



August 11th-14th, 2022

The Quills Conference is our premium writer's weekend set in the beautiful mountains of Utah at Marriott University Park, Salt Lake City and streamed online for virtual attendees.

Come learn from industry professionals what you need to be successful in writing and publishing.

Whether you're looking for traditional publishing or exploring indie publishing, find insider tips from top professionals.

Covid Policy

In order to maintain a safe event, attendees will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to pick up their badges. Mask-wearing in the hotel is strongly encouraged when not eating or drinking and subject to change based on hotel policy.

Notice of Filming and Photography

The League of Utah Writers will take photos of attendees throughout the Quills Conference. These photos are for League use only and may appear on the League website, newsletter, conference brochures, social media outlets, or other future League promotional material.

This also includes photos uploaded using the League conference app. By virtue of your in-person attendance, you agree to usage of your likeness in such media.

2022 Confirmed Special Guests



C. L. Polk
Keynote



C.R. Langille
Acquiring Editor,
Timber Ghost Press



Katherine Monasterio
Editor, BattleTech,
Robotech,
Shadowrun



Lisa Mangum
Acquiring Editor,
Shadow Mountain
(Virtual)



Angie Hodapp
Director Literary
Development, Nelson
Literary



Willy Palomo
Keynote



Christopher Morgan
Acquiring Editor, Tor Books



Bryan Young
Author, Star Wars,
Doctor Who,
BattleTech



Amy Michelle Carpenter
Acquiring Editor,
Monster Ivy Press



Ronald Gerber
Agent, Lowenstein
Associates



Daniel Kraus
Keynote



Michael A. Stackpole
New York Times
Bestselling Author



Chantelle Aimée Osman
Acquiring Editor,
Polis Books



Annalise Errico
Agent, Ladderbird
Literary Agency
(Virtual)

Registration

Super Early Bird Pricing August - December 31st, 2021

Early Bird Pricing May 1 - June 15, 2022

Regular Pricing June 16th, 2022 - August 4th, 2022

Add-on options include: Bootcamps, Agent Pitches, and Headshots

Early Bird - Full conference (no food)

Member Price \$250

General Public \$300

Early Bird - Full Conference w/Food

Member Price \$325

General Public \$375

Full Conference (no food)

Member Price \$325

General Public \$375

Full Conference w/Food

Member Price \$400

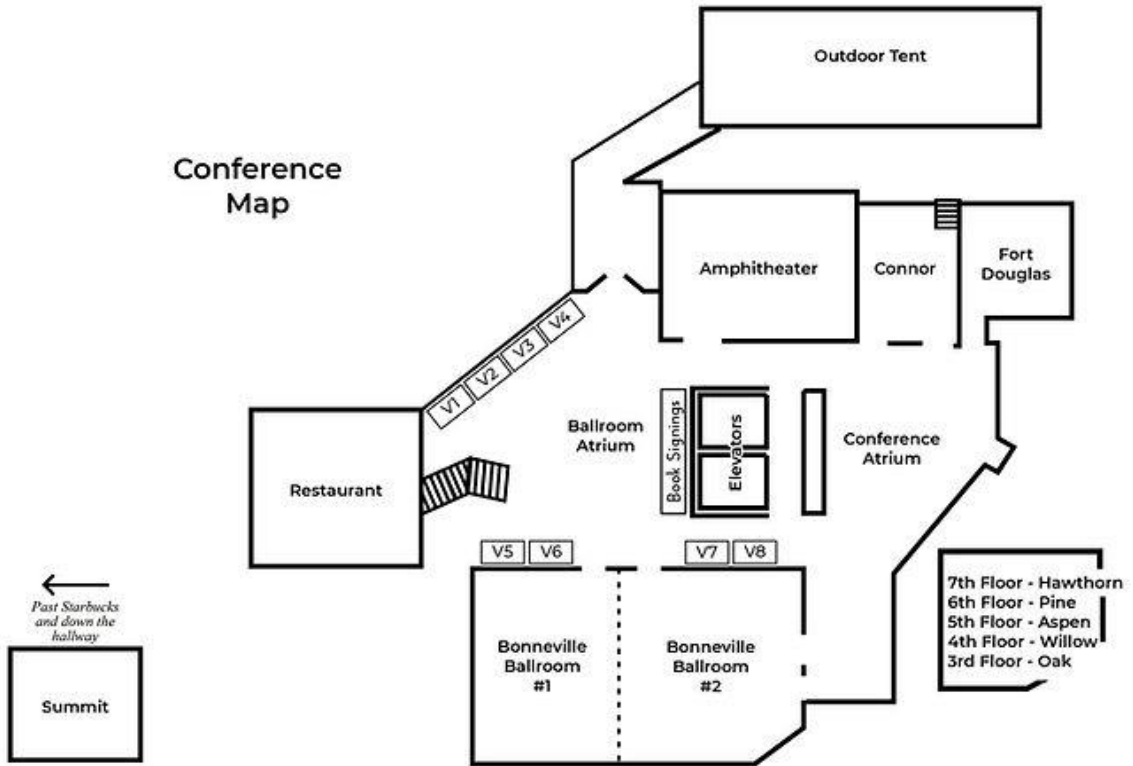
General Public \$450

Discounted Hotel Registration

Book your 2022 conference stay at a
discounted rate with our host, Marriott.

The deadline for this discounted rate is July 20th...
and what a steal at \$115/night!

Conference Map



Schedule At-A-Glance

[Click Here for Downloadable Grid Schedule](#)

Thursday, August 11

Schedule At-a-Glance: Thursday, August 11				
Time	Bonneville Ballroom	Connor	Summit	Amphitheater
9:00am-10:30am	Publishing Prep Boot Camp: Manuscript, Query, Synopsis - Chantelle Aimée Osman, Michael A. Stackpole, Bryan Young		Marketing Boot Camp: Amazon, TikTok, and Website - Caryn Larrinaga, Candace J. Thomas, and Sofiya Pasternack	
10:45am-11:30am				
11:45am-12:30pm				
12:30pm-1:50pm				
2:00pm-5:00pm	Workshop: Graphic Design for Authors - Alex Jay Lore	Workshop: Punch Up Your Prose: Crafting Knockout Syntax - Katherine Monasterio	Workshop: Writing Sci-Fi and Fantasy - Bryan Young	Workshop: Writing Dynamic Flash Fiction - Chantelle Aimée Osman
5:00pm-7:00pm			LUW Board Meeting	
7:00pm-9:00pm	Opening Mixer - cash bar			

Friday, August 12

Schedule At-a-Glance: Friday, August 12								
Time	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2	Connor	Ft. Douglas	Summit	Amphitheater	Tent	Willow
9:00am-9:50am	Opening Ceremony - Bryan Young, Rachael Bush							
10:00am-10:50am	Agent intro - Ronald Gerber, Angie Hodapp (Videos of recorded agents: Lisa Mangum, Annalise Erico, Z. R. Eilor, Hannah Andrade)		Mastering the Art of Networking in the Writing Community - Jared Quan	Become a Plot Jedi with Save the Cat - All Cross	Delving Deeply into Point of View - Callee Stoker	Small Presses: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly - Laya V. Smith		Short Story Prep and Submission - John M. Olsen
	Editor intro - Chantelle Aimée Osman, C.R. Langille, Christopher Morgan, Jared Taylor, Elizabeth Wallace, Amy Michelle Carpenter							
11:00am-11:50am			Milestones to Reach in Your First Chapter - Katherine Monasterio	Venturing into Vella - Kendra Griffin	Writing as a Business - Christopher Morgan	Comma, Semicolon, Hyphen, Dash: One Hour to Better Mechanics - Angie Hodapp		
12:30pm-1:50pm	Networking Lunch							
2:00pm-2:50pm			Writing Historically - An Overview - Jared Taylor & Elizabeth Wallace	Writing for Hire: Is It For You? - Betsy Kemper	Plotting - Michael A. Stackpole	Unravelling the Mystery of Mysteries - Chantelle Aimée Osman		Comedy (Seriously.) - Christina Allen
3:00pm-3:50pm		Pitch Block A - Andrade (5 virtual), Carpenter (5 virtual), Eilor (5 virtual), Erico (5 virtual), Gerber (5), Hodapp (5), Morgan (5), Osman (5), Taylor & Wallace (5)	Breaking Into Freelance Journalism - Cassidy Ward	Nailing the YA Essentials - Jodi L. Milner	Self-Editing Tricks - John M. Olsen			Discovering Diamonds in your Family History - Jared Quan
4:00pm-4:50pm	YA vs. Middle Grade: Differences and How to Nail Them - Sofya Pasternack (Moderator), E. K. Johnston, Daniel Kraus, Candace J. Thomas, Christina Allen	Pitch Block B - Andrade (5 virtual), Carpenter (5), Eilor (5 virtual), Erico (5 virtual), Gerber (5), Hodapp (5 virtual), Langille (5), Morgan (5), Osman (5), Taylor & Wallace (5)		Marketing in the New Millennium - All Cross	Introduction to the Forensic Sciences - Utah Bureau of Forensic Sciences - Andy Patejka, Samantha Hammond, and Michele Marlon	Building Tension: Surprise vs. Suspense - Bryan Young	Intro to Swordfighting for Writers - Jordan Hinckley	Publishing Anthologies as an Indie or Small Press - Cayn Larrinaga
5:00pm-5:50pm	Diversifying Your Writing Portfolio: Alex Jay Lore (moderator), Cassidy Ward, E.K. Johnston, K.B. Wagers, Daniel Kraus, Bryan Young	Pitch Block C- Carpenter (5), Erico (5 virtual), Gerber (5), Hodapp (5), Langille (5 virtual), Mangum (5 virtual), Osman (5), Taylor & Wallace (5 virtual)	Kid Lit 101 - Christina Allen			Anti-Ableism in Storytelling - Callee Stoker		Writing Fairies and Dragons - Candace J. Thomas
6:00 pm - 6:50 pm								
7:00pm-8:30pm	Keynote dinner with E.K. Johnston - Don't Quit Your Day Job: The Quest for Balance							
9pm-9:50pm					Horror After Dark - Cassidy Ward (moderator), C.R. Langille, Daniel Kraus, Chantelle Aimée Osman	Romance After Dark - Alex Jay Lore (moderator), E.K. Johnston, Rachael Bush, K.B. Wagers		

Saturday, August 13

Schedule At-a-Glance: Saturday, August 13								
Time	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2	Connor	Ft. Douglas	Summit	Amphitheater	Tent	Willow
8:00am-8:50am	Secrets of Early Risers (hint, it's mimosas) - Bryan Young, Michael A. Stackpole, Chantelle Airmée Osman			Morning Meditation and Writer Wellbeing: Block - Johnny Worthen				
9:00am-9:50am	Writing to Change the World - Bryan Young (moderator) - E.K. Johnston, K.B. Wagers, Christopher Morgan, Chantelle-Airmée Osman, Cassidy Ward		Conflict and Microtension: Creating a Page-Turner - C.R. Langille	Secret Genres that Can Turn Your Book Into Gold - All Cross	Navigating a Path to Find Your Work/Life Balance - Jared Quan	Manuscript Issues This Editor Always Flags - Katherine Monasterio		
10:00am-10:50am	Agents Panel, Stuff they're seeing, trends, etc. - Ronald Gerber, Angie Hodapp		Finding the Story - Michael A. Stackpole	Writing Inclusively - Alex Jay Lore	Writing a Children's Book is Harder Than You Think! - Elby Kemper	The Endurance of Grief - K.B. Wagers	Intro to Swordfighting for Writers - Jordan Hinckley	The Writer's Ego: How to Cultivate Core Confidence - Laya V. Smith
11:00am-11:50am		Beyond Goal-Plus-Conflict: A Better Way to Get Tension on Every Page - Angie Hodapp	Torture & Success: Power of Personality Type - Amy Michelle Carpenter	Capturing the Illusive Voice - Calle Stoker	So, You Want to Sell Your Art? - Christopher Morgan	Goals for Writers - John M. Olsen		
12:30pm-1:50pm	Keynote Lunch with Daniel Kraus - Pursued by Monsters							
2:00pm-2:50pm			Ask an Agent - Ronald Gerber	The ANGST Quotient in YA Fiction - Jodi L. Milner	Introduction to the Forensic Sciences - Utah Bureau of Forensic Sciences - Andy Pacejka, Samantha Hammond, and Michele Marfori	Fanfic Tropes to Spice Up Your Original Fiction - Katherine Monasterio	Bow Hunting for Elk - C.R. Langille	Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Messages - Christina Allen
3:00pm-3:50pm	Writing Tie-In Fiction - Michael A. Stackpole, E.K. Johnston, Bryan Young	Pitch Block D - Andrade (5 virtual), Carpenter (5), Eltor (5 virtual), Errico (5 virtual), Gerber (5), Hodapp (5), Langille (5), Morgan (5), Osman (5)	Meeting Your Own Protagonist - Kendra Griffin	How to Co-Write Without Killing Each Other - Laya V. Smith			Headshot Block D - Doncouse (5)	
4:00pm-4:50pm		Pitch Block E - Andrade (5 virtual), Carpenter (5), Eltor (5 virtual), Errico (5 virtual), Gerber (5 virtual), Hodapp (5), Langille (5), Mangum (5 virtual), Morgan (5), Osman (5 virtual)	Spreadsheet Editing: Intermediate - Calle Stoker	The Art of Active Setting - Jodi L. Milner	Setups, Payoffs, and Endings - Bryan Young	What Baggage To Pack: Worldbuilding for Each Genre - E.K. Johnston	Headshot Block E - Doncouse (5)	
5:00pm-5:50pm				Writing Scenes with Multiple Characters - Kendra Griffin	You Call Yourself a Writer? - Elby Kemper	Alternate Reality Storytelling - Willy Palomo		
6:00pm-8:00pm	Quills Awards Ceremony Banquet							

Sunday, August 14

Schedule At-a-Glance: Sunday, August 14						
Time	Ballroom 1	Ballroom 2	Connor	Ft. Douglas	Summit	Amphitheater
8:00am-8:50am				Morning Meditation and Writer Wellbeing: Third Person Limited - Johnny Worthen		
9:00am-10:50am	Poet's Breakfast with Keynote Willy Palomo - Cultivating earlessness: Literature as (Dis)					
11:00am-1:50pm			Workshop: Writing the Ensemble Cast - Angie Hodapp	Workshop: Setting the Stage, Quaking the Page - Willy Palomo	Workshop: Fight! Fight! Fight! - KB Wagers	Workshop: Creating Reader Engagement and Retention - Michael A. Stackpole
2:00pm-2:30 pm	Closing Ceremony - Bryan Young, Rachael Bush					

Vendor Tables

A limited number of vendor tables are available for sale. To purchase your table, please fill out the form:

Agents and Editors

*Please note, life sometimes happens.

Agents and Editors are subject to change.

To sign up for pitches, log in to your registration and hit next until you find the listed pitch sessions.



Amy Michelle Carpenter

Michelle is the owner of Monster Ivy, a company known for creating “edgy, clean” stories: predominantly horror, fantasy, thrillers, and romcoms that grapple with tough topics, at a rating of PG-13 or less. Monster Ivy sells books to fans across the globe and includes multiple bestselling and award-winning titles. The Kiss List has been produced as a movie with Warner Bros Discovery releasing soon, starring Megan Suri (“Never Have I Ever”), Parminder Nagra (“Bend it Like Beckham”), and Lachlan Watson (“Chilling Adventures of Sabrina”). The company donates 10 percent of website sales to fight trafficking.

Looking for:

Monster Ivy is dedicated to clean fiction with a darker bite, rated PG-13 or less. We are especially are on the lookout for:

- YA fantasy
- YA thrillers, horror, & romcoms
- YA contemporary about tough issues
- Middle-grade horror/ books with a creepy twist

-Adult inspirational, Christian fiction

We are happy to review anything that fits our guidelines. We will NOT accept erotica.



Angie Hodapp

The Director of Literary Development at Nelson Literary Agency, I'm a story geek with an eye for what works and the ability to articulate various ways authors can take their writing and storytelling to the next level. I believe in the power of story to elevate, transform, and heal, and I love to be anywhere writers are gathered.

Looking for:

Commercial, upmarket, and literary fiction for the adult market. Especially interested in voicey, character-driven, high-concept, emotionally engaging stories in the women's fiction, thriller, speculative, book-club, and rom-com spaces. We love dark as much as we love delightful and charming! Currently unlikely to take on urban fantasy, high fantasy, YA fantasy, military sci-fi, space opera, cozy mystery, police procedural, westerns, or historicals set during the Civil War or WWII unless there's a unique high-concept, subversive, or crossover twist we haven't seen done before. Unfortunately, I won't be taking pitches for inspirational fiction, middle grade, chapter books, picture books, short-story collections, novellas, memoir, nonfiction, poetry, scripts, or screenplays.



Annalise Errico

Annalise is a graduate of Lesley University where she earned a B.A. in Creative writing with a double minor in Literature and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. She is excited about uplifting stories by authors with marginalized voices and intersectional identities, ultimately making room for the diverse voices that have long since been ignored and suppressed in the literary world and beyond. When she isn't agenting, Annalise spends an excessive amount of time snuggling with her cat, Mittens, and writing romance novels that are more swoony than strictly necessary

Looking for:

Annalise is looking for more queer, BIPOC representation across the board, especially in romances that give Happily Ever Afters to complex and palpable characters.

Fiction

Adult

Romance:

Romance is Annalise's genre of choice, especially when they center on queer and BIPOC protagonists and love interests, such as Talia Hibbert's "Take a Hint, Dani Brown". Annalise wants to see queer/BIPOC historical fiction (think a queer "A League of Extraordinary Women" or Cat Sebastian); queer/BIPOC baking rom-coms; queer/BIPOC holiday romances; books that tackle the intersection of romance and mental health like "The Charm Offensive" (the topic of fame is a plus!); and anything that's warm and cozy. Romances about bisexual women sit particularly close to Annalise's heart. HEAs or HFNs are a must (per rules of the genre, and Annalise's adoration). Her favorite tropes are enemies-to-lovers; serious-and-sunshine; and second-chance romance. She does not accept erotica or romances featuring unhealthy or abusive relationships to any degree.

Mysteries/Thrillers:

Annalise is looking for queer/BIPOC thrillers that function as social commentary such as Alyssa Cole's "When No One Is Watching" and queer/BIPOC historical mysteries like Nekesa Afia's "Dead Dead Girls". She loves novels with interesting formats such as compilations of files and articles (think "Night Film" by Marisha Pessl). She is always intrigued by complex who-dun-its. It is hard to sell Annalise on thrillers that feature violence against women as their main plot. She is not a good fit for supernatural, ungrounded thrillers; thrillers that border too close to horror; gore-heavy thrillers; or thrillers that use the "bury your gays" and/or "fridging" trope. Annalise is looking for thrillers that feature a mystery of some kind: queer/BIPOC Agatha Christie is her dream mystery/thriller. She loves dark academia with a historical mystery. She is not looking for medical or apocalyptic thrillers.

Commercial/Women's/Contemporary Fiction:

Annalise wants character-driven contemporary fiction that has enough plot movement to keep the reader invested (no character studies, please!). She likes books that use alternative formats (like "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid) and question the boundaries of typical contemporary fiction. Books with social commentary about queer/BIPOC characters finding their way in life — think "Luster" and "Such a Fun Age" — are also a good fit for Annalise. She loves books that focus in on fictional celebrities or reflect upon fame such as "The Comeback" by Ella Berman and "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Books with happy endings are a plus. Annalise also wants fiction featuring change as a thematic focal point with unabashed self-love and romance, like Claire Christian's "It's Been A Pleasure, Noni Blake".

New Adult

Annalise wants New Adult romance and contemporary fiction that focuses on found family and a during- or post-college bildungsroman plot. She would especially like to see fiction set immediately post-college that follows the queer/BIPOC protagonist's trials and tribulations in the "real world" or warm and nerdy new adult like "Fangirl". It is hard to sell Annalise on a new adult book that doesn't feature romance in some facet. Any genre mentioned on this page, Annalise would love to see in a New Adult space.

Young Adult

Annalise is focusing on representing YA manuscripts that sit squarely in the

upper-YA/new adult crossover space. This means that character ages should reflect the manuscript's content. The ideal character ages for this space is approximately 17 to 21.

Historical:

Annalise wants YA historical fiction that focuses in on a lost perspective such as Stacey Lee's "The Downstairs Girl". While it doesn't have to be a foremost plot, she wants romance in her historical novels. As with all things, having a queer component is going to make work more appealing.

Graphic Novels:

Annalise will accept YA graphic novels by author/illustrators (only) who focus in on marginalized experiences (whether in a realistic or fantastical world). She wants sweet graphic novels like "The Tea Dragon Society" by K. O'Neill or emotionally resonant ones like "On A Sunbeam" by Tillie Walden. Graphic novel submissions may sit firmly in the YA space.

Fantasy:

Annalise wants upper YA/new adult low-key fantasies that don't break the mental bank, like "The House in the Cerulean Sea". She also loves grounded, perhaps supernatural, fantasies dosed with romance such as "The Ex Hex". She loves the idea of a cottagecore fantasy. While the cozier the better, she is also looking for fantasies that are firmly historical and grounded like "The Last Magician" or "These Violent Delights". She would also love a dark academia fantasy like "Vicious", but if Eli and Victor fell in love. Witchy fantasies that focus on queer women of color (think "When We Were Magic" by Sarah Gailey) are also a good fit for Annalise. She is not a good fit for dragon/creature, fae, or epic/high fantasy of any kind.

Mystery/Thriller:

She is looking for mysteries and thrillers that have elements of YA contemporary such as bildungsroman plots and romance (especially LGBTQIA+) but doesn't stray too far into high-school drama (think "A Good Girl's Guide to Murder" by Holly Jackson or "Truly Devious" by Maureen Johnson). Like Adult mysteries/thrillers, she does not want anything that ventures too far into horror. She would like to see any of the aforementioned adult mystery/thriller concepts in a YA-appropriate setting.

Contemporary:

Annalise is looking for quirky and offbeat books that focus in on ride-or-die women-centric friendships. She also wants queer, BIPOC rom-coms like “I Wish You All the Best” by Mason Deaver that have found family elements and are shamelessly romantic. She loves romances that feature large families that are realistic and honest (think Morgan Matson). An ideal contemporary for Annalise would be set during the MC’s senior year of high school/first year of college. She does not want stereotypical high-school drama (no mean girls, please!) or tropes like cheating, nor does she want YA Romeo and Juliet retellings in any way, shape, or form.

Non-Fiction

Annalise is looking for narrative nonfiction centering in on women’s stories and queer stories, such as: true crime with a feminist lens (think “We Keep the Dead Close” by Becky Cooper); memoirs that focus on identity and intersectionality (think “Know My Name” by Chanel Miller) or alternative formatting (think “In The Dream House” by Carmen Maria Machado); and research-heavy historical narratives about queer or feminist icons (think “Romantic Outlaws” by Charlotte Gordon). Annalise does not want medical or war-time memoirs.

What she is NOT looking for:

Picture Books

Middle Grade

Literary Fiction

Horror

Science Fiction

Apocalyptic/pandemic-related Fiction

or Poetry at this time.



C.R. Langille

C.R. Langille spent many a Saturday afternoon watching monster movies with their mother. It wasn't long before they started crafting nightmares to share with their readers. They are a retired, disabled veteran with a deep love for weird and creepy tales. This prompted them to form Timber Ghost Press in January of 2021. They are an affiliate member of the Horror Writer's Association, a member of the League of Utah Writers, and they received their MFA: Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University.

Looking for:

We are looking for novels and novellas that fall into the following horror categories:

Hauntings

Possession

Cosmic Horror

Weird Horror

Sci-Fi/Horror

Old West/Horror

Gothic Horror



Chantelle Aimée Osman

Chantelle Aimée Osman (she/her) is the editor of Agora Books, an award-winning imprint focusing on socially and culturally unique crime fiction and horror. She was named a Publishers Weekly Rising Star honoree in 2020, and is also a professor at the LIU Brooklyn Polk School of Communication MFA in Writing and Publishing, an instructor at the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Authors at Large and LitReactor. Chantelle is the author of the non-fiction series on writing *The Quick and Dirty Guides To...*, has published numerous works of short fiction, and served as the editor of multiple anthologies, including the upcoming *Jewish Noir, Volume 2* from PM Press. Chantelle serves as creative consultant for Zestworld Comics' *The Awakened* and co-writes *Interpop's The Rejects* with comic veteran Alex Segura. She hosts the *Words of Prey* podcast on the Pipeline Artists Network. Find her online at chantelleaimee.com and on Twitter @SuspenseSiren.

Looking for:

Crime fiction and horror with unique social and cultural themes, particularly from underrepresented voices.



Christopher Morgan

He/Him. Christopher Morgan is a happily transplanted Texan living in NYC and working his dream job at Tom Doherty Associates. As an acquiring editor he is looking for new perspectives and new voices when it comes to Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Thrillers.

Looking for:

Adult fiction, Fantasy, Thrillers, Science Fiction, and Romance



Hannah Andrade

Hannah started as an agency assistant before moving on to acquire her own clients. She's been with Bradford Literary Agency since 2017 and has had the privilege to work with a number of bestselling authors across a variety of genres. She likes to think of herself as an editorial-focused agent and is particularly eager to acquire BIPOC/underrepresented voices. She is prioritizing stories of joy where identity isn't the focus and is especially excited about stories rooted in history, mythology, and legends, particularly those that are lesser-known or underrepresented in traditional publishing.

Looking for:

For fiction, I'm seeking SFF, mystery, thriller, and commercial fiction. I'm also looking for YA, middle grade, and picture books. In nonfiction, I'm looking for titles relevant to the arts and sciences.



Jared Taylor & Elizabeth Wallace

Jared Taylor hails from the world of public education. He began his professional career as a high school history teacher and later became a Principal, before moving into educational publishing. Jared is passionate about working on projects that support educators and inspire students to engage in civic participation and service in their communities, and the world. His historical expertise lies at the intersection of war, society, and culture. Jared is currently the Publisher at Gibbs Smith Education and oversees acquisitions, production, and sales of their award-winning print and digital classroom products.

Liz's was sent as a pdf

Looking for:

YA Historical Fiction (diverse characters), 3-6th grade short stories (historically based on under-represented groups), Historical non-fiction writers for 6-9th grade



Katherine Odom-Tomchin

Kat is the Audio Rights Director and a literary agent at Folio Literary Management. As Audio Rights Director, she works hard to strategically place the agency's audio rights with the most effective audio publishers possible. She also acts as a subagent for BenBella, an independent publishing house based in Dallas, TX known for publishing a range of nonfiction titles, and places audio rights for the storied authors of Harold Ober Associates and Emma Sweeney Agency.

Kat graduated from the UF with a major in English and a minor in Mass Communications. She completed her certificate in Business Contracts at Cornell.

Looking for:

When thinking about the books I most like to represent, or most like to read, and even the television and movies I watch time and time again, I often come back to a few constants:

For fiction, I most enjoy dark, mind-bending narratives, often with a unique world-building element, that strike a chord with their audience. Whatever genre - horror, science fiction, psychological thrillers, etc. - I find myself struck by stories that reveal some dark, hidden facts about the people or world around us. That said, I also have a soft spot for LGBTQIA+ fiction, which I read guiltily while the latest Stephen King novel sits judging me from my bedside table.

I'm driven most to read and represent memoirs and narrative nonfiction that tell stories of triumph over extreme hardship on the non-fiction side. I'm an avid consumer of true crime by writers personally invested in the story that they are telling and/or with inside information in a case, whether cold or solved. I will pick up the occasional science and psychology book by an expert in their field to better understand myself and how the world operates. A good

rule of thumb when submitting a proposal to me is to consider the marketability of your work. Does your work/your platform have publicity potential? If the answer is yes, I'm usually intrigued.

Psychological Thriller: My most recent favorite is Elaine Murphy's LOOK WHAT YOU MADE ME DO.

Grounded/Hard Science Fiction - Driven more by characters and voice that imagines a world altered in some way by a scientific discovery or happening. Good examples are SEVERANCE by Ling Ma, ANNIHILATION by Jeff VanderMeer, and THE MARTIAN.

Horror - less gore and paranormal than the typical slasher or ghost story. More in line with titles like THE FINAL GIRL SUPPORT GROUP, SHUTTER ISLAND, THE HANDMAID'S TALE, or MISERY. Am open to titles like THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE and IT, but characters and writing must carry the story.

LGBTQIA+

Psychology

Memoir

True Crime - think MINDHUNTER by John E. Douglas and Mark Olshaker or I'LL BE GONE IN THE DARK by Michelle McNamara

Narrative Nonfiction

Science

Underrepresented Voices

***I do not currently represent YA or middle grade content.



Lisa Mangum

Lisa Mangum has worked in publishing since 1997. She has been the Managing Editor for Shadow Mountain since 2014 and has worked with several New York Times best-selling authors. While fiction is her first love, she also has experience working with nonfiction projects.

Lisa is also the author of four national best-selling YA novels (The Hourglass Door trilogy and After Hello), several short stories and novellas, and a nonfiction book about the craft of writing based on the TV show Supernatural. She has edited several anthologies. She currently lives in Taylorsville, Utah, with her husband, Tracy.

Looking for:

Fiction

empathy-building, contemporary middle grade novels
middle grade fantasy
historical romance (Regency, Victorian, Edwardian, etc.)
women's fiction
YA fiction
general fiction
historical fiction

Nonfiction

historical nonfiction
inspirational nonfiction
middle grade nonfiction
cookbooks
religious content for non-denominal audience



Nicole Eisenbraun

Nicole Eisenbraun is an Agent and the Translation Rights Manager at Ginger Clark Literary. She graduated from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and got her start in publishing at Curtis Brown, Ltd. She is a member of the AALA Contracts and Copyright Committees and lives in Brooklyn.

Looking for:

Young Adult and Middle Grade in all genres.

For MG, I am particularly interested in multigenerational family stories, and adventure stories full of friendship.

For YA, I love a good fairytale retelling and am looking for a good thriller/mystery.



Ronald Gerber

Ronald Gerber is a literary agent and manages foreign rights, permissions, and contracts at Lowenstein Associates. Before joining the Lowenstein team in 2019, he spent several years in literary scouting and supported two agents at Writers House. Ronald's clients have books forthcoming from Simon & Schuster, St. Martin's Press, and more. His focus is on cinematic stories with strong hooks and relatable characters, and he is always looking for projects from queer, BIPOC, and other underrepresented authors. Ronald resides in Queens, New York with his wife and way too many books and DVDs.

Looking for:

Contemporary fiction, historical fiction, literary fiction, upmarket romance, romantic comedies, domestic and psychological thrillers, horror, women's fiction, grounded sci-fi, memoir, biography, narrative nonfiction, middle grade.



Stacey Kondla

Stacey Kondla is a literary agent with The Rights Factory. She represents a variety of clients with works that include adult literary fiction, science fiction & fantasy, rom-coms, historical, nonfiction science, and children's picture books, middle grade, and young adult titles. Her background includes working as a Field Representative for Scholastic Book Fairs, managing at two different big box book stores, freelance editing, and serving on the organizing committee of When Words Collide (A Festival for Readers and Writers).

Looking for:

Fiction:

Contemporary

Fantasy

Feminist

Graphic novel

Historical

Horror/Supernatural

LGBTQ+

Literary

Mainstream/Commercial (incl. magical realism)

Middle Grade

Mystery/Crime

Romance (prefer RomCom's)

Science fiction

Speculative fiction/myths & fairy tales

Suspense/Thriller

Upmarket commercial/Book club

Women's fiction

Young Adult

Nonfiction:

History/biography

Narrative nonfiction
Pop culture
Science
Women's issues

Stacey would love to see quality narrative nonfiction science proposals with a strong preference for biological sciences over mathematical sciences, fresh new horror concepts and reinvented gothic tales for children or adults. She also loves feminist fiction across genres, would love to see a great Victorian romance or mystery with a fresh new twist and set in an interesting location, and BIPOC stories across genres and age categories. She can only consider unpublished manuscripts. Stacey is open to most genres and categories, but please no poetry, no memoir, no erotica, and no politics.



Z. R. Ellor

Zabé Ellor is an author and literary agent at The Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency

Looking for:

For fiction, I'm seeking SFF, mystery, thriller, and commercial fiction. I'm also looking for YA, middle grade, and picture books. In nonfiction, I'm looking for title relevant to the arts and sciences.

Faculty List

*Please note, life sometimes happens.
Special guests and presenters are subject to change.
Listed in alphabetical order by first name.



Ali Cross

Ali Cross is a happiness enthusiast and believer in hope and magic. A USA Today bestselling author, motivational speaker and story development coach, Ali writes young adult fantasy and science fiction as Ali Archer, and Christian romantic suspense as Ali Noble.

Presentations/Panels

Build Your Story Roadmap with Save the Cat
Secret Genres that Can Turn Your Book into Gold
Marketing in the New Millennium



Amy Michelle Carpenter

Michelle is the owner of Monster Ivy, a company known for creating “edgy, clean” stories: predominantly horror, fantasy, thrillers, and romcoms that grapple with tough topics, at a rating of PG-13 or less. Monster Ivy sells books to fans across the globe and includes multiple bestselling and award-winning titles. The Kiss List has been produced as a movie with Warner Bros Discovery releasing soon, starring Megan Suri (“Never Have I Ever”), Parminder Nagra (“Bend it Like Beckham”), and Lachlan Watson (“Chilling Adventures of Sabrina”). The company donates 10 percent of website sales to fight trafficking.

Presentations/Panels

Torture & Success: Power of Personality Type



Andy Pacejka, Samantha Hammond , Michele Marfori with Utah Bureau of Forensic Services

Andy has worked for the the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services (a.k.a. State Crime Lab) for 19 years. He started in the Forensic Biology Section, performing casework in Serology (19 years) and DNA Analysis (5 years). For the past 13 years, he has served as the supervisor for the ID Section, which has covered Fingerprint analysis, Bloodstain Pattern analysis, and Footwear and Tire Tread analysis. Additionally, Andy does casework in Fingerprints (7 years). Andy also has been part of the UBFS Crime Scene Response Team (18 years), and has served as Team Lead (6 years). External to the UBFS, Andy is a member of the Friction Ridge Subcommittee for NIST's Organization of Scientific Area Committees, sits on the Forensic Science Advisory Board for Utah Valley University, and also is a member of various scientific associations.

Presentations/Panels

Introduction to the Forensic Sciences



Angie Hodapp

The Director of Literary Development at Nelson Literary Agency, I'm a story geek with an eye for what works and the ability to articulate various ways authors can take their writing and storytelling to the next level. I believe in the

power of story to elevate, transform, and heal, and I love to be anywhere writers are gathered.

Presentations/Panels

Comma, Semicolon, Hyphen, Dash: One Hour to Better Mechanics

Beyond Goal-Plus-Conflict: A Better Way to Get Tension on Every Page

Writing the Ensemble Cast



Bitsy Kemper

Bitsy is an award-winning author of 16 children's books. She spent too much of her early career in the computer industry being interviewed in places like CNN and co-writing a nationally-syndicated newspaper column, not realizing the creative passion she'd find writing children's books. Now, when not nose down & knee deep creating, you'll find her at hot yoga or eating dark chocolate. Bitsy is an accomplished speaker, mother of three (four if you count her husband), and according to her business card, a really nice gal.

Presentations/Panels

Writing a Children's Book is Harder Than You Think!

Writing For Hire: Is it for you?



Bryan Young

Bryan Young (he/they) works across many different media. His work as a writer and producer has been called "filmmaking gold" by The New York Times. He's also published comic books with Slave Labor Graphics and Image Comics. He's been a regular contributor for the Huffington Post, StarWars.com, Star Wars Insider magazine, SYFY, /Film, and was the

founder and editor in chief of the geek news and review site Big Shiny Robot! IN 2014, he wrote the critically acclaimed history book, A Children's Illustrated History of Presidential Assassination. He co-authored Robotech: The Macross Saga RPG has written two books in the BattleTech Universe: Honor's Gauntlet and A Question of Survival. He teaches writing for Writer's Digest, Script Magazine, and at the University of Utah. Follow him on Twitter @swankmotron.

Presentations/Panels

Publishing Prep Boot Camp: Manuscript, Query, Synopsis
Setups, Payoffs, and Endings
The Agent Hour: Tips, Tricks, and Trends
Writing Tie-In Fiction
Writing to Change the World
Secrets of Early Risers (hint, it's mimosas)
How to Write in 15 minutes - Live Recording



C.R. Langille

C.R. Langille spent many a Saturday afternoon watching monster movies with their mother. It wasn't long before they started crafting nightmares to share with their readers. They are a retired, disabled veteran with a deep love for weird and creepy tales. This prompted them to form Timber Ghost Press in January of 2021. They are an affiliate member of the Horror Writer's Association, a member of the League of Utah Writers, and they received their MFA: Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University.

Presentations/Panels

Bow Hunting for Elk
Conflict and Microtension: Creating a Page-Turner
Horror After Dark



Callie Stoker

Callie Stoker is an editor with over fifteen years of experience and a knack for knowing what makes a story shine. Her business, The Manuscript Dr, specializes in supporting writers and teaching them skills to improve their craft. Callie has two children on the Autism Spectrum and is a champion for spreading awareness and acceptance for those with disabilities. She has a theater and costuming background with a love for cosplay and is an artist with over twenty years as a calligrapher. She is a member of the Editorial Freelancers Association, the Horror Writers Association, and The League of Utah Writers.

Presentations/Panels

Anti-Ableism in Storytelling
Capturing the Illusive Voice
Delving Deeply into Point of View
Spreadsheet Editing



Candace J. Thomas

Candace J. Thomas is an author, editor, and hybrid publisher. Her debut novel won the Diamond Quill for Novel of the Year in 2013. That feels like forever ago. She's done a ton since then.

Presentations/Panels

Marketing Boot Camp: Amazon, TikTok, and Website
Poetic Styles: Making Every Word Count
YA vs. Middle Grade: Differences and How to Nail Them
Writing Fairies and Dragons



Caryn Larrinaga

Caryn Larrinaga is a Basque-American mystery and horror writer. She has won multiple awards for her work, including the League of Utah Writers Silver Quill and the Cat Writers Association Muse Medallion. In 2021, she was named Writer of the Year by the League of Utah Writers. Caryn is an active member of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, the Horror Writers Association, the Cat Writers Association, and the League of Utah Writers. Visit www.carynlarrinaga.com for free stories and true tales of haunted places.

Presentations/Panels

Marketing Boot Camp: Amazon, TikTok, and Website
Publishing Anthologies as an Indie or Small Press



Cassidy G. Ward

Cassidy Ward is a writer specializing in science and pop culture. He's written for SYFY, StarTrek.com, Observer, The Daily Beast, and more, and his debut novella, Ravel, is available now. You can find his shortest writings, by virtue of character limits, on Twitter.

Presentations/Panels

Diversifying Your Writing Portfolio
Writing to Change the World
Horror After Dark
Breaking Into Freelance Journalism
Beating Writer's Block



Chantelle Aimée Osman

Chantelle Aimée Osman (she/her) is the editor of Agora Books, an award-winning imprint focusing on socially and culturally unique crime fiction and horror. She was named a Publishers Weekly Rising Star honoree in 2020, and is also a professor at the LIU Brooklyn Polk School of Communication MFA in Writing and Publishing, an instructor at the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Authors at Large and LitReactor. Chantelle is the author of the non-fiction series on writing *The Quick and Dirty Guides To...*, has published numerous works of short fiction, and served as the editor of multiple anthologies, including the upcoming *Jewish Noir, Volume 2* from PM Press. Chantelle serves as creative consultant for Zestworld Comics' *The Awakened* and co-writes *Interpop's The Rejects* with comic veteran Alex Segura. She hosts the *Words of Prey* podcast on the Pipeline Artists Network. Find her online at chantelleaimee.com and on Twitter @SuspenseSiren.

Presentations/Panels

Writing to Change the World

Secrets of Early Risers (hint, it's mimosas)

Publishing Prep Boot Camp: Manuscript, Query, Synopsis

How to Write in 15 minutes - Live Recording

Unraveling the Mystery of Mysteries



Christina Allen

Christina Allen (publishing as C.W. Allen) is a Midwestern transplant to rural Utah, where she serves as the League of Utah Writers newsletter editor and the president of the West Desert Wordsmiths chapter. She writes fantasy novels for tweens, picture books for children, and short stories and poems for

former children. Her middle grade novels *Relatively Normal Secrets* and *The Secret Benefits of Invisibility* are out now, with many more stories waiting in the wings. Follow her latest projects at cwallenbooks.com.

Presentations/Panels

Kid Lit 101

Comedy (seriously.)

YA vs. Middle Grade: Differences and How to Nail Them

Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Messages



Christopher Morgan

He/Him. Christopher Morgan is a happily transplanted Texan living in NYC and working his dream job at Tom Doherty Associates. As an acquiring editor he is looking for new perspectives and new voices when it comes to Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Thrillers.

Presentations/Panels

Writing as a Business

So, You Want to Sell Your Art?



Daniel Kraus

DANIEL KRAUS is a New York Times bestselling author. His collaboration with legendary filmmaker George A. Romero, *The Living Dead*, was acclaimed by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Kraus's *The Death and Life of Zebulon Finch* was named one of *Entertainment Weekly's* Top 10 Books of the Year. With Guillermo del Toro, he co-authored *The*

Shape of Water, based on the same idea the two created for the Oscar-winning film. Also with del Toro, Kraus co-authored Trollhunters, which was adapted into the Emmy-winning Netflix series. Kraus has won a Scribe Award, two Odyssey Awards (Rotters and Scowler) and has been a Library Guild selection, YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults, multiple Bram Stoker finalist, and more.

Presentations/Panels

Diversifying Your Writing Portfolio

Horror After Dark

YA vs. Middle Grade: Differences and How to Nail Them



Daniel Kraus, K.B. Wagers, Bryan Young, Cassidy G Ward, and Alex Jay Lore (moderator)

Alex Jay Lore (he/him) is a queer and trans author of science fiction and fantasy with LGBTQ+ protagonists. His debut, EMPIRE OF LIGHT, written as Alex Harrow, is out now from NineStar Press.

Presentations/Panels

Diversifying Your Writing Portfolio

Romance After Dark

Graphic Design for Authors

Writing Inclusively



Jared Quan

Jared Quan is an Author/Gamer/Writer – Twitch Affiliate, former writer for Sports Illustrated and Yahoo. Published works include Changing Wax, Award-Winning “Prepped”, and Really Random and Ridiculous Ride-share Rumors. He has served in key roles with Storymakers, League of Utah Writers, Cultural Arts Society of West Jordan, EMAA, BigWorldNetwork, TEDxSaltLakeCity, UVU Book Academy, Utah Poet Laureate Selection Committee, and for countless events/organizations. Jared has received awards from two Presidents of the United States, from Utah State Governor, Lt. Governor, recognition from many other organizations. He has been interviewed by several websites and podcasts, including Joseph Batzel, Artifice, and Writing Excuses Podcast.

Presentations/Panels

Discovering Diamonds in your Family History
Navigating a Path to Find Your Work/Life Balance
Mastering the Art of Networking in the Writing Community



Jared Taylor & Elizabeth Wallace

Jared Taylor hails from the world of public education. He began his professional career as a high school history teacher and later became a Principal, before moving into educational publishing. Jared is passionate about working on projects that support educators and inspire students to engage in civic participation and service in their communities, and the world. His historical expertise lies at the intersection of war, society, and culture. Jared is currently the Publisher at Gibbs Smith Education and oversees acquisitions, production, and sales of their award-winning print and digital classroom products.

Liz's was sent as a pdf

Presentations/Panels

Writing Historically - An Overview



Jodi L. Milner

Jodi L. Milner is the author of the YA fantasy Shadow Barrier series, which includes Stonebearer's Betrayal, winner of the LUW Recommended Read award, and Stonebearer's Apprentice, winner of the LUW Silver Quill. When not chasing daydreams, she enjoys destroying movie plots, making amigurumi, and plotting to take over the world.

Presentations/Panels

Nailing the YA Essentials

The Art of Active Setting

The ANGST Quotient and YA Fiction

Beating Writer's Block



John M. Olsen

John M. Olsen uses writing to harness his burning desire to create things, hoping to entertain and enlighten others and himself. A love of stories about ordinary people stepping up to extraordinary circumstances permeates his writing. He approaches writing and editing like he approaches his secret lair full of dangerous power tools (aka wood shop), hoping to create something new and interesting with each new project. John lives in Utah with his lovely wife and a variable number of mostly grown children and a constantly changing subset of extended family.

Presentations/Panels

Goals for Writers

Self-Editing Tricks

Short Story Prep and Submission



Johnny Worthen

JOHNNY WORTHEN grew up in the high desert snows and warm summer winds of the Wasatch Mountains. He graduated with a B.A. in English, minor in Classics and a Master's in American Studies from the University of Utah. After a series of businesses and adventures, including years abroad and running his own bakery, Johnny found himself drawn to the only thing he ever wanted to do -- write. And write he does. Well versed in modern literary criticism and cultural studies, Johnny writes upmarket multi-genre fiction, both traditionally and independently published. "I write what I like to read," he says. "That guarantees me at least one fan." When not writing his own stuff, Johnny edits professionally, teaches Creative Writing at the University of Utah, and mentors writers. He lives in Sandy Utah with his wife, sons and cats. There's also a lawn.

Presentations/Panels

Morning Meditation and Writer Wellbeing: Basics



Jordan Hinckley with UCSA Swords

Jordan Hinckley took his first sword class in January of 1999 and has been studying heavily the 15th century Italian Sword Master Fiore di Liberi for the past 10 years. With a degree in Archaeology, and a passion for the sword arts, he has coached Olympic sabre, as well as been teaching Long Sword since 2015, and in 2019 was certified as a HEMA Alliance Instructor in the Italian Long Sword Tradition.

Presentations/Panels

Intro to Swordfighting for Writers



Katherine Monasterio

Whether editing short or long fiction, RPG sourcebooks or podcast anthologies, Katherine lives for strengthening the written word. She hails from Cincinnati, Ohio, where her non-wordsmithing pastimes include playing video games and thinking about fictional characters a normal amount. Katherine is the editor for - BattleTech, Robotech, Shadowrun, and more.

Presentations/Panels

Punch Up Your Prose: Crafting Knockout Syntax
Milestones to Reach in Your First Chapter
Manuscript Issues This Editor Always Flags



Kendra Griffin

Kendra Griffin is an author, developmental editor, and creative writing instructor who is addicted to writing (and reading) about quirky misfits, social inequality, and diverse ensemble casts. She has published two novels in her dystopian young adult Pox series and manages two serial novels on Kindle Vella. Kendra has an MA in Literature and has taught college-level creative writing for eight years. She coaches writers through community programs, local libraries, and professional conferences. Kendra has never met a good dog or a good underdog she didn't fall in love with.

Presentations/Panels

Venturing into Vella
Beating Writer's Block
Meeting Your Own Protagonist
Writing Scenes with Multiple Characters



Laya V. Smith

Laya V Smith's debut novel "The Lumbermill", published by Black Rose Writing, won the 2021 Maxy Award for Best Thriller and was a finalist for 2021 IAN Award for Best Debut Novel. She is the co-founder and co-editor of Eight Moons Publishing, a new boutique press specializing in upmarket romantic fantasy. When she isn't writing or reading, you can usually find her daydreaming, cooking, laughing at stand-up comedy, or playing with her children.

Presentations/Panels

Small Presses: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
How to Co-Write Without Killing Each Other
The Writer's Ego: How to Cultivate Core Confidence



Michael A. Stackpole

Michael A. Stackpole is a New York Times Bestselling Author of sixty novels, including I, Jedi and Rogue Squadron. He began his writing career as a game designer. He lives in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Presentations/Panels

Creating Reader Engagement and Retention
Plotting
Beating Writer's Block
Finding The Story
Publishing Prep Boot Camp: Manuscript, Query, Synopsis
Secrets of Early Risers (hint, it's mimosas)
Writing Tie-In Fiction



Rachael Bush

Rachael Bush published her fourth book, *Love on Location*, with The Wild Rose Press in 2018 under her pen name, September Roberts. As September, she writes romance that's smoking hot and always happy ever after. As Rachael, she writes short stories about her tumultuous childhood (featured in the 85th anniversary League anthology, *The Function of Freedom*) and the *Botany for Everyone* series. When she's not writing, she volunteers for the League of Utah Writers as the President-Elect, Blue Quill chapter president, and builds the app for our conferences. For nerdy science and art, follow Rachael on Instagram @botanyforeveryone

Presentations/Panels

Romance After Dark



Ronald Gerber

Ronald Gerber is a literary agent and manages foreign rights, permissions, and contracts at Lowenstein Associates. Before joining the Lowenstein team in 2019, he spent several years in literary scouting and supported two agents at Writers House. Ronald's clients have books forthcoming from Simon & Schuster, St. Martin's Press, and more. His focus is on cinematic stories with strong hooks and relatable characters, and he is always looking for projects from queer, BIPOC, and other underrepresented authors. Ronald resides in Queens, New York with his wife and way too many books and DVDs.

Presentations/Panels

Ask An Agent

Agent Intro

The Agent Hour: Tips, Tricks, and Trends



Sofiya Pasternack

Sofiya Pasternack is a mental health professional, the highly-distractible author of Jewish MG and YA fantasy, and prone to oversharing gross medical stories. She enjoys speaking to crowds about writing and mental health. She does not enjoy running but she does it anyway. She is actually a gremlin in a bad wig.

Her debut novel ANYA AND THE DRAGON won the Sydney Taylor Book Award Honor for Middle Grade, and her follow-up ANYA AND THE NIGHTINGALE won the STBA Honor for Middle Grade, was a National Jewish Book Award Finalist, and was selected as a BookRiot Best Children's Book of 2020! BLACK BIRD, BLUE ROAD, her next book about death and desserts, is available for preorder and releases 9/20/22!

Presentations/Panels

Marketing Boot Camp: Amazon, TikTok, and Website
YA vs. Middle Grade: Differences and How to Nail Them



Terra Luft

Terra Luft is a speculative fiction author whose work explores women's themes and challenging societal norms in hope of allowing fresh perspectives to emerge. An overachiever by nature, she tackles every project with coffee and sarcasm and believes all rules exist to be broken. Terra holds a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing and English with a minor in Communication from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Master of Science in Management and Leadership from Western Governors University. By day she works as an IT support manager for a regional healthcare organization where she is

responsible for keeping the lights on for the electronic medical record systems used by tens of thousands of caregivers.

Presentations/Panels

Horror After Dark

New Attendee Orientation



Willy Palomo

Willy Palomo (he/they/she) is the son of two immigrants from El Salvador. In 2018, he graduated with an MA in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and an MFA in Poetry from Indiana University. His writing is featured in featured in Best New Poets 2018, Latino Rebels, The Wandering Song: Central American Writing in the United States, and more. He is a founding member of Plumas Colectiva, a literary and art collective of Latinx creators in the 801. He is the director of the Utah Humanities Book Festival.

Presentations/Panels

Alternate Reality Storytelling

Poetic Styles: Making Every Word Count

2022 Quills Classes

Thursday

Writing Sci-Fi and Fantasy

Craft

Beginner

3 hour workshop

Learn about the different genres and sub-genres of science fiction and fantasy, plus how to approach them as a writer. What makes them tick? How can you blend them? We'll discuss great examples found in short stories, novels, and films and what we can learn from all three.

Presented by:

Bryan Young

Submission Package

Craft

Beginner

3 hour workshop

Learn how to write (and deliver) the perfect elevator pitch. Most authors know how to write—until it comes to writing about themselves. We'll go over the key points in both in-person and in-writing pitches and how to make yourself and your work attractive from the word go. A professional editor covers the best methods for approaching editing your work. We'll go over the top mistakes that editors find and correct in author's manuscripts, from grammar to dialogue, giving you the edge of a polished final product. Bring a 1-5 page writing sample and if time permits, we will do some live-editing.

Presented by:

Chantelle Aimée Osman

Graphic Design for Authors

Marketing

Beginner

3 hour workshop

Marketing yourself and your work can be an entirely separate job all by itself. Many authors feel overwhelmed at the thought of having to design things like websites, business cards, book marks, posters, and social media graphics. But never fear! This workshop will provide step-by-step guidance, tools, and exercises to build the skills they need to create appealing and effective graphics for any marketing or social media need.

Presented by:
Alex Jay Lore

Marketing Boot Camp: Amazon, TikTok, and Website Marketing Advanced Boot Camp

Amazon - A Necessary Evil. If you aren't selling your books on Amazon, somebody will. Learn how to beef up your presence and understand some of the sticky tricks about the world's largest distributor.

Presented by:
Candace J. Thomas, Caryn Larrinaga, and Sofiya Pasternack

Publishing Prep Boot Camp: Manuscript, Query, Synopsis Publishing Advanced Boot Camp

Want to get an extra jump on your submission for agents and editors? Come to the League of Utah Writers Bootcamp. Chantelle Aimée Osman, acquiring editor of Agora Books, New York Times Bestselling Author Michael A. Stackpole, and award-winning author Bryan Young will put you through an intense boot camp. Send in your first five pages, synopsis, and query letter and this trio of authors will give you feedback and critique in small-group sessions. This half-day workshop is maxed out at 15 attendees and will be split into 3 groups of five. You'll critique each other's first five pages, synopsis, and query letters under the supervision and guidance of these guests. You'll

need to submit your pages by August 1st. And hurry, space is limited and it will fill up fast.

Presented by:

**Chantelle Aimée Osman, Michael A. Stackpole, and
Bryan Young**

Friday

Intro to Swordfighting for Writers

Ask An Expert

Beginner

Two-hour presentation

In this class we will look at some common myths about swords and armor, as well as give the students a basic lesson on the use of the 15th century long sword.

Presented by:

Jordan Hinckley with UCSA Swords

Introduction to the Forensic Sciences

Ask An Expert

Beginner

Two-hour presentation

The presentation will be a brief intro into the capabilities and limitations of the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services, or State Crime Lab. "Typical" casework will be discussed, as well as some adjudicated cases of notable interest. A one-hour presentation will be followed by Q&A, then attendees will join breakout sessions that will focus on Fingerprint or DNA (and whatever other disciplines that may be of particular interest).

Presented by:

**Andy Pacejka, Samantha Hammond , Michele Marfori
with Utah Bureau of Forensic Services**

Comma, Semicolon, Hyphen, Dash: One Hour to Better Mechanics

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Come get all your burning questions about proper punctuation answered! Appropriate for both fiction and nonfiction writers, this class will survey the

differences between grammar and mechanics and cover 17 punctuation rules you can immediately put to use in your work.

Presented by:
Angie Hodapp

Building Tension - Surprise Vs. Suspense

Craft

Intermediate

1 hour presentation

Building tension in stories can be a difficult balance between competing drives in your story. How do you know when a surprise will be more effective for the audience than the slow burn of suspense. How do you accomplish them? This class will walk you through that process.

Presented by:
Bryan Young

Romance After Dark

Craft

Intermediate

1 hour panel

Romance and intimacy are a ton of fun to write—but how do you spice up your intimate and/or sex scenes to make them more inclusive and avoid heaping on the purple prose? This panel will talk about ways to bring on the spice in romance and intimacy and discuss questions about how to freshen up sex and intimacy to make romance and erotica inclusive and accessible for all. Note that this is an after dark panel and we'll talk about explicit sex. This is an 18+ panel.

Presented by:
K.B. Wagers, Rachael Bush, and Alex Jay Lore
(moderator)

Unraveling the Mystery of Mysteries

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

The mystery genre is one of the most popular in the world, with a readership second only to romance - and only growing in popularity thanks to television shows like Castle. Recently the genre has expanded and crossed over with historical, crime, fantasy, and even romance. Learn the elements that make a mystery, and how to break into the world of mystery writing.

Presented by:

Chantelle Aimée Osman

Comedy (seriously.)

Craft

Intermediate

1 hour presentation

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.

Presented by:

Christina Allen

Anti-Ableism in Storytelling

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Characters can be more than their diagnoses and good representation for those with disabilities means creating complex, flawed, and compelling characters who try and fail and enjoy fully realized lives inclusive of their challenges, not in spite of them. We will cover why these characters deserve our page time and how to do them justice, and what pit-falls to avoid as we represent all abilities in the human spectrum

Presented by:

Callie Stoker

Delving Deeply into Point of View

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Choosing who will tell your story is one of the most important decisions in storytelling. Which point of view will tell it best? Carry the most weight? Pull the reader in? We will investigate the common factors of effective POV then break down actionable writing skills to capture viewpoint on the page and immerse the reader in the story.

Presented by:

Callie Stoker

Build Your Story Roadmap with Save the Cat

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Would you take a vacation without a destination in mind? With an empty gas tank or money in the bank? What if you got lost? Well I can't help you with your next vacation, but I can help you reach your story destination and find your way out of the woods if your story has wandered off course. Learn how to use Blake Snyder's Beat Sheet before, during, and after you've written a story.

Presented by:

Ali Cross

Plotting

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

This is a practical, interactive plotting seminar in which Michael A Stackpole will demonstrate plotting techniques by plotting a novel in an hour with audience input.

Presented by:

Michael A. Stackpole

Writing Fairies and Dragons

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

The things fantasy readers want most besides magic are fairies and dragons. Learn key elements about fairies and dragons to get our readers hooked.

Presented by:

Candace J. Thomas

Breaking Into Freelance Journalism

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Strategies for getting into freelance journalism. Identifying your niche, building a portfolio, and finding paid writing work. Book sales can be intermittent and freelancing can be a good way to keep writing money rolling in while also building your audience.

Presented by:

Cassidy G. Ward

Craft

Beginner

1 hour panel

Horror After Dark

Horror: hard to define, harder to put down. Our panelists will keep you up at night (literally) with a discussion about the evolution of the horror genre, why horror is more popular today than it's ever been before, and where horror is headed next.

Presented by:

Daniel Kraus, Terra Luft, C.R. Langille, and Cassidy G Ward (moderator)

Milestones to Reach in Your First Chapter

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Explore the narrative beats you'll need to cover in the first 5-10% of your novel, including key character moments, particular plot points, foreshadowing, and more, all in the interest of keeping your readers reading.

Presented by:

Katherine Monasterio

Discovering Diamonds in your Family History

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

You have captured your family's oral history, and interviewed the living, now what? Come learn what to do next to move past the surface level of your family history. Time to roll up your sleeves and learn how to dig into the research and find those hidden diamonds and gems. Come learn with Jared who has spent years working on family history and his co-teacher Jonathan who previously worked for ancestry.com advising on research practices.

Presented by:

Jared Quan

Self-Editing Tricks

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

So, you have a novel manuscript, and want to make the best impression possible on agents, editors, or beta readers. Let's review some of the why, how, and what required to find and fix problems before someone else sees them.

Presented by:
John M. Olsen

Nailing the YA Essentials

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

The difference between a successful story comes down to the elements that create it. This is especially true when it comes to YA fiction. Come learn the specific building blocks you'll need to create a relatable and compelling YA read.

Presented by:
Jodi L. Milner

Marketing in the New Millennium

Marketing

Beginner

1 hour presentation

The days of big brand marketing are behind us. Today, consumers want to connect with the authors behind the books. Learn to balance your personal life with your professional one. Discover tools to help you market quickly and efficiently. And begin to build a marketing strategy that is uniquely yours AND that works.

Presented by:
Ali Cross

Writing Historically - An Overview

Non-Fiction

Beginner

1 hour presentation

This presentation will be an overview of writing and research methodologies and considerations to onboard when writing historically. It will detail examples of source choice, narrative style, and thesis development.

Presented by:

Jared Taylor & Elizabeth Wallace (they will co-teach their session, can be separated on panels, but will take pitches together)

Beating Writer's Block

Practical Applications

Beginner

1 hour panel

Noted author Brian K. Vaughan once said that writer's block was just another name for video games, and for some folks that might be true. Our panel of experts talk about the causes of writer's block in their careers and how you can beat it in yours.

Presented by:

Michael A. Stackpole, Jodi L. Milner, Kendra Griffin, and Cassidy G. Ward (moderator)

Mastering the Art of Networking in the Writing Community

Practical Applications

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Love it or hate it, Networking is a key piece to unlocking insights, establishing connections with organizations, and creating invaluable relationships. Let's be honest, most people really dislike this part of professional growth, but it doesn't have to be painful or forced. Come learn how to position yourself, when to connect, and how to appropriately use those amazing connections.

Presented by:

Jared Quan

Short Story Prep and Submission

Practical Applications

Beginner

1 hour presentation

You've written something. Now what? Learn about using the tools of the trade, the basics of critique and editing, and how to make a good impression on those who will see and evaluate your short stories.

Presented by:

John M. Olsen

Morning Meditation and Writer Wellbeing: Basics

Practical Applications

Advanced

1 hour presentation

Join author Johnny for discoveries in eastern philosophy with their application to the life of an author with its many disappointments. Sessions include directed mindfulness meditation and lecture on concepts that directly speak to the writer's journey. Day one: Basics - the Four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Noble path. Each class meets in the morning before regular programming. Though classes are meant as a three day seminar, attendees can come to any of them without prior or later attendance and still get useful information.

Presented by:

Johnny Worthen

Writing as a Business

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Commodifying creative work is in itself hard. But there are many more ugly steps to be aware of when going down this path. This will be an open and honest look at what it means to work with a traditional publisher and what you should expect from the relationship.

Presented by:

Christopher Morgan

Diversifying Your Writing Portfolio

Publishing

Intermediate

1 hour panel

Writing is a tough job if that's what you do. How can you diversify your writing portfolio so you can earn income through different streams and where do you find those streams to drink from?

Presented by:

Daniel Kraus, K.B. Wagers, Bryan Young, Cassidy G Ward, and Alex Jay Lore (moderator)

Kid Lit 101

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour presentation

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.

Presented by:

Christina Allen

Publishing Anthologies as an Indie or Small Press

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Multi-author anthologies of short prose and poetry are a wonderful way to introduce readers to new voices, but publishing an anthology is a different animal from a single-author project. Learn how to get your idea from rough concept to finished book with the League of Utah Writers Publication Chair, Caryn Larrinaga.

Presented by:

Caryn Larrinaga

YA vs. Middle Grade: Differences and How to Nail Them

**Publishing
Intermediate
1 hour panel**

There's a very fine line between YA and Middle Grade publishing. What is that line? What determines one or the other? Our panel talks about the finer points of the divide.

**Presented by:
Daniel Kraus, Christina Allen, Candace J. Thomas,
and Sofiya Pasternack (moderator)**

Venturing into Vella

**Publishing
Intermediate
1 hour presentation**

We'll work on a brief checklist to help participants decide if Vella is the right platform for their project. We'll discuss pros and cons of Vella vs traditional and self-publishing. I'll offer tips and tricks for scoring more faves, crowns, and likes, and for creating engaging author notes and hooking new readers.

**Presented by:
Kendra Griffin**

Small Presses: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

**Publishing
Intermediate
1 hour presentation**

Some independent publishers are among the best in the business, and others are just vanity presses in disguise. How can you know if a press is reputable? What are the benefits of this kind of publishing? Learn what you should expect a good small press, and how to protect yourself and your work from scammers.

Presented by:
Laya V. Smith

Writing For Hire: Is it for you?

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Writing For Hire isn't the same as freelancing. It's not the same as traditional publishing. It's definitely not self-publishing. What is it, then, and is it for you? Find out how Writing For Hire works, how it differs from other forms of publication, and take a quiz to find out whether it might for you.

Presented by:
Bitsy Kemper

Saturday

Intro to Swordfighting for Writers

Ask An Expert

Beginner

Two-hour presentation

In this class we will look at some common myths about swords and armor, as well as give the students a basic lesson on the use of the 15th century long sword.

Presented by:

Jordan Hinckley with UCSA Swords

Introduction to the Forensic Sciences

Ask An Expert

Beginner

Two-hour presentation

The presentation will be a brief intro into the capabilities and limitations of the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services, or State Crime Lab. "Typical" casework will be discussed, as well as some adjudicated cases of notable interest. A one-hour presentation will be followed by Q&A, then attendees will join breakout sessions that will focus on Fingerprint or DNA (and whatever other disciplines that may be of particular interest).

Presented by:

Andy Pacejka, Samantha Hammond, and Michele Marfori with Utah Bureau of Forensic Services

Setups, Payoffs, and Endings

Craft

Beginner

Saturday

There's a delicate balance in the symbiotic relationship between the setups you offer in your story and the promises you make as a writer and the payoffs you provide. This class will show you examples of good payoffs and endings

and get you thinking about how you can better connect the beginning of your work to the end, to make a more impactful finale for your story.

Presented by:
Bryan Young

Spreadsheet Editing

Craft

Intermediate

1 hour presentation

Self-editing can be daunting, but if you like spreadsheets, you'll love this method. This class will break down a plot into graph form to help identify plot holes or problems and weak character arcs, help you ensure that each scene is purposeful, and help you quickly identify your strengths and weaknesses. This class is based on the editing reports the teacher does for her clients and includes access to a downloadable template at www.themanuscriptdr.com.

Presented by:
Callie Stoker

Meeting Your Own Protagonist

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

This session will help participants understand their protagonist's quirks, character arc, and motivation. We'll discuss important features of unforgettable characters, then do some writing exercises to flesh out their secrets so that readers will stay hooked!

Presented by:
Kendra Griffin

The ANGST Quotient and YA Fiction

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Teenage angst is a staple of YA fiction. Come learn what it is, explore examples, and learn ways to improve the emotional impact of the angst in your work in progress.

Presented by:

Jodi L. Milner

Torture & Success: Power of Personality Type

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

From happy yellows to driven reds, how to best reward and torture your character all depends on their type. What will absolutely drive your character mad? And what will be there ultimate happily ever after? Find out here!

Presented by:

Amy Michelle Carpenter

The Endurance of Grief

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

If writing these days feels like a never-ending battle, join author K.B. Wagers as they talk about navigating the enduring trauma of living in a world on fire, learning how to take care of yourself through burnout, and how writing out your grief can help not only you but your readers.

Presented by:

K.B. Wagers

Writing a Children's Book is Harder Than You Think!

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Anyone can write a children's book. But to write a good one? Now that's a skill! Learn: how to avoid rookie mistakes [don't find your own illustrator]; little-known facts [most picture book today are only 500 words]; and ways to take

your idea from meh to yeah [it might not be as easy as you think, but you can do it]!

Presented by:
Bitsy Kemper

Writing Inclusively

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Our world is much bigger and more diverse than white, straight, cisgender farmboys destined to save the world. This class covers reasons representation is important, what good representation is, and how to truly write inclusively without tokenism and harmful stereotypes.

Presented by:
Alex Jay Lore

How to Write in 15 minutes - Live Recording

Craft

Beginner

1 hour panel

Bryan Young and Chantelle Aimée Osman bring their popular writing podcast to Quills for a live recording. They'll tackle three different writing topics in 15 minutes each, and then take your questions.

Presented by:
Chantelle Aimée Osman and Bryan Young

How to Co-Write Without Killing Each Other

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Co-writing can be one of the most rewarding experiences a writer can have. It can also be a little like dragging your bare feet over broken glass as you walk a winding road into a pit of despair. Learn the ins and outs of co-writing so that

you and your partner can get the most out of the experience and nobody ends up murdered.

Presented by:
Laya V. Smith

Beyond Goal-Plus-Conflict: A Better Way to Get Tension on Every Page

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Why a scene is necessary in a novel often has nothing to do with whether a character in that scene has a goal or whether that goal lies on the other side of an obstacle. It has to do with change. In other words, what knowledge, skills, or resources does the character have at the end of the scene that they didn't have at the beginning? In this workshop, we'll look at a new way to craft tension-packed scenes—not in terms of goal and conflict/obstacle, but in terms of analyzing and capitalizing on the power dynamic between characters in the scene, or between a lone character and his setting or situation.

By ensuring your characters enter each scene with at least one physical, intellectual, emotional, or spiritual power imbalance, and by planning how that power will shift during the course of the scene (in terms of who has or will end up with more knowledge, skills, or resources related to the overall plot), then goals and conflicts will occur naturally, and tension will become inherent. Finally, we'll see how crafting scenes like and then stringing them together logically is a valid method of plotting or outlining.

Presented by:
Angie Hodapp

The Art of Active Setting

Craft

Intermediate

1 hour presentation

Bring your stories to life through the principles of active setting, including the importance of sensory integration, character viewpoints, and how to anchor a scene.

Presented by:
Jodi L. Milner

Alternate Reality Storytelling

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Take your reader out of their seat and into the streets through alternate reality storytelling. Learn the basics of game design and how to transform your city into a work of literature. Participants will review two different alternate reality games and explore how to create one of their own.

Presented by:
Willy Palomo

Conflict and Microtension: Creating a Page-Turner

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Attendees will learn how to create a page-turner by learning techniques and tricks on how to utilize conflict, create relatable characters, and utilize micro-tension and fishhooks to lure readers to keep turning the page.

Presented by:
C.R. Langille

Let's Talk About Kid's Nonfiction

Craft

Intermediate

1 hour presentation

Children's nonfiction books are important and challenging. They aren't just regurgitating facts in simple language. An overview of writing children's nonfiction, the current market, and an interactive opportunity for attendees to ask questions and have quality discussion.

Presented by:

Stacey Kondla

Writing to Change the World

Craft

Beginner

1 hour panel

Fiction helps us envision a better world. Whether it's writing to address social justice issues, climate change, or anything else that's currently amiss in our world, writing is a unique outlet to push for change and representation. In this panel, authors share their processes and ways they change the world one word, one sentence, one book at a time.

Presented by:

Christopher Morgan, Chantelle Aimée Osman, Cassidy G Ward, K.B. Wagers, and Bryan Young (moderator)

Secret Genres that Can Turn Your Book into Gold

Craft

Intermediate

1 hour presentation

Think you know what genre your story is? I bet it's more than what you think! Whether you're a plotter or a pantsier, these ten secret genres will help you gain a deeper understanding of your own story, empowering you to write the next blockbuster novel.

Presented by:

Ali Cross

Writing Scenes with Multiple Characters

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

This session will help participants understand how to build scenes with multiple characters that successfully build plot and character development. 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!

Presented by:
Kendra Griffin

Finding The Story

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole takes you through a series of exercises that will let you build a story from the barest spark through twists and turns. He'll give you several story recipes and show you how you can work from them to create delightfully complex and engrossing stories.

Presented by:
Michael A. Stackpole

Capturing the Illusive Voice

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

What is voice? It is often talked about but rarely clearly described. This presentation will break down what voice is and how it functions in prose. The tools taught will help you shift generic exposition and prose into character-driven voice with the use of language, metaphor, simile, and character point-of-view. It will cover how voice functions in first person vs. third person, and include exercises to help you discover your own unique voice for your writing.

Presented by:
Callie Stoker

Manuscript Issues This Editor Always Flags

Craft

Beginner

1 hour presentation

As a developmental editor, there's feedback that I tend to give over and over again. We'll go over the most common issues I see with manuscripts and how to fix them before submission.

Presented by:
Katherine Monasterio

Poetic Styles: Making Every Word Count

Poetry

Beginner

1 hour panel

Small phrases can make a powerful difference. Come learn how to make the most of your words for the best emotional impact.

Presented by:
Willy Palomo and Candace J. Thomas

Navigating a Path to Find Your Work/Life Balance

Practical Applications

Beginner

1 hour presentation

There is no one size fits all solution to establish your perfect work/life balance. However, there are tools and tips to help you navigate your own personal set of situations to establish the everchanging perfect work/life balance. I have gone from no kids to five kids, with a range from various medical needs to autistic diagnosis, and balanced that while serving on five non-profit boards and working two jobs at the same time.

Presented by:
Jared Quan

Goals for Writers

Practical Applications

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Ever wonder how busy people accomplish so much? Let's talk about self-motivation and setting goals that can encourage you as an author rather than overwhelm you.

Presented by:

John M. Olsen

Bow Hunting for Elk

Practical Applications

Beginner

1 hour presentation

An overview of what it takes to bow hunt for elk to include pre-season activities, gear needed, tactics, what to do once the animal is down, etc... This will give attendees a great overview bow hunting so they can represent it well in fiction.

Presented by:

C.R. Langille

Morning Meditation and Writer Wellbeing: Block

Practical Applications

Advanced

1 hour presentation

Join author Johnny for discoveries in eastern philosophy with their application to the life of an author with its many disappointments. Sessions include directed mindfulness meditation and lecture on concepts that directly speak to the writer's journey. Day two: Block - The Five Hindrances and the power of RAIN. Each class meets in the morning before regular programming. Though classes are meant as a three day seminar, attendees can come to any of them without prior or later attendance and still get useful information.

Presented by:

Johnny Worthen

Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Messages

Practical Applications

Beginner

1 hour presentation

As long as humans have been sharing ideas, they've also been finding ways to conceal them. Learn the history of secret messages and the methods used to craft them, and explore ways to add codes, puzzles, and spycraft to your writing.

**Presented by:
Christina Allen**

Secrets of Early Risers (hint, it's mimosas)

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour panel

New York Times Bestselling Author Michael A. Stackpole, Agora Books Editor Chantelle Aimée Osman, and Award Winning Author Bryan Young answer your questions about writing, publishing, and anything else over mimosas. Just be sure to bring your own!

**Presented by:
Michael A. Stackpole, Chantelle Aimée Osman, and
Bryan Young**

The Agent Hour: Tips, Tricks, and Trends

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour panel

Publishing trends are ever-changing and evolving. In this panel, agents will share what trends they are currently seeing in the industry, as well as tips and tricks to make your submission stand out.

**Presented by:
Ronald Gerber, Katherine Odom-Tomchin, Angie
Hodapp, Stacey Kondla, and Bryan Young (moderator)**

Writing Tie-In Fiction

Publishing

Intermediate

1 hour panel

What's it like to write in a licensed universe? Our panel of experts tell you how they got their start and what it's like working in someone else's sandbox. Hint: it's not what you think.

Presented by:

Michael A. Stackpole and Bryan Young

So, You Want to Sell Your Art?

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour presentation

Making the transition to commodifying your art is a big step. And it opens up a lot of hard questions. This presentation is intended to prepare anyone going out on submission for the harder aspects of publishing.

Presented by:

Christopher Morgan

The Writer's Ego: How to Cultivate Core Confidence

Publishing

Beginner

1 hour presentation

From query letters met with silence to one star reviews, there isn't a writer alive who's never felt the sting of rejection. But writers cannot afford fragile egos. We need to have egos as strong as concrete elephants. Learn how to cultivate core confidence so you can overcome rejection and find success as a writer.

Presented by:

Laya V. Smith

Audio: The Fastest Growing Medium in Publishing

Publishing

Intermediate

1 hour session

Audio Rights Director at Folio Literary Management, Katherine Odom-Tomchin, discusses the ins and outs of audiobooks, the fastest growing medium in book publishing today. Attendees will learn about the major independent audio publishers, how audio rights are placed, the best-performing genres, and the standard deal terms.

Presented by:

Katherine Odom-Tomchin

Sunday

Writing the Ensemble Cast

Craft

Intermediate

3 hour workshop

Whether you want to create a dynamite supporting cast for your central character or write a story or series with multiple protagonists, this class is for you. Using a unique, comprehensive grid of archetypes, dramatic roles, and personality types, we'll analyze more than twenty blockbusters that feature unforgettable ensemble casts. Come learn how to master multiple characters' arcs, webs, timelines, and points-of-view.

Presented by:

Angie Hodapp

Creating Reader Engagement and Retention

Craft

Intermediate

3 hour workshop

Engage readers from the start, and retain them so they'll be anxious for the next story. Bestselling Author Michael A. Stackpole shares sure fire tips on drawing readers in and enthralled in the story.

Presented by:

Michael A. Stackpole

Fight! Fight! Fight!

Craft

Beginner

3 hour workshop

Join author K.B. Wagers for a three hour workshop on the intricacies of fighting. Learn how to block out one-on-one fight scenes or direct a space battle. How to write verbal arguments and tense negotiations. And finally, when it's important to not fight—de-escalation techniques and the importance of non-violent solutions.

Presented by:
K.B. Wagers

Breaking the Page, Quaking the Stage

Poetry

Beginner

3 hour workshop

As the walls between spoken word communities and page poets continue to crumble, more are taking advantage of the strengths of each medium. This session explores the work of Aaron Samuels, Jamaal May, and Douglas Kearney to discuss how contemporary poets are navigating the borders between the page and the stage.

Presented by:
Willy Palomo

Morning Meditation and Writer Wellbeing: Third Person Limited

Practical Applications

Advanced

1 hour presentation

Join author Johnny for discoveries in eastern philosophy with their application to the life of an author with its many disappointments. Sessions include directed mindfulness meditation and lecture on concepts that directly speak to the writer's journey. Day three: Third Person Limited - Non-Identity and the muse. Each class meets in the morning before regular programming. Though classes are meant as a three day seminar, attendees can come to any of them without prior or later attendance and still get useful information.

Presented by:
Johnny Worthen