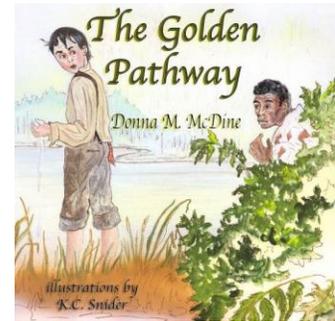


# MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT: Donna M. McDine  
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## For Immediate Release

### *A Story of Friendship and Courage*

**A young boy befriends an abused slave and defies his father to help his new friend attain freedom**

(TAPPAN, NEW YORK) – *The Golden Pathway* is a richly illustrated work of historical fiction that allows children to comprehend the horror of slavery as well as the courage of the people who risked their lives to help slaves escape via the Underground Railroad.

Told from a child's perspective, the story begins with David, who is raised in a hostile environment where abuse occurs daily. David attempts to break the mold and befriends the slave, Jenkins, owned by his Pa. Fighting against extraordinary times and beliefs, David attempts to lead Jenkins to freedom with no regard for his own safety and possible consequences dealt out by his Pa.

Additional resources at the end of the book include a glossary of the code words used and a list of websites with information about the Underground Railroad.

**About the author:** Donna McDine is an award-winning children's author, Honorable Mention in the 77th and two Honorable Mentions in the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competitions, Literary Classics Silver Award & Seal of Approval Recipient Picture Book Early Reader, Global eBook Awards Finalist Children's Picture Book Fiction, and Preditors & Editors Readers Poll 2010 Top Ten Children's Books ~ *The Golden Pathway*. Her interest in American History resulted in writing and publishing *The Golden Pathway*. Donna has four more books under contract with Guardian Angel Publishing, *Hockey Agony*, *Powder Monkey*, *A Sandy Grave*, and *Dee and Deb*, *Off They Go*. McDine is a member of the SCBWI, Children's Literature Network, and Family Reading Partnership. Visit [www.donnamcdine.com](http://www.donnamcdine.com).

**What they're saying about *The Golden Pathway*:** "Once children have read about David and the part he played in the Underground Railroad, they'll be eager to find other stories to enhance what they've learned in *The Golden Pathway*." ~ **Beverly Stowe McClure, author of *Rebel in Blue Jeans, Just Breeze, and Caves, Cannons, and Crinolines***

Title: *The Golden Pathway*  
Author: Donna M. McDine  
Genre: Children 8-12/Historical Fiction  
ISBN: 978-1-61633-081-1 paperback; 978-1-61633-082-8 ebook  
Publication Date: August 2010  
Pages: 26  
Price: \$9.95 paperback; \$5.00 ebook  
Publisher: Guardian Angel Publishing, Inc.  
<http://www.guardianangelpublishing.com/pathway.htm>

# The Golden Pathway

## Donna M. McDine

### About the Author:

Award-winning children's author Donna McDine published her first book *The Golden Pathway*, August 2010 with Guardian Angel Publishing and has three more books under contract with said publisher for *Hockey Agony*, *Powder Monkey*, and *A Sandy Grave*. She writes, moms and is the Editor-in-Chief for Guardian Angel Kids, Publicist for the Working Writer's Club, and owner of Author PR Services from her home in the historical hamlet Tappan, NY. McDine is a member of the SCBWI.

For an interview or school visit requests, please email Ms. McDine at [donna@donnamcdine.com](mailto:donna@donnamcdine.com)

*The Golden Pathway*

By: Donna M. McDine

24 Pages

Publisher: Guardian Angel Publishing, Inc.

<http://www.guardianangelpublishing.com>

Print ISBN 13: 978-1-61633-081-1

eBook ISBN 13: 978-1-61633-082-8

Published: August 2010



# Here's what reviewers are saying about The Golden Pathway

*"The Golden Pathway is a tale of compassion and courage. This book earns the Children's Literary Classics Seal of Approval, a designation reserved for those books which uphold the rigorous criteria set forth by the Children's Literary Classics review committee, a team comprised of individuals with backgrounds in publishing, editing, writing, illustration and graphic design."*

**–Literary Classics Book Awards & Reviews**

*"The Golden Pathway is written specifically for children 8-12 years old and is written perfectly to their level of understanding. It is easy to comprehend and the plot flows smoothly. The illustrations are beautifully depicted and complement the wording immensely. I found this story to be powerful, inspiring and something that will provide children with a valuable lesson about slavery and freedom as part of American History. I can see this book also providing a valuable tool for children to ask questions and bring about important conversation. I feel strongly that this book is a must read for all children ages 8 and up."*

**–Rita V., Readers Favorite**

*"This story by author Donna M. McDine, with full-page, full-color illustrations by K. C. Snider, is an attention-grabbing way to introduce students to the fact that slavery once existed in this country and also illustrate how the "Underground Railroad" helped slaves to escape north so that they might gain their freedom. It is a great book."*

**–Wayne S. Walker, Home School Book Review**

*"Donna M. McDine is an award winning children's author and it comes through in the book. The way she has handled such a delicate and emotional subject is really good. She has given a good twist to the tale in the end. The story imparts an important message to the children, of being courageous and yet compassionate towards fellow human beings. At the same time the story makes the children realize the plight people went through in those times."*

**-Benu Bali, Zealot Readers**

*"A tale sure to inspire anyone who doubts their own courage."*

**–Lori Calabrese, award-winning author of *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade***

*"I thought this was a very well written story for children to understand."*

**–Chrissy's World of Books**

*"Donna McDine has bared a shameful legacy for us to deal with. She's done it with tenderness and care, brought us face to face with that ugliness and made it personal. Then she's given us*

*high purpose and bravery in David and the shopkeeper Mr. Stump. Their quiet determination to right this wrong, at great personal risk, inspires and uplifts us all. This award winning story is not to be missed."*

**-Penelope Anne Cole, children's author ~ *Magical Matthew***

*"I definitely give this book a 5 star rating along with praises to the illustrator for creating eye capturing pictures to flow with the story. Two thumbs up to Donna McDine for a job well done and I look forward to many more children's books by this amazing author!"*

**-Molly Edwards, *The Willow Spring Killer***

*"The Golden Pathway not only captures the sadness of slavery, but teaches students about the Underground Railway—a network of people who helped slaves escape from their owners. The author also provides a teaching guide for teachers, as well."*

**-Carol Fraser Hagen, Literacy Specialist**

*"The Golden Pathway is a story about courage and friendship."*

**-Renee Hand, author of *The Crypto-Capers* series and the award-winning, *The Adventures of Joe-Joe Nut and Biscuit Bill: Case #1: The Great Pie Catastrophe***

*"The Golden Pathway is a story of courage, determination, inner strength, compassion, and doing the right thing when wrong is being done all around you. This is also a story of the darkest times in American history that shouldn't be forgotten and shows that anyone can help someone else out of a bad situation in spite of the consequences to themselves. The watercolor illustrations are brilliantly drawn by K.C. Snider. They add to the action and atmosphere of the book."*

**-Debra Hockenberry, *The Bumpy Road to Publication***

*"What a powerful story of good will by award-winning children's author, Donna McDine. She takes you back in time showing us that slavery did exist and how the Underground Railroad helped slaves escape to the north where they gained their freedom. The message we should take from this story is that there are good and faithful people willing to make a wrong right by satisfying anything to help others. The wonderful illustrations by K.C. Snider brings the story to life. I highly recommend the Golden Pathway to History teachers, parents, and children."*

**-Ella Johnson, MYMCBook's Blog**

*"Excellent book that brings up the topic of the cruel slavery ways of yesterday. Not only can you talk about slavery but you can talk about helping others, and alcohol abuse. I recommend parents read this book WITH their children as there will surely be plenty of questions to follow."*

**-Farrah Kennedy, *The Book Faery Reviews***

*"In Donna McDine's debut book witness a poignant depiction of the best and worst of humanity. The portrayal of the brutality dealt a slave and a white boy's sense of right and wrong are expertly exposed. K.C. Snider is a fine artist and each illustration is a masterpiece. The historical fiction picture book's succinct and imaginative story coupled with the illustrations are a buffet for readers of all ages. I highly recommend this book."*

**-J. Aday Kennedy, award-winning multi-published author of inspirational/Christian pieces and of children's literature**

*“The best thing about this book is that it raised other questions... Any book that can cause a child to crave more knowledge on a subject is a good one.”*

**–Lynn’s Reading Corner**

*“The Golden Pathway, I decided that it was a great teaching tool with lessons in history yes, but more than that, this short story contained powerful life lessons in: bravery, kindness, making the right choices, which isn’t always easy, sometimes parents/adults make bad choices, and that kids have power to change things too. This finely illustrated book will have you rooting for two boys thrown together by circumstances beyond their control, until one brave boy decides to help the other. I did wish for one more chapter in which we could take at least part of the journey to freedom with Jenkins.”*

**–Linda Kinsman, Book Blogger**

*“Ms. McDine has taken a very complex time from America's history and brought it to life at an introductory for children between the ages of 8-12. She has expertly dealt with abuse, alcoholism, bullying and slavery. The Golden Pathway is a story full of friendship, love, and compassion. I would recommend it to anyone who has children in the listed age group. It is a great way to introduce these issues to young people.”*

**–Cindy Oldman, Kaleidoscope Memories: Childhood Stories That Celebrate Family Life**

*“Despite the heavy themes of bullying and suffering, David's story is incredibly empowering. The illustrations show the characters' raw emotions in a way that draws you in, pulls at your gut and touches your heart. After finishing The Golden Pathway, readers may be inspired to make a difference in the world by reaching out to help someone.”*

**–Beth Reinke, In My Bath and Cloud Catastrophe**

*Although, it is a somber story it has a positive depiction of how one person can help another and become victorious.*

**–Carol Ross, journalist**

*“Author Donna McDine pulls you in from the first sentence, and doesn’t let you go. Her writing is filled with sensory detail that puts you into the story and the era. She has created living, breathing characters, so much so, that I strongly felt their lives before and after the tale.”*

**–A.R. Silverberry, Wyndano’s Cloak**

*“The Golden Pathway will teach children how people can come together and overcome seemingly impossible odds and learn a bit about American history and how to deal with a situation of bullying and abuse.”*

**–Lauren S. Smith, She Writes**

*“Award winning children’s author, Donna McDine, has produced a powerful story of good and evil, a must read for every child. She defines, in a beautifully written and poignant way, one man’s inhumanity to man and the redeeming qualities of his son.”*

**–Nancy Stewart, Best-selling children’s author and university professor of education, specializing in Children’s and Young Adult Literature**

*“Once children have read about David and the part he played in the Underground Railroad, they’ll be eager to find other stories to enhance what they’ve learned in *The Golden Pathway*.”*

**–Beverly Stowe McClure, *Rebel in Blue Jeans, Just Breeze, and Caves, Cannons, and Crinolines***

*“The book is beautifully illustrated, and written for a child to glimpse some of the injustice in our Country. It should be a must have book in all libraries.”*

**–Maureen Timmerman, Book Blogger at Maureen’s Musings**

*“It took many cold-hearted people to make slavery continue, but we must never forget that if it were not for people like David, slavery would have taken a lot longer to be abolished. The fine illustrations by K.C Snider made the story come alive. The expressions on David’s face exemplified the compassion he showed toward Jenkins. I am especially fond of the picture of David trying to comfort Jenkins after being beaten to a pulp by his Pa. Ms. Snider’s illustrations captured the true essence of the story and that is why the story jumps off the page. Reading *The Golden Pathway* made me stop to think about all the kind-hearted people who helped many slaves and made it possible for them to escape.”*

**–Nicole Weaver, *My Sister Is My Best Friend***

*“The *Golden Pathway* is the story of David, a young boy who finds the strength to help a teenage slave, Jenkins. The fact that David’s cruel father ‘owns’ Jenkins makes this even bolder and more dangerous for David. This work of historical fiction by Donna McDine is easy to read, and give readers the inspiration to know that if you have the courage to do what is right, one person can make a difference. The illustrations by K.C. Snider are a fine complement to the story. I highly recommend this book.”*

**–Tracy Winters, Publisher and Author**

# Awards and Publishing Credits

Donna M. McDine

## AWARDS:

- Readers Favorite 2012 International Book Awards Honorable Mention Children K-3<sup>rd</sup> General ~ *The Golden Pathway*
- Literary Classics 2011 Silver Award Recipient Picture Book Early Reader ~ *The Golden Pathway*
- Literary Classics 2011 Finalist Picture Book Early Reader ~ *The Golden Pathway*
- Literary Classics 2011 Seal of Approval Picture Book Early Reader ~ *The Golden Pathway*
- Finalist in Dan Poynter's Global eBook Awards - Children's Picture Book Fiction category - *The Golden Pathway*
- Preditors & Editors Readers Poll 2010 - Top Ten - Children's Books category - *The Golden Pathway*
- 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition - Honorable Mention - Children's/Young Adult Fiction category ~ "The Hockey Agony"
- 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition - Honorable Mention - Children's/Young Adult Fiction category ~ "Images of the Past"
- 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition - Honorable Mention - Children's/Young Adult Fiction category ~ "The Golden Pathway"

## PUBLISHING CREDITS:

### Books:

- *The Golden Pathway* ~ August 2010 ~ Guardian Angel Publishing
- *Hockey Agony* ~ Summer/Fall 2012 ~ Guardian Angel Publishing
- *Powder Monkey* ~ Summer/Fall 2012 ~ Guardian Angel Publishing

- *A Sandy Grave* ~ Under Contract ~ Guardian Angel Publishing
- *Dee and Deb, Off They Go* ~ Under Contract ~ Guardian Angel Publishing

#### Magazine:

#### Non-fiction:

- “Sports Buddies,” April 2014 ~ *Hopscotch for Girls*
- “Fishing Through a Frozen Lake,” December 2012 ~ *Boys’ Quest*
- “Keeping the Caribou Warm,” May 2009 ~ *Stories for Children Magazine*
- “The ‘Ghosts’ of the Night,” July 2008 ~ *Stories for Children Magazine*
- “Shortening the Gap,” April 2008 ~ *A Long Story Short*
- “What’s Not A Fish, But Is Called A Fish,” July 2007 ~ *Stories for Children Magazine*

#### Fiction:

- “Nikko and Herman,” December 2010 ~ *Long Story Short*
- “The Creaky Ceiling,” August 2007 ~ *Long Story Short*
- “Trouble in the Park,” June 2007 ~ *Long Story Short*

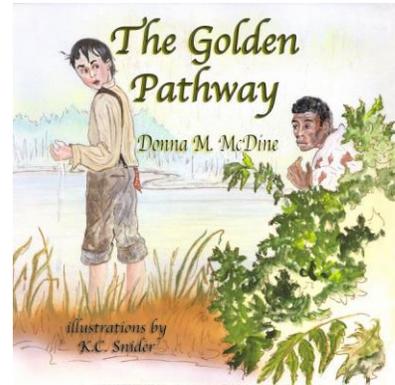
#### Contributing Articles:

- “Writer’s Submission Guidelines: The Importance of Staying with the Parameters,” October 2011 ~ *Working Writer’s Club*
- “The Almighty News Release,” September 2011 ~ *Working Writer’s Club*
- “Positive Words Are Worth Their Weight In Gold,” May 2010 ~ *The Prosperous Writers Blog*, Christina Katz
- “Children’s Writing Resources,” March/April 2010 ~ *Writers’ Journal*
- “Boy’s Quest Cover Letter,” *2009 Magazine Markets for Children’s Writers*
- “Ten Ways to Survive the First Year of Middle School (Junior High),” December 2008 ~ *PsychologyAgain.com*

- “Gum Massage,” December 2008 ~ *Parenting Universe*
- “Four Tips for Squeezing in Your Exercise During Your Busy Day,” December 2008 ~ *Diet Trends Review*
- “My Daughter is Developing Early, Should I Worry,” November 2008 ~ *Hudson Valley Parent*
- “5 Tips for Researching Children’s Stories Market Potential,” July/August 2008 ~ *Cross & Quill - The Christian Writers Newsletter*
- “Interview with K.L. Going,” November 2008 ~ *Mom Writer’s Literary Magazine*
- “The Worthy Writer’s Conference,” Summer 2008 ~ *Once Upon A Time Magazine*
- “Finding New Talent: Middle-Grade and Young Adult Novels at Delacorte,” Spring Issue 2008 ~ *SCBWI Metro NY Newsletter*
- “How to Get and Stay Organized for Your Blooming Writing Career,” May 2008 ~ *Institute of Children’s Literature Rx for Writers*
- “Interview with Beverly Stowe McClure,” May 2008 ~ *The National Writing for Children Center*
- “Interview with Lea Schizas,” April 2008 ~ *The National Writing for Children Center*
- “The Brick and Hopefully Crumbling Wall of Parenting and Writing,” September 2007 ~ *Stories for Children Newsletter for Writers*
- “How to Avoid the Feeling of Isolation by Conducting Author Visits,” September 2007 ~ *Kid Magazine Writers*
- “I’m Publishing: What Will It Be Today,” August 2007 ~ *Kid Magazine Writers*
- “The Worthy Writer’s Conference,” June 2007 ~ *The National Writing for Children Center*

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For Immediate Release

## Underground Railroad children's story book *The Golden Pathway* announced as Literary Classics 2011 Silver Award Recipient

October 14, 2011 - Tappan, New York – Donna McDine's children's book, *The Golden Pathway* has been announced as Literary Classics 2011 Silver Award Recipient – Early Reader category.

Literary Classics announced its 2011 selection of top books for children and young adults today. Award recipients were selected from entries received throughout the world. The Literary Classics selection committee is proud to recognize the following titles in children's and young adult literature which exemplify the criteria set forth by the Literary Classics Awards committee.

A list of the 2011 award recipients can be viewed at: [www.clcawards.org](http://www.clcawards.org).

### PICTURE BOOK - EARLY READER

Gold Award Recipient - *Wacky Jacky: The True Story of An Unlikely Beauty Queen*, written by Jaclyn Stapp, illustrated by Kristine Lucco

Silver Award Recipient - *The Golden Pathway*, written by Donna M. McDine, illustrated by K.C. Snider

Literary Classics, an organization dedicated to furthering excellence in literature, takes great pride in its role to help promote classic children's literature which appeals to youth, while educating and encouraging positive values in the impressionable young minds of future generations. Judging is based upon the criteria set forth by Literary Classics' highly selective awards committee which honors books promoting character, vision, creativity and learning, through content which possesses the key elements found in well-crafted literature.

The Literary Classics judging committee consists of experts with backgrounds in publishing, writing, editing, design, illustration, and book reviewing. To learn more about Literary Classics, visit their website at [www.literaryclassicsawards.com](http://www.literaryclassicsawards.com).

***The Golden Pathway synopsis:***

Be transported through time to the Underground Railroad, where high-pitched screams echo each night. David's cruel Pa always chooses the same victim. Despite the circumstances during slavery, David uncovers the courage to defy his Pa.

Raised in a hostile environment where abuse occurs daily, David attempts to break the mold and befriends the slave, Jenkins, owned by his Pa. Fighting against extraordinary times and beliefs, David attempts to lead Jenkins to freedom with no regard for his own safety and possible consequences dealt out by his Pa.

***The Golden Pathway purchasing information:***

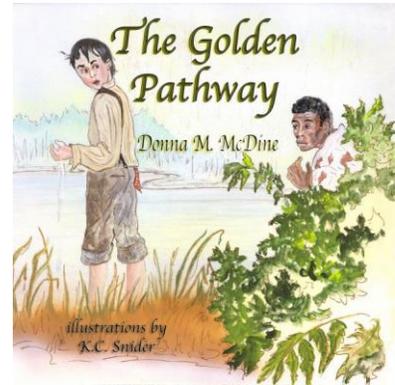
Guardian Angel Publishing [www.guardianangelpublishing.com/pathway.htm](http://www.guardianangelpublishing.com/pathway.htm) or for autographed copies visit award-winning children's author Donna McDine [www.donnamcdine.com](http://www.donnamcdine.com). As an added bonus, orders placed through Guardian Angel Publishing or the author will include *The Golden Pathway* teacher's guide eBook.

Thank you for your time and interest.

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Underground Railroad children's story book *The Golden Pathway* earns the Literary Classics Seal of Approval**

Tappan, New York – Donna McDine's children's book, *The Golden Pathway* has been awarded the Literary Classics Seal of Approval in the Picture Book – Early Reader category.

### **A word from Children's Literary Classics**

*The Golden Pathway*, written by Donna M. McDine and illustrated by KC Snider, is an inspiring story of a young boy, named David, who helps his father's slave escape to freedom. Day after day, David watches from a distance as his alcoholic father brutally and mercilessly beats their slave, Jenkins, who is just a boy himself. David knows all too well that the beatings will only continue and becomes concerned that Jenkins may not survive the onslaught of physical abuse. Eventually David finds a way, with the aid of those operating the Underground Railroad, to help Jenkins escape his life of slavery and affliction.

*The Golden Pathway* is a tale of compassion and courage. This book earns the Children's Literary Classics Seal of Approval, a designation reserved for those books which uphold the rigorous criteria set forth by the Children's Literary Classics review committee, a team comprised of individuals with backgrounds in publishing, editing, writing, illustration and graphic design.

Children's Literary Classics, an organization dedicated to furthering excellence in children's literature, takes great pride in its role to help promote classic children's literature which appeals to youth, while educating and encouraging positive values in the impressionable young minds of future generations. To learn more about Children's Literary Classics, you may visit their website at [www.elcawards.org](http://www.elcawards.org) or [www.childrensliteraryclassics.com](http://www.childrensliteraryclassics.com)

### **About the Author**

Donna McDine is an award-winning children's author, Honorable Mention in the 77th and two Honorable Mentions in the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competitions, Preditors & Editors Readers Poll 2010 Top Ten Children's Books, Global eBook Awards Finalist Children's Picture Book Fiction, and Literary Classics Seal of Approval Picture Book Early Reader ~ *The Golden Pathway*.

Her stories, articles, and book reviews have been published in over 100 print and online publications. Her interest in American History resulted in writing and publishing *The Golden Pathway*. Donna has three more books under contract with Guardian Angel Publishing, *Hockey Agony*, *Powder Monkey*, and *A Sandy Grave*. She writes, moms and is the Editor-in-Chief for Guardian Angel Kids and Publicist for the Children's Writers' Coaching Club from her home in the historical hamlet Tappan, NY. McDine is a member of the SCBWI and Musing Our Children.

Visit Donna at: [www.donnamcdine.com](http://www.donnamcdine.com) and [www.thegoldenpathway.blogspot.com](http://www.thegoldenpathway.blogspot.com)

### **About the Illustrator**

K.C. Snider, a prominent Oregon artist, has branched out into a variety of styles and subjects. Her collection of oil paintings, lithographs, and pencil drawings include the All-American Cowboy and Cowgirl and their historical lifestyles with magnificent wolves, buffalo herds, eagles and birds of prey along with horses and domestic animals. Her artwork has won numerous awards including the Snaffle Bit Award and the Pioneer Award.

Snider lives in the high desert with majestic views of the Cascade Mountains' snow capped peaks. K.C. also illustrates children's books: *Alleycat*; *The Christmas Angel*; *Preston, the Not-So-Perfect Pig*; *One Family's Christmas*; *Cartwheel Annie*; *The Magic Violin*; *Does Heaven Get Mail?*; *Andy & The Albino Horse Series*; *Baby Jesus is Missing' Katydidn't*; *A Short Tale About a Long Tail*; *Monster Maddie*; *RV Mouse & Ruthie and the Hippo's Fat Behind*.

A three piece triptych from the second book in the *Andy & the Albino Horse Series* won 1st Place in The Western Art Roundup 2008 and another *Andy* story triptych won 2nd Place in The Western Art Roundup 2009.

Visit K.C. at: [www.kcsniderart.com](http://www.kcsniderart.com)

### ***The Golden Pathway* purchasing information:**

[www.guardianangelpublishing.com/pathway.htm](http://www.guardianangelpublishing.com/pathway.htm) or for autographed copies with added bonus of the teacher's learning guide [www.donnamcdine.com](http://www.donnamcdine.com).

Thank you for your time and interest.

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