

# Livingston County News

## BOOK PROJECT

# Siegfried the Weird White Peacock is a real 'tweet!'

## Geneseo students create book about a real life pale peacock

BY LAURIE MERCER  
*Special to the County News*

The term "peacocking" has taken on a new meaning to describe someone who is showing off their cool clothes. In Kung Fu Panda 2 there is Lord Shen, a villainous white peacock mistakenly termed Albino. He is not; he is white.

Now there's a new book about a white peacock, Siegfried the Weird White Peacock, It's an intimate biography about being different, written entirely by 6- to 8-year old writers.

The book can be downloaded as an ebook at <http://ebooks-davis.publishing.com> (\$8.95). All downloads of the ebook also include a free copy of just the photographs alone, with space for people to write their own "tale" of what it's like to be white in a colorful world.

"He's gross," the other little peafowl say about him when he is first hatched. Later they chide him for his size and color, mistaking him for a baseball. The rest of them see themselves in a reflection in lovely shades of peacock blue.

As the photo story builds, Siegfried asks his mother plaintively, "Why is I white?" Mom says she has "no idea," but the kid writers aren't buying it. Even worse, Dad moved away when Siegfried was just a chick. Then there are the bullies who, according to the story, make Siegfried cry under his wing, "A hundred times a day."

Jennifer Sackett Turner, now a reading teacher in Hyde Park, Dutchess County, led the class of 16 young writers to produce the story.

Each child followed a book of photographs created by Laurie Mercer who also shares the farm with the flock in upstate New York. Twelve authors signed on to share their stories in the ebook.

The authors are: Emily Anderson, Evan Cohen-Doty, Joshua DeBell, Rebecca Klein, Conor Peters, Emily



Courtesy photo

It was a pretty exciting day for everyone when Jennifer Sackett Turner's creative writing class from Geneseo Middle School came by school bus to visit Siegfried at his home on the Mulligan Farm, Avon.

Podhorecki, Dustin Rider, Nino Rutigliano, George Shaw, Josef Thorne, Edward Vanson, and Jacob Young. The epiphany, where the white bird and the flock come to realize that it's okay to be different, came from guest editor Leah Rusin who goes to a different school.

The first run of hard copies of Siegfried the Weird White Peacock was funded entirely by [www.Kickstarter.com](http://www.Kickstarter.com), a vibrant, go-to guide website for creative projects in need of financial kick starting.

Hard copy books (\$12 with handling/shipping) will be available from Davis Publishing, on Laurie's web site ([www.lauriemercerpr.com](http://www.lauriemercerpr.com)) and will be featured at Touch of Grayce.

A special book signing for the authors will be held on June 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Touch of Grayce, 65 Main St., Geneseo, NY. Contact [grayce@touchofgrayce.com](mailto:grayce@touchofgrayce.com) for event details.

Siegfried is on Facebook as Siegfried Peacock. He values "meaningful relationships."