

Networking Organizations

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- **Boyds Mill (formerly Highlights)**

- o <https://boydsmills.org/>
- o No Membership, but they offer classes, workshops, camps, and personal retreats, plus some free sessions you can watch
- o Online, ranges in price from \$59 to \$699, or the Whole Novel Workshop for \$2199
- o In Person, ranges in price from \$999 to \$1649, or the Whole Novel Workshop is \$2799. Prices include lodging, meals, beverages, and snacks.
- o Scholarships Available - opens early in the year, January.
 - Apply for either online or in person
 - They will consider you for all scholarships for which you meet the criteria
 - Usually covers the cost of the retreat and workshop, but not travel

- **Manuscript Academy**

- o <https://manuscriptacademy.com/>
- o Basic - \$49.99 a month
 - Early booking for meetings and critiques systems
 - Members-only meetings and critique formats
 - Access to all filmed, edited classes taught by agents, editors, and authors
 - Tickets to weekly live events
 - Recommendations for faculty pairings
- o Gold - \$69.99 a month
 - Instant \$49 credit towards consultations, critiques, and small group workshops every month
 - Otherwise same as Basic
- o Scholarships - drawn at random on the first Tuesday of each quarter (January, April, July, October)

- **Inked Voices**

- o <https://app.inkedvoices.com/>
- o Membership cost: \$41 Quarterly or \$112 Annually
- o Groups you can join - ranging from ongoing critique groups, Pop Up Critique groups, book studies, writing challenges, or community/discussion groups
- o Events you can attend - once a month free webinar, live write-ins, workshops with pros (these cost additional and happen every season)
- o Webinar archive.
- o Scholarships - for 2026, Inked Voices introduced financial-based scholarships, offering six and twelve-month scholarships. The application window opened in

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November 2025. This was the first time Inked Voices offered scholarships, so they may do so again. Join their [Newsletter](#) to follow.

- **PB Rising Stars Collective**

- o <https://www.pbrisingstars.com/>
- o Membership Cost: \$75 monthly
- o Enrollment open the last week of every month
- o Monthly craft workshops, community chat, business & career strategy, weekly co-creating sessions, community events, monthly giveaways & prompts, one on one feedback sessions with faculty.
- o Scholarship applications available for 3-, 6-, 9-, or 12-month terms.

- **Julie Hedlund's 12 x 12 Picture Book Challenge - GOLD**

- o Get on the [mailing list](#) to hear about the window of opportunity to join. (member opens in January, closes in February)
- o [Scholarships are available. The window is November 1 to 30, 2026.](#)
- o Must be a Shel SILVERstein member in the immediate previous year to be eligible to apply for the GOLD level in the [Julie Hedlund's 12 X 12 Picture Book Challenge](#) can opt to apply to the Gold membership, which provides:
 - Above-the-slush pile opportunities to submit to one of two featured agents during the months of February – November.*
 - Access to the Submission Station section of the 12 x 12 Forum
 - Profiles and specialized guidelines monthly for Featured Agents
 - Instructions on how to submit to one of them.
 - 12 webinars in the 12 x 12 webinar series. NOTE: Members of 12 X 12 have the opportunity to view webinars as a part of the membership. Missed one and it expired? Find them [HERE](#) for additional purchase(s).
 - Two BONUS webinars exclusively for GOLD members to polish their submission skills

- **The Writing Barn - [Courage to Create](#)**

- o Cost: \$1068 annual membership
- o RE finding an agent:
 - Conversations on craft and career guidance, with exclusive submission opportunities included
 - Submission Database
 - And much more

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- [SCBWI](#) premium member benefits
 - Cost: \$99 annual membership (\$80 with auto renewal, \$25 for students)
 - Connect with members close to home through over 70 U.S. and 27 international chapters. Network with members in your local area!
 - Meet peers and industry pros at in-person regional mixers, workshops, and gatherings
 - Listing membership on a query letter shows professionalism to industry gatekeepers.
 - Gain access to online webinars, local workshops, and large conferences at discounted rates.
 - Illustrators and authors can display portfolios or speaker profiles for potential clients.
 - Find local or virtual peer-[critique groups](#) to improve manuscripts
 - A variety of [scholarships and grants](#) are available throughout the year for membership dues and attendance at virtual and in-person conferences.