

Welcome CenCal Members (and Followers) to Spring 2024!



*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

A message from [Rebecca Langston-George](mailto:Rebecca.Langston-George@scbwi.org), CenCal's Regional Advisor...

With 2024 well under way, how's your creative vision for the year shaping up so far? Are you a planner with goals, projects and deadlines inked on your calendar or a pantser with a stack of scribbles and a heart full of hope? Whatever your process, I want to encourage you to carve out time in pursuit of your creative dreams as well as find time to convene with other writers and illustrators at events like our mingles. Gathering with like-minded creatives will help keep your artistry fire burning bright as you learn from one another and stoke the embers of hope, leaving you with a renewed sense of purpose and a shared vision.

I was reminded of the importance of this--something I call "the gathering" just this week when I was feeling particularly downhearted and discouraged as a writer and

found meeting with my writing buddies a soothing balm for a rejected heart. Being reminded that I have friends who have overcome the same obstacles that stand in my way gave me courage and hope. Your SCBWI family is there for you and we invite you to join us at one of our mingles. Check our our [website](#) for upcoming mingles.

Do you have a new book coming out or a book signing? Maybe you're teaching a class? Whatever your good writing/illustrating news, be sure to email the details to Paulina Cuestas Hill, our Assistant RA, at CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org for inclusion in the next newsletter.

SAVE THE DATES!

CenCal's Writers Day will be on Saturday, September 21 in Camarillo at a new larger location: the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District Auditorium on E. Burnley Street in Camarillo. **Our optional, add-on Zoom Pitchfest will be the following day on Sunday, September 22.** We've also heard your feedback and have a new caterer with more lunch options for you! * We're still in the process of inviting speakers and pitch participants to our Writers Day event. * If there is an editor or agent you'd particularly like to see participate in our Pitchfest, feel free to email me the name and contact info by 3/29 to CenCal-RA@scbwi.org (no guarantees but suggestions are welcome).

Our Focus & Flourish Writers Retreat will be January 24-26, 2025 at the Cavalier Inn in San Simeon--back by popular demand. It's a glorious venue beside the beach with firepits and a lovely view. There is no speaker--just inspirational opening and closing sessions, optional critique groups and plenty of time to write with four meals included. This year we're encouraging entire critique groups to come together and work throughout the weekend.

Watch our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for further details about speakers and registration opening dates for Writers Day, as well as registration opening dates for the Writers Retreat.

If you are a credentialed California teacher who is also a PAL published author and want to learn about getting paid to write lessons on your book for the new **CAEducatorsTogether** program please reach out to me at rebeccalangstongeorge@gmail.com about an upcoming training.

Rebecca Langston-George

Regional Advisor/SCBWI Central-Coastal California

CenCal's Coming Events

Connecting the Creative Dots WRITERS DAY

September 21, 2024 (in-person conference)
September 22, 2024 (optional Zoom Pitchfest)

SAVE THE DATE! more information coming soon on our [website](#).

Focus & Flourish WRITING RETREAT

January 24-26, 2025

Cavalier Inn, 9415 Hearst Drive, San Simeon, CA

SAVE THE DATE! more information coming soon on our [website](#).



CenCal's Recent Events

A brief photo montage of our recent January 2023's Writing Retreat...

Event details are still on our website if you're curious. Click here: [Recharge Beach Writing Retreat – SCBWI](#)



Illustrators' Corner

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



Hello Illustrators! Hopefully your 2024 is off to a promising start. This year, my hope for our illustrator mingles is to continue to get to know our region's talent, share information, and work together to help meet our goals.

SAVE THE DATE!

We started off 2024 by sharing our goals for the year, and the group is small enough to allow for meaningful discussion and sharing. I look forward to checking in on everyone's progress. * **Our next meeting will be March 23 on Zoom at 7:00 pm PST.** We'll be discussing opportunities for illustrators to connect, improve, and share their work. These could be free or paid opportunities and will be about resource sharing. There are many free (and reasonable) contests, scholarships, mentorships, classes, and networking opportunities out there if you know where to look. * Bring any ideas you have for the others, as well as an update with how your 2024 goals are going so far! * Zoom links will be sent closer to the event dates. * If you are interested in attending but have not been to a Zoom illustration mingle before, please e-mail me at CenCal-IC@scbwi.org and I'll make sure you are on my emailing list.

I hope we can continue to tap into the needs of the group throughout the year to cover topics of interest while we continue to support each other. All are welcome! If you are interested in being added to the e-mail list for this group, please e-mail me at CenCal-IC@scbwi.org

For a current list of Illustrators Mingles, check my CenCal web [page](#).
I look forward to chatting soon!

Jaime Zollars

Illustrator Coordinator/SCBWI Central-Coastal California

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

County Mingles Update

SCBWI paying members and registered/preview users are welcome to join CenCal's mingles *at no cost*--even if you live in other counties. Just remember to RSVP the respective county host below to help with accurate event counts.

Meet our Mingle Hosts below and check out their next scheduled mingle. * For a full list of upcoming CenCal mingles, please see visit our [website](#).

**County's
Year-End
Social Mingle,
hosted by
Lori Anaya at
the Camarillo
Library.**



Meet Our Local County Mingle Hosts....

OPEN POSITION

Santa Barbara County Mingle Host -

This volunteer position is open. Please email Paulina Cuestas Hill at CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org to apply.

Kern County Mingle Host -

Allison Crotzer Kimmel * www.allisoncrotzerkimmel.com

Email: CenCal.KC.Host@gmail.com

Next mingle: Saturday, March 23 * 1:00-3:00pmPST

TOPIC: Spring into Creating

LOCATION: please RSVP Allison at above email and to get mingle address.



San Luis Obispo County Mingle Host -

Claire Noland * www.claireannettenoland.com

Email: CenCal.SLO.Host@gmail.com

Next mingle: DATE/TIME: Saturday, June 1st * time tbd

TOPIC: tbd (check website for updates)

LOCATION: tbd, please RSVP Claire at above email to get mingle address.

Ventura County Mingle Host -

Lori Anaya * www.loribanaya.com

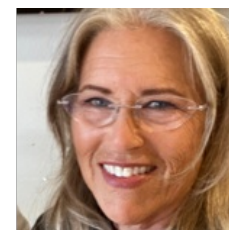
Email: CenCal.VC.Host@gmail.com

Next mingle: Sunday, March 24 * 1:30-3:30pmPST

TOPIC: Let's discuss a favorite blog, podcast, social media sight as it helps with a writing life. And bring a WIP to share, if time.

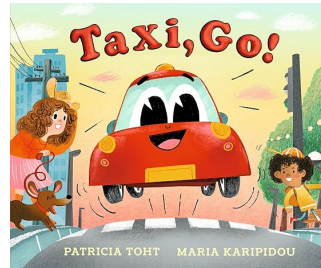
REMINDER NEW LOCATION: Timbre Book Store in Ventura

<https://www.timbrebooks.com> * RSVP Lori at the above email.



CenCal's Good News Corner

Books and More Books!



Patricia Toht has a new book coming out soon - **TAXI, GO!**

Publisher: Walker Children's Books (UK) and Candlewick Press (US)

Publishing Dates: Jan 4, 2024 (UK) and Feb 13, 2024 (US)

With energy and exuberance, the author of *Pick a Pine Tree* and the illustrator of *Angry Cookie* (Maria Karipidou) pair up for a bustling day in the life of a big-city taxicab.

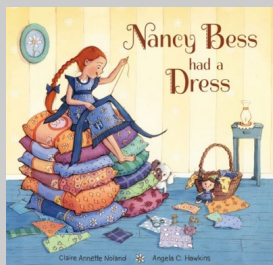
Today will be a busy day for Taxi! There are plenty of passengers to pick up, and they all need a ride—to a football game, a play, a business meeting, the airport, and more. Whizzing left, right, and through traffic, Taxi has to STOP for red lights and emergency vehicles. But after every stop, stop, stop, it's Taxi . . . go, go, GO! Humming with musical rhyme and clever sound play, this vibrant take on a classic read-aloud theme radiates adventure and good fun.

For more info, see Patricia's website: <https://www.patriciatoht.com/books.html>



Claire Noland's new book, **Nancy Bess Had A Dress**, officially releases March 19, 2024. Published by Gnome Road Publishing. (Illustrated by Angela C. Hawkins).

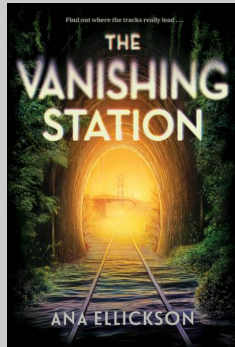
Waste not, want not! A patterned flour sack becomes a clever creation in this story set in the late 1930's featuring a crafty girl with a gift for repurposing her favorite daisy print.



Find more about Claire's books and publishing journey: [Claire Annette Noland, Children's Book Author](#).

Ana Ellickson, debut YA author, will be at Chaucer's bookstore for a book talk/signing of her debut novel, **The Vanishing Station**, on

May 2, 2024 at 6 p.m.



Ana writes about fierce girls, family curses, and everyday magic. **The Vanishing Station** is her debut novel, inspired by daydreams about jumping portals in the San Francisco subway. (Published: Amulet Books - April 30th, 2024) * **Roman the Renegade**—her graphic novel script about street art and Filipino monsters—was awarded the 2021 New Visions Honor by Lee & Low Books.

For more information about Ana, see her SCBWI profile: [Ana Ellickson – SCBWI](#).

Harshini Vankineni has a debut book coming!

Find more about Harshini here: [Harshini Vankineni – SCBWI](#)

WHAT COLOR IS THE BABY?

Harshini Vankineni



Harshini Vankineni's debut picture book **WHAT COLOR IS THE BABY?**, illustrated by Neha Rawat Battish, has sold to Candlewick Press for publication in Spring 2025.

The story takes a loaded question steeped in colorism and creates a journey in which one girl finds a new and loving way to welcome a new baby sister.

Correction: In our last newsletter, we mentioned that **Patrice Karst** had another book deal for her new picture book, **How Jackson Found His Joy Again** (summer 2025). Note that the URL link we printed went to Patrice's correct website but the URL was mislabeled. Here it is again, corrected: www.patricekarst.com

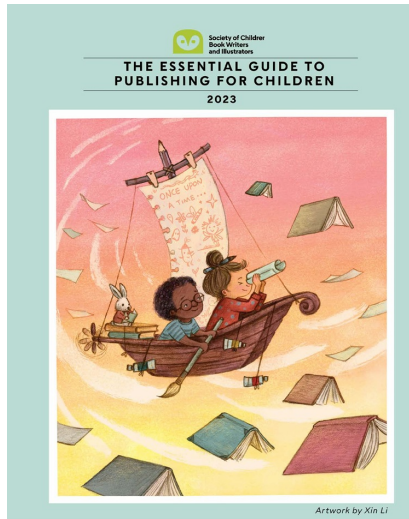
Share your good news! Did you win a grant or an award? Did you sign with an agent? Do you have a new book launching? Or? * Email Paulina Cuestas Hill at CenCal-ARA@scbwi.org with details so we can share it with your fellow members in future newsletters.

Awards and More Awards!

Did you know that your SCBWI membership offers twenty-three Awards and Grants to its members? Awards are available for Authors, PAL-Published, Independently Published and for Illustrators, Translators and even

Communities. Details can be found on the national website here: <https://www.scbwi.org/awards-and-grants>.

SCBWI Member Benefits Highlight



"The Essential Guide to Publishing for Children" offers comprehensive advice and resources for authors, illustrators, and translators of children's books. * **To download your 357-page PDF copy**, log into the main SCBWI website and click on your **Member Home** (upper righthand corner). Then click on **My Resources** and scroll down to find the related information. Then click on the **See more >** hyperlink. * **Note:** If you you can't see it, that means you haven't signed into your SCBWI account, or you are not a paying member.

See screenshot below:

The Essential Guide to Publishing for Children

"The Essential Guide to Publishing for Children" offers invaluable advice and resources for authors, illustrators, and translators of children's books. Inside you will find new and essential articles such as maximizing social media, creating book trailers, best practices in independent publishing, and grassroots promotion. Our up-to-the-minute Market Survey includes a comprehensive house-by-house listing of imprints, editors, art directors, and key personnel. Other directories include The International Market Survey, The Reviewers Directory, The Agents Directory, and unique features called Edited By and Agented By, in which editors and agents have been personally surveyed to provide a history of their recent acquisitions. Key resources include an annotated bibliography of reference books for aspiring children's book creators, as well as a current listing of bloggers, reviewers, grants, and awards opportunities.

[See more >](#)

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)
- X(formerly known as 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 Remote 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!