

June 2023

Spotlight



Featured Illustrator

LISA TROUT
WWW.LISATROUTSTUDIO.COM

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Upcoming Events

Portfolio Review Webinar June 15, 7:30pm-8:30pm

SCBWI Summer Virtual Conference, August 4-6

Graphic Novel Online Workshop, September 9

Regional Meeting, September 10

Shop Talk, September 18 @ 7:00pm

Illustrator Intensive, November 11



A big shout-out to Jennie Gollehon for all of her hard work migrating everything to the new website:

<https://www.scbwi.org/regions/nebraska>

Be sure to bookmark the new URL for easy reference. We have some great events opening for registration soon!

A Word from Our Regional Team



Alison Pearce Stevens
Regional Advisor

It was marvelous to see so many of you at the spring social. One comment I received more than any other: “This is such a great event. You do so much!” It was a great event—but I had nothing to do with it, other than showing up and helping with a bit of set-up.

That event was entirely due to the efforts of Rosalind Reloj, our Retreat and Social Gatherings Coordinator—and she did a spectacular job! She’s also planned a weekend get-away-to-create retreat in October and is helping Judith Snyder, our Critique Group Coordinator, plan more Story Spinners write- and draw-ins. They are taking the initiative and doing all the planning for these.

Why do I point this out? As RA, I tend to get recognition for all that our region does—even when my role was to approve an event or write a check to make it happen. So I want to take a moment to recognize our regional volunteers—outgoing, ongoing, and incoming. Without their ideas, input, and enthusiasm, we wouldn’t have nearly as many events and activities—and we certainly wouldn’t be on the radar of people around the world who go out of their way to see what we’ve got planned!



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A Word from Our Regional Team *continued*

Please give a round of applause for other members of this AMAZING volunteer team:

Shelly Nosbisch—outgoing Published Author and Illustrator Liaison, creating events for our published members. Tim Hantula is stepping into this role.

Nancy Sharp Wagner—brain child behind our Writing from the Inside Out workshops. Katie Martens just took over to head up our upcoming Graphic Novel workshop.

Sandy Mickey—outgoing Newsletter Coordinator. This issue is the first by our new coordinator, Heather Dawn Torres.

J. Parker Adair—outgoing Social Media Coordinator.

Ashley Karges and Mary Beth Rice—ongoing Shop Talk Co- Coordinators.

Jennie Gollehon has been hard at work transferring our regional information from the old website to the new one. It wasn't easy, but she's done a spectacular job and made my life infinitely easier.

Kim Ziemann moderates our regional discussion board—which should be up and running again soon.

Last, but definitely not least, Co-Illustrator Coordinator Sheli Petersen has returned to her Webinar Coordinator position, now that Dianna Carda is fully trained and has taken over as the sole IC for our region.

The next time you enjoy an event, find out who planned and executed it and send them a word of thanks. And consider joining the team—it's fun and you can have a say in the kinds of events that we plan.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheli Petersen".



Agent's View



BIBI LEWIS

Ethan Ellenberg Literary Agency

Bibi Lewis is an agent with Ethan Ellenberg Literary Agency. She acts as the agency's royalties and office manager and is currently building her list in both children's and adult. For children's, she represents picture books through young adult, with a particular interest in big hearted middle grade, innovative non-fiction and young adult contemporary and thrillers.

In all genres she is looking for contemporary realism, fantasy, mysteries, historicals and lots of humor. Bibi has a soft spot for heists and sleuths (and would especially love to see a new YA Harriet the Spy or Veronica Mars!) as well as twisty thrillers.

On the adult end, Bibi is primarily looking for women's fiction, upmarket commercial and book club fiction, and contemporary and historical romance. She enjoys projects with a big hook, complicated and fully realized characters, and sharp, quick-paced prose. She is also looking for select mysteries and thrillers—particularly domestic suspense and unexpected takes on true crime

Bibi always welcomes diverse narratives, including but not limited to LGBTQ or minority voices.

To query Bibi, please send the first 50 pages and a synopsis pasted into the body of an email to agent@ethanellenberg.com. Address the query to Bibi and include "SCBWI Nebraska" in the subject line. The window to query Bibi will remain open indefinitely.



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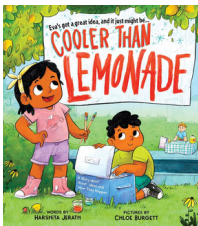
Let's Celebrate



Congratulations to Ashley Karges, who received an Honorable Mention in the 2023 Spring Fling Twitter writing contest with her entry titled, THE MIDNIGHT GARDEN. Hooray, Ashley!



Ashely Karges is going strong this summer! Ashley was also announced as a winner in the '23 #KidLitVibes Twitter contest for her 125-word story evoking the vibe of her assigned feeling word, "gloomy." Way to go, Ashley!



Chloe Burgett participated in her first paid school visit in May where she talked to 64 fifth grade students about her job as an illustrator. Sounds like a blast, Chloe!



N. L. Sharp's middle grade novel, A PERFECT DISASTER, is currently being published on Kindle Vella. The book is a sequel to KEEPING CAPTAIN, a Nebraska Center for the Book award-winning novel. So exciting!



Featured Member



Shelly Nobsch



Omaha native Shelly Nobsch loved to write from an early age, but her twenty-plus-year career as an occupational therapist kept her away from it for many years. The urge to write never left her, so she pursued an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts, graduating in 2017. She has two young adult novels, *Someone Worth Fighting For* and *The Lightworker*, both available on Kindle Vella under the pen name Jordan Crown. She's currently working on a cozy mystery series called *Parks and Death*. A voracious reader, Shelly can often be found lurking in the stacks at the local library.

Shelly is living her best life when she's working with teens. She enjoys getting to know the teen athletes that she profiles in the *Varsity Corner* articles and the entrepreneurial youth she profiles in the *Youth* articles for *Edge Magazine*. Another highlight is working for Nebraska Writers Collective as a teaching artist coaching Burke high school's slam poetry team. Shelly enjoyed serving on the SCBWI-Nebraska advisory board as the critique coordinator and later as the PAL liaison. Shelly also co-taught the *Writing From the Inside Out* novel-writing class, which will be offered again in 2025.



Coming Attractions

WRITING FROM THE INSIDE OUT: GRAPHIC NOVELS

Have you thought about writing a graphic novel, but weren't sure where to start? Worried you can't do it if you're not an illustrator? Most graphic novel courses are geared toward illustrators, but the next Writing from the Inside Out workshop will provide an opportunity for writers (and illustrators who want to learn the writing side) to learn how to create graphic novels for kids. Led by esteemed author-illustrator Rivkah LaFille, this eight-month virtual workshop will dive deep into children's graphic novels and teach authors how to create a manuscript—with or without illustration skills. Registration opens in the next few weeks. Keep an eye on your inbox for details!

ILLUSTRATOR INTENSIVE 2023

Ready to hone your character design and visual storytelling and get a feel for what it's like to work with an art director? Mark your calendar for November 11th and join us for an illustrators' intensive with Art Director Jim Hoover of Viking (an imprint of Penguin Random House).

Registration opens soon. Watch your inbox for details!

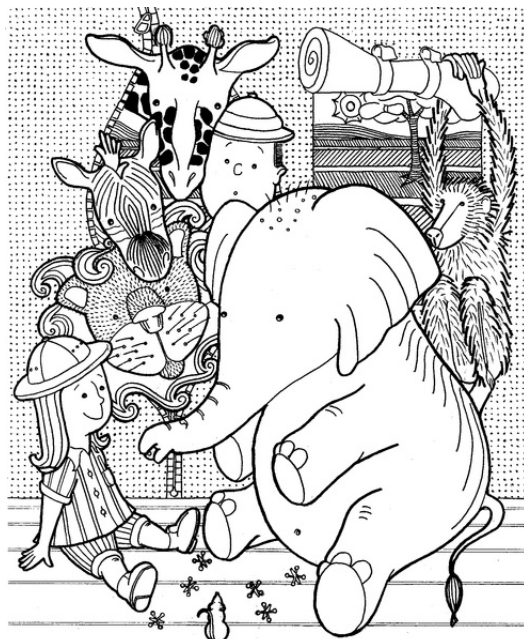


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Maximizing Your Membership

Don't miss the SCBWI Summer Virtual Conference August 4-6, 2023. The conference is sure to uplift, inspire, and inform you about how to make your story come to life for children everywhere. You'll be able to engage in hands-on sessions led by industry experts and explore various aspects of children's book creation from writing and illustrating to storytelling and character development.

Look for sessions specifically for illustrators, traditionally published authors, self-published authors, nonfiction writers, picture book writers and more! Registrants will have access to all 50 sessions for up to one month after the conference concludes.

Additionally, you'll enjoy inspirational talks from Angeline Boulley, Frank Morrison, Doug Salati, and Lisa Yee as well as expert panels that will expand your knowledge about the current state of children's publishing.

For more info or to register, go to:

<https://www.scbwi.org/events/summer-conference-2023>



Nebraska Discussion Board

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

Search no more!

You will find one or more of your Nebraska Kidlit colleagues to share their expertise.
Post your work on our Nebraska Discussion Board.



Illustration Submission

Would you like for your art to be featured in our future newsletter?
Please send to: Dianna Carda at nebraska-ic@scbwi.org
Label file as firstname_lastname.jpeg. (no bigger than 8 mb)



Shop Talk Recap



Mary Beth Rice
Shop Talk Co-Coordinator

In May, illustrator Chloe Burgett led us on an amazing journey and shared her own personal experiences of creating and designing characters for her last five books: *BIG BOLD BEAUTIFUL ME*, *COOLER THAN LEMONADE*, *A TO Z ANIMAL MYSTERIES*, *POTATOES FOR PIRATE PEARL* and *ETTA EXTRAORDINAIRE*.

Each experience with publishers and art directors was unique from original sketches to final edits--and everything in between! Chloe shared the “main character descriptions” given to her by each publisher when beginning each project. The following five lessons were gleaned from each one of these experiences:

Start with story: Designing each character encompasses who they are, what they are interested in, how they are wired, etc. Create backstory for your character.

Sources matter: The nuances of culture, environment, history, and other pieces of information are important and can be discovered through a variety of sources. Communicating directly (or through the publisher) with the author, if allowed, or reading author websites and blogs to learn more about them and the stories they are writing can be helpful.

Be open to change: Look at feedback as a nudge to grow. If you are used to illustrating in one genre and are asked to illustrate in another, your art may need to be enhanced or altered. You will walk away with a new skill set.

Go to multiple places for inspiration: Visit a setting similar to the story, research characters from movies and other books or try dressing in character. All of your experiences will inform the character design and the details in the story.

Make the characters YOU want to draw: If you create characters you love yourself as opposed to creating just what others want, you will carry joy and energy throughout the life of the project.

Upcoming Shop Talks, 7pm-8pm CST:

Sept. 18 - "School Visits"

October 23 - TBD

November 11 - "Dialogue"

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 Milliom, 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



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Regional Illustrator Coordinator
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PROGRAMMING



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Kim Ziemann