

Thursday — September 12, 2019

Registration Desk Opens

Registration Desk

8:00 am – 8:00 pm

The Emotional Craft of Fiction: How to Tell the Story Beneath the Surface

Grand Ballroom 3

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presented by: Donald Maass

MASTER CLASS SEPARATE FROM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

\$125.00 for conference registrants

\$200.00 without conference registration

The emotional effect of fiction on readers is a craft. Based on psychological research and study of what makes novels emotionally gripping, this intensive workshop takes participants beyond showing or telling to create an emotional journey for readers—one unseen but nevertheless deeply felt and ultimately unforgettable. This is an intensive, hands-on workshop for serious fiction writers. Participants should bring a Work In Progress and writing materials.

From Author to Screenwriter in a Few Hours!

Northwest 2

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Presented by: Kim Hornsby

Master Class included in conference registration

\$50.00 without registration

Hollywood LOVES book adaptations and it's not as hard as it looks. Have you thought about adapting your book to a screenplay but didn't know where to start? You are half way there as an author. In this 3-Hour workshop Intensive, you will learn how to boil down a story to the key scenes to transfer to a script format. Guaranteed pain-free, you'll learn the method of finding the essence of the story and building on that. You'll learn about 3-Act structure, script formatting, dialogue, slug lines, lean narrative, and will examine blockbuster movies adapted from books. Come prepared to adapt a story, book or play with a laptop or writing device and settle in to become a screenwriter!

A Plotting Class even Pantsers Love: Seven story-models from Aristotle to Netflix

Northwest 3

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Presented by: Damon Suede

Master Class included in conference registration

\$50.00 without registration

Even when a happy ending is certain, a great plot keeps your writing fresh while amplifying your voice. Learn how to craft a sure-fire structure and launch your story. We'll go beyond the bullet points. Rather hammering one "true" blueprint, we'll break down major story models from Aristotle to Netflix, identify their seven shared points, and help you develop your won narrative strategy.

Don't Blow Your Cover

Evergreen 1 & 2

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Presented by: Donna Cameron and Holly Harmon

"Never underestimate the importance of your book cover," advises one prominent publishing executive. Despite the old adage to the contrary, we do judge a book by its cover. Authors who want potential buyers and readers to pick up their books in a store, or click to them online, need to be very intentional about both design and text choices. Whether publishing traditionally, self-publishing, or hybrid,

authors must be involved in assuring that their book's cover sends the right message about content, intended audience, and the author's professionalism. In this session we will explore some of the factors authors must consider often in partnership with their publisher as they undertake the cover development process.

Scrivener Unraveled: Capture and Organize your Ideas, Anywhere, Anytime

Evergreen 3 & 4
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

PUBLISHING TRACK

Presented by: Brian Mercer

If you've been intimidated by this powerful writing software, then learn how to document research, organize world building, storyboard, outline, and create your prose using a single, streamlined interface and let Scrivener's iPad and iPhone options capture and synchronize your ideas.

Lunch Break

Writer's Café & Registration Area

12:00p.m.– 1:00 p.m.

(Lunch concessions available for purchase)

Conference Prep: How to Get the Most Out of the Conference

Northwest 3

12:00p.m.– 1:00 p.m.

Branding with Intent

Evergreen 1 & 2
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Presented by: Steena Holmes

Master Class included in conference registration

\$50.00 without registration

Your brand is your promise that you make to readers - breaking that promise could be detrimental to your career. We will go beyond the "talk" of what a brand is and create a foundation for you to build a brand that not only keeps that promise you will be making to your readers but to also find new ones. This masterclass is for every author who is struggling with their branding - whether you are a first time author or an established one looking to "rebrand".

A Dialogue About Dialogue

Evergreen 3 & 4

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Presented by: Wendy Kendall and Avis Adams

Master Class included in conference registration

\$50.00 without registration

Effective dialogue is real conversation, only better. It reveals who your characters are while bypassing the mundane, sometimes tedious and flawed components of everyday conversation in the real world. Great dialogue moves the story along and can be an integral tool for managing the pacing of scenes. Techniques for editing your dialogue can speed up revisions and rewrites. This workshop includes presentation of researched information, combined with examples from published authors, live demonstrations of dialogue examples spoken between the co-presenters, and hands on exercise. We will also detail Ten Specific Dialogue Tips, a list of what your characters should never say, how to develop characters through dialogue, how to use dialogue as a tool for managing point of view, as well as the important dialogue mechanics that include dialogue tags, exposition, and grammar. This workshop crosses all genres.

Dinner Break

4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Pitch Fest	Northwest 1, 2 & 3 5:00 p.m - 7:00 p.m.
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Pizza Party included for workshop attendees only

Presented by: Gerri Russell, with guest authors

Before you can write a great pitch you must know your story inside and out. Answer these questions in preparation for writing your pitch and you're off to a great start. Join New York Times bestselling author Gerri Russell and her author coaches as she helps demystify the art of pitching your story to agents, publishers and friends.

Keynote Dessert Reception followed by Autograph Party	Grand Ballroom 2 & 3 7:30 p.m
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Keynote Speaker: Greg Bear

Friday— September 13, 2019

[Edit This Page](#)

Registration Desk Opens	Registration Desk 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
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Breakfast Bar	Writer's Café & Registration area 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
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Coffee, Tea and assorted fruit (Pastries available for purchase)

PNWA Annual Meeting	Grand Ballroom 2 & 3 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
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Editor Forum	Grand Ballroom 2 & 3 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
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The editors give an overview of the projects they are acquiring and the best way to submit your project. A question and answer period is included.

Morning Break	9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m
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Agent Forum	Grand Ballroom 2 & 3 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
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The agents give an overview of the projects they are acquiring and the best way to submit your project. A question and answer period is included.

Lunch Break	Writer's Café & Registration Area 11:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
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(Lunch concessions available for purchase)

Quote Me on That!**Grand Ballroom 2**

Presented by: Eilidh MacKenzie**CRAFT OF WRITING TRACK**

What goes first, comma or quotation mark? When does speech turn into a comma splice? Why does your editor hate single quotation marks? Unravel the mysteries of punctuating dialogue with The Wild Rose Press editor Eilidh MacKenzie.

Writers for Diversity**Grand Ballroom 3**

2:00p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Eliana West**DIVERSITY TRACK**

This workshop focuses on how authors can create realistic multicultural characters. Author Eliana West will explain the basic tools needed to write characters from different racial backgrounds without falling into many of the common pitfalls that create characters who are stereotypes instead of real people. Tap into this growing new market and reach new readers by adding diversity to your story.

How to Write an Irresistible Non-fiction Book Proposal**Cascade 1 & 2**

2:00p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Rita Rosenkrantz**CRAFT OF WRITING**

What are the key components that define a winning book proposal? What research should an author do to help make sure the project has merit? How can an author leapfrog over the competition in the category? In this especially competitive climate, authors need to be savvy to manage the marketplace. This presentation will guide the author through the basic steps for writing a proposal and making the project count.

Creating Characters that Dazzle**Evergreen 1 & 2**

2:00p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Damon Suede**CRAFT OF WRITING**

Create fresh characters and story planning techniques that go beyond trivia, backstory, and stereotypes that will lay the foundations for unforgettable fiction. Learn to use archetypes, tropes, and functions of genre characters in casting your story with dynamic personalities.

Newsletters that make an Impact**Evergreen 3 & 4**

2:00p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Steena Holmes

MARKETING AND PROMOTION TRACK

Your email list is your number one secret weapon when it comes to marketing and promotion, but the key is to have an organic list of readers who care about you and your books. Steena Holmes will share some tips on communicating with your readers, how to use your brand to build your followers and practical steps on building a list that will help you with your career as an author.

Afternoon Break

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Why Did You Reject Me? – The Editing World from My Side of the Pen

Grand Ballroom 2

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Lynn Price

CRAFT OF WRITING TRACK

There are many reasons why authors are rejected, and they aren't always because the writing isn't good. Lynn Price, editor of Behler Publications, will explore these reasons and many more: Falling in love. Did the author grab me on the first page? Does each chapter have a reason for being there? Does each chapter reveal more of the plot? What is the cliché trap? Are characters real or fake? Lynn price will also discuss how authors stay on task, and punctuation and sentence structure.

Queer Lands: LGBTQ+ Representation in Fiction

Grand Ballroom 3

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Lindsay Pierce

DIVERSITY TRACK

Queer Lands will focus on creating a safe space to have open conversations about the representation of LGBTQ+ characters within fiction and how we, as writers, can improve our understanding and portrayal of this community. The presentation will focus on how to empower writers and authors to be part of positive social change through their words. The workshop will discuss this diverse community, language, powerful words and how to use them effectively, developing complex LGBTQ+ characters, and shedding stereotypes.

Writing Real vs Reality

Cascade 1 & 2

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Donna Conrad

CRAFT OF WRITING TRACK

Reality is factual, what happened, when, where, how, and to whom. When written, it is accurate, journalistic reporting. Yet, as creative writers, we want our readers to feel deeply, to experience the *real* intensity of actions, to know the internal agony, elation, desolation, and joy our characters feel when reality strikes. Through literary examples and writing exercises, this workshop will focus on methods and choices used to expose the personal impact of an event, versus a merely factual description. Join award-winning author, Donna Conrad, in an exploration of how to convey reality's effect on characters in ways that will captivate the reader.

Life After Agent: The Different Publishing Options an Agent Can Offer the Author

Evergreen 1 & 2

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Amber Cowie, Alison DASHO and Gordon Warnock

PUBLISHING TRACK

An aspiring author, an agent and an editor walk into a bar. Does that sound like the beginning of a bad joke or the launch of a literary career? Join Amber Cowie, bestselling author of *Rapid Falls*, Gordon Warnock, agent and co-founder of Fuse Literary Agency, and Alison DASHO, Amazon Publishing senior editor, for a rundown of how three people transformed a psychological suspense novel from a Word document to a number one bestseller. This will be a panel discussion with a brief overview of each panelist followed by a question and answer period.

Book to Screen: How books are adapted to the screen

Evergreen 3 & 4

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: JD DeWitt, Robin McLain and author Lesley Ann McDaniel

SCREENWRITING TRACK

Adaptation of Lesley McDaniel's romantic comedy, *Home Sweet Home*. JD, Robin and Lesley will discuss the process as it pertains to the relationship between author and producer and what a writer can expect in changes

FEATURED SPEAKER DINNER

Grand Ballroom 2 & 3

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Greg Bear, Jessica Brody, Kim Hornsby, Donald Maass, Damon Suede, and Julia Quinn

Autograph Party & Dessert

Grand Ballroom 1

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Over sixty award-winning and New York Times bestselling authors will attend the autograph and dessert part. This event follows the Featured Speaker dinner.

Saturday — September 14, 2019

Registration Desk Opens

Registration Desk

7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Breakfast Bar

Writer's Café & Registration area

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Coffee, Tea and assorted fruit (Pastries available for purchase)

Showing and Telling in Memoir

Cascade 1 & 2

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: William Kenower

NONFICTION & MEMOIR TRACK

Memoirs should ideally read much like a work of fiction written in the first person. However, many beginning memoirists struggle to put their stories into scenes, learning instead on talking about their thoughts and feelings. In this class we'll look at how to use physical description – *showing* action – to both tell a story and convey the emotional content of the story.

Cascade 3 & 4

Tricks of the trade: Historical writing that rings true

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: Claire Gebben

HISTORICAL FICTION TRACK

The characters in our historical novels do not act in isolation. Their stories are brought to life by the broader sweep of history, and by how people thought and lived in former times. But how do we as 21st century authors access the thinking and experiences of the past? And what do we include, and not include, in our scenes? Presentation offers methods of accessing former times -- “portals” into the past – and ways to bring history alive on the page.

Cascade 5 & 6

The Stakes Must be Death: Fueling the Emotional Core of Your Story

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: Maureen McQuerry

LITERARY/MAINSTREAM FICTION

As writers we long to hook our readers' hearts as well as their minds. That happens when we realize that at its core, every story is a survival story. Together we'll discover how conflict and tension fuel a character's emotional journey and keep readers engrossed until the very end. Using examples from current literature, we'll discuss techniques to strengthen your story's emotional core, hook their hearts and identify the one thing every powerful story has in common.

Cascade 7 & 8

Understanding the Elements of Women's Fiction.

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: Nicole Meier

ROMANCE/WOMEN'S FICTION

So you want to write a women's fiction novel, but you're not sure where to begin. What are the elements needed? In this class, we'll discuss everything from the protagonist's emotional journey to conflict and plot. We'll take a look at sub-genres and identify examples of various works.

Cascade 9 & 10

Part One – Plotting the Mystery, Thriller or Horror Novel

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: Robert Dugoni

MYSTERY/THRILLER/HORROR

This is a three part workshop. Part 1 will focus on plotting.

Cascade 11**Middle Grade and Young Adult – and how to capture them**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: Chris (CC) Humphreys**MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT**

From Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island to Harry Potter, young adult fiction has always captivated and in recent years dominated the bestseller charts. Join Chris (CC) Humphreys, the author of five YA novels and twelve novels for adults as he discusses the genre and tackles how to approach it as a writer. From gritty urban angst to high blown fantasy, Chris will explore this complex and fascinating genre while showing ways of accessing your inner teen, avoiding talking down or talking ‘slang’, and embracing cultural and gender diversity. He will consider magic in its various forms and deal with the rich legacy of myth in helping to choose subject matter. He will also discuss how the building blocks of all fiction – point of view, voice, character and objectives, theme, dialogue etc. – are harnessed to create exciting tales that will lure teens away from their devices. Bring paper and pen to tease out the idea you have for that young adult novel with creativity-accessing exercises.

Cascade 12**Punk U: The Whys and Why Nots of Writing Punk Fiction**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: Cat Rambo**SCIENCE FICTION**

Cyberpunk. Steampunk. Dieselpunk. Solarpunk. Splatterpunk. Hopepunk. Monkpunk. And more. Is it meaningful to add -punk to a genre name or just a marketing maneuver? What do the tenets behind the punk music movement add to the various genres it’s influenced? Will there be additional punks down the line and what might they look like? What are the tropes, pitfalls, and techniques of each subgenre — and what do they hold in common?

Cascade 13**Designing Fantasy Religions and Magic Systems**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: James Sutter**FANTASY & PARANORMAL**

What makes for a compelling fantasy pantheon or fictional church? How can you design a magic system that grabs your readers or players without breaking everything? Whether you prefer the heavily codified magic of Brandon Sanderson and Dungeons & Dragons or the mysterious miracles of myth and legend, this class will teach you tips and tricks for structuring your supernatural elements and using them to enhance your fantasy settings. Learn to design a complete magic system in five minutes or less!

Grand Ballroom 2**Navigating the Publishing Waters of Amazon’s KDP**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Presented by: Kim Hornsby**PROMOTION AND MARKETING**

Amazon’s Kindle Direct Publishing is like Shangri-La for new authors who choose to self-publish. But there’s so much to learn as a publisher and so many pitfalls and ways to waste time along the way before you press “publish.” In this workshop, you’ll learn the necessary steps of KDP, concentrating on the Select program and how to get you sales and reviews. If there’s any doubt in your mind about how KDP works and whether you should publish world-wide or be exclusive to Amazon to take part in their Select program, this workshop is for you. We’ll not only talk about KDP Select, but Kindle Countdown Deals, Audiobooks, Matchbook, the Lending Library, Author Central, and Amazon Ads. Having the knowledge to take full advantage of Amazon’s offerings will put you ahead of the newbies in your first few years as a published author.

Grand Ballroom 3

Presented by: Oren Ashkenazi, Christine Winckler, Wesley Matlock, and Ariel Anderson

CRAFT OF WRITING**3-HOUR MASTER CLASS**

When starting a new story, one of the first choices writers must make is what point of view to use. Will you go with the old workhorse of third-person limited, or do you want something more intimate like first person? Maybe you want the power of third-person omniscient, or you're going out on a limb with second-person epistolary. It will be difficult to change after the first draft, so you need to choose wisely. Join the Mythereants editing team as we discuss how to do just that. We'll cover the strengths and weaknesses of different narrative styles, discuss what type of stories work well with each style, and describe what happens when stories have the wrong perspective. While we're at it, we'll give tips on writing each point of view well.

Morning Break

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Writing and Publishing Flash Nonfiction: 101 words to 1500!

Cascade 1 & 2

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Presented by: Sheila Bender

NONFICTION & MEMOIR TRACK

Flash Fiction is trending and it is not only a great way to garner publication credits, but also a great way for writers to learn to write tight and evocatively with as little exposition as possible. Learn how to write short and finding out how a collection of your flash nonfiction can develop into book-length memoir, either as a collection or knitted together into chapters. The instructor will share a list of venues seeking Flash Fiction.

Collaborating with Ghosts**Cascade 3 & 4**

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Presented by: Milree Latimer

HISTORICAL FICTION TRACK

“Where history gives up for lack of evidence, imagination begins,” by Adam Thorpe. As a writer of historical fiction you are a detective sorting through the evidence and a story-teller bringing an era alive. Does the historical research feed and enhance the lives of the characters? How much time must you spend collaborating with the past? What different kinds of research feed the story? How do you give rein to imagination and invention? What does it mean to have an authentic vision of an era? This workshop will explore these questions and others that are sure to emerge.

Outlining for People Who Would Rather Just Write**Cascade 5 & 6**

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Presented by: Amber Cowie

LITERARY/MAINSTREAM

There are two types of people who write novels. Some people want their words to unfurl before them, unchecked and unregulated, letting the story lead them through its problems by the seat of their pants. After going through a rigorous development edit, it was pointed out to Amber that her main character had been pregnant for seventeen months and several of her minor characters had changed names, eye color and age throughout the novel, she realized that she needed to become an outliner. This workshop is designed to work through the

fundamentals of a novel outline, timeline and synopsis.

Cascade 7 & 8

Creating Sexual Tension

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Presented by: Gerri Russell

ROMANCE/WOMEN'S FICTION

Creating sexual tension is the driving force at the center of romantic fiction, yet many writers struggle to create that tension on the page and make it believable. Contrary to popular belief, sexual tension is not all about physical attraction. It's about creating curious, excited, and anticipatory feelings that are a necessary part of any novel, not just in romantic fiction. Gerri Russell guides you through the science behind building sexual tension and how these techniques can help you create realistic characters and relationships in your writing.

Cascade 9 & 10

Part Two – Plotting the Mystery, Thriller or Horror Novel

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Presented by: Robert Dugoni

MYSTERY/THRILLER/HORROR

This is a three part workshop.

Part II focuses on how to write tension into your mystery, thriller or horror novel.

Cascade 11

15 Things You Need to Know if You Want to Write Young Adult

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Presented by: Christine Grabowski and Sonja Griffing

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

TBA

Cascade 12

The Realistic Fantastic

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Presented by: Cat Rambo

SCIENCE FICTION

How do you write a world with things that don't appear in our own, like unicorns, telepaths, or steam-powered automatons, and still make that world feel real for a reader? What details really make that world come alive for a reader and how can a writer best make use of the fantastic opportunities afforded them when writing in fantasy and science fiction?

Cascade 13

Worlds of Fantasy – and who to build them

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Presented by: Chris (CC) Humphreys

FANTASY & PARANORMAL

Fantasy is an extraordinarily varied and *fantastic* genre. From the loftiness of Lord of the Rings to the grim-dark of Game of Thrones, from dystopia to comedy, from fabulous beasts to blood-sucking villains, there appears no limit to an author's visions. But does its vast scope make it easier to write than other genres? Not at all, according to Chris Humphreys, author of eighteen historical, fantasy and young adult novels. In this workshop Chris will consider the excitements, the practicalities and the difficulties of writing fantasy fiction. He will tackle the myth that less research is required in fantasy, how a world, however fantastical, must be credible and coherent within itself, how to use dialogue to evoke character in realms unknown, and how to take the risk of making your made-up worlds truly different, while maintaining believability. There will also be 'the dragon exercise': how to take one of fantasy's favorite themes and use it in entirely new ways.

The Presence-Platform	Grand Ballroom 2
	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Presented by: Damon Suede

PROMOTION AND MARKETING

The Presence-Platform embodies your brand in a public setting, online and in person. It can help you develop a coherent marketing platform and strategize public appearances to cultivate your unique audience. Learn how to navigate the professional arena and building you're A-Gang.

Lunch Break	Writers' Café & Registration Area
	11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Lunch concessions available for purchase)

Writing as a Spiritual Practice	Cascade 1 & 2
	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: William Kenower, Philip Kenney, Sheila Bender, Donna Conrad

NONFICTION & MEMOIR TRACK

Whether you write for publication or for yourself, a spiritual understanding of the creative process will not only deepen your relationship to your writing and yourself, but also improve the quality of the work you wish to share. The panelists will discuss how they see writing as *their* spiritual practice, as well as sharing tips for how to view your work through a spiritual lens.

HISTORICAL TRACK TBA	Cascade 3 & 4
	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Larry Fowler

HISTORICAL FICTION TRACK

TBA

LITERARY/MAINSTREAM TBA	Cascade 5 & 6
	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: TBA

LITERARY/MAINSTREAM

TBA

Cascade 7 & 8

Deep Point of View: Take Your Novel from Good to Great!

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Dana Delamar

ROMANCE/WOMEN'S FICTION

Are you getting feedback from contests, critique partners, agents, editors, or readers that your stories aren't quite grabbing them? Are you trying to get more emotion on the page, but your scenes feel flat? Learn how applying the concepts of deep point of view (POV) can take your novel from "pretty good" to "OMG, I can't put it down!" The concepts of deep point of view elude many authors, whether they're preparing their first contest entry or are indie or traditionally published. Among the questions we'll answer: What does "show vs. tell" really mean? What is "deep" point of view? How can I use deep point of view techniques to develop distinctive characters that resonate with readers? How can deep point of view help me drive pacing, deepen conflicts, embed more hooks, and add more emotion?

Cascade 9 & 10

Part Three - Tension

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Larry Brooks

MYSTERY/THRILLER/HORROR

This is a three part workshop. Part III focuses on how to write tension into your mystery, thriller or horror novel.

Cascade 11

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT TBA

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: TBA

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

TBA

Cascade 12

Building Better Monsters Through Evolution

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: James Sutter

SCIENCE FICTION

Whether magical beasts or intelligent aliens, monsters are at the heart of science fiction and fantasy. But how do you move beyond the classics and come up with your own unique creatures and alien cultures? In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to use evolutionary principles like natural selection and adaptation to both jumpstart your creativity and better fit the creatures of your imagination into your

setting, creating fascinating new monsters.

Cascade 13

Worlds of Fantasy – and who to build them

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Chris (CC) Humphreys

FANTASY & PARANORMAL

Fantasy is an extraordinarily varied and *fantastic* genre. From the loftiness of Lord of the Rings to the grim-dark of Game of Thrones, from dystopia to comedy, from fabulous beasts to blood-sucking villains, there appears no limit to an author's visions. But does its vast scope make it easier to write than other genres? Not at all, according to Chris Humphreys, author of eighteen historical, fantasy and young adult novels. In this workshop Chris will consider the excitements, the practicalities and the difficulties of writing fantasy fiction. He will tackle the myth that less research is required in fantasy, how a world, however fantastical, must be credible and coherent within itself, how to use dialogue to evoke character in realms unknown, and how to take the risk of making your made-up worlds truly different, while maintaining believability. There will also be 'the dragon exercise': how to take one of fantasy's favorite themes and use it in entirely new ways.

Grand Ballroom 2

Myths, Legends, and Fairy Tales in Fiction

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Pam Binder and Gerri Russell

FANTASY & PARANORMAL

Myths, legends, and fairy tales, can be an inexhaustible source of inspiration for fiction writers. For centuries these tales have been told and retold in a variety of forms that are still as magical today as when they were first created. Join Pam Binder and Gerri Russell as they help you find new ways to reinvent these timeless tales into stories that are both engaging and impactful.

Evergreen 1 & 2

Children's Chapter and Picture Book TBA

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: TBA

Children's Chapter and Picture Book

TBA

Evergreen 3 & 4

How to write and self-publish in the Gaming World

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Keith Leiker

Storytelling in the Game World

How to write and self publish their own world setting for roleplaying games like Dungeons and Dragons. How to find work in games where they get to do some world building role playing games or digital games.

Grand Ballroom 2

Tokenism

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Bunmi Ishola, TBA

DIVERSITY TRACK

TBA

Grand Ballroom 3**Promoting Your Book – Think Outside the Box**

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Lynn Price**PUBLISHING AND MARKETING TRACK**

Regardless of your publishing option, all books need author participation for promotion. Treat your book like a business. Ask yourself these questions: Why is your book unique and why would readers want to read it? This workshop will cover topics that range from, exploring what the author has to offer, if your book has “red-meat”, and are bookstores and social media still relevant.

Afternoon Break

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cascade 1 & 2**Using Poetry to Illuminate Our Way**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Philip Kenny**NONFICTION & MEMOIR TRACK**

Even the most successful writers are subject to troubling insecurity, episodes of self-doubt and the persistent narrative that we are not good enough. Navigating the turbulent, emotional waters of a creative life is a challenge we must all take up to ensure our work is not undermined by the vulnerabilities of our internal world. Using poetry to illuminate our way, this workshop will explore the psychological underpinnings of the not good enough narrative and provide methods to strengthen those underpinnings.

Cascade 3 & 4**HISTORICAL TRACK TBA**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Larry Fowler**HISTORICAL FICTION TRACK**

TBA

Cascade 5 & 6**Unleash the Villain Within (How to Write a Great Antagonist)**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Maureen McQuerry**LITERARY/MAINSTREAM**

“One of the major reasons Harry Potter was such a success was because of the strength of his antagonist.” The Washington Post A great antagonist is one of the best ways to add ongoing conflict to your story. How do you create an antagonist that moves the story forward, fascinates the reader and most importantly forces your character to change?

Up-Lit or Up-Market? Grip-Lit or Chick Lit? What is Up with Women's Fiction?**Cascade 7 & 8****Presented by:** Amber Cowie, Nicole Meier and Kerry Schaefer**ROMANCE/WOMEN'S FICTION**

In this ever-changing landscape, trends and publishing needs can shift quickly. Join women's fiction author, Nicole Meier, to learn what genres, publishers, and readers are seeking in women's fiction. Discuss current examples and begin to identify what category of women's fiction best appeals to you.

Cascade 9 & 10**Secrets of Mystery Authors**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Robert Dugoni, Elizabeth George, Bharti Kirchner, and Mike Lawson**MYSTERY/THRILLER/HORROR**

In this panel, we will discuss three important elements of mystery/thriller novels: pacing, plotting, and building the villain. Each will be treated as a separate topic. For example: what is pacing? What improves the pace? What decreases it? Should you always maintain a fast pace? How does dialogue contribute to pacing? Each panelist in turn will offer their take on these topics, with an emphasis on the how-to aspect. The audience will take home tips and techniques they'll be able to employ no matter what type of fiction or memoir they write.

Cascade 11**MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT TBA**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: TBA**MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT**

TBA

Cascade 12**Designing Science Fiction Technology That Won't Break Your Plot**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Oren Ashkenazi, Christine Winckler, Wesley Matlock, and Ariel Anderson**SCIENCE FICTION**

Science fiction stories are home to wondrous technologies that inspire inventors in real life, but that technology can be a real problem for stories. How many times have you watched Star Trek and wondered why they can't just transport out of a problem? Have you scratched your head while the Doctor claimed the Tardis could do something it couldn't? Plot holes and setting inconsistencies can do serious damage to your story, but don't worry, we're here to help. In this panel, we'll face the problem head on and wrestle it to the ground with our tractor beams. We'll discuss how to set limits on technology without taking away the wow factor, troubleshoot common tech problems that afflict science fiction, and describe published stories you can learn from.

Cascade 13**FANTASY & PARANORMAL TBA**

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by:

Kerry Schaefer

FANTASY & PARANORMAL

TBA

Children's Chapter and Picture Book TBA **Evergreen 1 & 2**
 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: TBA
Children's Chapter and Picture Book

TBA

Storytelling in the Game World **Evergreen 3 & 4**
 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Presented by: Keith Leiker
Storytelling in the Game World

Presented by: Description: How to build an original fictional setting (novels, comics, roleplaying games, digital games)

Query Etiquette **Grand Ballroom 3**
 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presented by: Noah Ballard, Rachel Letofsky, Jennifer March Soloway, and Anna Geller
CRAFT OF TRACK

TBA

Dinner and Awards Celebration! **Grand Ballroom 2 & 3**
 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Literary Contest and Nancy Pearl Awards.
Keynote with Lynn Price, from Behler Publications

Sunday — September 15, 2019

Registration Desk Opens **Registration Desk**
7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Closing Breakfast with Speaker Christopher Humphries

Grand Ballroom 2

Save the Cat Writes a Novel

Grand Ballroom 3

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Presented by: Jessica Brody

Master Class NOT included with conference registration

\$125.00 for conference registrants

\$200.00 without conference registration

Originally created for screenwriters, the *Save the Cat!* story-structure method provides compelling tips and tricks to make your novel as riveting as a movie—because whether you’re writing a fantasy series, a romance, or the next Great American Novel, every captivating story throughout time from Jane Austen to Agatha Christie has the same fifteen essential plot points, or “beats.” Join novelist Jessica Brody as she demystifies each beat, making it simple to craft your own best seller.

(One hour lunch break from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

Launching to Win: Strategies for a Bestselling Book Release

Evergreen 1 & 2

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Presented by: Doug Walsh

PUBLISHING AND MARKETING TRACK

This workshop provides a comprehensive overview of the steps needed to ensure a successful launch of your indie-published novel. Divided into three phases: design, pre-order, and post-launch, this workshop reveals the steps best-selling indie authors use to ensure their books launch with a bang and are indistinguishable from those of a Big Five publisher. Attendees will each receive a customizable guide to planning their next book launch as well as a thorough overview of the steps needed to crack the popularity charts, gain, and hold a high sales rank and succeed in each of the three launch phases.