

## **Alumna to conduct workshop on writing children's books**

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Susan Williams Beckhorn, who earned a BFA from Alfred University in 1975 and a master's degree in English education in 1991, will be conducting a workshop, "Introduction to Writing Children's Books," at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center on Main Street in Wellsville. The course, which will be held from 6-8:15 p.m. each Monday, beginning Oct. 6 and ending Nov. 10, is designed for both beginning writers and published authors. It will be based on reading and writing assignments, with some in-class writing exercises and critiques. Beckhorn is the author of five children's books, two of which she also illustrated. She has taught writing in mentoring programs, at the annual Rochester Children's Book Festival at Monroe Community College, and served on the faculty of the Highlights Foundation Conference for Children's Writers and Illustrators at Chautauqua Institute in July 2008. Beckhorn's most recent novel, *Wind Rider*, won the University of Rochester's Andrew Eiseman Writers' Award in the young readers' category, and the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association Regional Book Award in the children's category. It received starred reviews from *Kliatt* and *Book List*; was recently published in Germany; and was released in paperback Sept. 23. She believes, "Children's books are the mother's milk of literature. They should nourish and inspire, and it wouldn't hurt if they protected kids from infections and allergies too! No one should think that writing for children is easy or trivial. Our children deserve the best we can give them."