Writing is hard. We work alone most of the time, doubting ourselves all the time, but believing in what we do. We write because we love it, because we have stories and characters inside us bursting to get out. But trying to get those stories published is difficult and can take a long time. This year’s conference reminds us not to quit, that we can DO IT!

PPWC wants to help by providing fantastic speakers from multiple genres to teach workshops on craft, the business, and how to market your books. We've also brought in excellent keynote speakers who are willing to share their knowledge with us. In most cases, it wasn’t easy for them either.

Prepare yourself to be flooded with knowledge and enthusiasm. If you’re like me, my brain hurts by the time I go home on Sunday, but it’s all worth it. My mom always told me, “Everything is possible, if you’re willing to work for it.” Just remember, DON’T QUIT, DO IT!!

Karen Fox
2018 Pikes Peak Writers Conference Director

FRIDAY, APRIL 27
• Registration opens 7:30am.
• Newcomer’s Orientation 8:00 am
• Session 1: 8:30 am to 9:30 am
• Session 2: 9:40 am to 10:40 am
• Session 3: 10:50 am to 11:50 am
• Welcome Lunch 12:15 pm
• Session 4: 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm
• Session 5: 2:50 pm – 3:50 pm
• Snack Break: 3:50 pm – 4:20 pm
• Session 6: 4:20 pm – 5:20 pm
• Write Drunk, Edit Sober** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
• Dinner with Mary Robinette Kowal at 7:30 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
• Registration opens 7:30 am
• Breakfast: 7:00 am – 8:30 am
• Newcomer’s Orientation 8:00 am
• Session 7: 8:30 am to 9:30 am
• Session 8: 9:40 am to 10:40 am
• Session 9: 10:50 am to 11:50 am
• Lunch with Bob Mayer 12:15 pm
• Session 10: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
• Session 11: 3:10 pm – 4:10 pm
• Snack Break: 4:10 pm – 4:40 pm
• Session 12: 4:40 pm – 5:40 pm
• Write Drunk, Edit Sober** 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
• Zebulon Winners & Awards Dinner with Laurell K. Hamilton - 7:15 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
• Breakfast: 7:30 am – 9:00 am
• Session 13: 9:00 am to 10:00 am
• Session 14: 10:10 am to 11:10 am
• Session 15: 11:20 am to 12:20 pm
• Farewell Lunch with Jonathan Maberry 12:40 pm

** Write Drunk requires prepayment
**CONFERENCE STAFF**

**Conference Director:** Karen Fox  
**Programming Director:** Torie Fox-Phillips  
**Faculty Coordinator:** Amy Krasikov  
**Admin Director:** Pam Goodhue  
**Registrar:** Jennifer LaPointe  
**Allergy Meal Coordinator:** Jade Goodnough  
**Audio:** Glenn and Jenny Hodge  
**Awards Coordinator:** Donnell Bell  
**Ballroom Coordinator:** AmyBeth Frederiks  
**Bookstore Coordinator:** Pam McCutcheon & Laura Hayden  
**Brochure Design:** Laura Hayden  
**Emcee:** Damon Smithwick  
**Fundraising Coordinator:** Samantha Crane  
**Hospitality Coordinator:** Linda Tschappat  
**Moderator Coordinator:** Debby Brewer  
**Onsite Flash Fiction Coordinator:** Deb Courtney  
**Onsite Volunteer Coordinator:** Becki Davis  
**Photographer:** Jared Hagan  
**PR/Marketing Director:** Susan Mitchell  
**Query 1-on-1 Coordinator:** Stacy Jensen  
**Read & Critique Coordinator:** Kameron Claire  
**Registration Desk Coordinator:** Amy Armstrong  
**Scholarship Coordinator:** Mandy Huk  
**Signs Coordinator:** Jeff Schmoyer  
**Survey Coordinator:** Terra Drobny  
**Tech Team Coordinator:** Josh Phillips  
**Write Drunk, Edit Sober Coordinator:** Deb Courtney  
**Zebulon Contest Coordinator:** SM Rose

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Bowen Gillings  
**Vice-President:** Kameron C. Easler  
**Treasurer:** Charise Simpson  
**Secretary:** Stacy S. Jensen  
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**Member at Large:** Laura Hayden  
**Member at Large:** Damon Smithwick  
**Member at Large:** Gabrielle Brown  
**Member at Large:** KL Cooper  
**Immediate Past President:** JT Evans

**NON-CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS**

**Writers' Night:** Damon Smithwick  
**Social Media Team:** KL Cooper, Charise Simpson & SM Rose,  
**Webmasters:** Todd C. Gleason, Jim Beaver, & Liz Jeffries  
**Open Critique:** Bob Spiller  
**RSVP Staff:** Linda Tschappat  
**Write Brain:** Georgie & Steve Nelson  
**Write Drunk Coordinator:** Deb Courtney  
**Blog Managing Editor:** Gabrielle Brown  
**Blog Contributing Editor:** Kathie Scrimgeour

Pikes Peak Writers exists because of the support and dedication of its volunteers. We send our greatest thanks to everyone who has helped us thrive.

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**AUDIO ORDERS**

If you purchased an **AUDIO FLASH DRIVE**, they will be available for pickup in the bookstore immediately following lunch on Sunday. Please look for a ticket in your registration materials. If you don’t claim your recording on Sunday, it will be mailed to you.

Didn’t pre-order one? Orders placed in the bookstore by the last session on Saturday will be available for pick up on Sunday. Any orders placed after the last Saturday session aren’t guaranteed for onsite pick up. Please double check on Sunday. If it’s not ready, it will be mailed to you. The on-site price is $80.

*Many thanks to Jenny and Glenn Hodge for their audio expertise.*

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**BOOKSIGNING**

Once again, our conference will offer attendees an opportunity to purchase books by our keynotes and other faculty, and have them signed from **5:45–7:00 pm on Saturday.** Since we don’t schedule workshops opposite the book signing, there’s no fear of missing a crucial bit of information while waiting to get a book autographed.

*Remember, signed books make excellent birthday and holiday gifts!*

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**FLASH FICTION CONTEST**

We’ll reveal how to obtain your writing prompts on the first day of conference, and your flash fiction (limit 100 words) is due before the dinner banquet on Saturday evening at the registration desk. Include your name and contact info on a separate piece of paper attached to your entry. Winners are announced at the farewell luncheon on Sunday.
If you pre-ordered a headshot session, please check your badge holder/registration materials for your appointment card. The photo studio will be in Rockrimmon 3. Didn’t preorder a package and need a professional headshot for your author press package, website or media platform? Our photographer, Jared Hagan has a few appointments still available. Please inquire in the bookstore to secure one and prepay there. The cost is $70 for a 25-minute photo shoot and you’ll receive a professional portfolio of author photos to which you’ll own the rights.

Jared will donate 50% of the proceeds to the PPWC Scholarship fund.

If you no longer want your appointment, or if you have questions, please visit the query desk before lunch on Friday.

Take a deep breath and relax. You’ll do great!

Let’s get together in Aspen Leaf, relax, and share our work. Open Mic Night is intended to offer a comfortable atmosphere for writers to read a portion of their works.

Saturday Night at 9 pm in Aspen Leaf

Afraid to Look at Your Reviews?

I’ll give you the state of your reviews: good, bad, completely unfair, but I’ll keep the ugly details out of your hair. I’ll even highlight the GREAT reviews and identify any that would make good pull quotes for book covers and other publishing materials. Rates start at $5/week, or get 6 months for $100.

Contact: Reviewerx2@gmail.com

The Review Reviewer
Laurell K. Hamilton is an American fantasy and romance writer. She is best known as the author of two series of stories. Her *New York Times* bestselling *Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter* series centers on Anita Blake, a professional zombie raiser, vampire executioner, and supernatural consultant for the police, which includes novels, short story collections, and comic books. Six million copies of Anita Blake novels are in print. Her *Merry Gentry* series centers on Meredith Gentry, Princess of the Unseelie court of Faerie, a private detective facing repeated assassination attempts. Both fantasy series follow their protagonists as they gain in power and deal with the dangerous “realities” of worlds in which creatures of legend live.

Mary Robinette Kowal is the author of historical fantasy novels: *The Glamourist Histories* series and *Ghost Talkers*. She has received the Campbell Award for Best New Writer, three Hugo awards, the RT Reviews award for Best Fantasy Novel, and has been a finalist for the Hugo, Nebula, and Locus awards.

As a professional puppeteer and voice actor, Mary has performed for LazyTown (CBS), the Center for Puppetry Arts, Jim Henson Pictures, and founded Other Hand Productions. She records fiction for authors such as Kage Baker, Cory Doctorow, and John Scalzi. Mary lives in Chicago with her husband Rob and over a dozen manual typewriters.

Jonathan Maberry is a *New York Times* bestselling suspense novelist, five-time Bram Stoker Award winner, and comic book writer. His books include the *Joe Ledger* thrillers, *The Nightsiders*, *Dead of Night*, *X-Files Origins: Devil’s Advocate*, as well as standalone novels in multiple genres. His YA space travel novel, *Mars One*, is in development for film; and his Monk Addison short stories and V-Wars shared world vampire apocalypse series are being developed for TV. He is the editor of many anthologies including the *X-Files*, *Aliens: Bug Hunt*, and *Nights of the Living Dead* (co-edited with zombie genre creator George A. Romero). His comics include *Captain America*, the Bram Stoker Award-winning *Bad Blood*, *Black Panther*, *Punisher*, *Marvel Zombies Return*, and more. His *Rot & Ruin* novels were included in the Ten Best Horror Novels for Young Adults. He is one third of the very popular and mildly weird Three Guys With Beards podcast. Jonathan lives in Del Mar, California with his wife, Sara Jo.

Bob Mayer is the grandfather of two future leaders of the Resistance Against the Machines, a *New York Times* bestselling author, graduate of West Point, former Green Beret, and the feeder of two Yellow Labs, most famously Cool Gus. He’s had over 70 books published and sold over 4 million, including the #1 series *Time Patrol*, *The Green Berets*, *Area 51*, and *Atlantis*. Born in the Bronx, having traveled the world, he now lives peacefully with his wife and his overlord labs.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**LAURELL K. HAMILTON**

**MARY ROBINETTE KOWAL**

**JONATHAN MABERRY**

**BOB MAYER**

**UPCOMING NON-CONFERENCE EVENTS**

**MAY 2 OPEN CRITIQUE**

Falcon Police Station
785 Goddard St
6:00 pm

**MAY 3 THE SHOP: Open Mic & LAB**

Royal castle Lounge
2355 Platte Pl
8:15 pm

**MAY 9 WRITE DRUNK, EDIT SOBER**

Bar K
124 E Costilla St
6:30 pm

**MAY 21 WRITER’S NIGHT**

Kawa Coffee
2427 N Union Blvd
6:30 pm

Learn more at our website: PikesPeakWriters.com
Open to all!

PPWC 2019 WILL BE MAY 1-5, 2019
EDITORS

MARTIN R. BIRO – KENSINGTON BOOKS

Martin is a native of Northern California and a graduate of the University of Iowa. He has been with Kensington Publishing since 2008, where in his role as Editor he acquires a wide range of commercial fiction for their many diverse imprints. He serves as editor for a large list of authors for print (hardcover, trade, and mass-market) and digital formats, including #1 New York Times bestselling author Fern Michaels and New York Times bestselling author Marie Force. Martin also oversees both Lyrical Press, Kensington’s digital-first imprint, and Rebel Base, Kensington’s new science-fiction and fantasy digital imprint.

STEVE SAFFEL – TITAN BOOKS

Steve is a Senior Acquisitions Editor at Titan Books, the world’s premiere popular culture publisher, acquiring original science fiction, fantasy (epic, heroic, and dark), horror, art books, and media tie-ins such as Alien, Planet of the Apes (new and classic), The Flash, and more. Some of his recent and upcoming projects include The Dragon’s Legacy by Deborah Wolf, Relics by Tim Lebbon, Split Feather by Deborah Wolf, and The Spawn of Lilith by Dana Fredsti, Robin Hood: Mark of the Black Arrow by Debbie Vigue and James Tuck, a Sherlock Holmes vs. Cthulhu trilogy by Lois Gresh, the space opera anthology Infinite Stars edited by Bryan Thomas Schmidt, the mystery novels starring Mycroft Holmes by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, and The Art of Robert E. McGinnis by Robert E. McGinnis and Art Scott. A documented Dark Editorial Overlord, Steve is a strong advocate for adapting modern media techniques that can be used to the advantage of prose fiction.

KELSY THOMPSON – JOLLY FISH PRESS

A writer and editor from Ogden, Utah, Kelsy has served as an editorial intern for bestselling author Robison Wells, copy desk chief at The Signpost, managing editor at distinguished literary journal Weber—The Contemporary West, and is currently a contract editor for Jolly Fish Press and YA imprint Flux. She especially enjoys young adult literature, science fiction, fantasy, romance, mysteries, and historical fiction. Kelsy has worked on dozens of published novels, magazines, journals, and anthologies. When not worshiping the written word, she spends her time gardening, gaming, and wrangling her clowder of cats.

DEB WERKSMAN – SOURCEBOOKS

Deb has been at Sourcebooks for 19 years, before which she owned her own publishing company. She is the editorial director of romance fiction, and is acquiring single title romance in all subgenres: paranormal, historical, romantic suspense, contemporary, and erotic romance with a main character the reader can relate to, a love interest she can fall in love with, an imaginative, credible world gets created into which the reader can escape, a hook she can sell within 2-3 sentences, and a career arc for the author.

STACY WHITMAN – TU BOOKS

Stacy is the founder and publisher of Tu Books, an imprint of Lee & Low Books that publishes diverse middle grade and young adult fiction. In 2013, Stacy founded the New Visions Award, which honors a new unpublished writer of color. Her first graphic novel, I Am Alfonso Jones by Tony Medina, illustrated by Stacey Robinson and John Jennings, was published Oct. 2017. Stacy is a founding member of the CBC Diversity Committee and currently serves as a Publisher Liaison to We Need Diverse Books. She holds a master’s degree in children’s literature from Simmons College.
MELISSA EDWARDS - Melissa joined Stonesong as a literary agent in August 2016. Previously, she was an agent at the Aaron Priest Literary Agency, where she managed the foreign rights for a 40-year backlist. After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis and Vanderbilt Law School, Melissa began her career as a litigation attorney before transitioning into publishing. She’s a tireless advocate for her clients and a constant partner during the publication process and beyond. Melissa represents authors of children’s fiction, adult commercial fiction, and select pop-cultural non-fiction. She’s looking for warm and timeless middle grade fiction and accessible young adult fiction. For adults, she is looking for fast-paced thrillers and smart women’s fiction.

ANGIE HODAPP - Angie holds a BA in English and secondary education and an MA in English and communication development, and she is a graduate of the Denver Publishing Institute at the University of Denver. She has worked in publishing and professional writing, in one form or another, for the better part of the last two decades and currently works as the Director of Literary Development at Nelson Literary Agency. She loves helping authors hone their craft and learn about the ever-changing business of publishing. She’s actively seeking a wide array of stories in all genres. Literary novels with big crossover/commercial appeal (voice- and character-driven novels with solid structure and plot); young adult and middle grade in all genres; upmarket women’s fiction; adult mysteries and thrillers; adult fantasy and science fiction; single-title romance; and #ownvoices.

GABRIELLE PIRAINO - Gabrielle joined DeFiore and Company in 2016, having previously worked for major commercial publishing houses and literary agencies, including Farrar, Straus & Giroux and AGI Vigliano. When considering new projects, Gabbie is most drawn to strong narrative voices, unique world-building, and diverse casts of characters. Focused on building long-term relationships with authors, she is currently accepting queries for sci-fi, fantasy, horror, thriller, and up-market chick lit (both Adult and YA). She’d also be happy to review queries from prospective author-illustrators for comics/graphic novels.

QURESSA ROBINSON - Quressa joined the Nelson Literary Agency in 2017 after working at a previous agency and as an editor for five years. As a New York-based agent, she is eager to build her YA and Adult lists. When not curled on her couch reading, she plays video games, enjoys too much TV—mostly Sailor Moon and Harry Potter (Slytherin!), eats delicious things, drinks champagne, hangs out with her very clever husband, and adds another “dramatic” color to her lipstick collection. So, give her stories that will make her geek out. If you can make her have an epic fangirl squeee—have stories featuring fairies and warrior princesses with afros and rainbow dreads or envision winter elves inspired by an Asian or Latinx culture—then you are definitely a match. She’s also looking for stories with best friends like Molly and Issa on Insecure, enemies to lovers, coming-of-age stories, The Breakfast Club with a twist, family drama and witches (!), and alpha heroes paired with witty heroines. If you have bold, fresh, or quirky stories they will be right up her alley. She’s also looking for stories that feel timeless and timely despite the current climate or when they were originally written.

JUSTIN WELLS - Coming from a long background in book blogging with a focus on YA literature, Justin knew he wanted to end up in the publishing industry. He joined Corvisiero Literary Agency in the summer of 2016 as an intern, and quickly moved up within the agency under the guidance of Marisa Corvisiero. Now a Jr. Literary Agent with the agency, he’s seeking Fantasy, Science Fiction, Historical Fiction, and some contemporary in Middle Grade, Young Adult, New Adult, and Adult. He strives to make every effort to have a positive impact on every writer he meets. Along with working full time as an agent, Justin is finishing up a degree in public relations which has helped to give him a unique skillset to match with his work as an agent. He also runs a website where he provides helpful content for writers, all in the effort to do everything he can to help writers achieve their goals.

MAXIMILIAN XIMENEZ - Maximilian grew up within the New York publishing industry. Prior to joining the L. Perkins Agency, he worked at Blizzard Entertainment, creators of the Warcraft, StarCraft, and Diablo video game franchises. He’s a strong believer in publishing and narrative as a central pillar of franchise and transmedia development. In fiction, he is actively pursuing science fiction, fantasy, horror, and thrillers, particularly cyberpunk, and neo-noir as well as books with a uniquely deconstructive bent. For non-fiction, he’s seeking popular science, true crime, and books pertaining to arts and trends in developing fields and cultures.
**AUTHORS & SPECIALISTS**

**DEBBIE MAXWELL ALLEN** – Debbie drank the Scrivener Kool-Aid, and never looked back. When not devoting her time to revolutionizing other writers’ lives with the wonders of Scrivener, she works as a project manager for Good Catch Publishing, does freelance editing, and writes young adult historical fantasy in the Rocky Mountains. Her fiction has been a finalist in the Pikes Peak Writers Zebulon Contest four times.

**TERRY BANKER** – Terry is a novelist/ghostwriter of fifteen books and a story consultant. He has sold over a hundred articles in the fashion/costume design industry and the insurance industry. Follow Terry on Twitter @theTerryBanker Terry makes his home in Atlanta, Chicago, and Key West.

**TERRI BENSON** – A life-long writer, Benson has one published novel and over 100 published articles and short stories, many award winning. She is a decades-long member of RWA, as well as the Education Chair and Western Slope Liaison for the Board of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers.

**M. H. BOROSON**– M. H. Boroson’s historical fantasy novel *The Girl With Ghost Eyes* was published at the end of 2015. *Publishers Weekly* called it “a brilliant tale of magic, monsters, and kung fu in the San Francisco Chinatown of 1899.” Two sequels are under contract, and it is being developed as a television series. Boroson has been documenting the oral histories of Chinese Americans since he was nine years old, paying special attention to ghost lore.

**FAUZIA BURKE** – Fauzia is the founder and president of a digital marketing firm long known as innovators in the field of online book marketing, with clients from Dean Koontz to the people behind *The South Beach Diet*. She knows what it takes to present your work to the public with maximum impact.

**TRAI CARTWRIGHT** – Trai 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, as well as for writer’s organizations across Colorado. During her 15 years as a Hollywood development executive, Trai consulted on thousands of 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.

**KAMERON CLAIRE** – Kameron reads and writes romance. While paranormal is her favorite, she enjoys suspense and contemporary stories as well. She’s been a member of Pikes Peak Writers since 2013, attended her first writers’ conference in 2014, and started volunteering in 2015. Outside of PPW and her day job, Kameron can be found performing amazing feats of home remodelling or playing with her super-pup – usually when she should be writing.

**LIZ COLTER** – Due to a varied work background, Liz boasts a modest degree of knowledge about hitching, harnessing, and working draft horses, canoe expeditioning, and medicine. She’s worked as a rollerskating waitress and knows more about concrete than you might suspect. A “Writers of the Future” winner, Liz’s short stories span a wide range of SF/F sub-genres. Her novels (written as L. D. Colter) explore the dark/weird/magic realism that currently dominates her own reading or the epic fantasy she grew up reading and loving.

**JASON EVANS** – Jason wanted to be a writer his entire life. He just didn’t know it. He has been an educator in public & private schools for twelve years. He has earned double bachelors from UC Santa Barbara, teaching credentials from Cal-State Los Angeles, and an MA from UC Denver. He has two short stories published and is the editor-in-chief for *Man-gazine*. He lives in Denver with the Fetching Mrs. Evans and his three dogs and one haughty cat.

**KRISTY FERRIN** – During the daylight hours Kristy lives in a high tech world of globe spanning networks, and programming languages. But when the working-day ends she escapes to worlds of magic, myth, and adventure. She has published three novels: two within the fantasy genre and a non-fiction book on web design for authors.
### AUTHORS & SPECIALISTS (CONTINUED)

**KERRIE FLANAGAN** – Kerrie is an author, writing consultant, publisher, and freelance writer with over 18 years’ experience. In addition to her own writing, she’s passionate about helping other writers and has guided many toward success. The author of seven books, published under her label, Hot Chocolate Press, Kerrie is currently working on a magazine writing guide for Writer’s Digest, set to be released in July. The founder and former director of Northern Colorado Writers, she does individual consulting with writers.

**THERESE FRANCIS** – Therese RTRP/AFSP, has been doing taxes for creative people for over 25 years. She had two books come out in late 2016; one on bookkeeping and taxes for traditional authors and one for self-published authors.

**LAURA HAYDEN** – Laura has written fourteen books in a wide variety of genres. She’s been involved with the Pikes Peak Writers Conference from its inaugural year and has served as the conference director eight times. She owns Author, Author!, a bookstore specializing in selling stock to authors and is co-owner of Parker Hayden Media, which offers assisted self-publishing services.

**LS HAWKER** – Hawker grew up in suburban Denver, indulging her obsession with true-crime books, and writing stories about anthropomorphic fruit and juvenile delinquents. Armed with a B.S. in journalism from the University of Kansas, she had a radio show called “People Are So Stupid,” edited a trade magazine, and worked as a traveling Kmart portrait photographer, but never lost her passion for fiction writing. Her media back-ground includes everything from public affairs director at a Denver radio station to video producer to website designer. She lives in Colorado but considers Kansas her spiritual homeland.

**DARBY KARCHUT** – Darby is an award-winning author, dreamer, and compulsive dawn greeter. A native of New Mexico, she now lives in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, where she runs in blizzards and bikes in lightning storms. When not dodging death by Colorado, Darby is busy writing for children, teens, and adults. Best thing ever: her YA series, *Griffin Rising*, has been optioned for film. She’s represented by Amanda Rutter at Red Sofa Literary. Her recent releases include: *Finn’s Choice* (book 4 in her middle grade series, *The Adventures of Finn McCullen*), *Unholy Blue* (the sequel to *The Stag Lord*), an urban fantasy series, and *Stone Heart* (contemporary romance).

**PETE KLISMET** – Pete's lengthy career in law enforcement included ten years with a police department in Southern California and over 20 years with the FBI. A proud Vietnam veteran, he served two tours on U.S. Submarines (yes – submarines!) He holds a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, a master’s degree in Criminal Justice/Criminology, and a second master’s in Public Administration. During his FBI career, Pete was selected to be one of the original ‘profilers.’ He had extensive training and experience in this revolutionary concept, has trained hundreds of police officers and FBI agents, and developed a college course “Criminal Personality Profiling” while teaching at Pikes Peak Community College. *(NOT APPEARING DUE TO EMERGENCY)*

**SAM KNIGHT** – As well as being part of the WordFire Press Production Team, Sam is Senior Editor for Villainous Press and author of four children’s books, three short story collections, two novels, and more than a dozen short stories, including a novella co-authored with Kevin J. Anderson. A stay-at-home father, Sam attempts to be a full-time writer, but there are only so many hours left in a day after kids. Once upon a time, he was known to quote books the way some people quote movies, but now he claims having a family has made him forgetful, as a survival adaptation.

**DEANNA KNIPPLING** – DeAnna has two minor superpowers: speed-reading and babble. She types at over 10,000 words per minute and can make things up even faster than that. Her first job—hunting snipe for her father—funded her way through college. Her latest job involves a non-disclosure agreement, a dozen hitmen, a ballerina, a snow-blower, three very small robots, and a disposable dictator in South America. Her cover job is that of freelance writer, editor, and designer living in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with her husband, daughter, cat, and many shelves full of the best books.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Authors &amp; Specialists (continued)</th>
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<td><strong>Mariko Tatsumoto</strong> – Mariko arrived in America from Japan at the age of eight. She didn’t know English, but as soon as she learned to read, she fell in love with books. She always wanted to be a writer but first became the first woman Asian attorney in Colorado before becoming a Middle Grade and Teen book author. Her passion is writing multicultural fiction books dealing with themes such as prejudice, bullying, survivor’s guilt, domestic violence, and more. Her debut novel, <em>Ayumi’s Violin</em>, is a Paterson Prize for Books for Young People Honor Book, Colorado Authors’ League’s Award Finalist, and the winner of the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers Gold Award.</td>
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<td><strong>Cindi Madsen</strong> – Cindi is a USA Today bestselling author of contemporary romance and young adult novels. She sits at her computer every chance she gets, plotting, revising, and falling in love with her characters. Sometimes it makes her a crazy person. Without it, she’d be even crazier. She has way too many shoes, but can always find a reason to buy a pretty new pair, especially if they’re sparkly, colorful, or super tall. She loves music and dancing and wishes summer lasted all year long. She lives in Colorado (where summer is most definitely NOT all year long) with her husband and three children.</td>
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<td><strong>Jennie Marts</strong> – Jennie is the USA Today bestselling author of books filled with love, laughter, and always a happily ever after. Her books include the contemporary western romance <em>Hearts of Montana</em> series, the romantic comedy/cozy mysteries of <em>The Page Turners</em> series, the hunky hockey-playing men in the <em>Bannister Brothers Books</em>, and the small-town romantic comedies in the <em>Cotton Creek Romances</em>. She’s living her own happily ever after in the mountains of Colorado with her husband, two dogs, and a parakeet.</td>
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<td><strong>Kendra Merritt</strong> - Kendra used to hide fantasy novels behind her government textbook in high school, and she wrote most of her first novel during a semester of college algebra. Older and wiser now (but just as nerdy) Kendra writes retellings of fairytales with main characters who have disabilities. Her experience with partial paraplegia has shown her you don’t have to be able to swing a sword to be a hero. Kendra lives in Denver with her very tall husband, their book-loving progeny, and a lazy black monster masquerading as a service dog.</td>
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<td><strong>Rod Miller</strong> - Rod is a three-time winner of the Western Writers of America Spur Award—for a novel, short fiction, and poetry—and other awards. He is the author of six novels, four nonfiction books, three poetry books, and numerous poems and short stories, book reviews, magazine articles, and essays.</td>
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<td><strong>Susan Mitchell</strong> - Susan’s work has appeared in literary magazines including <em>George and Mertie’s Place</em>, <em>Poetry Motel</em>, and <em>Wordwrights</em>. She writes and produces local television commercials, promotions, and programs. She has written and produced projects for TLC, regional ABC, NBC, and CBS affiliates.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April Moore</strong> - April is the Director of Northern Colorado Writers, and is the author of two books; <em>Folsom’s 93</em> and <em>Bobbing for Watermelons</em>. She has written for publications and her short stories have appeared in anthologies.</td>
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<td><strong>MB Partlow</strong> - MB Partlow tries to inject her off-center sense of humor into everything she does. She writes mostly in the speculative fiction world, with forays into mystery and women’s fiction. She reads voraciously across genres, and thinks making up stories for a living is the greatest job in the world.</td>
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<td><strong>Aaron Michael Ritchey</strong> - Aaron is the author of four well-received young adult novels that deal with cowgirls, France, addiction, suicide, demons, angels, and donuts. But not necessarily in that order. He lives in a house in Colorado full of powerful female energy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Megan Rutter</strong> - Megan started her professional life working as a forensic anthropologist and ancient historian. After years of teaching other professors’ classes and putting murdered children back together rather than working on her focus, ancient remains, Megan left the field to pursue a career as a writer.</td>
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</table>
CALLIE STOKER - Callie is a freelance editor for *The Manuscript Doctor* with ten plus years of helping writers become authors. She is a member of the Editorial Freelancers Association, the Horror Writers Association, and The League of Utah Writers.

JOHNNY WORTHEN - Johnny is an award-winning, bestselling author, voyager, and damn fine human being! He is the tie-dye wearing writer of the nationally acclaimed, #1 Kindle best-selling *Eleanor, The Unseen*. Among his other excellent and very read-worthy titles are *Beatrysel, The Brand Demand*, and *The Finger Trap*.

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY SCHEDULE

**NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION** from 8:00 am to 8:30 a.m. (*NR)

**SESSION 1: FRIDAY 8:30 am – 9:30 am**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASPEN LEAF</td>
<td>READ &amp; CRITIQUE I 123</td>
<td>with Mary Robinette Kowal, Stacy Whitman, and Gabrielle Piraino (*NR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALON A&amp;B</td>
<td>THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, AND HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL NOVEL SYNOPSIS</td>
<td>with Terry Banker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALON C</td>
<td>READ &amp; CRITIQUE X</td>
<td>with Steve Saffel (*NR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALON F</td>
<td>BE PROACTIVE: ELIMINATING PASSIVE VOICE</td>
<td>with April Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALON G</td>
<td>13 LIES THEY TELL WRITERS</td>
<td>with Rod Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALON H</td>
<td>PART 1: WORDPRESS FOR WRITERS: FROM NOTHING TO WOW</td>
<td>(2 hours) with Kristy Ferrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGLES NEST 1&amp;2</td>
<td>SO YOU WANT TO BE A HYBRID AUTHOR</td>
<td>with Jennie Marts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASCENT LIBRARY</td>
<td>GENRE ROUNDTABLE: YA/CHILDREN'S/ MIDDLE GRADE</td>
<td>(*NR)</td>
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(*NR)—Will not be recorded
### FRIDAY SCHEDULE (CONTINUED)

#### SESSION 2: FRIDAY 9:40 am – 10:40 am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASPEN LEAF</strong></td>
<td><strong>READ &amp; CRITIQUE 123</strong> with Bob Mayer, Martin R. Biro, and Justin Wells (*NR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **SALON A&B** | **BUILDING YOUR SELF-PUBLISHING TEAM** with Callie Stoker  
Elevate your self-publishing by finding the right professionals to build your team. Editors, formatters, cover designers, and personal assistants. How to find them, how to afford them, and why treating your self-publishing as a business will bump up your professionalism and your sales. |
| **SALON C**   | **READ & CRITIQUE X** with Quressa Robinson (*NR)                                                      |
| **SALON F**   | **MAILCHIMP MAYHEM: MASTER YOUR EMAIL NEWSLETTERS WITH EASE** (and no money!) with Debbie Maxwell Allen  
With social media platforms like Facebook changing the rules of the game, savvy authors increasingly depend on email newsletters to connect with readers. But email programs bring headaches of their own. Don’t monkey around. Join us for a tour of the free MailChimp email service, and learn five unbeatable techniques for increasing your list—and finding loyal fans. |
| **SALON G**   | **THIS ONE’S FOR THE BOYS** with Darby Karchut  
In a world where girl empowerment is hitting its stride, schools and librarians are still begging for “books for boys.” Author Darby Karchut will share tips on writing for this half of our population, and how writers can craft books to keep guys turning the pages. Because boys who read grow up to become men who think and feel. |
| **SALON H**   | **PART 2: WORDPRESS FOR WRITERS: FROM NOTHING TO WOW** with Kristy Ferrin  
See Session 1 for description. |
| **EAGLES NEST I & II** | **QUERY LETTER BOOTCAMP** with Angie Hodapp  
Most writers will tell you that writing a good query letter is more difficult than writing the whole manuscript. How do you distill the essence of your novel into one pithy pitch paragraph? Come find out! Angie will divulge why so few query letters lead to requests for pages, and then walk you through how to write a standout four-part query letter while avoiding common pitfalls. |
| **ASCENT LIBRARY** | **GENRE ROUNDTABLE: SF/FANTASY** (*NR) |

#### SESSION 3: FRIDAY 10:50 am – 11:40 am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASPEN LEAF</strong></td>
<td><strong>READ &amp; CRITIQUE 123</strong> with Jonathan Maberry, Deb Werksman, and Maximilian Ximenez (*NR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **SALON A&B** | **NITTY GRITTY PACING** with DeAnna Knippling  
While pacing covers every aspect of a work of fiction and non-fiction, it all starts with sentences and paragraphs. In this workshop, we’ll talk about things like fight scenes, how not to bore readers, and how not to boot the reader out at the beginning of the story. |
| **SALON C**   | **READ & CRITIQUE X** with Gabrielle Piraino (*NR)                                                      |
| **SALON F**   | **BUILDING YOUR AUTHOR PLATFORM WITH MAGAZINE ARTICLES** with Kerrie Flanagan  
Whether you’re writing novels or are trying to position yourself as an expert for your nonfiction books, writing and submitting magazine articles is a great way to reach a larger audience and build your author platform. Taught by accomplished freelance writer, Kerrie Flanagan, whose work has appeared in such publications as Chicago Tribune, Writer’s Digest, Alaska Magazine and FamilyFun, this presentation will cover the basics of magazine writing, including generating ideas, finding your target market, and writing an effective query. In addition, it will cover the reasons why tapping into this market is an important and effective marketing tool that many authors do not take advantage of. Through a combination of instruction and guided activities, participants will leave with the basic knowledge of writing for magazines along with ideas for future articles to help build their writing platform. |
| **SALON G**   | **EXPANDING YOUR READERSHIP** with M.H. Boroson  
There are a limited number of people who already read lots of book in your genre; most authors compete for these readers. This workshop, however, is about people who aren’t regular readers— but they’d love YOUR book. |

(*NR)—Will not be recorded
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| Salon H     | 10:50 am – 11:40 am   | **DO YOU WANT TO KILL A SNOWMAN?** with Sam Knight  
We don’t buy the book because the protagonist is a twenty-something drop-out who no one believes in. We buy it because we want to see the monster! What makes a great monster? Its strengths and weaknesses—in other words, how to kill it! |
| Eagles Nest | 12:15 pm to 1:20 pm   | **USING TV BINGE-WORTHY TECHNIQUES FOR YOUR BOOK SERIES** with Trai Cartwright  
TV watching has radically changed in the last decade, and it’s all because of the way stories are told. Suddenly, we can’t stop ourselves from binge watching! There are very specific reasons why it’s the Golden Age of television, and those exact principles can be used to make our books binge-readable, too. |
| Ascend Library | 10:50 am – 11:40 am | **GENRE ROUNDTABLE: MYSTERY/SUSPENSE /THRILLER** (*NR)  
Welcome Lunch with emcee Damon Smithwick  
12:15 pm to 1:20 pm in the Ballroom |
| Session 4   | 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm     | **MYTHBUSTER EDITORS** with Martin R. Biro, Steve Saffel, Kelsy Thompson, Deb Werksman, and Stacy Whitman (*NR)  
Everything you wanted to know about editors but were afraid to ask! We’ll cover a wide range of topics, from unagented manuscripts to the secrets of the slush pile. We’ll touch on how they work with agents and how they work with authors, what they’re looking for, and how their respective publishing houses work. A wealth of information is yours just for showing up. |
| Aspen Leaf  | 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm     | **WHAT? YOU WANT TO MAKE MONEY WHILE WRITING YOUR GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL?** with Terri Benson  
If you need to generate income while writing your book, this workshop will expose you to a wide variety of opportunities to write for money, many in areas you might not have ever thought about. The workshop will give you ideas on how to best match your personality to the opportunities, and how to make as good an impression as possible with your submissions. |
| Salon A&B   | 12:15 pm to 1:20 pm   | **READ & CRITIQUE X** with Angie Hodapp (*NR) |
| Salon C     | 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm     | **HOW TO DO RESEARCH FOR HISTORICAL FICTION WITHOUT FALLING DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE** with Jason Evans  
Many people love history and historical fiction. For the beginning writer, however, it can be easy to get sucked down the rabbit hole of research, wasting money and time getting lost in history. This seminar will give the writer clear and concise guidelines on how to world build, create subplots, and add color using the chosen time period. Students will learn how to do preliminary research, in-depth research, and detailed research, as well as when such research is necessary, plus how to outline and draft historical fiction. |
| Salon F     | 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm     | **PERFECT PLACEMENT: POSITION YOUR WORDS FOR POWER** with Debbie Maxwell Allen  
How writers end a sentence, paragraph, or chapter helps determine whether readers keep turning pages. Find out how to revise your manuscript with powerful words in mind, placing them where they pull the eye along—and keep readers up all night. |

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- Red Leg Brewing Company

(*NR) — Will not be recorded
### FRIDAY SCHEDULE (CONTINUED)

#### SESSION 4: FRIDAY 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALON H</th>
<th>PICK YOUR POISON: USING POISONS IN NOVELS with Megan Rutter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poison often makes a cameo appearance in fiction. But is it the right poison? Using poison in fiction isn’t as easy as pouring antifreeze into Kool-Aid or tea. Or sprinkling some arsenic into finger sandwiches. Not anymore. As forensic science has improved, access to common poisons has become more and more difficult, even in fiction. This session will help writers understand the uses, symptoms, side effects, and evidence left by poisons. It will help writers create a plausible poisoning that will have readers coming back for a second dose.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EAGLES NEST 1&amp;2</th>
<th>WALKING ON EGGSHELLS: WRITING DISABILITY WITHOUT OFFENDING THE DISABLED with Kendra Merritt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your main character lost his arm? Your love interest can’t walk. You have all your research and experience lined up but now you actually have to write your characters. Without offending anyone. The trick to keeping the reader in the three-hundred-pound wheelchair on your side is to make sure your disabled characters are as engaging and three-dimensional as every other character. Easy, right? It can be as long as you’re paying attention to the right things. We’ll cover techniques for ensuring that your characters are people first, including why they’re important, what language to use, and the stereotypes to avoid.</td>
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#### SESSION 5: FRIDAY 2:50 pm – 3:50 pm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASPEN LEAF</th>
<th>READ &amp; CRITIQUE 123 with M.H. Boroson, Kelsy Thompson, and Quressa Robinson (*NR)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUSTING THE BLOCK with MB Partlow</td>
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<tr>
<td>This is where you bring your plot problems to be solved! Got a hole in your plot? Wrote yourself into a corner? Need a motivation for a character or a crazy twist? Learn how to brainstorm, trope-twist, and redefine your plot problems, with an eye to leaping over whatever hurdles you have and finishing that manuscript.</td>
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<tr>
<th>SALON A&amp;B</th>
<th>READ &amp; CRITIQUE X with Maximilian Ximenez (*NR)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROMOTE YOURSELF AND YOUR PROJECT LIKE A PRO with Susan Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>This workshop is all about getting comfortable talking about yourself and your projects. Learn how to present your project log line and your personal log line like a pro! Attendees will also learn how to create a one-sheet to encapsulate their project pitch and bio in a super sell-able format.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALON C</th>
<th>THE WORTH OF AN EDITOR with Callie Stoker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editing can be an expensive investment. This presentation will go through the stages of editing by an editor who will help you spot red flags, of bad editors, give you realistic expectations for your editing, and tips for establishing a lasting relationship with a trusted editor.</td>
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<tr>
<th>SALON F</th>
<th>PUBLAW with Melissa Edwards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracts, copyright, and intellectual property... oh my! Attorney and literary agent Melissa Edwards wants to help shine some light on the legalities involved in publishing a book. She will give a rundown on basic copyright protection, before and after registration, and introduce you to the most important terms in a publishing contract. While no class can replace hiring an attorney to protect your rights, this class will act as a publaw primer.</td>
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<tr>
<th>EAGLES NEST 1&amp;2</th>
<th>KEEPING THE BOOKS ON YOUR BOOKS: INTRO BOOKKEEPING FOR THE SELF-PUBLISHED AUTHOR with Therese Francis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thinking of self-publishing or hybrid publishing your next book? Once you enter the world of publishing, you are required to completely change the way you keep track of your expenses and report them on your taxes. Get the inside scoop before those changes bite you. We will cover inventory, accrual based accounting, overhead allocation, job costing, and more.</td>
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| ASCENT LIBRARY | GENRE ROUNDTABLE: SHORT STORIES (*NR) |

#### SESSION 6: FRIDAY 4:20 pm – 5:20 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASPEN LEAF</th>
<th>READ &amp; CRITIQUE 123 with Johnny Worthen, Steve Saffel, and Melissa Edwards (*NR)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE? with Cindi Madsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romance is one of the hottest genres out there. So how do you build great heroes and heroines, make sure the romantic chemistry is smoking from the first page, and make your reader fall in love along with the characters? From slow build to starting off with a bang, learn how to make sure everyone leaves satisfied.</td>
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(*NR)—Will not be recorded
### SESSION 6: FRIDAY 4:20 pm – 5:20 pm

**SALON C**

**READ & CRITIQUE X** with Martin R. Biro (*NR)

**SALON F**

**10 REASONS YOU SHOULD BE WRITING SHORT STORIES AND HOW TO GET STARTED** with Liz Colter

Many writers begin writing by tackling novels, but writing short stories as well can help you practice technique, learn business skills, gain exposure, and more. This workshop will explore ten reasons to try your hand at short-form writing, and the tips that will get you started.

**SALON G**

**HOW TO SAVE YOUR MANUSCRIPT USING THE STORY GRID** with Lisa Hawker

Shawn Coyne’s Story Grid is a tool that breaks down the component parts of manuscripts and tells the writer what’s working, what’s not, and what to do to fix the problems and amplify the strengths. It’s a tool to re-envision and resuscitate a seemingly irredeemable pile of paper stuck in an attic drawer, or can inspire an original creation. In this workshop, you’ll learn how to use the Story Grid and save your novel.

**SALON H**

**AUTHOR WEBSITES THE EASY WAY** with Fauzia Burke

Pub Site is the new do-it-yourself website builder designed specifically for books and authors. It supports author tours, blogging, bookseller links, and even e-commerce! Designs, layouts, and features are all created with books and authors in mind, which means you can have a website up and running in less than an hour with either your domain name or ours. Import your blogs, and add video and mailing list sign-up forms easily. Check out a demo and learn more about this easy-to-use, yet powerful, website builder.

**EAGLES NEST 1&2**

**THE ORIGINAL IDEA: THE HEART OF YOUR STORY AND KEY TO SELLING YOUR BOOK AND CONFLICT: THE FUEL OF YOUR STORY** with Bob Mayer

Can you say what your book is about in 24 words or less? This is essential to writing a tight book and then selling it. We’ll discuss ways to find and state your original idea so that you stay on course while writing the book and an approach with which you can excite those you tell your idea to when trying to sell it. Conflict drives your story. Not only must conflict escalate throughout the entire novel, every single scene must have conflict in it. The Conflict Box is an effective technique for focusing your story on the protagonist, antagonist, their goals, and finding out if you have the necessary conflict lock.

### FRIDAY 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**GENRE ROUNDTABLE: NONFICTION** (*NR)

**ASCENT LIBRARY**

**WRITE DRUNK, EDIT SOBER** with Deb Courtney

### SATURDAY SCHEDULE

**SESSION 7: SATURDAY 8:30 am – 9:30 am**

**ASPEN LEAF**

**NEWCOMER’S ORIENTATION** from 8:00 am to 8:30 a.m. (*NR)

**MYTHBUSTER AGENTS** with Melissa Edwards, Gabrielle Piraino, Queresa Robinson, Justin Wells, and Maximilian Ximenez (*NR)

Everything you wanted to know about agents but were afraid to ask! We’ll cover a lot of ground in one hour, from unsolicited manuscripts to pet peeves to slush piles. We’ll talk about what mistakes to avoid, what agents are really looking for, queries that stand out for all the right and the wrong reasons, and so much more.

(*NR)—Will not be recorded
PART 1: ONE GREAT BIG IDEA (2 hours) with M.H. Boroson
New writers often hear advice telling them to write many different kinds of story. But some authors dedicate their lives to ONE GREAT BIG IDEA for decades. Which approach is right for you? How do you know if your idea is big enough or great enough? ONE GREAT BIG IDEA can make the difference. But writers can also spend years pursuing ideas that fizzle. How do you know if your idea has the potential to be the next Harry Potter? This seminar explores the notion of ONE GREAT BIG IDEA, examining authors who dedicated decades to a single vision. We’ll explore the characteristics of an inspiration that deserves your long-term commitment, as well as characteristics of ideas that may be brilliant but short-lived. We’ll look at ways to search out great big inspirations, and ways to test to see if your idea is big enough, great enough, and one enough to be worth devoting decades of your life to it.

REVERSE ENGINEERING A MYSTERY with Laura Hayden
Learn how to avoid plot holes and logic errors by reverse engineering your mystery plot. Mystery author and celebrity ghostwriter, Laura Hayden, deconstructs a classic suspense movie/novel plot, breaking down the characters and their motives, and then reworking the storyline backwards.

THE SCOOP ON AUDIOBOOKS with Kerrie Flanagan
Audiobooks are the fastest growing segment of the publishing industry. With smart phones, speakers like Alexa, and Bluetooth technology, people are listening to more audio content while cooking, driving, exercising or sitting on the sofa. Now is the perfect time for authors to venture into the world of audiobooks, but there are important things to understand before taking that step. This workshop will cover the listening and buying habits of audiobook consumers, the variety of options for publishing an audiobook, and the components that go into a successful audiobook.

JOIN THE RED HOT MIDDLE GRADE BOOK MARKET (HOW TO WRITE A BESTSELLING CHILDREN’S BOOK) with Mariko Tamimoto
The children’s book market is so hot that bestselling adult novelists are jumping in for a piece of the action: James Patterson, Rick Riordan, Jeff Kinney. But how do you write for kids? Parents, teachers, and librarians are gatekeepers of Middle Grade books, and you must follow the rules. Find out what they are. Come learn what bestselling authors know about how to capture and entertain kids. Learn the differences between adult and Middle Grade novels.

PART 1: SAVE THE CAT! STRIKES BACK! EXPLORING ALL OF BLAKE SNYDER’S BRILLIANCE (2 hours) with Aaron Michael Ritchey and Jason Evans
Many writers understand the basics of Blake Snyder’s Save the Cat plot structure and love the fifteen beats. However, there is a world of other information in Snyder’s books that rarely gets discussed. We want to delve into aspects of Snyder’s books, including pitching, character development, collaboration, and the idea of a fully fleshed-out forty scene storyboard based on the fifteen beats.

SHORT STORIES: PACING with Mary Robinette Kowal
There are a lot of theories out there about how to handle pacing for novels, but how do you do it when constrained by length? It turns out that many of the same rules-of-thumb apply, but in a proportionally smaller space they look very different. Learn how to structure your beginnings, ends, and those pesky middles.

PART 2: ONE GREAT BIG IDEA with M.H. Boroson
New writers often hear advice telling them to write many different kinds of story. But some authors dedicate their lives to ONE GREAT BIG IDEA for decades. Which approach is right for you? See Session 7 for full description

LOOKING FOR RESEARCH IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES with Terri Benson
Just about every genre of fiction, as well as non-fiction, requires research. While Google may be the go-to place for many writers, it’s not the only, or often the best, place to look. This workshop will review a wide variety of research options, including some non-traditional ones, as well as some basic worksheets to help writers keep their research organized.

SALES TAX: THE MOVING TARGET with Therese Francis
Knowing when to charge sales tax and how to report it is not as easy as it should be, especially with the ever-changing interstate and international rules for the Internet. For some states, having a physical presence is required. For others, just having a certain dollar amount of orders pushes you over a threshold. Some states have one rate for the whole state, others can have different rates by city or county—or by the block. Today, mailing a book to someone might also mean you have international issues to address. This workshop will discuss moving targets, such as these, including the Amazon Amnesty Program and what that could mean to authors.

(*NR)—Will not be recorded

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session 8: Saturday 9:40 am – 10:40 am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salon G&amp;H</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fantasy and Sci Fi World Building: Writing Like an Anthropologist</strong> with Darby Karchut</td>
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<tr>
<td>Come explore the eight universals that make up a culture and how to incorporate them into world building to give your fantasy or sci-fi book extra depth. There will also be activity to help participants review their WIP and determine if their own “brave new world” has all the elements of the culture.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eagles Nest 1&amp;2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 2: Save the Cat! Strikes Back! Exploring All of Blake Snyder’s Brilliance</strong> with Aaron Michael Ritchey and Jason Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many writers understand the basics of Blake Snyder’s Save the Cat plot structure and love the fifteen beats. However, there is a world of other information in Snyder’s books that rarely gets discussed. See Session 7 for full description.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 9: Saturday 10:50 am – 11:50 am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aspen Leaf</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>An Insider’s Look at the Author/Editor Relationship</strong> with Jennie Marts and Deb Werksman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join Sourcebooks Casablanca Editorial Director, Deb Werksman and USA Today bestselling author, Jennie Marts, as they share insight on how editors and authors can work together from the story inception to the finished book on the shelves. Find out how to communicate with your editor to get the results you want, as well as what to do should communication ever break down, how to get to alignment when you can’t agree to disagree, and how to get the absolute most out of your relationship with your publishing house.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Salon A&amp;B</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fear of Commitment: Finding Your Match</strong> with MB Partlow and Kameron Claire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whether dating or looking for a critique group, finding a good match can be hard, but finding the right one can be even harder. Before entering any relationship, you need to take a hard look at who you are and what you bring to the table, as well as know what you need from your partners. We’ll help you figure out what’s out there, how to seek out the best partners, and give you solid tips on how to handle a potential break-up. We can’t help you find a love connection, but we can help you find or build a good critique group.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Salon C</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strike a Match: Spark Creativity Through Art, Music, and Photography</strong> with April Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A picture’s worth a thousand words, right? Inspiration comes in many types, and writers could always use a muse once in a while. Oftentimes, other art forms take on that role. Want to jump start a story? Write a poem? Or maybe you want to beef up your characterization skills? Certain music can practically write a scene for you (well, almost). Through lots of examples and exercises, participants will discover a treasure trove of inspiration to spark a fire of creativity, and maybe even their next published piece!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salon F</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emotional Description -- The How and Why That Will Change Your Writing Forever</strong> with Terry Banker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Description is more than writing descriptive narrative. Emotional Description is a guiding principle used to govern all writing aspects in fiction and nonfiction. It engineers specific emotions to guide a reader through a story by controlling, confining, and filtering choices toward a desired emotional outcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salon G&amp;H</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dialogue That Fits Your World</strong> with Callie Stoker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The characters in your unique world need to speak in a way that matches the world-building. Learn common time period, gender role, and social communication “rules” of a world in order to clearly apply those guidelines to the world of your building. From idioms to swear words, these frameworks will help you find the words and phrases that will give authenticity to your creations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eagles Nest 1&amp;2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rules for Pacing and Editing</strong> with Steve Saffel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whether or not your submission is accepted may hinge on the pacing and clarity with which your narrative flows. All of the story elements may be there, but if they don’t sing like a diva at the opera, your manuscript may fall flat. Learn some basic rules that can help you hit all of the right notes.</td>
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**Lunch with Bob Mayer**

with emcee Damon Smithwick

12:15 pm to 1:40 pm in the Ballroom

(*NR)—Will not be recorded
## SATURDAY SCHEDULE (CONTINUED)

### SESSION 10: SATURDAY 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
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| **ASPEN LEAF**  | **WRITING HORROR** with Steve Saffel, DeAnna Knippling, and Jonathan Maberry  
  Writing horror sounds easy, right? Just put a monster or serial killer on the page, spill lots of blood, and scare people. There’s a lot more to it than that and these talented experts will tell you exactly how it’s done. |
| **SALON A&B**   | **ESTABLISHING YOURSELF AS A BUSINESS IN THE EYES OF THE IRS** with Therese Francis  
  Think like a business, look like a business, get treated like a business (and take advantage of the tax laws only available for businesses). Even if Congress makes big tax law changes this year, your small business reporting requirements will not change (and might increase). |
| **SALON C**     | **HOW TO WRITE COMPELLING VILLAINS** with Jason Evans  
  Every good hero needs a dastardly villain to oppose them. But how do you write that villain? What motivates that villain to do evil? What do they really want? This class will teach writers how to go deep into the villain’s character arc. We will discuss what drives the villain. How they operate their organization. Whether it’s the captain of the cheerleaders mean girl or a mad Roman emperor, every villain attracts followers, and we'll discuss those, too. Join us and by the end you will have a complex, rich villain your readers will LOVE to hate. |
| **SALON F**     | **PART 1: WRITING PROSE THAT SHINES** with Liz Colter (2 HOURS)  
  This workshop is designed to help avoid the pitfalls that many first-time and newer writers experience, and emphasizes tips to improve writing skills: how to show, not tell, use strong, engaging language, make each scene count, and more. |
| **SALON G&H**   | **WRITING TO THEME** with Johnny Worthen  
  Raise your work to literary levels by consciously incorporating themes. Learn how to identify what you’re trying to say, and actively nurture the subtler, but greater questions you’re addressing. Enhance your writing with symbols as signposts, layers of grays, and depths of meaning. From the lighthouse of intent to hard questions, symbols, subplots, and echoes, this class will encourage the writer to plumb the depths of their theme, bleed a little, and create multiple strands of meaning in their work. |
| **EAGLES NEST 1&2** | **IS SELF-PUBLISHING RIGHT FOR YOU?** with Kerrie Flanagan  
  We live in a time where writers have many publishing options. Gone are the days when the feasible way to get your book into the hands of readers was to get it published by a traditional publisher. Now, with the rise of the Internet and e-books, those who are interested in self-publishing have choices. Self-published author and instructor Kerrie L. Flanagan will share an in-depth view of the pros and cons of traditional and self-publishing, the process of self-publishing, provide self-publishing resources, and explain the pitfalls to avoid. Participants will leave with the knowledge needed to make an informed decision about whether or not self-publishing is the direction they want to follow. |
| **ANNEX in RESTAURANT** | **(The second half of our special Write Drunk, Edit Sober activity)**  
  So you did some improv writing. Some of it might even be good. Now the real work begins. This session focuses on unpacking the small samples you create in response to writing prompts, flexing the ideas, identifying themes and understanding how to develop these exercises into usable material. Please note: This workshop is suitable for anyone who has done improv writing, or writing to prompts. You’re welcome to attend even if you didn’t attend the “Write Drunk” portion last night. |

### SESSION 11: SATURDAY 3:10 pm – 4:10 pm

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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| **ASPEN LEAF**  | **KEEPING YOUR SERIES FRESH** with Laurell K. Hamilton, Jennie Marts, Darby Karchut  
  What are the tricks and tips to writing a series that make readers want the next book as soon as you finish it? How do you create characters that resonate and move from book to book? How do you create plots that demand attention? This team of writers have success in that area and will share their secrets with you. |
| **SALON A&B**   | **SNAFU-FORENSICS: WHEN FORENSICS GETS IT WRONG** with Megan Rutter  
  Ever wonder when and where forensic science has tumbled on the path to better understanding the how and why of a crime? Want something funny and maybe even a big madcap to add flare to your manuscript? Then this is the session for you. We'll discuss the foibles and folly of forensics from crime scene modeling to DNA. From phrenology to blood splatter analysis. This session will give writers a completely new view on the idea of trial and error. |

(*NR)—Will not be recorded
### SESSION 11: SATURDAY 3:10 pm – 4:10 pm

**SALON C**  
**THINKING OUTSIDE THE PUBLICATION BOX with Debbie Maxwell Allen**  
Whether you’re frustrated with the pace of publication or eager to find new readers, it’s time to think outside the publication box. Millions of people all over the world are gaining access to smartphones, increasing the number of potential readers. Cutting-edge writers will consider the needs of these lucrative groups. Join us as we discuss a host of unusual, yet effective techniques, to write in ways that reach farther than a physical book.

**SALON F**  
**PART 2: WRITING PROSE THAT SHINES with Liz Colter**  
This workshop is designed to help avoid the pitfalls that many first-time and newer writers experience. See Session 10 for full description.

**SALON G&H**  
**WHORES, SLUTS, AND PROSTITUTES - OH MY! ON RECLAIMING SEX FOR WOMEN IN FANTASY with Kristy Ferrin**  
The depiction of women in the fantasy genre leaves more than a little to be desired, and never more so than on the topic of sex. In this workshop, we discuss agency both in and out of the bedroom and discuss ways to handle this in your own writing.

**EAGLES NEST 1&2**  
**THE THREE STEP FORMULA FOR BUILDING AN AUTHOR PLATFORM with Fauzia Burke**  
Every author’s online platform is his/her biggest asset, and creating one is vitally important to your long-term success. However, there’s never been more demands on an author’s time than today. In this session, you will learn which efforts are worth your time and which ones are a distraction. You will learn through examples and case studies on how to connect all the elements of online marketing (website, mailing list, blogging, social media, advertising, and publicity) into a cohesive, successful, and sustainable author platform.

### SNACK BREAK: SATURDAY 4:10 pm – 4:40 pm

### SESSION 12: SATURDAY 4:40 pm – 5:40 pm

**SALON A&B**  
**MARKET LIKE A MANIAC (WITHOUT FEELING LIKE ONE) with Cindi Madsen**  
What’s the best way to get the word out about your book? We’ll discuss blog tours, newsletters, how to make social media work for you, publicity, anthologies, and street teams. Learn how to create a tribe of people who will want to help you get the word out for you, how to gain more followers without spending all your time marketing instead of writing, and how to find affordable help when you can’t do it all yourself.

**SALON C**  
**WHAT IS CREATIVE NONFICTION? with Rod Miller**  
This “emerging” genre is more talked about than understood. Although practiced for years, it seems to have become the flavor of the week in creative writing programs and appears to be making headway in the literary world. But, what is it? Where does it fit on the continuum from fact to fiction? Why is it as often panned as praised? This workshop will answer all your questions about Creative Nonfiction—or originate more.

**SALON F**  
**EATING YOUR WORDS: MAKE THEM TASTY with MB Partlow**  
Of all the senses, taste is the one most often ignored. Which is sadder than a cake left out in the rain, because what your characters are tasting can speak volumes about your characters, their past, the setting, societal and cultural values, and more. This workshop will delve into ways to work taste into your work, no matter what your genre, how other writers have mastered this, tropes to avoid, how to use non-food tastes, and sources for inspiration.

**SALON G&H**  
**HOW TO STUDY FICTION with DeAnna Knippling**  
How to peel apart fiction on different levels to find out how it works and why—and how to get away with breaking the rules the way top writers do.

**EAGLES NEST 1&2**  
**POPULAR SELF-PUBLISHING PLATFORMS with Sam Knight**  
So you want to self-publish your book, but you’re not sure where/how to do it. Is Amazon really the only game in town? What’s this Draft2Digital thing I keep hearing about? Can I afford to use Lightning Source? Wait! What! What do you mean I can’t use Lightning Source? Why not? Here’s a rundown on the most commonly used platforms and their pros and cons for both print and e-books.

### SATURDAY 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**ASCENT LIBRARY**  
**WRITE DRUNK, EDIT SOBER with Deb Courtney (NR)**

*(NR)—Will not be recorded*
### SATURDAY SCHEDULE (CONTINUED)

**SCHEDULE:** SATURDAY 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>BOOKSIGNING WITH OUR FACULTY!</strong></td>
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**BANQUET - 7:30 pm**

Celebrating our Zebulon Award Winners Keynote address by **LAURELL K. HAMILTON**

*with emcee Damon Smithwick*

**SCHEDULE:** SATURDAY 9:00 pm

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>OPEN MIC with Damon Smithwick (<strong>NR</strong>)</strong></td>
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**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**SESSION 13: SUNDAY 9:00 am – 10:00 am**

**ASPEN LEAF**

**WRITING YOUNG ADULT** with Johnny Worthen

Investigate what makes fiction young adult and also what makes great young adult fiction. From gatekeepers to theme, taboos, and responsibilities, it’s a time of change and we must embrace it. A class for writers and fans of the genre.

**SALON A&B**

**SOMETIMES WRITERS BLOCK IS REALLY DEPRESSION** with Mary Robinette Kowal

Sometimes these two things are closely intertwined. Being able to identify why you are having trouble writing can often help you find strategies to start writing again and to know when to ask for help.

**SALON C**

**TALK TO ME: A VOICE & DIALOGUE WORKSHOP** with April Moore

Our characters, and their unique voices, are what make readers fall in love with a book. A protagonist’s voice is all he or she has to communicate to the reader, so it’s crucial to give your character a unique and compelling voice. Voices shine through dialogue, which done correctly, will create tension, propel the plot, and give vital insight into our character’s head, heart, and soul. Body language and gestures are also ways to convey voice. Through lecture, instructions, examples, and exercises, participants will learn what it takes to create unique and memorable character voices that will speak volumes to readers.

**SALON F**

**INTRODUCTION TO WRITE IT FORWARD: FROM WRITER TO SUCCESSFUL AUTHOR** with Bob Mayer

For fiction and non-fiction authors, this overview workshop educates writers on how to be authors. Based on over a quarter century of experience in traditional, hybrid, and indie publishing, Write It Forward is a holistic approach, encompassing goals, intent, environment, personality, change, courage, communication, and leadership that gives the writer a road map to become a successful author. Many writers become focused on either the writing or the business end; Write It Forward integrates the two, especially in the rapidly changing world of digital publishing.

**SALON G&H**

**THE STORY ON STORY STRUCTURE** with Kendra Merritt

Everyone talks about story structure as if there’s one framework for every novel, but there are so many schools of thought—the Hero’s Journey, Save the Cat, the Snowflake Method. How do you know which one is right? This workshop will compare each of these methods and give you the tools to plot your next novel without the confusion.

**EAGLES NEST 1&2**

**MULTICULTURALISM IS HOT: MAKE YOUR MULTICULTURAL BOOK AUTHENTIC** with Mariko Tatsumoto

Multiculturalism and diversity in novels are HOT right now. But a multicultural book must be authentic in dialogues, descriptions, gestures, and customs to portray the culture accurately. Learn how to educate yourself to avoid incorrect assumptions or stereotypes. Details, not generalizations, make a book, but where and how do you learn the aspects that capture the reader, yet remain true to the culture? Can you put away your preconceived notions and do justice to the culture and its people? Will you be influenced by what the publishing industry wants? Come find out if including multiculturalism in your novel is right for you.

**SESSION 14: SUNDAY 10:10 am – 11:10 am**

**ASPEN LEAF**

**BUILDING THE PERFECT NON-PERFECT CHARACTER** with Cindi Madsen/Aaron Michael Ritchey

Learn how to build characters—from the relatable and likable to the villains we secretly love.

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<th>SALON A&amp;B</th>
<th>DIVE INTO DATA with Deb Werksman</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Data can drive creativity. Find out why books are different from other media, the importance of positioning and how do it to maximize a book’s success, and what you need to know to understand today’s marketplace. What you don’t know can be as interesting as what you do know, by the way. You’ll also learn what to ask, and where to look to reach readers and maximize your impact.</td>
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<th>SALON C</th>
<th>WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE A FRAUD with Kelsy Thompson</th>
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<td>This workshop discusses how imposter syndrome affects writers (both published and aspiring) and how to combat that feeling of fraudulence by owning your fears, recognizing progress, and internalizing success.</td>
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<th>SALON F</th>
<th>TV, NEWS &amp; MEDIA, OH MY! with Susan Mitchell</th>
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<td>Gain perspective and authenticity when you include News, TV, and Media in your fiction. Learn how newscasts work, how stories are cultivated, the difference between a producer and director, what reporters really do and more! We’ll also explore the difference between news and entertainment, reality TV, and scripted programming.</td>
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<th>SALON G&amp;H</th>
<th>THE DEATH OF THE MENTOR AKA WE DON'T NEED NO STINKIN’ MENTORS! with Trai Cartwright</th>
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<td>Since the beginning of storytelling, the hero’s journey has included one significant aid for our young main characters: a mentor. Magical, older, wiser, this person was the guardian and guide until our young hero could master his own skills and destiny. But in recent storytelling, we’ve seen a radical change in the hero-mentor relationship—the mentor has all but disappeared, or has otherwise failed their charges. From Haymitch to Dumbledore to stories like Ready Player One and Fault in Our Stars, we’ll examine what’s different about the hero’s journey and why we’ve killed off our elders.</td>
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<tr>
<th>EAGLES NEST 1&amp;2</th>
<th>PART 1: LAYERING: ACCOMPLISHING MORE STORY IN LESS WORDS (2 HOURS) with Callie Stoker</th>
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<td>Is your word count out of control? Does it take you more words than you wish to express what you want to say? This presentation will teach how your writing can accomplish more than one thing for your story at a time. Reveal character while moving the plot forward, describe and expand setting while foreshadowing. This technique will improve your story pacing and lower word count, and show you how to pin-point and fix this weakness in your writing.</td>
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<th>ASCENT LIBRARY</th>
<th>(The second half of our special Write Drunk, Edit Sober activity with Deb Courtney)</th>
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<tr>
<th>ASPEN LEAF</th>
<th>MYTHBUSTER KEYNOTES with Jonathan Maberry, Laurell K. Hamilton, Mary Robinette Kowal, and Bob Mayer (*NR)</th>
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<td>Here is your chance to spend some time with our amazing keynote speakers. Find out what secrets they can share about their success stories.</td>
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<th>SALON A&amp;B</th>
<th>THE GROWN-UP IN THE ROOM: WRITING POWERFUL ADULT CHARACTERS IN YA AND MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS with Darby Karchut</th>
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<td>Too many books for children and teens feature missing or flawed adult characters, a trope that has recently come under fire in the publishing world. In this workshop, we’ll explore ways to include well-rounded and successful adults in our stories while still allowing the young heroine or hero to shine on center stage.</td>
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<tr>
<th>SALON C</th>
<th>IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO WRITE YOUR NOVEL with Lisa Hawker</th>
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<td>Think you’re too old to write a novel? To get published! In this breakout workshop, you’ll learn how to persevere and stay motivated no matter how many rejection letters you receive, the value of persistence, self-discipline, and how to surround yourself with an encouraging support system, and the do’s and don’t’s when you’re just starting on your journey.</td>
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<th>SALON F</th>
<th>USING HUMOR IN FICTION with Rod Miller</th>
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<td>How do you blend humor with narrative and use language to set a humorous, lighthearted tone? This workshop reveals writing techniques that create and contribute to humor in fiction.</td>
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(*NR)—Will not be recorded
I DO NOT THINK THAT WORD MEANS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS with Sam Knight
We all know the problems with lay vs. lie or who vs. whom, but there are other words that seem to continually stymie new writers. Here we’ll learn about some of those not so well known to be a problem, so that you can keep them in mind when you use them.

PART 2: LAYERING: ACCOMPLISHING MORE STORY IN LESS WORDS with Callie Stoker
See Session 14 for description

FAREWELL LUNCH with JONATHAN MABERRY
12:40 pm to 2:20 pm in the Ballroom

PIKES PEAK WRITERS 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 being involved with Pikes Peak Writers Conference in any capacity, you agree that you have read this policy and will adhere to it. 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 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 is not limited to, unwanted physical contact, threats of physical violence, sexual advances, any form of verbal insult, or demeaning of character. There is 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, simply apologize, cease the offensive verbiage or action, and/or walk away. Sometimes, even the best of intentions can be misinterpreted, so err on the side of courtesy, and respect personal boundaries (boundaries include physical being and personal belongings.)

DISCRIMINATION in any form is not 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 is 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. Should you encounter a situation that violates our code of conduct or concerns you in any other way, please alert a staff member immediately. You can identify them by their badges or logo shirts. Or please go to the registration desk or bookstore for a prompt response.
Middle Grade/Young Adult
1st: Amber Washer, Colorado Springs, CO, Faery Normal
2nd: Angela Sylvaine, Fort Collins, CO, The Installation
3rd: Judith Robbins Rose, Centennial, CO, Burn

Mainstream/Literary/Historical
1st: Judith Robbins Rose, Centennial, CO, Burn
2nd: Thomas Kichi, Irvine, CA, Kid Buddha
3rd: Shea McIntosh Ford, Colorado Springs, CO, It’s Only Me

Romance/Women’s Fiction
1st: J.E.M. Welch, Highlands Ranch, CO, Light Unveiled
2nd: Lynette Paul, Fair Grove, MO, Turbulence of the Heart
3rd: Evon Davis, Denver, CO, The Magical Art of Seduction

Mystery/Suspense/Thriller
1st: Elaine Will Sparber, Roseville, CA, Rejection Can Be Murder

Science Fiction/Fantasy
1st: Levi Jacobs, Englewood, CO, Daughter of Flood and Fury
2nd: LV Bell, Colorado Springs, CO, Sun’s Awakening
3rd: Bowen Gillings, Colorado Springs, CO, Ring Circus

Urban Fantasy/Horror/Paranormal
1st: Laura Main, Castle Rock, CO, Smite This!
2nd: J.E.M. Welch, Highlands Ranch, CO, Light Unveiled
3rd: Kelsy Thompson, Jolly Fish Press

The conference on-site fundraising opportunities go toward filling the scholarships for the next year and supporting the conference so we can bring in even better faculty, workshops, and activities.

The first way to help out is to buy a $10.00 PPWC fortune pen.

A $10.00 pen, you say?!! But this is no ordinary pen--inside is a piece of paper that lets you know which one of a wide montage of amazing prizes you might have won (all valued $10.00 and up). There could be books on craft or fiction. There could be a free night at the Marriott. There could be wine. Or a 50-page critique from an attending editor or agent. Or a free prequel for 2019. An attendee has to purchase a pen to find out.

The second way is to participate in our BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK fundraiser.

Do you judge a book by its cover? Most of us tend to do that. Well, now you have to choose to pick a book to read without seeing the cover. The second fundraising opportunity at conference allows an attendee to go on a "Blind Date with a Book." For a donation, an attendee can get a book wrapped in brown-paper with only a short synopsis and genre on it. Might be a mystery. Or thriller. Or science fiction. Or romance. But which one?
Celebrating our 26th PPWC, we’re happy to be spending our 25th consecutive year at the Colorado Springs Marriott. It’s been our home and the staff are very much a part of our family.

We urge our attendees to take advantage of the marvelous food and drinks available on site as well as to enjoy the magnificent backdrop of Pikes Peak to the west.
Use the code LUWPPW18
for 10% off!
Early-bird pricing available until May 1st.

"Best writer's conference around!"

AUGUST 24-25 2018 University Park Marriott