



### Congratulations!

Marcela Staudenmaier (L) and Kip Wilson Rechea, winners of a scholarship to next year's New England annual conference. Marcella received the Ann Barrow illustration scholarship (that's her work above) and Kip received the Ruth Glass writer scholarship. Read Francine Puckly's interviews inside.

Attendees of the 2013 conference are eligible to apply next year. Watch for info in the spring.

Photo by Betsy Devany

Thanks to Marcella for sharing her art for this issue of the NEWS.



### 41st SCBWI

#### Summer Conference

August 3 - 6, 2012 |

Los Angeles, California

**Whether you are an author or illustrator, published or unpublished, create picture books or young adult novels, you won't want to miss the SCBWI Summer Conference.**

**Get together with other New England members on Friday, August 3. Watch for time & location!**

Can't Attend? Follow the action virtually: See [scbwi.org](http://scbwi.org) for more info.

#### SCBWI Conference Blog

In the weeks leading up to the conference, we'll feature interviews with our prestigious faculty so that you can know what to expect and look forward to. The blog will also be ongoing during the conference and feature pictures, videos and recaps of the keynote addresses and panels at the conference.

#### Follow @scbwi on Twitter

Our speakers, attendees and bloggers will be tweeting!

Follow us and the hash tag #LA12SCBWI to get the latest.

If you are tweeting from the conference please **tag your tweets #LA12SCBWI.**

#### Like us on Facebook

*See inside for Market News, Overcoming Challenges flyer, open crit groups, and more!!*

**SCBWI New England Spotlight**  
**An Interview with Marcela Staudenmaier**  
**Winner of the 2012 Ann Barrow Illustrators Scholarship**  
**Francine Puckly**

NESCBWI is pleased to introduce you to Marcela Staudenmaier, the winner of the 2012 Ann Barrow Illustrators Scholarship. Marcela is a former architect who recently turned to writing and illustrating for children as a full-time endeavor.

NEWS: Congratulations on winning the 2012 Ann Barrow Illustrator's Scholarship.

MS: Thank you. I am honored to have been selected as the recipient of this Award in memory of Ann Barrow.

NEWS: How did you select the pieces of art for the scholarship submission?

MS: I wanted to show a wide range of mediums and themes. I made sure to include the pieces that I liked but also had received good feedback from my instructors and classmates at RISD-CE and from my SCBWI critique group. People with different backgrounds are often drawn to the same illustrations – ones that seem to evoke memories or allow them to imagine a story.

NEWS: You began your career as an architect. What made you make the switch from architecture to children's illustration?

MS: I always loved to write and draw as a way of expressing myself and communicating with others. As a little girl, I was amazed by picture books. (I have to thank my parents for providing me with dozens of them.) I not only wanted to enjoy them – I wanted to make my own books! The practice of architecture, as fascinating as it was, did not allow me to have extra time to create artistically. I watched my daughter enjoy her books so much from a very early age, and this encouraged me to make writing and illustrating for children a full-time commitment.

NEWS: How does your background support and/or hinder your development of your





children's illustration?

MS: I like to think that a picture book and a building, in many ways, are similar. As in architectural design, the process of making a picture book is not a random one. It's about conceptualizing ideas, creating an order, a rhythm, a promenade. Making a book dummy reminds me of making a model of a building. So many variables come in to play. It is a constant producing, revising and redoing, until it works so naturally that it seems effortless.

Architecture also taught me to have discipline and good organizational skills, to collaborate with a multidisciplinary team of people, to be willing to work within pre-established parameters, and to appreciate constructive critique. And no matter how much you think you know about certain topic, something completely new comes along that requires you to start from scratch, conduct additional research, use new materials and technologies, immerse yourself in a new place, and work hard and passionately until you achieve the final product.

NEWS: You enrolled in the Rhode Island School of Design in 2010. What is your specific course of study?

MS: I am enrolled in the Children's Book Illustration Certificate Program, which is one of fourteen Certificate Programs that RISD Continuing Education offers for adults.

NEWS: What are your favorite courses at RISD?

MS: I've acquired so many invaluable tools in many classes but my favorite courses

have been “Children’s Book Illustration I” with Lori Surdut Weinberg, “Children’s Book Illustration II” with Cheryl Kirk Noll and “Children’s Book Illustration III” with Emilie Boon. The class assignments simulated actual illustration assignments you might receive from a children’s book publisher. The critiques in class and the contact with our experienced and talented instructors made every task even more interesting!

NEWS: What are your favorite media you use in illustration?

MS: I work in a variety of media: watercolor, gouache, acrylic, graphite pencil and marker on paper. I also enjoy creating three-dimensional paper collages that I later photograph to achieve my final illustrations.

NEWS: Have you attended any SCBWI conferences before?

MS: This year I had the pleasure of attending the SCBWI Winter Conference in New York City and the SCBWI New England Conference. Both were wonderful experiences!

NEWS: Do you participate in an illustrators’ critique group or do you work independently?

MS: I have the privilege of being a member of an SCBWI critique group called “Once Upon a Shoreline Writer’s Group” led by author Kathleen Kudlinski. Most members are

writers but there are a few who write and illustrate. We meet monthly in Guilford, Connecticut. Everyone is so talented and generous! Their honest and expert advice is priceless.

NEWS: What are your three to five year goals for illustration?

MS: In three to five years from now, I would like to celebrate the publication of my first children’s book! I would like to develop a long-lasting professional relationship with an art director/publisher, keep growing as an artist, and



continue to connect with people through my art.

NEWS: When you’re not illustrating, what are you doing?

MS: Playing with my four-year-old daughter – she is my toughest critic and my biggest admirer.

You can follow Marcela Staudenmaier at:

[marcelastaudenmaier.com](http://marcelastaudenmaier.com) and [marcelaiillustration.blogspot.com](http://marcelaiillustration.blogspot.com)