



# PRESS KIT

**Lisa J. Becker**

**B**uffalo Grove Author Shows Readers the Colorful World of Azure House (Buffalo Grove, IL) May 14, 2018— In her new book “Azure House,” Buffalo Grove resident Lisa J. Becker invites young children and their families to “meet” 27 colorful residents who can be anyone’s neighbor.

Presented in a very unique, poetic style with a nod to the alphabet and beautifully illustrated by Karen Light, readers learn about characters such as Veronica Valentine, a dentist with a penchant for calming patients with celebrity gossip; Jesse Jaffe, a handsome television reporter interviewing everyday people and Crystal Campus, personal shopper for famous clients and mother to Cal, her 4-year-old son and constant companion.

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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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Becker developed the whimsical “Azure House” concept from her desire to write children’s books that were fun, imaginative and engaging. Using the alphabet as inspiration for learning, she wrote about colorful characters with first and last names beginning with the same initial. The book’s title is also alphabetic. “I wanted to make sure that the name of the apartment house had the letters A and Z in it,” Becker said. “I did a lot of research to find the right word. When I found azure, I knew instantly that it was the right name for the apartment house. Azure is such a beautiful color and it’s also a type of butterfly; I appreciate the grace and beauty of butterflies.”

**B**ecker loves all of her characters. One of them, Francine Fillmore, an animal lover who used her lottery winnings to open Animal Circuit to save the lives of cats and dogs, has a special place in her heart. Becker modeled this lovely woman after her late mother Francine and dedicated the book to her along with the rest of her large group of beloved family and friends.

"The kindness, warmth and joy exuded in the picture of Francine Fillmore surrounded by all of her animals represents an image of unconditional love," Becker said. "It is a true reflection of who my Mom was."

Becker's main goal for her work is to encourage children as well as adults to love reading. She remembers how her mother fostered that love by teaching her how to read at age 2 and taking her to the library with great regularity.

 /AzureHouseBooks

"I wrote the book in a poem-like, rhythmic-style cadence to make it fun for kids to read and also so parents can read it to younger children in the same way for their enjoyment too," she said.

The book contains a larger, positive meaning for its audiences.

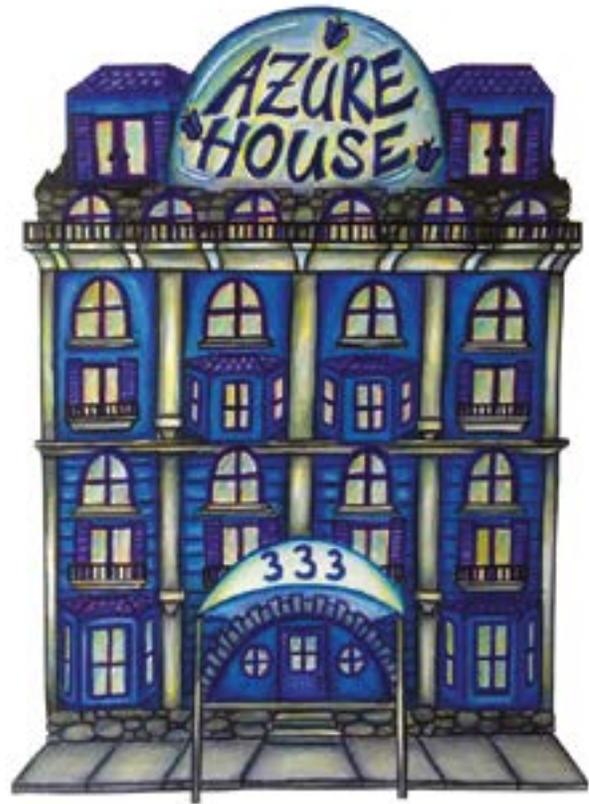
"The book is a microcosm of people in the world," she said. "I wanted my book to illustrate that Azure House is a happy place, that life can be joyous and that everybody has issues. We learn to work around our issues and create happy and fulfilling lives for ourselves."

Becker is asking those purchasing "Azure House" to donate a copy, have a fundraiser or make a financial contribution to Shriners Hospitals for Children on behalf of her father, Sidney Kulek, a Shriner, for the miraculous, life changing work performed at the 22 hospitals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

**K**ulek is very proud of his daughter's first work and how she is encouraging readers to learn more about the hospitals.

"I'm reading Lisa's book for the first time and I'm absolutely thrilled," Kulek said. "I've always known that Lisa is a superb writer. Anytime my family needed something written for an advertisement or a book, Lisa would do the writing. I and my Shriner friends are very touched by the fact that my daughter's book is dedicated to Shriners Hospitals for Children."

"Azure House" is available for purchase on Amazon. For more information about Lisa J. Becker, visit <http://lisajbecker.com/>



[www.lisajbecker.com](http://www.lisajbecker.com)



## About Lisa J. Becker:

**L**isa J. Becker is a native New Yorker, born in Brooklyn but raised across the country. She moved with her three siblings and parents every three years for her father's work assignments. She has lived in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, Hawaii, California, Texas and Illinois. Lisa has been writing poems and stories for her entire life; it is her passion and heart's desire to tell stories that stir the imaginations of children and encourage a desire to read for the

sheer adventure each new book holds. While dreaming of being a published author, Lisa has had diverse work experience throughout her adult life as a waitress, a certified medical assistant, an examinations coordinator, a school secretary and then thirty years in finance - climbing the ranks from secretary to Vice President. Lisa is married and lives with her husband, Mark, and their dog, Taffy, in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. For more information about Lisa J. Becker, visit <http://lisajbecker.com/>

## Backgrounder

**L**isa J. Becker is a native New Yorker, born in Brooklyn but raised across the country. She moved with her three siblings and parents every three years for her Father's work assignments. She has lived in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, Hawaii, California, Texas and Illinois.

Lisa has been writing poems and stories for her entire life; it is her passion and heart's desire to tell stories that stir the imaginations of children and encourage a desire to read for the sheer adventure each new book holds. While dreaming of being a published author, Lisa has had diverse work experience throughout her adult life as a waitress, a certified medical assistant, an examinations coordinator, a school secretary and then thirty years in finance - climbing the ranks from secretary to Vice President.

Lisa is married and lives with her husband, Mark, and their dog, Taffy, in suburban Chicago, Illinois.

Fun Fact: One evening upon exiting a Chinese Restaurant in Highland Park, Illinois, Lisa and Mark walked right into the filming of the movie "Risky Business" where they were immediately signed up as extras.



# AZURE HOUSE

## FACT SHEET:

**Title:** Azure House

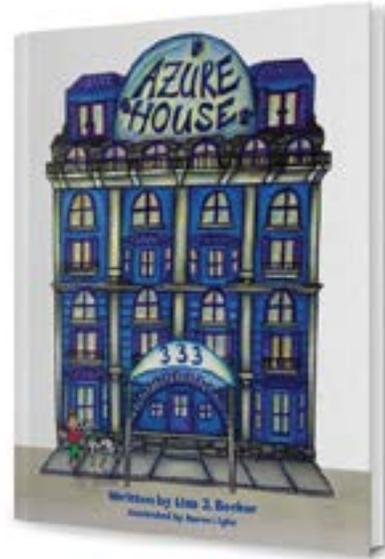
**Author:** Lisa J. Becker

**Price:** \$19.99

**Publication Date:** May 2018

**Page Count:** 60

**ISBN Number:** 978-0999001257



## Book Synopsis:

Colorful, rhythmic, rhyming and whimsical! That is the fun filled world of Azure House and all of the alphabetical inhabitants that creatively share their amusing stories of their lives and loves through rhyming verses that tickle your soul and make you laugh out loud. In this first in a series of more fun to come, Lisa Becker takes readers through a creative journey of these fanciful apartment dwellers at Azure House sharing stories about endearing characters, their pets, families and work lives through rhymes and fun narratives. Beautifully hand drawn illustrations paint the picture of this newfound world where colors collide with creative writing! Stir up the imaginations of the young ones in your life or even for the young at heart! Young readers will appreciate the cadence and flow of words on each page as will younger children be engaged when they are read to. Discussion questions follow at the end of the book - as well as an e-mail address for readers to communicate with the author! From A – Z Lisa will capture your hearts and stir the imaginations and creativity of children from far and wide. For more information, visit [www.lisajbecker.com](http://www.lisajbecker.com)

## Story Angles:

**A**uthor Shows Readers Who Are Our Neighbors: Chicagoland author Lisa J. Becker presents to readers a group of 27 diverse residents in her new children's book *Azure House*. It was her desire to show readers how people of different colors, ethnic backgrounds and disabilities can live together under one blue roof. Lisa can talk about the genesis of her book and how her own life and work experiences contributed to the structure of characters.

Local Author Encourages the Joy of Reading for All Ages: As a young child, Lisa J. Becker was introduced to reading at the tender age of 2 thanks to her late mother Francine. She took her daughter to the library often where Lisa would meet characters of all shapes and sizes and let her imagination blossom. It was that act that empowered Lisa to become a children's author. Lisa can share her experience and give advice on how people can find new adventures by reading to their children or creating their own stories as future authors.

Author Honors Her Father's Volunteer Work: At the end of her book, *Azure House*, Chicagoland author Lisa J. Becker encourages her readers to donate a copy or make a financial donation to the Shriners Hospitals for Children because of her father's work as a Shriner. The mission of these hospitals found throughout North America is to provide the highest quality of care to children with special healthcare needs without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin, or ability of a patient or family to pay. Lisa can talk about her father's work, her support of this nonprofit, how readers can help and which *Azure House* characters would benefit from these hospitals.



## Interview Questions:

Why did you write this book?

From the 27 characters you've created, do you have a favorite one? Why?

Why do you want people to support the Shriners?

Being a first-time author, what kind of advice would you give those who want to write books?

Why is reading so important to people of all ages?

How can people develop their own stories?

Will there be a second book?

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## Azure House Game:

**5** 2 cards: 26 clue cards and 26 illustrations depicting each person in the book. There are many ways to play:

1. Read the clue cards (or have them read to you) and guess who the person is.
2. Match the question card to the person card.
3. Put the illustration cards in alphabetical order. Invent your own way to play!

Available at [www.lisajbecker.com](http://www.lisajbecker.com)

