

KITE TALES



Illustration by Derek Roberts, [Website](#)

A NOTE FROM YOUR REGIONAL TEAM

August reminds me of transitions and transformations. As a kid, summertime meant I could transform myself from smarty-pants student into Queen of Summer Camp. It was at camp where my peers saw me the way I really wanted to be seen. Friends at day camp didn't know any of my kindergarten embarrassing moments or my first-grade reputation for being a smart mouth. Since we all started when we were 8, I could be someone else, someone new! It was a place where I became known for my expertly woven friendship bracelets, excellent mermaid skills, and endurance hula-hooping! It was exhilarating to be this version of myself!

But when August rolled around, that meant school was right around the corner. There went the end of the social ease of summer camp. We moped around that last week of camp promising to write. We held hope in our hearts that our new friends would stick. After my camp t-shirts were back in the bottom drawer, next came the curiosity and excitement for what the next school year might bring. Who was going to be my teacher? Who would be in my class this year? And that glimmer of hope for the next school year tempered those mopey mopes. Even so, that first school bell always felt like a jolt!

So this newsletter is for those of you not quite ready to transition from the chill vacay vibes of summer as well as those ready for the structure and fast-pace of Fall. Either way, promise you'll keep on creating!

Adriana Hernandez Bergstrom, Co-Assistant Regional Advisor

Call For Good News!

We would love to celebrate good news with you. If you have career milestones to share, please [use this form](#) to submit them for the next newsletter (examples: new book contracts, upcoming book releases, magazine covers or articles, signing with an agent, book signings, etc.).

Call for Illustrations!

If you would like one of your illustrations in our regional newsletter, please submit jpegs or links to your portfolio [with this form](#).

Call for Volunteers!

Many hands make light work. We are always looking for volunteers throughout our region. If you are interested in volunteering, [please use this form](#) to let us know!

Looking for a Critique Group?

[Fill out this form](#) and our critique group team will help!

Your Regional Team



Rob Sanders, Co-RA



Becky Herzog, Co-RA



Adriana Hernandez Bergstrom, Co-RA



Candy Barnheis, ARA 2



John Herzog, IC

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS ARE BACK!

As we resume our face-to-face free meetings, please know that our Covid Protocols are still in place. The protocols are based on guidance from SCBWI HQ. Please see the sidebar for the protocols.

Jacksonville Area Free Meeting

Saturday, August 27, 2022
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Michael Regina

Writing and Drawing Graphic Novels for Young Readers

Join local Author-Illustrator Michael Regina as he provides a crash course on everything involved in his creative process. He'll cover preparing a pitch, getting an agent, working with an editor, and making a graphic novel.

Regency Square Branch – Community Room A
9900 Regency Square Blvd
Jacksonville 32225

Orlando Area Free Meeting

Saturday, August 20, 2022
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

SPEAKER TBD! Due to scheduling conflicts at the Orange County Libraries, Orlando's Free Meeting will be on Zoom in the month of August. Watch your email for information coming soon!

South Florida Area Free Meeting

Saturday, August 20, 2022
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Joyce Sweeney

Tension and Suspense

Join author, mentor, and agent Joyce Sweeney for an amazing two hours where you'll learn how to add tension and suspense to take your novels and picture books to the next level.

Glades Road Library
20701 95th Ave S.
Boca Raton, FL 33434

Tampa Area Free Meeting

Saturday, August 27, 2022
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Jason Pratt

Reading and 'Riting (but Not a Lick of 'Rithmetic):

How Revisiting Your Love for Reading Can Reinvigorate Your Writing

Bring one or two passages you love to read and re-read. After sharing, we will take time to revisit some of our own most frustrating works in progress to see if we can restore some of the passion we once felt for them and the enjoyment we once derived from them.

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W. Bearss Ave.
Tampa, Florida 33618-1828

SCBWI Florida Safety Protocols Free Face-to-Face Meetings

The following guidelines have been developed based on CDC guidelines, input from SCBWI headquarters, and taking into consideration the requirements of our various meeting facilities.

Please wear a mask.

1. If you are not feeling well, please be considerate of others and do not attend the meeting.
2. If you are unable to attend a face-to-face meeting, remember, we will have Virtual Free Meetings every other month.
3. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at each Free Meeting location if needed.

Thank you for following our protocols to help ensure the health and safety of our faculty and participants. While SCBWI Florida has COVID-19 precautions and procedures established for our events, please know that you assume all risks associated with attending any in-person gathering.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SCBWI Florida Boot Camps
Saturday, September 10, 2022
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

SCBWI Florida Boot Camps

1 day.

6 hours.

6 locations.

9 speakers.

90% of members within 100 miles of at least one Boot Camp!

80% of members within 100 miles of two Boot Camps!

A million reasons to attend.

DYNAMIC CHARACTER DESIGN—AN ILLUSTRATOR EVENT

Faculty: John Herzog and Gladys Jose

Location: Ringling College of Art + Design, Sarasota, FL

STOCK YOUR STORYTELLING TOOLKIT—FROM PICTURE BOOKS TO NOVELS

Faculty: Fred Koehler and Sarah McGuire Koehler

Location: Health Care of America (HCA), Tampa, FL

HOW TO CAPTURE YOUR READER'S (AND AN EDITOR'S) ATTENTION WITH EXCITING AND ENGAGING NONFICTION

Faculty: Jennifer Swanson

Location: Grace Anglican Church, Fleming Island, FL

PUNCHING UP YOUR NOVEL

Faculty: Dorian Cirrone and Alex Flinn

Location: Tamarac Branch Library, Tamarac, FL

PICTURE BOOKS: FROM PREMISE TO PUBLICATION—OPPORTUNITIES AND POSSIBILITIES

Faculty: Rob Sanders and Sita Singh

Location: Laura Riding Jackson Writing Center, Vero Beach, FL

WHOSE STORY IS IT?

Faculty: Lorin Oberweger

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, FL

Seating is limited.

Members: \$100.00

Non-members: \$125.00

To see full Boot Camp descriptions and to register, click the following link:

<https://florida.scbwi.org/events/boot-camps-2022/>

UPCOMING EVENTS



RISING KITE WRITING AND ILLUSTRATING CONTESTS

Submissions open September 1, 2022-
September 30, 2022

The annual SCBWI Florida Rising Kite Writing and Illustration Contests recognize Florida's best writing and illustration for children. In so doing, we also celebrate the work and dedication of our region's authors and illustrators, both published and unpublished. We seek to encourage authors and illustrators to continue to follow their dreams; to recognize their successes; and to provide a platform for authors and illustrators to share their work with a larger audience.

To learn more about the Rising Kite Contests, click the following link:

<https://florida.scbwi.org/2023-rising-kite-contests/>

LOOKING BACK

SCBWI FLORIDA'S FIRST-EVER

Agent Day

SHARED THE SECRETS TO LANDING AN AGENT

Below are just a few of the things we learned.

- Don't just let any agent represent you. Your agent needs to understand you as an individual and how you communicate. When you have the right agent for you, they can bring forth talents that you may not have known you had.
- Know who you are sending your work to and if they are looking for what you are writing. Does your style align with this agent? Is this agent someone you respect and would want to work with? Are they truly right for you?
- Know your industry and be professional.
- Timing matters! When a manuscript is sent out, be aware of what is happening in the world. Write about what matters to you. It will shine if you are honest to your heart's words.
- Ultimately, agents can help elevate your voice in the publishing world and give you opportunities to submit to publishing houses that are closed to unagented writers and illustrators.
- Without an agent you are pulled away from your creativity to research manuscript wish lists, agents, and editors, and it snuffs out a day of creativity with your craft.

Prompts of the Month

Let's flex some creative muscles this month! Here are a few August-themed prompts to help ease you back into the creative routine:

- Write about a summer vacation from your past (any length)
- Illustrate a scene from your favorite summer memory
- Write a poem about the end of summer

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”
—Mahatma Gandhi

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”
—Dr. Seuss

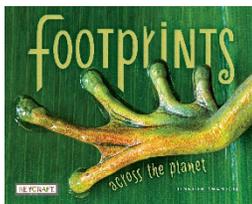
“All there is to writing is having ideas. To learn to write is to learn to have ideas.”
—Robert Frost

“You only learn to be a writer by actually writing.”
—Doris Lessing

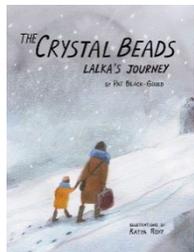
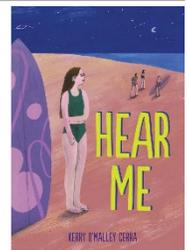
“I’ve always believed that learning to think for yourself, learning to make intelligent, thoughtful decisions, is one of the most important parts of an education.”
—Judy Blume

KUDOS CORNER

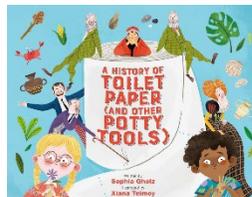
Jennifer Swanon’s new picture book releases August 13th! Librarian Betsy Bird calls FOOTPRINTS, “a fascinating intersection between your average animal footprints title and books for kids with a wider environmental focus.”



Kerry O’Malley Cerra’s new MG book coming out September 6 from Lerner Publishing. This own voices story follows a hard of hearing character and pubs just in time for Deaf Awareness Month.



Pat Black-Gould just published THE CRYSTAL BEADS: LALKA'S JOURNEY, a children's book about the Holocaust. It's based on a story she wrote that won first in a national writing competition.



Sophia Gholz’s A HISTORY OF TOILET PAPER (AND OTHER POTTY TOOLS) officially rolls onto shelves August 2! BUG ON A RUG was also featured on Librarian’s Quest’s new list!

Rob Sanders’ debut middle grade novel, BLOOD BROTHERS, released July 30th from Reycraft!

Kate Stollenwerck’s debut Young Adult novel, HELLO, GOODBYE, released on August 2, 2022.



M. Smith published their first book, stART. This book takes dots, lines, squares, and ovals on an artistic adventure.



Medeia Sharif’s picture book, FRIZZY-HAIRED ZUZU, about accepting and loving your appearance, even if others don’t, was acquired by Magination Press. The editor is Sarah Fell and the illustrated by Basma Hosam.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Visit www.scbwi.org to renew your membership and update your email and mailing address!

DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

We would love to celebrate good news with you. If you have career milestones to share, please [use this form](#) to submit them for the next newsletter (examples: new books contracts, upcoming book releases, magazine covers or articles, signing with an agent, book signings, etc.).