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**NEIGHBORS The Yard Critters Book 1** / by George Held / illustrations by Joung Un Kim / publisher: Filsinger & Company, Ltd. / price: \$20.00/hardcover / ISBN: 978-0-916754-25-9 / ages: 3-11, and above / pages: 32 / publication: December 10, 2011 / CPSIA compliant / available: <http://www.filsingerco.com>; <http://www.amazon.com>; <http://www.bookhampton.com>

## **NEIGHBORS, a new picture book by George Held and Joung Un Kim: a sumptuous banquet, perfectly served**

New York, N.Y., February 2012 – Poet George Held and children’s book artist Joung Un Kim have collaborated on a new picture book for children, called *Neighbors™*. Subtitled *The Yard Critters*, it is the first book in the *Neighbors* series and refers to animals one often finds in a suburban yard, a country house landscape, or a city street. The lavishly illustrated book is 12”x12” and can easily be shared by parents and children, as well as educators eager to explore poetry with their young students.

Poet [Kimiko Hahn](#): “Open George Held’s magical metrical menagerie and enjoy the boisterous buzz of verse. These poems, paired with Joung Un Kim’s appealing pictures, will tickle the creature in children and adults alike.”

A member of the executive board of the [South Fork Natural History Society](#) in Bridgehampton, New York, Mr. Held has a longstanding love of the natural world. He observes it for the children -- and even names a haiku for the Raccoon: “Racku.” He states: “The poems in *Neighbors* are intended to make even lowly animals appear valuable, as they are, and to show how they fit into their ecosystem. That’s why each animal has its own poem and illustration.” [interview with Jim Furlong, former managing editor of the international news service of Dow Jones & Co.]

Ms. Kim, artist, captures the essence of each animal...but in a collaged landscape of her own musings. Here, plaid bushes grow, groundhogs splash in a wading pool, turtles follow road maps.

**“Neighbors, that’s what they are. They’re near, not far.  
So slow your car. See, watch, enjoy – our creature-neighbors help  
make us who we are.”**

-- [Carl Safina](#), author of *Song for the Blue Ocean* and *The View From Lazy Point*.

[GEORGE HELD](#), a five-time Pushcart Prize nominee, has published fifteen poetry collections, including a trilogy of chapbooks on nature themes. Other work appears in such publications as *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Confrontation*, and *The Writer's Almanac* (Garrison Keillor). Educated at Brown, University of Hawai'i (M.A.), and Rutgers (Ph.D), he was a Fulbright lecturer and is a former professor at Queens College, City University of New York. He lives in New York and Sag Harbor.

[JOUNG UN KIM](#), illustrator and designer, is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. She has illustrated many picture books for children, including *The Grasshopper Hopped* [Golden Books/Random House] and *Hen Hears Gossip* [Greenwillow/Harper Collins]. She lives in Southern California.  
Agent: [Jane Feder](#).

Consultants: [Matteo Bologna](#), Bryan Canniff.

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