



SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK
WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

New York: West/Central Upstate Region

December 2025/January 2026

Thank you for your interest in our region!

As we settle into the Winter months in western and central NY, with our short days and lake effect snows keeping us indoors, we have an opportunity to renew our commitment to our writing and illustrating. Whether we are sitting next to a fire or cozying up with a warm beverage, we can revise that manuscript or picture book dummy or rework those character drawings.

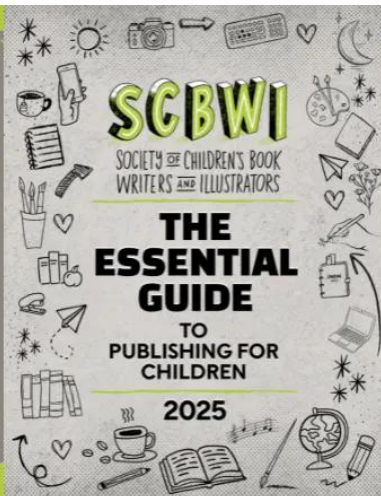
Your regional team is busy behind the scenes working on our Winter/Spring line-up of webinars with industry professionals with critique opportunities. We are focusing on craft workshops to generate revision strategies and advanced query letter approaches. Stay tuned!

SCBWI offers two Winter Conferences; the **NYC Winter Conference 2026** and the **2026 VIRTUAL Winter Conference** (detailed below).

Please take a good look at **The Essential Guide To Publishing For Children** found at the SCBWI website: your Member Home>My resources.

The guide covers all aspects of the publishing process, including finding an agent, writing a query letter, writing a book proposal, understanding contracts, and more.

Have a productive, joyous, and safe Winter and New Year!



SCBWI

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO PUBLISHING FOR CHILDREN

An industry resource to
guide you along your
publishing journey

Patty Wurster: Regional Advisor

Annisa Glover: Illustrator Coordinator

Sue Heavenrich: Assistant Regional Advisor and PAL Coordinator

Cait Darfler: Assistant Regional Advisor

Upcoming Events:

PICTURE BOOK CONNECT

Join us for an SCBWI New York West/Central Upstate Region Picture Book Connect. Let's Polish Up That Manuscript! Participants will have the option to share the first 250 words of a draft with the audience for feedback. We will also reserve time to discuss suggestions for comp titles as well as any other obstacles you're facing in your manuscript. Even if you're not sharing, please join us and meet picture book writers in your community.

Hosted by **Sarah Mead**, agented picture book writer and Picture Book Connect Facilitator.

Tuesday, December 9th, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT on Zoom.

This Picture Book Connect is FREE for SCBWI Premium members.

[Register for Picture Book Connect](#)

PAL News:

From PAL coordinators: **Dee Romito & Sue Heavenrich**
Literacy Liaison: **Judy Bradbury**

Got an idea for connecting books to language? Have a passion for interdisciplinary connections? If so, check out this opportunity:



PAL MEMBERS: Panels and Proposals for NCTE 2026:

The window to submit proposals for presentation at the 2026 NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) Convention in Philadelphia is now open. SCBWI will again sponsor one panel of up to 4 people to present at this prestigious event. The submitter of the proposal **MUST** be an active SCBWI PAL member; the other speakers on the panel may be members, or professionals not affiliated with SCBWI. Details about the sponsorship and the theme of the 2026 convention were sent in an SCBWI PAL member email.

NCTE Call for Proposals 2026

Connect with local PAL members!

The members on our PAL page have chosen "New York: West/Central Upstate" as their home region, designating our region as where they are geographically located. If you are NOT on our PAL page and feel like you should be, let us know.

PAL on SCBWI Region Website

School and Library Visits on SCBWI Region Website

Illustrator Info:

SCBWI DRAW THIS!

DECEMBER 2025 and JANUARY 2026 Prompt: DREAM

Post your work to Bluesky, Instagram, and in your SCBWI Illustrator Gallery with the hashtag #SCBWIDrawThis. Deadline is the last day of each month. [Learn more here.](#)

REGIONAL Website Illustrator Gallery:

Update or create your **SCBWI Illustrator Gallery** on your Profile. Make sure you select New York: West/Central Upstate as your region. If you are not included on the Regional Website Illustrator Gallery page or need assistance, contact [Annisa Glover](#), Illustrator Coordinator.

Illustrators on SCBWI on Region Website

Equity and Inclusion Community:

Equity and inclusion, to me, includes gathering and sharing knowledge and opportunities far and wide. So here's a quick tip:

As SCBWI members, we get access to regional SCBWI events *all over the world!*

In addition to my home SCBWI New York: West/Central Upstate region, I attend virtual events hosted by Southern Breeze (Alabama, Georgia, Florida), Benelux (Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg), AND the Japan region! Talk about traveling without leaving your front door!

Here are two upcoming BIPOC community events:

[SCBWI Southern Breeze BIPOC Mingle](#) and [SCBWI Canada East BIPOC Talk](#)

Because we can visit other regions, that means other regions can visit us as well! So be sure to share our regional events as well. Thank you for tuning in (and I hope to see you

at these various events!)

Melquea Smith, Equity and Inclusion Leader

Equity and Inclusion on SCBWI Region
Website

Let's Celebrate!!!

Kathleen Blasi - *Milo's Moon Mission*
Judy Bradbury - *Cayuga Island Kids*
DJ Brandon (Deb Blowers) - *The Midas Trees*
Jim Brenneman - illustration postcards
Susannah Buhram-Deever - *Before the Seed*
Aileen Easterbrook - *W is for Waterfall*
LaKesha Capers-Glover - *The Lion Who Misplaced His Roar*
J.N. Courtney - *Rats with Backpacks*
Annisa Glover - *I Dream India*
Lynda Graham-Barber - *Ten Dragon Eggs, A Book About Counting Down*
Heather Harris - *Something to Sing About* and illustration postcards
Sue Heavenrich - *13 Ways to Eat a Fly*
Gail Jarrow - *White House Secrets Medical Lies and Coverups*
Alicia Klepeis - *Secrets of the Stars*
Rowen MacCarald - *How Mom Met Mama*
Andrea Page - *Who Was Wilma Mankiller* and *Sioux Code Talkers of WW2*
Mary Petronio Collins - *I Miss You A Ton, A Young Girl's Struggle with Her Parents' Divorce*
Dee Romito - *Fort Builders* and *The Last Plastic Straw*
Tina Shepardson - *The Sorry Seeds*
Jacob Souva - *Big Bike, Little Bike*
Mindy Nichols Wendell - *Light and Air*
Andrea Wickert - illustration postcards
Kate Woodle - *Carry A Bead For Courage* and illustration postcards
Patty Wurster - illustration postcards
Vivian Vande Velde - *8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel/1Dog*
Brian Yanish - *Sweet and Sour*

Each of these authors, author/illustrators, or illustrators participated in the **RCTBF 2025** and/or the **School Visits at NYSRA 2025** display tables in November 2025.

RCTBF 2025 and **NYSRA 2025**: "This event is not organized by SCBWI and we are not liable for the information presented."

All Traditionally Published Books and Self-Published Books are welcome here!

Send your Good News by 1:00 PM EDT on the last Friday of the month to:

Regional Advisor; **Patty Wurster**

PAL Members can send your Good News to

Assistant Regional Advisor and PAL Coordinator **Sue Heavenrich**

SCBWI Events and Information:



Ready to take your children's book career to the next level? Our annual Winter Conference for children's book writers, translators, and illustrators is back with even more options for exploring the many facets of the craft and business of illustrating, translating, and writing books for kids.

You can look forward to:

- Inspiring keynotes featuring Tiffany Jackson, Meg Medina, Jason Reynolds, and more
- Panels of agents, editors, and art directors discussing the current state of children's publishing
- A half-day Intensive just for Illustrators
- Over 25 craft & business breakout sessions
- One on one manuscript/portfolio consultations
- The career-launching Portfolio Showcase
- Networking spaces and peer critiques
- Website and Social Media Consultations

**SCBWI NYC Winter Conference
2026**

**SCBWI 2026 Virtual Winter
Conference**

Don't miss this chance to boost your children's book career! Join us online for exclusive industry panels, hands-on sessions focused on the craft of writing and illustrating children's books, plus valuable networking with fellow creators. Whether you're looking to sharpen your skills, gain insider knowledge, or connect with other talented authors and illustrators, this event is for you! If you can't make it to the live sessions, video replays will be available to view through March 15th.



SCBWI 2026 VIRTUAL Winter Conference

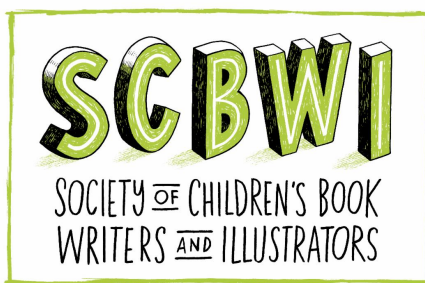
SCBWI Regional Virtual Events:

SCBWI regions offer affordable virtual events featuring industry professionals from all around the globe – and you can attend from the comfort of your own home! Check here often to find a webinar that fits your interests and your budget.

SCBWI Regional Virtual Events

Newsletter Contributing and Proofreading Editors:

Patty Wurster: Regional Advisor
Annisa Glover: Illustrator Coordinator
Sue Heavenrich: Assistant Regional Advisor and PAL Coordinator
Cait Darfler: Assistant Regional Advisor
Dee Romito: PAL Coordinator
Judy Bradbury: Literacy Liaison
Melquea Smith: Equity and Inclusion Leader
Sarah Mead: Picture Book Connect Facilitator
David Neuner: Novel Connect Facilitator
Kate Woodle: Illustrator Connect Facilitator
Deb Blowers: Proofreading Editor



SCBWI NewYork: West/Central Upstate

CONTACT US!

Visit our
Website

Instagram

Facebook

Bluesky

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!
