

Welcome to 2023, CenCal Members!



Greetings CenCal Friends,

Look at our snazzy new mailer layout! Are you dazzled by its beauty? I'm very grateful to our techno-whiz new Assistant Regional Advisor, Paulina Hill, for her work creating this great new format.

In addition to our new mailer, we've got new leadership with Paulina and Illustrator Coordinator Jaime Zollars. We've got lots more new things in store for you in 2023: new mingles, new PAL events, new illustrator events, new open office hour for your drop-in visits via Zoom, and a shiny new location for Writers' Day!

We're hard at work designing opportunities for you to learn, meet others, and get the most out of your SCBWI membership. So, grab your calendar because you're not going to want to miss these events. If you have questions about SCBWI or our local region, please email at **CenCal-RA@scbwi.org**.

We're planning with you in mind!

Rebecca Langston-George

Regional Advisor

SCBWI Central-Coastal California

Meet CenCal's Regional Team Leads



*Regional Advisor: **Rebecca Langston-George** * cencal-RA@scbwi.org

*Asst. Regional Advisor: **Paulina Cuestas Hill** * cencal-ARA@scbwi.org

*Illustrator Coordinator: **Jaime Zollars** * cencal-IC@scbwi.org

SCBWI CenCal's 2023 Calendar of Events:

Writer's Day - Our Big Annual Event



Cencal Writers' Day Conference - 9/9/23

9:30am-3:30pm (door opens at 9am)

Make a note to join us at our new venue this year. Check out the **Camarillo Library!** If you've never been there, it is a beautiful building with a pirate ship in the children's room and stacks of books as architectural supports. It's close to the 101 freeway and is accessible. Details: We're still arranging speakers, but you can look forward to hearing industry professionals (editors & agents), plus we'll spotlight some local members with debut books as well as a special secret guest. Illustrators: we've got a special speaker lined up for you, too.

More info coming soon: We'll share more information about Writers' Day as soon as we nail down all the details, but we're planning contests, prizes, fun, food, and general fabulousness! Did I mention there's a pirate ship?

Cencal Writers' Day - Pitchfest - 9/10/23

to be held in the afternoon (time tbd)

As part of Writers' Day, we'll be offering an optional add-on the following day with a virtual **Zoom** pitchfest. There will be additional industry professionals participating that day to listen to your pitches. There will be an extra charge for participating in the Pitchfest. There are a limited number of slots which will only be open to Writers' Day attendees.

Let's Get Rhyming! A Webinar with **Patricia Toht**

Date: 4/13/23 - 6:30pm-7:30pm

Where: via Zoom

Cost: \$12 for members

Details: Despite what some may insist, it's not a crime to write in rhyme! But it does take effort to master your verse. Join author and Rhyme Doctor Patricia Toht as she shares her new release, ***Together With You***, and other wonderful books in



rhyme, and reveals key elements that make them shine.

Presenter: Patricia is the author of a poetry collection and numerous rhyming picture books. Learn more about her on her website: www.patriciatoht.com

Register Now

SAVE THE DATE!



PAL Workshop - School Visits with Alexis O'Neill

Date: 11/4/23 - **SAVE THE DATE!**

Time: 10:00am-1:30pm

Where: Camarillo Library

Cost: coming soon

Details: coming soon

About: Alexis, the School Visit Expert, will give you the inside scoop on successful school visits. Learn more about Alexis on her website: www.alexisoneill.com

Open Office Hours Next Meeting:

Date: 5/24/23

Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm

Where: via Zoom

Cost: free for members

Details: Drop in, ask your burning questions, and chat with the RA and others. * Open to CenCal members only. * No need to register. The zoom link will be emailed to all members the week before the event.

Illustrators' Corner

Meet our new Illustrator Coordinator, Jaime Zollars

Jaime Zollars has been a member of SCBWI since 2002. Formerly on faculty at the Maryland



Institute College of Art, and VP of the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, Jaime is the author/illustrator of several books including *The Truth About Dragons*. We're excited to have her onboard!

For more about Jaime's background, her books and other projects, check out her website: www.jaimezollars.com

Illustrators Mingle

Date: 3/18/22 - 7:00pm-8:00pm

Cost: free to members

Details: Join your fellow area illustrators for a session of introductions (or re-introductions!). Get to know artistic members, old and new, and share your interests and ideas for the future of illustration programming in the region. * Our new Illustrator Coordinator, **Jaime Zollars**, will present an introduction and then spend the rest of the meeting showing a slide about each member who would like to participate.

To participate: Each member who would like to be included should email three illustration files no larger than 2 MB each to Jaime at cencal-IC@scbwi.org, along with your most pressing illustration goal (To be published? To learn a new medium? To find a fitting agent? To expand into new markets? To profit from your work? To find a signature style? something else?), your region, and your website and social media account links so that we may continue to connect after the event. **You must send in your images by end-of-day on Thursday, March 16th to be included, as we won't be sharing additional screens to streamline the process.**

Writers are also welcome if you'd simply like to listen in and learn about the illustration talent in your region!

County Mingles (free to members)

In an effort to build a stronger local community, the Central-Coastal SCBWI region offers regular, FREE meet-ups, known as County Mingles, which are hosted by volunteers. * Mingles are excellent opportunities for you to connect with other writers, learn about

craft, and build a community of support in your area. * Meet your County Mingle Hosts below and save the upcoming dates. Topics and dates are subject to change, so be sure to check our website [here](#) for the most current information



(dates/times/locations/topics). * For questions related to your local mingles, please contact your specific Mingle Host below or email **Paulina Hill** at cencal-ARA@scbwi.org.



Kern County

Mingle Host: **Allison Crotzer Kimmel**

CenCal.KC.Host@gmail.com

Next Event Dates:

3/11/23: 10am-12pm

5/13/23: 10am-12pm



San Luis Obispo County

Mingle Host: **Claire Noland**

CenCal.SLO.Host@gmail.com

Next Event Dates:

3/3/23: 3pm-6pm

May: date & time tbd



Ventura County

Mingle Host: **Lori Anaya**

CenCal.VC.Host@gmail.com

Next Event Dates:

3/28/23: 3pm-5pm

4/25/23: 3pm-5pm

5/30/23: 3pm-5pm

Aug: date & time tbd

End of Year Social: tbd

Santa Barbara County: This volunteer County Mingle Host position is open. Check [here](#) for more information (be sure to sign into SCBWI to see this web page). * For questions about Santa Barbara mingles/ideas, or to request a more detailed job checklist for this volunteer position, or to apply for it, please contact **Paulina Hill**, at cencal-ARA@scbwi.org.

CenCal Good News

Congratulations to Shaunna & John Stith who recently published their new book, **Black Beach** (with Little Bee Books). The authors launched their book



with their first reading/signing at Chaucer's Bookstore in Santa Barbara. * For more about the Stiths and their inspiration behind creating this timely book, please check their website [here](#).

Share your good news!

We'd love to hear your scoop on what is happening with your writing and/or illustrating activities. 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** (cencal-ARA@scbwi.org) with the details so we can share it with your fellow members in future newsletters.



Critique Group Connection



Meet **Greg Trine**, CenCal's Critique Coordinator, and a long-time SCBWI member. The Critique Coordinator maintains a list of CenCal members interested in forming or joining private critique groups. While these groups are not sponsored or run by SCBWI CenCal, we do help members interested in forming or joining critique groups find one another. We are also working to provide you with critique resources and guidelines which should be available on our website mid-month.

Please email **Greg** at CenCalCritiqueCoordinator@gmail.com to add your name to this list, as well as to receive contact information about others interested in forming a critique group.

Awards & Grants

Click [here](#) to see SCBWI's regularly updated Awards & Grantslist. Let **Paulina Hill** (cencal-ARA@scbwi.org) know if you are chosen for one of these so we can share the news. Your success is an inspiration to all.

SCBWI CenCal Website & Social Media

[Click on the live links below for easy access:](#)

SCBWI Calif: Central–Coastal (CenCal) Website: www.cencal.scbwi.org

CenCal's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/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)

SCBWI Main Website: www.scbwi.org

SCBWI Annual Events: www.scbwi.org/annual-events-new/

SCBWI Regional Events Worldwide: www.scbwi.org/regional-virtual-events/

SCBWI Free Discussion Board/"Blueboard": www.scbwi.org/boards

SCBWI Policies

You can find SCBWI's policies on the national website [here](#). These include Privacy, Weapons, Non-Solicitation, Whistleblower, Anti-Harassment, Code of Conduct, Confidentiality, Non-Retaliation and Reporting. * For a copy of SCBWI's updated Covid policy, please check this web [page](#).

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

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