




SCBWI



Nebraska Region
Prairie Song
Newsletter

October 2024

Spotlight



Featured Illustrator

SHELI PETERSEN
WWW.SPETERSENILLUSTRATION.COM
 @SHELIPETERSEN

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Upcoming Events

Story Spinners, Oct. 19, 10am- 2pm @ Cheri O's

Self-Pub Webinar #4, Oct. 22, 7pm-8pm CST

Shop Talk, Oct. 24, 12pm-1pm CST

Illustrator Intensive, Nov. 9, all day event

Self-Pub Quarterly Mtg., Nov. 12, 7pm-8pm CST

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

Explore All Regional Virtual Events

SCBWI is on YouTube!



SCBWI has a YouTube channel with videos of past book club broadcasts, interviews with featured illustrators, discussions on book banning & censorship, and legacy videos featuring some of our most legendary members. Also, be sure to look for the new member video series; the first installment, a welcome video, is now available. Check it out today!

Click to view the [SCBWI YouTube Channel](#)

A Word from Our Regional Team



Heather Dawn Torres
Co-Regional Advisor

Fall has firmly taken hold and with that comes change. Changes in the weather, in clothing, in food, and in daily schedules. This time of year, change seems to be all around. For some, the change is welcome, whereas others are already counting down the days until summer arrives again. But whether you embrace the change in seasons or are procrastinating getting out your snow boots, remember that change can oftentimes bring opportunity for different perspectives, fresh starts, or new connections.

This fall, SCBWI Nebraska has embraced change. We're trying out some new things like Shop Talk Lunch 'n Learns, events for members interested in self-publishing, and a new format for our regional meetings. Our amazing volunteers are always hard at work brainstorming new ideas so that we can bring valuable programming to all of our Nebraska members.

Thus, I challenge each of you to add some change to your writing or illustrating life this fall. Perhaps attend an upcoming Story Spinners event to meet new people, join us for Shop Talk to help gain a fresh perspective or volunteer with SCBWI Nebraska to become more involved. Even just opening your notebook and writing something new might be change for you. Whatever the change...just go for it!

The change that I've decided to make is to try writing something in a genre I've never written in before. Whatever I write will most likely NOT be a best-seller, but hey, I'm ok with that--it's just a first draft! It's also fun and fresh and will help me get back into writing on a regular basis.

So, I challenge you...think about what changes you want in your writing or illustrating life. Are there any small steps you can take today to help make that change? What can you do tomorrow or the next day? And remember, whatever your goals, SCBWI Nebraska is here to support you so feel free to reach out if you need anything or have ideas you'd like to share--we love hearing from our members!

Heather



Art by Sheli Petersen



Agent's View



Jim McCarthy

Dystel, Goderich, & Bourret

Jim McCarthy began working at Dystel, Goderich & Bourret 25 years ago when it was still Jane Dystel Literary Management.

After working part-time while he finished school, he went full-time about a week after he graduated from NYU, and he has been agenting his own projects since 2002.

Jim has represented New York Times bestsellers, Printz Honorees, Lambda Award winners, a Stonewall Honoree, a Coretta Scott King Award winner, and recipients of numerous other awards and honors. He represents adult and children's books, and his children's clients include Richelle Mead, Fonda Lee, Tess Sharpe, Eric Gansworth, Blackburne, Robin Talley, Jade Adia, Joy McCullough, Jake Maia Arlow, Kosoko Jackson, Loan Le, Victoria Laurie, Michelle Rowen, Nicole Melleby, Tehlor Kay Mejia, and many more.

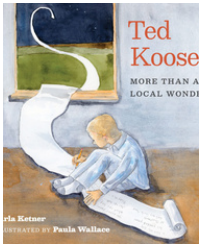
Always on the lookout for a new favorite read, Jim is hungry for middle grade and YA fiction, regardless of genre. He loves big emotions, big laughs, and big scares in equal measure and would be happy curled up with a romcom or a horror novel.

Having always lived within about 20 miles of his birthplace in New York City's Greenwich Village, he currently lives with his husband and their spoiled dog in Astoria, Queens.

If you'd like to submit to Jim, you can send 20 pages and a pitch via his [QueryManager link](#).



Let's Celebrate



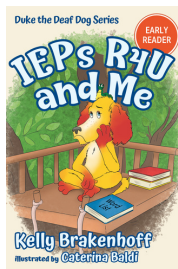
Ted Kooser *More Than a Local Wonder* written by Carla Ketner and illustrated by Paula Wallace won the 2024 Nebraska Book Award for Best Children's Book. What an accomplishment, Carla and Paula!



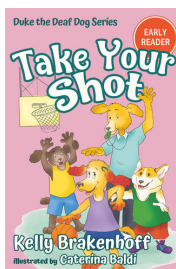
Allison L. Blitz won the 2024 Nebraska Book Award for Best Teen Novel for her book *The Unstoppable Bridget Bloom* published by Harper Teen. Huge congratulations, Allison!



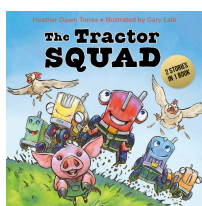
Etta Extraordinaire is back and she's heading to Washington! *Etta Extraordinaire Goes to Washington* illustrated by Chloe Burgett released on September 10 with HarperCollins. Great work, Chloe!



The first book in the Duke the Deaf Dog Chapter Book series, *IEPs R4U*, by Kelly Brakenhoff released September 19! With ASL, Deaf culture, and plenty of heart, Kelly's ready to turn the page on this newest chapter of her writing journey. We're so excited for you, Kelly!



Kelly Brakenhoff is on a roll! Her second book in the Duke the Deaf Dog chapter book series, *Take Your Shot*, released on September 23, along with workbook and video accompaniments. Get ready to roll with Duke's latest adventures! Way to go, Kelly!



The Tractor Squad written by Heather Dawn Torres released on Sept. 3 with Marble Press. In this bright & bouncy read-aloud, tractors dig, scoop, and round up the sheep . . . all before they chug and stomp, zig and zag with their farmyard friends. Congrats, Heather!

Featured Member



Chloe Burgett



Meet Chloe Burgett- a children's book illustrator! Chloe's favorite books respectfully portray children as the competent, brave, and resourceful human beings they are, with words to match.

Chloe hopes to tell stories about curious protagonists taking joy in and wondering at the weirdness in life. Maybe they can find magic along the way, too.

Chloe Burgett's fifth picture book launched this September! *Etta Extraordinaire Goes to the White House*, written by Charnaie Gordon and Roda Ahmed is now on sale, just in time for election season. Chloe's illustrations for this book feature the glamorous Etta, and hundreds of twinkling cherry blossoms. Her other books include *Etta Extraordinaire* (HarperCollins), *Potatoes for Pirate Pearl* (Feeding Minds Press), *Cooler Than Lemonade* (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky), *Big Bold Beautiful Me* (Magination Press), and *A-Z Animals Mysteries Book 1: The Absent Alpacas* (Random House for Young Readers).

Chloe was busy during the month of September painting a 24ft mural for the South Branch Library in Lincoln. Drive by to see her bookish squirrels reading about the Lincoln Children's Zoo, The Sunken Gardens, 1920s Home Repair, and other neighborhood highlights. Chloe hopes to finish her picture book manuscripts for submission this fall. Best of luck, Chloe!

If you'd like to connect with Chloe you can find her online at www.chloebartistry.com.



Coming Attractions

STORY SPINNERS WRITE & DRAW IN

Join other Nebraska members for some casual in-person writing and illustrating. Gather for a few hours in the company of like-minded creators. We'll take time to write and do some informal critiques, as well as socialize and perhaps even grab lunch together. This is a come & go event-stay for as long as you can or leave when you need to. This is a great way to take some time for yourself and write or draw with us! Registration is not required so feel free to drop by as your schedule allows. However, if possible, we kindly ask that you register in advance to help us gauge interest.

OCTOBER 19 from 10:00 am - 2:00pm
Cheri O's Coffeehouse in Ashland, NE

NOVEMBER 16 from 9:30am - 1:00pm
Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, NE



Art by Sheli Petersen



REGIONAL MEETING SERIES - DECEMBER 2 "MAKING EARLY READERS"

Mark your calendar! Our 2024 Regional Meeting Series continues on Monday, December 2 @ 7pm with award-winning author-illustrator, Vikram Madan! Vikram will go behind the scenes of his Geisel-Honor-winning beginner-comic/early-reader series Owl & Penguin to share his creative process and insights about writing and illustrating early readers.

You won't want to miss this event! The event is free for Nebraska members and no registration is required; the zoom link will be emailed prior to December 2nd.

Maximizing Your Membership

SCBWI BOOKSTOP NOW OPEN FOR 2024

Design a custom book promotional page, where you can showcase the unique aspects of your book and attract more readers. Bookstop is a way for SCBWI members to showcase their traditionally or independently published books online, giving book buyers and readers an inside look at our SCBWI member creators and their books. Create your [SCBWI Bookstop](#) page now!



SCBWI ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE

The [SCBWI In-Person Winter Conference](#) is scheduled to take place Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2025. This Conference is an opportunity to meet industry professionals and fellow children's book creators! Traditionally held in New York City, this event features deep-dive creative labs, keynote addresses from kidlit icons, industry panels, one-on-one manuscript and portfolio consultations, and an in-person Portfolio Showcase. Registration opens late October 2024.

Can't make it to the In-Person Winter Conference? Consider registering for the [virtual winter conference](#) online event featuring recorded keynotes and panels, plus deep-dive Creative Labs.

Nebraska Critique Groups

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

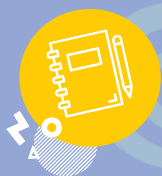
Join a critique group today!

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



Mary Beth Rice
Shop Talk Co-Coordinator

A new season of Shop Talk kicked off in September with fellow Nebraska writers and illustrators as we reflected on our summers and discussed our goals for the upcoming weeks. We also discussed the struggle of making time to create how to embrace imposter syndrome.

Reflect on the following:

- The days you do not “create” are important “gathering days” and will enrich your work
- Goals that you set need to be measurable, concrete & have a deadline.
- Intentions are the energy and attitude behind your goals and your relationships.
- Manage imposter syndrome: Strive to reach your goal, not perfection & recognize even small achievements.
- Struggling with finding time in your day to create? Consider small blocks of time in your days to do one or two writerly things as making “progress” in your craft.
- Watch & reflect on author [Amy Krouse Rosenthal's Ted Talk, The Crevices of Life](#)
- Commit! What is a GOAL you can set toward your writing/illustrating life between now and the end of the year? What is an INTENTION you can set to move forward in your writing/illustrating life?

Don't miss our next lunchtime Shop Talk on **Thursday, October 24th at 12pm** with illustrator Chloe Burgett. Chloe will lead attendees through some simple exercises to figure out our best times to be productive and discuss how to start setting realistic goals for our writing careers.

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



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Kim Ziemann