

Workshop Session One (9:30 – 10:20 am)

First Chapter Lighting

Presented by: Mario Acevedo and Warren Hammond

Description: Zap your readers in the first chapter and keep them hooked. In this intensive workshop, we'll identify styles and techniques and deconstruct examples from successful authors.

Tickling the Muse: Exercises to Break Through Writers Block

Presented by: Chris Mandeville

Description: Every writer gets stuck at one time or another, and can benefit from tools designed to break through the dreaded "writer's block." Whether you're stuck now, or just want to prepare yourself for the inevitable, bring pen and paper for hands-on to get you back on the "write" track.

Ten Steps to Creating Memorable Characters

Presented by: Sandra Hicks

Description: If you've ever been told your characters lack depth, come across as cardboard, then this workshop is for you. Based on the book, Ten Steps To Creating Memorable Characters, co-written by the presenter, attendees will learn how to beef up their characters and make them truly memorable.

Dismembering the Best Seller

Presented by: Bonnie Ramthun

Description: How do best selling novelists construct their stories? Selected best-selling novels will be dismembered and their secrets revealed. Learn how to critically examine novels and understand the strategies that are common to best-sellers. Learn how to use their strategies in your own writing to create a more powerful novel.

GET REAL: Writing Nonfiction for Children and Adults

Presented by: Phyllis Perry

Description: Many readers, young and old, love facts as much as fiction. Come and learn more about writing nonfiction that grabs and holds the attention of both adults and young people with topics ranging from Crafty Canines, Bats, and Ocean Animals, to Colorado History.

Turning Regular Life into Extraordinary Stories

Presented by: Robert Sanchez

Description: The best stories are the simplest ones. But how do you turn an everyday topic into something special? This workshop will help teach writers to use basic narrative techniques and to trust their voice.

Liposuction for your Overweight Manuscript

Presented by: Linda Berry

Description: In this workshop we'll consider some of the ways writing becomes overweight and weak. We'll discuss ways to make writing tighter and stronger. Participants will do an editing exercise using guidelines presented in the handout, "Flee Flabby Formulations."

The Art of Creating a Short Story

Presented by: Davin Colten

Description: Let your creativity shine. Let your imagination run wild. If you ever wanted to write a novel, a short story is a great place to start. Have fun with a few simple steps, and start writing your next short story today!

No Ideas But in Things: Poetry 101

Presented by: Kirsten Lasinski

Description: Ahh, poetry. Exhilarating, frustrating, confusing? Together we'll examine (and practice) how to marry abstract concepts like love, life and loss with concrete experiences we can taste and see and feel as we learn that the most powerful ideas in poetry are rooted in the physical world.

The 5 Second Rule: Pointers for Hooking Readers and Keeping them Reading

Presented by: Sandy Whelchel

Description: We'll review techniques that emphasize the dramatic points of your story, deepen character development, and add snap to your dialog. Whether you write literary or genre fiction, learn the use of rhetorical devices such as anaphora and back loading to add lyricism and dramatic rhythm to your work.

Business Management for Writers

Presented by: Steve Replin

Description: Don't forget: writing is actually a business! So, why not do it right? Let's talk about setting yourselves up with an LLC or corporation, protecting your assets, and planning for success. This includes taxes, books and records, legal documents and other miscellaneous items. Be prepared to make it big. Get the necessary information and think ahead!

Three Secrets Every Writer Should Know: Publishing Nuts & Bolts

Presented by: Anne Fenske

Description: With new technologies, there are many options for getting your work into published form. Which choice is best for you? Explore the pros and cons of each publishing solution and prepare yourself to make an informed next step.

Workshop Session Two (12:40-1:30 pm)

Stimulus Response

Presented by: Warren Hammond and Jeanne Stein

Description: Stimulus-Response is the writing principle that illustrates the relationship between motivation and behavior. Learn how to analyze your writing and employ techniques to put immediacy into your narrative and get readers into the heads of your characters.

Opening That Can of Worms: Setting Up the Story Question

Presented by: Laurie Marr Wasmund

Description: Good writers start their works in the middle of a question so that, as readers, we're hooked. In this workshop, we'll examine how to approach and develop story questions from the basics to the esoteric in your novel or short story.

I've Got an Idea for a Novel, Now What?

Presented by: Carleen Brice

Description: How do you go from idea to finished novel? I'll walk you through exercises to get you started and keep you motivated until you finish. These are the same techniques I use myself and I'm working on my third novel right now.

Tapping into your Inner Teen aka Writing for Young Adults

Presented by: Terri Clark

Description: We're in a new golden age for young adult fiction. If you've wanted to tap into your inner teen and write a YA novel, this program is for you. Young adult author and teen librarian, Terri Clark, will define what makes a young adult novel, explain how teen fiction has changed over the years, help you discover your teen voice, introduce you to the market and highlight bestsellers and current trends.

Freelancing: 7 Articles, 7 Routes to Publication, 7 Case Histories

Presented by: Page Lambert

Description: No two articles follow the same path to publication. These case histories illuminate the mysterious journeys our stories take en route to the reader, shedding light on how editors make their decisions and on what you can do to nurture the editor/author relationship.

Playing Spider: Enticing Your Web Audience

Presented by: Ron Heimbecher

Description: This workshop demonstrates a number of ways for writers and other creative artists to develop a web presence suited to their marketing needs and technical skills. The discussions will also cover free Open Source software tools for web development. Attendance includes access to an on-line tutorial tied to the class.

Becoming a Storyteller

Presented by: Steven Singular

Description: How do I know when I've found a good story and it's really working? The answer to this question has both an exterior component and an interior one -- this workshop will explore both. Learning to trust the process of writing can be as important as the writing itself, and this session will emphasize those skills.

Tools to Help You Build a Good Story

Presented by: Linda Berry

Description: After discussing the basic elements of a good story and illustrating them with a series of line drawings, we'll begin planning a story. Concepts include writing good dialogue, creating tension, bringing characters to life, and using sensory detail to engage the reader.

Permission to Create: Using Poetry to Initiate Self discovery & Dialogue

Presented by: Susan de Wardt

Description: Using poetry to initiate self discovery and dialogue, participants continue through reflective writing process to identify fears and personal barriers to creativity, learn to silence the inner critic and move into a resounding, life-affirming YES for their creative success.

Mash-Up - Mixing Genres

Presented by: David Boop

Description: Supernatural romances, weird westerns, and zombie Jane Austens? What the heck is going on, and how do you do it well? Come prepared to step through a door into the amalgam of genres.

How to Build a Better Query

Presented by: Kate Schafer Testerman

Description: Authors are invited to bring a sample query letter for discussion and review by a literary agent specializing in YA, middle grade, and women's fiction. General guidelines will be given to help all writers polish their query and learn to sell the "hook" of their novel.

The Author As Speaker

Presented by: Michele Cushatt

Description: The most effective book promotion is the author herself! Don't wait until your book is in print to learn how to capture a live audience with an irresistible presence. Unlock the keys to presenting yourself on a stage as well as you do on paper.

Workshop Session Three (1:40-2:30 pm)

Make it Fresh

Presented by: Mario Acevedo and Jeanne Stein

Description: We'll review techniques that emphasize the dramatic points of your story, deepen character development, and add snap to your dialog. Whether you write literary or genre fiction, learn how the use of rhetorical devices such as anaphora and back loading can add lyricism and dramatic rhythm to your work.

Improve with Improv

Presented by: Chris Mandeville

Description: Test-drive "Improv Writing" and learn the joys and benefits of this invaluable tool. It helps you stifle your inner critic, explore setting, and develop characters and backstory. Use it to "try on" new ideas, or to "warm up" for other writing. Terrific for writers of all ages and ability levels.

Bridging the Gap

Presented by: Carleen Brice

Description: Writing fiction that hits the sweet spot between literary fiction and commercial fiction. How to blend elements of literary writing (such as symbolism) with elements of commercial writing (such as plot) to create a novel that wins awards and pleases crowds.

Creating a Sense of Place

Presented by: Page Lambert

Description: More than setting. More than landscape. More than location. No matter what genre, Place is the world your characters inhabit and where your Story comes alive. This workshop explores how to create Place through the use of atmosphere, symbolism, imagery, and metaphor.

Writing a Memoir

Presented by: Bonnie Ramthun

Description: Take that wonderful, messy, amazing life and turn it into a gripping story. In order to write a terrific memoir, you need more than just photos, stories, and genealogy. You need a writer's tools to turn your life into a compelling tale.

Researching Little Known Facts about a Specific Time & Place

Presented by: David Boop

Description: Sure, anyone can use the internet, and go to the library, but what are the more subtle places to find flavor for your modern or period piece? Urban myths, legends and buried history can be found right under your nose... if you know where to look.

The Art of Self-Edit

Presented by: Robert Sanchez

Description: There's no blueprint for successful writing, but there is a compass. Instead of banging your head against your keyboard, get some helpful tips on how to become the writer you've always wanted to be. Learn how to use your inner editor to plan, report, draft and retouch your stories.

Dialogue is Key to Any Great Story

Presented by: Davin Colten

Description: Creating good dialogue is essential to making your characters come to life and be believable. Sometimes you need to do a bit of research in order to achieve that goal, creating memorable lines and characters that readers will love.

Polishing the Silver - Revising Poetry

Presented by: Kirsten Lasinski

Description: What do well-crafted poetry and Aunt Enid's silver spoons have in common? They both require patience and effort to shine. In this workshop, we'll learn how to transform your poetry through practical revision techniques and how to break through creative blocks. Please bring an example of your own work to practice on.

Fear of Success/Fear of Failure: The Two Sides of the Writer's Coin

Presented by: Jodi Anderson

Description: A look at the life of writers from the viewpoint of the fear and failure and its close companion, the fear of success. Tools are needed to combat both fears before they steal your energy and creativity. Join this multi-published author to determine the tools that will work best in your writer's toolbox.

Finding the Right Literary Agent for You

Presented by: Kerrie Flanagan

Description: From my experiences as a conference planner and workshop organizer, I've had the opportunity to wine and dine literary agents. During this session, I will share what I have learned and provide you with a checklist to help increase your odds of finding the agent that is right for you.

Three Secrets Every Writer Should Know: Know Your Audience

Presented by: Anne Fenske

Description: Publishers get more queries and manuscripts than they can possibly deal with. If your prospectus identifies your audience as 'Everyone' or 'All Christian Women' or any variation on that theme, you will not even hear from the publisher again. Learn how identifying the specific audience influences your writing and marketing.

Workshop Session Four (2:40-3:30 pm)

He said, She said: Basics for Moving Readers Through the Story with Dialogue

Presented by: Sandy Whelchel

Description: Stop using stereotypical characters and start giving readers those characters they love to love or hate. This workshop will give participants a character profile form as a basis and a few simple rules for developing memorable characters.

I'm a What?: Unleashing Dynamic Metaphors

Presented by: Laurie Marr Wasmund

Description: Are you tired as a dog? Do you sleep like a baby? No! You're not a clichè and neither should your writing be. In this workshop, we'll use creative, mind-bending exercises to discover new ways to define yourself and your characters.

Your Writing is Rock Solid...Now What?

Presented by: Kate Schafer Testerman

Description: For writers who've polished their manuscript, an overview of the process of finding an agent, and what comes next. Offering general "do"s and "don't"s of querying and suggestions for further research. Question period will include specific areas of interest for kt literary, as well as general advice for all writers seeking traditional publication.

Werewolves, Witches & Vamps, Oh My! Writing Paranormal Fiction

Presented by: Terri Clark

Description: Paranormal fiction is hotter than ever and Terri Clark is going to tell you why. She'll also define the difference between paranormals and urban fantasy and explain why readers are willing to suspend their disbelief, but only if you ground the roots of your story in reality. If you want to know how to make the impossible seem plausible this is the workshop for you.

Tips to Getting Accepted in the Magazine World

Presented by: Kerrie Flanagan

Description: No one wants to be rejected. By knowing where to find a media kit, understanding the wealth of information found in advertising, the importance of studying the masthead and other tips from the magazine trade, you will increase your chances of turning queries into assignments.

The Art of Interviewing

Presented by: Steven Singular

Description: While there's no one way to interview people, the author has 35 years of experience in the non-fiction magazine and book field using his approach and will share it in this workshop. First, you must learn how to set up an interviewee and then go after what you want. The key is to help people forget that you're interviewing them.

There Will be Blood or How I Learned to Love Self-Mutilation Before My Editor Cut Me to Ribbons

Presented by: Sandra Hicks

Description: Anemic characters, plot wounds that even a doctor can't repair. This workshop will aid aspiring and seasoned authors in performing the operations necessary to repair manuscript maladies such as double vision, punctuation perforations, and backstory diarrhea. Taught by an experienced editor, attendees will discover small ways to improve the overall health of their manuscripts.

Writing Around the Block

Presented by: Susan de Wardt

Description: Intensive experiential writing workshop to overcome temporary writer's block or add vitality to a stale writing process. Participants will craft a map of their earliest remembered neighborhood and use it to generate stories and poetry rich in character, detail and dialogue.

Haiku Moment, Haiku Mind: The Art of Mindful Observation

Presented by: Gary Schroeder

Description: Often dismissed as an elementary school exercise, writing Haiku sharpens the power of observation, heightens awareness of the present moment and facilitates the vivid capturing of that moment in a concise and powerful form. Experience Haiku Mind and learn to use it to enrich your work in other genres.

The Top 10 Reasons to be a Writer Rather than a Supermodel and How they Apply to You

Presented by: Jodi Anderson

Description: Toss those Jimmy Choo shoes or Ralph Lauren loafers and slip into your sweats and old socks for this fun look at why you have chosen the best profession in the world. Besides looking at the lighter side of being a struggling writer, you can learn how to use those ten reasons in a realistic way to move your writing and your career forward.

Protecting Your Intellectual Property

Presented by: Steve Replin

Description: Do you want to let the world have your creative work for free? And, after all the work that you've done to create it? How rude! So, let's arm you with some information about copyrights, rights and permissions, and non-disclosure agreements to protect yourselves.

Leveraging the Internet to Strengthen Your Platform

Presented by: Michele Cushatt

Description: There is no shortage of internet tools available to the writer. However, there is a significant shortage of writers who know how to best leverage them! Become internet savvy with the basics of blogging, SEO, Twitter, Wordpress. And discover how to use these tools to master the internet to its full potential.