

# Welcome to 2023, CenCal Members!



## *Togetherhness*

### Greetings CenCal (and Other) Friends,

Is it just me, or did anyone else realize during the pandemic that online workshops don't quite fill the void in one's creative soul? Online events do offer good information. But they leave me half-full and longing for human interaction with other creatives. I want to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. The creative buzz of being with other writers and illustrators in person is energizing, invigorating and renewing. It leaves an afterglow of hope long after the event is over.

As your Regional Advisor, I had to weigh the pros and cons of holding our annual Writers' Day event in person versus online. Online would certainly be more affordable. Frankly, it would have been a lot easier and less time consuming for Paulina, Jaime and I to put together an online event. But I made a conscious choice to risk holding this event in person despite rising costs because I feel strongly it is what we all need. We need to be together in one room as a creative community. We need to fuel one another's hopes and dreams.

So, please join us in person Saturday, September 9 and let's hold one another up, encourage each other and glory in our common goal of creating wonderful books for future generations.

***Rebecca Langston-George***  
*Regional Advisor*  
*SCBWI Central-Coastal California*

## Meet CenCal's Regional Team Leads



\*Regional Advisor: [Rebecca Langston-George](mailto:CenCal-RA@scbwi.org) \* [CenCal-RA@scbwi.org](mailto:CenCal-RA@scbwi.org)  
\*Asst. Regional Advisor: [Paulina Cuestas Hill](mailto:CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org) \* [CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org](mailto:CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org)  
\*Illustrator Coordinator: [Jaime Zollars](mailto:CenCal-IC@scbwi.org) \* [CenCal-IC@scbwi.org](mailto:CenCal-IC@scbwi.org)

## SCBWI CenCal's 2023 Writers Day Event

### CenCal's Writers Day Conference - Saturday 9/9/23

Writers Day will be held at a new location this year, at the **Camarillo Library** in the community room, on Saturday, September 9 from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Registration opens at 8:45am. Morning coffee and pastries, as well as lunch, will be included in your registration. (Address: 4101 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo, 93010)

We have wonderful keynote speakers lined up for you: **Agent Jen Rofe from Andrea Brown, Editor Melissa Manlove from Chronicle Books, SCBWI Co-Founder Lin Oliver**, and our very own **Illustrator Coordinator Jaime Zollars** will all share their wisdom. \*

Our spotlight speakers **Kitty Donohoe, Mona Alvarado Frazier, Karen Jameson** and **Patrice Karst** will also inspire you with 10-minute talks about how they made their book dreams come true and answer questions in our authors panel.



**Melissa Manlove \* Lin Oliver \* Jennifer Rofe \* Jaime Zollars**



**Kitty Donohoe \* Mona Alvarado \* Karen Jameson \* Patrice Karst Frazier**

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### OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

You can opt to add either an **online pitch** or a **written critique** for an additional fee. \* **Editor Melissa Manlove/Chronicle Books** is providing a few written critiques for an extra \$55. \* The online 10-minute Agent/Editor pitch sessions will be held via Zoom on the following day, Sunday, September 10 from 9:30am-3:30pm (your assigned time slot will be emailed to you two weeks before this event). You can choose to pitch

**Agent Stephen Barr/Writers House, Agent Chad Beckerman/CAT Agency or Editor Nick Thomas/Levine Querido** for an additional \$50. >>>These added pitch/critique opportunities are only available to SCBWI premium members who are registered to attend our 9/9/23 Writers Day event, and are limited in supply--so plan to register early!



**Stephen Barr \* Chad Beckerman \* Nick Thomas \* Melissa Manlove**

For the complete **2023 Writers Day and Pitchfest** details & schedule, and to register online starting on 7/21/23 for Early Bird registration for CenCal members, click [here](#) to get to our new SCBWI CenCal website.

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## **ENTER OUR WRITERS DAY CONTEST**

There's a free **writing contest** for CenCal members as well as an opportunity to have an **anonymous first page read** for feedback by **Agent Jennier Rofe** and **Editor Melissa Manlove**. Check our **website** for details.

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## **HOW & WHEN TO REGISTER**

***Please read below carefully as we will unenroll anyone who doesn't follow these steps:***



**Registration opens according to this timetable:**

*Seating is more limited than in the past, so we urge CenCal members to register the day registration opens for you, especially if you want to add a pitch or critique:*

- **July 21** - 1-Day Early Bird Pricing Registration Opens for CenCal Premium Members(\*)
- **July 22** - Early Bird Pricing Registration opens for all SCBWI Premium Members(\*)
- **July 25** - Early Bird Pricing Ends (registration will temporarily pause to audit for ineligible registrations which we will cancel)
- **July 27** - Regular Pricing registration opens for everyone

(\*) Premium membership is the new terminology for your regular paid membership status.

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**REMINDER #1: You must be signed into your SCBWI Account to register.**

**REMINDER #2: One way to make registration go more smoothly when it opens is to check your membership status now (today!) and make sure it is active—please do this and don't wait.**

**NOTE:** This is the first time we'll be using the new SCBWI website. It's been a bear to learn. **Paulina Hill**, our ARA, has worked tirelessly to get things up and running despite a mountain of obstacles. There may be technical issues and we ask for your patience if you experience a problem. \* Please reach out to her at [CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org](mailto:CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org) if you have trouble registering.

## **The Lin Oliver Grant**

Want to come to our **Writers Day** but have a financial obstacle? The **Lin Oliver grant** is a one-time grant for a CenCal member who might otherwise not be able to attend. The recipient will receive free registration and a free pitch/if desired. \* To apply send a brief email to [CenCal-RA@scbwi.org](mailto:CenCal-RA@scbwi.org) with your name, situation, and a couple of sentences about how attending would help you reach your creative goals. \* Out of respect for privacy, the grant recipient's name will not be released. If you've received a **Writers' Day** free grant in the past we ask that you refrain from applying to allow others this opportunity. \* Full details are on our newly designed [website](#).

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SAVE THE DATE! Registration opens in August**

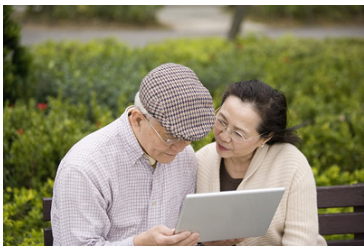
**PAL Workshop - The Art (and Business) of  
School Visits: Sharing Best Practices by Alexis  
O'Neill**

**Date:** November 4th, 2023

**Time:** 10:00am-1:30pm

**Where:** Camarillo Library

**Info:** In addition to your books, 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 that will help your visits stand out for kids and educators and run smoothly on the business side. For workshop exercises, bring any of your published books that you currently feature or plan to feature in next year's school visits. Learn more about Alexis on her website: [www.alexisoneill.com](http://www.alexisoneill.com)



**SAVE THE DATE! Registration opens soon**

**CenCal's Annual Retreat**

**Date:** January 19-21, 2024

**Where:** Cavalier Inn in San Simeon

**Info:** This is a wonderful opportunity to work on your project in the company of other creatives. Check our [website](#) for more details, coming soon!

## Illustrators' Corner

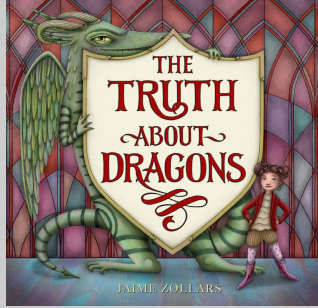


**A message from Jaime Zollars,  
CenCal's Illustrator Coordinator ...**

It has been wonderful getting to know the illustrators in our region through our new online Illustration mingles! At the first mingle, we introduced ourselves to each other, stated current goals and shared social media accounts. The second meeting was a focus on agents, and the process of finding a match. If there's a topic you'd like covered at an upcoming mingle, I'd love to hear about it! Feel free to e-mail me any time at [CenCal-IC@scbwi.org](mailto:CenCal-IC@scbwi.org) with your ideas.

**Writers Day--Not Just For Writers**

Did you know that **Writers Day** is most certainly not just for writers? This year, **Writers Day** has much to offer illustrators as well! I'll be one of the speakers, sharing the process of writing and illustrating my first book, *The Truth About Dragons*, from a spark of an idea in 2015--to seeing it on bookstore shelves in 2020. Several



other guests and **Pitchfest** participants this year represent and have a vested interest in illustrators as well. We hope to see our region's illustrators there!

### **Writers Day Illustrations Slide Show**

I'll be putting together an auto-loop slide show which will be running on the screen during our breaks at our 9/9/23 Camarillo Library event! I'd love to include one of your images. Send me that image (recommended resolution: 2500 pixels on the longest side, due Sept 1. File must not exceed 5 MB.). Email it to me at [CenCal-IC@scbwi.org](mailto:CenCal-IC@scbwi.org) along with your name and your website link. No sound please; I'll add a generic sound clip for the background audio. (Let me know if I can showcase your image on our SCBWI CenCal website in the future as well; that is still tbd.)



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

[www.jaimezollars.com](http://www.jaimezollars.com)

## County Mingles (free to CenCal members)

Come meet your local **Mingle Hosts, Dena Davis, Allison Crotzer Kimmel, Claire Noland** and **Lori Anaya** at our 9/9/23 **Writers Day** event at the Camarillo Library. Ask them about their FREE, local meet-ups designed for you to connect with other writers, learn about craft, and help build your community of support in your area.

**Santa Barbara County:** A big welcome to **Dena Davis**, our new Santa Barbara County Mingle Host! \*\*\* She's already set up and hosted an event in Santa Barbara.

**Email:** [CenCal.SBC.Host@gmail.com](mailto:CenCal.SBC.Host@gmail.com)

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

**Dena's website:** [www.storiesbythesea.com](http://www.storiesbythesea.com)



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

**Email:** [CenCal.KC.Host@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.allisoncrotzerkimmel.com)





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

Email: [CenCal.SLO.Host@gmail.com](mailto:CenCal.SLO.Host@gmail.com)

**Next SLO mingle:** Claire is going to set up a **Creativity mingle** soon. Check for future Kern County mingles on our CenCal Mingles web [page](#).

**Claire's website:** [www.claireannettenoland.com](http://www.claireannettenoland.com)



**Ventura County Mingle Host -  
Lori Anaya**

Email: [CenCal.VC.Host@gmail.com](mailto:CenCal.VC.Host@gmail.com)

**Next VC mingle: Aug 19 2-4p: Polish and Pitch Your Story Together/Get Ready for Writer's Day.** Check additional details and information about future Ventura County mingles on our CenCal Mingles web [page](#).



## CenCal Good News



### Books and More Books!

**Patrice Karst**, the bestselling author of *The Invisible String* (which has sold more than 1.5million copies) has two more books launching this year--*The Invisible String Backpack* (July) and *Ruby and Lonely* (Sept) and. Learn more about Patrice and her books at [www.patricekarst.com](http://www.patricekarst.com). And come listen to her spotlight talk at our **9/9/23 Writers Day** event at the Camarillo Library.

### Awards and more Awards!

Congratulations to our two CenCal members who received the **California Library Association's Beatty Award**. **Wendelin Van Draanen's** book *The Peach Rebellion* won in the YA category while **Lisa Kerr's** *Awake, Sleepy One* won in the picture book category. (Click on above awards and names to learn more.)



How exciting for local author (and Pennsylvania native) **Allison Crotzer Kimmel!** Her book *The Eternal Soldier*, which takes place on the battlefield

of Gettysburg, has been named the **2023 Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award winner for Grades 3-6.** \* (Click on above award and name to learn more.)



### 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 (CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org)** with details so we can share it with your fellow members in future newsletters.

**Looking for a Critique Group?** Check our resources on our [website](#).

## SCBWI CenCal Website & Social Media



### NEW WEBSITE INFO

Our new **CenCal website** address is <https://www.scbwi.org/regions/cencal>

The **SCBWI discussion board** address has changed to <https://www.scbwidiscussionboards.org/>.

**ACTION MAY BE NEEDED BY YOU: The website changeover at SCBWI may have affected your profile.** We recommend that you check and update your profile and making sure your membership is up to date prior to July 21 as this may help you avoid issues when trying to register for Writers Day. >>> Please go to [www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org) and click **MEMBER HOME** on the right to check your profile. You may need to reinstall your picture, bio text and your publications. \*\* Note that the bio text section is now limited to 800 characters, so if you're editing it and it doesn't work right, the reason may be that you need to shorten your bio. \*\* There should also be a banner across your picture with your status as associate, full or PAL member. Check to be sure it's correct. \*\* **If you have issues with your profile, please use the help button on the SCBWI site to ask for help.**

### Join us on social media

CenCal's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/group/SCBWICentralCoastalRegion](http://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](#)  
Twitter: [@CalScbwi](#)

### Other Links



## 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

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