

Welcome to Fall 2023!



Networking

Greetings CenCal (and Other) Friends,

A word that keeps coming up in my life lately is networking. What's interesting is that when I was a wee wisp of a writer, just starting out, I was sure networking was the key to success. I thought the golden ticket to getting a book deal hinged upon rubbing elbows with editors and agents. As I learned more about writing, I realized what I really needed was to learn the craft. I needed to write, study mentor texts, rewrite and rewrite some more. Hundreds upon hundreds of rejections and a handful of books later, a new theme emerged—perseverance.

But here I am, more than 20 years into a hobby that became a profession, and I find myself once again pondering the word networking. Perhaps it was the isolation associated with the pandemic that made me realize how much I value and look forward to being around other writers. Our shared love of story, our common goals and dogged devotion to learn, grow and chase our publication dreams, all of this and more binds us together.

If you're like me, you get energized by being among other writers and illustrators. Our SCBWI CenCal community provides lots of opportunities to network and stoke your creative fire. Join us for a free in-person mingle in one of our four counties, reserve a spot at our upcoming beach retreat, and if you're a PAL member sign up for our school visit workshop. Taking time to network isn't taking time away from writing or art; it's adding energy to your fuel tank so that you have the creative juice to carry out those tasks. So, join us, friends. We need one another.

Rebecca Langston-George

Regional Advisor

SCBWI Central-Coastal California

CenCal's Regional Team Leads

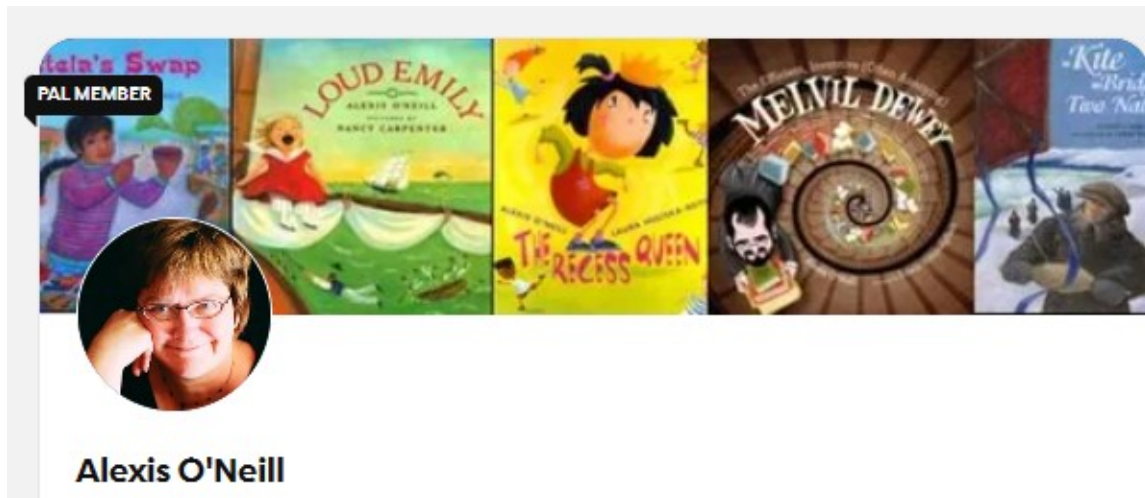


*Regional Advisor: [Rebecca Langston-George](mailto:Rebecca.Langston-George@scbwi.org) * CenCal-RA@scbwi.org

*Asst. Regional Advisor: [Paulina Cuestas Hill](mailto:Paulina.Cuestas.Hill@scbwi.org) * CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org

*Illustrator Coordinator: [Jaime Zollars](mailto:Jaime.Zollars@scbwi.org) * CenCal-IC@scbwi.org

CenCal Events



Alexis O'Neill

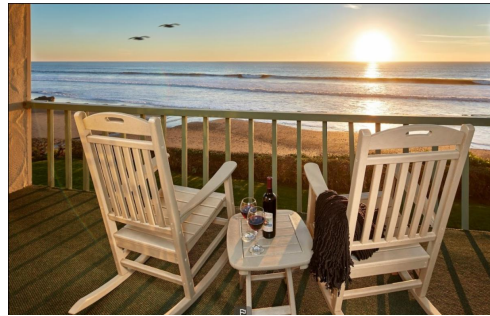
The Art (and Business) of School Visits, A PAL workshop with Alexis O'Neill will be held at the **Camarillo Library** community room on **Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 9:45 am to 1:30**. Doors open at 9:30am. * The fee is \$80 and includes lunch. Registration is open to PAL members. Read more below and register now: [The Art and Business of School Visits – SCBWI](#). (Registration is limited and will close October 20 so we can provide a count to the caterer.)

The Art and Business of School Visits:

School visits are a vital way for you to connect with readers in a meaningful way. But does your presentation shine? Does it need updating? Are you engaging your audiences interactively? Are you making curriculum connections that help your content carry over into the classroom? This interactive workshop will address school visit issues and help your visits stand out for kids and educators as well as run smoothly on the business side. For workshop exercises, bring any of your published books that you currently feature or plan to feature in school visits. * Learn more about Alexis and her books here: [Alexis O'Neill – SCBWI](#).



Our **Recharge Beach Writing Retreat** will be **January 19-21, 2024** at **The Cavalier Oceanfront Resort**, 9415 Hearst Drive, San Simeon. * For detailed Event information and to register, click here: [Recharge Beach Writing Retreat – SCBWI](#).



Recharge your writing life with some vitamin sea. Enjoy writing time, meditative beach walks, inspiring 10-minute TED-style talks, campfire chats, delicious meals, networking with professional children’s writers, and optional critique group sessions, all beside the ocean. * Hotel accommodations must be booked separately (see the info on our webpage about a special discount) and commuters are welcome. * The retreat is \$259 for SCBWI members or \$290 for nonmembers. Price includes retreat activities and four meals (hotel not included in this price). * Space is limited, so book as soon as possible. The deadline to book is December 5, 2023. * The location is beautiful, the beaches are deserted that time of year and the weather is typically mild.

2023 Writers Day - a Photo Recap



Lin Oliver/SCBWI Co-
Founder/Author-Speaker



Jennifer Rofe/Agent/Andrea Brown-
Speaker



Melissa Manlove/
Editor/Chronicle Books-
Speaker



Jaime Zollars/Illustrator
Coordinator/Illustrator-
Author - Speaker

Mona Alvarado Frazier and
Patrice Karst/Authors -
Speakers

Karen Jameson/Author -
Speaker



Volunteers & Faculty Dinner: It takes a village to organize a great event for 120 people! Thank you, fearless volunteers and faculty. * It would take our entire newsletter to thank each and every person that worked tirelessly to make Writers Day and other year-long CenCal activities happen, so please take a moment and meet them here: [Meet Our Team | California: Central/Coastal – SCBWI](#).



Joan Bransfield Graham

Top contributor · September 12 at 12:21 PM · 🌐



Rebecca calls this cool footwear her "Extrovert" shoes. Check out the "typewriter toes."



Other Events

Cuesta College Central-Coast Writers' Conference is Saturday, October 14 in **San Luis Obispo**. Registration is currently \$249. Three CenCal writers will be presenting: Wendelin Van Draanen, Mark Parsons and Rebecca Langston-George. Read more and register here: [Cuesta College Central Coast Writers' Conference | Cuesta College | San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Arroyo Grande](#). Try using the code SCBWI to see if a \$25 discount applies.

Newbery-winning author **Paul Fleischman** will be giving a talk on novel-writing essentials in time for National Novel Writing Month, at **Marina Branch Library**, 190 Seaside Circle in Marina, just north of Monterey. This free event will take place on Saturday November 4 from 2pm to 4pm. Register by calling 831-883-7507.

Illustrators' Corner

A message from **Jaime Zollars**,
CenCal's Illustrator Coordinator ...

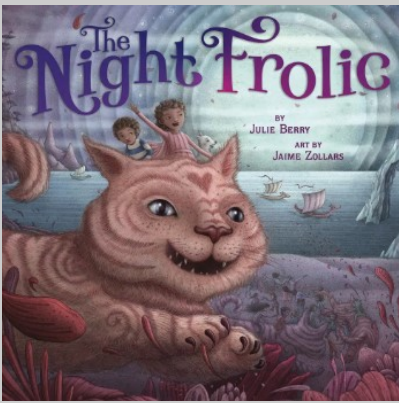
Hello Central Coast Illustrators!

It was wonderful meeting so many of you in person at Writers Day at the Camarillo Library. I was particularly moved by how many of the stories presented were about



blooming later than imagined, and how much success can indeed be found just past the point where one might have given up! I hope that those who attended feel more inspired than ever to persevere in your craft. If you have any suggestions for future events, please feel free to contact me. I am confident we can continue to build our online mingle group and make it a place to grow and meet our goals.

With that, I'd like to announce that the next **CenCal Illustrators mingle** will be **October 21 at 7:00 pm, on Zoom**. * The topic will be: **Self-Promotion for Illustrators!**



For more about Jaime's background, and to check out her new book release, ***The Night Frolic*** see her website: www.jaimezollars.com

Self-promotion has always been a tricky topic, and has become even more so post-Covid, with more art directors and editors working at home than ever before. With attention spans shrinking and online distractions growing, I am constantly asked about how to get art buyers' attention. Though I don't have definitive answers to successfully getting yourself seen, I can provide resources and we can discuss many of the possibilities available. This will be a presentation of available tactics and resources as well as a discussion. If you have expertise to bring to the table in this regard or know something that has recently (post-Covid) worked for you, please e-mail me and I'll include space for you in the program to share! * You do not need to RSVP to attend, (always feel free to hop on!) but it does help me to know who will be there if you know you plan to make it and I'll make sure you get the link.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon! Feel free to e-mail me any time at CenCal-IC@scbwi.org with your ideas.

County Mingles (free to CenCal members)

Santa Barbara County Mingle Host - Dena Davis.

Email: CenCal.SBC.Host@gmail.com

Next SB mingle: Sunday, October 15th * 3:30pm-5:30pm, topic TBD. Check for future SB County mingles on our



CenCal Mingles web [page](#).
Dena's website: www.storiesbythesea.com

**Kern County Mingle Host -
Allison Crotzer Kimmel**

Email: CenCal.KC.Host@gmail.com

Next KC mingle: Check for future Kern County mingles on our CenCal Mingles web [page](#).

Allison's website: www.allisoncrotzerkimmel.com



**San Luis Obispo County Mingle Host -
Claire Noland**

Email: CenCal.SLO.Host@gmail.com

Next SLO mingle: Check for future SLO County mingles on our CenCal Mingles web [page](#).

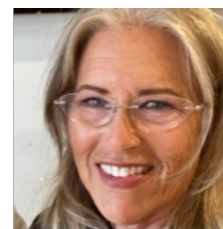
Claire's website: www.claireannettenoland.com

**Ventura County Mingle Host -
Lori Anaya**

Email: CenCal.VC.Host@gmail.com

Next VC mingle: A Year-End social may take place, tbd. Check additional details and information about future Ventura County mingles on our CenCal Mingles web [page](#).

Lori's website: www.loribanaya.com



CenCal's Good News Corner

Books and More Books!

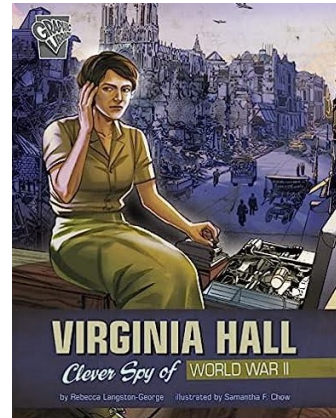
Hit It All The Way To Toledo was released in August of this year. **Lorie Brallier** is the author of eight YA + MG action adventure books. ***Hit It All The Way To Toledo*** won the most promising manuscript at the SCBWI-LA writers day conference, and also won the Lillian Dean award at the Central Coast Writers Conference. * Learn more about Lorie and her books here: [Lorie Brallier – SCBWI](#).



Julie Dillemath's latest picture book, *Camilla, Super Helper*, was published by Magination Press in May of this year. The illustrator is Luiz Fernando De Silva. Read more about Julie and her children's books here: [Julie Dillemath – SCBWI](#)



Rebecca Langston-George's new nonfiction graphic reader *Virginia Hall: Clever Spy of World War II* was released by Capstone Publishing in August of this year. It's Rebecca's 13th book and first graphic reader. The illustrator is Luiz Fernando De Silva. * Learn more about Rebecca and her books here: [Rebecca Langston-George – SCBWI](#)



Awards and More Awards!

Congratulations to our two 2023 CenCal Writers Day Contest Winners!

Elizabeth Kuelbs - *Forest of Violins* (Picture Book category) - read more about Elizabeth and her books here: [Elizabeth Kuelbs – SCBWI](#)

Leanne Pankuch - *Liar's Song* (MG/YA category) - read more about Leanne and her books here: [Leanne Pankuch – SCBWI](#)



Both talented writers won free entrance to next year's Writers Day!

Share your good news!

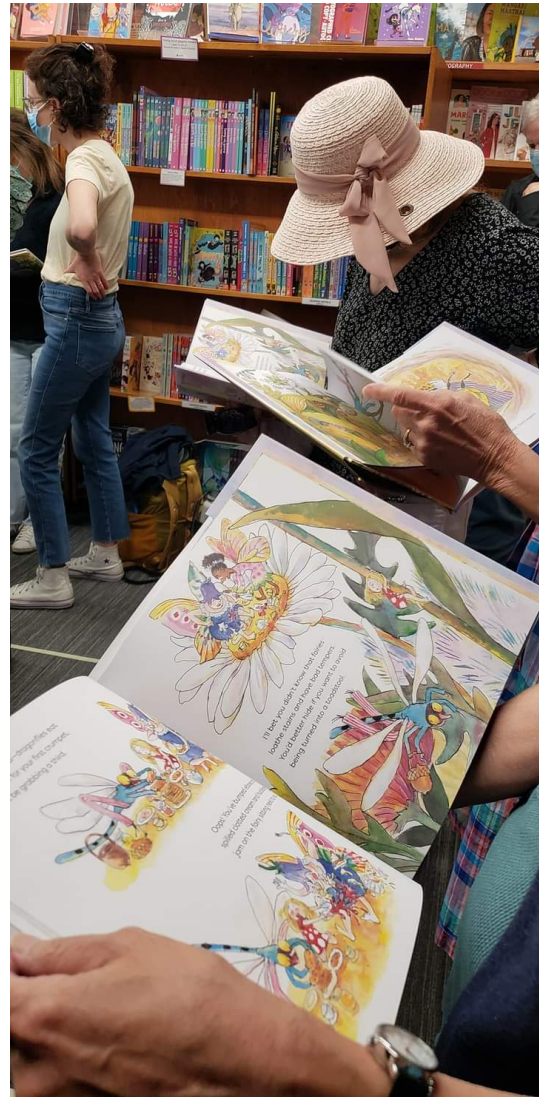
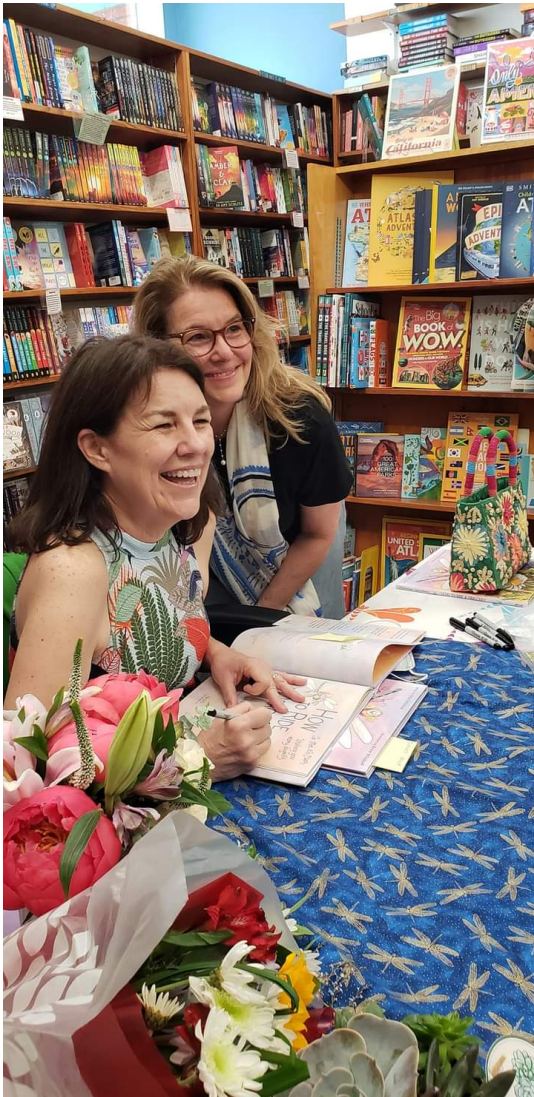
Did you win a grant or an award? Did you sign with an agent? Do you have a new book launching? Or? * Email Paulina Hill at CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org with

details so we can share it with your fellow members in future newsletters.

In Memory of Kitty Donohoe ...

Kitty Donohoe was scheduled to present as one of our spotlight speakers at CenCal's Writers Day, but passed away from cancer. She was able to achieve her life-long dream and published her first picture book just a few months ago, **How to Ride a Dragonfly** which was published by Penguin Random House. * Kitty was a teacher, writer and friend to many--she will be missed. * For more information about Kitty's book, click here:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/how-to-ride-a-dragonfly-by-kitty-donohoe>.



Websites & Social Media

- **CenCal's Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/group/SCBWiCentralCoastalRegion. Join us on **Facebook**, which is often the first place we announce things. You have to ask to join and answer a couple of questions to let us know you're a member, not a robot.
- **CenCal's Instagram:** [scbwicencalpics](https://www.instagram.com/scbwicencalpics)
- **Twitter:** [@CalScbwi](https://twitter.com/CalScbwi)
- **CenCal website address is** <https://www.scbwi.org/regions/cencal>

- SCBWI discussion board address has changed to <https://www.scbwidiscussionboards.org/>.
- SCBWI Main Website(including Annual Events): <https://www.scbwi.org/>
- SCBWI Regional Events Worldwide: <https://www.scbwi.org/regional-virtual-events>

SCBWI Policies

You can find **SCBWI's policies** on the national website [here](#). These include Covid, Privacy, Weapons, Non-Solicitation, Whistleblower, Anti-Harassment, Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, Non-Retaliation and Reporting.

SCBWI California: Central-Coastal (CenCal) | 6363 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048

[Unsubscribe cencal-ra@scbwi.org](mailto:cencal-ra@scbwi.org)

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

Sent by cencal-ra@scbwi.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!