 1, Issue 3, Aug. 1994). Summary: Single parents adapt to make good parents.

## AWARDS

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- Texas Association of Authors, 2017, first place/Children's Picture Book-All Ages, for *Arthur Zarr's Amazing Art Car*.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Indie Excellence Awards, May 2016, Winner/Picture Books-All Ages 4-8; and Finalist/Book Cover Designs-Children's Picture Book, for *Arthur Zarr's Amazing Art Car*.
- Susanna Leonard Hill, February 2016, second place in her Valentiny Writer's Contest, for *Kandie's Kiss*.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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- Picture Book critique group, began September 2016 to present (5 members, ongoing). Houston, Texas.
- Participant in Tara Lazar's "Storystorm," an online writer's group, 2016 to present.
- EQ-Quickbooks, "Quickbooks 101" taught by Quentin Wiggins, August 2017. Houston, Texas.
- 2017 SCBWI Regional Conference; including Picture Book Intensive, October 2017. Houston, Texas.
- Texas Library Association Conference, information book booth, April 2017. San Antonio, Texas.
- 2016 SCBWI Regional Conference; including critique by Crystal Allen, October 2016. Houston, Texas.
- 2016 SCBWI 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Conference, February 2016. New York, New York.
- Leisure Learning Unlimited, "From Writer to Author" by Onedia Gage, February 2016. Houston, Texas.
- We Grow Media, Mastermind online writing groups led by Dan Blank, November 2015; January 2016.
- Webinar, "Book Planning for Indie Authors" by Joel Friedlander & Tracy Atkins, December 2015.
- SCBWI webinar, "Chapter Book Craft 101" with editor Amy Cloud, October 2015.
- SCBWI webinar, "Children's Book Marketing" with Kirsten Cappy, August 2015.
- Webinar, "How to Grow Your Audience with Email Newsletters" by Dan Blank, May 2015.
- Writer's Digest University, "Blogging 101" taught by Dan Blank, April 2015.
- 2015 SCBWI Regional Conference; including critique by Crystal Allen, April 2015. Houston, Texas.
- Leisure Learning Unlimited, "Web Page Design & HTML Basics," April 2010. Houston, Texas.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)  
Houston Writers Guild  
Association of Writers and Writing Programs  
Texas Association of Authors  
Writers' League of Texas  
Baylor Women's Association of Houston