



COLORADO GOLD
Writers Conference

Sept. 9-11, 2022, Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver

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A Welcome from RMFW's President

Greetings and welcome to the 2022 Colorado Gold Conference, the premier writers' conference in the Rocky Mountain region, sponsored by Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers (RMFW), Vellum, Itsy Bitsy Books, and Author by Design.

On behalf of the RMFW Board of Directors, Conference Co-Chairs, and volunteers who bring this conference to life every year, I'm honored to welcome you to three days of exciting presentations, practical and intimate workshops and panels, and a line-up of great keynote speakers, agents, editors, and bestselling authors—who have been assembled to give you the most up-to-date information about the publishing industry, the craft of writing, and state-of-the-art educational sessions—all designed to enhance your writing journey.

This year's Gold Conference theme, "Lift Up. Lift Off," is launching, right now, and on mission to elevate your writing career.

Enjoy your conference and best wishes on your writing journey!

Sincerely,

Z.J.

Z.J. Czupor

President
Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers
 president@rmfw.org



Bookstore Hours

BookBar has set up shop at our conference! The tables are full of your favorite RMFW members' & Conference Presenters' works. Whether for entertainment, inspiration, or craft instruction, they've got you covered. Find them in the Café Lounge at the following times:

- **Friday, Sept 9:** Noon to 9:30p.m.
- **Saturday, Sept 10:** 8a.m. to 6:30p.m.
- **Sunday, Sept 11:** 8a.m. to Noon



BookGive donates thousands of books to organizations and facilities all over the Denver metro area. Support them by bringing a book, or books, to donate to BookGive during the CO Gold conference! Do you have Spanish-print books or books in large print? They would love that! You can also make a donation or purchase and donate a book onsite in the bookstore.

Keynote Presenters & Guest Speaker

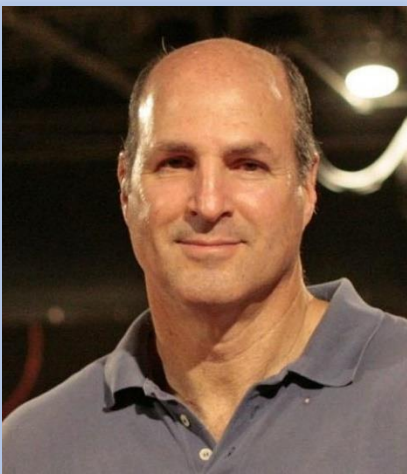
Katherine Center

BookPage calls Katherine Center “the reigning queen of comfort reads.” She’s the *New York Times* bestselling author of nine books, including *How to Walk Away*, *Things You Save in a Fire*, and her newest, *The Bodyguard*. Katherine writes laugh-and-cry books about how life knocks us down—and how we get back up. She’s been compared to both Jane Austen and Nora Ephron, and the *Dallas Morning News* calls her stories, “satisfying in the most soul-nourishing way.” Her books have made countless Best-Of lists, including *RealSimple*’s Best Books of 2020, Amazon’s Top 100 Books of 2019, Goodreads’ Best Books of the Year, and many more. The movie adaptation of Katherine’s novel *The Lost Husband* (starring Josh Duhamel) hit #1 on Netflix, and her novel *Happiness for Beginners* is in production now as a Netflix original starring Ellie Kemper. Katherine lives in her hometown of Houston, Texas, with her husband, two kids,



and their fluffy-but-fierce dog.

David L. Robbins



New York Times bestselling author David L. Robbins has written 16 novels, four professionally produced plays, and, in 2018, was named one of two most influential literary artists in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the past 50 years by the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Robbins lives and writes in his hometown of Richmond, VA, and teaches advanced creative writing at Virginia Commonwealth University. He founded James River Writers, a non-profit helping aspiring writers learn together as a writing community; co-founded the Podium Foundation, supporting writing and communication for youth; founded The Mighty Pen Project, giving Virginia veterans training to turn their memories of military service into written narratives; and founded Frontline Writers, a writing program for first responders. His new historical fiction novel, *Isaac’s Beacon*, is a sweeping tale based on the real events of Israel’s founding, bringing alive the power and complexities of the birth of the Jewish state.

Erika T. Wurth

Erika T. Wurth’s literary-horror/speculative novel, *White Horse*, is forthcoming with Flatiron/Macmillan. She teaches creative writing at Western Illinois University and has been a guest writer at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in numerous journals including *Buzzfeed*, *Boulevard*, *Lithub*, *The Writer’s Chronicle*, and *The Kenyon Review*. She is a *Kenyon Review* Writers Workshop Scholar, attended the Tin House Summer Workshop, and is a narrative artist for the Meow Wolf Denver installation. She is represented by Rebecca Friedman. She is of Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee descent and was raised outside of Denver, where she lives with her partner, her two stepchildren, and her extremely fluffy dogs.



New Attendees – Don't Miss This!

Please accept my special welcome to this year's Colorado Gold Writer's Conference. Every year, first-timers make up at least twenty-five percent of the attendance. For many of those, this will be their first-ever writers' conference. Besides the workshops, you will have the opportunity to network with other writers and industry professionals. RMFW leadership and the membership hope you enjoy the time and accomplish the things you need to move your writing career to the next level.

We have two events planned especially for newcomers First, at 8p.m. on Thursday, Sept 8 join me for an informal gathering at The Borealis Lounge. This time will give you to meet other first-timers and learn some faces before things get going on Friday. Next, at 11:45a.m. on Friday, Sept 9 we will have an orientation meeting in the Conference Room III. Leadership wants to thank you for attending, and we'll give you some tips for navigating the weekend, introduce you to the people you should know, and answer all your questions. There'll be door prizes and a special gift for one lucky someone.



Please plan on joining us.

Terri Benson

First-time Attendee Liaison.

Birds of a Feather

Flock together with fellow writers! Birds of a Feather Sessions are informal conversations hosted by an RMFW professional that gather writers who work in the same genre. Ask questions, network, find new friends, and share about the latest developments in publishing and your genre. All these sessions will be in the Boardroom A.

- **Historical Fiction:** Saturday, 9a.m. with Heather Webb
- **Thriller:** Saturday, 10a.m. with Rob Samborn
- **Fantasy:** Saturday, 11a.m. with Caitlin Berve
- **Horror:** Saturday, 1:30p.m. with Andre Gonzalez
- **Young Adult/ Middle Grade:** Saturday, 2:30p.m. with Rod Martinez
- **Science Fiction:** Saturday, 3:30p.m. with T.H. Leatherman
- **Romance:** Saturday, 4:30p.m. with Bernadette Soehner

Quiet Writing Areas

Feeling inspired and need an area to just write?

See the registration desk for a key to the [Regency Club Room](#) on the second floor during these times:

- **Friday 9a.m. to 5p.m.**
- **Saturday 8a.m. to 3p.m.**
- **Sunday 8a.m. to noon**

We ask you to respect this quiet space for other writers. Please remember to silence phones and step out of the room if you need discuss anything—this includes whispering.

Agent, Editor, & Scout Pitch Sessions

These one-on-one sessions are scheduled in advance and offer conference attendees the chance to pitch their manuscript to participating in-person and virtual agents. Pitch appointments will be provided at registration. When it's your time to pitch, head up to the pitch lounge next to the Aurora Ballroom and find our Pitch Master, Jonathan Christian. If you are a late registrant without at pitch time, or need to reschedule, please see Jonathan when you pick up your registration packet on Friday afternoon between 10a.m. and 1p.m.



The Colorado Authors League (CAL) supports and promotes its community of published writers while connecting with and adding value to the reading world.

Formed 90 years ago, authors become members to:

- Keep up with changes in the craft of writing, publishing, and marketing.
- Gain greater visibility for their writing – CAL is dedicated to promoting its authors and their works.
- Find like-minded people who love writing, and with whom they can trade their knowledge and experience.
- To participate in collaborative books, community projects, contests, and retail booths.

Find out more at coloradoauthors.org

Now accepting applications from book illustrators and cover designers!!

Silent Auction!

Funds raised through the silent auction go toward our Youth Writers' Program.

Auction items and bid forms can be found between the registration desk and the Aurora Ballroom.

Winners will be selected Saturday evening and names will be posted outside the ballroom before the Gold Rush Banquet.

Winners can pay their bid at the registration table on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

Thank you to all our donors who contributed to the auction this year!

The Workshops

Note: Beginner, intermediate and professional designations are meant to guide writers based on where they are in their career. These categories are only guides, and you need not have previous knowledge/experience of a topic to attend any workshop.

Each Session is described as follows:

Room:

Workshop Title - Presenter

Level (Time Length)

Workshop Description

A calendar of the workshops as well as a floor plan can be viewed at the information desk.

Friday Morning Masterclasses

These classes require pre-registration with an added fee.

8:00 - 11:50 AM

Boardroom C:

Point of View: The Most Important Choice A Writer Makes, and How to Make It – David L. Robbins

Beginner to intermediate (4 hours)

The last thing a writer should do is type. The first thing is design. Among the most important elements to be determined before the narrative begins is Who Tells The Story. This selection is pivotal. We'll survey how to select the correct POV, and why.

Regency Club Boardroom, 2nd floor:

Talking About Speculative Literature: Origins, Definitions, and Craft – Erika T. Wurth

Intermediate (4 hours)

This workshop is centered around speculative literature: the definitions, the craft, and how it relates to the basics of all good writing.

Conference II:

You Had Me at Hello: Writing an Effective Opening – Heather Webb

Beginner to intermediate (4 hours)

Learn what makes an opening grabby—or trite—and how to win the agent's or the editor's eye for which you're vying. We'll look at first lines, clichés, and techniques for making opening pages appealing. Attendees may submit pages ahead of time for feedback from the instructor and should bring those pages for real-time critique with peers.



Conference IV:

Write Characters Your Readers Won't Forget – Stant Litore

Beginner to intermediate (4 hours)

Riveting, evocative storytelling hinges on the choices your characters make. By charting a handful of critical moments of choice in your story, you can create a powerful character arc to guide your storytelling decisions.

Conference VI:

How Artists Game System: A Study in Positioning Your Work – Molly McGhee

Intermediate (4 hours)

In this four hour master class we'll look at how to position yourself to sell your work— without sacrificing the boldness of your voice and vision. Most pitch sessions focus on hitting all the “rules” of pitching. This is helpful, but Writers are also Artists, and with a broader understanding of how the business of books operates, they can remain that way without letting publishing systems overpower their artistic intent. This is a class that aims to empower authors, build their confidence, and embolden them to approach the book world as they want to, not as is demanded of them.

12:00 – 12:45 P.M.

Conference IIII:

Hello, I'm New Here: First-Timer Conference Introduction - Terri Benson

- Beginner (45min)

This workshop is an orientation for new conference attendees, helping you navigate the myriad facets of Gold. In addition to info on the venue, the workshops, and where to find what, it includes ways to prevent overload, and get the most from the workshops and networking.

1:00-1:25 p.m.

Aurora Ballroom:

“Lift Up, Lift Off” with Colorado Gold

Join us in the Aurora ballroom as we kick off the conference with an uplifting welcome from our president, ZJ Czupor, a Lift Off speech from guest speaker Erika T. Wurth, and gift a door prize of a Mini-Headshot Session with Alyssa from Altitude Photography.



Living a thousand lives

Colleen Noyes

<https://itsybitsybookbits.com>

itsybitsybookbitspromotions@gmail.com

 <p>TEASERS</p> <p>We create and promote teasers to showcase your book</p>	 <p>SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT</p> <p>We do TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and more</p>	 <p>BOOK SPOTLIGHT SHOWCASE</p> <p>Promoting E-books & audio books</p>	 <p>COVER REVEAL</p> <p>A one-day event to promote your new book cover</p>	 <p>PERSONAL ASSISTANT SERVICES</p> <p>Get one of our dedicated team members assigned to be your PA</p>
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*Check out not only these services but many more that we offer!

Friday Afternoon

1:30-2:20 PM

Aurora III:

Writer of the Year Panel - Jay, Nowak, & Rivers

- Beginner (1 hour)

Meet the finalists for Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers' 2022 Writer of the Year award: Karla Jay, Pamela Nowak, and Amy Rivers. RMFW President Z.J. Czupor will host a conversations about their careers and their advice to other writers.

Conference I:

Making Money Writing, While Writing Your Book

- Terri Benson

- Intermediate (1 hour)

This workshop will show writers multiple ways to make money writing, while still having time to write your novel. The variety of options makes it easy to find at least one format that fits the writer's personality and time, and will help your writing be tighter and your stories more interesting.

Conference II:

The First Two Chapters - Sharon Mignerey

- Beginner (2 hours)

Bring the first two chapters of your WIP to hone the needed elements for "can't put it down" opening chapters. This workshop helps a writer sort through conflicting advice to launch a story in the right place with compelling characters, appropriate world building, and avoid the dreaded info dump.

Conference III:

Writing Scenes with Multiple Characters: Whose Turn is it to Talk? - Kendra Griffin

- Intermediate (1 hour)

This session will help participants understand how to build scenes with multiple characters. Learn how to avoid shortchanging your characters and how to keep voices distinct. Help your reader focus on your characters, not on figuring out who is speaking!

Conference IV:

Adapting the Tome: Giving Old Stories New Life - Marc Graham

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Passionate about bringing an ancient tale to life for a modern audience? Want to give a gender-bending twist to an oldie-but-goodie? Think the villain of a popular tale was simply a misunderstood hero-in-the-making? Let's explore how to adapt well-known stories to a modern audience.

Conference V:

Plotting for Pantsers - Kerry Schafer

- Intermediate (2 hours)

If the thought of plotting sounds about as fun as a trip to the dentist -- this is the class for you! We'll discuss why plotting is essential, then how to use James Scott Bell's "Super Structure" signpost scenes to plot as you go, or even to plot after the first draft is written.

Conference VI:

Oh My Word! Determine Your Word Count - Leah Pierre

- Beginner (1 hour)

The goal of this workshop is to help writers not only determine what length their WIPs should be per industry standards but also understand the why behind these word count limits.

Conference VII:

Who's Telling Your Story: Perspective and Point of View in Creative Writing - Caitlin Berve

- Beginner (1 hour)

The choice between first person and third isn't simply a matter of pronouns. The point of view you use determines who the main characters are, how close to the characters and plot your readers feel, and more. This workshop will cover how to decide which POV and perspective is right for your piece.

Conference VIII:

Writing (and Finishing!) Your First Novel - Tasha Christensen

- Beginner (1 hour)

If you love to write but struggle to complete projects, this class is for you. We'll cover plotting vs. pantsing, how to set realistic goals, writing sprints, and tactics for maintaining momentum until you write "The End."

Friday Afternoon (Continued)

2:30-3:20 PM

Conference I:

Tools of the Trade - Connie Bauldree

- Beginner (2 hours)

Find the tools that are right for you in this easy-to-follow workshop. We'll take a detailed look at tools such as ProWriting Aid, Vellum, Scrivener and more! You'll walk away with a better understanding of how to incorporate these tools into your everyday writing journey.

Conference III:

Ask A Pro - Hosted by PAA

- Beginner (1 hour)

Have you ever wanted to ask a group of professional authors anything about writing/publishing? Join the Professional Authors' Alliance for a casual conversation with four industry pros ready to answer any and all of your questions!

Conference VI:

Pitch, Please! How to Strike the Right Tone in Your Query Letter (and Other Helpful Tips) - Ben Miller-Callahan

- Intermediate (1 hour)

In this workshop, we'll cover how to write a strong query letter to help you land the agent of your dreams. We'll cover what to say and how to say it in order to put your best foot forward in this exciting stage of your writing.



Conference VII:

Demystifying Publishing Deals - Marisa Corvisiero

- Beginner (2 hours)

Insider's tips on how to make publishing deals and what the most important terms should look like with current agent Marisa Corvisiero.

Conference VIII:

History of Mystery - Johnny Worthen

- Beginner (1 hour)

A literary survey of this most modern genre. Crime, class, and creative license —how dreadful pulp became acclaimed literature and then one of the most popular genres in the world. Crime pays and entertains. How did we get here?



Friday Afternoon (Continued)

3:30-4:20 PM

Aurora III:

Beyond the Bedroom Door - Mary Gilgannon

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Using sex scenes and sexual tension to propel your plot, deepen characterization, enhance pacing and enrich your story.

Conference II:

How to Read Like a Writer - Gary McBride

- Beginner (2 hours)

The best advice for aspiring writers is: read, read, read. But **how** you read is just as important as **what** you read. In this 2-hour workshop we'll cover the basics of Literary Forensics--techniques that will help you read like a writer so you can apply what you discover to your own writing. Here be spoilers! We ask that all attendees pre-read the entirety of *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, and be sure to bring the book with you, with passages marked that you'd like to discuss with the group. To focus your selection, please come bearing your favorite sentence--for whatever reason--and be prepared to explain why.

Conference III:

The world of the Homeless: How to write about our unhomed population - Jason Evans and Sarah Beth Schriver

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Characters come from all walks of life. This includes the unhomed. Those members of the transient population whom we interact with from time to time. This workshop will help writers from all genres write these characters and these settings with accuracy, complexity, and dignity.



Conference IV:

Make Your Readers Happy: Genre and Trope - Susan Brooks

- Intermediate (2 hour)

Readers know what they want. Sometimes authors think they are writing in a particular genre without understanding the specific requirements of that genre. This workshop discusses crime fiction, speculative fiction, and romance genres and tropes so authors can write what readers want.

Conference V:

What a Girl Wants: the Interplay of Strengths & Weaknesses, Wants & Needs - Pamela Nowak

- Intermediate (1 hour)

You've created a character with an arc and goals but your stories still aren't standing out? Perhaps it's time to look again at strengths and weaknesses, wants and needs, this time from a new perspective—how they all fit together.

Conference VI:

How to Write a Thriller that Keeps 'em Turning Pages - L.S. Hawker

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Mystery/thriller/crime novels account for 47% of all fiction purchased. The thriller is the genre of our age—reflecting the fears, stresses, and break-neck pace of life in the 21st century. Learn pacing, suspense, twists, and character development to get you started in the genre.

Conference VIII:

The Secret to Getting More than 10,000 Followers on Instagram - Dennis Schleicher

- Intermediate (1 hour)

How to Succeed as an Author Using Social Media - 10,000+ Followers on Instagram Strategy. You will learn to; win the algorithm with new features. Effectively use hashtags strategically. Post Consistently. Engage with users. Use calls to action. And Take advantage of Instagram Stories. Wash, rinse, and repeat, attracting the attention of publishers and agents. Dennis Schleicher has effectively built his Instagram platform with 20,000+ followers in the past two years. Learn how he monetizes and finds New clients through the social media giant.

Friday Afternoon (Continued)

4:30-5:20 PM

Conference I

Storytelling in Layers - Sharon Mignerey

– Intermediate (1 hour)

Memorable stories usually are multi-faceted where compelling heroes and heroines grapple with both public and private stakes that test them and where their motivators are the universal ones of love, hate, revenge, redemption, greed, honor, power and fear.

Conference V:

Does The Magic In Your World Make Sense or Defy Logic? - Brenda Hardwick

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Writing magic is more than Abracadabra. It takes a fundamental knowledge of what magic is and how it works. When creating magic in your world it must make sense, so it pulls your reader in. This workshop will discuss the general rules of writing magic and why you need to follow them, so it works.

Conference VI:

Detours to Success: Reinventing Yourself - Karen Lin

- Professional (1 hour)

Staying in your comfort zone holding you back? Parlay your skills for success, inspiration, & income. Stoke the flame, branch out, and capitalize on knowledge while NOT selling yourself short. Reinvent yourself; take interests & expertise into new realms. Find a new audience. Weave in personal theme.

Inspiring writers, like you, to find the
Courage, Craft, & Creativity
to write with pizzazz!

AnneRandolph.com

Write Your Life Story & Kitchen Table Workshops
Instruction by Anne Randolph

Anne Randolph inspires, motivates and entertains authors as she helps bring out your best writing.

Conference VII:

Writing Series – What you need to know to stay the course - Bernadette Soehner and Andre Gonzalez

- Beginner (1 hour)

Explore the adventure that is writing a series and learn the key elements to your series success. We will discuss the necessity of plotting out your series and creating a series "Bible," as well as passage of time, covers, characters, pitching, and marketing.

Conference VIII:

The Heroine's Journey (with permission from Gail Carriger) - Dani Coleman

- Intermediate (1 hour)

There is more to myth than the Hero's Journey, and the distinction is not necessarily tied to gender. Learn a new structure for your protagonists who refuse to go along with the go-it-alone, zero-sum outline. (Adapted with permission from Gail Carriger's 2021 RMFW master class and book).

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for independent authors & publishers

6:30p.m. – 8:30pm

Aurora Ballroom:

RMFW's PEN Awards Banquet

Friday night's banquet hosted by Z.J. Czupor will include the presentation of the PEN Awards by our PAA Liaison, Andre Gonzalez, a speech by 2022 Writer of the Year, Amy Rivers, and a keynote address by *New York Times* bestselling romance author, Katherine Center. Be sure to look around the room and find yourself a hosted table with one of our visiting VIP guests.

8:30 p.m. – 9:30p.m.

Café Lounge and Conference Foyer:

Author Signing, Book Sale, & Open Mic Night

After Friday's banquet, the conference bookstore expands into a book fair featuring dozens of RMFW authors and Gold Presenters. Buy books and get them signed, hear first pages from works-in-progress and published novels, read from your own book or WIP, meet writers you admire, and chat while you partake from the cash bar.

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Saturday Morning

8:00 - 8:50 AM

Conference I:

Tough Talk: Writing Effective Dialogue - Laurie Marr Wasmund

- Beginner (2 hours)

Dialogue is a powerful writing tool. Learn techniques to develop effective dialogue, including how to use dialogue to ratchet up tension; where to place dialogue "tags;" and how to make dialogue sound realistic to your readers' ears.

Conference II:

Finding Magic in the Mundane - Marjorie (M.M.) DeLuca

- Beginner (2 hours)

Story starts with an idea, a germ of inspiration that eventually grows into something magical. But this isn't a passive process. You have to actively go out and seek ideas. So where do you find them and how do you nurture them into something enticing enough for a novel?

Conference III:

Successful Debuts 101 – Avoid Pitfalls and Capitalize on Opportunities - Rob Samborn

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Are you an indie or small press author gearing up for a debut release? Learn what to do - and what not to do - before a launch.

Conference IV:

The Secret Life of Fashion Models: The Does & Don'ts of a Professional Model - Sarah Beth Schriver

- Beginner (1 hour)

Characters come from all walks of life. Yet fashion, and those who carry this fashion on its scant first steps can convey a whole slew of information about a character, a world, an ideal, and more.

Conference V:

Making Character Dialects Readable - Brenda Hardwick

- Beginner (2 hours)

My characters speak in a dialect. Do yours? When your beta readers read it, do they understand what your characters are saying? Is the dialect important? Bring a short piece of your story dialect and take it for a test run in this workshop. Learn tips and tricks to making your dialect readable.

Conference VI:

Transmedia Marketing for Authors : How to Utilize Your Platforms collectively to build a Loyal Community - Nicole Kramer

- Intermediate (1 hour)

In this session attendees will learn to use their social and web platforms collectively to build a loyal community around them as a writer. We will lay out the framework for attendees to expand later. We center on the concept that if the reader is invested in you they will buy anything you publish.

Conference VII:

Deep Immersion and Distraction-Free Writing - Michael Haspil

- Intermediate (1 hour)

We will cover Deep POV, Immersive Writing, and the brain wave states that correspond to putting readers and authors in "the zone". In the second half, we'll cover distraction-free writing tools to help you tap into those modes as an author (devices like the Freewrite and the Alphasmart Neo).

Conference VIII:

Connect with Your Readers: Secrets to Email Marketing - Caitlin Berve

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Email lists allow you to stay connected with your readers between books and build a fanbase before you publish. In this workshop, we'll discuss how to gather email addresses, what to do with them, and how to tell if your email marketing is working. You'll leave with actionable steps for your emails.

Saturday Morning (Continued)

9:00 - 9:50 AM

Aurora III:

Hook 'Em and Keep 'Em Reading - Peggy Waide

- Beginner (1 hour)

With all the choices readers have, an author must hook the reader early, then keep them engaged from the opening line until the end. We will explore hooks "types and ways to use them effectively throughout the book, and how those hooks can affect your pacing.

Aurora IV:

First Sale Panel - Z.J. Czuror

- Beginner (1 hour)

The RMFW Presidents hosts a discussion with members who published their first book in the last year: Tasha Christensen, Terri Benson, and J. Warren Weaver. Learn what the market is like from those currently in the trenches.

Conference IV:

Using TV Binge Worthy Principles for Your Fiction - Trai Cartwright

- Beginner (1 hour)

There are very specific reasons why it's the Golden Age of television, and those exact storytelling principles can be used to make our books binge-readable, too.

Conference VI:

Twitter Pitching #Fun - Mariah Ankenman

- Beginner (1 hour)

Come learn the ins and outs of pitching your manuscript to agents and publishers on Twitter with author Mariah Ankenman. Find out which pitch party is right for you, what hashtags to use, and how to craft that perfect 280 character pitch to catch and agent/editors eye. Bring your pitch for feedback!

Conference VII:

The Many hats of an Author - Bernadette Soehner

- Professional (1 hour)

You've written a book and now you're an ad specialist, social media manager, editor, cover designer, publisher...Learn about the different parts of authorship, after the book is done. What should you farm out to others? What part do you do well? Can you make a secondary career out of one of these?

Conference VIII:

Boost Sales with Promo Stacking and Ads - Andre Gonzalez

- Professional (1 hour)

Bookbub Featured Deals are highly considered the holy grail for authors and publishers. With only a 20% acceptance rate, what can you do to increase those odds in your favor? How can you further capitalize on the thousands of readers seeing your book and make your book stick on the charts?



Saturday Morning (Continued)

10:00 -10:50 AM

Aurora III:

PANEL: Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too hard to read. Humor in Writing - Leatherman, Soehner, Rowley, Calisto

– Beginner (1 hour)

What makes writing funny? How do you make a situation humorous? Come and ask these literary miscreants about what they do and how they do it. What does humor say about us and the world in which we live? Join these authors as we discuss humor theory, humor styles, jokes, and puns.

Aurora IV:

Write Worlds Your Readers Won't Forget - Stant Litore

- Intermediate (2 hours)

I treat worldbuilding not as an academic exercise but as a way to exert pressure on character and create opportunities for plot. This is an intensive lecture and brainstorming approach, where we spin stories in realtime. The workshop has four segments each with time between for Q&A, as follows: I: Keys to Crafting Unforgettable Worlds and Creatures, II: The Unforgettable Culture, III: Rites of Passage, Relics, and History, IV: The Threshold Text: A Dynamic Approach to Inviting the Reader to Your Fictional World

Conference I:

Spirit of Place, City as Character, Setting in Action - M.H. Boroson

- Beginner (1 hour)

Settings can make a story unforgettable. But too often, writers incorporate the setting in static descriptions, slowing the narrative. Settings should sizzle on the page. This workshop will cover methods to make your settings vivid and memorable.

Conference II:

Soldiers of Fortune - Jacob Schirver

- Beginner (2 hours)

Writing character that are private military/mercenary can be difficult when that world itself is a world of shadows. I want to give a look at what kind of person would be accepted into that world. What kind of work these groups do to include executive protection and body guards.

Conference III:

Write the Law - Mandy Miller

- Intermediate (2 hours)

In the hands of a lay person, the law can be an impenetrable thicket mined with potential for errors which can diminish author credibility and distract from even tightly crafted stories. The course is a primer on the law and the legal process for the layman and the lawyer alike.

Conference IV:

The Modern Historical Romance: Today's Issues in Yesterday's Settings - Pamela Nowak

- Beginner (1 hour)

Trite and tired historical romance is no longer marketable. Readers want more than stereotypes. This workshop looks at how to use current issues and set them into the past to create novels that merge past and present leaving modern readers engaged and wanting more.

Conference V:

Do We Dare Ditch Social Media? - Kerry Schafer

- Professional (1 hour)

In this interactive class, we'll talk about the pros and cons of marketing on social media platforms--and explore the other options available. Bring your brainstorming hat and be prepared to create an alternative marketing plan.

Conference VI:

Organic Storytelling - Sharon Mignerey

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Have you ever been told that your story seems contrived? Organic storytelling is based on two principles. First, give readers what they want but avoid what they expect. Second, the story unfolds so naturally and seamlessly that having it be presented in any other way seems nearly impossible.



Saturday Morning (Continued)

10:00 -10:50 AM

Conference VII:

The Critiki Bar - David L. Robbins and Katharine Sands

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Too often, writers get advice on either the craft of writing or the business, but rarely both at the same time. The Critiki Bar is an entertaining session with me, a long-published writer and established professor of creative writing, alongside an established and knowledgeable literary agent.

Conference VIII:

How to Write the Adventure Novel! - Lisa Fisher

- Beginner (2 hours)

The adventure story encompasses heroic deeds, loyal friends, and the desire to triumph over the most impossible of obstacles. Pop into this workshop to learn the basics of how to write an adventure novel, and apply the tools to other genres you're exploring, because every story is one big adventure!

11:00 - 11:50 AM

Aurora III:

Busted: An Arresting Workshop on Arrest/Search

Techniques - Laura Manuel

- Beginner (1 hour)

Physical aspects of handcuffing, stop and frisk, and suspect searches will be demonstrated. The workshop is designed to be hands on but participants may observe only if preferred. Legalities of the above will also be discussed.

Conference I:

Love at First Fright: Horror Romance and Why This Genre

Mash-Up Works - Joy Jarrett-Meredith

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Horror and romance have more in common than you might think. We'll demonstrate this by plotting our own horror romance storyline. Learn tips for keeping readers of both genres happy and keep the promise of the premise—to scare your readers while giving them the HEA they crave.

Conference IV:

The Muddled Middle - Johnny Worthen

- Intermediate (1 hour)

It's the hardest part, that little 80% between the beginning and end. But your Muse is on vacation, another project beckons, and the next chapter is in limbo. This is the muddled middle and this class offers concrete tools and advice to overcome this terrible affliction.

Conference V:

Hear Ye, Hear Ye: An Author's Guide to Audiobooks - Sue Duff Loeffler

- Beginner (1 hour)

Do you have a marketable novel and want to expand your readership? Audiobooks are the fastest-growing market for potential "readers." But it can be daunting for the novice author. This workshop will cover exactly what audiobooks are, if your novel is a good fit, how to choose a narrator, or if DIY might work. What to expect with costs, contracts and/or equipment will also be covered. A list of audiobook companies will also be provided. Question and answers welcome throughout.

Conference VI:

Painless Interviewing Tips for Fiction Authors - Kelley J.P. Lindberg

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Sure, Google's fine for the basic facts, but you're not interested in writing a basic story. In fiction, first-person interviews can help you uncover the realistic details, unexpected twists, and heart that can elevate your fiction. Learn how to painlessly interview anyone about anything.

12:00PM – 1:30PM

Colorado Ballroom:

PUBLISHING PROFESSIONALS PANEL LUNCHEON

Saturday's buffet lunch will include an agent, editor, and scout panel moderated by RMFW President Z.J. Czupor.

Saturday Afternoon

1:30 - 2:20 P.M.

Aurora IV:

How to Write Diverse Characters in Your Novels - Jason Evans

- Beginner (1 hour)

Intermediate - Stories with Diverse Characters are better stories. Diverse stories are more complex, richer, and have a greater ring of authenticity than stories that do not. But, writers can find themselves in a minefield of controversy when they get it wrong. This class will show the attendees how.

Conference I:

Supplementing through Serials: Using Serial Platforms for Income and Brand-building – Kendra Griffin

- Beginner (1 hour)

This session will help you decide if using serial platforms such as Vella and Wattpad is right for you, your WIP, and your creative process.

Conference II:

All Great Characters are Unreliable (even your complex and relatable protagonists) – Karen Lin

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Characters need secret weaknesses or bad intentions. Unreliable/unpredictable players create twists/suspense/tension. All seven main characters in The Wizard of Oz are unreliable: the well-intentioned protagonists and the guilty antagonists. and sometimes the author is the unreliable character!

Conference III:

Critique Partner Speed Dating – Kate Jonuska & Dan Grant

-Beginner (2 hours)

Whether you're looking for a critique group, beta reader, or to meet tons of other writers, join us for this fun networking activity. Contestants will have five minutes to speak to one another before rotating to the next person.

Conference IV:

The Shape of Story – Marc Graham

-Beginner (1 hour)

You've nailed your characters. Your dialog sings, and the pathos is spellbinding. But how do you tie all the story elements together in a cohesive, compelling manner? Learn the fundamental, organic shape of story that will keep your readers turning the page and begging for your next book.

Conference V:

Horror Genres – Erika T. Wurth

-Beginner (1 hour)

This short workshop will center around the different subgenres of horror, and allow time for writing short pieces in these subgenres.

Conference VI:

Bound by the Truth? Techniques for Creating Story within the Restraints of Historical Fact – Pamela Nowak

-Intermediate (1 hour)

Fiction authors develop novels based on character but historical fiction based on actual people or events throws a wrench into that process. Pam will share techniques for discovering character via research and creating a great story that remains true to history.

Saturday Afternoon (Continued)

1:30 - 2:20 P.M.

Conference VII:

The Character Ark: How Bringing Animals On Board Can Enrich Your Book – Joy Jarrett-Meredith

-Beginner (1 hour)

Animals aren't just for children's books and cozy mysteries. Any genre can benefit from including animals to endear readers and add depth. Enjoy a fun quiz on fictional animals and look at books that use four-legged friends to great effect. We'll explore the best ways to write animals into our work.

Conference VII:

Tiktok and Reels for Authors– Mariah Ankenman

-Beginner (1 hour)

Booktok and Beyond. Booktok has revitalized the book buying business. Join author Mariah Ankenman as she helps you navigate the ever changing world of TikTok and the booktok community. Learn how to connect with readers, create engaging videos, and cross post to Instagram Reels for maximum exposure. Grab your book crown authors and let's go!

2:30 - 3:20 PM

Aurora III:

Read It, Don't Weep: Developing Your Inner Thespian for Better Public Readings, Interviews and Oral Presentations - Rachel Dempsey

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Whether the idea of public speaking terrifies or thrills you, this interactive workshop will boost your confidence and provide tools of the theater trade to enhance your oratorical skills. Come ready to move, with work you'd like to practice reading in front of an audience.

Conference I:

Navigating the Rabbit Hole: Painless Historical Research - Laurie Marr Wasmund

- Beginner (1 hour)

The whole world is available to you on the Internet, but most writers start your research journey much closer to home. In this session, we'll learn about the wealth of specialized material that you can access both in your local community, local library, and through specific domains on the Internet.

Aurora IV:

How to Write A Love Story - Katherine Center

- Beginner (1 hour)

Romantic love is a powerful, hypnotic, delicious emotion that--done right--pulls readers through a story and makes it compulsively readable. Whether it's the main focus of a story or a sub plot, a well-rendered love story brings energy and anticipation to the experience of moving through the story.

Conference IV:

Get Inside Your Characters' Heads and Hearts - Peggy Waide

- Beginner (1 hour)

Emotion, not logic, captivates readers. Writers make those emotional connections by understanding their characters. When done correctly, this creates a path to conflict. This workshop will show you how to create characters with depth and dimension so the readers care about them from start to finish.

Thank You to our Scholarship Donors!

Your generosity allowed six of our members in financial need to attend the conference..

Sue Hinkin, Lisa Adams, Duston Anderten, Wayne Baker, Eric Bogatin, Veronica R. Calisto, K Call, Kevin Campbell, Dani Coleman, ZJ Czupor, Mary Ellen Davis, Arlen Feldman, Janet Fogg, Jennifer Fox, Judith Gilman, Kristin Homer, Collin Irish, Douglas James, Joy Jarrett-Meredith, Karla Jay, Laura Kelsay, Kathleen Krueger, Leslie Limbo, Susanne Loeffler, Daniel Lutz, Laura Mace, Laura Manuel, Paul Martz, Mindy McIntyre, Tommy Phillips, Christopher Pitts, Matthew Porter, Amy Rivers, Lisa Roberts, Laurie Sanderson-Walcott, Paulla Hunter Schreiner, Sarah Beth Schriver, Trevor Slansky, Bernadette Soehner, Jeanne Souldern, Sher Spargo Schriver, Steven Stratton, Wendy Terrien, Cameron Torrens, Gina Vick, Matthew Woolums.

Saturday Afternoon (Continued)

2:30 - 3:20 PM

Conference V:

Know Your Ending – How a Killer Outline Elevates Story - Rob Samborn

- Intermediate (2 hours)

This is the fiction outlining workshop you've been looking for! Perfect for thriller, mystery, romance and other genre writers. Take your writing to the next level by knowing where you're going with this hands-on class in which you'll learn tools and techniques to create amazing outlines.

Conference VI:

Crisp Up That Prose! - Arielle Haughee

- Intermediate (1 hour)

In this workshop, we'll discuss frequently used fluff words, strategies for cleaning up sentences, and bad habits that can make prose cumbersome.

Conference VII:

Market Your Book with Radio and Podcasts - Tasha Christensen

- Professional (1 hour)

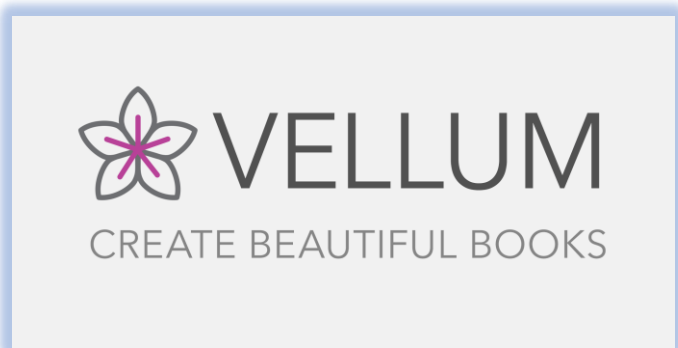
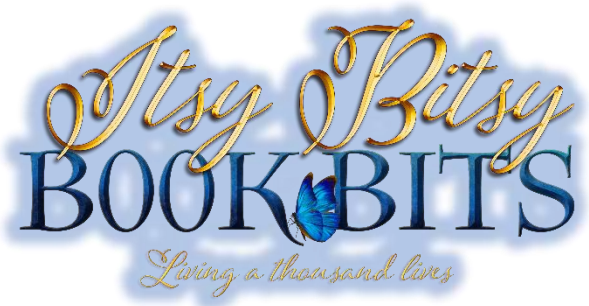
Getting on podcasts and radio shows should be a top marketing priority for a writer, but it can be intimidating. This workshop will show you how to find shows in your niche, how to write an interview pitch, and how to be a memorable and compelling guest.

Conference VIII:

Ahhhhh! Crafting Your Character's Voice - Caitlin Berve

- Beginner (1 hour)

Can your readers hear your characters? A major piece of character development is voice. The way your characters speak reveals their personality, where they are from, if they are lying, and more. In this workshop, we will discuss ways to create character voice and show it on the page.



Saturday Afternoon (Continued)

3:30 - 4:20 P.M.

Aurora IV:

The Path to Writing Joy: How to Navigate Blocks, Blues, and Burnout - Heather Webb & Kerry Schafer

– Professional (2 hours)

While we may love the art and craft of writing, the emotional rollercoaster of the publishing business can be destructive to our creative selves. Join Kerry Schafer and Heather Webb in an exploration of the causes of creative burnout followed by methods to heal and rejuvenate the creative process.

Conference I:

Doctor Strange-Blurb: How You Can Learn to Stop Worrying and Love Your Sales Copy - Grayson Towler

- Beginner (2 hours)

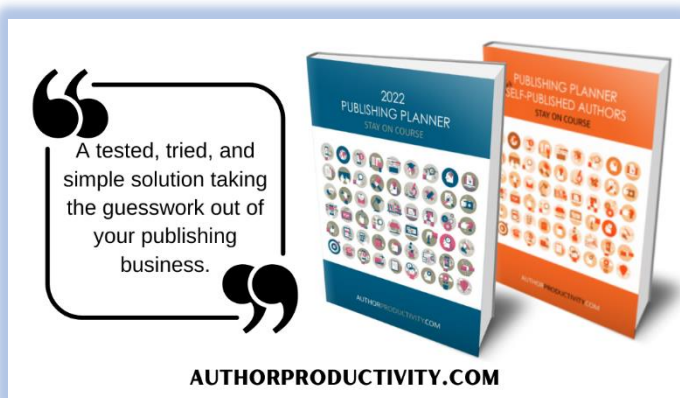
The Blurb. It's the one piece of writing everyone dreads—even seasoned pros. Your blurb can make the difference between a sale or a fail, yet writing a good one takes special skills. As a professional copywriter with two decades of experience, I'll teach the keys to success in this crucial art.

Conference II:

Make a Scene - Sharon Mignerey

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Scenes, a specific unit of story that is time bound with a beginning, middle, and end, need to propel the plot forward and reveal character, which is the concern of writers. Characters don't care about that and may rebel with, "Just let me do my thing." What is a schizophrenic writer to do?



Conference III:

Bringing The Past to Life - Mary Gillgannon

– Intermediate (1 hour)

Historical research and writing historical fiction: How to create a vivid fictional world in the time period you choose.

Conference IV:

The Principles of Adapting a Book to Screen – Trai Cartwright

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Adaptation is 80% of what Hollywood produces. Whether it's your own work or someone else's story you just have to see on screen, this workshop gives the principles for adapting it to film and be a part of the gold rush.

Conference VI:

Remember When: A Police Procedural Timeline - Laura Manuel

- Beginner (1 hour)

This workshop covers when police first encountered a new procedure or weapon and when the new became standard practice. It is primarily designed to avoid mistakes in police procedurals with officers having something they did not or continuing to use something they would not.

Conference VII:

Runes for Writers: An Introduction - Marc Graham

- Intermediate (2 hours)

The Norse Runes were used by shamans for divination centuries before they came into use as a writing system. In this workshop, participants will learn the basics or applying these ancient tools to silence the inner editor and tap directly into the realm of the Muses, the Source of Story.

Conference VII:

Mistakes Were Made – “Advanced Editing” - Johnny Worthen

- Intermediate (2 hours)

Advice from the slush pile. Concrete advice to tighten your writing with examples and corrections concentrating on specific issues and hot buttons. Lots of "don't do this." See what doesn't work with hands-on editing exercises.

Saturday Afternoon (Continued)

4:30 - 5:20 P.M.

Aurora III:

Constructing the Great Action Scene - M.H. Boroson

- Beginner (1 hour)

Learn to use cinematic methods to create memorable action scenes! We're going to explore the components of a scene, and explore ways to make your action scenes distinct and memorable.

Conference III:

Dialogue Is More Than Words - Peggy Waide

– Beginner (1 hour)

Bless the pantsers and their magical powers. For the rest of us, this workshop offers a plan. We'll learn how to plot a novel using the four-part structure, including eight milestone scenes. This workshop will show what to put where, the scenes needed to create exciting beginnings, avoid sagging middles, and bring satisfying endings.

Conference V:

Tax Strategies for Transitioning Authors - Jason Evans & LindaMarie Evans

– Professional (1 hour)

Whether you're a traditionally published or an author-publisher, understanding the tax code is essential when you write for a living. This class will explain how you can use the tax code to support your business, go over tax strategies, while also discussing best practices all writers transitioning to a full time career should start.

Conference VI:

The Anthology Odyssey: Should You Join the Bandwagon - Rod Martinez

– Intermediate (1 hour)

Authors looking to get their works published search far and wide for any chance to do so. A known method is by submitting a work to an anthology. Anthology genres cover the gamut in the writing world, Are you ready to jump on the anthology bandwagon?

6:30p.m. – 8:30pm

Aurora Ballroom:

Gold Rush Awards Banquet

Saturday evening's banquet will feature the much-awaited announcement of winners in the 2022 Colorado Gold Rush Literary Awards Contest as well as the presentation of the Jasmine Award, and a keynote address by *New York Times* bestseller David L. Robbins.

Welcome – Z.J. Czupor

Jasmine Award

Colorado Gold Awards - presented by Sue Hinkin & Mindy McIntyre

Silent Auction Announcements - Bernadette Soehner & Kate Jonuska

Keynote Address – David L. Robbins

8:30p.m. – 10:00pm

Conference Foyer:

Cross-Train Your Creativity

Writing is hard, and let's face it, many of us tend to be perfectionist when it comes to crafting our art. Here we offer you a chance to speculate, collaborate, and stretch your creativity in a way that begs you to just play around and—dare we say—be bad at it. Don't want to play? Don't worry, there's a cash bar for you.

Sunday Morning

8:00 - 8:50 AM

Aurora III:

Professional Authors' Alliance (PAA) Member Meeting

- Members Only (1 hour)

Conference I:

Make Your Reader Shiver With Anticipation! - Sue Hinkin

- Beginner (1 hour)

It's anticipation not action, that keeps the reader hooked. The explosion might be the climax of your scene, but it's the slow burn of anticipation that really sets up the full experience.

Conference II:

From Rough to Ready: Developmental, Middle and Line Editing - Karen Lin

- Beginner (2 hours)

Sculpt your book's big picture, massage it with middle edits, and nail line edits. Learn about mindset and concrete revision tools to make your book ready for the next step.

Conference III:

Covenant of the Arc - Pamela Nowak

- Beginner (1 hour)

Successful authors create a covenant with their readers: their characters will grow and change (arc) during the course of the story. If you are still seeking the arc, this workshop will provide a map to find it. Highly interactive workshop.



Conference IV:

Get Your Writing Mojo Back - L.S. Hawker

- Intermediate (1 hour)

Trying to get your writing mojo back? Not feeling the magic? Feel like maybe you've used up all your creative power? We all go through dry periods, and sometimes all it takes is reframing, some mindfulness, and a little bit of magic to get it back.

Conference V:

First Writes to Last Rights - Katharine Sands

- Beginner (1 hour)

Delve into trends in publishing, expanding digital markets, and the actual business of books—and its quirks and processes and challenges. Tour the submissions and acquisitions process of getting-an-agent/submitting-to-editors, focusing on fundamental guiding principles behind all successful authors and the author-agent-editor relationship, including how to identify and develop your selling points and sales engines.

Conference VI:

Overcoming Formatting Frustrations – Understanding the Basics - Tamara Cribley

- Beginner (2 hours)

Are you struggling with making your book interiors to look the way you envision them? Join me as we talk about formatting books for print and digital formats. We'll review different file formats, discover free and paid tools, and talk about designing for the ideal reader experience.

Conference VII:

Your Pacing Score: A Numeric System for Finding Slow Spots (and Tips to Fix Them) - Arielle Haughee

- Intermediate (1 hour)

One of the most common issues in novel drafts is pacing. A scoring system can help you analyze your scene flow and determine slow spots. In this workshop, you'll learn how to score your scenes, determine the appropriate flow of pacing, and get top tips for how to adjust your scene as needed.

Conference VIII:

Write Better With Fanfiction - Tasha Christensen

- Beginner (1 hour)

Fanfiction is sometimes looked down on, but it's actually rooted in the most ancient traditions of storytelling. In this class, we'll talk about what fanfic is and how it can help you be a better writer. Then we'll collaboratively write a short fic of our own - using a fandom voted on by the class.

Sunday Morning (Continued)

9:00 - 9:50 AM

Aurora III:

Shoes-On Yoga - Kate Jonuska

- Beginner (1 hour)

Forget the sticky mat and stretchy pants! Practicing yoga at conferences has always been tricky due to space, street clothing, and varying experience with yoga. Energizing rather than sweaty, this class will be gentle for the general public while also engaging regular yogis.

Aurora IV:

Anthology Panel - Tasha Christensen, Melodie Lake, Kelley Lindberg, Linda Ditchkus

- All levels (1 hour)

A Q&A with RMFW's 2022 Anthology authors of *Bizarre Bazaar*, hosted by Veronica Calisto. Book available for purchase in the BookBar Pop-Up bookstore.

Conference I:

Close Quarters Combat - Jacob Schriver

- Beginner (2 hours)

How soldiers in the United States Army conduct close quarters combat and urban fighting. What tactics, weapons/equipment, and fighting goes into close quarters combat. The communication that the teams use when conducting these operations. How they move, think, and fight.

Conference III:

Wallop Your Wordcount - Kendra Griffin

- Intermediate (1 hour)

This workshop will discuss tricks for reducing wordiness throughout your novel. You'll evaluate a sample of your work to look for patterns, common pitfalls, and stylistic repetition. Participants will benefit from having access to a WIP for this session.

Conference IV:

Grappling the Graphic Novel - Rod Martinez

- Beginner (1 hour)

Graphic novels are the rage these days but the change from prose writing to script writing for a comic book is a serious one. In this workshop we will look at the transition, learn how to work with artists, make it fun and in no time you're the next Stan Lee.

Conference V:

Brujas and Wendigos and Deer People, Oh My! - Lisa Adams-

- Beginner (2 hours)

This class will give you insight into Native American magic systems little known by people outside the Native communities of North America. Each Tribal Nation stands on its own as a sovereign governmental entity, but they share common magical systems inextricably linked to nature and each other.

Conference VII:

How to Self-publish your novel on a budget: Tricks, short cuts, & budget friendly Strategies - Jason Evans & Melissa Koons

- Intermediate (1 hour)

This class is for those of us who are curious about self-publishing but are afraid to start, as well as those who have not had the best experience self-publishing, this class gets to the heart of what you should be focusing on and how to produce a product.

Conference VIII:

Smile, You DON'T Have to Be on Camera: Video Marketing for Authors - Caitlin Berve

- Beginner (1 hour)

Video is the most powerful marketing medium today, and there are book-loving, reader-filled communities waiting for you. In this workshop, we'll cover how to record and edit with your phone, what matters most when filming, types of videos you can make, and where to upload your content.

Sunday Morning (Continued)

10:00 - 10:50 AM

Aurora III:

Beyond the Editor Event Horizon: How an Editor Reads, Rejects, and Chooses Your Short Story - Grayson Towler

- Beginner (1 hour)

What happens after you submit your short story? I've been an editor for an online speculative fiction magazine for six years, and I'll share an in-depth look behind the scenes of the selection and rejection process. In the end, attendees will learn how to improve their chances of getting published.

Aurora IV:

"Epiphany Light" – A Critical Viewpoint for Aspiring Authors - Michael Neff

- Beginner (1 hour)

Learn to view your novel-in-progress through the eyes of professionals in the publishing business. Why is it so obviously vital and yet so difficult to "enter the light" regardless of genre? Learn the steps necessary to adopt this state of mind crucial to any aspiring author while also identifying the many obstacles and self-defeating behaviors standing in opposition.

Conference I:

What Is A Story Bible, and What Divine Purpose Does It Serve?- Terri Benson

- Beginner (1 hour)

In this workshop you will learn how a Story Bible helps organize your novel, world build, flesh out and keep track of your characters/scenes/POV, and maintain timelines. In addition, you'll find out how this template can keep continuity through one book or a series--and so much more.

Conference IV:

Get Your Query Tool Box Filled - Amy Collins

- Beginner (1 hour)

Have you been querying agents and not getting the response you are expecting? Are you overwhelmed by the things you are being asked for? You are not alone. Get better responses to your queries with Amy's help.

Conference VI:

Podcasting 101: the why, the what, the where, and the how - Kerry Schafer

- Beginner (1 hour)

Curious about podcasting? Come explore the basics from a veteran who has created, to date, four podcasts that you've probably never heard of (but hey, it's been a lot of fun). We'll talk about equipment, formats, platforms, production, and where to find more information.

Conference VII:

Villains and the Hidden Energy of Opposing Forces - Dan Grant

- Intermediate (1 hour)

In many cases, a story's central character faces a key opposing force. This workshop drills down on the personification and non-personification of villains of all types, expands on that energy infused into a story, and how this opposition needs to be believable yet powerful.

11:00am – 1:00pm

Aurora Ballroom:

Gold Rush Winners' Brunch

Cap off your conference experience at Sunday's brunch, which includes live readings from our Colorado Gold Rush Contest winners and a closing address from RMFW president Z.J. Czupor, including a coveted door prize of a free conference registration for 2023!

Pikes Peak Writers, Northern Colorado Writers, and League of Utah Writers

Nugget Awards

Colorado Gold Rush Winners' Readings, 2022

Closing Statements & Free 2023 Conference Giveaway!

Agents, Editors, & Scouts:

Amara Hoshijo: Saga Press, Simon & Schuster



Amara Hoshijo is an editor at Saga Press who acquires science fiction, fantasy, and horror. She loves ambitious, culturally driven projects with immersive secondary worlds. Prior to joining Saga, Amara was an editor at Soho Press, where she specialized in speculative literary fiction and international crime fiction. She has also worked in subrights and is a former Frankfurt Fellow. Her authors at Saga include Rin Chupeco, Chloe Gong, Chana Porter, and Sascha Stronach.

Currently seeking: Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror

Amy Collins: Talcott Notch



Amy Collins, Associate Agent with Talcott Notch Literary Services, has over 30 years' experience matching books with readers. As a former book buyer, publisher, and sales director for one of the largest non-fiction publishers in the US, Amy has been focused on

market and sales potential research for authors for over ten years. As an agent, she represents many authors who have signed deals with major publishers for non-fiction projects such as *The Unseen Photos of Sesame Street* (Abrams), *Sex and the City* (Globe Pequot), and *America's Forgotten Suffragists* (Rowman & Littlefield). She also works with authors who have successfully launched their non-fiction series such as the Eat Happy Series. Amy is the author of several non-fiction books ranging from self-help (*It's The Little Things*, Adams Media) to books on Publishing and working toward becoming a successful author. She is currently traveling the country with her two dogs meeting with editors and authors and can be found on Twitter at @askamycollins.

Currently seeking: Sci Fi, Fantasy, Cookbook, Lifestyle, Pop Culture, Historical Fiction

Ben Miller-Callihan: Handspun Literary



Ben Miller-Callihan (he/him/his) joined Handspun Literary Agency as an agent in 2019. His interests include humor, YA, fantasy and speculative fiction (especially decolonial sff), crossover fiction a la William Gibson and Erin Morgenstern, the macabre (for all ages), off-the-beaten-path folklore, Deaf culture and community, and anything food-related. Writers from marginalized communities are especially welcomed.

Currently seeking: Young Adult, humor, fantasy, speculative

Dennis Schleicher: Talcott Notch



Dennis Schleicher is currently the President of the Connecticut Authors and Publishers Association. Schleicher is the best-selling author of *Is He Nuts?: Why a Gay Man Would Become a Member of the Church of Jesus Christ*. As an in-demand

public speaker specializing in devotionals and social media marketing with the LDS church, Dennis's relationship with many acquisition editors gives him a unique edge.

Currently seeking: Biography, Christian living, children's books, church life, devotional, inspirational, LGBTQ, theology, bible study, reference, health, finance, fiction, self-help, psychology, grief, suffering, marriage, family, women's, men's, philosophy, history, social issues, parenting, clean romance, Latter-Day Saints, LDS, and Mormonism.

Hadley Ramsay: Maria B. Campbell Associates



Hadley is a Literary Exec at Maria B. Campbell Associates, Inc., which is a scouting company that advises clients about American and international books for translation and publication in their markets, and for adaptation into television and film. The company was founded in 1987 by

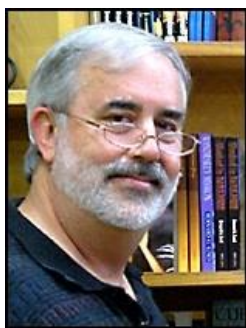
Maria B. Campbell and is located in New York City.

Leah Pierre: Ladderbird Literary Agency

A Texas native, Leah briefly moved to the East Coast to attend Rosemont College and to pursue her dream of working in publishing. Now having graduated from Rosemont with her B.A. in English and History and having accomplished that dream, she has moved back to

the South to begin her next adventure. In addition to searching for the next commercial YA or Adult project that will hook her (or make her cry), Leah is currently pursuing her M.A. in Publishing.

Currently seeking: Romance, Mysteries/Thrillers/Suspense, SFF, Contemporary.

Michael Neff: Algonkian Conference

Michael Neff is an award-winning author, Pushcart-nominated poet, widely published short fiction writer, literary agent, writer conference organizer, as well as an accomplished developmental editor. His first novel entitled ALL THE DARK WE WILL NOT SEE was published by the distinguished academic press, Serving House Books. A few years

later, an urban fantasy, MAGICIANS IMPOSSIBLE, was created and co-edited by him, and later published by Macmillan Books. His science-fantasy novels, PIPER ROBBIN AND THE AMERICAN OZ MAKER (pseudonym Warwick Gleeson), and the prequel, WORLD MAKER, have both received multiple awards. Michael is also the founder and chief architect of Algonkian Writer Conferences including the famous and highly successful New York Pitch Conference, and has agented and developmentally edited many successful commercial novels. In his spare time, he publishes the quirky and popular literary journal Del Sol Review. Michael is seeking manuscripts on behalf of Atchity Productions in LA.

Currently seeking: High concept thrillers and sci-fi

Marisa A. Corvisiero: Corvisiero

Marisa A. Corvisiero, Esq., is the Founder and Sr Literary Agent at the Corvisiero Literary Agency. She is also a producer, speaker, coach and a practicing Attorney in NY and NJ. Marisa has more than 12 years of experience in publishing and has been proclaimed as the

publishing contract queen by those who heard her speak and negotiated contracts with her. She has attended more than 80 writing conferences, and presented sessions on craft, mindset, and business of writing at many of those events.

Currently seeking: For Adults, Romance and Women's Fiction, Thrillers, Adventure, Paranormal, Fantasy and Urban Fantasy, Science Fiction. For Middle Grade and Young Adult, character driven stories with humor or grit, and very unique concepts in Fantasy, Adventure, and Science Fiction.

Katharine Sands: Sarah Jane Freymann

A literary agent with the Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency. Katharine has worked with a varied list of authors who publish a diverse array of books. She is the agent provocateur of Making the Perfect Pitch: How to Catch a Literary Agent's Eye, a collection of pitching wisdom from leading literary agents. Actively building her client list, she likes books that have a clear benefit for

readers' lives in categories of food, travel, lifestyle, home arts, beauty, wisdom, relationships, parenting, and fresh looks, which might be at issues, life challenges or popular culture. When reading fiction she wants to be compelled and propelled by urgent storytelling, and hooked by characters. For memoir and femoir, she likes to be transported to a world rarely or newly observed. Submission Guidelines Send query and first ten pages to Katharine@SarahJaneFreymann.com. Consultations Vital Info Katharine@SarahJaneFreymann.com Website Agent Non-Fiction: Cookbooks, Humor, Memoir, Pop Culture, Psychology, Travel Favorite sub-genres: Beauty, Femoir, Food, Home Arts, Lifestyle, Parenting, Relationships, Self-help, Wisdom

Special Guest Presenters:

Molly McGhee

Molly McGhee is from a cluster of unincorporated towns outside of Nashville, Tennessee. She completed her M.F.A. in fiction at Columbia University, where, in addition to receiving a Chair's Fellowship, she teaches in the undergraduate creative writing department. She has worked in the editorial departments of McSweeney's, The Believer, NOON, and Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and Tor, where she was the editor of the instant New York Times Bestselling series, The Atlas Six. Currently living in Brooklyn, her work has appeared in The Paris Review. Her debut novel, JONATHAN ABERNATHY YOU ARE KIND, is forthcoming from Astra House in 2023.

Presenters

Andre Gonzalez

Andre Gonzalez is the author of all things thriller and horror. He has penned the Wealth of Time series and the Insanity trilogy, and is the recipient of RMFW's 2021 Independent Writer of the Year award. Andre has served as the PAA Liaison since 2019. You'll likely find him buried under a long to-do list or his three young (and energetic) children.

Arielle Haughee

Arielle Haughee (Hoy) is a six-time RPLA-winning author and the owner of Orange Blossom Publishing. She is an editor, speaker, and writing coach, and was previously the Executive Vice President and Marketing Chair for the Florida Writers Association. She was honored with the President's Award from FWA in 2020, and in 2021 Pling's Party was awarded Children's Book of the Year. Her press, Orange Blossom Publishing, publishes books about love, humor, and wellness for women and children. She is currently taking submissions for romance, women's fiction, young adult, and nonfiction of interest to the female audience. More information at orangeblossombooks.com.

Bernadette Soehner

Bestselling Author, Bernadette Marie is the 2020/2021 IWOTY, author of over 45 titles, and known for building families readers want to be part of, including her bestselling Keller and Walker Family series. Owner of 5 Prince Publishing, she enjoys sharing her knowledge of writing and publishing.

Brenda Hardwick

Brenda M Hardwick is an award-winning Indie author who began writing at the age of ten. She won second place in RMFW's Colorado Gold Contest with the first three chapters of Harlem Angel: Book 1 of The Circle in 1993. Twenty-five years later after retiring from a twenty-seven-year career in state government, Harlem Angel was published in 2018. The Conductor: Book 2 of the Circle, was released during the pandemic lockdown in April 2020. Brenda self-published a total of two fiction and two non-fiction titles, three of which won

CIPA EVVY awards. Freedom Rings: Book 3 of The Circle will be released in 2022. Brenda lives in Colorado with her dog Lelu and has two sons, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Caitlin Berve

Caitlin Berve is the author of When Magic Calls: A Collection of Modern Fairy Tales and the owner of Ignited Ink Writing. She edits novels, creates video tutorials, teaches, and writes. She seeks to fill the world with the kind of writing that lingers with readers and find magic in modern times.

Connie Bauldree

Connie Bauldree is a hybrid author writing under the pen names, Emersyn Kane, Payton Rome, Connie Connolly and Connie Bauldree. Connie loves to help other authors and thus founded of Author by Design, home of the Builder Series and the Writer's Block Box. When she's not writing or curating boxes, she can be found volunteering for RMFW and chasing kids in Eastern Colorado.

Dan Grant

Dan Grant is a member of RMWF and a bestselling author of two parallel thriller series. He has a master's degree with an emphasis in creative writing, has taught college courses, and presented craft-focused story workshops for RMFW, PPW, and Denver Pop Culture Con. For his debut science/medical thriller, The Singularity Witness, Pacific Book Review said, "Devilishly clever, and good, this is Dan Grant" and New York Times international bestselling Author James Rollins said, "blew me away. It has everything I love in a novel (and so much more). Don't miss it!"

Dani Coleman

Dani Coleman has been learning the craft of writing since childhood and is a three-time finalist in the Colorado Gold Rush Literary Awards. She works as a scientific programmer, karate instructor and mother, and has many hobbies that attempt to steal time from her writing.

Gary McBride

Gary McBride founded and leads Writers Who Read, a monthly workshop for writers in Boulder that by September 2022 will be 44 books, er, 5 years old. We perform Literary Forensics on the corpora, to learn everything we can through deep reading.

Grayson Towler

I'm Grayson Towler, a senior copywriter for the independent publisher Sounds True, where I've been working since 2004. I've written copy for books, music, videos, original audio programs, online courses, live events, and marketing campaigns, including our company's first New York Times bestseller, The Wim Hof Method. I've trained numerous freelancers, editors, and junior copywriters in the best practices for writing persuasive, authentic, and effective sales copy. I'm the author of the Middle Grade novel The Dragon Waking, and have published numerous short stories in anthologies, including Wings of Change and Water Faeries. Since 2016, I've been an editor for the online speculative fiction magazine, Electric Spec.

Heather Webb

Heather Webb is the USA Today bestselling and award-winning author of eight historical novels. In 2015, *Rodin's Lover* was a Goodread's Top Pick, and in 2018, *Last Christmas in Paris* won the Women's Fiction Writers Association STAR Award. *Meet Me in Monaco*, was selected as a finalist for the 2020 Goldsboro RNA award in the UK, as well as the 2019 Digital Book World's Fiction prize. To date, Heather's books have been translated to seventeen languages. She is also a freelance editor of over a decade and an adjunct in the MFA in Creative Writing program at Drexel University. She lives in New England with her family, a mischievous kitten, and one feisty rabbit.

Jacob Schriver

Being a six-year veteran in a combat MOS in the United State Army, I trained with and worked with many different contracting groups. I have extensive weapons, close combat, and small unit tactics knowledge and experience. I am currently working for a security company as an Armed Guard/Executive Protection Agent. I have attended the best Executive Protection Academy in the country called Pacific West Academy in Los Angeles. Currently also a part of a contracting group, Tier One Recon. Shortly after this conference takes place, I will be leaving for another contracting group that operates in the most hostile waters around the world.

Jason Evans

Jason Evans grew up in Southern California, attending UCSB and receiving bachelors in History & Renaissance studies. After teaching in Southern California for a few years he moved to Denver with his wife, where Jason continued his career in teaching. After discovering a passion for storytelling, Jason had his first short story published in 2014. Eight short stories, four novels, an editor's credit on an anthology, as well as a collection of short stories of his own. In addition, Jason has blogged for Pikes Peak Writers and RMFW, while becoming a fixture at local conventions. Jason currently sits on the RMFW Board as its Education Chair.

Johnny Worthen

Johnny Worthen is an award-winning, multiple-genre, tie-dye-wearing author, voyager, and damn fine human being! Trained in literary criticism and cultural studies, he writes upmarket fiction, long and short, mentors others where he can, and teaches writing at the University of Utah.

Joy Jarrett-Meredith

Joy Jarrett is the author of the horror romance, *Old Cravings*, winner of a Paranormal Romance Guild Reviewers Choice Award. She enjoys imagining something creepy in every situation, starting with a fourth-grade theater production when she became convinced a monster lived under the stage. Even though she won't let different foods touch on her plate, she's fearless when it comes to mixing love stories and horror. Joy works in a library and has a Zoology degree from UC Davis. Past jobs have been at a pet store, an animal science barn, a safari park, and vet hospitals so it's no surprise animals always feature in her writing.

J. Warren Weaver

Writer of spec screenplays, comic books and the novel, *To Kill A Ghost*.

Karen Lin

Karen is a hopeless foodie, award-winning novelist, and produced screenwriter. Many of her stories are inspired by her experience marrying into a Taiwanese family. Food is often a subplot. *Mu Shu Mac & Cheese* and *American Moon: A Chinese Immigrant Story* are available on Amazon. She was honored to appear alongside other writers in the anthology, *Fresh Starts*. She, her husband, and their two boys have traveled the world as she researches recipes for a literary cookbook. She's published magazine articles, poems, shorts, and flash fiction in many genres. She's a freelance editor for award-winning and bestselling authors. She teaches for cruise lines and writers conferences. <http://www.karenalbrightlin.com>

Kate Jonuska

Kate Jonuska is an indie author, freelance writer and yoga teacher as well as the current Vice President of the RMFW Board. Her debut novel (*Transference*) was a finalist for the 2017 BookLife Prize, and the second edition of her *Dictionary of Fiction Critique* published in 2020.

Kelley J.P. Lindberg

Kelley J. P. Lindberg writes adult and YA fiction, nonfiction, and award-winning how-to books. She's also a freelance/contract writer. When she isn't writing, she's traveling as far and as often as she can. She blogs about the writer's life and writing craft on her website: www.KelleyLindberg.com.

Kendra Griffin

Kendra Griffin enjoys writing about underdogs, social inequality, and family dynamics. She recently published two novels in her dystopian YA series: *The Pox Ward* and *Apocalypse Thoughts*. Kendra teaches creative writing for Aims Community College and is a member of RMFW and Borderlands Writers.

Kerry Schafer

Kerry Schafer (who also writes a Kerry Anne King) was the RMFW Writer of the Year in 2020. She is a best-selling hybrid author with twelve novels in print. She is a retired RN, a licensed mental health counselor, and a certified Kaizen-Muse Creativity Coach. In addition to writing, Kerry provides writer coaching, online classes, and virtual assistant services through her Author Genie business. She is active in the podcasting community and is the host of *Taming the TBR*. When not absorbed in creative pursuits, you'll find her hanging out with her real life Viking on their little piece of heaven just outside Colville, Washington.

Laura Manuel

Laura Manuel was a law enforcement officer (LEO) for 21 years in Virginia & Colorado. She taught Criminal Justice and Psychology at FRCC after earning her Ph.D. She established and was the Director for the first LEA (Law Enforcement Academy) at FRCC. Now retired, she still teaches at the LEA.

Laurie Marr Wasmund

Laurie Marr Wasmund holds an M.A. in Literature from the University of Denver. She has worked as an editor, community college instructor, and national writing workshop presenter. Her short stories have appeared in literary magazines such as CIMARRON REVIEW and WEBER STUDIES. She is the author of MY HEART LIES HERE, a novel of the Ludlow Massacre; CLEAN CUT, A Romance of the Western Heart; and the WHITE WINTER TRILOGY, which is set in Colorado during the Great War and the 1920s. The third book of the Trilogy, TO WALK HUMBLLY, was a 2020 finalist for the Mainstream/Literary book award from the Colorado Authors League. It also received a 2020 EVVY third place award in Historical Fiction from the Colorado Independent Publishers Association.

Lisa Adams

Lisa Adams is an attorney and author. specializing in historical fantasy and fiction. She wrote her first book when she was eleven and, as an attorney, continues to frame cases as stories for the jury. She is married and lives in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Linda Ditchkus

L.V. DITCHKUS is the author of the Sci-fi award-winning Sasquatch Series: "Book I - Crimes of the Sasquatch," "Book II - Mission of the Sasquatch," "Book III - Legacy of the Sasquatch," and "Book IV - Passage of the Sasquatch." These stories will make you question who sits on the top of the evolutionary ladder. While writing these series, she's led adventure travel trips, hiked and snowshoed hundreds of miles, and volunteered for wilderness advocacy and writing organizations. Besides being an active member of RMFW and their Spec Fiction Critique Group, L.V. is a Board Member of the CC Writers Exchange, and a member of the Colorado Authors League. She and her husband live in a rural mountain community in central Colorado.

L.S. Hawker

LS Hawker is the author of USA Today bestseller and ITW Thriller Awards finalist THE DROWNING GAME, BODY AND BONE, END OF THE ROAD, and THE THROWAWAYS. Visit LSHawker.com to read about her adventures as cocktail waitress, traveling Kmart portrait photographer, and witness to basement exorcisms.

M.H. Boroson

Author of THE GIRL WITH GHOST EYES and THE GIRL WITH NO FACE. Work-in-progress: WORLD WITHOUT GHOSTS; screen adaptation of THE GIRL WITH GHOST EYES. Obsessed with Hong Kong cinema. Transnational geek; social justice wizard. He/him.

Mandy Miller

Mandy is an attorney, editor, and the author of the Grace Locke Legal Mystery series. She holds a J.D. and a PhD in Psychology. She participates in ultramarathons, an endeavor much like writing a novel writing in that the journey is long and requires dedication, not to mention a dash of madness.

Mark Graham

Marc Graham is an author, actor, story coach, shamanic practitioner, and the developer of the Runes for Writers creativity method. When not in the studio or bound to his computer, he can be found traipsing about the Colorado Front Range. His titles include Of

/Ashes and Dust;/ /Song of Songs: A Novel of the Queen of Sheba;/ /Son of the Sea, Daughter of the Sun;/ and /Runes for Writers: Boost Your Creativity and Destroy Writer's Block/.

Mariah Ankenman

Bestselling author Mariah Ankenman lives in the beautiful Rocky Mountains with her two rambunctious children and loving spouse who is her own personal spell checker when her dyslexia gets the best of her. When she's not writing you can find her on social media keeping up with the latest trends. She loves to share her experience on how to build a following and engage readers with other authors.

Marjorie (M. M.) DeLuca

Marjorie (M.M) DeLuca was born in the UK in the beautiful cathedral city of Durham but now lives in Winnipeg, Canada. She writes several genres. Her historical suspense novel, THE SAVAGE INSTINCT (April 2021) received a starred review from Publishers' Weekly, and was also one of Kate Quinn's notable books of August 2021. Her two contemporary suspense novels, THE SECRET SISTER (Canelo March 2021) and THE PERFECT FAMILY MAN (Canelo October 2021) have been and continue to be on Apple and Amazon bestseller lists in the UK, US, Canada and Australia as well as being featured in book clubs in the UK and Canada. She also writes YA sci-fi and her trilogy, THE FOREVERS, THE PARASITES, and THE FEEDERS has been a bestseller since its publication in 2013. Other titles include THE PITMAN'S DAUGHTER AND LILAH. She's an avid reader and sometimes picks up a paintbrush when she isn't writing.

Mary Gillgannon

Mary Gillgannon began writing historical romance soon after she discovered the genre. She loves how these stories allow her to portray the adventure and high stakes of past eras, yet focus on relationships and create a happy ending. She's written twenty novels, including romances set in the dark age, medieval and Regency time periods, time travel and historical fantasy. She worked at a public library for over thirty years acquiring adult fiction.

Melissa Koons

Melissa Koons is a historical fiction author who also writes short story horror and poetry. In all of her writings, she likes to develop and explore the different types of relationships we encounter, develop, and experience. In addition to doing this in her works of fiction, she also writes a non-fiction blog with her musings about relationships, self-care, and understanding mental and emotional diagnoses such as anxiety and depression.

Mel Lake

Mel Lake is a copyeditor who lives in Denver with her partner and a very good dog. Her short fiction has been published in Twin Pies, Stratum Press, and Land Beyond the World. Her CNF essays have been published in The Mark, Capsule Stories, and The Human Touch. Mel is a contributing writer to MultiversityComics.com and a reader for Capsule Stories. She's querying a vampire detective novel and always forgets to tweet @melofsometrades.

Michael Haspil

Michael F. Haspil is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a science fiction and fantasy author. He hosts the Quantum Froth Dispatches podcast which examines storytelling through pop-culture classics and shares author interviews. His novel from TOR books, *Graveyard Shift*, an urban fantasy story about an immortal pharaoh out to stop an ancient vampire conspiracy in modern-day Miami, was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award. Michael is currently working on several tie-in fiction projects and other assorted novels and short stories. His stories have made numerous anthology appearances including in *Gunfight On Europa Station* and the upcoming *No Game For Knights* from Baen. His *Warhammer 40,000* stories are currently available from Games Workshop's Black Library.

Nicole Kramer

Nicole Kramer is a writer and photographer dedicated to helping other creatives connect to their community and speak to the people who need their work. An entrepreneur at heart Nicole ran her own photography company from 2013-2020 and recently co-founded Sea Dust Media to focus on helping Authors and Artists build sustainable marketing practices and communities. She is currently the Production and Venue manager for the Colorado Conservatory of Dance where she manages the theaters marketing, handles venue operations, oversees the company's productions and runs the high school internship program. She holds a Bachelors in Performing Arts and a Masters of Communications in Media Management both from Colorado State University.

Pam Nowak

Pamela Nowak confronts the difficult task of combining fact and fiction with a strong commitment to both. Her solid research allows her to discover the hidden stories within history; her character- and scene-development skills bring those stories to life. She is a past RMFW Writer of the Year and was awarded a Colorado Book Award, multiple HOLT Medallion Awards, a WILLA Finalist Award, and dual Feathered Quill Finalist Awards.

Peggy Waide

#1 Amazon bestselling author Peggy entered her first book in the Colorado Gold. The editor offered a contract. She has published four romances with Dorchester. Montlake now publishes her books. She is shopping an amateur sleuth and contemporary romance. She's also been a trainer, coach and speaker.

Rachel Dempsey

Rachel Dempsey has written and directed over a dozen plays for numerous acclaimed theater organizations such as Imagination Stage and ArtStream. Her prose won first prize in The Colorado Gold Rush Literary Awards and also won the Denver Women's Press Club Emerging Writers Contest. She holds a BFA in Drama and English from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and a Master's degree in Journalism from Georgetown University. Currently, she lives in Denver with her husband and three daughters and attends the MFA program at Regis. She also participates in the local writing community and homes her craft through Lighthouse Writers Workshop and Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers.

Rob Samborn

Rob Samborn is the author of *The Prisoner of Paradise*, *Painter of the Damned*, and the *Painted Souls* series, published by TouchPoint Press. In addition to being a novelist, Rob is a screenwriter, entrepreneur and avid traveler. He's been to forty countries, lived in five of them and studied nine languages. He has a three-book deal with TouchPoint Press, a three-audiobook deal with Tantor Media, and five of his nine screenplays have been optioned. He's represented by Brower Literary & Management. A *New Yorker* who lived in Los Angeles for twenty years, he now makes his home in Denver with his wife, daughter and dog.

Rod Martinez

Author of middle grade & young adult, Rod Martinez grew up on Marvel Comics and *Twilight Zone*, the inspiration was inevitable. Challenged by his son to write a story about him and his friends like the *Goonies* but in Tampa, his first novel *The Juniors* was picked up by a publisher and the rest is history. Rod was recipient of the 2017 Jerry Spinelli Scholarship, the 2018 Professional Development for Artists Grant in Tampa and several WOC scholarship/awards. A self-proclaimed Ambassador of the Literary Arts, he speaks at schools, conferences, comic-cons and libraries promoting the love of the written word.

Sarah Beth Schriver

Sarah Beth Schriver has been a runway model for nxtModel modeling agency for several years and worked with many designers and event organizers as well as volunteered for several years to teach others in the industry catwalk, posing, and the potentially hazardous and/or unsafe aspects of runway modeling and how to avoid dangerous situations.

Sharon Mignerey

Longtime member of RMFW, Sharon Mignerey is a multi-published authors in romance and women's fiction. She has an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. Her most recent title is *TOO LOVE A STRANGER*.

Stant Litore

Stant Litore is the author of *Ansible*, *The Running of the Tyrannosaurs*, *The Zombie Bible*, and *Dante's Heart*. Besides science fiction and fantasy, he has written the writers toolkits *Write Worlds Your Readers Won't Forget* and *Write Characters Your Readers Won't Forget*, as well as *Lives of Unstoppable Hope* and *Lives of Unforgetting*, and has been featured in Jeff Vandermeer's *Wonderbook: An Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction*. He has served as a developmental editor for the writers' collaborative Westmarch Publishing and holds a Ph.D. in English. He lives in Aurora, Colorado with his three children and is currently at work on his next novel.

Sue Hinkin

Co-Chair of the Colorado Gold Rush Literary Awards, Sue Hinkin is a former television news photographer, NBC-TV Art Department manager, as well as a college teacher and administrator. The recently published *The Mermaid Broker* is her 4th Vega and Middleton thriller.

Susan Brooks

Susan Brooks is editor in chief at Literary Wanderlust, a small, traditional publisher located in Denver. She has loved books since she first got her hands on *Go, Dog. Go!* By P.D. Eastman as a toddler. She has many years of editorial experience and has a master's degree in publishing from The George Washington University. She was on the board of directors for Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, a non-profit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to supporting, encouraging, and educating writers from 2009 to 2019. She is a lover of cats and cares for Ragnar and Ziggy, two rescues who rule the house and expect breakfast and dinner at exacting times.

Susan Schooleman

Way back when shoulder-pads were in style, Susan Schooleman (pen name Cepa Onion) wrote for Roseanne Barr, was a member of the Denver Center Theatre's Playwrights Group, was published by *Self* magazine and Samuel French. She then chucked it all for adventures in parenthood. Three grown kids and a retired math teacher husband later, she has begun inching her way back into the business. Her short stories have been included in two Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers (RMFW) anthologies. She was also a winner in the 2019 RMFW Gold Contest.

Tamara Cribley

Tamara Cribley is a seasoned graphic designer, who operates on the philosophy that beautiful books don't happen by chance. Over the course of the last decade, Tamara has worked in a variety of roles, including Commercial Photographer, Graphic Artist, and Art Director. Each of these roles has contributed to a unique skill set that enables Tamara to put together classy and professional books that keep the reader focused on the story. She resides in Colorado with her Search and Rescue K9, Sam Sue, where they spend their free time exploring the backcountry.

Tasha Christensen

Tasha Christensen believes the best love stories are found in the geekiest places. Her debut novel, *AS YOU WERE*, is a marching band romantic comedy. When not composing tuba closet make-out scenes, she enjoys writing music, getting way too competitive about board games, and exploring the gorgeous Rocky Mountains. Tasha lives with her husband, daughters, and an overly affectionate dog named after her favorite *Stranger Things* character.

Terri Benson

A life-long writer, Terri is traditionally and self-published in novel length, with 3 novels and nearly a hundred articles and short stories published, many award winning. She was the Education Chair for Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers for several years, is an irregular blogger (in more ways than one), member of Sisters in Crime and Rocky Mountain Mystery Writers, presents workshops at writer's conferences, and teaches night classes at Western Colorado Community College. Terri spends her non-writing time working at a Business Incubator, camping, Jeeping, and dirt biking with her junior-high-school sweetheart/husband of 40+ years and a succession of Brittany spaniels. You can find more information on her at <https://www.terribensonwriter.com/>

TH Leatherman

TH Leatherman is a writer from Firestone, Colorado. When not busy writing his next book, he can be found hiking with his wife and rescued dogs. He has released six books, *The Burning Son*, *Marque of the Son*, *Son Rise*, *Twin Sons*, *The Son Set*, and *1001 Puns, Dad Jokes, and One-Liners*.

Trai Cartwright

Trai Cartwright, MFA, is a 25-year entertainment industry veteran and creative writing specialist. She teaches, produces, and writes screenplays and novels, and can be found at www.craftwrite.com. While in Los Angeles, she was a screenwriter, independent film producer, and story consultant and development executive for HBO, Paramount Pictures, Universal Studios, New Lines Cinema, and 20th Century Fox. She is the producer of multiple short form films and four independent films. Trai currently teaches creative writing, screenwriting, and producing for three online master's programs, writers groups such as her Denver Screenwriters Meetup, conferences and cons, and one-on-one as a development and story editor.

Veronica Calisto

Veronica R. Calisto (she/her) is a massage therapist, an alto, a writer of speculative fiction, and a big nerd. One of those rare Colorado natives, she has a degree in Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology and is a two-time American Idol reject. Veronica is best described as a walking musical who might also be a figment of her own imagination. She is the author of several books including *Diary of a Mad Black Witch* and the first two in the *SparkleTits Chronicles* series.



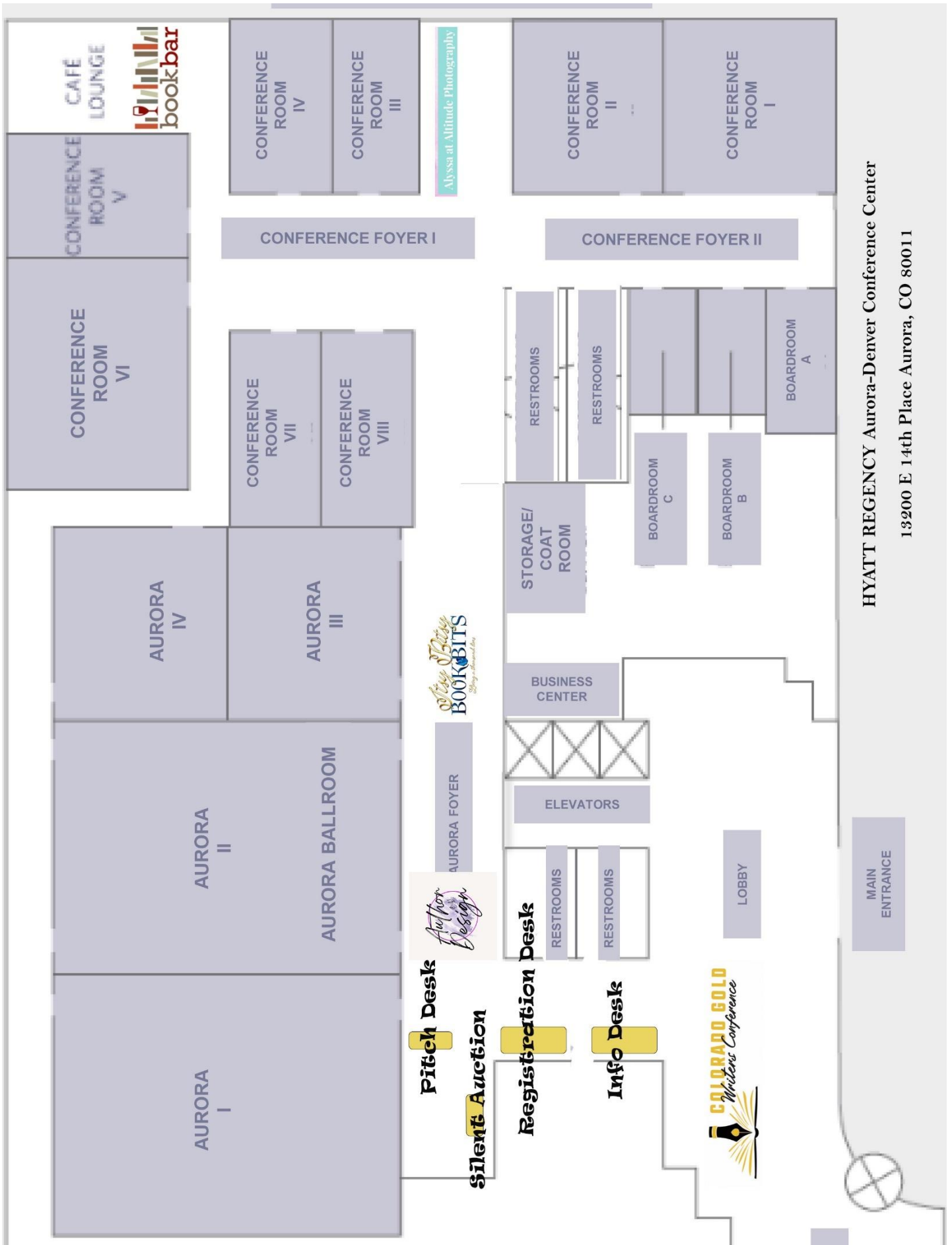
Colands Gold, Sept 9-11, 2022																
Note: Beginner, intermediate and professional descriptions are meant to guide writers based on where they are in their career. For instance, marketing classes are mostly designed as professional because they are of interest to writers who are published or near publication. These categories are only guides, and you need not have previous knowledge/experience of a topic to attend any workshop. Read workshop descriptions for details on each session.																
	Atrium Ballroom I	Atrium Ballroom II	Cafe Lounge	Atrium III	Conf I*	Conf II*	Conf III*	Conf IV*	Conf V*	Conf VI	Conf VII	Conf VIII	Boardroom A	Boardroom B	Boardroom C	
11:45 - 12:30PM							<p>Hello, I'm New Here - Terri Benson & Kevin Wolf - Beginner</p>									
1:00 - 1:20 PM	Welcome Ceremony															
1:30 - 2:20 PM					<p>WOTY PANEL: Rivers, Nowak, & Jay hosted by Zl Czupor</p>	<p>Making Money Writing Your Book - Terri Benson -</p>	<p>Writing Scenes with Multiple Characters: Whose Turn is it to Talk? -</p>	<p>Adapting the Tome: Giving Old Stories New Life - Marc Graham - Intermediate</p>	<p>Plotting for Pantser - Kerry Schaler - Intermediate</p>	<p>Oh My Word!: Determine Your Word Count - Leah Pierre - Beginner</p>	<p>Who's Telling Your Story: Perspective and Point of View in Creative -</p>	<p>Writing (and Finishing!) Your First Novel - Tasha Christensen -</p>				
2:30 - 3:20 PM					<p>Tools of the Trade - Connie Bauldree - Beginner</p>	<p>The First Two Chapters - Sharon Mignery - Beginner</p>	<p>Ask A Pro - Hosted by P.A.A. - Gonzales, Soehner, Hinkin, Hawker - Beginner</p>				<p>Demystifying Publishing Deals - Marisa Corvisiero - Beginner</p>	<p>History of Mystery - Johnny Worthen - Beginner</p>				
3:30 - 4:20 PM			<p>Bookbar Pop Up Bookstore noon to 9:30pm</p>	<p>Beyond the Bedroom Door - Mary Gillgannon - Intermediate</p>	<p>Storytelling in Layers - Sharon Mignery - Intermediate</p>	<p>How to Read Like a Writer - Gary McBride</p>	<p>The world of the Homeless: How to write about our unhealed population - Jason Evans and Sarah Beth Schriver - Intermediate</p>	<p>Make Your Readers Happy: Genre and Trope - Susan Brooks - Beginner</p>	<p>What a Girl Wants: the Interplay of Strengths, Weaknesses, Wants, & Needs - Pamela Nowak - Intermediate</p>	<p>How to Write a Thriller that Keeps 'em Turning Pages - L.S. Hawker - Beginner</p>	<p>The Secret to Getting More than 10,000 Followers on Instagram - Dennis Schleiter - Beginner</p>	<p>Roundtable Critique - Molly McGhee & Michael Neff</p>	<p>On-on-Ones</p>	<p>Roundtable Critique - Amy Collins</p>		
4:30 - 5:20 PM								<p>Does The Magic In Your World Make Sense or Defy Logic? - Brenda Hardwick - Intermediate</p>	<p>Detours to Success: Reinventing Yourself - Karen Lin - Intermediate</p>	<p>Writing Series - What you need to know to stay the course - Bernadette Soehner & Andre Gonzalez - Beginner</p>	<p>The Heroine's Journey (with permission from Gail Carriger) - Dani Coleman - Intermediate</p>					
6:30 - 8:30 PM	PEN/WOTY Banquet															
8:30 PM	Author Signing/ Open Night															
8:30 PM																

Expanded versions of this chart can be found on a poster at the registration desk

Sunday, September 11th, 2022

Columbo Gold Sep 9-11, 2022														
<i>Note: Beginner, intermediate and professional designations are meant to guide writers based on where they are in their career. For instance, marketing classes are mostly designed as professional because they are of interest to writers who are published or near publication. These categories are only guides, and you need not have previous knowledge/experience of a topic to attend any workshop. Read workshop descriptions for details on each session.</i>														
	Aurora Ballroom I	Aurora Ballroom II	Cafe Lounge	Aurora III	Aurora IV	Court I*	Court II*	Court III*	Court IV*	Court V	Court VI	Court VII	Court VIII	Regency Club
	SUNDAY													
7:00 - 9:00 AM	Snacks and coffee outside ballroom													
8:00 - 8:50 AM		PAA Meeting				Make Your Reader Sliver With Anticipation! - Sue Hinkin - Beginner	From Rough to Ready: Developmental, Middle and Line Editing - Karen Lin - Beginner	Covenant of the Arc - Pamela Nowak - Beginner	Wallop Your Wordcount - Kendra Griffin - Intermediate	Get Your Writing Mojo Back - L.S. Hawker - Intermediate	First Writes to Last Rights - Professional - Katharine Sands	Overcoming Formatting Frustrations - Understanding the Basics - Tamara Cribley - Beginner	Your Pacing Score: A Numeric System for Finding Slow Spots (and Tips to Fix Them) - Arielle	Write Better With Fanfiction - Tasha Christensen - Beginner
9:00 - 9:50 AM		Shoes-On Yoga - Kate Jonuska - Beginner			Anthology Panel: Calisto, Christensen, Ditchkus, Scooleman, Lake, & Lindberg									Smile, You DON'T Have to Be on Camera: Video Marketing for Authors - Caitlin Berve - Beginner
10:00 - 10:50 AM		Beyond the Editor Event Horizon: How an Editor Reads, Rejects, and Chooses Your Short Story - Grayson Towler - Beginner	Book Bar Pop Up Bookstore 8am to noon		"Epphany Light" - A Critical Viewpoint for Aspiring Authors - Intermediate - Michael Neff	Close Quarters Combat - Jacob Schriver - Beginner	What Is A Story Bible, and What Divine Purpose Does It Serve? - Terri Benson - Beginner	Wallop Your Wordcount - Kendra Griffin - Intermediate	Get Your Writing Mojo Back - L.S. Hawker - Intermediate	Brujas and Wendigos and Deer People, Oh My! - Lisa Adams - Beginner				How to Self-publish your novel on a budget: Tricks, short cuts, & budget friendly Strategies - Jason Evans & Melissa Kooms - Intermediate
11:00 - 11:50 AM	God! Rush Winners Brunch													
12:00 - 12:50 PM														Quiet Writing Time

Expanded versions of this chart can be found on a poster at the registration desk



HYATT REGENCY Aurora-Denver Conference Center
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