

NJ SCBWI – 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – JUNE 3/4/5

DETAILED CONFERENCE INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION: Princeton Wyndham, Princeton, NJ, <http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/EWRCC/main.wnt>
Rooms are \$90 per night. Click the reservation button on the main conference page (<http://www.newjerseyscbwi.com/events/110604%20conference.shtml>) to reserve. Space is limited.

SCHEDULE: You will receive your personalized schedule, including your optional critique time and the name of your critiquer(s), on the day of the conference. Conference hours are:

Pre-conference Intensives: Friday, June 3, 12:30 to 4:30pm (registration from 11:30)

Note: Some critiques will be scheduled after the intensives for participants.

First Timers' Session: Friday, June 3, 4:00 to 5:00pm (registration from 3:30)

Mix and Mingle: Friday, June 3, 7:20 to 9:30pm (registration from 6:30)

Full Conference:

Saturday, June 4, 8:40am to 6:15pm (registration from 7:45, breakfast from 8:00)

Sunday, June 5, 9:00am to 4:00pm (breakfast from 8:00)

PAYMENT: If you are paying by check, you must include it when you send your registration form. If you would like to use a credit card:

1. Send the money via paypal to Kathy@newjerseyscbwi.com
2. Add \$10 processing fee to the total registration cost
3. When you send your registration form, include a note that says you paid with paypal.

VOLUNTEER: We can't run a conference of this size without our wonderful volunteers. If you're interested in helping out, email Ame Dyckman at ame@newjerseyscbwi.com with a subject line of *NJ SCBWI – Volunteer*.

DONATE: We conduct an auction at the conference to benefit our scholarship fund. You can donate anything—books, equipment, theater tickets, critiques, services, baskets of writing tools, food, toys—whatever you like. Help us help your fellow writers attend NJ SCBWI events. Email donate@newjerseyscbwi.com with a subject line of *NJ SCBWI – Donation*.

QUESTIONS: Email Connie at colon102@verizon.net with a subject line of *NJ SCBWI – Questions*.

FIRST TIMERS' SESSION

Never been to the NJ SCBWI conference--or perhaps any writing conference? We'll go through the schedule so you know where to be when. Find out what to expect in a critique and what to do if you have a problem. Meet other attendees and some of the folks in charge. The conference schedule is jam-packed. Attend this workshop to get the most out of your conference experience--and bring your questions! So register at 3:30 and join us at 4:00.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOPS AND PRE-CONFERENCE INTENSIVES

www.newjerseyscbwi.com/110604_workshops.pdf

ONE-ON-ONE CRITIQUE (additional cost)

We will contact you about five weeks before the conference and tell you where to mail your manuscript. This can be either a full picture book or fifteen pages plus a short (1-2 pages) synopsis of a novel. Do not include any illustrations or dummies. (You may share these with your mentor during your critique.)

Use industry standard manuscript formatting:

- Use double spaced, left justified, 12 point Times New Roman or Courier font.
- Allow one-inch margins all around, half-inch indents for each new paragraph.
- Break to a new page at chapter breaks
- Print on only one side of the paper.
- Put your name and full contact information on the first page.
- On subsequent pages, put your name, title (shortened if necessary), and page number.

We will forward your manuscript (text only) to one of the mentors for critiquing. Assignment to a particular mentor cannot be guaranteed. During the workshop, you will meet individually with your mentor for fifteen minutes. At that time, you will receive a written critique and your mentor will review your manuscript with you. If there's time, you may choose to discuss other manuscripts or any questions you might have about children's book writing.

You may sign up for more than one critique, but your second critique must be with an author, before a third critique with an editor/agent.

AUTHOR CRITIQUES (additional cost)

You will find that having a published author critique your work is a great thing to have done. Authors always throw themselves into the manuscript and give 200%. The following authors will be providing critiques:

Sudipta Bardham	Author (Picture Book Intensive)
Leeza Hernandez	Author/Illustrator, PB
Eileen Kennedy-Moore	Author PB
Audrey Vernick	Author MG & PB
Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich	Author MG Novel
Charlotte Bennardo	Author YA Paranormal
Natalie Zaman	Author YA Paranormal, Steampunk
Felicia Chernesky	Author/Poet, PB or five pages of poetry
Susan Steen	Author PB
Sandra Steen	Author PB

PORTFOLIO REVIEWS (additional cost)

Illustrators who sign up for a portfolio review with an art director, may also get a one-on-one critique with an editor or agent before signing up for an author critique. Just write a note on your registration form that this is what you're doing and sign up for the "one-on-one" critique/review and the "third" critique/review.

SPECIAL CONSULTATIONS (additional cost)

Harold Underdown, Stephen Barbara, Eileen Robinson, and Leeza Hernandez have agreed to do a limited number of special consultations over the two-day conference. Harold will give a marketing critique of up to a fifteen page manuscript plus synopsis. This should be a polished manuscript, perhaps already sent out to publishers. He'll give advice on how to make your manuscript more marketable and make suggestions about appropriate publishers. If he thinks your manuscript needs a

writing critique instead, that's what he'll give. If you sign up for Stephen, you will submit the first five pages and a synopsis of a middle grade or young adult novel. You will have thirty minutes to discuss your story and ask questions. Eileen will give a thirty-minute editorial consultation of up to fifteen pages of a novel (plus synopsis) or a complete picture book. Leeza will give a "portfolio shakedown" for illustrators who don't feel ready to show their work to an art director or are unsure of what's working or what's not working in their pieces.

Space is limited for these consultations. They don't count as a one-on-one critique, so if you sign up for these, you can still sign up for an editor critique as your first one-on-one critique.

JURIED ART EXHIBIT (no additional cost)

All illustrators are invited to exhibit one piece of art on their own easel during the conference. These pieces of art will be judged by the faculty on Saturday morning and a winner will be announced at Saturday's lunch. Also, illustrators will be provided a table and space to display their portfolio, postcards and business cards for faculty review during the conference. All art pieces will be displayed for the whole two days. To participate, email Cathleen Thole-Daniels at cathleen@catheleendaniels.com by **April 15th**, with a subject line of *NJ SCBWI – Juried Art Exhibit*.

BOOKFAIR (no additional cost)

We have hired a local bookseller, Labyrinth Books, to handle the book sales. This means that your book must be available from a national wholesaler or distributor, such as Baker and Taylor, Ingram, National Book Network, etc. Attendees will buy your book(s) from the bookseller and then come to your table for the signing. All you need to bring is your pen. To participate, email Kelly Calabrese at kaji4@aol.com by **April 15th**, with a subject line of *NJ SCBWI – Bookfair*.

SATURDAY NIGHT PEER GROUP CRITIQUE (no additional cost)

If you chosen to participate in the group critique, you will be assigned into a group with other attendees about a month before the workshop. Everyone in the group e-mails a copy of his/her manuscript to the others in the group. This does not have to be the same manuscript as the one for your one-on-one critique. You can submit either a full picture book or fifteen pages plus a synopsis of a novel. Before the workshop, read all the manuscripts and write down your comments. You will share these written critiques with your group members, and give them your written notes, during the workshop. To participate, email Connie Colón at colon102@verizon.net by **May 1st**, with a subject line of *NJ SCBWI – Peer Group Critique*.

FIRST PAGE SESSION (no additional cost)

If you signed up for a first page session, you may or may not have been assigned to one, depending on whether there is room. Just in case, bring three copies of a first page of a single manuscript with you. Do not put your name on the paper, but do include a title and indicate the genre (picture book, chapter book, middle grade, young adult, non-fiction). Your manuscript must fit on a single sheet of paper. If you submit a second page, only the first page will be read.

Use standard manuscript formatting—double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Courier font, one-inch margins all around, half-inch indents for each new paragraph, single column of text. You may include up to the first 24 printed lines (not sentences!) of text from your manuscript. For picture books, this will be more than the first physical page of your manuscript. If your text is rhyming, put each rhymed line on a separate line.

All the first pages will be read aloud by volunteer readers and two editors/agents will give their critiques.

AGENT PITCH SESSION (no additional cost)

If you signed up for an agent pitch session, you may or may not have been assigned to one, depending on whether there is room. There is no choice of agent. At the session, you will have three minutes, one-on-one, with an agent to pitch your book. Since the time is so limited, you should practice your pitch before the conference so you don't waste time. For pitch tips - <http://kathytemean.wordpress.com/2010/03/23/one-line-book-pitch-discussion/>