

GREENBUSH LIFE

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Local Author to Have Book Signing at Good Buy Books

By Kristin Shaw

EAST GREENBUSH — Author Christine Auclair will be signing copies of her book, "You Can't Find a Rainbow in the House," beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 23 at Good Buy Books, 331 Columbia Turnpike. Auclair, 40, from Newtonville, is a freelance writer, publisher and photographer who grew up in Connecticut. She said she wrote the book to inspire children to enjoy and appreciate nature and the great outdoors. Children as young as 5 can appreciate the book, up to about age 12. Her great-niece, Lauren LaChance, from Kentucky, illustrated the book. Lauren is now 9, but was 8 when she completed the illustrations. "Lauren suffers from a very rare disease McCune-Albright Syndrome that impacts her physically, however she expresses herself brilliantly through her artwork," said Auclair, who noted her own photos are also included in the book. A portion of the proceeds from the purchase of each book is being donated to The

Magic Foundation, a non-profit organization that assists children with rare diseases. So far, Auclair is only selling her books online. Auclair said three things inspired her to write the book; her mother's love of nature, her older brother and his love of the outdoors, and her partner, Heidi.

"In a nutshell, it was my mother's love of nature and the outdoors that instilled a life-long love of nature in me," she said. "She had a way of showing me how to appreciate the simplicity of a beautiful sunset or a gentle snowflake on a very deep level, and I never forgot that. That is what began my love of nature, and it remains steadfast to this day. Add to that my older brother who loved to take me on nature hikes along the trails in the woods behind our house, and my love of the outdoors began passionately at a very young age.

"Too many children in this day and age don't know how to appreciate nature and the gifts it offers on any level," she added. "For us, the outdoors was our source of entertainment. We'd play outside for hours on end. My desire in writing the book was to inspire children to get outdoors to explore; to open their eyes to the beautiful world around them; to the adventures that await them."

She recalls her mother being an advocate for writing from the time she was a first grader.

Auclair said another huge inspiration for her in actually beginning the project was her partner, Heidi. "Actually, if it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have been able to write the book," said Auclair. "When we relocated to this area two years ago, she strongly encouraged me to take a year off to pursue my life-long dream of writing a book. She believed in my talent and my mission and supported me fully as I embarked on my journey. Without her support and belief in me, there is no way that I would have taken that year off to write." After writing her first book, "Living in New York as a Red Sox Fan: Tips and Topics from within Enemy Lines," Auclair was invited to attend a book signing at an international convention in Chicago, an event she calls the highlight of her literary career so far. Another highlight occurred when Auclair learned that her book

was the inspiration behind a Connecticut woman building a nature trail at her daycare center. Auclair is a staff writer and photographer for the Adirondack Guest Informer, a tourism/travel magazine. She belongs to The International Women's Writing Guild, the Small Publishers, Artists and Writers Network, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and the National Wildlife Federation. She has a degree in business with a focus on management, a necessary tool that helps her to utilize disciplinary and organizational skills to bring about the successful completion of her goals. Her sense of humor also helps to keep her grounded in such a diverse and challenging career. She is inspired by the outdoors and the raw beauty in nature; her vivid photography reflects the landscape as she sees it, she does not believe in enhancing her photos in any way. Auclair works at an Albany law firm, enjoys spending time with Heidi and their two spoiled cats, her close-knit family, especially her precious nieces and nephews, and also enjoys hiking, kayaking, photography, traveling baseball, of course writing, and is a die hard fan of the Boston Red Sox. "I feel my dream job is just starting to happen," she said. "My goal now is to get my books in mainstream publishing. I also have a couple of non-fiction books in mind for the future. Some scribbles on paper, but the passion and drive to write more is definitely there." McCune-Albright Syndrome (MAS), affecting just a few hundred children worldwide. There is no known cure or treatment for the disease. MAS is a genetic disease that causes hormonal and endocrinologic problems. Typically, a person with MAS also suffers from fibrous dysplasia, which affects the fibrous tissue growth in bones, resulting in a major susceptibility to fractures. MAS can progress as a child grows causing many fractures and also severe deformities. As a result of MAS, Lauren's physical capabilities are severely impacted; however she brilliantly expresses herself through her artwork. The disease profoundly affects the lives of those it touches.

Auclair will be donating a portion of the proceeds from the book to the MAS division of The Magic Foundation in Lauren's name to assist children with their medical needs.



Photos provided

Local author Christine Auclair

Children with MAS face numerous surgical procedures and the need for many varieties of durable medical equipment. The proceeds will help defray costs in these areas, as well as enable families of those suffering from MAS to bear the costs of travel expenses involved in transporting their child to the few hospitals in the United States that provide care to MAS patients.

"My goal is to assist children such as Lauren who suffer from rare diseases," said Auclair. "Combining my words and photography with Lauren's illustrations will demonstrate a small piece of our beautiful world and encourage children to get out and explore, while at the same time encourage adults to make a difference in this world by choosing a children's book that is directly helping another child. It's paying it forward in a literary sense."

YOU CAN'T
FIND A
RAINBOW
IN THE
HOUSE!

Christine Auclair

Illustrated by Lauren LaChance

You Can't Find A Rainbow in The House.