



SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK
WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

New York: West/Central Upstate Region

March 2026

Thank you for your interest in our region!

Our regional events are putting the focus on developing your writing and illustration crafts and taking them to the next level. Writers and Illustrators who attended the **Picture Book**, **Novel**, and **Illustrator Connect** series explored topics of storyboarding, structure, page turns, and process. If you want to meet writers and illustrators in our global community, register, and join us! This month, the **Illustrator Connect** hosted by **Kate Woodle**, will focus on **Color and Value in Illustration**.

We have two upcoming webinars. Award-winning illustrator **London Ladd** will present **A Conversation with London Ladd: Bringing Depth to Your Work** on March 10. Award-winning author **Heidi E.Y. Stemple** will present **Revise and Strengthen Your Picture Book Manuscript with Intention** on April 21. Each of these events will be recorded and made available to registrants for 30 days.

In addition to our regional events, check out **SCBWI's Virtual Regional Events**. Here, all SCBWI regions share their events with the global community.

Patty Wurster: Regional Advisor

Annisa Glover: Illustrator Coordinator

Sue Heavenrich: Assistant Regional Advisor and PAL Coordinator

Cait Darfler: Assistant Regional Advisor

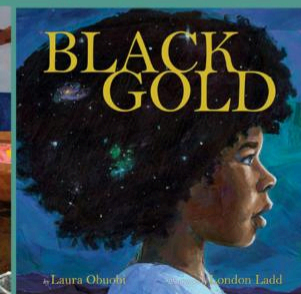
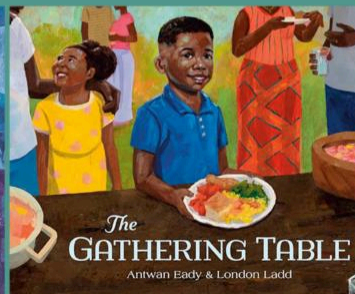
Kathi Gunio: Newsletter Editor

Deb Blowers: Newsletter Proofreading Editor

Upcoming Events:



LONDON LADD



A Conversation with London Ladd: Bringing Depth to Your Work

Don't miss this opportunity to enrich your writing and illustration experience and bring depth to your work, as we meet with an **award-winning illustrator, London Ladd**. London has illustrated picture books written by Antwan Eady, Laura Obuobi, Cheryl Willis Hudson, Nadia Salomon, Maisha Oso, and more. His illustrated covers express the essence of brilliant novels, including the 2026 Newbery Medal recipient, Renee Watson's *All the Blues in the Sky*.

London will talk about his life, his illustrated books, and his pathway to publishing. He will discuss the importance of research and reference, cultivating influences and inspiration, and the importance of experimentation and color studies. With this presentation, writers and illustrators will explore how picture book illustrators interpret a manuscript.

There will be a Q&A session afterwards.

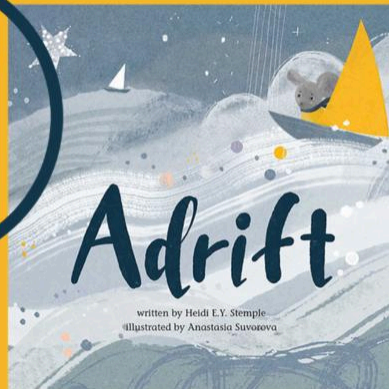
Tuesday, March 10, 7 PM - 8 PM EDT on Zoom.

This event will be recorded and made available until April 11, 2026.

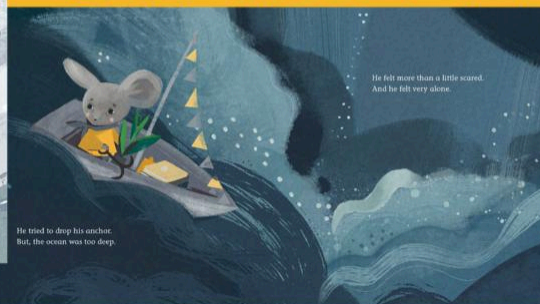
This event is FREE for all SCBWI members (including preview).

"This event is made possible by a grant from SCBWI and the Authors Coalition of America."

[Register for London Ladd](#)



HEIDI E.Y. STEMPLE



Revise and Strengthen Your Picture Book Manuscript with Intention with Heidi E.Y. Stemple

Okay, you've written a picture book! Now, how do you make it better? **Award-winning author Heidi E.Y. Stemple** will pull apart one of her published picture books to look deeply at what makes it successful. She will discuss intentionality, arc, word choices, and heart. You will leave with new eyes for looking at your own manuscript and new skills for revision.

There will be a Q&A session afterwards.

Tuesday, April 21, 7 PM - 8 PM EDT on Zoom

This event will be recorded and made available until May 23, 2026.

PICTURE BOOK MANUSCRIPT OR PICTURE BOOK DUMMY CRITIQUES

Heidi will offer 10, one-on-one critiques for picture book manuscripts or picture book dummies. Each critique will be 20 minutes on Zoom with written comments using the official SCBWI critique forms. Submission deadline for your picture book manuscript or picture book dummy is March 20. SCBWI NY: West/Central Upstate Regional Advisor—

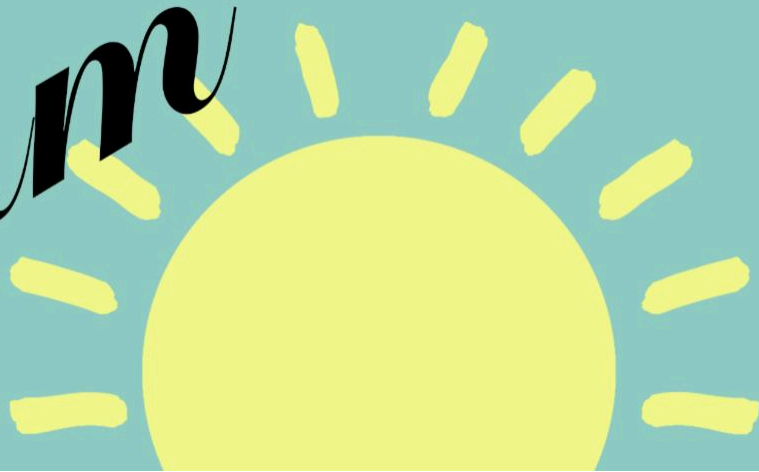
Patty Wurster will be in contact with you via your registration email with scheduling and submission details. There are just a few spots remaining, so register for yours today!

Critiques will take place on Wednesday, April 22 from 9 AM to 12:40 PM EDT on Zoom.

[Register for Heidi E.Y. Stemple](#)

a.m.

jam



Join us for an SCBWI New York West/Central Upstate a.m. JAM craft session

Kick-start your week with a full hour of dedicated writing or illustrating. This is a quiet session without discussion or sharing. Welcome-10 mins. Write/Illustrate-20 mins. Break-5 mins. Write/Illustrate-20 mins. Break-5 mins. Write/Illustrate-20 mins. Wrap-up- 10 mins.

Hosted by [Patty Wurster](#), SCBWI NY: West/Central Upstate Regional Advisor @ [SCBWI Member Profile](#)

Every Monday morning 9 AM - 10:30 AM EDT on Zoom.

This a.m.JAM craft session is **FREE** for **SCBWI Premium members**.

[Register for a.m.JAMs](#)



ILLUSTRATOR CONNECT

Let's discuss color and light, two important elements in an illustration. Are you struggling to pick colors for shadows? I know I do! How do you deal with reflected light? Does the sky always have to be blue? If you use paint, what is the best way to mix the most vibrant colors? Bring your questions, your expertise, and your artwork. Share an illustration and show us what has worked for you or ask for help or suggestions.

Even if you're not sharing, please join us and meet illustrators in our global community.

Hosted by **Kate Woodle**, illustrator, PAL member, and Illustrator Connect Facilitator.
@ [SCBWI Member Profile](#)

Above Illustration by **Andrea Wickert**
@ [SCBWI Member Profile](#)

Tuesday, March 24, 7 - 8:30 PM EDT on Zoom.
This **Illustrator Connect** is **FREE** for **SCBWI Premium members**.

[Register for Illustrator Connect](#)

PAL Community:

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 Community:

SCBWI DRAW THIS!

March 2026 Prompt: KALEIDOSCOPE

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.

[Illustrators on SCBWI Region Website](#)

Equity and Inclusion Community:

We hope to positively impact the lives of children, families, and storytellers, and strive to help lower the barriers in publishing.

Through education and skill sharing, we strive to support our members with their creation of books that improve the lives of readers. Children need to see themselves depicted in books to foster a sense of belonging and a healthy self-esteem.

Children need to see diversity represented in books in order to develop empathy and understanding as they celebrate the communities in which they live. Books have the power to change lives! Books have the power to save lives!

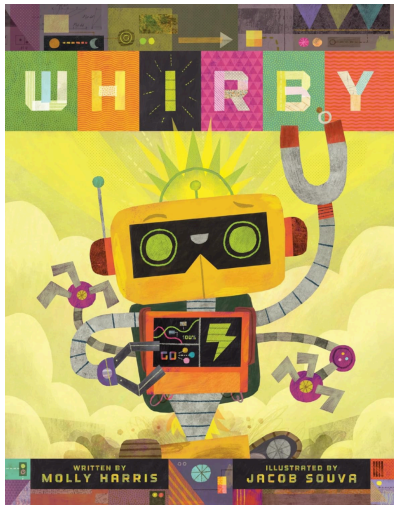
Through these efforts, we hope that not only are readers impacted for the better, but our authors, illustrators, and storytellers are as well.

Equity and Inclusion on SCBWI Region Website

Let's Celebrate!!!

Kathi Gunio for being our newsletter editor!

Kate Woodle, Michelle Cavigliano, London Ladd, Erin O'Leary Brown, Kanchalee Deganis-Librera, Christopher Roberts, and Jacob Souva for their illustrations on our SCBWI NY: West/Central Upstate webpages.



Jacob Souva's illustrated picture book **WHIRBY** (written by Molly Harris) was released in February 2026 by Harper Collins.

Whirby the robot is all systems go for his favorite school activity: bot battles! All that clinking, clanging, beeping, and banging makes Whirby so excited. So excited that he forgets to recharge at night.

With his battery on 0%, will Whirby find a way to still be the bot battle champion? Find out in this funny new offering from *The Big Squeeze* author, Molly Harris, and the illustrator of *Big Bike, Little Bike*, Jacob Souva!

[Find out more about JACOB](#)

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

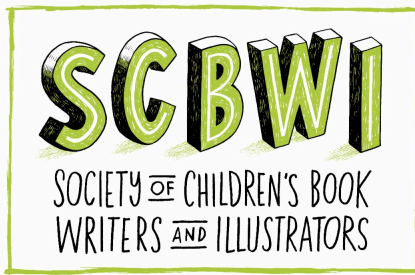
Send your Good News by 1 PM EDT Wednesday, March 25 to:
Regional Advisor **[Patty Wurster](#)**

SCBWI Events and Information:

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



SCBWI New York: West/Central Upstate

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