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## **Three generations of artists collaborate to educate the next generation of readers**



(From left to right) Carol Bryant, Katherine Shields and Leigh Klug will host a book reading/signing and art class at Wimberley Village Library on Jan. 16.

**(<http://www.sanmarcosrecord.com/features/x2056566850/Three-generations-of-artists-collaborate-to-educate-the-next-generation-of-readers>)**

### **Daily Record Features (<http://www.sanmarcosrecord.com>)**

San Marcos — Earlier this year, author Kathleen Shields approached character illustrator Leigh Klug about a troll.

With the desire of adding a face to her words, Shields shared the story of Hamilton Troll to Klug who listened and laughed with the merriment of a young child herself. Moments after hearing about Hamilton, with the swipe of her pencil, she sketched out the beginning stages of the “cutest troll you’ll ever meet.”

With that, the two of them began working on “Hamilton Troll meets Pink Light Sprite,” the introductory book, with Shields’ computerized backgrounds.

While the women decided the book was pretty, they knew it was lacking something: a world. That’s when award winning artist, Carol Bryant, joined the team.

“It is this trifecta that makes these books so appealing to the children,” Shields said. “Without my words, there would just be pictures, without Leigh’s characters there would be no one to fall in love with and without Carol’s backgrounds there would be no place for Hamilton to play.”

The trio have managed to create and release three Hamilton Troll adventures this year.

Each of these women are nearly twenty years apart from one another. Three generations of women from the 40s, 60s and late 70s are not only able to pull their talents to create these books, and work with each other through differing life perspectives, but that in each of their own ways are able to share their talents with the youngest generation.

Bryant teaches art classes, Klug shows the kids how to draw trolls and Shields reads to the children at libraries and schools.

“The rhyming story pulls the children into the tale. The adorable characters yank on those heart strings

and the backgrounds help the children escape into a world where everyone is friendly, where the stories are light-hearted but educational, where fun life lessons are taught and happy dreams are made," Shields said.

With at least 15 stories written of the 'meets' series and plans for the 'visits' series, a coloring and activity book and cookbook, Hamilton Troll is gearing up for a lifetime of adventures.

Join the adventure at the Wimberley Village Library on Jan. 16 where Shields, Klug and Bryant will host a book signing and reading and draw with children.

For more information on the book signing visit [www.WimberleyLibrary.org](http://www.WimberleyLibrary.org). For more information on Hamilton Troll visit [www.HamiltonTroll.com](http://www.HamiltonTroll.com)

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