

# KITE TALES

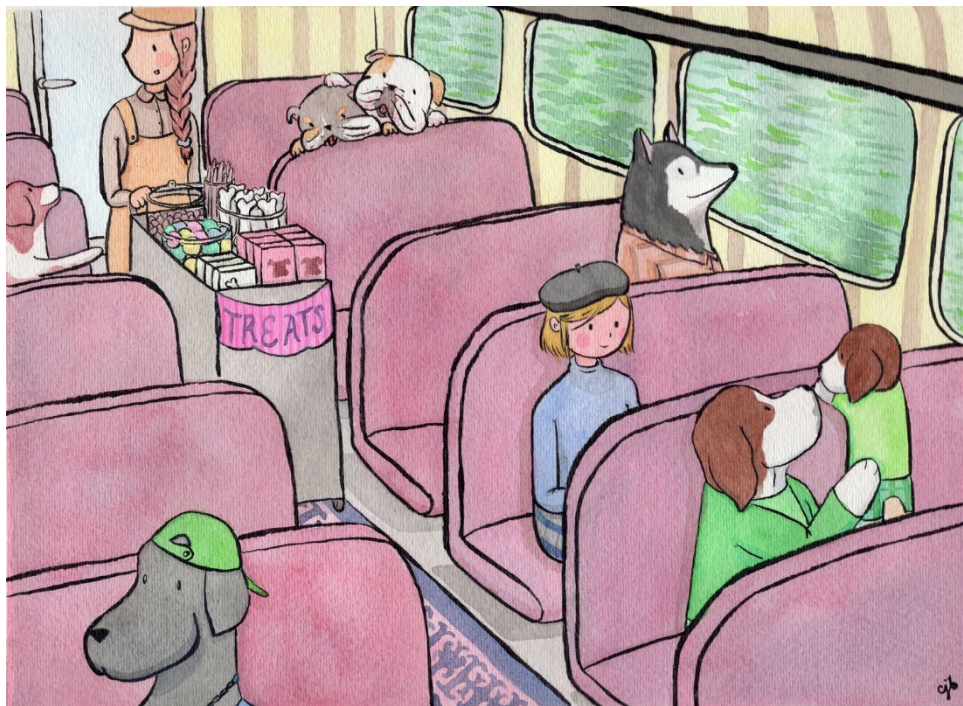
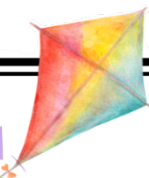


Illustration by Caroline Brown, [Website](#), [Instagram](#)

## A NOTE FROM YOUR REGIONAL TEAM

Most of us grew up hearing, “April showers bring May flowers.” Sure enough, when I woke up on April 1, rain was pelting the windows. The showers reminded me of a church song from my growing up years—“Showers of Blessings”—and then my stream of consciousness took me to another song from my childhood—“Count Your Blessings.” While my spiritual path is now different than back in those days, the baseline truth of those two songs still remains. I am blessed and it would serve me well to remember that.

We’re blessed in our SCBWI Florida region, too. Our region has a rich history of wonderful Regional Team volunteer-leaders who have helped countless authors and illustrators flourish and grow. I am blessed to work with our current Regional Team members: Becky Herzog, Fred Koehler, and Angela Padron. A host of other volunteers continue to keep our region humming along come rain or shine. As a region we’re blessed by opportunity after opportunity from critique events to Boot Camps, from conferences to contests, from free area meetings to new virtual opportunities. And we’re blessed to be members of the largest world-wide organization for creatives like us—The Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. But most of all, we’re blessed to be able to create work that can inspire, inform, and make a difference in the lives of kidlit readers.

If the old adage is true, the showers of blessing will lead to results. I’m not expecting flowers, but I’m counting on our SCBWI Florida blessings to result in growth among all of us beyond our wildest imagination.

As the April showers continue this month, stop. Think. Reflect. And count your blessings.

Rob Sanders, Regional Co-Advisor

### Call For Good News!

We would love to celebrate good news with you. If you have career milestones to share, please [use this form](#) to submit them for the next newsletter (examples: new book contracts, upcoming book releases, magazine covers or articles, signing with an agent, book signings, etc.).

### Call for Illustrations!

If you would like one of your illustrations in our regional newsletter, please submit jpegs or links to your portfolio [with this form](#).

### Call for Volunteers!

Many hands make light work.

We are always looking for volunteers throughout our region. If you are interested in volunteering, please [use this form](#) to let us know!

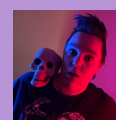
### Looking for a Critique Group?

Email Mindy Alyse Weiss at [mindyalyseweiss@gmail.com](mailto:mindyalyseweiss@gmail.com) and she will help you!

### Your Regional Team



Rob Sanders, Co-RA



Becky Herzog, Co-RA



Angela Padron, ARA



Fred Koehler, IC

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## PANEL DISCUSSION: HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A CONFERENCE—AN INSIDER'S POV

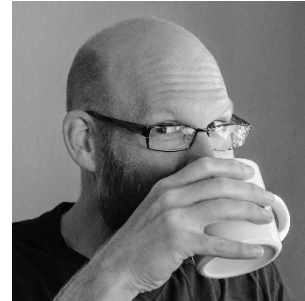
**Saturday, April 23, 2022**  
**2:00-3:30 PM**



**Dorian Cirrone**



**Moira Donohue**



**Fred Koehler**

**Moderated by Rob Sanders**

Since spring 2020, we've all been attending a lot of conferences, workshops, and other kidlit events online. Now, we're moving into the era when face-to-face conferences are slowly beginning to emerge again. But what is a creative to do with all the input coming your way? How do you sift through the content to get to what really can improve your work? How do you listen and really hear so you can apply what editors, agents, and fellow creatives are saying? How do you use the feedback from a critique? And what do you do once a conference is over?

We've invited three panelists to discuss this and more with us on Saturday, April 23, in SCBWI Florida's next installment of our Virtual Free Meetings. The panelists will help us know how to turn "attending an event" into "impacting your creative work." All three have attended their fair share of conferences. All three have helped plan and implement conferences themselves. And all three have found success applying what they've learned to their own creative projects.



## SO, IT'S YOUR FIRST CONFERENCE (OR YOU FIRST IN A LONG TIME)—WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

**Saturday, May 7, 2022**  
**2:00-3:00 PM**

**PRESENTERS:** Members of the SCBWI Florida Regional Team and members of our Membership Engagement Team

Feeling anxious about our upcoming conference? Waking up in the middle of the night with questions? Wondering about the schedule? Don't know the difference between an intensive and a breakout session? Curious about how critiques will be conducted?

Join some SCBWI Florida friends as we walk through the schedule, point out handy resources, answer your questions, and turn your anxiousness into excitement. Whether this is your first conference, or you've been attending events since Walt Disney roamed Florida, you're welcome to attend.

In addition to all the helpful info you'll receive, you'll also meet some friendly folks who you'll be able to pick out of the crowd at the conference, join for a meal, and talk shop with while in Orlando.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD SCBWI FLORIDA REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2022 MAY 13-15, 2022

Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista –  
Disney Springs Area

1751 Hotel Plaza Boulevard  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

**Early Bird Registration Pricing ends TODAY, April 4, 2022!**

**All member prices increase \$25 after 5:00 PM!**

**We have just a few critique slots left. Register before 5:00 PM today to receive invaluable feedback on your work-in-progress!**

**Don't Delay—Register Today**

## PAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Heidi Tyline King is the author of *Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch*, her first book for children. Her next picture book, *Flash!*, chronicles the firefly research of John Bonner Buck and his groundbreaking discoveries in bioluminescence. A graduate of the University of Alabama, she lives in Tallahassee, Florida.

<https://www.heiditking.com/>



**JASON:** Hi, Heidi! Congratulations on the accolades and warm reception your debut picture book, *Saving American Beach*, has already received! For those of us who have not yet had a chance to read it, could you tell us what the book is about?

**HEIDI:** *Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch*, is a story about an African American woman who saved a beach in Florida that was critical for environmental concerns but also because of its history. In the 1930s and '40s, it was one of the only beaches in Florida where African Americans could visit. The story is also about resilience and activism, and how one person can make a difference.

**JASON:** Wow! I grew up on the First Coast, yet I never knew the historical importance of *American Beach*. Thank you for writing and teaching us about MaVynee Betsch and her legacy. Speaking of writing, what is the best piece of writing advice you have ever received?

**HEIDI:** Marry someone with insurance.

**JASON:** Ha! That made me laugh out loud (and cry a little on the inside). What are you currently working on that you are most excited about?

**HEIDI:** My next picture book biography for children is about John Bonner Buck, the grandfather of bioluminescence and his work on fireflies. He discovered why fireflies flash and a thousand other things about them, but more importantly it's a book about the glory and wonder of science.

**JASON:** That sounds wonderful, Heidi. Thank you for taking the time to talk with us!



## KUDOS CORNER



**Sara Echenique's** debut picture book, **OUR ROOF IS BLUE**, comes out from Charlesbridge in 2023 and their debut middle grade book, **HISPANIC STAR**: **ROBERTO CLEMENTE**, with Roaring Book Press in 2022!

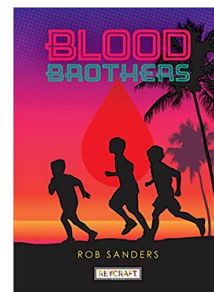
**John Herzog** is excited to announce that he is now represented by Kayla Cichello at Upstart Crow Literary!

Congrats to **Gail Lenhard & Jeanne Mansfield**! Their book, **I TALK WITH MY HANDS: THE CONTEST**, was published in February 2022 by Elk Lake Publishing.



**B.J. Lee's** picture book under contract, **THERE WAS A BLUE WHALE WHO TANGLED WITH PLASTIC**, is due out Spring, 2023 from Flamingo Press (Clear Fork).

**Rob Sanders'** debut middle grade novel, **BLOOD BROTHERS**, will be released in July by Reycraft Books!



**Eileen Meyer** is delighted to announce that she is now represented by the amazing Liza Fleissig at the Liza Royce Agency!

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

The nicest thing about the rain is that it stops eventually. —*Unknown*

Without rain there is no life. —*Jerry Yang*

After the rain, the sun will appear. There is life. After the pain, the joy will still be here. —*Walt Disney*

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass . . . it's learning to dance in the rain. —*Vivian Greene*

### DO YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

We would love to celebrate good news with you. If you have career milestones to share, please [use this form](#) to submit them for the next newsletter (examples: new books contracts, upcoming book releases, magazine covers or articles, signing with an agent, book signings, etc.).

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Visit [www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org) to renew your membership and update your email and mailing address!

CLICK TO CONNECT WITH THE SCBWI FLORIDA REGION

