

# *Is RACWI a Good Fit for Me?*

FAQs about Rochester Area Children's Writers and Illustrators (RACWI)  
RACWI welcomes all children's writers and illustrators!

## **Who are we? What do we do?**

We are a group who shares a love for children's books. We are a community who learns together and studies the craft of children's writing and illustration. We support and encourage each other as we navigate the ever-changing publishing environment.

## **Do your goals align with RACWI's mission?**

### **RACWI Mission Statement**

"Rochester Area Children's Writers and Illustrators provides coordinated monthly meetings to share knowledge about writing and illustrating for children and information regarding the publishing process. Our goal is to help those writers and illustrators seeking publication in the field of children's writing and illustrating and those already published to improve their craft through quality programs and workshops, critique groups and the RACWI Reports newsletter."

- If you are interested in learning more about self-publishing, we do have a small sub-group that meets separately to explore the self-publishing route.
- If you already have a book in printed form and are seeking help with promotion, please note that we are not a marketing opportunity, although some of our meetings focus on the business side of creating books for children.

## **When and where do we meet?**

We meet on the **first Thursday of each month** from September to June.

At this time (2020-2021), we've moved to a **virtual format**. Paid members receive a monthly newsletter with the Zoom link for the meeting. (Pre-pandemic, we met at Barnes & Noble in Pittsford.)

- ★ As a potential new member, you can attend ONE COMPLIMENTARY meeting to decide if you would like to join RACWI. If you'd like to become a member, please fill out a membership form and pay dues.

## **What are some examples of meeting topics?**

Each month features a RACWI member sharing his/her talents or a guest presenter. Meeting topics vary and have included: author's craft topics on characterization, setting, plot; fiction/nonfiction structure; picture book - YA genre criteria; illustrator showcase; critique tables; presentations from agents and/or editors, Illustrator Panel, tips for finding an agent, finding fresh angles to write a story, and many more.

## **How do we collaborate with BNCWI?**

As a paid member, you will have access to the Buffalo-Niagara Children's Writers and Illustrators (BNCWI) newsletter and meeting opportunities. They meet on Monday nights, once a month, and also focus on craft.

## **What does the RACWI Board do?**

The Board positions are filled with members who volunteer their time to give back to RACWI and its outreach programs.

## **How does RACWI sponsor the Rochester Children's Book Festival?**

The RCBF is a day of authors and illustrators meeting the public, read alouds, presentations, book-related crafts, and autographing books that are sold by our vendor, LiftBridge Books. RACWI members help the book festival in many ways. They assist festival organizers throughout the year, and volunteer on festival weekend to set up the venue at MCC, and run the event with the organizers on festival day. Volunteers greet the public, help authors and visitors navigate the event, and assist children in the craft areas. In addition, RACWI members read and give presentations to the RCBF literacy outreach program (*Festival To Go*) in conjunction with the Rochester City School District.

## **I have more questions, who do I contact?**

For more information, contact our RACWI Greeter: [HelloRACWI@gmail.com](mailto>HelloRACWI@gmail.com)