

August 2024



Featured Illustrator

KATHLEEN GADEKEN

WWW.FOXTREEART.COM

Spotlight

<u>COVER ILLUSTRATOR</u>	1
<u>A WORD FROM OUR REGIONAL TEAM</u>	2
<u>CRAFT CORNER</u>	3
<u>LET'S CELEBRATE</u>	4
<u>FEATURED MEMBER</u>	5
<u>COMING ATTRACTIONS</u>	6
<u>MAXIMIZING YOUR MEMBERSHIP</u>	7
<u>SHOP TALK RECAP</u>	8
<u>FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA</u>	8
<u>VOLUNTEERS</u>	9

Upcoming Events

Shop Talk Sept. 23, 7pm-8pm CST

Regional Meeting, Oct. 7, 7pm-8pm CST

Lunch & Learn, Oct. 24, 12pm-1pm CST

Illustrator Intensive, Nov. 9, all day event

Shop Talk, Nov 18, 7pm-8pm CST

[Explore All Regional Virtual Events](#)

Follow Us On Social Media!



SCBWI Nebraska is on social media! Be sure to follow us so you can stay up to date on everything that is happening across the region. If you have a book birthday or event, let us know so we can share it.

Facebook: @SCBWINeb

Instagram: @scbwi_nebraska

A Word from Our Regional Team



Jennie Gollehon
Co-Regional Advisor

Ready or not, it's back to school time! Whether you have school-aged kids, are an educator prepping for the school year, or are beyond the stage of school readiness, the feeling of energies shifting is palpable. The stores are busier, the traffic is heavier, and the feeling of anticipation is high.

For SCBWI Nebraska, that means we, too, are starting “back” in session. If you missed it, we kicked off a new program on Tuesday, August 13. This quarterly meeting is similar to PAL meetings but available at no cost to all premium SCBWI Nebraska members. Our Self-Publishing Liaison, Nancy Sharp Wagner has a great lineup of topics for the coming academic year. Hop on Zoom and join us.

Everyone's route to publication is different, which is why we wanted to offer information on alternative options. If you are interested in learning more about publication via the Self-Publishing route, sign-up for our upcoming webinar series [Self-Publishing Basics for KidLit Creators](#) starting September 10.

And maybe you're like me, someone who needs to come off of summer break, buckle down, and get the words on the page. For me, that looks like having protected structured time, accountability, and peer feedback to ensure that I'm conveying my message appropriately to my target audience. Which is why I'm thrilled we are cycling back to [Writing from the Inside Out – Novel Workshop](#) with author George Jreije. With three busy kids at home that are needy in the unique tween and teenager way, giving myself 90-minutes every other week is my gift to me.

Join us as we dive back into the academic year with programming meant to support each and every member, no matter where you are at in your journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennie".



WRITING SCAMS

by **Nancy Sharp Wagner**

Self-Publishing Liaison

As authors, our creative work is precious. Unfortunately, scammers are aware of this and often target us with fraudulent offers.

Publishing and marketing scams are common and often talked about. But a new scam has recently come to my attention: the promise of presenting our published books to investors, scriptwriters, and directors, with the hope of having them adapted into film.

I recently experienced this firsthand when I was contacted by two separate individuals. Both claimed that my book had passed all of the necessary qualifications, and they wanted to present my book to their investors for film adaptation. Both emails appeared to have been sent from legitimate companies with legitimate sounding domain names. However, when I attempted to research these companies, all that existed, in both cases, were one-page landing pages, with no way to contact anyone directly from those pages.

The most disturbing thing was that in an effort to try and convince me that their offers were legitimate, both of these individuals claimed to be associated with real companies, individuals, and organizations that actually do exist. One of them claimed to be working with Prime Video and the other said my book had been recommended to them by the ALA (implying that it had been recommended by the American Library Association) AND they also promised an upfront fee of \$200,000 - \$500,000. Additionally, one of the scammers said that they represented a company that is, upon further investigation, an actual production company. However, the company they referenced was a small company out of Philadelphia that appears to make biking films. I'm fairly certain that my picture book about going fishing with dad is NOT going to be something that they are interested in!

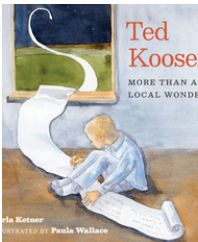
So . . . the moral of this story? If you receive an unsolicited offer (either by email or by phone) from a publisher, marketer, or film adaptation company, research those offers thoroughly. Check their background. Look for reviews or testimonials. And ALWAYS seek advice from industry professionals or legal advisors before making any type of financial commitment.

Trust your instincts; if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

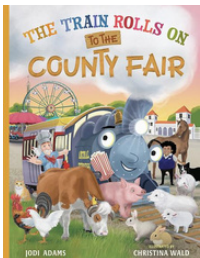
Let's Celebrate



SCBWI's middle-grade spooky short story collaboration, *The Haunted States of America*, is now available! Published by Godwin Books, this collection includes 52 stories--one from each state--and Nebraska's story was written by Omaha children's author Kathy Rygg ! Nice job, Kathy!



Huge congrats to Carla Ketner & Paula Wallace whose picture book, *Ted Kooser: More than a Local Wonder* recently received the 2024 MIPA Midwest Book Award for children's nonfiction. Way to go, Carla & Paula!



Jodi Adams' third book in *The Train Rolls On* series was released on July 16th! *The Train Rolls On To The County Fair* is a rhyming picture book where the Animal Express races the clock to deliver rowdy farm animals to the county fairgrounds before the biggest contest of the year begins. Great work, Jodi!



Heather Dawn Torres' upcoming picture book, *The Tractor Squad*, recently received a positive Kirkus Review and is set to release on Sept. 3. Please join Heather for her book launch event at 10am on Saturday, September 14th at The Bookworm in Omaha. Congrats, Heather!



Art by Kathleen Gaden

Featured Member



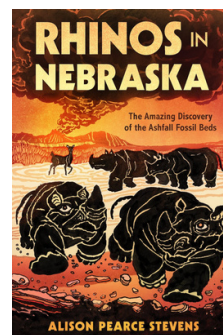
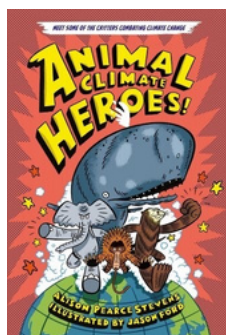
Alison Pearce Stevens



Since stepping down from the Regional Advisor position at the end of May, Alison Pearce Stevens has embarked on some new adventures—including a close-up encounter with manta rays in Hawaii. A world traveler and former biologist, Alison has had a variety of wild experiences: she's been chased by a trumpeter swan, bitten by a bronze-winged duck, and served as a climbing wall for geckos and baby bats. And, if that's not enough, she once had a tarantula try to climb into bed with her.

Once upon a time, Alison was Dr. Stevens, science professor. But life took her overseas, at which point she started writing about science and nature for kids, because she's an educator at heart and had to find new ways to share cool things with the world's most curious people. Some of these efforts included working at museums developing exhibits and curriculum. And since the deep ocean both fascinates and terrifies her, Alison develops content for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution from the safety of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Alison writes lots of fun nonfiction: articles, picture books, and middle grade books. All of her work is inspired by a love of science and nature. She is a regular contributor to *Science News Explores*, *Highlights for Children*, *ASK*, and other kids' magazines, and has co-authored four books for National Geographic Kids. *Rhinos in Nebraska: The Amazing Discovery of the Ashfall Fossil Beds* (Henry Holt BYR, 2021) and *Animal Climate Heroes!* (HHBYR, 2024) were both Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selections. *Rhinos* also won the Nebraska Book Award in three categories. *Detective Dogs* will release in May 2025 as part of Holiday House's Books for a Better Earth collection.



REGISTER SOON FOR OUR UPCOMING FALL EVENTS!



Writing From the Inside Out: Novel Edition

Writing From the Inside Out is back and better than ever! Join us for this 8-month virtual workshop led by acclaimed author, George Jreije. This collaborative workshop series will meet twice a month from September 2024 - April 2025. Participants will explore the process of planning, researching, and writing novels for kids and teens. Special submission opportunities will be available upon completion of the workshop. Spots are filling quickly, so don't delay!

SCBWI Nebraska is offering TWO full equity & inclusion scholarships for the workshop. Deadline to apply is Aug. 20. [Click here](#) for full details or to apply.

Self -Publishing Basics for Kidlit Creators

Designed specifically for aspiring authors of children's literature, this 4-session online course led by Nebraska author, Nancy Sharp Wagner, will demystify the self-publishing process. From setting up a publishing business to marketing a masterpiece, participants will learn how to make their publishing dreams a reality.

[Register](#) for the entire series or for any individual webinar. All webinars will be held virtually from 7:00- 8:30pm CST on Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 8 & Oct. 22.





Maximizing Your Membership



With school back in session and fall just around the corner, many SCBWI regions are gearing up for more great programming! Be sure to check the [SCBWI Virtual Events](#) site to find a list of all upcoming virtual events. And, if you feel like getting out of town, don't forget to check the listing of [Regional SCBWI In-Person Events](#), too! Here are just a few examples of some of the amazing opportunities coming your way:

- [Oklahoma/Arkansas Region's Fall Revision Retreat, Sept., 20-21](#) (In-Person)
- [Rocky Mountain Region's Letters & Lines Conference, Sept. 28-29](#) (In-Person)
- [San Francisco South Region's Golden Gate Day, Sept. 28](#) (In-Person or Virtual)
- [SoCal Region's Fall Harvest Writer & Illustrator Day, Oct. 3](#) (In-Person or Virtual)
- [New Mexico Region's Handsprings Hybrid Conference, Nov. 1-2](#) (In-Person or Virtual)
- [Pennsylvania East Region's 8 & Under Webinar, Nov. 2](#) (Virtual)

Nebraska Critique Groups

Are you looking for someone to critique your manuscript,
hook, pitch, logline, or query letter?

Join a critique group today!

Email Judith Snyder, Critique Group Coordinator
scbwi.nebraska.critiques@gmail.com



Illustration Submission

Would you like for your art to be featured in a future newsletter?
Contact scbwi.nebraska.newsletter@gmail.com for more information.



Shop Talk Recap



Ashley Karges
Shop Talk Co-Coordinator

Shop Talk 2024-2025 has a new format! This year, Shop Talk will incorporate “lunch & learn” style sessions in addition to the regular evening sessions. Each month will alternate between an evening meeting and a lunchtime meeting.

Shop Talk sessions are all about making connections with fellow writers and illustrators, while “talking shop.” Each one-hour meeting takes place via Zoom. If you have never attended a Shop Talk in the past, or it’s been awhile, we encourage you to join us!

2024-2025 Shop Talk schedule (topics subject to change):

MONDAYS, 7pm-8pm CST:

September 23 - Let’s Connect

November 18 - Tightening Word Count

January 13 - Finding Comparative Texts with NoveList Plus

March 24 - Keeping Up With It All: Webinars & Platforms to Follow

May 19 - A Published Author’s Journey

THURSDAYS, 12pm-1pm CST:

October 24 - Time Management

December 12 - Mentor Texts

February 20 - Topsy Turvy Revisions & Rewrites

April 24 - Querying



Art by Kathleen Gadeken

FOLLOW US AND FIND MORE ON:



Credits: Fall 2021 Texas Woman’s University Community-focused Design Studio

Layout Design: Nely Martinez, McCrae Milton, Simran Prasai | Banner Design: Roshad Bonner, McCrae Milton |

Feature Title Designers: Kelly Milliorn, Edgar Obregon, Susana Pina, Amanda Tritschler-Tucker | Teaser Layout Designer: Roshad Bonner

Art Director: Professor Sheli Petersen

Take Flight With Help From Our Volunteers



LEADERSHIP



Co-Regional Advisor
Jennie Gollehon
nebraska-ra@scbwi.org



Co-Regional Advisor
Heather Dawn Torres
nebraska-ra2@scbwi.org

PROGRAMMING



Workshop Coordinator
Katie Martens
scbwi.nebraska.workshop@gmail.com



Webinar Coordinator
Sheli Petersen
scbwi.nebraska.webinars@gmail.com



Shop Talk Co-Coordinator
Ashley Karges
scbwi.nebraska.shoptalk@gmail.com



Shop Talk Co-Coordinator
Mary Beth Rice
scbwi.nebraska.shoptalk@gmail.com



Retreat & Social Gatherings Coordinator
Paula Ray
scbwi.nebraska.retreats@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH



Critique Group Coordinator
Judith Snyder
scbwi.nebraska.critiques@gmail.com



Technical Support
Jennie Gollehon
scbwi.nebraska.webmaster@gmail.com



Published Member Liaison
Tim Hantula
scbwi.nebraska.pal@gmail.com



Newsletter Coordinator
Heather Dawn Torres
scbwi.nebraska.newsletter@gmail.com



Self-Publishing Liaison
Nancy Sharp Wagner
scbwi.nebraska.selfpubliaison@gmail.com



Discussion Board Moderator
Kim Ziemann