

Choose Your Writing Adventure

The 23rd Pikes Peak Writers Conference April 24-26, 2015

Colorado Springs Marriott



Welcome

Welcome to the latest and greatest Pikes Peak Writers Conference!

Not only is writing an adventure, but this weekend can be as well. You've got the chance to learn from industry professionals, whether you're taking one of their workshops, encountering them in the elevator, or sitting next to them at a meal. Plus, you get to spend three whole days with your tribe—people who are as passionate about writing as you are. What's not to love?

Because that's what you need to know about me. I love this conference. And I chose this year's theme because in between all the business angles, the types of publishing, the editing and rewriting, the countless hours spent trying to find the right words, I want people to remember that writing is an adventure. Remember the fun, the delight of getting it right, the wonder of sparking laughter, love, tears, or fear in the eyes and hearts of your readers.



inspire you, and you continue the journey, and make it your own.

*MB Partlow
Director, 2015
Pikes Peak Writers
Conference*

If you're just beginning your journey as a writer, you are especially welcome here. But to everyone, I say this: Wander around. Ask questions. Sit down next to someone you don't know and strike up a conversation. Take at least one wild card workshop—just close your eyes and pick one. Take a workshop in a genre you don't write in. If you're wildly inspired, skip a session and write in the library, the lobby, or your room. If you encounter a writer whose work you admire, take a moment to tell them what about their writing moves you.

Just making the time to attend this conference can be the first step in the greatest adventure you'll ever have. That's my hope for every one of you, that you find something at this conference to

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Conference At A Glance

Friday, April 24

7:45 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. Newcomer Orientation
8:45 a.m. Session 1
10:00 a.m. Session 2

Welcome Lunch 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. Session 3
2:40 p.m. Session 4
3:40 p.m. Afternoon Break
4:10 p.m. Session 5

Dinner with Mary Kay Andrews 6:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m. Open Mic
8:30 p.m. Ghost Hunt

Saturday, April 25

7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Session 6
9:10 a.m. Session 7
10:20 a.m. Session 8

Lunch with Andrew Gross 11:45 a.m.

1:40 p.m. Session 9
2:50 p.m. Session 10
3:50 p.m. Afternoon Break
4:20 p.m. Book Signing
4:20 p.m. Session 11

Zebulon Awards Banquet with R.L. Stine 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 26

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Session 12
10:10 a.m. Session 13
11:20 a.m. Session 14

Farewell Lunch with Seanan McGuire 12:30 p.m.

2015 Keynote Speakers

Mary Kay Andrews



a.k.a. Kathy Hogan Trochek
Mary Kay Andrews is the New York Times bestselling author of *Save the Date*, *Ladies' Night* and more. She also wrote ten critically acclaimed mysteries, including the Callahan Garity series, under her real name, Kathy Hogan Tro-

check. She started her professional journalism career in Savannah, Georgia, and left after a 10-year stint as a reporter for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Keynote Speaker at Friday night dinner.

Andrew Gross



A former MBA from Columbia, Andrew Gross is the author of *New York Times* bestselling thrillers *Reckless*, *The Blue Zone*, *The Dark Tide*, *Don't Look Twice*, *Eyes Wide Open*, *15 Seconds* and *No Way Back*.

Andrew has co-authored six number one thrillers

with James Patterson, and his novels have been published in 25 countries

Keynote Speaker at Saturday lunch.

Seanan McGuire

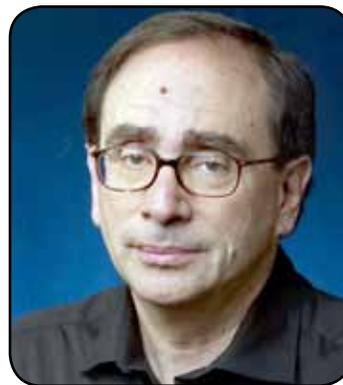


a.k.a. Mira Grant
Seanan McGuire is a prolific science fiction and fantasy author, averaging three books and multiple pieces of short fiction every year since 2010 (her first book came out in 2009). She doesn't sleep very much. She won the John

W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 2010 and has been nominated for several Hugo Awards, both under her own name and the name "Mira Grant" who she claims is her own evil twin.

Keynote Speaker at Sunday lunch.

R.L. Stine



R.L. Stine found an old typewriter up in the attic when he was nine. That discovery changed his life. In 1989 he created the *Fear Street* books, the best selling young adult book series in history. He introduced *Goosebumps* in 1992. That series quickly became an

international hit and has been translated into 32 different languages. R.L. Stine says he has the best job in the world: giving kids the CREEPS!

Keynote Speaker at Saturday night dinner.

Book Signing: 4:20-6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25

Located in Aspen Leaf. Open to the public at 5:00 p.m.

All participating authors will have books available for purchase at the signing. You may bring a max of 2 books per author to be signed from your own collection. The public is invited to this signing, so get in line early. The Keynote Speakers will be signing books along with authors Mike Befeler, F.T. Bradley, Becky Clark, Laura DiSilverio, JL Fields, J.A. Kazimer, Pete Klismet, Alex Kourvo, Cara Lopez Lee, Jennie Marts, Pam McCutcheon, Rod Miller, Barbara O'Neal, Aaron Michael Ritchey, Angel Smits, Robert Spiller, and Brandy Vallance.

Our Heartfelt Thanks...

To the volunteers who put in hundreds of hours of work to make conference happen...

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Debby Brewer
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Readers, & General Volunteers.

Query 1-on-1

All Query 1-on-1 appointments take place on Saturday on the Seventh Floor. Have two copies of your properly formatted, single-page query letter ready. Check your registration materials for your appointment card. The card contains all the details of your appointment. If you no longer want to Query 1-on-1, make sure you return the card to the query desk by the last session on Friday. Someone else may be waiting for an appointment. Thanks!

Professional Headshots

Interested in getting a headshot and helping Pikes Peak Writers at the same time? For \$50 you can have a 25 minute photo session and receive multiple edited photos for you to use without restriction. Go to the bookstore to sign up for a time slot. Sign up Thursday for a Friday appointment or Friday for a Saturday appointment. Spots are very limited, so don't delay. When you sign up, make certain you aren't picking a time that will conflict with a scheduled Read & Critique or any other commitment you might have at the conference. Half the proceeds are going toward Pikes Peak Writers Conference scholarships.

Read & Critique

All Read & Critique (R&C) appointments take place on Friday. The type you signed up for determines how many copies you bring of your first page or two. Check your registration materials for your R&C card, which has the appointment time, R&C type, and who will be critiquing. Turn the card in to the session moderator, along with your pages at the beginning of that session. If you no longer want your R&C, make sure you return the card to the R&C desk before lunch on Friday. Someone else may be waiting for an appointment. Thanks!

R&C 123:

By appointment. Your first page is read aloud by a designated reader. An agent, an editor, and a published author offer their impressions and suggestions. Open to attendee spectators. Bring 4 copies of your properly formatted first page if you signed up for this when you registered.

R&C X:

By appointment. Learn if your manuscript has the "X factor"—that special something that makes an editor or agent turn to the next page. Open to attendee spectators. Bring 3 copies of your properly formatted first page if you signed up for this when you registered.

R&C Author:

By appointment. Attendees (only those registered for R&C Author) read their first two properly formatted pages to a small group and receive feedback from a published author.

Schedule: Friday, April 24

Newcomers Orientation at 8:00 a.m., in Aspen Leaf

Session 1: 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.

Read & Critique Instructions on Page 3.

Read & Critique 123, in Aspen Leaf
With Tricia Narwani, Jennifer Udden & Andrew Gross

Read & Critique X, in Salon A
With Sandy Lu

Read & Critique Author, in 2nd Floor Conference Room, with Laura DiSilverio
Closed session, no spectators.

Less Is More: Cogent Fiction Writing
Presented by Dana Isaacson, in Salon BC
Having worked as a writer, agent, abridger and editor, Random House's Dana Isaacson thinks the most effective writers often use the fewest words. In his workshop, he offers guidance and advice for scribes seeking greater clarity, faster pacing, and a more commercial style.

Mixing Humor, Mystery, And Older Characters
Presented by Mike Befeler, in Salon F
What are the elements of a successful mystery

novel and what techniques can a writer use to develop a successful story? This session will explore the art of combining humor and dead bodies in a way that keeps the reader reading by pointing out the foibles of the human condition, using quirky characters, employing unexpected twists, showing people acting in unique ways, uncovering flaws in the protagonist and honorable traits in the antagonist. Given the explosion in the older population, there is increasing interest in older characters who are vital, humorous and can solve a mystery in spite of any deterioration of mind or body.

Marvelous Middle Grade
Presented by Bree Ervin, in Salon GH
Bree Ervin will examine the best of the booming Middle Grade market including books for reluctant readers and books for exceptional readers. She will discuss the rich themes that make MG so marvelous and engaging - not to mention fun to write! This workshop will also discuss the differences between MG and YA, as well as the differences between MG and

early readers. Bree will help you find that sweet spot that speaks to the middle grade crowd and gets them clamoring for more! Finally, this workshop will discuss some of the risks and pitfalls of writing for the MG market, including increased "gatekeepers" from parents, to teachers, to librarians and how to turn them from road blocks into assets and advocates!

"Tell Me About Your Book."
Presented by Alex Kourvo and Pam McCutcheon, in Eagles Nest

You know your novel inside and out, so why do you get tongue-tied when someone asks what it's about—or worse yet, babble on for ten minutes? If you've ever wondered how in the world to sum up four hundred pages of prose in a few short sentences, this workshop is for you. Come learn how to craft a snappy description of your book that will draw in readers, making them eager to know more about the novel you've written.

Session 2: 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Read & Critique Instructions on Page 3.

Read & Critique 123, in Aspen Leaf
With Kate Testerman, Mary Kay Andrews, Sandy Lu

Read & Critique X, in Salon A
With Jane Stine

Read & Critique Author, in 2nd Floor Conference Room, with Josh Vogt
Closed session, no spectators.

One Moment In Time: Writing Scenes
Presented by Cara Lopez Lee, in Salon BC
Even big stories are made up of small moments, or scenes. Whether we're writing fiction or nonfiction, sometimes it's hard to resist leaping from one event to the next, but when we linger in one moment, we not only dig deeper into character development, we also pick up the pace of our scenes! In this workshop, writers will learn to increase conflict, momentum, and meaning in their scenes by slowing down time. Feel free to

bring in a rough scene, summary, idea, or simply an open mind. Our goal will be to draft a scene that dives through layers of conflict to reveal what's underneath.

The Long And Short Of The Short Story
Presented by Rod Miller, in Salon F
Short fiction sets the writer free to experiment, innovate, and explore. You can do just about anything you want in a short story, so long as you do it well. Explore different approaches to short fiction—including using characters, scenes, settings, story, chronology, and other tools—and discuss how they work and why. PowerPoint visuals reinforce key topics and show examples

What To Do When It All Goes Wrong. Again.
Presented by J.A. Kazimer, in Salon GH
Writing is hard. Getting that writing published, even harder. And even harder still is maintaining a career as a working writer. This workshop will give tips and tricks on how to

survive in this industry and ways to climb out from underneath a seemingly crushed career.

Beyond The Words: What Agents And Editors Really Look For

Presented by Melissa Flashman, in Eagles Nest
We spend so much time getting our manuscripts as close to perfection as possible. We spend hours writing and rewriting our query letters and the dreaded synopsis. Melissa Flashman of Trident Media is going to let you in on some industry secrets and take you beyond the words. She will give you some insight as to what else agents and editors look for in potential clients. What is an author's platform and how much does it matter? Does it matter what you wear? How much does confidence count? Do you need to have a finished manuscript for fiction? What about non-fiction? Is it better to self-publish first to build an audience? What's all this talk about likable characters? Join Melissa as she helps you gain even more confidence as you prepare to present your work!

Welcome Lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom

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Schedule: Friday, April 24

Session 3: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Read & Critique Instructions on Page 3.

**Read & Critique X, in Salon A
With Liz Pelletier**

Read & Critique Author, in 2nd Floor Conference Room, with Aaron Michael Ritchey
Closed session, no spectators.

Making Your Characters Matter

Presented by Angel Smits, in Salon BC

People care about the people they know, so it's only natural that readers care about the characters that populate our books. They get to know them well after spending some serious hours immersed in their lives. We as writers need to know them even better in order to make them come alive on the page. Angel Smits teaches some of the tools and tricks she uses to make her characters come alive, and seem to stay that way, in this interactive workshop.

Writing Combat In Science Fiction

Presented by Kevin Ikenberry, in Salon F

We've all seen movies or read stories where what we know about science does not mesh with what's presented to us. Science fiction

readers are willing to suspend their disbelief to a point, and it's important to know where that point is. This workshop will focus on the finer details of writing combat in science fiction where the planet, the vacuum of space, and the technology can all challenge what we know.

The Ups And Downs Of A Hybrid Author **Presented by Jennie Marts, in Salon GH**

There are unique challenges to living the life of a hybrid author. The worlds of indie and traditional publishing are vastly different but being a hybrid has some great advantages. This workshop compares and contrasts the indie and traditional worlds and how each can complement the other. From editing differences, to control of your work, both worlds require an immense amount of work. Jennie Marts will help you make the most of hybrid marketing in both worlds.

Mythbusting Agents with Margaret Bail, Melissa Flashman, Sandy Lu, Mary Sue Seymour, Andrea Somberg, and Jennifer Udden, in Aspen Leaf

This special panel discussion gives our at-

tendees the chance to find out what's really on agents' minds today. What are they looking for? What have they seen too much of? And has anyone ever really tried to pitch their book to them in the bathroom?

Tales Of Horror: How To Survive Plotting Nightmares

Presented by Jane Stine, in Eagles Nest

Jane Stine is the founder of Parachute Press in NYC. As an editor and book packager, Jane has produced dozens of popular book series, including books for Mary-Kate and Ashley Olson, Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary, Marvel Comics, Transformers, and Thomas Kinkade. She is also co-creator and the editor of the children's horror series Goosebumps and Fear Street, written by her husband, R.L. Stine. Having guided the plot structure of hundreds of books, Jane will share her knowledge and help your story flow from the first sentence to The End. Along with many other plotting tricks, Jane will teach you the right way to add suspense, how to keep your audience captive, and what a story arc needs to leave your readers truly satisfied!

Session 4: 2:40 to 3:40 p.m.

Read & Critique Instructions on Page 3.

Read & Critique 123, in Aspen Leaf
**With Dana Isaacson, Mary Sue Seymour
and Seanan McGuire**

Read & Critique X, in Salon A
With Jennifer Udden

Read & Critique X, in Salon F
With Kate Testerman

Read & Critique Author, in 2nd Floor Conference Room, with Cara Lopez Lee
Closed session, no spectators.

Snapping Pictures With Words: The Art Of Description

Presented by Angie Hodapp, in Salon BC

Learn to craft descriptive passages so evocative that the images leap right off the page and

into the reader's imagination! We'll cover the role of description in fiction, the differences between active and passive description, concrete and abstract description, and the importance of choosing what to describe and when. You'll also learn tips for revising passages of description and wrap up with 15 description devices which increase in difficulty and are organized from "freshman year" through "senior year."

In The Beginning

Presented by Laura DiSilverio, in Salon GH

Laura DiSilverio will analyze and dissect first paragraphs (roughly) of published novels and train attendees to do this dissection. Join Laura as she discusses the elements of an effective opening to a novel or short story and learn how to get your work off to a better and more engaging start.

PACE: Ten Surefire Ways To Keep The Pages Moving

Presented by Andrew Gross, in Eagles Nest

Pace, or the tempo by which you keep your story moving, is as vital to keeping your reader's attention as is character or plot, whether you write potboilers or have loftier literary ambitions. In truth, there's no one right pace, only the one that best drives your story. I'll give you ten tricks of the trade to figure out yours, and to keep those pages turning without offsetting the nuances of style and character.

Schedule: Friday, April 24

Afternoon Break, 3:40 to 4:10 p.m.

Session 5: 4:10 to 5:10 p.m.

Read & Critique Instructions on Page 3.

Read & Critique 123, in Aspen Leaf
With Liz Pelletier, Margaret Bail, Laura DiSilverio

Read & Critique X, in Salon A,
with Andrea Somberg

Read & Critique Author, in 2nd Floor Conference Room, with Angel Smits.
Closed session, no spectators.

Read & Critique Author, in the Library,
with Rod Miller.
Closed session, no spectators.

The Foundations Of A Freelance Writing Career
Presented by Josh Vogt, in Salon BC

Have you ever considered pursuing a career as either a part or full-time freelance writer? It's a dream many people have—the ability to work from home, choose your own hours

and clients, all while making a living through writing. But not so many actually know how to go about starting and maintaining this sort of career path. In this workshop, you'll learn three main elements to get you going as a freelance writer, as well as how to give yourself the tools and mindset to encourage long-term success. Discover what you need to present yourself as a true professional, how to build a portfolio of work, and tips and tricks to effectively pitch your services to clients. There will be time at the end for Q&A.

Write The MG And YA Mystery/Thriller
Presented by F.T. Bradley, in Salon F

Realistic fiction is sought-after in MG and YA, especially mysteries and thrillers. But writing these page turners comes with its challenges. Join author F.T. Bradley to learn about what goes (and doesn't) in MG and YA. Learn how to create a believable premise, and how to plot a riveting suspense novel that'll have teens and tweens glued to the pages.

Female Serial Killers? C'Mon!

Presented by Pete Klismet, in Salon GH

It's the age of equality, at least in America. Some authors want to make their female serial killer as mean, angry and sexually depraved as the men. Well, guess what. They AREN'T the same, no matter how bad you might want them to be. But...they exist. Join former FBI Profiler Pete Klismet in a journey to the unusual, but realistic realm of the female serial killer.

Writing The Perfect Pitch: Query Letter Etiquette

Presented by Sandy Lu, in Eagles Nest

Sandy Lu, of L. Perkins Agency, will share her knowledge as a literary agent to help you become pitch perfect. Learn the Do's and Do Not's of writing queries letters and pitching. Learn how to effectively and successfully compose a query letter with etiquette and form that wins the attention of agents and editors, and perhaps the contract of your dreams!

Dinner with Mary Kay Andrews at 6:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night at 8:30 p.m. in the Library.
Come read some of your work to other conference attendees.
3-5 minutes per person. No critiques.
Bring your friends and a glass of wine.

Ghost Hunt at 8:30 p.m., pre-registration was required

Flash Fiction Contest: Have you entered?

Three Prompts and 150 Words

The rules are simple: There are 15 prompts distributed among your faculty, staff, and hotel personnel. To enter the contest, write a 150 word Flash Fiction story using AT LEAST three prompts, which you will receive by introducing yourself to the faculty and staff and hotel personnel with the winking eye on their badges. Submissions with fewer than three prompts will be disqualified. Extra points will be awarded for each additional prompt used beyond the basic requirement. Submit your entries to the registration desk PRIOR to the banquet Saturday evening. To your entry, please attach a second piece of paper with your name and contact information and the prompts used, and please fold this paper so that your info does not show, in order to allow for blind judging. Winners announced Sunday at lunch. Good luck!

Schedule: Saturday, April 25

Continental Breakfast from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Session 6: 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Beyond 3 Acts: Modern Novel Structure **Presented by Trai Cartwright, in Salon A**

Ever start work on a book and find yourself stalling somewhere around page 125 or 150? Ever find yourself stumped for how to end your book, or start revisions and find yourself bored by your own story by page 75? These are all indicative of structural issues. One of the most helpful craft elements a writer can learn is the underlying structure found in nearly every modern movie and commercial novel. Some of these “beats” go back thousands of years; others are quite new, and this workshop reveals and explains the beats of our current literary and reading culture. These powerful tools will supercharge your story with momentum and your characters with purpose.

Balancing Writing And A Full-Time Job **Presented by Mike Befeler, in Salon BC**

This session describes a technique based on Julia Cameron’s Morning Pages concept in her book *The Artist’s Way* on how to write while being fully employed. Recommendations are provided on how to manage a regular writing schedule, balance conflicting demands and keep continuity going in the writing process. Specific attention is given to the elements of starting to

write, constantly improving writing skills and persevering under the time constraints and pressure of a full time job.

Exploding Plot Points

Presented by Alex Kourvo, in Salon F

Are your novel’s “big scenes” doing everything they should do? Are there ways to make them bigger, more dramatic, and more compelling for the reader? In this workshop, you’ll learn how to make your key scenes explode, taking the plot in new directions and keeping your readers engaged until the very last page.

Seven Essentials For Powerful Fiction

Presented by Brandy Vallance, in Salon GH

If you want to write powerful fiction that will not easily be forgotten, your story must include seven essentials. Through fourteen years of study, Brandy has found these secrets of the bestsellers and she’ll unpack them for you. Learn how to create characters you can relate to, use real emotions, portray vivid settings, use unexpected plot, utilize the five senses, put tension on every page, and torture the reader until the end. Take your fiction writing to the next level and create gripping stories that will make your readers fans for life.

The Book Of Love: A Romance Author Panel, in Aspen Leaf

Presented by Jennie Marts, Barbara (Samuel) O’Neal, Angel Smits

Everyone needs a little love in their life. The romance genre is arguably one of the broadest and most varied on the bookshelves and has one of the largest reader bases in the industry. It is a genre that is forever changing, evolving, and expanding, making it difficult to keep up with what is hot, what is trending, and what readers want. To help you, we invited three of the best to discuss the romance genre and share their experiences.

Will The Real Young Adult Book Please Stand Up? What Makes YA Stories YA

Presented by Aaron Michael Ritchey, in Eagles Nest

Young adult is a hot genre and maybe you’ve been told that your book “might be” a young adult story. How do you know? In this interactive workshop we’ll talk about the nature of conflict in young adult novels, the power of the coming-of-age story, and how you can tell when something is young adult, when it’s middle grade, and when it should be marketed to adults.

Session 7: 9:10 to 10:10 a.m.

May Kay Andrews, Seanan McGuire, Andrew Gross, and R.L. Stine, in Aspen Leaf

Our keynote speakers will all be in the same place at the same time, talking about this crazy dream we’re all chasing. Come hear what they have to say about their successes, their less-than-successes, and the lessons they’ve learned on the road to becoming beloved and widely read authors.

Constructing Your SciFi Or Fantasy Novel **Presented by Josh Vogt, in Salon A**

Just like every writer has a somewhat different drafting and revision process, so every genre writer often has a unique way to go about building a world from the ground up. But the more tools and techniques you have to choose from, the better your chances are of refining your worldbuilding process. In this overarching workshop, we’ll discuss the many factors that help flesh out a science fiction or fantasy world and how to cobble them all together and bring them to life. From systems of magic to cultural constructs, from ancient history to unique technologies—discover how to introduce readers to your world and get them lost in it. Plus get a couple helpful handouts along the way!

The Art Of The Funny Bone

Presented by Robert Spiller, in Salon BC

Humor isn’t just an art; some consider it a sci-

ence. Learn about the types of humor and their construction. Join Bob Spiller and you might also learn how to add a smile to your own writing. Bring a joke if you dare.

Flash! Not Fiction.

Presented by Cara Lopez Lee, in Salon F

Why should fiction writers be the only ones who flash? The flash storytelling form has plenty to excite creative nonfiction writers. Learn how to pack a personal experience into a compelling super-short story between 100 and 1000 words, complete with a beginning, middle, and end. We’ll explore ways to cut thunderbolt details into tiny flashes of conflict, hilarity, and beauty. We’ll lean on the rhythms and imagery of poetry to help us communicate more with less. Our goal will be to walk away with the first draft of a flash nonfiction piece of few words but great value.

It’s All About Character

Presented by Kevin Ikenberry, in Salon GH

Stories live and die by their characters. In this presentation, you’ll learn the secrets of a successful protagonist, the rules for creating a memorable antagonist, and how to develop a stakes character to shape the story. Building a story starts with solid, believable characters. Without them, a story isn’t a story.

Guerilla Marketing: Skip The Monkey Marketing **Presented by J.A. Kazimer, in Eagles Nest**

This presentation will teach writers how to use Guerrilla Marketing (advertising focused on low-cost unconventional marketing tactics that yield maximum results) to sell more books and even sell yourself as the writer. We will explore how other Guerrilla marketers have sold thousands of books and brainstorm ways for every attendee to do the same.

Choose Your Writing Adventure

Schedule: Saturday, April 25

Session 8: 10:20 to 11:20 a.m.

Contracts And Royalty Statements

Presented by Angie Hodapp, in Salon A

Protect your rights and assets! Writers love to read. But when it comes to contracts and royalties statements, the language can be hard to grasp. Angie Hodapp, the contracts and royalties manager of Nelson Literary Agency, is here to make it all make sense. Leave this workshop with a better understanding of the legalities involved in your future as an author.

Writing The Strong Female Protagonist

Presented by Barbara (Samuel) O'Neal, in Salon BC

From book club books to the powerful female detective, from urban fantasy to YA, the strong female heroine is in the spotlight more and more these days. Examine the ways women and men differ, the special scars women carry and how that forms them, and the way to get a believable, powerful female protagonist on the

page with a multiple award winning, bestselling author of more than forty novels...all starring strong female protagonists.

Proposals: Why, When, And How To Write Them

Presented by Angel Smits, in Salon F

Whether you're writing a proposal for a single book, a trilogy, or a series, Angel walks attendees through how to put one together, what needs to be included, and what not to do. She'll share examples of several proposals as well as the one she used to sell her 6-book series, *A Chair At the Hawkins Table* to Harlequin Super Romance.

Outline Using Plot Points

Presented by F.T. Bradley, in Salon GH

So you have a great idea for a novel, or maybe you have a messy rough draft in that writer's drawer? Find out how to turn your novel manuscript from a wimpy doughboy with a flabby middle into a novel fit for submission. Author

F.T. Bradley will show you how to take a logline/concept and characters, and build them into a strong outline, while still leaving pantsers plenty of room to color outside the lines.

Mythbusting Editors with Stacey Barney, Dana Isaacson, Tricia Narwani, and Liz Pelletier, in Aspen Leaf

Join our editors for a special panel session where they answer the burning questions about today's publishing industry.

Scenes: Using Every Crayon in the Box

Presented by Mary Kay Andrews, in Eagles Nest

Your fictional setting deserves as much attention as the characters who inhabit your world. Mary Kay Andrews will describe how to imbue your made-up world with the sights, smells, sounds, and attendant details needed for a full-color fictional experience.

Lunch at 11:45 a.m. with Andrew Gross

Session 9: 1:40 to 2:40 p.m.

Pursuing Truth Through Historical Fiction

Presented by Rod Miller, in Salon A

From research through writing, this workshop shows how to blend fact and fancy in creating fiction that uses historical characters and events to tell a compelling story. Based on a yet-unsolved 1842 crime in which an unknown assailant shot Lilburn Boggs, former governor of Missouri, the historical novel *The Assassination of Governor Boggs* lays the groundwork for this how-to exploration of blending fact and fiction to seek truth, reveal history, and attempt to solve a mystery.

Memoir That Reads Like A Novel

Presented by Cara Lopez Lee, in Salon BC

A memoir may be nonfiction, but it can still have the literary quality of a novel. However, achieving a novel effect does take creative thinking. In a novel, the plot requires conflict, climax, and resolution, and the characters typically grow or change. In real life, sometimes people don't seem to change, and conflicts go on and on. So how can a memoirist fit real-life experiences into a dramatic story arc? It's all in what you keep and what you throw away, how you frame the story and how you shape the action within that frame. In this workshop, you'll learn how to use the storytelling form itself to shape reality into literature.

Rejection Is Not A Four-Letter Word

Presented by Mike Befeler, in Salon F

One of the things writers must become used to is rejection, whether being turned down by agents or editors. Rather than being only a negative, it can strengthen our writing and lead to improved query letters, synopses and manuscripts. Along the way it may be painful, and this session will describe techniques we can use to deal with the rejection and learn from it. Topics include selling without an agent, when to keep trying the traditional publishing route and when to pursue self-publishing, and how to assess feedback from rejection. Examples will also be given from successful authors on what they've experienced with rejected manuscripts and bad reviews.

Brainstorming Using The Plotting Board

Presented by Pam McCutcheon, in Salon GH

One of the problems with brainstorming is that it's difficult to gather your friends together when you need help. And, when plotting alone, it's even harder to break out of your conventional mode of thinking to come up with fresh new approaches to plotting and characterization. In this workshop, Pam will use characterization, plot, and scene structure to help you brainstorm a new book using the visual plotting board or help you identify what you're missing in your

current manuscript. Whether you brainstorm alone or in a group, these techniques will help you bust your way out of writer's block.

A Walk Down Fear Street: Q&A with R.L. Stine, in Aspen Leaf

Every aspiring author dreams of having a conversation with a legend. With forty years of experience in the publishing industry, R.L. Stine has written more than three-hundred books and sold over 350 million copies worldwide. Now, he is sitting down and giving you the interview of a lifetime. Join us for a candid conversation where he'll answer your questions and take you for a walk down Fear Street.

Talk The Talk: Dialogue that Demands to be Read

Presented by Margaret Bail, in Eagles Nest

There are many facets to consider when writing your future best seller. Perhaps one of the most important is character development. As you work your characters into your novel, you must remember that what they say and how they interact with each other is just as important as what they do and who they are. In this workshop, Margaret Bail will provide an agent's perspective on dialogue that will help give your characters life and pull readers into their world. Join Margaret and learn how to make your characters Talk The Talk.

Schedule: Saturday, April 25

Session 10: 2:50 to 3:50 p.m.

Scams And Shams

Presented by Angie Hodapp and Josh Vogt, in Salon A

In this workshop, Angie and Josh will team up to help you avoid the many scams and shams aimed at writers. Learn how to spot fake agents, shoddy editorial services, and bogus contests and awards programs designed to separate writers from their money.

Fast Talk: Speeding The Pace Of Your Novel

Presented by Mary Sue Seymour, in Salon BC
In this workshop, you will complete writing exercises to make you aware of what writing with a faster pace means. Mary Sue Seymour, a literary agent from The Seymour Agency, will show you what the experts are looking for. Hopefully you will take this knowledge home and use it to revise your manuscript, making it read with a pace that gets an agent's attention.

Plotting Doesn't Mean Plodding

Presented by Laura DiSilverio, in Salon F

For many, the thought of plotting achieves the same sensation as trudging through waist deep mud. But plotting does not have to slow you down. Join Laura DiSilverio as she discusses the basics of plotting including the Three-Act Structure. She will discuss the inciting incident, final battle and resolution. Why conflict is essential, types of conflict, and how to work them in. The importance of causality, and pacing. With this informative workshop and examples from published fiction, Laura will show you how to keep moving forward while you plot away.

The Big Picture Revision Checklist

Presented by Alex Kourvo, in Salon GH

The first draft of your novel is done. Now what? Once the champagne is gone, you're left with a daunting pile of pages and no idea where to begin. This 20-point checklist will

help authors dive into those second-draft revisions with gusto, making sure their protagonist, antagonist, and story stakes are all they can be.

Part Of A Balanced Breakfast: Serials, Series, And Keeping Them From Getting Stale **Presented by Seanan McGuire, in Eagles Nest**

How do you write a series—whether a series of novels or a series of short stories—without beating it to death? Let's talk about and brainstorm ways of keeping things interesting in both a closed and an open-ended fictional reality. (Spoiler alert: We will need to discuss many long-running series over the course of this workshop. While we'll try to get group consensus before we bring in anything new, you're probably going to find out how at least one trilogy ends. Sorry about that.)

Afternoon Break, 3:50 to 4:20 p.m.

Book Signing

Aspen Leaf: 4:20 to 5:00 p.m. for conference attendees only.
Opens to the public from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. See page 2 for details.

Session 11: 4:20 to 5:20 p.m.

Critiquing Critique Groups

Presented by J.T. Evans, in Salon F

Critique groups can push you forward or hold you back. Join J.T. Evans, the President of Pikes Peak Writers, and discuss the pros and cons of critique groups. Learn how to determine if a group is the right fit for you. Learn how to find members and what to do when things go wrong. Critique groups should be supportive and constructive. They should help improve your writing and enrich your life as an author. Join J.T. and gain the knowledge you need to become part of a successful critique group.

All Things Podcasting

Presented by Patrick Hester, in Salon GH

Patrick Hester, of the SF Signal, is a two-time winner and three-time nominee of the Hugo Award. Join Patrick as he discusses the increasingly popular concept of podcasts. What are they? What can they do? Where can you find them? If asked to participate in a podcast, how can you make the most of the experience to help your career? Join Patrick as he shares his knowledge and experiences in all things podcasting!

An Hour Of Improv

Presented by Bonnie Hagan, in Eagles Nest

Join Pikes Peak Writers very own Bonnie Hagan for a fun-filled hour of Improv writing. Challenge your creativity in timed writing exercises based on prompts provided by Bonnie. Then, be prepared to read your work aloud! Don't worry, this is a critique-free zone where the only requirements are that you relax and have a great time with other writers. Take the idea of Improv home with you and use it to beat writers block or spark new ideas. Perhaps you'll even want to start your own Improv group!

The Zebulon Awards Banquet with R.L. Stine at 7:30 p.m.

The Zebulon

The Zebulon is the Pikes Peak Writers fiction writing contest focusing on what it takes to get your work published. Winners will be recognized at The Zebulon Awards Banquet on Saturday night. The first place winner in each category received a free 2015 Confer-

ence or a cash prize of \$100 if not attending. Second place was awarded \$40. Third place was awarded \$20. All winners attending PPWC 2015 were given top priority with respect to their editor/agent Query 1-on-1 appointment selections.



2014 Zebulon Winners

2015 Zebulon Winners

Young Adult/Middle Grade

1st Place: Molly Gray, Eagle River, AK
“Between Floors”

2nd Place: Ida Olson, Cheyenne, WY
“Virago”

3rd Place: Brooke Hartman, Chugiak, AK
“Axis”

Mainstream/Literary/Historical

1st Place: Kim Lajevardi, Westminster, CO
“Silent Witness”

2nd Place: Charis Himeda, Worcester, MA
“The Shape of a Kiss”

3rd Place: Roberta Summers, Farmington, NM
“The Downwinders Story”

Mystery/Thriller/Suspense

1st Place: Rachele Harp, Providence Village, TX
“#FeedWar”

2nd Place: Gary Alan McBride, Boulder, CO
“The Wildcat”

3rd Place: Annette Bernard, Colorado Springs, CO
“The Sonian Forest”

Romance/Women’s Fiction

1st Place: Melanie Lord, Castle Rock, CO
“Waiting for Tomorrow”

2nd Place: Rene Zimbelman, Centennial, CO
“Miserably Happy”

Science Fiction/Fantasy

1st Place: Mark Andreas, Boulder, CO
“Down into Darkness”

2nd Place: Barbara Lund, Draper, UT
“Speaker for the People”

3rd Place: Kelly M. Welsh, Boulder, CO
“The Kamen District”

Urban Fantasy/Horror/Paranormal

1st Place: C.R. Hodges, Niwot, CO
“Ragnarok Willie”

2nd Place: Chloe Hawker, Pittsburgh, PA
“Go”

3rd Place: Anne Belen, Seattle, WA
“Past Mistakes”

Thank you to The Zebulon VIP judges

Andrea Somberg, Harvey Klinger – Middle Grade/Young Adult

Sandy Lu, L. Perkins Agency – Mainstream/Literary/Historical

Dana Isaacson, Ballantine Books at Random House – Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Mary Sue Seymour, Seymour Agency – Romance/Women’s Fiction

Tricia Narwani, Del Rey/Random House Worlds – Science Fiction/Fantasy

Margaret Bail, Inklings Literary – Urban Fantasy/Horror/Paranormal

Schedule: Sunday, April 26

Continental Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Session 12: 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

7 Things You Need To Know To Write Like A Poet **Presented by Rod Miller, in Salon A**

What do poets do to turn words into poetry? Learn seven characteristics of poetic writing that will serve you well whether you are writing poetry or want to. Lend elegance to your prose. Discussed, with examples, are techniques such as metaphor, repetition of sound, allusion, and rhythm—all of which prose writers can utilize, as poets do, to make words work harder, sound better, and affect readers more deeply. Includes examples and illustrations with PowerPoint visuals.

The Loaded Exchange: How To Write Tension-Packed Dialogue

Presented by Angie Hodapp, in Salon BC
What affects what your characters say to each other... and, more importantly, what they hold back? Let your scene's context and subtext guide you in writing great dialogue. Analyze the dynamic of power (physical, mental/intellectual, emotional, spiritual) between two (or more) characters in a scene to maximize tension, and

learn what to do when you don't know what a character should say next.

Beating The Block: Mental Fiber For Creative Constipation

Presented by Bree Ervin, in Salon F
Feeling abandoned by The Muse? Let me show you how to bring her back to your side. There are lots of reasons for feeling blocked, but there's only one true remedy – Writing. So, how do you get your fingers flowing across that keyboard, or dancing across the page when it feels like the last thing on Earth you want to do? This is a hands-on workshop. Participants should bring paper and writing utensils. We will explore a few exercises guaranteed to get the words flowing again. Participants will leave class with a fresh box of tools to help them get unstuck anywhere, any time.

Author Platform Building (For People With A Life)

Presented by F.T. Bradley, in Salon GH
Does the phrase 'author platform' make you

tense up, panic, or want to hide from the world? Do you get overwhelmed when you hear all you're supposed to do - Twitter, Facebook, blog, a website...? Join author F.T. Bradley to find out how to identify and reach your readers, what you really need to do, and what you can do without. This is the author platform workshop for people with a life, like you.

Understanding Scene Structure **Presented by Pam McCutcheon in Eagles Nest**

Writing an entire novel can be intimidating. But if you remember that a book is a series of connected scenes, writing one scene at a time is much less daunting. Once you master scene structure, you have mastered one of the basics of storytelling. To help with this, Pam McCutcheon borrows from Dwight Swain and Jack Bickham to explain what scene and sequel are and how to structure them with maximum effect, then use examples from published works as well as interactive class examples to drive the point home.

Session 13: 10:10 to 11:10 a.m.

Working Your Work Into Your Writing **Presented by JL Fields, in Salon A**

Many writers want to, well, write... but work gets in the way. JL Fields will share strategies to begin a professional life of self-employment. Utilizing existing abilities and experiences, plus writing skills, participants will begin to develop a business model that incorporates writing into a professional umbrella. The result? More time to focus on genre writing!

Hi, I'm Your Friendly Neighborhood Serial Killer **Presented by Pete Klismet, in Salon BC**

A lot of crime/fiction writers depict serial killers as the media might, replete with stereotypical behavior. But, guess what? They're not raving lunatics with blood dripping from the corners of their mouths. And, stranger yet, they are no 'crazier' than you and me. Join a former FBI profiler and explore what a serial killer is 'really' like. You might be surprised. Or even become paranoid. But we hope only to dispel some of your beliefs and myths common to this phenomenon.

Unlocking Personification And Metaphor To Deepen Emotion

Presented by Brandy Vallance, in Salon F
Do you hear that your writing isn't strong enough? Maybe you haven't accessed your story's emotional depth. Beyond strong dialogue and powerful body language, sharper tools await the intrepid fiction writer. Learn how to pull out all the stops and make inanimate (and sometimes animate) objects reflect your characters internal conflicts, desires, and fears. Make the reader feel deeply without them knowing why. Also, learn how to bring metaphor into your setting to drive your story deeper. Come prepared to cut through surface techniques and sculpt the heart of raw emotion.

Top 10 Story-Telling Devices Movies Can Teach Fiction Writers

Presented by Trai Cartwright, in Salon GH
It's no secret that Hollywood has cracked the story structure code, or that they've refined some of the most elegant and efficient character-building tools in the storytelling business. What you may not know is that all of these tricks can be (and often are) utilized to conquer fiction writing, too. This workshop presents the Top Ten Movie Storytelling Devices and shows you

how to capitalize on them for any and all of your writing! Taught by a Hollywood pro who routinely poaches from great films to better her fiction writing.

How The Process Works: Your Gateway To Hell **Presented by Liz Pelletier & MK Meredith, in Eagles Nest**

An in-depth, insider's tour of the journey a book makes from pitch to purchase; starting with what an editor thinks while reading an inbox full of queries, through the acquisition process, to sales pitches, distribution, and, finally, working with retail chains for shelving. From the author's perspective, you'll be able to get an inside glimpse into the whole process. From "I want to be published," to the reaction to the first call from an editor saying they would be honored to take you on as one of their authors, to the revision process to "Yay! It's release day. Now what do I do?" The do's and don'ts to maximize exposure properly on release day to have the right people reading your book and keeping them hooked. By the end of this seminar, you'll be a pro and on your way to publishing your first novel!

Schedule: Sunday, April 26

Session 14: 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Hey, Look At Me! (Self-Marketing In The Ever-Changing World Of Publishing)
Presented by Jennie Marts, in Salon A
Gone are the days of national book signing tours where an author travels from city to city to meet adoring fans (well - okay, some authors still do this). But the majority of an author's promotional time is now spent at home at their laptop, and quite often in their pajamas or sweats and clutching a luke-warm cup of coffee. Whether you are traditional or indie, you are still responsible for the majority of your own marketing. This workshop teaches you how to get your name out there and get recognized through multiple marketing channels such as building a brand, creating a social media network, making the most of community events, and some new and creative ideas of how to use social media and multiple marketing avenues to get your name noticed. There's more to marketing than just Facebook and this workshop explores other options and new alternatives to building your brand and creating successful self-promotion.

Cornerstones Of Excellence: Revise Your Novel From Good To Great!

Presented by Barbara (Samuel) O'Neal, in Salon BC

You've done all the heavy lifting in revisions, now take your book through one more revision to add dazzle, punch, and excellence by using time-honored techniques of layering in detail, listening to the words, and paying attention to color, scent, and other subtle choices that add up to a big impact, taking your book from merely good... to AMAZING!

Prologues: Problems And Pluses

Presented by Laura DiSilverio, in Salon F

Using prologues (good and bad) from published novels, Laura DiSilverio will discuss when a prologue is a plus for a novel and when it is a problem. She will offer guidelines for when to use prologues and how to write good ones that don't detract from the rest of the book.

What Now?

Presented by Kevin Ikenberry, in Salon GH

You've written the story of your dreams. Now what? This workshop looks at the decision to submit, how to select a publisher/market, and how to get through all the angst of waiting. When you do hear something about your story, and they want to publish it, what do you do then? Come learn how to get past submission jitters, move on to the next story, and how to professionally handle your first sale.

Writing The Amateur Sleuth Mystery

Presented by Mike Befeler, J.A. Kazimer, and Robert Spiller, in Eagles Nest

So you want to write a mystery where the sleuth is a dog catcher? Learn the ins and outs of writing murder where the sleuth is something other than a cop or private eye. Why in God's name is a school teacher involved in business normally left to the professional? Learn why cozy and amateur sleuth mysteries are the fastest growing segment of the mystery field.

Farewell Lunch at 12:30 p.m. with Seanan McGuire

Conference Scholarships

Thanks to the generous contributions of many donors, Pikes Peak Writers was able to award \$1,900 in scholarships to writers who would otherwise have been unable to attend this year's conference. Since 1993, scholarships have been made possible by generous contributions from friends of Pikes Peak Writers and participants at the Conference.

Use Your Breaks

- ~ Mingle & network with attendees
- ~ Use the Library to relax and write.
- ~ Pop into the bookstore for books & merchandise
- ~ Start your plan of action for after conference!

Colorado Springs Marriott

We are delighted to return to the Colorado Springs Marriott for the twenty-second straight year. Once again, the Marriott is a major supporter of the conference, and we appreciate their sponsorship. The Marriott's generous support continues with the very attractive room rates offered for the guest rooms and the conference space which helps us bring in out-of-town speakers and still keep our registration fees as reasonable as possible. It is our mission to keep the conference thriving, and we strive for our relationship to continue to be beneficial for the Marriott, as well as the Pikes Peak Writers Conference.

Thank you!

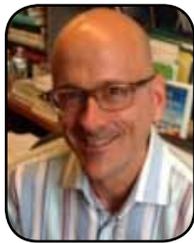
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Acquiring Editors



Tricia Narwani
Del Rey Books

Tricia Narwani is Editorial Director of Del Rey Books. She has worked in publishing for 10 years and specializes in science fiction and fantasy. Tricia's current projects include works by Joe Abercrombie, Kevin Hearne, and Peter V. Brett.



Dana Isaacson
Ballantine Books

Dana Edwin Isaacson is a senior editor at Ballantine Books at Random House in New York City. A veteran of the publishing industry, he has edited nonfiction and fiction books for various publishing houses, as well as having worked as a literary agent, an abridger, and a co-writer. Presently, he works with authors from Rita Mae Brown to Nancy Thayer to Jonathan Kellerman. He is currently on the lookout for mysteries and thrillers for the eBook line, Alibi.



Liz Pelletier
Entangled Publishing

Liz Pelletier is, first and foremost, an entrepreneur. Beginning with the belief that authors who write great books should receive a majority of the profits, she created a new business model that bridged the gap between self and traditional publishing and co-founded Entangled, taking it from start-up to a formidable presence in the industry in just three years. Since its inception, Entangled has had 27 *USA Today* bestsellers, 11 *New York Times* bestsellers, and has earned myriad awards within the industry.

Literary Agents



Margaret Bail
Inklings Literary Agency

Margaret Bail has a BA in English and an MFA in Creative and Professional Writing. She looks forward to working with new and established authors to help develop their voice and craft. Her lifelong love of stories has her looking for books that transport her into the heart of the story, so much so that she'll forget where she is and lose track of time while she reads. Specific genres Margaret represents include the following: romance – all subgenres except Christian or inspirational, science fiction, mystery, thrillers/action adventure, historical fiction, Westerns, and fantasy. She is only interested in adult fiction.



Sandy Lu
L. Perkins Agency

Sandy Lu has been a literary agent at the L. Perkins Agency since 2009. She holds BAs in psychology and sociology, with minors in music, business, and Japanese. Sandy is seeking submissions that draw her in with a unique voice and a good yarn that will make her miss her subway stop. She loves all things historical and anything with a supernatural bent. In fiction, she is looking for dark literary and commercial fiction, mystery, thriller, psychological horror, historical fiction, fantasy, and YA. In nonfiction, she is looking for narrative nonfiction, history, biography, memoir, pop science, psychology, sociology, pop culture (music/theatre/film), and food writing.

Literary Agents



Renee Nyen
kt literary

Several years in the editorial department at Random House's Colorado division provided Renee with the opportunity to work with bestselling and debut authors alike. After leaving Random House, she came to kt literary in early 2013. She loves digging into manuscripts and helping the author shape the best story possible. Though this is great for her profession, it tends to frustrate people watching movies with her.



Andrea Somberg
Harvey Klinger Agency

A literary agent for close to fifteen years, Andrea Somberg represents a wide range of fiction and nonfiction, including projects for adult, young adult and middle grade audiences. She joined Harvey Klinger Inc. in the spring of 2005. She is always actively looking to take on new authors who write in the following categories: Fiction: literary, commercial, womens fiction, romance, thrillers, mystery, paranormal, fantasy, science fiction, young adult, new adult, middle grade. Nonfiction: memoir, narrative, popular science, pop-culture, humor, how-to, parenting, self-help, lifestyle, travel, interior design, crafts, cookbooks, business, sports, health & fitness.



Jennifer Udden
Donald Maass Agency

Jennifer Udden joined the Donald Maass Literary Agency in 2010. She represents speculative fiction (both science fiction and fantasy), urban fantasy, and mysteries, as well as historical, erotic, contemporary, and paranormal romance. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and previously worked in nonprofit arts fundraising. She is actively seeking diversity in projects and in authors, including (but not limited to) diversity of gender, sexuality, ability, background, and race. She is not currently seeking middle grade, children's books, or nonfiction projects.



Mary Sue Seymour
The Seymour Agency

Mary Sue Seymour, nominated for American Christian Fiction Writers Agent of the Year, has been agenting for over 20 years, and is listed as a top deal-maker for inspirational fiction on Publisher's Marketplace. She has sold New York Times bestselling projects such as *The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook* and Shelley Shepard Gray's *Missing*. She has also sold multi-book deals to Thomas Nelson, Zondervan, Harvest House, Bethany House, Cook, Harper One, Abingdon Press, B&H, Guideposts, Summer-side, Kensington, and others. Mary Sue is co-authoring the book *The Smart Guide to Getting Published*.



Kate Testerman
kt literary

After a dozen years working in publishing in New York City, Kate moved to Colorado and formed kt literary in early 2008, where she concentrates on middle grade and young adult fiction. Bringing to bear the experience of being part of a large agency, she enjoys all aspects of working with her authors, offering hands-on experience, personal service, and a surfeit of optimism. Her clients include Maureen Johnson, Ellen Booraem, Stephanie Perkins, Carrie Harris, Trish Doller, and Matthew Cody, among other exciting and acclaimed authors.

Who Sits Where?

This year, we've added some identifying features to the faculty table signs for lunches and dinner.

The first part is their job: AU=Author, AG=Agent, ED=Editor, PUB=Publisher and SPEC=Specialist.

In addition, we've added a sample of their genres as well. Ro=Romance, Wo=Womens, Mys=Mystery, Thr=Thriller, Sus=Suspense, SFF=Scifi and fantasy, Hor=Horror, UF=Urban Fantasy, YA=Young Adult, MG=Middle Grade, His=Historical, Wes=Western, Lit=Literary, Mem=Memoir, Fan=Fantasy, Insp=Inspirational, NA=New Adult, Nonfic or NF=Nonfiction, Poet=Poetry.

Faculty: Authors & Specialists



Mike Befeler

Mike Befeler writes the Paul Jacobson Geezer-lit Mystery Series including *Nursing Homes Are Murder*; *Care Homes Are Murder*; *Cruising in Your Eighties Is Murder*, a finalist for The Lefty Award for best humorous mystery of 2012; *Senior*

Moments Are Murder; *Living with Your Kids Is Murder*; and *Retirement Homes Are Murder*. He has two published paranormal mysteries, *The V V Agency* and *The Back Wing*. After thirty-nine years in the high tech world, he retired into fiction writing.



F.T. Bradley

F.T. Bradley is the author of the *Double Vision* trilogy (Harper Children's), a middle-grade spy adventure series. She lives in Colorado Springs with her husband and two daughters, and entirely too many cats.



Trai Cartwright

Trai Cartwright, MFA, has over 20 years experience as a professional story developer. She currently teaches creative writing, film studies, and screenwriting at the Colorado Film School and University of Northern Colorado. During her 15 years

as a Hollywood development executive, Trai consulted on screenplays for HBO, Fox, Paramount, Universal, and New Line. She produced three indie movies and has had three of her own screenplays optioned by Academy- and Emmy-award winning producers.



Laura DiSilverio

Laura DiSilverio is a retired Air Force intelligence officer and the author of 15 books. The first in her Book Club Mysteries, *The Readaholics* and *The Falcon Fiasco*, hits stores in April 2015. Her

standalone suspense novel, *The Reckoning Stones*, debuts in September. She is President of Sisters in Crime, pens articles for *Writer's Digest*, and teaches writing in various fora.



Bree Ervin

Bree Ervin is an editor, book reviewer, and tall tale teller. She is forever looking for stories and characters that expand her world view and challenge her heart to grow. When she's not running away from home, she can be found traveling through

a good book, or at her desk unraveling a fresh story.



JL Fields

JL Fields is the author of *Vegan Pressure Cooking*, co-author of *Vegan for Her*, and contributor to *Running, Eating, Thinking: A Vegan Anthology*. She writes the monthly vegan dining review for the Colorado Springs Gazette and writes free-

lance for the Colorado Springs Independent. She writes content for The Soyfoods Council, Sunshine Burger, Attune Foods, and more. She is the founder and organizer of Colorado Springs Nonfiction Writers.

Check Out the Bookstore

The Bookstore is in the glass-walled room in the Lobby. The bookstore is not only the place for books, but also conference audio recordings*, extra handouts, and many more surprises. Come on in and browse!

(*Sessions in Aspen Leaf will not be recorded.)

Silent Auction

Our annual silent auction will be on display across from the registration area every day at meal times, and we have some delightful prizes that will appeal to both the writer and reader. Check your registration packet for a detailed list of the items, and get your bids in by 4:30 on Saturday afternoon. Bid high and bid often—all proceeds directly benefit our Scholarship fund and year-round free programming!

Faculty: Authors & Specialists



Graves Paranormal

Graves Paranormal has been hunting what we fear since 1999. In fact, Lain Graves (yes, that's his real name), the owner and founder of Graves Paranormal, has done paranormal investigations around the globe. His work has taken him to 201 different countries. The Graves Paranormal team consists of many members, including Lain's fiancé Dana Knight. With fourteen years of home and public investigations, appearances on multiple TV and Radio shows, they have a sense of professionalism that is bar none. Did we mention that Lain Graves is a Demonologist and one of only thirteen ordained exorcists in the United States?



Patrick Hester

Patrick Hester is an author, blogger, and two-time Hugo Award winner – in 2013 for Best Fanzine (Editor – SF Signal), and 2014 for Best Fancast. He writes science fiction and fantasy, and can usually be found hanging out on his Twitter feed.

His Functional Nerds and SF Signal weekly podcasts have both been nominated for Parsec Awards, and the SF Signal podcast was nominated for a 2012, 2013, and 2014 Hugo Award. He is a Scrivener Guru, writing Quick Tips and teaching people how to be more productive writers using Scrivener.



Angie Hodapp

Angie Hodapp holds an MA in English and graduated from the Denver Publishing Institute. A Colorado Gold winner and Writers of the Future Contest semi-finalist, she has taught at Writer's Digest University. She works at Nelson Literary Agency.



Kevin Ikenberry

Kevin Ikenberry's head has been in the clouds since he was old enough to read. A former manager of the U.S. Space Camp program in Alabama and a former executive of two Challenger Learning Centers, Kevin continues to work with space every day as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Kevin's science fiction and horror short fiction has appeared in several magazines, and in the anthology *Extreme Planets*. In October 2014, he signed a contract with Red Adept Publishing to publish his debut novel.



J.A. Kazimer

J.A. Kazimer is a writer living in Denver, CO. her books include *The Junkie Tales*, *The Body Dwellers*, *CURSES! A F***ed-Up Fairy Tale*, *Holy Socks & Dirtier Demons*, *Dope Sick: A Love Story*, *SHANK*, *Froggy Style: A F***ed Up Fairy Tale* and *The Assassin's Heart*. She is currently working on a new fairy tale mystery for Kensington Books. Kazimer spent a few years spilling drinks on people as a bartender and then wasted another few years stalking people while working as a private investigator in the Denver area.



Pete Klismet

Pete Klismet retired after serving 20 years with the FBI, then spent 13 years teaching at colleges in Colorado. He was chosen to be one of the original 'profilers' by the FBI. His career in law enforcement, includes ten years with the Ventura (CA) Police Department. He is the Director of Criminal Profiling Associates, a consultant to the American Society of Cold Case Investigators. Pete was named 1999 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. He is the author of *FBI Diary: Profiles of Evil* and *FBI Animal House*.

Faculty: Authors & Specialists



Alex Kourvo

Alex Kourvo is a writer, editor, and teacher. She is the author of three novels (the *Detroit Next* series under the pen name M.H. Mead) and numerous short stories. She lives in Michigan, where she reads, writes, and eats as much key lime pie as possible.



Cara Lopez Lee

Cara Lopez Lee is the author of the memoir *They Only Eat Their Husbands* (Conundrum Press, 2014). Her stories have appeared in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Denver Post*, *Santa Fe New Mexican*, *Rivet Journal*, and *Connotation Press*. She's a

book editor and writing coach. She serves as a faculty member for the youth program at Lighthouse Writers Workshop and a board member for the Denver Woman's Press Club. She was a journalist in Alaska, New Mexico, and North Carolina, and a writer for HGTV, Food Network, and Discovery Health.



Jennie Marts

Jennie Marts loves to make readers laugh as she weaves stories filled with love, friendship, and intrigue. She writes for Entangled Publishing and is the Kindle Bestselling author of the *Page Turners* series, which includes the romantic comedies: *Another Saturday Night & I Ain't Got No Body*, *Easy Like Sunday Mourning*, and *Just Another Maniac Monday*. Reviewers call her books "laugh out loud" funny and full of great characters that are "endearing and relatable." She writes from the mountains of Colorado where she lives with her husband, two sons, a golden retriever named Cooper and a Sheltie puppy named Maggie.



Pam McCutcheon

Industrial engineer by day and writer by night, Pam McCutcheon is a popular speaker and the award-winning author of romance novels, fantasy short stories (under the name Pamela Luzier), young adult urban fantasy (under the name Parker Blue), and two nonfiction how-to books for writers: *Writing the Fiction Synopsis* and *The Writer's Brainstorming Kit* (with Michael Waite). Her most recent releases are a revised version of *Writing the Fiction Synopsis* as well as the young adult urban fantasy *Dare Me* by Parker Blue.



MK Meredith

MK Meredith writes single title contemporary romance promising an emotional ride on heated sheets. She believes the best route to success is to never stop learning. MK's lifelong love affair with peanut butter continues, only two things come close in the battle for her affections: gorgeous heels and maybe Gerard Butler...or was it David Gandy? Who is she kidding? Her true loves are her husband and two children who have survived her SEA's (spontaneous explosions of affection) and lived to tell the tale. The Meredith's live in the D.C. area with their three large fur babies...until the next adventure calls.



Rod Miller

Rod Miller writes about the American West in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. He is a two-time winner of the Western Writers of America Spur Award—for short fiction and poetry—winner of the Westerners International Poetry Award, the Academy of Western Artists Buck Ramsey Award for Best Poetry Book, and was named 2012 Writer of the Year by the League of Utah Writers. Author of five novels, four nonfiction books, and three poetry books, Miller is also author of numerous anthologized poems and short stories. His latest book is *Goodnight Goes Riding and Other Poems*.

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Barbara (Samuel) O'Neal

Barbara (Samuel) O'Neal is the bestselling author of more than 40 women's fiction, new adult, and romance novels, and she is a beloved writing teacher. Her work has won many awards, including seven RITA Awards, two Colorado Book Awards, and

Library Journal's Best Books of the Year.



Aaron Michael Ritchey

Aaron Michael Ritchey is the author of *Long Live the Suicide King*, a finalist in the Reader's Favorite contest. Kirkus Reviews calls the story "a compelling tale of teenage depression handled with humor and sensitivity." His debut novel, *The*

Never Prayer, was also a finalist in the Colorado Gold contest. His forthcoming works include a new young adult novel from Staccato Publishing and a six book YA sci-fi/western series from Kevin J. Anderson's WordFire Press. In shorter fiction, his G.I. Joe inspired novella was an Amazon bestseller in Kindle Worlds and his story, *The Dirges of Percival Lewand* was nominated for a Hugo. He lives in Colorado with his wife and two ancient goddesses posing as his daughters.



Angel Smits

Angel Smits is the author of seven romance novels, the most recent five for Harlequin Super Romance. Her stories of heart and home have won such awards as the Romance Writers of America's Golden Heart and PPWC's Paul Gillette. Her

non-fiction work has appeared in numerous publications such as *Wild West* and *Fragments*.



Robert Spiller

Besides being a master of space and time, Robert Spiller is the author of the **Bonnie Pinkwater** mystery series: *The Witch of Agnesi*, *A Calculated Demise*, *Irrational Numbers*, and most recently *Radical Equations*. *Napier's Bones*. His

math teacher/sleuth uses mathematics and her knowledge of historic mathematicians to solve murders in the small Colorado town of East Plains.



Jane Stine

Jane Stine is an editor and publisher at Parachute Publishing, a company started and run by Jane and her partner Joan Waricha. Parachute is best known for the popular book series, *Goosebumps*, written by R.L. Stine (Jane's husband.)

After founding Parachute Press, the company created and produced a string of best-selling book series, including *Fear Street* and *Goosebumps* by R.L. Stine. In addition, Parachute produced several series for Mary-Kate and Ashley. Other Parachute book successes include Transformers, Marvel Superheroes, Thomas Kinkade novels, as well as books with Judy Blume and Beverly Cleary.

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Reminders & Must Dos

- ~ The Library is your sanctuary to decompress, write, meet up with potential critique partners, and more.
- ~ Go after your favorite prize in the Silent Auction on display across from the Registration Desk. Don't delay! It closes after Saturday's afternoon break.
- ~ Drink plenty of water!

- ~ Wear layers.
- ~ You must wear your badge everywhere at the conference.
- ~ You must present your meal ticket to attend meals.
- ~ Do not record workshops. Recordings are available for purchase in the bookstore.

Faculty: Authors & Specialists



Brandy Vallance

Brandy Vallance fell in love with the Victorian time period at a young age, loving the customs, manners, and especially the intricate rules of love. Since time travel is theoretically impossible, she lives in the nineteenth century vicariously through her novels. Brandy is the 2013 Operation First Novel winner and the 2012 winner of the ACFW Genesis Contest for historical romance. Her critically acclaimed novel, *The Covered Deep*, has been featured by *Writers Digest* and *USA Today*.



Josh Vogt

A full-time freelance writer and editor, Josh Vogt has sold his stories to *Paizo's Pathfinder Tales*, *Grey Matter Press*, *Orson Scott Card's Intergalactic Medicine Show*, *Shimmer*, and *Leading Edge*, among others. He also works with a wide variety of RPG developers and publishers. When not working on a fantasy novel, he's rotating through an array of odd hobbies to stave off existential despair until he can get back into a story. He is made out of meat.

Pikes Peak Writers

Mission: Pikes Peak Writers (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization) is committed to helping writers grow and thrive through education, outreach, and community.

The Pikes Peak Writers organization was created in 2003 to support the conference and to function as a clearing house of information about all aspects of the writing community. Membership is Free! When you sign up you get notifications for the events that Pikes Peak Writers puts on including Workshops, Free Write Brains, Free Open Critique, Free Writers Nights, and of course the Pikes Peak Writers Conference. Pikes Peak Writers also runs a blog on all things writerly called "Writing from the Peak."

Visit our website www.PikesPeakWriters.com and join Pikes Peak Writers today.

Code of Conduct

At Pikes Peak Writers Conference, we strive to provide the best experience possible. We pride ourselves on an event that is enjoyable, educational, friendly, and safe for our faculty, staff, volunteers, and attendees. By attending or becoming involved with Pikes Peak Writers Conference in any capacity, you agree that you have read this policy and will adhere to it. You also acknowledge that, should you be involved in any misconduct, you are subject to the corrective actions. We thank you for helping to ensure Pikes Peak Writers Conference will be a success for all.

PPWC has many facets. It is about networking, learning, discussions, interactions, and so much more. We at Pikes Peak Writers are strong advocates for the continued growth and success of both aspiring and accomplished writers of all genres. We encourage our attendees, staff, and faculty to meet new people, build friendships, and develop professional relationships within an exceptional writing community. However, all social interactions come with certain responsibilities. Whether you are engaging with other attendees, staff, or guest faculty (authors, agents, editors, publishers, presenters, etc.) we ask that you do so with the utmost courtesy and professionalism. HARASSMENT of any type will not be tolerated. Harassment will be defined as any action, behavior, or language causing any person or persons to feel threatened, uncomfortable, unsafe, or

offended. This includes but will not be limited to unwanted physical contact, threats of physical violence, sexual advances, any form of verbal insult, or demeaning of character. There will be zero tolerance for compromising any person's enjoyment of PPWC. Should anyone suggest or demonstrate a desire to be left alone, or they are uncomfortable with your interactions, it is simple: apologize, cease the offensive verbiage or action, and/or walk away. Sometimes, even the best of intentions can be misinterpreted, so always err on the side of courtesy, and respect personal boundaries (boundaries include physical being and personal belongings.) DISCRIMINATION in any form will not be tolerated. Discrimination includes, but is not limited to, the following: sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion, mental/physical impairment, identity, and appearance. We are a conference open to all walks of life; as such, we expect those involved with PPWC to be respectful to all. There will be zero tolerance for any action or language that targets, excludes, or demeans any person due to their differences. RESPECT is the basic rule. Treat others with kindness, empathy, courtesy, politeness, and professionalism at all times. Always remember there are many in attendance at PPWC. When speaking with our Faculty or participating in discussions, remember others are hoping for an opportunity to do the same. Be mindful and know when to step aside, affording others an equal opportunity to be involved.

Pikes Peak Writers Non-Conference Events

We are happy to remind local writers of Pikes Peak Writers non-conference events.

Still hungry to learn?

Write Brains are free workshops on the craft of writing, business of writing, and the writer's life. Watch for them in Colorado Springs on the third Tuesday of most months. The next one is on the topic of Synopsis, presented by Pam McCutcheon.

Want to hang out with other writers?

Fourth Monday of every month, our free **Writers Nights** are two full hours discussing all things writing,

laughter, and fun. While subjects each month are determined by the participants, the next one is unofficially nicknamed conference decompression session.

Need new eyes on your work?

First Tuesday of every month, **Open Critique** provides free feedback on eight manuscript pages for eight writers and an example of how to have positive critique group experiences.

Scrivener?

Whether your questions is what's that? Or I've heard about this feature, but I can't figure out how to make it work. Come get all of your questions answered at this summer's intensive workshop on Scrivener presented by Patrick Hester

For more information...

www.pikespeakwriters.com/events



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www.PikesPeakWriters.com