

SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK  
WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

## NEW YORK: West/Central Upstate July - August 2025

### **Welcome Friends of SCBWI New York: West/Central Upstate!**

#### **Your Voice Shaping Our Region 2025/26**

The SCBWI New York: West/Central Upstate regional team invites you to an interactive listening session. As we plan our 2025/26 event schedule, we want to hear what is most important to you. We are committed to bringing you high quality events and submission opportunities.

Consider the kinds of programming you might like and what industry professionals you want to learn from. Are you interested in craft workshops, panel discussions, critiques, pitch opportunities, in-person events, and social gatherings?

There will be a region wide follow-up survey, ensuring every member has an opportunity to weigh in.

Join us for this REGIONAL MEETING for SCBWI Premium Members living geographically in the New York: West/Central Upstate Region, Tuesday, September 9th,  
7:00 PM -8:00 PM EDT on Zoom

Patty Wurster: Regional Advisor

Sue Heavenrich: Co-ARA and PAL Coordinator  
Cait Darfler: Co-ARA

### **Register for Your Voice Shaping Our Region**

## July Events:



SCBWI New York: West/Central Upstate presents the inaugural Novel Connect for Chapter Book, Middle Grade and Young Adult writers, hosted by David Neuner, agented YA thriller writer and Novel Connect Facilitator.

There we'll address your burning questions about topics like story idea to publishing a novel and what's involved, pitching to and querying literary agents, the dreaded synopsis, social media, author websites, or anything else you'd like to discuss. Help us select topics for future Novel Connect meetings.

Join us for this FREE CONNECT for SCBWI Premium Members on Monday, July 21st, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT on ZOOM.

### **Register for Novel Connect**

## **PAL News:**

From PAL coordinators, Dee Romito & Sue Heavenrich

You asked for ways to connect with fellow PAL members in our region - and we're delivering. starting with a PAL zoom gathering this month!

### **"Book Launches: what worked & what didn't"**

This will be a discussion, with Dee Romito leading off. Please share your book launch experiences and let's all benefit from new ideas – or things to avoid.

Join us for this PAL GATHERING on Tuesday, July 22nd, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM EDT on Zoom. We'll email the link to PAL members living in our region before Friday, July 18. If you are an SCBWI PAL member living in our region and do not get the link, please contact us [here](#).



### **What are PALs up to this summer?**

**Jacob Souva** is leading a program for kids at the [Kellogg Library](#) in Cincinnatus, NY on

July 22nd from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Then on August 4th, he'll be leading a program for kids featuring *Big Bike, Little Bike* at the Cortland Library from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

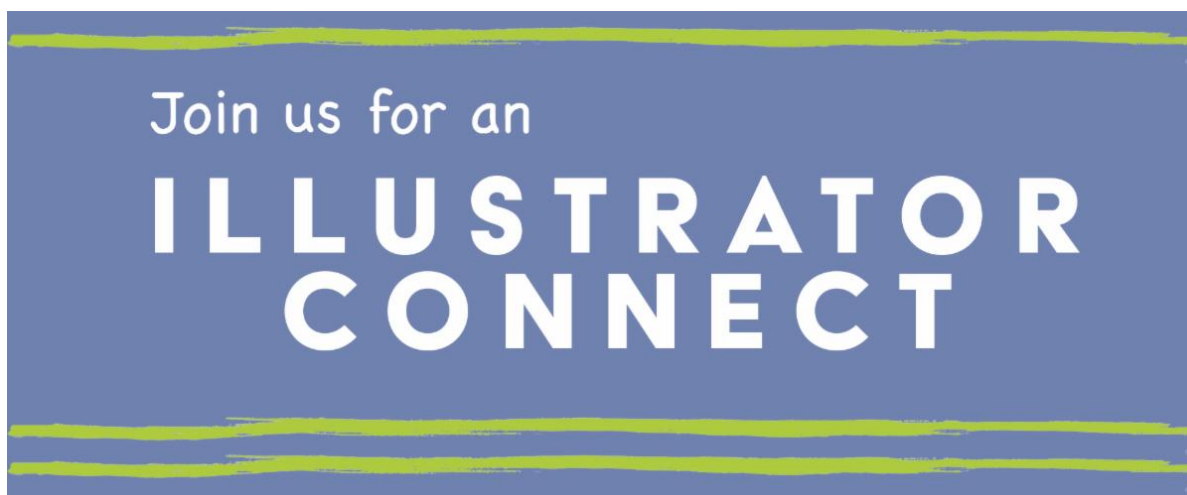
**Sandra Athans** is on the faculty for the Highlights online summer workshop, "Writing for the Educational Market" from July 9th to August 12th.

**Kathleen Blasi** will be at the Rochester Strasenburgh Planetarium on Saturday, August 16th for a free "Storytime in the Sky". The program is at 10:00 AM and there will also be activities and a book signing.

**Gail Jarrow's** new book, *White House Secrets* comes out in September from Calkins Creek. We would tell you more, but ... it's a secret. What we can say is that it's part of the Medical Fiascos series.

### **PAL on SCBWI Website**

## **Illustrator News:**



Summer Schedule: August 5th Topic: Focus on Narrative Art Sequence. We'll discuss what makes a strong visual story in 3-4 images. Feel free to share a Narrative Art Sequence.

Meet SCBWI New York: West/Central Upstate Illustrators to share genre-specific topics and your illustrations. The vibe is casual, supportive and FUN! Screen sharing time will be divided based on the number attending.

Join us for this FREE CONNECT for SCBWI Premium Members on Tuesday, August 5th, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT on ZOOM.

### **Register for Illustrator Connect**



**Draw This July & August Prompt: Mismatched!**

Post your work to Bluesky, Instagram, and in your SCBWI Illustrator Gallery with the hashtag #SCBWIDrawThis. Deadline is the last day of each month. More here.

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## **SCBWI Featured Illustrator!**

SCBWI features one illustrator premium member each month whose art is highlighted prominently on the homepage and all SCBWI social media. The SCBWI site receives over 191K hits each month, the SCBWI Instagram account has over 37K followers, the SCBWI Twitter account has 44K followers, and the SCBWI Facebook has 5K followers. That is a lot of eyes on your work! Get exposure to professionals and book buyers through our media.

## **Guidlines for Featured Illustrator**

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### **Website Illustrator/Author Illustrator Page!**

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 this page or need assistance, let us know [here](#).

## **Illustrators on SCBWI Website**

# **ShopTalk Around the Region:**

**Ithaca ShopTalk Summer Pot Luck Picnic: Tuesday, July 15th,  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Stewart Park (near pond)**

The next Ithaca Shoptalk is meeting at Stewart Park next week! Please bring a dish to share and feel free to include family members. It will be a chance to talk about what we've been up to, but mostly just to spend some time together.

At the moment the forecast looks great, but in the event of bad weather an e-mail to the group will be sent to reschedule.

For more information, contact [Heidi Marschner](#).

# **Query Corner:**

**TIP #3: What should go into your submission package when submitted to agents and editors?**

- Your polished MS
  - first few pages/chapters if CB/MG/YA
  - Full PB manuscript
  - Your dummy, if you're an author-illustrator
  - READ SUBMISSION GUIDELINES CAREFULLY
- Your query letter (Pitch, metadata and bio)
- Additional query questions frequently asked on Query Manager

Hint: Make a single doc where you keep all of this info for easy access.  
Access a free [Template Query Manager Qs Doc](#).

From Cait Darfler

## Let's Celebrate!!!

**Jason Hussong** for receiving the Award for Excellence in Writing Short Stories from the Vermont College of Fine Arts, MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults for his short story, *A Long Way Up*, written under the guidance of advisor/faculty member, Sheela Chari.

VCFA faculty member, Mary Quattlebaum said, "The committee members and I had many reasons for selecting this story as the winner. We admired the voice, the smitten, sympathetic narrator, the fast pacing, and the build to climax."

### Congratulations, Jason!



**Kathleen Blasi's** book, *Milo's Moonlight Mission*, illustrated by Petronela Dostalova, is being relaunched by Picnic Heist Publishing on August 12th.

On Saturday, August 16th, Kathleen will be hosting a free "Storytime in the Sky" at the Rochester Strasenburgh Planetarium at 10:00 AM. There will also be activities and signings.

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  
Co-ARA/PAL Coordinator [Sue Heavenrich](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities:

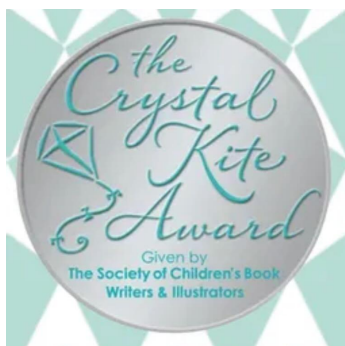
**Picture Book Connect Facilitator:** will lead meetings on Zoom every 4-8 weeks. Responsibilities include organizing discussion topics and feedback criteria for PB Writers who are SCBWI Premium Members, and foster a positive, supportive, and safe meeting space.

This volunteer position must be filled by a SCBWI Premium Member who lives

geographically in the SCBWI New York: West/Central Region. You will have direct support from the Regional Advisor. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, Contact [Patty Wurster](#).

## SCBWI Events and Information:

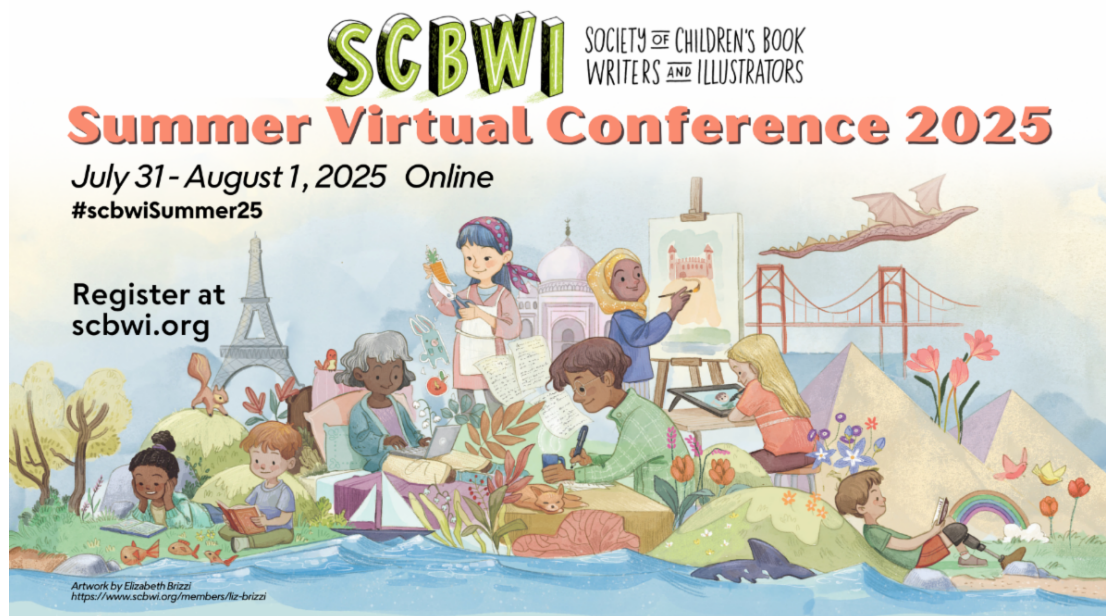
### SCBWI CRYSTAL KITE AWARDS 2025



Each year we recognize great books from around the world. The Crystal Kite Awards are chosen by other children's book writers and illustrators, making them the only peer-given awards in publishing for young readers. Books published in 2024 are from fifteen SCBWI regional divisions around the world.

Vote for the finalists in each Crystal Kite division.  
Shortlisted book voting round ends July 19th 2:59 AM (UTC-7)

**VOTE NOW!**



**More information at SCBWI**



### 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.



## Regional Virtual Events Listing

# SCBWI

## The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

### Mission Statement

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) is a 501c3 non-profit and the preeminent membership organization for children's book creators. We are a global community of writers, illustrators, translators, publishers, librarians, advocates, and other industry professionals working to establish a more imaginative and inclusive world through the power of children's literature.

Our mission is to support the creation of an abundance of quality children's books, so that young people everywhere have the books they need and deserve.



Your Membership experience begins in the

## MEMBER HOME *It's Your SCBWI Resource Center*

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News

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Scheduled  
Events

My resources

The Essential Guide,  
Videos,  
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My work

Showcase  
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Upcoming  
Award  
Information



Learn more at [scbwi.org](https://scbwi.org)

Grab your **BADGE**: click image below for link



### Translation in SCBWI:

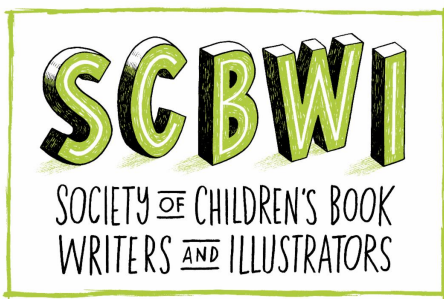
SCBWI has a member category for Translators! Why? Children deserve to explore their whole planet through books. Translators bring them books written in many languages, in many places.

More Information at SCBWI

### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTING AND PROOFREADING EDITORS:

Patty Wurster: Regional Advisor

Sue Heavenrich: Co-ARA and PAL Coordinator  
Cait Darfler: Co-ARA  
Dee Romito: PAL Coordinator  
David Neuner: Novel Connect Facilitator  
Heidi Marschner: Ithaca ShopTalk Facilitator  
Deb Blowers: Proofreading Editor



## SCBWI NewYork: West/Central Upstate

**CONTACT US!**

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