

SCBWI

SoCal

# NEWSLETTER



FALL 2022 / ISSUE 9



art provided by Lisa Johnstone Hancock [www.LisaJohnstonHancock.com](http://www.LisaJohnstonHancock.com)

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the SCBWI

# SoCal calendar

BUY our SCBWI SoCal calendar 2023!

Featuring Illustrations from SCBWI SoCal Illustrators

Illustration by Chuck Grish  
 chuckgrish.com  
 @chuck\_grish

January						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

Missed the chance to buy our SoCalendar? You can buy it NOW from our website!

<https://socal.scbwi.org/events/buy-scbwi-socalendar-2023/>

Order ASAP to receive it before the holiday season! Profits go towards funding more opportunities for our local chapter.



# SCBWI SoCAL 2022

## WRITERS & ILLUSTRATORS DAY

BY CARLENE GRIFFITH

**Set among the collegiate halls of Cal State Fullerton, 2022's SCBWI Fall Harvest Writers & Illustrators Day conference was a great experience.**

For the first time since 2020, our SoCal regional chapter leaders moved forward with an in-person meeting with a virtual option on Zoom. This undertaking was headed by Regional Advisor **Bev Plass**, Co-Assistant Regional Advisors **Cynthia De La Torre & Ernesto Cisneros**, Regional Illustrator Coordinator **Shiho Pate**, and a committee of Member Volunteers. With caution and COVID restrictions in place, they staged our event in the Pavilion room to allow for an open room and round table seating.



Many agreed with **Lorian Steider Brady**, who said, "I LOVED being back in person and seeing everyone face-to-face!"

Doors opened at 8:00 am to an enthusiastic crowd of aspiring and published writers and illustrators, ready to absorb the insight and wisdom of renowned faculty members within the publishing industry. Found within the open hall, they greeted attendees with member illustrator portfolios on display and a spread of children's books ranging from picture books to young adult to purchase from our local bookstore, SAN MARINO TOY & BOOK SHOPPE. **Mark Adam** generously gave his reviews and recommendations of some of the best children's books. His contact information can be found here: <https://www.sanmarinotoys.com>

Starting off the conference with a bang, we heard from **Lori Polydoros**, non-fiction author of *QUAKE CHASERS: 15 WOMEN ROCKING EARTHQUAKE SCIENCE*. In Lori's speech: From Idea to Proposal to Published Work: The Journey of a Non-Fiction Book, she was quick to remind us that we are mighty and like seeds. When nourished, our writing and ideas will grow and bloom. This self-proclaimed "Weird teacher," truly had us off our feet, with our hands in the air, shouting "I AM MIGHTY!" **Dan McCauley** said, "Lori set the tone for the day, and you could totally sense she was an educator by how she presented."



**Tootie Nienow**, author of *THERE GOES PATTI MCGEE! THE STORY OF THE FIRST WOMEN'S NATIONAL SKATEBOARD CHAMPION* compared her success in publishing to her story's character, Patti McGee. Like Patti, who was good at handstands, you must ask yourself, what do you know well? From there, "original ideas will come!" To summarize, she explained that after equipping yourself with the right tools, doing the research, using discernment when given advice, and a lot of Band-aides from rejections, progress will come. You've got to keep going and before you know it, you too, can celebrate your wins, just like Patti. "Remember, the publishing industry is always changing," said Tootie.

Bubbly Author Illustrator **Susi Schaefer**, of *ZOO ZEN: A YOGA STORY FOR KIDS*, stressed the importance of balancing illustrations and text in picture books. She taught that there are three parts to picture books: the text, the pictures, and the space where readers can fill in parts of the story. She said, "we must think outside of the box" when it comes to creating successful picture books. **Jennifer Baptiste** said, "I liked Susi's (presentation) the most because she offered a practical strategy for storyboarding and writing out a picture book."

After a 15minute break and some much-needed cooling down, illustrators and writers divided up into breakout sessions.

Illustrators headed over to the Hetebrink Room to hear from **Saho Fujii**, Art Director at Little Brown Books for Young Readers, and Cyndi Wojciechowski, Illustrator of *THE SUPERPOWER SISTERHOOD*. **Marie Chan** felt Saho's presentation was the most impactful for her. She said, "Saho Fujii's presentation helped me have a better idea of what to consider when reviewing the illustrations and cover layouts for my picture book. She also gave a good timeline of the whole production process. The examples of different revised sketches were helpful and insightful."

**Martina Lo** said, “I liked the picture book process breakout session by Saho Fujii as well as how illustrator Cyndi shared about her path to publication. Oftentimes we hear about the author’s journey, so this time it really helped to hear from the illustrator’s perspective.”



In the Pavilion Room, **Jon Westmark**, Executive Editor at Albert Whitman, schooled writers on Using Voice and Perspective. **Cathy J. Vigil** appreciated Jon’s presentation, liking how he “broke down the voice and perspective of the character, writer, & narrative voices into defining terms.” He mainly focused on middle grade writing, but he also defined appropriate levels of voice from picture books to young adults.

Award-winning Author **Ernesto Cisneros**, author of EFREN DIVIDED, and Heather Buchta, author of BEYOND THE BREAK, won over the crowd with their insights on what to do before publication and how to chase after your favorite agent. **Karena Hamilton** “appreciated Ernesto’s advice to not network, but instead make friends!” I loved how he mentioned getting involved by volunteering and making authentic connections. And Heather’s truth about her experience running into her agent in line was a hoot! **Sarah Chen** said, “She related to Heather’s writing process and loved learning how she found her agent—by finding books with a voice similar to her voice and querying their agents—genius!”

A boxed lunch was included in the price of registration and a chance to sit down alongside your favorite author or faculty member. **Jodi Rizzotto** said her favorite part of the conference was, “sitting down with other fellow creators at lunch.” **Alexander Grigg** said regarding his lunch experience, “I love when I have the opportunity to spend time with speakers or instructors in an environment where I feel like I’m not intruding in their personal time like between lectures.

After lunch, we all returned to the Pavilion Room to hear from Jemiscoe “Jem” Chambers-Black, Associate Agent at Andrea Brown Literary Agency, on How to Have a Successful Client-Agent Partnership. Jem said, “Selling Books is hard, ya’ll! ...But it’s not one sided.” She said, “her dream client was someone who was willing to collaborate, but believes in community.” And to back up her words, we heard again from **Cyndi Wojciechowski**, who considers herself lucky to be one of “Jem’s Holograms” as her client. **Ann Dawson** said, “I really appreciated seeing the warm rapport that Cyndi and Jem had. They seem to have a relationship worth striving for.”

So many appreciated her real talk about what a client-agent relationship should be and what it shouldn’t be. **Erin Lagerberg** said, “She has a great presentation style that was endearing and professional at the same time. Her insights and comments felt actionable, like I could make a checklist and actually accomplish it.” **Jo Ann Banks** said “Jemiscoe had the most impact on [her] because of her very honest advice about choosing an agent and listening to your intuition.”

Before the next break, we heard from **Kayla Cichello**, Agent at Upstate Crow Literary Agency, on Crafting an Authentic Voice. She focused on the importance of using an active voice and not a passive voice in your writing. Giving great examples of voice from various publications, she demonstrated how crafting a memorable voice is key to good writing.

**Marlo Berliner**, Associate Agent at Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency focused her talk on writing a synopsis. As an award-winning author of THE GHOST CHRONICLES, Marlo has walked in our shoes and knows how daunting the whole submission process can be, especially for new writers. A synopsis is where you break the rules of “don’t tell, show.” Instead, a good synopsis does exactly the opposite, “tell all.”



Many commented on the usefulness of Marlo’s information. Even those who are already published appreciated the reminder of its importance. **Krysta Whittemore** said, “I liked Marlo’s synopsis discussion. It was info I felt I knew pretty well already, but a good reminder to polish this aspect of my work - and pitches too.” **Kelly Powers** said, “With my few interactions with Marlo Berliner, as well as her presentation, I learned how to distill my manuscript down to the bare bones so much better. She helped me understand how to write the synopsis, and also how to integrate parts of my book into winning pitches and queries.”

Authors had great opportunities to get feedback from the industry professionals at this conference, by submitting to the Written Critiques, First Pages and taking part in the 1:1 Pitch Rounds. Many found having their first page read aloud and getting an Editor and Agent’s first impressions very helpful. **Karena Hamilton** said, “The First Pages read were very helpful for hearing what worked/didn’t work.” **Dan McCauley** said, “The best part was connecting with this awesome community in person and getting expert, effective feedback that relates directly to my story. First Pages and getting to meet directly with agents/editors for my specific stories was great.”

Contests for both writers and illustrators were offered this year. Illustrators were encouraged to participate in a SOCAL CALENDAR CONTEST, and 12 winners' pieces of art are included in a 6x6, 12-month SoCalendar. Winners were also announced online to allow for printing. 1st place went to **Chuck Grieb** whose art is featured on the cover. 2nd place went to **Shiho Pate**, 3rd - **S.J. Winkler**, 4th - **Hilary Norcliffe**, 5th - **Rafael Macho**, 6th - **Susi Schaefer**, 7th- **Farnaz Nadim**, 8th - **Jon St. Amant**, 9th - **Anne Dawson**, 10th - **Lorena Lopez**, 11th- **Asia Simone**, and 12th - **Samantha LeDuc**. The calendars were sold at the event and continue to be available online here [www.socal.scbwi.org/events/buy-scbwi-socalendar-2023/](http://www.socal.scbwi.org/events/buy-scbwi-socalendar-2023/).



**Emmeline Forrestal** was the Grand Prize Winner for the SOCAL SCBWI Portfolio Showcase and **Anne Dawson** won runner up.

The SOCAL WRITERS CONTEST winners were announced at the event. Winners included for the Picture Book category: 1st place went to **Dodie Gregg**. 2nd place went to **Karina Tangen**. For the Middle Grade category: 1st place went to **Jennifer Marion**. 2nd place went to **Rosalind Oliver**. For the Young Adult category: 1st place went to **EJ Lagerberg**. 2nd place went to **Karena Hamilton** and **Tim Burke**.



Our regional leaders did a great job handling the ins and outs of putting together the conference even with its hiccups, like the facility's broken AC or when the CSUF camera malfunctioned and shut the zoom down for a while. **Erin Lagerberg** said, "Bev never looked flustered, no matter what was going on behind the scenes."

Sadly, technology can be difficult, and expert **Crystal Schrek** did an amazing job of trying to get it up and running again. For those at home, despite all of the efforts of Crystal, the CSUF camera didn't work, and the audio cable made the sound cut out or sounded scratchy and robotic. Unfortunately, the closed captions only worked 80% of the time due to poor audio. Attendees did get to see the presenters' slides and Crystal tried her best to communicate via Q&A to keep virtual attendees informed. She typed all the award-winning names so they could celebrate using emojis.

**Deborah Snyder** said, "That doing live streaming is tricky and I admire how well your team handled everything." Fortunately, the conference was recorded and those on zoom that missed out will have access once Crystal is finished editing a video for them. All attendees will be able to watch for the next month. Thanks to all the attendees who sent supportive and understanding comments to her!



As the events closed, Bev raffled off books, contest winners gathered for pictures, Thank You applause resounded, author speakers set up to sign autographs, and those that signed up for a 1:1 Pitch Round were sent off to try their luck with potential representation. This was my favorite part of the event. Though nervous because it was my first-time pitching, I felt excited and encouraged thanks to my amazing critique partners.

Overall, this year's 2022 Writer's & Illustrators Day conference was a fantastic experience and impactful event on my writing progress. Many attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and encouragement to keep going. **Anjail Amit** said, when asked what she took away from the experience, "The exhortation to "Never give Up." In sharing their experiences, the presenters brought hope." I have a lot of work to do, but I was reminded to be patient with myself. I couldn't be more appreciative of the SCBWI community support, education, direction, and relationships I've fostered attending these types of events and I look forward to the next SCBWI event our region has to offer.



**Carlene Griffith** is a volunteer member of SCBWI. Author of the *Rose Maidelaiden* and *10 Minute Plays For Kids of All Ages* series.

Find her on [Twitter@AuthorCGriffith](https://twitter.com/AuthorCGriffith)  
[www.carlenegriffith.com](http://www.carlenegriffith.com)



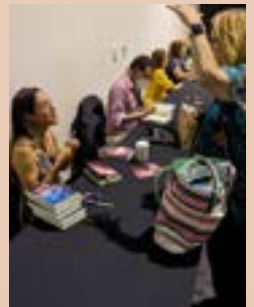
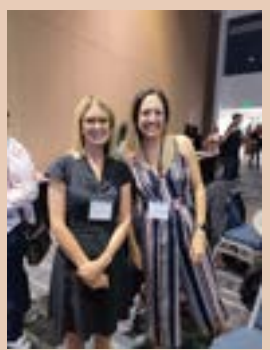


SCBWI **FALL HARVEST**

**S O C I A L**

Logo by Kathryn Rommel kathrynrommel.wordpress.com

**WRITERS & ILLUSTRATORS DAY**





# KILLER FIRST LINES

by Tim Burke

Welcome to the first of a brand new column. However, it will only thrive with your support! Email me your favorite, awesome opening line(s) to a book or short story (Any age level is okay from PB to adult): [tim@timburketales.com](mailto:tim@timburketales.com)

We'll include them in future newsletters with credit to you as the contributor. Follow the format of the ones below, and if your email name is something arcane like TweedleBeelzebub6535, please sign your actual name so I can give proper credit to you.

You'll note it should ONLY be the actual first sentence, not a whole freakin' paragraph. The one exception is in the style of the example below by Navdeep Dhillon in which the first line is the set-up and a later sentence (maybe only second or third sentence please!) is the punchline.



Without further ado:



art provided by S.J. Winkler [www.sjwinklerart.com](http://www.sjwinklerart.com)

"I would never have been accused of stealing the koala if Vance Jessup hadn't made me drop a human arm in the shark tank." —Poached by Stuart Gibbs (the absolute master of the First Line!)

**"At first, I don't realize I am dead, let alone someone has murdered me."** —No Peace for the Wicked by Martin Edwards/Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine Sept/Oct 2022

"Once again, Efrén Nava woke up to a chubby pajamaed foot in his face." —Efrén Divided by Ernesto Cisneros

**"Ever look in the mirror and think to yourself: I look fantastic. My face, my nose, my eyes, the blond streak in my hair, these clothes. Everything is lit. Yep. Me neither."** —Sunny G's Series of Rash Decisions by Navdeep Singh Dhillon

"Every day on her way to work, journalist Santa Ezeriña asked herself: what the hell is that thing?" —The Calter Wave Conundrum by William Burton McCormick/Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine Sept/Oct 2022

**"Mabel Jones was woken by a sudden quiet."** —The Unlikely Adventures of Mabel Jones/Will Mabbitt

"It should come as no surprise that the day I almost got my face clawed off by a vicious monster was a Thursday." —The Legend of Greg by Chris Rylander

**"The first time a guy felt me up was in the big church prayer room."** —Beyond the Break by Heather Buchta

That's what I got, peeps. What do you have for us? [tim@timburketales.com](mailto:tim@timburketales.com)



art provided by Heather Soodak [www.heathersoodak.com](http://www.heathersoodak.com)



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# SoCal SCBWI

## Grammar NERD

By Tim Burke



art provided by Heather Soodak [www.heathersoodak.com](http://www.heathersoodak.com)

## Issue 9: The Introductory Comma

In our very first issue of the newsletter, I covered the first of the five important comma rules every author should know—the so-called FANBOYS rule. Today, I'll cover the second rule—the Introductory Rule. As always, let's try to avoid fancy-pants grammar terms and make it as intuitive as possible.

**SITUATION 1:** If the sentence begins with a word or short phrase that tells where or when, put a comma after it.

**Examples:** \_

WHEN: First, Finally, In October, On Wednesday,  
At seven o'clock,

WHERE: In the corner, On the table, Next to the  
science building, Near my house

**SITUATION 2:** If our voice hints to us to pause by going down in pitch/if we need to know where the beginning group of words ends or it will cause confusion, put a comma after it.

**Examples:**

After he finished the entire test was collected. (Oops!  
After he finished, the test . . .)

Though all the children loved playing the piano was  
out of tune, so they refused to perform. (Oops!  
Though all the children loved playing, the piano . . .)

**HELPFUL HINT:** If the sentence begins with any of the following, you'll probably need a comma. (this is only a list of the most common words/phrases that trigger a comma) because since although when if after before despite in spite of

**CONCLUSION:** Before you submit to an agent or editor or critique group, comb the pages looking exclusively for this situation. Your writing will come across as more professional. As for your typos, no worries. Just blame them on Autocorrect. ;>}

**About Tim**

A former SoCal chapter RA, Tim has had short stories published in the adult crime fiction magazines Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine and Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine. He writes MG and YA. He once fought off a butterfly in the bathroom with nothing more than a spool of dental floss and a banjo thumbpick and has trained several shelter rescue mutts to cook eggplant al pomodoro without the aid of a cookbook. His big dream is someday when people mention him, they include his middle name like they do with the important authors. No, wait. That's for serial killers. Never mind.

art provided by S.J. Winkler [www.sjwinklerart.com](http://www.sjwinklerart.com)





# MARATHONS AND NOVELS

BY ILANA R. WIEDER



art provided by Heather Soodake [www.heathersoodak.com](http://www.heathersoodak.com)

In his book, *Writing the Breakout Novel*, Donald Maas suggests that while we work on our amazing masterpiece, we work on other stories as well. The Breakout Novel is the novel “that takes your fiction all the way to the highest level of achievement.” And that takes time and patience. If you depend on quick advances to make a living, Maas suggests to keep writing your books and work-for-hire novels, and to set aside some disciplined time to continue developing your Breakout Novel.

There was a time, several years ago, when I declared to my friends, “I’m signing up to run a marathon!” I was expecting cheers, smiles, and “Atta girl” type of responses. Instead, I was met with puzzled faces, silenced looks, and questions like, “Really?” My friend Josh was the brave one, “Did you ever run a marathon before?” he asked.

“Nope. But there’s nothing to it. I can do it.”

“Do you know how long a marathon is?”

“26.2 miles,” I said with proud certainty. Josh nodded and sipped his Long Island ice tea,

“That’s a long way to run. Maybe you should try a shorter race first? Like a 5K?”

I heeded his suggestion and I’m glad I did. The 5K race proved to be challenging enough for me even though I considered myself in top physical shape. It gave me great satisfaction to run a race with all the marathon runners, only my portion of the race was 3.2 miles instead of 26.2. I still received a medal and a t-shirt and celebrated along with everyone else. Josh was there to pat my back with an “Atta Girl” and a big smile.



art provided by Heather Soodake [www.heathersoodak.com](http://www.heathersoodak.com)

Heather Soodake

Ilana R. Wieder received her MFA in Theatre Arts from UC, Davis. She worked as a motion capture actress in L.A. for over 10 years, appearing in numerous children’s TV shows like *BRATZ* and *STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE* and performing in her own original One-Woman show. Currently, Ilana enjoys writing and directing plays as well as writing for children. Look for her stories and poems that are due to be published in *Highlights High Five* magazine in 2023. You can follow her on twitter (@llanaRW1 and IG Ilana\_rw

You can also sign up for her newsletter at [www.ilanarwieder.com](http://www.ilanarwieder.com)



# Orange County

# Children's Book Festival



art provided by Heather Soodak www.heathersoodak.com

Many of our SoCal chapter members took advantage of this year's OC Children's Book Festival and promoted their books in the hot sun.



art provided by Heather Soodak www.heathersoodak.com





# Podcast Highlight

By E. L. Tenenbaum

## Hello Fellow SoCal Chapter Members!

The (almost exact) quotes to follow are from Episodes EXTRAS! of my podcast Oh My Word!, spotlighting all kinds of people from the storytelling world, librarians, writers, agents, editors, illustrators, and more. There's so many different kinds of people in our book world, each with their own path, stories, and advice to share.

(See all podcast episodes [here](#) and look out for ones marked BONUS!/EXTRA! or visit [this](#) YouTube playlist. [Subscribe](#) or [follow](#) for instant release updates!)

"I had to really learn a little bit more about what a mystery reader is expecting, and I didn't realize that there's this sort of relationship between the author and the reader. This is very much true in the romance world even more so than I think mystery, where the reader is expecting x, y, and z, and you better produce that or they're gonna be upset."

Michelle Cox – [Mystery, She Wrote with Michelle Cox](#)

"I read books because they make me think a thought I hadn't thought before...I care that I'm looking at a world and I'm looking at a situation where I have to question my own choices and values and opinions."

Kolby Granville – [Recalculating with Kolby Granville](#)

Everyone's path is different. It's just what it's gonna be. Maybe the book you're querying right now isn't gonna be the book but the next one will be. You have to hang onto it, like if it's really what you want to do you have to hang onto it, because it is a lot of doors to get through. And it's not easy...and then when you write the book, then you gotta do all of the steel your heart because are going to throw so much rejection at you at first."

Ally Malinenko – [Haunting Houses with Ally Malinenko](#)

"I think reading and writing are like teaching and learning. They're so interwoven. I don't think you can be an outstanding writer if you're not an outstanding reader. To be a good writer, I think you have to read a lot, read widely, and examine what you read and love the words and the phrases and the figures of speech and kind of immerse yourself in the beauty of language in order to find your own voice and your own style and your own clarity in order to tell your own stories. And I think reading is essential for that."

Sarlyn Richard – [Putting in Time with Saralyn Richard](#)

"And then I thought, 'No, if this is the reaction I'm getting, then I need to learn how to write a book.' So I started taking all these craft classes, and I started to learn what I needed to know to write a book. I just kept revising, and this it the book that hit the USA Today Bestseller. It was my debut, it published when I was seventy, six years to write that book, it published when I was seventy, and when I was seventy-one it became a USA Today bestseller. So I'm a big believer in doing whatever it takes to make your dream come true...my dream was to be able to hold my book in my hands."

Barbara Conrey – [Holding the Dream with Barbara Conrey](#)

"It's always a gamble to listen to that talk. I try not to tell people that, 'Oh yeah, that genre, it's dead, you should just give it up,' because honestly any genre can make a comeback and I hope that all genres make a comeback, any ones that are dead. So, yeah, I think it just takes the right book for a genre to boom back to life."

Claire M. Andrews – [Reimagine with Claire M. Andrews](#)



# PINK SPHINX STORY STARTERS

BY SJ WINKLER

SJWINKLERART.COM



Need a seasonal spark for a new kid-friendly short story or picture book?  
 Pink Sphinx Story Starters are great for refreshing your creative flow.



You will need: 3 six-sided dice, this page, and something to write or draw your ideas.

Directions: Roll the dice for each column. Match the sum to the chart to complete the sentence below.  
 This will be the spark for your seasonal adventure:

“ \_\_\_\_\_ WHO \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Example: If I roll 6, 7, and 9, my spark is “A gamer opens a haunted toy box in a basement.”

Tip: Pink Sphinx supplies the who, what, and where — it’s up to us to figure out the details, names, why, how, and when.

#	WHO	WHAT	WHERE
3	A STUFFED ANIMAL	FIND(S) A TREASURE MAP	IN A SPOOKY BARN
4	RIVALS	SAVE(S) A RARE CREATURE	IN A PILE OF AUTUMN LEAVES
5	SIBLINGS	OPEN(S) A SCARY DOOR	AT A CARNIVAL
6	A GAMER	ENCOUNTER(S) A SLIMY MONSTER	AT A COSTUME PARTY
7	FRIENEMIES	OPEN(S) A HAUNTED TOY BOX	IN AN APPLE ORCHARD
8	THREE FRIENDS	WIN(S) A HUGE PILE OF CANDY	ON A PUMPKIN FARM
9	CAMPERS	DISCOVER(S) A CURSED JEWEL	IN A BASEMENT
10	A MAGICAL KID	MEET(S) AN INVISIBLE CHILD	AT THE PARK
11	A HOUSEHOLD PET	SAVE(S) THE DAY	AT THE FALL FESTIVAL
12	TWINS	COMPETE(S) IN A TALENT SHOW	IN A BAT-FILLED CAVE
13	A TINY WITCH	ENCOUNTER(S) AN URBAN LEGEND	IN AN ATTIC
14	SNACK BANDITS	DISCOVER(S) A MAGIC SCARECROW	AT THE ZOO
15	MISFITS	INVENT(S) A NEW HOLIDAY DESSERT	IN A HAUNTED LIBRARY
16	A FIBBER	FIND(S) A MYSTERIOUS EGG	ON THE PLAYGROUND
17	A MAGICAL ANIMAL	TUMBLE(S) INTO A GOBLIN CAVE	IN A MUSEUM
18	A GRUMPY KID	FIND(S) A LOST ROBOT	WHILE TRICK-OR-TREATING



# Featured Interview Opportunities for SoCal Chapter Members

Are you getting the most from your SoCal SCBWI membership? Each month our wonderful Cynthia De La Torre highlights our chapter's talented members with the "Get to Know Our Illustrator" and the "Get to Know Our Writer" featured interviews!

Each month the articles are announced in SCBWI SoCal's Facebook Groups:

## SCBWI SoCal Writers Meet-up

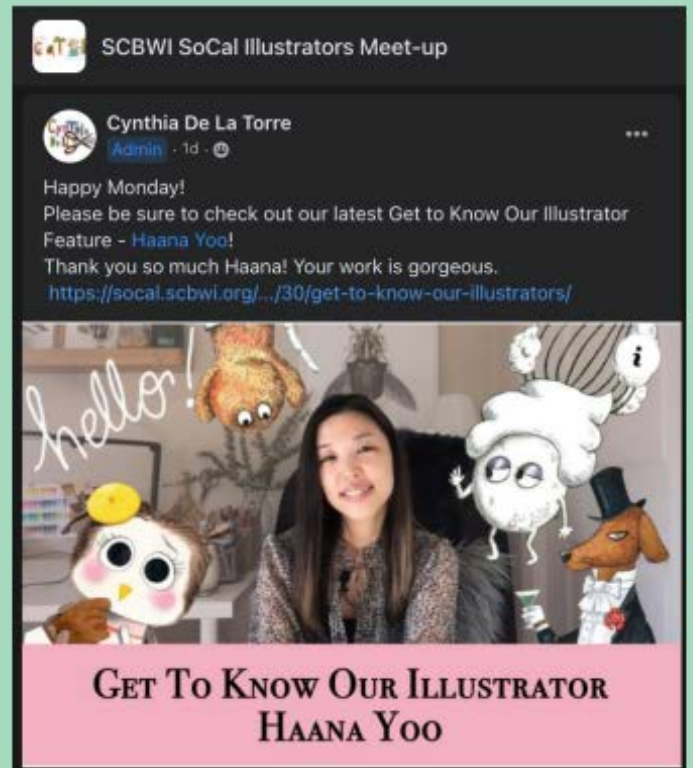


Missed out on previous writer interviews? Check out our previous Featured Writers at:

<https://socal.scbwi.org/2022/05/02/previous-get-to-know-our-writers/>



## SCBWI SoCal Illustrators Meet-Up



Missed out on previous illustrator interviews? Check out our previous Featured Illustrators at:

<https://socal.scbwi.org/previous-get-to-know-our-illustrators/>



Members interested in being a featured writer or illustrator of the month should contact Cynthia De La Torre (socal-ara2@scbwi.org) or Samantha Winkler (sjwinklerart@gmail.com) for more information.



# WANTED! DEAD OR ALIVE! SCBWI SoCAL VOLUNTEERS! ...PREFERABLY ALIVE

## WEBMASTER - (OR WEB ASSISTANT)

We need someone who is comfortable with updating our SoCal SCBWI website. You'd be asked to update the dates on monthly meetings each month. A few times a year, we'd need you to set up registration pages. The text and graphics would be provided to you.

(Bev can show you the basics as you get started, and there are easy "how to" pages as references.)

## READ LOCAL CHALLENGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We need members to implement a promotional activity for local published authors and illustrators (inspired by our friends back east: <https://mddewv.scbwi.org/read-local/>). The team would collect info and pics from local authors and illustrators, create a poster and web page featuring the books created by local members, and send the poster to local school librarians, public librarians and bookstores in our region.



## EVENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We need people who can help plan for events! The events could include: Fall Conference, Critique-fest, and half-day illustrator workshops.

Planning includes:

Organizing the schedule of the event, location (if in person), finding speakers for the event, and helping the day of the event.

ILLUSTRATED BY SJ WINKLER (@sjwinklerart)







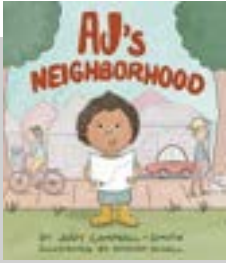
# MEMBER NEWS

By Desi St. Amant



art provided by Heather Soodak [www.heathersoodak.com](http://www.heathersoodak.com)

Desi St. Amant is a high school English teacher and an aspiring middle grade novelist.



**Judy Campbell-Smith did a reading of AJ'S NEIGHBORHOOD at the Claremont Forum Bookstore on August 14 at 12pm as part of their Summer Reading Program. Located in Claremont Village: 586 W 1st St, Claremont CA.**

**Twitter: @j\_campbellsmith  
Website: [www.JudyCampbellSmith.com](http://www.JudyCampbellSmith.com)**

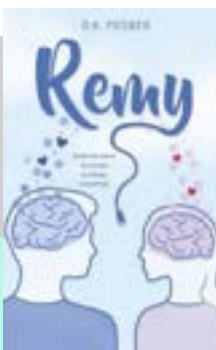
Gayle Gaviola is thrilled to announce that she's signed with Brent Taylor of Triada US for author representation, and to bring to life her first novel -- a YA enemies-to-lovers romcom with a Filipina American lead inspired by her personal upbringing as a military brat. IG: @gaylegavs



Carlene Griffith released the 2nd book in her ROSE MAIDELAIDEN series September 1st on Kindle Vella. It's called ROSE MAIDELAIDEN: THE UNOFFICIAL TALE OF HOW THE LILY GOT ITS NAME. After all the Episodes are published, she will compile them into a book that will be available on Amazon.com.

Twitter: @AuthorCGriffith  
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**Carla Mino's first book CRYSTAL HEALING: A Guide for Writers releases on June 23, 2022. Also, on June 13, 2022, she is launching her "Write Your Bestseller Book in 90 days" Creative Coaching Program.**



**Kim Posner is excited to announce that her self-published YA novel REMY (by D.K. Posner) has been released on Amazon and Bookbaby. Website: [dkposner.com](http://dkposner.com)**

Three of Ilana Rogel-Wieder's submissions were acquired by Highlights High-Five magazine, which will be published in their 2023 issues.

Twitter: @IlanaRW1  
IG: Ilana\_rw  
Website: [www.ilanarwieder.com](http://www.ilanarwieder.com)



SJ Winkler is pleased to announce EVERY OTHER CHRISTMAS, written by Katie Otey and published by Sky Pony Press, successfully released September 20, 2022 and is now available!

She has three more picture book contracts ready for release in 2023: SISTER by Leia M. Johnson, SASQUATCH NINJA CLOWN by John Bowen, and I AM A GIANT by PG Rutledge.

Social Media: @sjwinklerart Website: [sjwinklerart.com](http://sjwinklerart.com)

ARE YOU A SOCIAL MEMBER WITH SOME GOOP NEWS TO SHARE? VISIT [SOCIAL.SCPWLD.ORG/MEMBER-GOOP-NEWS](http://SOCIAL.SCPWLD.ORG/MEMBER-GOOP-NEWS) AND FILL OUT THE FORM!





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# NEWSLETTER STAFF

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## ART DIRECTOR: Carlene Griffith

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Twitter: @desistamant

To share your good news: Visit <https://socal.scbwi.org/member-good-news/> and fill out the online form.

## PROOFREADER: Christine Henderson

A two-time Author of the Month for her stories in Highlights magazine, Christine Henderson is currently revising her first middle-grade novel. During the school year, Christine works as an instructional aide for the Corona-Norco school district.

Twitter @cm\_henderson.



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