



Illustrator News December 2023/January 2024

At this busy season I hope you have moments that bring delight as well as inklings of creative inspiration to sketch up or write down. I had a silly conversation recently with an old friend that spurred an intriguing story idea. It reminded me that stories are always waiting - just at the edge of fun - to pop out. So, have some fun and let your imaginations play along as we flow into the New Year! *Robin*

This month on Oregon's Featured Illustrator page [Sheryl Murray](#) is sharing some experiential wisdom gained during her career as a children's book illustrator. Here's an excerpt - and there's more - so click below to read on!

Q: What are the things that you, as an established children's book illustrator, wish you had known when you were first starting to build your portfolio?

A big challenge that I had to work through when first developing my style for children's books was to consider the intent. My early portfolio pieces received lots of approval for their fine art sensibilities and strong sense of design but those same stylistic elements were overshadowing the narrative and stopping the reader from getting to know the characters and draw them into the story. It took multiple professionals telling me the same thing in different ways before that registered for me, resulting in an "aha" moment (as well as a forehead smacking "doh!").

Never stop listening and learning. Go to conferences and workshops. Examine work you favor on social media or in books and ask yourself what it is that you are responding to in it. Join a critique group that will challenge you. And don't give up!

Thanks for sharing what you've learned along the way with all of us, Sheryl!

December Featured Oregon Illustrator



SHERYL MURRAY



Sheryl Murray

[Oregon SCBWI Featured Illustrator](#)

Give yourself a treat by visiting the [FEATURE PAGE](#) to view Sheryl's artwork, learn about her journey in the KidLit illustration world, and link to her website.

If you would like to be featured, contact Robin at oregon-ic@scbwi.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OREGON ILLUSTRATORS!



This month's SCBWI International Featured Artist

You may have noticed that Oregon's **Melissa Gardner** is the featured artist on SCBWI's landing page. Melissa was also Oregon's featured illustrator in October. *Congratulations, Melissa!*

If you'd like to apply to be SCBWI's Featured Artist, click the link: [Apply](#)

Oregon's New Mascot!

As you may know, we have a new Mascot, a little Meadowlark created by **Deborah Hocking**. *Congratulations, Deborah!*

Though our mascot search is over, we had many delightful entries. Folks have asked us to share them and you'll find them just below.



Many Thanks to our Mascot Designers!

All entries (to the right, in no particular order) were judged without the artist's name attached to ensure impartiality. Only one sketch per artist is shown here.

Deb Bartsch
Brenda Bokenyi
Chris Clayson
Pamela Goodman
Sarah Hawklyn
Deborah Hocking
Kassy Keppol
Johanna Kim

Jordan Kim
 Pamela Kurth
 Becky Lance
 Lauren Mendez
 Ryan Middaugh
 Kathleen Poulsen
 Mira Reisberg
 Angela Sagues
 Ivette Salom
 Mark Steering
 Francie Towne
 Jessica Urey
 Angela Voss
 Nicole Wald

For a closer view, click the button below for a PDF version.



Mascot Entries



Curated SCBWI Event Listings

- Many regional listings are available on the SCBWI website [HERE](#). They're updated quite often so check back. In the meantime, here are some upcoming events you might enjoy.

Great for Author-Illustrators:
 Laugh Out Loud Lit: Creating Humor in Picture Books
 Presenter: Isabella Kung



January 10th - OREGON SCBWI: LEVEL UP SERIES
Registration is Open

This is a featured Oregon SCBWI event - a great way to support our region while having fun and learning tricks and tips of the trade. We look forward to seeing you there (virtually)!

Great for Author-Illustrators:
 The Great Critique - Winter 2024 - \$35
 Friendly House, Portland, OR Virtual



January 27th - OREGON SCBWI
Registration is Open

SCBWI Oregon's Great Critique is an event that happens twice a year. Each session is an awesome opportunity for writers and

illustrators to be critiqued by a professional and their peers.

Great for Author-Illustrators:

Writing Picture Books: Basics & Beyond

With Heather Cashman - \$20

January 6: Presented by Houston Region

[Registration is Open](#)

Heather is a Literary Agent at Storm Literary Agency and although she is closed to the general public, she will be open to queries from all attendees! Join us for a professional critique and query opportunity, along with a bonus submission ready add-on!



Portfolio Reviews

With Kelly Anne Dalton- \$85

January 15: Presented by Montana Region

[Registration is Open](#)

Kelly Anne Dalton is an illustration professional with 14 years of experience. She has worked for Penguin Random House, Quatro, The Washington Post, Little, Brown and Company and more. Kelly Anne will provide a written portfolio review for you as well as give you the option of a 30 minute Zoom meeting with her to discuss your critique.



Great for Author-Illustrators:

Tightrope Tension: How to build tension in Picture Books

With Valerie Bolling - \$15

January 16: Presented by MidAtlantic Region

[Registration is Open](#)

Do you want your book to captivate and create tension that makes your readers feel as if they're walking on a tightrope suspended 50 feet above ground? Join award-winning author Valerie Bolling and learn tips, and see examples from picture books, that will show you how to heighten the tension in your story.



The Art and Architecture of a Picture Book

With Mallory Grigg- \$40

January 20: Presented by San Diego Region

[Registration is Open](#)

Mallory Grigg, Sr. Art Director at Macmillan Children's will explore the physical construction of a narrative, how an art director thinks about a picture book, and how visuals can affect the way we tell a story. A craft based talk for illustrators with exercises for participants.



Great for Author-Illustrators:

Marginalized Voices in Picture Books

Multiple presenters - \$10

February 17: Presented by San Diego Region

[Registration is Open](#)

Meeg Pincus (she/her, author), Meridth McKean Gimbel (they/them, illustrator), and Kelly Delaney (she/her, editor) will discuss creating sensitive and authentic portrayals of historically-marginalized (in this case, transgender) people. They also will walk us through brief exercises.



December prompt :

ABSTRACT

Submission deadline: Dec. 31st

[SUBMIT HERE](#)



SCBWI PODCAST

Have a Listen:
[SCBWI Podcasts](#)

As always, I give thanks for *you* - my uniquely creative SCBWI colleagues. You touch, delight, inform and inspire the hearts of children and that is a wondrous gift to give. However you celebrate this season, may peace and joy surround you.

Robin
oregon-ic@SCBWI.org



Robin Chilstrom
Oregon Illustrator
Coordinator

Wise advice from the SCBWI Illustrator Advisory Team:

When the solution won't come and you've tried everything -



[Our Company](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

SCBWI Oregon | 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 425, Los Angeles, CA 90048

[Unsubscribe oregon-ra@scbwi.org](mailto:unsubscribe-oregon-ra@scbwi.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by oregon-ic@scbwi.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!