

2024 Colorado Gold Writers Conference

- A Aurora Foyer R Aurora I/II V Aurora IV B Board Room I D Board Room II M Board Room III
O Boardroom A L Borealis C Café Lounge N Conference Rom VII E Conference Room I
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SEPTEMBER 26 • THURSDAY

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| 8:00am – 9:50am | 5 | <p>Traditional Publishing Bootcamp ~ Block One: Traditional Publishing Overview Conference Room VII</p> <p><i>Speakers: Angie Hodapp</i></p> <p>From idea to manuscript, from published novel to reverted rights, trace a story's typical journey across the mountains and valleys of the traditional-publishing landscape.</p> |
| 8:00am – 9:50am | 6 | <p>Genre Fusion ~ Block One: Auto-Fiction: I is Another Conference Room VIII</p> <p><i>Speakers: Dr. Andrea Rexilius</i></p> <p>In this generative and discussion-based workshop, we will explore writing that fuses fiction with memoir. Through the lens of a variety of craft elements such as sequence of disclosure, intimacy & distance, persona, memory & truth, we will consider the rich constellations where self and character converge. Our guides will include Cindy Sherman, Frida Kahlo, Teresa Carmody, Steven Dunn, Addie Tsai, Selah Saterstrom, and Kathy Acker.</p> |
| 10:00am – 11:50am | 5 | <p>Traditional Publishing Bootcamp ~ Block Two: Contracts and Royalties: Know Your Rights, Manage Your Money Conference Room VII</p> <p><i>Speakers: Angie Hodapp</i></p> <p>Angie will put into easy-to-understand language the major sections and clauses of a typical Big Five contract. Get a peek at the full laundry list of rights and subrights (including film/TV deals) on the table during a negotiation and learn to spot red flags that mean an author should walk away. Want to understand how the money moves in publishing and learn how to read a royalty statement to catch typical Big Five accounting errors? Be sure to catch this session!</p> |
| 10:00am – 11:50am | 6 | <p>Genre Fusion ~ Block Two: Effective Genre-Fusing Fiction Conference Room VIII</p> <p><i>Speakers: Alexandra Grana</i></p> <p>Genre fusion isn't new but with the rise of romantisies, fantasies set in space, and every burgeoning combination in-between it can be challenging for authors to combine their big, genre-spanning ideas successfully. This workshop will explore what makes genre-fusing fiction effective and how to avoid common pitfalls. We'll also discuss where these unique works find their niche in the literary marketplace and how to play up the strengths of genre fusion when publishing.</p> |
| 1:00pm – 2:50pm | 5 | <p>Traditional Publishing Bootcamp ~ Block Three: Agents and Editors: Hook 'em Deep and Reel 'em In Conference Room VII</p> <p><i>Speakers: Angie Hodapp</i></p> <p>By this point in the day, you'll already have a pretty good idea what agents and editors do—and what they don't. Now we'll cover not only how to land an agent or editor (which includes knowing how to craft compelling pitches, query letters, synopses, and opening pages), but also how to maintain these professional relationships as your career progresses...and how to know when it might be time to break up.</p> |
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1:00pm – 2:50pm	6	Genre Fusion ~ Block Three: Genre Fusion and Hybridization: Experimenting with Literary Art Forms <i>Speakers: Hillary Leftwich</i> The most important part of being comfortable experimenting with genre fusion is being brave and learning the writing tools to feel comfortable creating within the forms that work best for your writing. In this two-hour workshop, we'll learn how to fuse your own fiction with plays, poems, essays, and epistolary forms by reading examples from various writers and practicing fusion with writing exercises that allow for play combined with learning. May this be an opportunity to experiment and create your own forms without rules!	Conference Room VIII
3:00pm – 4:50pm	5	Traditional Publishing Bootcamp ~ Block Four: You Be the Agent: Live Pitch Read <i>Speakers: Angie Hodapp</i> Don't miss this fun, action-packed, end-of-day session wherein you'll be the literary agents! Angie will read aloud pitches submitted anonymously, ahead of time, by you, the audience—and you, the audience, will decide which pitches would have you scrambling to offer representation. (Everyone who registers for the Thursday Intensive will receive an email from Angie with instructions for submitting your pitch.)	Conference Room VII
3:00pm – 4:50pm	6	Genre Fusion ~ Block Four: Love Makes the (Book) World Go 'Round: Romance for Any Genre <i>Speakers: Cindi Myers</i> Readers love love stories. From mystery to science fiction to horror, adding a romantic subplot engages readers, deepens characterization, and ups the stakes of your conflict. Learn how to take your stories to the next level by weaving in romance with this workshop from a prolific, award-winning romance author.	Conference Room VIII
5:30pm – 7:30pm	R	Kick-Off Party	Aurora III

- A** Aurora Foyer **R** Aurora I/II **V** Aurora IV **B** Board Room I **D** Board Room II **M** Board Room III
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SEPTEMBER 27 • FRIDAY

8:00am – 11:30am	B Critique Round Table <i>Speakers: Angie Hodapp</i>	Board Room I
8:00am – 11:30am	D Critique Round Table <i>Speakers: Nicole Luongo</i>	Board Room II
8:00am – 11:30am	M Critique Round Table <i>Speakers: Mira Landry</i>	Board Room III
8:00am – 11:30am	T Critique Round Table	TBD
8:00am – 12:00pm	1 Novels 101 - Master Class <i>Speakers: Sharon Migerney</i> Inspired by Discovering Story Magic, developed by Robin Perini and Laura Baker. Great stories have 12 elements this workshop identifies and draws together to create compelling fiction. Participants are encouraged to bring their own work-in-progress to use as a basis for applying the material.	Conference Room III
8:00am – 12:00pm	2 How to Self Publish Your Novel on a Budget - Master Class <i>Speakers: Jason Evans, Melissa Koons</i> Independently published Novels are now the norm. But how does a writer navigate the ins and outs of putting a professional-looking product on the market? More importantly, how does a writer complete this project in a timely manner without being taken advantage of, going crazy, or breaking the bank?	Conference Room IV
8:00am – 12:00pm	4 Adrenaline Rush: How to Write Suspense Fiction - Master Class <i>Speakers: John Gilstrap</i> John Gilstrap presents a four-hour-long seminar on the construction of intelligent suspense fiction. Through lively lectures and writing exercises, students get a peek at the skeleton that gives structure to the stories that keep us reading long into the night.	Conference Room VI
8:00am – 12:00pm	5 Audiobooks: What The Author Needs to Know - Master Class <i>Speakers: Tom Farrell, Susan Brooks, Josh Innerst</i> With eleven consecutive years of double-digit growth and revenues of 1.79 billion in 2022 (APA Survey, 2023), can you ignore audiobooks any longer? The workshop focuses upon audiobook production. Co-presenter and narrator, Josh Innerst, will give you insight into compelling audiobook narration.	Conference Room VII
8:00am – 12:00pm	6 The Middle Edit: What Happens Between the First Draft and Line Edits - Master Class <i>Speakers: Karen A. Lin</i> This intensive workshop addresses middle stage edits when you tighten characterization, layer in themes and symbols, mirror chapters, perfect plot threads, scenes, dialogue, narration, style, action, and more. Learn to test your chapters without combing out your voice. Exercises and interaction.	Conference Room VIII
8:00am – 10:30pm	C Open Writing Space	Cafe Lounge

9:00am – 12:00pm	V	Projector & Microphone Testing Room	Aurora IV
12:00pm – 11:00am	A	Exhibitors <i>Sponsors: Vellum, Andrews Artistry, Crave Books, Your Book is Your Hook, Mile-High MFA at Regis University</i>	Aurora Foyer
12:00pm – 11:00am	R	Bookies Pop-Up Bookstore	Aurora III
12:15pm – 12:50pm	4	New Attendees Welcome & Orientation <i>Speakers: Kevin Wolf</i>	Conference Room VI
PINNED 1:00pm – 1:20pm		Welcome Ceremony <i>Speakers: Bernadette Soehner, Mark Stevens</i> Join us in the Aurora ballroom as we kick off the conference with an uplifting welcome from our president, Bernadette Soehner, and a welcome speech from our 2023 Writer of the Year, Mark Stevens, before conference programming begins at 1:30 p.m. Expect door prizes!	Aurora I/II
1:30pm – 2:20pm	N	Horror Comedy Make Your Readers Laugh & Scream <i>Speakers: Angela Sylvaine</i> Horror and comedy are both about tension, the build up and the payoff. When we meld the two together, we get the fear of the scare and the release of the laugh. Using recent TV and movies as examples, we'll walk through how to write horror comedy. Learn to leave your readers terrified and giggling.	Conference Room VII
1:30pm – 2:20pm	E	How to Write a Synopsis Without Crying First <i>Speakers: Mira Landry</i> It doesn't have to be the "Dreaded Synopsis". It can be the efficient, well-written synopsis that highlights your premise and stand-out voice, all without making you want to give up writing. We'll cover a Synopses Writing Recipe using Rita Hayworth and the <i>Shawshank Redemption</i> by Stephen King as examples.	Conference Room I
1:30pm – 2:20pm	I	Unsilent Screams: Maintaining Voice and POV in Action Scenes <i>Speakers: Kendra Griffin</i> Don't let your character lose their voice while running from monsters! We'll go beyond the basics of good action scenes and delve into how we balance action, narration, and perspective as well as use transitions to keep the momentum up.	Conference Room II
1:30pm – 2:20pm	1	Worldbuilding Through Combat <i>Speakers: J.E. Zarnofsky</i> Conflict is the backbone of storytelling, and that building tension often erupts into fights. Learn how to utilize combat to reveal more of your world, its characters, and their values.	Conference Room III
1:30pm – 2:20pm	2	Written in The Blood <i>Speakers: Laura Manuel</i> Blood spatter analysis reveals information. An investigator may detect participants' locations, weapons, direction of travel of actors, suspect's handedness, and the 'excitement' of victim. This workshop will primarily focus on the basics revealed to investigators via observation.	Conference Room IV
1:30pm – 2:20pm	6	Grant Writing for Authors <i>Speakers: Leanne Haase-Goebel</i> Learn to craft compelling grant proposals to support and sustain a writing career. Participants will develop their understanding of how grants work in the art and literary world and receive guidance on the skills necessary to research, plan, compose, and submit successful grant applications.	Conference Room VIII

1:30pm – 3:20pm	3	Stories in a Flash <i>Speakers: Laurel McHargue</i> Flash Fiction challenges writers to include all elements of a satisfying story but at a greatly reduced word count, leaving consumers with a whirlwind read and a memorable ending. By the end of this workshop, participants will create a work of fiction worthy of editing for possible publication.	Conference Room V
1:30pm – 3:20pm	4	What Makes a Story a Romance? A Beginners Guide to the Most Popular Fiction Genre <i>Speakers: Beverly Jenkins</i> What makes Romance a Romance, and why are stories like <i>Gone With The Wind</i> , <i>Anna Karenina</i> , and books by Nicolas Sparks not considered Romance? Join Beverly for an introductory deep dive into the genre, to include subjects like popular tropes, sub genres, characters, themes, readers, writers, the changes the genre has gone through since the early '90s, whether the genre is feminist or not, and why it's the best selling genre in publishing.	Conference Room VI
2:30pm – 3:20pm	E	A Survivor's Guide to Pitching: Before, During, and After the Pitch <i>Speakers: Kelley Lindberg</i> Pitching your novel to an agent or editor? Great! But how should you prepare for this nerve-wracking meeting? And what happens afterwards? In this presentation, a pitch survivor reveals secrets of what to do before, during, and after your pitch to take your pitch session from awkward to awesome.	Conference Room I
2:30pm – 3:20pm	I	Mastering Suspense: Crafting Compelling Narratives Regardless of Genre <i>Speakers: LS Hawker</i> Suspense isn't just for thrillers—it's a fundamental element that can elevate any work of fiction or nonfiction. It's the element in any story that creates mental uncertainty and variable outcomes that turn your readers into addicts, unable to stop turning pages regardless of your genre.	Conference Room II
2:30pm – 3:20pm	1	Kickstarter 101: What is it? And How Can I Use It? <i>Speakers: Caitee Cooper</i> If you're a budding (or experienced) author, you may have heard that Kickstarter is one of the best ways to launch a book. And you've heard correctly! In this workshop, we'll explore what Kickstarter is, how it can fit into your author business, and resources for planning a campaign.	Conference Room III
2:30pm – 3:20pm	5	The Truth About Swords & Armory <i>Speakers: J.E. Zarnofsky</i> Swords too heavy to swing? Studded leather armor? Pop culture is filled with misconceptions about armored combat throughout the ages. Learn how to defeat these fallacies and create consistency in your worldbuilding when it comes to combat, weapons, and armor.	Conference Room VII
2:30pm – 4:20pm	2	Commercial, Upmarket, or Literary: Analysis of the Differences From Line Level to Marketing <i>Speakers: Mira Landry</i> It's often said "you know it when you read it", but what really is the divide between calling something literary or commercial fiction? And how can you determine if your fiction manuscript hits one or the other, or falls in that coveted space of "Upmarket"?	Conference Room IV
2:30pm – 4:20pm	6	NaNoWriMo Success and Beyond <i>Speakers: Veronica R. Calisto</i> Tips and tricks for succeeding at the challenge of NaNoWriMo that can be applied to any other writing deadlines.	Conference Room VIII
3:30pm – 4:20pm	E	Multi-Layered Editing: The Various Stages and Why They're All Important <i>Speakers: Amber Herbert, Oliver Blakemore</i> You've written your first draft. Now what? If you've ever wondered what to do after typing "The End" or have found yourself scratching your head at the many different kinds of edits available, this workshop is for you.	Conference Room I

3:30pm – 4:20pm	I	Audiobooks in an AI World <i>Speakers: Sandra Murphy</i> Audiobooks are a great way to tap into readers who might not otherwise discover you. But this comes at a price which to offset, some authors are utilizing the cost and time savings offered by artificial intelligence. What is the impact of using AI narration on your copyright, brand, and bottom line?	Conference Room II
3:30pm – 4:20pm	4	Ask A Pro: PAA Panel <i>Speakers: Andre Gonzalez, Z.S. Diamanti, Mark Stevens, Stephanie Reisner</i> 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 Room VI
3:30pm – 4:20pm	5	The Quintessential Query <i>Speakers: Cathie Hedrick-Armstrong</i> This workshop outlines the dos and don'ts of the query process. It includes (1) an overview of the querying process and how it works, (2) how to find an agent, (3) how to format a query letter, (4) what information should and should not be included in a query letter, (5) and a step-by-step walk-through a sample query letter.	Conference Room VII
3:30pm – 5:20pm	1	Order in The Court <i>Speakers: Laura Manuel</i> Court proceedings are presented: Arrest, bail, preliminary hearings, voir dire, the actual trial. Also covered expert witnesses, cross-examination, when hearsay is allowable. One should avoid counterfactual situations, although there can be excitement and plot twists in the proceedings above.	Conference Room III
3:30pm – 5:20pm	3	The 5 Sentence Method <i>Speakers: Rebecca Thorne</i> Curious about the 5 Sentence plotting method sweeping TikTok? This plotting approach is perfect for pantsers who want to plot, or plotters who want to cut back on extensive outlines. Learn how to choose your book's 5 sentences, then tie them to word count goals for flawless pacing. Simple and easy!	Conference Room V
4:30pm – 5:20pm	E	Using Project Management to Write Your Novel <i>Speakers: A. Z. Sultana</i> Learn how to organize your writing life using skills and techniques corporations spend millions on to complete their projects. If you can't finish your novel, don't know where to start, or you just want to organize your life like a pro, this class was made for you.	Conference Room I
4:30pm – 5:20pm	I	Intimacy, Consent & Sex in Fictin <i>Speakers: Rachael Bush</i> Are you interested in writing better romantic relationships? In this session, you will learn why love, intimacy, and consent go hand in hand to build healthier, happier characters your readers will care about.	Conference Room II
4:30pm – 5:20pm	2	Keeping It Real: How Much Fiction Belongs in Historical Fiction? <i>Speakers: Cynthia Swanson</i> If your details are inaccurate, it will affect the reading experience for certain readers. But can't some details be invented? How do you determine whether to fictionalize or be factual? Writers of historical fiction, mystery/thriller/suspense, or romance set in earlier times, let's talk about it!	Conference Room IV
4:30pm – 5:20pm	4	MFA Talk <i>Speakers: Dr. Andrea Rexilius</i> Have you always wondered whether an MFA program is right for you? Not sure about residential versus low-residency options, your writing sample, cover letter, or letters of recommendation? Come to this info. session on all things MFA. We will discuss program models, benefits of an MFA, and more. Participants will have the opportunity to ask as many questions as they'd like.	Conference Room VI

4:30pm – 5:20pm	<p>5 Precise Openings: A Study of What Makes an Iconic First Sentence Conference Room VII</p> <p><i>Speakers: Mira Landry</i></p> <p>We know them when we read them, right? Those classic, compelling opening lines of lauded literary and commercial fiction alike. Together we'll look at great, good, and just okay opening lines and see what makes one stand out and others forgettable.</p>
4:30pm – 5:20pm	<p>6 Punched Up Pitches: Better Blurbs and Queries Conference Room VIII</p> <p><i>Speakers: David R. Slayton</i></p> <p>Whether you are writing a query letter or back cover copy, it's important to know how to sell your book through a concise, exciting blurb. We'll look at winning examples and techniques to help you write a blurb that sells.</p>
<p>PINNED</p> <p>6:30pm – 8:30pm</p>	<p>Writer of the Year Banquet and Keynote Address Aurora I/II</p> <p><i>Speakers: Bernadette Soehner, Andre Gonzalez, Beverly Jenkins</i></p> <p>Friday night's banquet, hosted by Bernadette Soehner, will include a presentation of PEN Awards by our PAA Liaison, Andre Gonzalez; a speech by the 2024 RMFW Writer of the Year; and a keynote address by Bestselling Author Beverly Jenkins. Find a seat at a hosted table with one of our visiting VIP guests.</p>
<p>8:30pm – 10:30pm</p>	<p>V Author Signing Event Aurora IV</p> <p>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, meet writers you admire, and chat while you partake from the cash bar. NOTE: The Author Mic event will take place simultaneously in the Foyer and will offer a chance to hear first pages from works-in-progress and published novels or read from your own books or WIP. You'll never find a friendlier audience for a reading than at Colorado Gold.</p>
<p>8:30pm – 10:30pm</p>	<p>F Open Mic Readings Foyer</p> <p>Hosted by an RMFW author, this open mic offers a chance to hear first pages from works-in-progress and published novels, or read from your own book or WIP. You'll never find a friendlier audience for a reading than at Colorado Gold. NOTE: At the same time, the conference bookstore is hosting a book fair featuring dozens of RMFW authors and Colorado Gold presenters. Buy books and get them signed, meet writers you admire, and chat while you partake from the cash bar.</p>

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SEPTEMBER 28 • SATURDAY

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|-----------------|---|---|---------------------|
| 8:00am – 8:50am | O | Birds of a Feather ~ Historical Fiction
<i>Speakers: Cynthia Swanson</i>
Birds of a Feather are casual sessions between writers of the same genre hosted by an RMFW member published in that genre. Attend to ask genre-specific questions, get ideas, and/or make friends. | Boardroom A |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | E | The Right Mind For Self-Publishing
<i>Speakers: Laura VanArendonk Baugh</i>
There's never been an easier time to self-publish—and that's great! But with great ease comes great risk of mistakes or assumptions. Better expectations lead to better results! Let's walk through the mindset minefield and talk about how best to approach the fantastic opportunities we have today. | Conference Room I |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | I | Writing Scenes With Multiple Characters
<i>Speakers: Kendra Griffin</i>
This session will help participants understand how to craft scenes with multiple characters while also building plot and developing distinct character voices. Help your reader focus on your story, not on figuring out who is speaking! | Conference Room II |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 1 | Deeper Reading for Deeper Writing
<i>Speakers: Johnny Worthen</i>
Consciously or unconsciously meaning is hidden beneath signs and facades in literature, layered in word choice and focus. Authors can achieve deep depths of intent, layer after layer of meaning, to elevate text to literature. Through example we will explore the possibilities. | Conference Room III |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 2 | Unlock Your Story's Inciting Incident
<i>Speakers: Jacquelin Cangro</i>
Do you know the event that kickstarts your story? Do you worry that there isn't enough tension or conflict? In this workshop, we'll review techniques to develop an engaging and compelling inciting incident — the crucial scene that serves as a catalyst for your protagonist. | Conference Room IV |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 3 | How to be an Author on Substack
<i>Speakers: Z.J. Czuror</i>
Jump start or refresh your writing career by publishing your novel or memoir on Substack.com. In this one-hour workshop, attendees will learn all about Substack, how to post your stories, and earn income. Plus, how using this platform can make you a better writer. | Conference Room V |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 4 | How to Write Like a Martial Artist
<i>Speakers: Sarah Reichert</i>
Writers will learn basics of self-defense, what happens to a body in a fight, and how to write action that moves the scene and doesn't feel redundant or unrealistic. This class will cover strikes, holds, targeting and basic Jujitsu techniques and how to incorporate them into fight scenes. | Conference Room VI |

8:00am – 8:50am	5	The Power of Now <i>Speakers: Mark Stevens</i> What is the white-hot core of character motivation? What sets your characters in motion? Why does anybody do anything? How does ink on the page make us feel something? How do we build empathy for fictional characters, both good and bad? How do you help readers connect a plausible, grounded story?	Conference Room VII
8:00am – 9:50am	6	Critique Partner Speed Dating <i>Speakers: Kate Jonuska, Amber Herbert</i> Whether you're looking for a critique partner, a critique group or simply to network with other writers, the speed dating model is both a fun and effective way to meet new people. Spend five minutes getting to know another writer and their critique needs before moving on to the next in a safe space.	Conference Room VIII
9:00am – 9:50am	O	Birds of a Feather ~ Science Fiction <i>Speakers: Calvin Studzinski</i> Birds of a Feather are casual sessions between writers of the same genre hosted by an RMFW member published in that genre. Attend to ask genre-specific questions, get ideas, and/or make friends.	Boardroom A
9:00am – 9:50am	E	Stay Connected to Your Readers: How to Build & Maintain a Successful Newsletter <i>Speakers: Kerrie Flanagan</i> In this session, you'll discover powerful techniques to grow and sustain your subscriber list effectively. In just two years, award-winning author, Kerrie Flanagan, took her newsletter list from 50 subscribers to over 5,000. Learn why newsletters are an author's greatest asset and how to grow your list with reader magnets, newsletter swaps, list-building giveaways, and group promotions. Kerrie will also teach you how to create compelling content to keep your readers engaged and how to sustain a strong email list. Whether you're a novice or an experienced author, this session will equip you with essential skills to build a thriving community of engaged readers through your author newsletter.	Conference Room I
9:00am – 9:50am	I	Wordsmith's Workshop: Mastering Word Choice <i>Speakers: LS Hawker</i> Does all your dialogue begin with "Oh" or "Well"? Do you regularly avoid selecting one vivid word by using five vague ones? Have editors told you your prose needs elevating? Your problem may be poor word choices. But do not despair—it's not fatal. Come to this workshop for the cure.	Conference Room II
9:00am – 9:50am	2	Writers Who Read: Language & Grammar <i>Speakers: Gary McBride</i> We've all heard that reading improves our writing. But <i>how</i> we read is just as important as <i>what</i> we read. This 1-hour workshop covers Literary Forensics techniques to analyze language and grammar found in novels, with a focus on discovering techniques we can apply to our own writing.	Conference Room IV
9:00am – 9:50am	3	Writing to Theme <i>Speakers: Johnny Worthen</i> From the lighthouse of intent, to hard questions, symbols, subplots and echoes, the class will encourage the writer to plumb the depths of meaning, bleed a little, and create multiple strands of meaning in their work. Class will offer concrete examples and methods to tease out your ideas.	Conference Room V
9:00am – 9:50am	4	Developmental Editing Concepts <i>Speakers: Miranda Darrow</i> Editing isn't just spelling and commas. Developmental editing looks at "big picture" concepts in your manuscript and tackles topics like plot, pacing, proportion, and POV, as well as character arcs and genre norms. Get an overview of these topics and a behind-the-scenes look at a developmental edit.	Conference Room VI

9:00am – 9:50am	5	The Science of Magic <i>Speakers: Kim Lajevardi</i> If magic doesn't have consistency and limits, then it can hurt your storytelling more than help it. When readers choose immersion in speculative fiction, they crave both grounding and imagination. Science can provide both.	Conference Room VII
9:00am – 10:50am	1	Conflict: The Art & Craft of Toll & Trouble <i>Speakers: Sharon Migerney</i> All stories are about trouble and the toil required of characters to overcome it. Excellent trouble is at 2 levels: the external story that is measurable with a satisfying ending; the internal story based upon fears and motivations that sets this character's trouble apart from all others.	Conference Room III
10:00am – 10:50am	O	Birds of a Feather ~ Kid Lit <i>Speakers: Christina Allen</i> Birds of a Feather are casual sessions between writers of the same genre hosted by an RMFW member published in that genre. Attend to ask genre-specific questions, get ideas, and/or make friends.	Boardroom A
10:00am – 10:50am	E	Direct Sales - Is It Right For You? <i>Speakers: Stephanie Reisner</i> Direct sales are being touted as one of the best ways to make money for writers, but is it true for your work? In this workshop, we'll talk about the ins and outs of direct sales and you'll find out if it's the right model for your work.	Conference Room I
10:00am – 10:50am	I	Back to The Past: Writing Backstory <i>Speakers: Laurie Marr Wasmund</i> Backstory can be a powerful tool in fiction, creating empathy with readers. It can also drain the energy from a piece, creating unnecessary complications and confusion. In this session, we'll look at how to choose details from a character's past and smoothly incorporate them into your work.	Conference Room II
10:00am – 10:50am	2	Showing Emotions on the Page <i>Speakers: Peggy Waide</i> Showing emotion creates a strong bond between your characters and readers. We will review core emotions and show how those emotions increase in intensity, depending on the situation. From there, we'll break down ways to write facial expressions, body language and vocals for a more emotional read.	Conference Room IV
10:00am – 10:50am	3	Marketing in 2024 & Beyond: Leverage Your Assets <i>Speakers: Nick Thacker</i> You can write, you can run ads, and you can burn out. What's changed since we started publishing books is the way readers consume our content. Are you taking full advantage of that? Are you reaching them exactly where they are, with exactly the formats they want? Time to think bigger, broader. Here's how.	Conference Room V
10:00am – 10:50am	4	Illustrating & Publishing Your Book <i>Speakers: Rachael Bush</i> In this session, I'll talk about how to organize ideas, research your subject, and turn your idea into a finished project you can publish. Whether you're writing and illustrating a children's book, a textbook, or a comic, the creative process is the same.	Conference Room VI
10:00am – 10:50am	5	Memoir Mastery - How to Write Your Story so it Sells <i>Speakers: Jennifer S. Wilkov</i> Writers with an incredible personal story often struggle with where to start their tale and how to share it effectively with an agent/publisher/reader. Discover how to present your amazing story, determine where to begin it on the first page, and start using it to attract more readers, agents, producers, publicists, press, and clients.	Conference Room VII

10:00am – 10:50am	6 Mastering The Art of Applying For Residencies For Writers <i>Speakers: Leanne Haase-Goebel</i> A deep dive into the process, expectations, and benefits of applying for writer's residencies. Participants will understand the purpose of residencies, learn how to find and select suitable options, and develop applications that increase their chances of acceptance.	Conference Room VIII
11:00am – 11:50am	E Creativity & The Writer's Mind <i>Speakers: Sarah Reichert</i> This class explores how the brain functions and where creativity comes from. Writers in the class will be given methods and tips to re-open their creative minds and foster a lifestyle that gets them into the chair and blooming with ideas.	Conference Room I
11:00am – 11:50am	I Focusing Your Audience <i>Speakers: Oliver Blakemore</i> Audience focus techniques with brand marketing profesh and novelist, Oliver Blakemore.	Conference Room II
11:00am – 11:50am	1 Let's Get Cozy: Plotting Your Cozy Mystery Series <i>Speakers: Stephanie Reisner</i> Even if you're not a plotter, get ready to learn how to plot a great cozy mystery and learn how to drop popular genre tropes into your story line to create a book and series the readers will return for again and again.	Conference Room III
11:00am – 11:50am	2 Improv-ing Your Networking <i>Speakers: Sandra Murphy</i> What if networking could actually be fun? Improv helps us navigate the unknown with a sense of play. Join an improv actress for a interactive session of learning a few tried and true tactics so even the most reluctant networker will be able to work a room like the best of 'em!	Conference Room IV
11:00am – 11:50am	3 How to Use Hollywood Scene Writing Techniques For Your Novel <i>Speakers: Kevin Campbell</i> What do we love about a good movie or TV show? Great scenes that move the story along and keep us glued to the screen. This workshop will show you how to use proven screenwriting techniques to write scenes for your novel to ensure that your audience (and agent!) will turn every page.	Conference Room V
11:00am – 11:50am	4 Help Me, Obi-Wendig You're My Only Hope <i>Speakers: Chuck Wendig</i> A Q&A where audience members come prepared with questions about their stories or their writing careers (or, one supposes, about LIFE ITSELF if they are so troubled) and Chuck Wendig attempts to answer their questions and grease the wheels of progress. So to speak.	Conference Room VI
11:00am – 11:50am	5 Kink & BDSM: Beyond The Stereotypes <i>Speakers: Veronica R. Calisto</i> 50 Shades gave an impression of kink that irks kinksters as much as Glocks with safeties does gun experts. This session will dispel misunderstandings and answer questions.	Conference Room VII
11:00am – 11:50am	6 Self-Care For Writers <i>Speakers: Amy Armstrong</i> It's hard to write fun words others will enjoy if you're not having fun as a writer. We'll clarify what burnout is and what leads to it as well as how you can climb out of it even at your crispiest. We will also create a plan for how to bring more joy and calm to your writing.	Conference Room VIII
PINNED 12:00pm – 1:20pm	Publishing Panel Luncheon <i>Speakers: Bernadette Soehner, Angie Hodapp</i> Saturday's buffet lunch will include an agent, editor, and scout panel moderated by RMFW President Bernadette Soehner as well as addresses from RMFW's sibling organizations.	Aurora I/II

1:30pm – 2:20pm	O	Birds of a Feather ~ Humor <i>Speakers: A. Z. Sultana</i> Birds of a Feather are casual sessions between writers of the same genre hosted by an RMFW member published in that genre. Attend to ask genre-specific questions, get ideas, and/or make friends.	Boardroom A
1:30pm – 2:20pm	E	Let's Get Down to Business: How to Start a Business For Your Writing/Editing <i>Speakers: Melissa Koons</i> It may seem silly that you need to learn business, taxes, and finances as an author but it is crucial to understand business essentials. All self-published, traditionally published, hybrid authors, and editors must know how to register a business, licenses, and file with the IRS.	Conference Room I
1:30pm – 2:20pm	I	Marketing Your Book to Success: Before, During, & After Publication <i>Speakers: Jennifer S. Wilkov</i> Authors know that marketing their books is 100% their responsibility but most don't have the skillset or knowledge to create a winning marketing plan for their project. In this presentation, Jennifer S. Wilkov, the founder of Your Book Is Your Hook, LLC, will show you how to master the art of determining what belongs in your marketing platform – and what doesn't – before, during, and after your book has been published.	Conference Room II
1:30pm – 2:20pm	2	Writer's Who Read: Layering & Symbolism <i>Speakers: Gary McBride</i> We've all heard that reading improves our writing. But *how* we read is just as important as *what* we read. This 1-hour workshop covers Literary Forensics techniques to analyze language and grammar found in novels, with a focus on discovering techniques we can apply to our own writing.	Conference Room IV
1:30pm – 2:20pm	3	80,000 Words in a Day <i>Speakers: Nick Thacker</i> Write faster, better. Use dictation to smash your word count goals — with a system that's proven to work.	Conference Room V
1:30pm – 2:20pm	4	Critiki Room: Live Critique <i>Speakers: Kate Jonuska, Amber Herbert, Mark Stevens</i> Witness the magic of peer feedback in action as a panel of agents, authors and publishing professionals critique short pieces of fiction submitted in advance. Find out why critique is a valuable tool for writers of all levels — and how the process usually becomes a raucous good time.	Conference Room VI
1:30pm – 2:20pm	5	The Year of 100 Rejections <i>Speakers: Sarah Reichert</i> This class will focus on a 100-rejection challenge, how to face and use rejection, how to choose submissions, how to read and follow guidelines, and how to track your submissions. We'll also look at rejections as a tool for improvement and how to separate ourselves and our worth from rejection.	Conference Room VII
1:30pm – 2:20pm	6	Finding Your Inner Extrovert <i>Speakers: David R. Slayton</i> Writing is a lonely process. When it comes time to sell your work, you'll need social skills to help you interact with agents, editors, and readers. This workshop will focus on communication techniques and help you learn to network without burning out.	Conference Room VIII
1:30pm – 3:20pm	1	Characterization Through Orientation & Identity <i>Speakers: October K Santerelli</i> Writing different genders, gender identities, and sexual orientations can seem like a minefield. But writing LGBTQ+ representation in a respectful manner isn't as scary as it seems. During this workshop, we'll dive into identity spectrums, inherent gender bias in English, and more.	Conference Room III

2:30pm – 3:20pm	O	Birds of a Feather ~ Fantasy <i>Speakers: David R. Slayton</i> Birds of a Feather are casual sessions between writers of the same genre hosted by an RMFW member published in that genre. Attend to ask genre-specific questions, get ideas, and/or make friends.	Boardroom A
2:30pm – 3:20pm	E	Building a Platform With Facebook Ads <i>Speakers: Andre Gonzalez</i> Have you wanted to try Facebook Ads, but are get turned off by how daunting they seem? Come learn the basics of getting started and see that it's not all that bad. You'll learn how to set up an ads account and launch your very first ad with a spend as low as \$2 per day.	Conference Room I
2:30pm – 3:20pm	I	Successful TikTok Sales <i>Speakers: Z.S. Diamanti</i> TikTok Shop is officially here and people are buying in! Whether you're a debut author trying to come out the gates swinging, or you have a great backlist to offer readers, the time to start sell books on TikTok Shop is now. Come learn the ins and outs of TikTok shop and how to sell loads of books!	Conference Room II
2:30pm – 3:20pm	2	Daemons, Witches, and the Occult (For Writers) <i>Speakers: Stephanie Reisner</i> If you're writing supernatural horror, or anything paranormal – chances are you're incorporating some elements of the occult. Learn to blend occult fact with occult fiction without offending actual real-world witches or occult practitioners. Bring your most difficult questions and an open mind.	Conference Room IV
2:30pm – 3:20pm	3	How to Show & Sell Books at Events <i>Speakers: Laura VanArendonk Baugh</i> Ready to hand sell your at live events like cons, library fairs, festivals, and more? No, you don't need to be pushy, you don't need to be "salesy," and you don't need to give up your soul. Though a midwesterner and congenitally allergic to hard sales, Laura has event success to share with you.	Conference Room V
2:30pm – 3:20pm	4	RMFW's '24 Anthology Panel <i>Speakers: Linda Ditchkus, Paul Martz, RYanne Glenn, Justin Weaver, Susan Schooleman, Laurel McHargue</i> RMFW's new anthology was just released, Without Brakes: Fingers Crossed. Want to learn to write, select, and edit short stories? How about self-publish, format, and market? Our panel of co-editors and authors tell all, from production details to how to craft a story destined for the next anthology.	Conference Room VI
2:30pm – 3:20pm	5	Becoming a Plotter <i>Speakers: Kim Lajevardi</i> If you've ever set down to write with a pocket full of vibes, you may be a pantsers. But what feels good in the moment can cause you to curl into the fetal position when complicated revisions come knocking. What can a pantsers do? Plot. No, seriously. Let me show you plot is not a four-letter word.	Conference Room VII
2:30pm – 3:20pm	6	Kid Lit 101 <i>Speakers: Christina Allen</i> Want to write for kids? Here's everything you'll need to know to get started. This overview of the current children's literature landscape, from picture books to YA, highlights unique considerations for writing, querying, publishing, and marketing kids' books.	Conference Room VIII
3:30pm – 4:20pm	O	Birds of a Feather ~ Women's Fiction <i>Speakers: Leanne Haase-Goebel</i> Birds of a Feather are casual sessions between writers of the same genre hosted by an RMFW member published in that genre. Attend to ask genre-specific questions, get ideas, and/or make friends.	Boardroom A

3:30pm – 4:20pm	E	Ink and Syntax: Mastering Grammar for Fictional Impact <i>Speakers: LS Hawker</i> The advent of spell check, grammar check, and AI makes knowing grammar as obsolete as rotary phones, right? Wrong! Grammar's more than a set of rules—it's the backbone of written storytelling. We're not talking never end a sentence with a preposition, we're talking about making your writing sparkle.	Conference Room I
3:30pm – 4:20pm	I	Editing Beyond "Gut Feeling" <i>Speakers: Kelley Lindberg</i> Revising your work (or critiquing others') can be overwhelming. Without specific elements to look for, it's easy to fall back on our "gut feel," which is hard to articulate and even harder to trust. Learn to evaluate 17 storytelling aspects to edit and strengthen any manuscript, including your own!	Conference Room II
3:30pm – 4:20pm	3	Is Your Book Packaging Hurting Your Sales? <i>Speakers: Andre Gonzalez</i> People read your books and love them! So why is it so hard to generate more sales? You must treat your book as a product and understand how it's packaged and presented to potential readers. Come learn how to analyze market trends and how they relate to the product you are offering.	Conference Room V
3:30pm – 4:20pm	4	Secondary Characters Need Loving Too <i>Speakers: Peggy Waide</i> Secondary characters complete a cast needed for depth in a novel. Each character has a role to play, often working with or against the main characters. Do they help, impede or motivate, or are they a lesser player? Discover how to develop their roles and relationships for a fun and dynamic read.	Conference Room VI
3:30pm – 5:20pm	1	Going Pro With Your Mad Reading Skillz <i>Speakers: Amy Armstrong</i> Do you demolish books? Are your friends constantly hitting you up for book recommendations? You might have superpowers that can lead to book review opportunities, reading for literary magazines and other amazing things. Best of all: these opportunities mean publication and free books.	Conference Room III
3:30pm – 5:20pm	2	Do "I" or Don't "I"? Using First Person in Fiction <i>Speakers: Carol Berg</i> Dramatic and immediate when it's done right, excruciating when it's done poorly, the first person point of view should be a tool in every writer's toolbox. Some popular genres almost demand it. Learn and practice techniques, pleasures, and pitfalls of writing in first person.	Conference Room IV
3:30pm – 5:20pm	5	Let's Rewrite a Famous Scene Together <i>Speakers: Oliver Blakemore</i> Learn from your heroes. We go into a meticulous study of a single scene from a famous book, interrogating every decision, every word choice, made by the author. Then we see if we can rewrite it.	Conference Room VII
3:30pm – 5:20pm	6	Conjuring Up The Past: Character Development in Historical Fiction <i>Speakers: Laurie Marr Wasmund</i> The writer of historical fiction faces an added element when developing a character: the historical landscape. How do sometimes cataclysmic world events affect a character's everyday life? In this intensive workshop, we will look at the skills needed to create memorable historical characters.	Conference Room VIII
4:30pm – 5:20pm	O	Birds of a Feather ~ Crime/Thriller <i>Speakers: Nanette Gamily</i> Birds of a Feather are casual sessions between writers of the same genre hosted by an RMFW member published in that genre. Attend to ask genre-specific questions, get ideas, and/or make friends.	Boardroom A

4:30pm – 5:20pm	E	Neurodivergency & The Creative Process <i>Speakers: October K Santerelli</i> Some of the best creators have ADHD or ASC/D (Autism). But with different brains come different problems — the common writing 'rules' sometimes just don't work! Learn different ways to work more productively and more often, while falling in love with writing all over again – for neurospicy brains.	Conference Room I
4:30pm – 5:20pm	I	Heinlein's Five Rules of Writing <i>Speakers: Johnny Worthen</i> A discussion of Robert Heinlein's famous "Five Rules of Writing." These pragmatic, practical and practiced directives are for the working author and are the very career-enabling tips that steered a blue collar scribbler to becoming one of the seminal voices of his age. But are they still valid?	Conference Room II
4:30pm – 5:20pm	3	Stacked Promos <i>Speakers: LS Hawker</i> Unlock the secrets of strategically coordinated book promotions in this informative workshop. You'll learn to leverage multiple marketing avenues, cultivate an engaged author platform, amplify your book's visibility, boost sales, and expand your readership. Join us and take your author game to new heights.	Conference Room V
4:30pm – 5:20pm	4	How to Write Compelling Villians <i>Speakers: Jason Evans</i> You can write great stories, but if you want to take your writing to the next level, you need a compelling villain. From intergalactic wizards to high school mean girls, a great villain will move your story like no other character can. Come and bring something to take notes with!	Conference Room VI
PINNED 6:30pm – 8:30pm		Gold Rush Awards Banquet <i>Speakers: Bernadette Soehner, Mira Landry, Rachel Dempsey, Chuck Wendig</i> Saturday evening's banquet will feature the much-awaited announcement of winners in the 2024 Colorado Gold Rush Literary Awards Contest as well as a keynote address by New York Times' bestseller Chuck Wendig. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome – Bernadette Soehner• Colorado Gold Awards - presented by Mira Landry and Rachel Dempsey• Keynote Address – Chuck Wendig	Aurora I/II
PINNED 8:30pm – 11:30pm	L	BarCon	Borealis Bar/Restaurant

- A** Aurora Foyer **R** Aurora I/II **V** Aurora IV **B** Board Room I **D** Board Room II **M** Board Room III
O Boardroom A **L** Borealis **C** Café Lounge **N** Conference Rom VII **E** Conference Room I
I Conference Room II **1** Conference Room III **2** Conference Room IV **3** Conference Room V
4 Conference Room VI **5** Conference Room VII **6** Conference Room VIII **F** Foyer **T** TBD

SEPTEMBER 29 • SUNDAY

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|-----------------|----------|--|---------------------|
| 8:00am – 8:50am | C | Yoga for Authors
<i>Speakers: Kate Jonuska</i>
Forget the sticky mat and special clothes! Everyone is welcome at this chair-based yoga flow, which will warm your body and your mind. Breathing and stretching will be followed by a short guided meditation specifically for writers. | Cafe Lounge |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | E | Scene Construction
<i>Speakers: Peggy Waide</i>
Scenes are the stepping stones of a story that keep the reader turning the page. A character acts and reacts to the other characters on stage, the place or the events to advance the plot and develop character. This workshop will break down all the elements needed to construct a strong scene. | Conference Room I |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | I | Emotional Intimacy in Fiction -- Your Key to Connecting with Readers
<i>Speakers: Cindi Myers</i>
The emotional connection between your characters and the connection your reader forms with your characters make the difference between a story readers merely enjoy to one they can't forget. In this workshop we'll explore why emotional intimacy matters and how to build it into your stories. | Conference Room II |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 2 | Beyond Romance: Crafting Character Relationships That Win Readers
<i>Speakers: Sarah Reichert</i>
This one-hour session will teach the skills to construct dynamic, multi-dimensional connections between characters. We'll delve into leveraging relationships for plot development, creating suspense, emphasizing the role of dialogue, and establishing connections with readers. | Conference Room IV |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 3 | The Faceted Story
<i>Speakers: Johnny Worthen</i>
A presentation about those elements of narrative fiction that lend depth, value and resonance to writing. Examples and techniques will be offered to help shape niches and expand any story into new areas of interest for a greater chance to stand out from the slush pile. | Conference Room V |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 4 | How to Work With an Editor
<i>Speakers: Rachael Bush</i>
Whether you've just signed with a publisher or you're submitting to an anthology, this presentation will show you what to expect from your editor, the differences between the types of editors, and will remind you to be patient and professional through it all. | Conference Room VI |
| 8:00am – 8:50am | 5 | Playing God for Fun and Profit - Building Worlds your Readers will Love
<i>Speakers: Calvin Studzinski</i>
Worlds are big, and building them can be daunting. Learn how to build a fantastic setting, whether modifying our world to include magic and dragons, building a new secondary world, or constructing an entire galaxy to explore. What pitfalls do many authors fall into, and how can one avoid them? | Conference Room VII |

8:00am – 8:50am	6	Horror Writing 666 (aka 101) <i>Speakers: Angela Sylvaine</i> Horror is part of our real world, make it part of your fiction. Readers love to experience dread, gore, and terror, and you can be the one to deliver it. Learn why and how to write stories that terrify!	Conference Room VIII
8:00am – 9:50am	1	Unleash Your Inner Young Muse: Crafting Middle Grade Magic – A Novel Approach to Writing for Tweens! <i>Speakers: Mariko Tatsumoto</i> Bestselling authors like James Patterson, Rick Riordan, and John Grisham are flocking to write MG Books. Learn how it differs from adult books, get past gatekeepers, the essential rules for 8-12 years-olds, the art of choosing the right subject, characters, themes, AND MUCH MORE.	Conference Room III
9:00am – 9:50am	E	Professional Marketing <i>Speakers: Oliver Blakemore</i> Many authors are new to marketing but it is an established field for other products. Oliver brings his expertise in brand marketing to show how professional techniques that are used to sell anything from concerts to perfume can work for books too.	Conference Room I
9:00am – 9:50am	I	Not Your Mother's Tropes: How to Subvert without Alienating Your Readers <i>Speakers: Rachel Dempsey</i> Tropes are the building blocks of literary tradition, but the most exciting works of today are often subversive. Using examples and generative writing exercises, we'll explore ways to balance reader expectations with innovation, how to make old familiar conventions fresh without alienating readers.	Conference Room II
9:00am – 9:50am	2	Comedy (Seriously.) <i>Speakers: Christina Allen</i> No matter your audience, genre, or format, applying the principles that make comedy writing work can take any project from predictable to un-put-downable! This presentation is geared toward writers of any level of experience, with writing from laugh out loud to deathly dramatic.	Conference Room IV
9:00am – 9:50am	3	Serial Fiction: If It Worked for Andy Weir, Can It Work for Me? <i>Speakers: Z.J. Czupor</i> Serial fiction has been around for more than 200 years and is making a comeback with the emergence of technology from social media platforms to television streaming and comic books. This advanced program will explore serial fiction's history, current opportunities, and how it might start or jump start your writing career.	Conference Room V
9:00am – 9:50am	4	Professional Authors Alliance (PAA) Meeting <i>Speakers: Andre Gonzalez</i> A meeting of all members of RMFW's PAA.	Conference Room VI
9:00am – 9:50am	5	Writing with Chronic Illness <i>Speakers: October K Santerelli</i> Chronic illness has a way of making us feel like we aren't doing enough, fast enough. This presentation will examine mental health while writing with chronic illness, as well as ergonomics and self-accommodations to keep you writing more often and for longer amounts of time.	Conference Room VII
9:00am – 9:50am	6	True Crime to Novel: Turn Headline News into Page-Turning Fiction <i>Speakers: Nanette Gamily</i> Ever wonder how to turn an astonishing, newsworthy story into juicy crime fiction? In this workshop, we will talk about how authors turn true crime stories into fiction. Together, we will review examples of contemporary novels and the techniques authors use to make readers turn the page.	Conference Room VIII
9:00am – 11:00am	C	Open Writing Space	Cafe Lounge

10:00am – 10:50am	E How to Endure in Your Writing <i>Speakers: Jason Evans</i> The art and profession of writing can be a thrilling creative endeavor. It can also break you. What do you do when your writing dreams don't come true? What do you do when you feel betrayed by your community and your art? This class will explore the real world issues around being a professional writer.	Conference Room I
10:00am – 10:50am	I Writing about Trauma Without Triggering the Victim <i>Speakers: Nanette Gamily</i> Reading about violence and sexual assault is difficult for readers. As authors, we hope to draw readers closer to our characters and their pain. But how can we create empathy with our readers without distressing them? In this workshop, we will discuss non-graphic approaches to triggering content.	Conference Room II
10:00am – 10:50am	1 Is That Scary? Writing Horror in 2024 <i>Speakers: Stephanie Reisner</i> What scared people in the late 20th century was totally different than what scares most people today. Participants can expect to learn the current popular tropes of the genre, as well as how to build tension in stories meant to terrorize the reader and leave them shaken.	Conference Room III
10:00am – 10:50am	2 Techniques and Tools for the Prolific Writer <i>Speakers: Cindi Myers</i> If you want to write more, write better—and balance all that with a life outside of writing—this workshop is for you. An author of more than 100 published novels gives you tips, tools, and techniques for increasing productivity, and balancing the demands of writing with the rest of your life.	Conference Room IV
10:00am – 10:50am	3 Generating Sales with Facebook Ads <i>Speakers: Andre Gonzalez</i> Many authors believe Facebook Ads no longer work for generating sales. In reality, the platform has become highly competitive thanks to a flood of major corporations. Come learn how to efficiently carve out your space as an author and gain new readers on a platform that still has a billion users.	Conference Room V
10:00am – 10:50am	4 Level Up Your Writing Craft <i>Speakers: Carol Berg</i> The first step toward writing success is not brand or publishing choice, but producing a story that engages, satisfies, and delights readers. Let's look at five solid techniques to take our writing to the next level, avoiding common pitfalls and separating our fiction from the common run.	Conference Room VI
10:00am – 10:50am	5 Exoplanetary Exploration - Realistic Methods for Visiting Alien Worlds <i>Speakers: Calvin Studzinski</i> Science fiction often resorts to fantastical technologies to reach other stars, but could we do it in real life? Explore the real science we would use to explore exoplanets, the dangers involved, and how the restrictions of sub-luminal space travel should inspire gripping sci-fi narratives.	Conference Room VII
10:00am – 10:50am	6 Unlocking Tween Book Marketing: Unique Tactics for Middle Grade Success <i>Speakers: Mariko Tatsumoto</i> Is marketing Middle Grade Books the same as for Adult Books? While many strategies overlap, there are exciting opportunities exclusive to MG Books to boost sales—and have more fun! Join me as we explore the distinctive approaches that differentiate Tween Book Marketing from its adult counterpart.	Conference Room VIII
PINNED 11:00am – 12:30pm	R Gold Rush Winners Brunch <i>Speakers: Bernadette Soehner, Mira Landry, Rachel Dempsey</i> 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 Bernadette Soehner. Also, an impressive, final door prize: a free conference registration for 2025!	Aurora I/II

