

KITE TALES



Illustration by Kim Wagner Nolan, [Website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#)

A NOTE FROM YOUR REGIONAL TEAM

Summertime...

Ah, the splendid days of summer are here! I don't know about you, but summer makes me think of freshly sliced watermelon wedges, lemonade, and the ever so elusive and illuminating lightning bugs. My siblings and I would spend hours upon hours under the summer night skies chasing lightning bugs. This simple summertime fun with my siblings will always be one of the most treasured moments in my memory jar.

Story ideas remind me of lightning bugs, too. They come in a flash then disappear into the darkness and then light up again. Sometimes the ideas are nothing more than a clever line for a future story or a blip of a story idea. Whichever flash of a story that surges through your mind, capture it in a journal. I've got a journal dedicated to story lines and another journal for story ideas. Whatever way you capture your ideas be sure to poke holes in the jar to give them air to breathe and when you are ready set them free and watch the magic of your ideas light up the page.

This summer free your inner child, let that watermelon juice dribble down your chin, twirl in the warm summer air, chase those lightning bugs, and your story ideas.

Candy Barnhisel, 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, ARA 1



Candy Barnhisel, ARA 2



Fred Koehler, IC

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCBWI FLORIDA'S FIRST-EVER

Agent Day

Saturday, July 16, 2022

10:00 AM-4:00 PM

A Virtual Event for Everyone!

Not Any Agent, the Right Agent . . . For YOU!

- You've been studying your craft for years, but you haven't been sending your work out.
- You're new to all this and someone said you needed an agent.
- You've researched agents but have no idea how to find the right one for you.
- No agent seems to want the kind of work you do, and you feel stuck.
- You had an agent but . . . they left the business, dropped you, or the two of you were not a good match.
- You have an agent, but are always interested in discovering new insights.

Now what?

Agent Day 2022 with Rachel Orr, that's what!

- Get a pitch of your writing or a sample of your art in front of an agent.
- Spend a day learning from an agent who acquires picture books, middle grade, and young adult (and lots of things in between) and represents authors and illustrators.
- Have a chance to be selected for a paid critique with Rachel.

PITCHES, SAMPLES, AND CRITIQUES	THE SCHEDULE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using our easy-to-follow guidelines, submit a pitch(es) or an art sample(s). • Rachel will review each and every pitch and art sample. Imagine, an agent's eyes on your work! • From the submissions, Rachel will select 10 people for 15-minute Zoom critiques. Critiques will be held the week following Agent Day in the evenings of July 26 and 27. • If you're selected, you will be notified to pay for your critique and upload your full manuscript, portfolio, or dummy and will be assigned a critique time. 	<p>Saturday, July 16, 2022 Virtual on Zoom</p> <p>10:00 AM—Agenting 101: Do You Need an Agent?</p> <p>11:00 AM—READY? Looking at Your Work with a Critical Eye</p> <p>12:00 PM—Lunch Break</p> <p>1:00 PM—GET SET! Preparing Your Work for Submission</p> <p>2:00—GO! Researching Agents and Agencies</p> <p>2:55—Closing: Announcement of Critique Winners</p>

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES!

2022

- First-ever **Agent Day**—Saturday, July 16, 2022—VIRTUAL!
 - Featuring agent Rachel Orr, Prospect Agency
- **SCBWI HQ Summer Conference**—August 5-7, 2022—VIRTUAL!
- **Rising Kite Writing and Illustration Contests**—Entry Period: September 1-30, 2022
- **Boot Camps** Around the State—Saturday, September 10, 2022—LIVE!

2023

- **Critique-a-Palooza** followed by a session of learning and celebration followed by the Rising Kite Awards—Saturday, January 14, 2023—VIRTUAL!
 - Evening keynote address: Sarah Baker, Executive Director, SCBWI
- **SCBWI HQ Winter Conference**—February 10-12, 2023
- **SCBWI Florida Regional Conference**—May 19-21, 2023—LIVE!
 - THEME: SURF'S UP! Making Waves in Kidlit
 - LOCATION: Embassy Suites
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

UPCOMING FREE FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS/LIVE AND VIRTUAL

2022

- August—LIVE!
- October—VIRTUAL!
- November—LIVE!
- December—Annual Virtual Round Tables Holiday Extravaganza—VIRTUAL!

2023

- February—LIVE!
- March—VIRTUAL!
- April—LIVE!
- June—LIVE!

FACE-TO-FACE LOCATIONS

Jacksonville Area—Facilitator: Eileen Meyer
Orlando/Mid-state Area—Facilitator: TBD
South Florida Area—Facilitator: Mindy Weiss
Tampa Bay Area—Facilitator: JC Kato

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air. —*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

I love how summer just wraps its arms around you like a warm blanket. —*Kellie Elmore*

If you're not barefoot, then you're overdressed. —*Unknown*

Friends, sun, sand, and sea, that sounds like a summer to me. —*Unknown*

The benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by. —*Jeanette Walls*

Conference Connections

We are always thrilled to hear about the success stories of our SCBWI Florida members. We caught up with Sahtinay Issac about her first book deal and how SCBWI helped her along the way.



Sahtinay Issac

I had zero knowledge of the publishing industry when I submitted my first manuscript to publishers three years ago and was stunned by the number of rejections I received! In her rejection letter, Publisher Nancy Paulsen suggested I join SCBWI.

Not only did I take her advice, I decided I would utilize all the valuable resources SCBWI has to offer. I joined the SCBWI Mentorship program and was paired with the incredible Author Laurie Friedman who had a tremendous impact on my writing journey. My new and improved manuscript helped me secure representation from literary agent Lynnette Novak and won the SCBWI Emerging voices award.

Since then, I've joined numerous workshops, competitions, scholarships and made wonderful friendships along the way. Finally, and as a direct result of Critique-a-Palooza, I signed my first book deal!!! I am forever grateful to SCBWI. I certainly wouldn't have reached this far without their help.



Reunited and It Feels So Good 2022 Regional Conference Reflections

First Books Panelists

A.C. Harvey
John Herzog
Ana Siqueira
Peggy Wirgau

[CLICK HERE For Slideshow](#)

2021 New Books

[CLICK HERE for Slideshow](#)

Online Conference Bookstore

[CLICK HERE to visit the bookstore](#)

Portfolio Showcase Winners

Judges' Choice – Adriana Hernandez Bergstrom

1st Place – Stan Yan

2nd Place – Christine Winscott

3rd Place – Sarah Mattes

People's Choice – Andrea Tripke

2022 Literacy Award Winner

Amelia Island Book Festival

Costume Contest Winners

1st Place – Jason Pratt

2nd Place – Sam Singh

3rd Place – Kim Laffont

PAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This month, Jason Pratt interviewed author A.C. Harvey. A.C. Harvey teaches high school physics and brings her writing dreams to life. English-born and world-traveled, she loves filling her life with new adventures, such as visiting a new country or exploring the Wild West with her husband. She also finds escape in movies, literature, music, and yearly comic conventions. Her debut novel, THE IMMORTAL GAME, co-written with Talia Rothschild, was published in 2021 by Swoon Reads (Macmillan).

JASON: Hi, A.C.! Congratulations on the warm reception your YA novel, THE IMMORTAL GAME, has already received! For those of us who have not yet had a chance to read it, could you tell us what the book is about?

A.C.: THE IMMORTAL GAME is an epic adventure set amid the Ancient Greek pantheon. Our heroine, Galene, is joined by four loyal friends as she faces mythical obstacles and enemies to save Mount Olympus from an evil plot.

JASON: Overcoming mythical obstacles has always been my Achilles heel, but it sounds like Galene is up for the challenge! What is the best piece of writing advice you have ever received?

A.C.: The best piece of writing advice I ever received is so simple and yet so powerful: butt in chair, hands on keyboard. If you want to be a writer, WRITE!

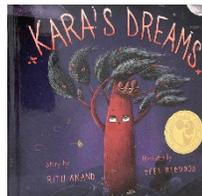
JASON: That is wonderful advice for all of us to heed. What are you currently working on that you are most excited about?

A.C.: I recently completed the first draft of a new YA fantasy novel about a crew of magical pirates trying to pull off a heist. It's been such a fun adventure to write, with a unique magic system and characters with powerful, compelling stories.

JASON: You had me at "magical pirates!" I look forward to reading that one someday soon. Thank you for chatting with us, A.C. Best of luck for THE IMMORTAL GAME!

KUDOS CORNER

Ritu Anand's picture book, KARA'S DREAMS, won the prestigious Gold Award for the *Mom's Choice Awards*.

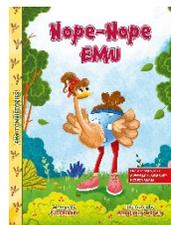


Linda Hansen was invited to participate in the Oxford Exchange Children's Book Fair, which was held on Sunday, June 5.

Karyn Friedman-Everham's debut book, OTTER OUGHTA KNOW, will be published by Scholastic in the spring of 2024.



Sara E. Echenique's debut middle grade book is the first in a new series highlighting important Hispanic and Latinx figures (different authors for each book).



R.C. Chizhov's new picture book, NOPE-NOPE EMU, releases on September 6, 2022! This is the first book in the series about "Emu Town Stories".

DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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

CLICK TO CONNECT WITH THE SCBWI FLORIDA REGION

