

Hello, Programmers:

Now in its ninth year, the Chicago Writers Association’s Speakers Bureau continues its rise as a go-to resource for local venues seeking spirited programs. This year’s Speakers Bureau menu features:

- 69 original programs from 36 local presenters
- 27 new programs touching on topics ranging from pop culture and writing to Chicago history

Programs on the CWA Speakers Bureau menu include key information to inform your programming decisions. Should you have interest in a particular program, please contact the presenter directly.

We hope you see the CWA Speakers Bureau menu as a valuable resource in your efforts to bring engaging, high-quality programming to your location. Should you have any questions about the CWA or its Speakers Bureau, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Smith, Founder and Director
CWA Speakers Bureau
(708) 717-6126
smithwriting@gmail.com

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Chicago Writers Association

Speakers Bureau



2017-2018 Program Menu

**Compelling Speakers
at Your Fingertips.**

www.chicagowrites.org

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

“The Path to *On the Job: Murder, Reflection, and Where TV Cop Shows Fail*” by Daniel P. Smith

The relationship between the police and the public continues generating attention. *On the Job: Behind the Stars of the Chicago Police* author Daniel P. Smith guides audiences into the closed-door society that is the Chicago Police Department. Sharing never-before-told stories of the tolls the job exacts on the officers, their families, and their lives while interweaving a discussion of Chicago’s criminal landscape, police department culture, and history, Smith discusses the unique personal experiences that led him to pen his debut work. (Adults; 75 min; \$150-200 with permission to sell books)

References: Cindy Kline, Indian Prairie Public Library, (630) 887-8760 x230, cindyk@ippl.info; Jeannine Kacmar, Palos Heights Public Library, jkacmar@phlibrary.org, (708) 448-1473 x104

Contact: smithwriting@gmail.com, (708) 717-6126

“Comiskey Park’s Last World Series: The Go-Go White Sox & the Pennant of 1959” by Charles Billington

The 1959 Chicago White Sox were the South Side’s first pennant winners in 40 years, but their success played out in front of a tragic backdrop: one of Chicago’s first families locked in a bitter legal dispute for a prized heirloom, the team itself. Sports historian Charles Billington delves into this history, addressing not only the on-field successes but the cultural and economic ramifications of the battles between the Comiskeys and Veecks, the pride the team’s success meant in Bridgeport and Canaryville after four decades, and why the success was so short-lived. An analysis of film from the 1959 season is included. (Pre-teens to adults; 100 min; \$175 negotiable)

References: Nancy Kendzior, Bloomingdale Public Library, (630) 924-2735; Karen Black, Glenview Public Library, (847) 729-7500

Website: www.charlesbillington.com

Contact: (773) 351-5871, cnb1148@sbcglobal.net

NEW! “The Chicago Cubs As Champions: Then and Now” by Charles Billington

Sports historian Charles Billington, author of *Wrigley Field’s Last World Series*, discusses the ramifications for the team’s new identity in light of their 2016 World Series championship. Billington details the team’s great success in its early years, continued dominance during the Depression, deep-seated futility in the last half of the 20th century, and their recent return to supremacy. Billington’s program includes rare film footage of the team through the years and also explores the cultural, economic, and social significance the organization has had through Chicago’s history. (Pre-teens through adults; 100 min; \$175 negotiable)

References: Christy Eyre, Brookfield Public Library, (708) 485-6917; Richard Dawidowicz, Knights of Columbus, (847) 478-9419

Website: www.charlesbillington.com

Contact: (773) 351-5871, cnb1148@sbcglobal.net

“Wrigley Field’s Football Championship: The 1963 Chicago Bears and the Fall of the House of Halas” by Charles Billington

Author and sports historian Charles Billington discusses one of sport’s most dominant and colorful teams: the 1963 World Champion Chicago Bears. Playing at the start of pro football’s “modern age” under legendary owner/coach George S. Halas, the 1963 Bears put an indelible stamp on their profession; yet, their success sparked Halas’ eventual downfall. The Bears’ contribution to Chicago’s social and economic fabric is discussed along with the tragedies so many of the players would encounter. Billington also shares rare film footage of the 1963 season as well. (Pre-teens to adults; 100 min; \$175 negotiable)

References: Marci Buerger, Mt. Prospect Public Library, (847) 590-3215; Sara Adelpia, Hanover Township Senior Center, (630) 483-5600

Website: www.charlesbillington.com

Contact: (773) 351-5871, cnb1148@sbcglobal.net

“Chicago and the Memory of the Civil War” by Robert I. Girardi

The Windy City was a source of men, supplies, and transportation during the Civil War. The conflict made Chicago a major city. The

men who fought the war came home to build and rebuild the town and, along the way, they erected museums and monuments. They presided over parades and Memorial Day services until a disinterested public swept them aside. Today, their legacy adorns Chicago's landscape, but few remember their story. (All ages; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Kathy Hussey, Wilmette Historical Museum, (847) 853-7666, husseyk@wilmette.com; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.robertgirardi.com

Contact: (872) 256-5773, CvlWarGuy@aol.com

“Return to the Scene of the Crime” by Richard C. Lindberg

Chicago author and historian Rich Lindberg takes his listeners on a tour of famous and forgotten Chicago crime scenes spanning 150 years. Based on his locally best-selling book *Return to the Scene of the Crime: A Guide to Infamous Places in Chicago*, Lindberg has spoken to numerous membership groups, associations, libraries, and centers for adult education, sharing his colorful anecdotes and stories about the Windy City's lusty, colorful, and often notorious past. (Adults; 60-90 min; \$135 with permission to sell books)

References: Nina Kenney, Lake Villa Library, (847) 356-7711 x216; Heather Colby, Homer Township Library, (708) 301-7908

Website: www.richardlindberg.net

Contact: rclwriter@aol.com, (773) 631-3023

“Devils in the White City – and Beyond” by Richard C. Lindberg

True crime author Rich Lindberg presents a fascinating montage of Gaslight Era serial killers, scoundrels, and murderers. A veritable rogues gallery will pass in review, including H.H. Holmes (the original Devil in the White City), matrimonial swindlers, and murderers Johann Hoch and Belle Gunness plus the enduring mystery of Lizzie Borden of Fall River and Amy Archer Gilligan, the black widow who inspired the play and movie “Arsenic and Old Lace.” (Adults; 60-90 min; \$135 with permission to sell books)

References: Chuck Freilich, Mather Lifeways, (847) 493-6757; Nadine Bachman, Elmhurst Library, (630) 279-8696

Website: www.richardlindberg.net

Contact: rclwriter@aol.com, (773) 631-3023

NEW! “The History of the Chicago Stockyards” by Richard Lindberg

Slide presentation and lecture about the history of the famed Chicago stockyards; the birth of an industry in the 1830s; and the opening of the “Yards” in 1865 until the final bell sounded in 1971. It was a city within a city – truly the “Hog Butcher to the World” and a sprawling colorful saga. Presentation also covers Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle* and its impact on bringing much needed reform to the yards, improvements to sanitary conditions, and the tale of “Bubbly Creek,” the polluted waterway that has never fully recovered from the environmental damage of a hundred years ago. (All ages; 60 min; \$135)

Website: www.richardlindberg.net

Contact: rclwriter@aol.com, (773) 631-3023

“1812 Chicagou: A Scalping, a Murder, and a Massacre” by Patrick McBriarty

This presentation by author and historian Patrick McBriarty takes an intimate look at the five months between April and August of 1812 and the events surrounding the remote military, French and Indian trading outpost of Chicagou. McBriarty delves into the story of John Kinzie, the area’s leading fur and Indian trader, who is embroiled in intrigue while preserving his family and business amidst Indian Country and caught between the British, Native American tribes, and the land-hungry Americans on the cusp of The War of 1812. (Adults; 50-70 min; \$200-750 negotiable based on group and travel time with permission to sell books and DVDs)

Reference: Curtis Tuckey, Cigar Society of Chicago, curtis.tuckey@logicophilosophicus.org

Website: www.PTMWerks.com

Contact: (773) 710-0485, Patrick@PTMWerks.com

“Chicago River Bridges” by Patrick McBriarty

A multimedia presentation on the importance of the bridges in the development of the Windy City from the first wood footbridge built by a tavern owner in 1832 to the engineering and architectural marvels spanning the Chicago River today. Based on McBriarty’s award-winning book of the same title, learn how Chicago emerged as the Drawbridge Capital of the World with stories of floods, fire,

politics, and innovation. Alternatively, screen the 56-minute PBS documentary “Chicago Drawbridges” followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers. (All ages; 60-75 min; \$225-350 negotiable based on group and travel time with permission to sell books and DVDs)

References: Neil O’Shea, Niles Public Library, (847) 663-1234, noshea@nileslibrary.org; Kathleen Thomas, Chicago Maritime Museum, (312) 720-7245, kaththomas@att.net

Website: www.ptmwerks.com, www.chicagodrawbridges.com

Contact: (773) 710-0485, Patrick@PTMWerks.com

“Silhouettes of the Past: Growing up in Chicago during the 1950’s and 1960’s” by Dr. Leslie K. Best

Author and educator Dr. Leslie K. Best discusses Chicago’s past, including historical data prior to and during the 1950’s and 1960’s that impacted her life as an African-American living on the South Side of Chicago. Dr. Best details her family’s journey through the Woodlawn, Hyde Park, and Chatham communities in the quest for a better life. They often had to break through discrimination, racial restrictions, and barriers; however, she found mostly pleasurable experiences that everyone can connect to. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Kelley Nicholas-Brown, Richton Park Library, (708) 481-5333

Contact: (708) 912-7018, besteducate@aol.com

“Poland in Chicago; Chicago in Poland” by Donna Urbikas

Outside of Warsaw, Chicago has the world’s largest Polish population, but as assimilation and integration extends to third and fourth generations, much of that culture has been lost, mingled with others, or persists in the staunchest ways. Learn about the challenges of Polish immigration from the early 1800’s to the present and discover the various centers of Polish and Polish-American culture and some of the traditions of Polish culture. A multimedia presentation by former teacher and author Donna Urbikas who emigrated to Chicago as a child and grew up in the Polish community of the 1950’s and 1960’s, experiences highlighted in her recent memoir, *My Sister’s Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin’s Siberia*. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$100 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Sheila Leary, The University of Wisconsin Press, (608) 263-0734 publicity@uwpress.wisc.edu

Website: www.danutaurbikas.com

Contact: donna@danutaurbikas.com, (312) 343-5454

LIFE & FAMILY

NEW! **“How to Take Care of Yourself as a Caregiver: Maintaining a Life Balance” by Iris Waichler**

Caregivers will learn how to identify symptoms of burnout and techniques to take care of themselves as they take care of others. Iris Waichler, MSW, LCSW authored the award-winning book, *Role Reversal: How to Take Care of Yourself and Your Aging Parents*. She has 40 years of professional experience as a licensed clinical social worker and patient advocate. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Arielle Lewis, Chicago Methodist Senior Services, (773) 596-2291, alewis@cmsschicago.org; Jordan Boswell, SheKnows.com, Jordan.Boswell@shekows.com

Website: www.iriswaichler.wpengine.com

Contact: iwaichler@sbcglobal.net, (773) 368-8230

NEW! **“Surrounded by Santa: Bring Meaning Back to Your Holidays” by Jerilyn Willin**

Holidays used to be wonderful without breaking the bank. They can be again. “Santa” is an interactive program designed to help folks reclaim their holidays from the media and retail frenzy. Participants explore what is meaningful for them in holiday celebrations vs. expectations and pressures; examine their most remembered holiday experiences; and create traditions (new or vintage) that bring holiday meaning back to them and their families. Includes handouts. (Adults; 90 min; \$275 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Diane Breulin, Sycamore Chamber of Commerce, dbreunlin@sycamorechamber.com

Website: www.jerilynwillin.com

Contact: Jerilyn@jerilynwillin.com, (630) 924-8565

“Mean Girls, Cliques, and Gossip: Understanding and Coping with Relational Aggression” by Mary Ellen Young

Eye rolling, drama, rumors, exclusion ... what can we do? Nearly all girls experience relational aggression at some point. Research has shown that how girls interrelate during adolescence has profound lifelong implications. Learn the causes of relational aggression and strategies to help girls prevent and cope with it from Mary Ellen Young, a bullying prevention specialist and co-author of *ELEMENTS for girls, A Fun & Engaging Self-Discovery Project*. (Adults; 90 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Office of Education, (630) 407-5770, druscitti@dupage.k12.il.us

Website: www.authenticme.biz

Contact: (630) 975-2003, info@authenticme.biz

“Helping Girls Thrive in Adolescence” by Mary Ellen Young

Being an adolescent/pre-teen girl has never been easy, but today’s girls are challenged with much more. With a focus on the social, emotional, and biological challenges of adolescence, learn ways to help your daughter understand and appreciate her changing body, form healthy relationships, communicate effectively, and develop a strong sense of self. (Adults; 90 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Ruth Cross, Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), (630) 200-6866, rcross@casel.org; Dr. Beth Sullivan, DuPage Regional Office of Education, (630) 495-6080, bsullivan@dupageroe.org

Website: www.authenticme.biz

Contact: (630) 975-2003, info@authenticme.biz

NEW! “Power Up: Motivational Book for Teen Girls” by Dr. Leslie K. Best

Many teenage girls need motivation, inspiration, and guidance. They need strategies and resources to help them plan and manage their everyday affairs. Dr. Best discusses 11 Success Steps and other tools that can be used to overcome challenges and recognize their individual strengths and abilities. The significance of goal setting will be explained to help girls reach their highest potential now and in the future. (Teens; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

References: Kellie Nicholas-Brown, Richton Park Library, (708) 481-5333

Contact: (708) 912-7018, besteducate@aol.com

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“How to Make a Presentation Without Passing Out” by Jerilyn Willin

Overwhelmed by butterflies when asked to speak in public? Public speaking is the #1 fear of adults, yet we present all the time. We give reports at work, pitch to agents/editors, interview, network, and make formal presentations. Can it get easier? Yes, it can! Learn tools and techniques to: help you better think on your feet, turn nerves into positive energy, confidently answer questions, and know what to do with your hands. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60-90 min; \$275 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Jennifer Bombrake, Bridgeview Public Library, (708) 458-2880, jbombake@bridgeviewlibrary.org

Website: www.jerilynwillin.com

Contact: Jerilyn@jerilynwillin.com, (630) 924-8565

“Eyes on the Prize: 5 Steps to Get Where You Want to Be” by Jerilyn Willin

Having a goal is just the first step to getting where you want to be. Goals don’t achieve themselves. They require attention and focus. *Every day*. This program shares steps to help you move toward the life and career outcomes you desire. You will learn how to: develop SMART goals, work toward them every day, get out of your own way, and develop an easy-to-remember roadmap of strategies. You will leave the workshop with next steps and a plan. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60-90 min; \$275 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Juli Schatz, Author! Author!, Bibliocat36@gmail.com

Website: www.jerilynwillin.com

Contact: Jerilyn@jerilynwillin.com, (630) 924-8565

NEW! “Need a Career Change? Now What?” by Sylvester Boyd, Jr.

Have you just been laid off? Gotten fired? Tired of your work environment? Feel that you’re not being paid what you’re worth? Do you feel that you need a new career? Boyd offers a unique perspective using his many career changes – from airline employee to business owner, from teacher to author and background actor. He presents a step-by-step plan to help individuals take the fear out of following a new path and might make life a lot better in many ways, both personally and financially. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books and reimbursement for travel 10+ miles from downtown Chicago)

Reference: Cynthia Robinson, Elementary School Teacher, (708) 743-6774, cynthia2305@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.boydbooks.com

Contact: sylvesterboyd@ymail.com, (312) 255-7008

NEW! “Agents of Stupidity: Why Advertising is Even Stupidier Than You Think – If That’s Even Possible” by Tagline Jim

Ever watched a bad ad and wondered how presumably smart people could make such a mess? Bad ads don’t just happen. It takes a team effort. Tagline Jim (Jim Morris) helps you understand just how and why it is that so much advertising is so bad by examining several “Agents of Stupidity” – dysfunctions, myths, corporate neuroses, and “conventional wisdoms” that infect the process of creating advertising. Includes handout, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$250)

References: Gene Mezger, MENSA of Wisconsin, (414) 828-4444, Wisconsin, genem01@gmail.com; Chris Sculles, McGuffin Creative Group, (312) 715-9812, chris.s@mcguffincg.com

Website: www.taglinejim.com

Contact: jim@taglinejim.com, (847) 869-3415

NEW! “13 Tagline Tales in 40 Minutes” by Tagline Jim

In the ad business, slogans are usually called taglines. As a tagline specialist for almost 40 years, Tagline Jim (Jim Morris) has amassed a slew of stories about the purpose, value, and function of taglines, including a horror story or two. As it turns out, everything that ad practitioners know about taglines is wrong. In this talk, Tagline Jim

sets the world straight about these potent pieces of advertising language. Includes handout, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$250)

References: Gene Mezger, MENSA of Wisconsin, (414) 828-4444, Wisconsin, genem01@gmail.com; Chris Sculles, McGuffin Creative Group, (312) 715-9812, chris.s@mcguffincg.com

Website: www.taglinejim.com

Contact: jim@taglinejim.com, (847) 869-3415

NEW! “Advertising on Trial: Bane or Boon” by Tagline Jim

Advertising has been accused of destroying Western civilization, and defended as a key to our capitalist society and invaluable contributor to our culture. So which is it? Drawing on almost 40 years as a student of advertising, copywriter/curmudgeon Tagline Jim (Jim Morris) sheds some light on this debate, drawing on the scathing words of critics juxtaposed with counterexamples. Includes handout, Q&A. (Adults; 45 min; \$200)

References: Gene Mezger, MENSA of Wisconsin, (414) 828-4444, Wisconsin, genem01@gmail.com; Chris Sculles, McGuffin Creative Group, (312) 715-9812, chris.s@mcguffincg.com

Website: www.taglinejim.com

Contact: jim@taglinejim.com, (847) 869-3415

“It’s Never Too Late to Make Mid-Course Corrections” by Mary T. Wagner

From soccer mom to supreme court arguments; sneakers to spike heels; waitressing to award-winning author; the career path taken by *When the Shoe Fits* author and “Growing Bolder” blogger Mary T. Wagner has been varied – but never dull. Combining optimism, practicality, and a healthy dose of humor, Wagner offers hard-won pointers about personal growth, reinvention, and the importance of trusting your instincts. Includes readings, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$275 with permission to sell books)

References: Pat Mahlendorf, Friends of the Mead Public Library, 01paddy@att.net; Annie Bahringer, W.J. Niederkorn Public Library, abahringer@esls.lib.wi.us

Websites: www.marytwagner.com, www.runningwithstilettos.com, www.marywagner.growingbolder.com

Contact: (262) 573-7161, runwstilettos@yahoo.com

MIND & BODY

“I Can’t Be a Runner ... Or Can I?” by Danny Smith

Go from the couch to the 5k finish line. Former *Running Times* contributing writer Danny Smith shows you how. Informative and inspirational, Smith presents a detailed and proven 10-week program that blends walking and running. Leave with a plan and the necessary knowledge to take charge of your health. A perfect program to pair with Chicago Marathon headlines or New Year’s resolutions. Partner with the local park district for added reach and impact. Includes handouts. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$175-200)

References: Cindy Kline, Indian Prairie Public Library, (630) 887-8760 x230, cindyk@ippl.info; Jeannine Kacmar, Palos Heights Public Library, jkacmar@phlibrary.org, (708) 448-1473 x104

Contact: turnleftcreative@gmail.com, (708) 717-6126

NEW! “Making Peace With Food: How To Break the Diet-Binge Cycle And What To Do Instead” by Judith Matz

Have you been on diets, only to see the weight return? Do you find yourself repeatedly making New Year’s resolutions to lose weight? If you answered “yes” to either question, you are not alone. Based on her popular books *The Diet Survivor’s Handbook* and *Beyond a Shadow of a Diet*, author and therapist Judith Matz will show you the five keys to ending overeating and developing a healthy, satisfying, and peaceful relationship with food. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Teens and Adults; 60-75 min; \$200-250 with permission to sell books)

References: Jancey Wickstrom, Renfrew Center of Chicago, (847) 291-6805 x1301, jwickstrom@renfrewcenter.com; Elisa D’Urso, Dominican University, (708) 488-5284, efischer@dom.edu

Website: www.judithmatz.com

Contact: judmatz@gmail.com, (847) 267-1200

NEW! “Hair and Hue and Things That Make Black Women Scream. . .When the European Beauty Aesthetic Becomes Too Much” by Stephanie Gates

Colorism is a source of pain for many Black women and girls. This workshop explores how racism created colorism – a hierarchy of hue, hair, facial features, and body image that has devastating

consequences in the lives of Black women and girls. In this workshop, women learn about colorism from past to present through activities and their shared experiences as well as strategies for overcoming colorism. (Adults and Teens; 90 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Christine; Johnson, Northeastern Illinois University, c-johnson15@neiu.edu

Websites: www.stephaniesepiphanies.blogspot.com, www.writebesideu.com

Contact: (312) 909-5181, stephaniegates0122@gmail.com

“Living Life with a Purpose” by Dominique Wilkins

It is important to face your truths, deal with them, find your purpose, and live life knowing it. Through real-life scenarios, Wilkins explores how to live life every day for a reason. She uses her love for people to help them mirror the situations and use their purpose to fulfill goals and dreams. Includes handouts. (Ages 16+; 90 min; \$100 with permission to sell books and audio CDs)

Reference: Toneal Jackson, APS Books & More, (773) 440-2004

Website: www.AuthorDWilkinsGOODbooks.com

Contact: AuthorDWilkins@mail.com, (773) 510-5493

NEW! “Journaling Your Journey” by Serena Wadhwa

Uncover and discover some of your own truths by combining journaling, psychology and yoga with Serena Wadhwa, Psy.D., LCPC, CADC, RYT. Journey through your past, present, and future assisted by prompts, poses, and positive psychology. We begin with an opening meditation, relaxation, and move into journaling your journey. Please bring a blanket and wear comfortable clothing. (Adults; 90 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

References: Mark Sanders, On the Mark Consulting, onthemark25@aol.com; Pam Mauro, Continuing Education Consultant, (708) 308-9316, mauropam1@comcast.net

Website: www.drserenawadhwa.com, www.chicagonow.com/stress-intelligence

Contact: drserenawadhwa@gmail.com, (773) 368-4363

POP CULTURE & CURRENT EVENTS

NEW! “Veterans and Moral Injury: How You Can Help” by Victoria Noe

As long as there have been wars, veterans have struggled with delayed grief and survivor guilt. Related to but distinct from PTSD, moral injury is finally being recognized and addressed. Find out what it is and how your community can support returning veterans, including drawing on the resources of Glenview-based Military Outreach USA. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Maj. Gen. James H. Mukoyama, Jr., US Army (Ret), Military Outreach USA, jhmukoyama@yahoo.com

Website: www.victorianoe.com

Contact: victoria@victorianoe.com, (773) 450-0391

NEW! “Learn to Play Pokemon, One of the Most Popular Trading Card Games throughout the World” by Lissy Peace and Ryan Springer

Children love to play Pokemon. Collecting characters throughout the neighborhood, many are wanting to learn how to play the trading card game. Pokemon Tournament player Ryan Springer teaches children (5 and up and able to read) how to play the popular game. Classes held across the Chicagoland area, Pokemon trading card games bring in the children and help them learn how to read and strategize. Classes are small in size to teach children one-on-one how to play. Children need to bring a Pokemon “Starter Deck” to the class. 24 children maximum. (Ages 5+; 120 min; \$150)

Website: www.LissyPeaceMarketingandPr.com

Contact: Lissy.Peace1@gmail.com, (312) 961-3431

“American Diamond: Baseball, Pop Culture, and Our National Myths” by James Finn Garner

Baseball is the National Pastime, not only on the field, but in all forms of entertainment. No other sport has inspired so much literature, poetry, film, music, and performance. In this rollicking, humorous presentation, Garner explores the historic and literary reasons that drive this American phenomenon and how the Internet continues the tradition today. Garner, best known for his *NYT* best-seller *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*, also runs the fan-driven

poetry/doggerel website, Bardball.com. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

References: Ray Thomas, Del Webb Sun City, ray.thomas@SCCAH.org; Kathleen Swan, Harper College, kswan@harpercolledge.edu

Website: www.jamesfinngarner.com, www.bardball.com

Contact: (773) 878-7450, velda@jamesfinngarner.com

“Evolution of the Modern Zombie” by Scott Kenemore

Join Scott Kenemore – best-selling author of *Zombie-in-Chief: Eater of the Free World* and *Zombie Illinois* – on a rollicking tour of the zombie’s origins in Haitian mysticism through its evolutions in pop culture to the ravenous zombies of today. Fun (and appropriate) for all ages! Kenemore has previously presented at numerous colleges and universities and at top fan conventions like San Diego Comic Con and Chicago Comic Con. (All Ages; 60 min; \$250)

References: Brendan Riley, Columbia College, briley@curragh-labs.org, (312) 369-8817

Website: www.scottkenemore.com

Contact: scottkenemore@hotmail.com, (773) 799-7127

“The James Bond Phenomenon” by Raymond Benson

Everything you want to know about James Bond 007, straight from Raymond Benson, the third official continuation author – and first American – commissioned by the Ian Fleming Estate to write original Bond novels (between 1996-2002). Slideshow presentation covers the life of Ian Fleming, history of the novels and the films, and Benson’s own experience as a Bond author. (Teens and Adults; 90 min; \$200 plus travel expenses and permission to sell books)

References: Hanley Kanar, Love is Murder Writers Conference, hanleykanar@gmail.com, (847) 337-0603; Dann Gire, Daily Herald, dgire@dailyherald.com, (847) 427-4530

Website: www.raymondbenson.com

Contact: RBinPerson@comcast.net, (847) 217-0389

NEW! “The Conan Doyle Conundrum” by Barbara Barnett

How is it possible that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, best known for creating Sherlock Holmes – the most rational, logical, enduring character in fiction – also had a lifelong belief in the world of fairies and all things supernatural? Join Bram Stoker Award-nominated

author of *The Apothecary's Curse* and *Chasing Zebras: The Unofficial Guide to House, M.D.* Barbara Barnett for a fascinating exploration of how Holmes and the fairy world might comfortably co-exist in Sir Arthur's fertile, expansive imagination. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Lacey Hudek, MENSA), laceeweem@gmail.com

Website: www.BarbaraBarnett.com

Contact: Barbara@BarbaraBarnett.com, (847) 302-0895

HISTORY

“The Journey of Mollie’s War from Inspiration to Publication” by Cyndee Schaffer

Author Cyndee Schaffer discusses women in the military during WWII and, in particular, her mother’s experiences as a member of the Women’s Army Corps. *Mollie’s War* is a memoir describing the life of a WAC who followed the troops into England, France, and Germany. Using excerpts from Mollie’s letters written home to her family, Schaffer takes you on the romantic and always frightful journey of a woman in uniform during this crucial time in history. Presentation includes WAC recruiting movie, slideshow, photos, letters, medals, and memorabilia. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$150-\$300 negotiable and depending on distance with permission to sell books.)

References: Bob Conklin, Moline Public Library, (309) 524-2476, bconklin@molinelibrary.org; Denise Blaszyński, St. Charles Library, DBlaszyński@stcharleslibrary.org, (630) 584-0076 x240

Website: www.mollieswar.com

Contact: cyndeeschaffer@gmail.com, (847) 917-4125

“Gypsy Music Street: Genocide and a Daughter’s Journey to Her Mother’s Shattered World” by Roberta Dietzen

Following the death of her Holocaust survivor mother, Rezszi Lehrer, in 2007, Roberta Dietzen wrote her memoir, *Gypsy Music Street*, a story about irrevocable loss and the traumatic ramifications of the Holocaust that continue to resonate with following generations. Dietzen shares the rich Jewish culture of pre-war Eastern Europe and her memorable roots trip to Budapest and Ukraine. She stresses the importance of bringing awareness to the phenomenon of genocide.

Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60-90 min; \$150-200 with permission to sell books)

References: Wendy Schoof, Carbondale Public Library, (618) 457-0354, wschoof@carbondale.lib.il.us; Richard Reeder, Chicago Jewish Author’s Literary Series, richardreeder34@gmail.com, (847) 542-4624

Website: www.wix.com/robertadietzen

Contact: rldietzen@comcast.net, (847) 204-7608

“History You Didn’t Learn in School” by Donna Urbikas

WWII and Eastern Europe, especially Poland, provide a number of challenges for students of history, especially as the history of that region is very complicated and has been under-reported. Based on the author’s recent memoir, *My Sister’s Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin’s Siberia*, learn what is never presented in history classes and how regional and nationalistic ideologies influence current political events in that part of the world. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Sheila Leary, The University of Wisconsin Press, publicity@uwpress.wisc.edu, (608) 263-0734

Website: www.danutaurbikas.com

Contact: donna@danutaurbikas.com, (312) 343-5454

“How Corn Changed Itself and then Changed Everything Else” by Cynthia Clampitt

About 10,000 years ago, a weedy grass in Mexico transformed itself into corn – and then transformed the Americas, even before First Contact. After First Contact, it spanned the globe and drove westward expansion in North America, building cities and inspiring innovators and entrepreneurs. Vampires, Henry Ford, time zones, Fritos, and the Chicago Bears are all part of this remarkable story. (General audience; 60 min; \$140 plus travel expenses and permission to sell books)

References: Judy Bock, Geographic Society of Chicago, (847) 223-7627, judyil@aol.com; Debi Wolfe, Schaumburg Public Library, dwolfe@stdl.org, (847) 923-3391

Website: www.worldplate.com

Contact: caclampitt@att.net, (847) 537-7915

“The Rule of Rum” by Cynthia Clampitt

Even if you don't drink rum, this is worthwhile history. Learn when rum arose and where, how pirates got involved, how rum helped unite the 13 Colonies, and how it became one of the issues that led to the American Revolution. From the Caribbean across the British Empire, from taxes to military rum rations, come discover how rum once ruled the world. Includes handouts. (General audience; 60 min; \$140 plus travel)

References: Jan Oblinger, Fremont Public Library, (847) 918-3239, joblinger@fremontlibrary.org; Vicky Edwards, Chicago Area Mensa, AchicVic@aol.com, (630) 629-8385

Website: www.worldplate.com

Contact: caclampitt@att.net, (847) 537-7915

“The Murder of Major General William Nelson” by Robert I. Girardi

Award-winning historian and author Robert I. Girardi presents a fascinating Civil War murder case. On September 29, 1862, in the lobby of Louisville's Galt House Hotel, Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis murdered Major General William Nelson. Davis was arrested, but never brought to trial. A combination of political intrigue, cronyism, and military emergency brought this about. Girardi discusses the case from his perspective as a Chicago homicide detective. (All ages; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Kathy Hussey, Wilmette Historical Museum, (847) 853-7666, husseyk@wilmette.com; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.robertgirardi.com

Contact: (872) 256-5773, CvlWarGuy@aol.com

“The Civil War Generals: Comrades, Peers, Rivals in their Own Words” by Robert I. Girardi

The leaders of the Civil War armies came from all walks of life, amateur as well as professional. Many rivalries and jealousies were born of ambition or from personal animosities. The generals were not shy in voicing their opinions of one another, during and after the war. Award-winning author and historian Robert I. Girardi examines the incisive and insightful comments that Civil War generals wrote

about each other. (All ages; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Kathy Hussey, Wilmette Historical Museum, (847) 853-7666, husseyk@wilmette.com; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.robertgirardi.com

Contact: (872) 256-5773, CvlWarGuy@aol.com

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

“A Sketch of Iran: The Country and its Culture” by Libby Fischer Hellmann

Author Libby Fischer Hellmann's *A Bitter Veil* takes place in revolutionary Iran, and it required extensive research. Hellmann shares a PowerPoint presentation about Iran's people, architecture, customs, and culture. With Iran so much in the news today, this presentation moves beyond the rhetoric to deepen Americans' understanding of this fascinating country. (Adults; 60 min; \$350 with permission to sell books)

References: Deb Hoffman, Gurnee Library, dhoffman@wnpl.info; Monique Flasch, Glenview Library, mflasch@glenviewpl.org

Website: www.libbyhellmann.com

Contact: (847) 441-9194, libbyfh@comcast.net

“Inside Cuba” by Libby Fischer Hellmann

Author Libby Hellmann's *Havana Lost* takes place in Cuba during the Revolution of 1958-59 and during Cuba's Special Period in the early 1990s. In addition to visiting Cuba, Hellmann did extensive research on the country and its history. With Cuba capturing current headlines, Hellmann's PowerPoint presentation, highlighted by many of her own photos, will deepen understanding of our neighbor only 90 miles away. (Adults; 60 min; \$350 with permission to sell books)

References: Deb Hoffman, Gurnee Library, dhoffman@wnpl.info; Monique Flasch, Glenview Library, mflasch@glenviewpl.org

Website: www.libbyhellmann.com

Contact: (847) 441-9194, libbyfh@comcast.net

“Travelogues” by Jeanne Roppolo

Join Grandma Jeanne (author of the *Grandma Goes to...* series) on one of her true-life adventures. Through her photos, videos, and storytelling, travel to distant lands, meet fascinating people, and explore other cultures. Take advantage of this fun and unique learning resource. Includes one free book and Teacher Study Guide. (All ages; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

References: Nina Kuzniak, Mather Lifeways, (773) 205-3306, nkuzniak@matherlifeways.com; Dina Sweet, DeKalb CUSD 428, (815) 757-8536, dina.sweet@d428.org

Website: www.grandmagoesto.com

Contact: (808) 987-4473, jeanneroppolo@yahoo.com

YOUTH

“Children’s STEM Workshop” by Patrick McBriarty

Bring an interactive children’s bridge (STEM/STEAM) workshop to your school, library, or group led by author Patrick McBriarty. Program includes a read aloud, explanation of basic bridges and bridge concepts, discussion, and interactive play for groups of 10-150. Introduce kids to science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) using simple construction materials and hands-on experience designing and building their own bridges. (4-12 years old; 45-70 min; \$225-375 negotiable based on group, travel time, and required materials)

Reference: Monica Dzierzbicki, Youth Services Librarian, Indian Prairie Public Library, monicad@ippl.info

Website: www.PTMWerks.com

Contact: (773) 710-0485, Patrick@PTMWerks.com

NEW! “Finnigan the Circus Cat” by Mary T. Wagner

Publishers Weekly called *Finnigan the Circus Cat* “a charming animal story” and *Windy City Reviews* found it “a perfect chapter book for reading out loud.” Learn the backstory of the real Finnigan, a tiny rescue kitten who inspired the book. Wagner pairs conversations about pets, drawing, and imagination with selected readings, and finishes with a “Let’s draw Finnigan!” exercise for youngsters. (Children 5-11 and adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Pat Mahlendorf, Friends of the Mead Public Library, 01paddy@att.net; Annie Bahringer, W.J. Niederkorn Public Library, abahringer@esls.lib.wi.us

Websites: www.marytwagner.com, www.runningwithstilettos.com, www.marywagner.growingbolder.com

Contact: (262)573-7161, runwstilettos@yahoo.com

WRITING, RESEARCH, AND LITERATURE

“Who’s Been Living In My House?” by Grace DuMelle

Learn who lived in your Chicago home before you. See how to search online by address for inhabitants, then apply genealogical techniques to flesh out the names. Will you find a vaudeville performer or a cracker packer? Servants or saloon keepers? Longtime house historian Grace DuMelle is the author of the award-winning *Finding Your Chicago Ancestors*. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$185 with permission to sell books).

Reference: Anne Estabrook Driver, Chicago Public Library, estabroo@chipublib.org

Website: hhrs1872.wordpress.com

Contact: hhrs1872@ameritech.net, (312) 842-8933

NEW! “Between Fear and Wonder: The Hidden History of Speculative Fiction” by Barbara Barnett

The worlds of the unknown and hidden have both fascinated and terrified us for millennia and fueled imaginative literature for nearly as long as we’ve been telling stories and speculating about the unknown and wondering what’s next for us humans! A Bram Stoker Award-nominated novelist, TV critic, and Executive Editor of pop culture magazine *BlogCritics*, Barbara Barnett presents an engaging multimedia history of speculative fiction, from the Gilgamesh Legend to the tomorrow’s biggest blockbuster. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Lacey Hudek, MENSA, laceeweem@gmail.com

Website: www.BarbaraBarnett.com

Contact: Barbara@BarbaraBarnett.com, (847) 302-0895

NEW! “Novel Writing: Outlining, Pantsing, and Everything In Between” by Barbara Barnett

To outline or not to outline? That is the question. But is writing by the seat of your pants, stream-of-consciousness style the way to reach the novel’s finish line? There are enough models out there to make a would-be novelist’s head spin, but what’s right for one author may not be right for you. Join Bram Stoker Award-nominated novelist Barbara Barnett (*The Apothecary’s Curse*) as she describes her own journey and guides attendees to success. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Lacey Hudek, MENSA, laceweem@gmail.com

Website: www.BarbaraBarnett.com

Contact: Barbara@BarbaraBarnett.com, (847) 302-0895

NEW! “Congratulations You Published a Book... Now What Do You Do With It?” by Lissy Peace

You just spent a year working to self-publish your book. Now that you have a book available to be read, what do you do? You are your best ally to sell your books. Lissy Peace, a long-time book marketing consultant, can help you learn how to work with a distributor, empower ebook marketing, build a social media campaign, make Amazon work for you, get your books into bookstores, create and select events, and other successful tools to help market your book. Understand what it takes to become a best seller, how to create publicity for your title, and how to utilize award programs. This program is perfect for all authors at any stage of their career. (Adults; 120 min; \$200)

References: Elsie Martinez, Zion Public Library (847) 872-4680;

Christine Posinger, Des Plaines Library, (847) 827-5551

Website: www.LissyPeaceMarketingandPR.com

Contact: Lissy.Peace1@gmail.com, (312) 961-3431

“Building Suspense” by Libby Fischer Hellmann

Do you write fiction? If so, you’ll probably want to build suspense somewhere in your story. The author of 15 crime thrillers, Libby Hellmann offers an interactive one-hour workshop on the techniques you’ll need to build suspense into your writing. Appropriate for all writers regardless of genre. Handouts included. (Adults; 60 min; \$350 with permission to sell books)

References: Deb Hoffman, Gurnee Library, dhoffman@wnpl.info; Monique Flasch, Glenview Library, mflasch@glenviewpl.org

Website: www.libbyhellmann.com

Contact: (847) 441-9194, libbyfh@comcast.net

“Writing Memoir” by Pamela Ferdinand

Learn techniques for writing your life story and navigating the publishing process with Pamela Ferdinand, longtime journalist (*Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Miami Herald*) and co-author of the triple memoir *Three Wishes: A True Story of Good Friends, Crushing Heartbreak, and Astonishing Luck on Our Way to Love and Motherhood* (Little, Brown & Co.). Bring a notebook and pen or laptop. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

References: Russell Johnson, Evanston Public Library, (847) 448-8600; Nina and Jeff Barrett, Bookends & Beginnings, (224) 999-7722

Website: www.pamelaferdinand.com

Contact: editor@pamelaferdinand.com

“Writing Your Family Story” by Maggie Kast

Learn the challenges of writing your family story from Maggie Kast, author of *A Free, Unsullied Land*, a coming-of-age novel of the ‘30s. After reading and discussion of examples of family stories by various authors, each participant will identify a memory or story to explore. Then, all will write for 10-15 minutes followed by optional sharing. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Teens and adults; 75 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Jan English Leary, author, (773) 769-2051,

jenglish_leary@hotmail.com; Lynn Sloan, author, (312) 513-1522, lynn.sloan@gmail.com

Website: www.maggiekast.com

Contact: magdance@gmail.com, (773) 320-1195

“Creating Characters” by Rebecca Johns

Aspiring writers will learn the art and craft of creating more complex, more dynamic characters by creating high personal stakes and layering narrative techniques from DePaul University creative writing professor Rebecca Johns, author of *The Countess: A Novel of Elizabeth Bathory* and *Icebergs: A Novel*, a PEN/Hemingway finalist

work. Includes handouts and exercises. (Adults; 90 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Debbie Hoffman, Warren-Newport Public Library, (847) 244-5150

Website: www.rebeccajohns.com

Contact: rebeccajohns1971@yahoo.com

“Structuring Your Novel” by Rebecca Johns

Aspiring writers will learn the craft of structuring a novel from beginning to end from DePaul University creative writing professor Rebecca Johns, author of *The Countess: A Novel of Elizabeth Bathory* and *Icebergs: A Novel*, a PEN/Hemingway finalist work. Includes handouts and exercises. (Adults; 90 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Debbie Hoffman, Warren-Newport Public Library, (847) 244-5150

Website: www.rebeccajohns.com

Contact: rebeccajohns1971@yahoo.com

“Psychos, Stalkers, and She-Devils: Using Bad Characters to Create Good Fiction” by Rebecca Johns

Aspiring writers will learn the techniques of building better bad guys from DePaul University creative writing professor Rebecca Johns, author of *The Countess: A Novel of Elizabeth Bathory* and *Icebergs: A Novel*, a PEN/Hemingway finalist work. Includes handouts and exercises. (Adults; 90 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Debbie Hoffman, Warren-Newport Public Library, (847) 244-5150

Website: www.rebeccajohns.com

Contact: rebeccajohns1971@yahoo.com

NEW! “Shaping Family History into Compelling Stories” by Annette Gendler

Who doesn't have a box of old family photographs, a bundle of family letters, stacks of family documents that they want to “do something with?” Based on her experience of writing her memoir *Jumping Over Shadows*, the story of German-Jewish love that overcame the burdens of the past, author Annette Gendler will lead a

workshop presenting approaches to creating compelling stories from family history. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

References: Allison Sansone, American Writers Museum, sansone@americanwritersmuseum.org; Jill Pollack, StoryStudio Chicago, jill@storystudiochicago.com

Website: www.annettegendler.com

Contact: annettegendler@gmail.com

NEW! “How to Write, Sell, and Market Your Memoir” by Annette Gendler

Memoir is the genre of our time. Based on 10 years of experience teaching memoir as well as just publishing her own, *Jumping Over Shadows*, author Annette Gendler presents how to go about writing, selling, and publishing a memoir. Includes Q&A and handout.

(Adults; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

References: Allison Sansone, American Writers Museum, sansone@americanwritersmuseum.org; Jill Pollack, StoryStudio Chicago, jill@storystudiochicago.com

Website: www.annettegendler.com

Contact: annettegendler@gmail.com

NEW! “Adventures in Self-Publishing” by Mary T. Wagner

From novice blogger to award-winning essayist; from formatting issues to the sound of bagpipes wafting on the Atlantic ocean breeze; from “is there a book in me?” to “hell YES!,” *When the Shoe Fits* author Mary T. Wagner shares her journey into print. Part nuts-and-bolts advice about publishing, part savvy perspective about the fun and opportunities to be had as a self-published author. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$275 with permission to sell books)

References: Pat Kilday, Lakefly Writers Conference, patkilday@yahoo.com; David W. Berner, author, davidwberner@gmail.com

Website: www.marytwagner.com, www.runningwithstiletos.com, www.marywagner.growingbolder.com

Contact: (262)573-7161, runwstiletos@yahoo.com

NEW! “Writing Wellness” by Serena Wadhwa

It's challenging to write when all is not well and you want to write something. This workshop explores the combination of artistically

managing and reducing the stress of writing while working through writer's block. Stress expert Dr. Serena Wadhwa Psy.D., LCPC, CADC, RYT will help you discover stress blocks and provide 5 strategies to bust through these. Includes handouts, one-on-one interactions, and take-home care bags. (Adults; 90 min; \$300 with permission to see books).

References: Mark Sanders, On the Mark Consulting, onthemark25@aol.com; Pam Mauro, Continuing Education Consultant, (708) 308-9316, mauropam1@comcast.net

Website: www.drserenawadhwa.com, www.chicagonow.com/stress-intelligence

Contact: drserenawadhwa@gmail.com, (773) 368-4363

NEW! **“Building the Novel: One Successful Step at a Time” by Dan Burns**

Do you have an idea for a story, but don't know where to start? Eliminate your apprehension and roadblocks and *write now!* Learn author Dan Burns' effective building-block method of story development to get your great idea down onto the page fast and build your story with manageable, successful, and publishable results. Based upon the successful short story-to-screenplay-to-novel approach Burns used for his new Chicago mystery novel, *A Fine Line*. Includes handouts and Q&A. (Adult; 90 min; \$200 and permission to sell books)

References: Sandra Iosue, Lansing Public Library, (708) 474-2447 x122, sandra@lansingpl.org; Becky Brillon, Naperville Community Center, (630) 961-5665, BBrillon@communitycarecenter.org

Website: www.danburnsauthor.com

Contact: daniel_r_burns@msn.com, (630) 915-8808

“Moving from Concept to Completed Manuscript” by Patricia Skalka

Mystery writer and former writing instructor Patricia Skalka discusses the three key elements of the novel and shows how to weave them together into a step-by-step road map of the story that takes you from start to finish. The process produces a tight storyline, speeds the writing, and eliminates the “what now?” question that can slow the process. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60-75 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Jerod Santek, Write On Door County, (920) 868-1457, jerod@writeondoorcounty.org

Website: www.PatriciaSkalka.com

Contact: patriciaskalka@gmail.com, (773) 262-3534

“Learning to Be a Better Writer” by Patricia Skalka

Every writer can acquire new skills. Mystery writer Patricia Skalka details three techniques that will enhance your work: using detail to advantage; recognizing when adverbs and adjectives help and when they hurt; and keeping a Treadmill Journal – a painless way to stay disciplined. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60-75 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Susan Gibberman, Schaumburg Township District Library, (847) 923-3141, sgibberman@stdl.org

Website: www.PatriciaSkalka.com

Contact: patriciaskalka@gmail.com, (773) 262-3534

“Writing the Next Chapter” By Patricia Skalka, Lynn Sloan, and Joyce Burns Zeiss

Hoping to have a second career as a serious writer? Learn from three novelists who made the leap and succeeded. Where do you start? How do you sustain creativity? What are the paths to publication? In this unique program, Patricia Skalka, Lynn Sloan, and Joyce Burns Zeiss – a mystery writer, a writer of literary fiction, and a young adult novelist – share their stories, offering insights, advice, and encouragement. (Adults; 75-90 min; \$300 negotiable with permission to sell books)

Reference: Penny Fields, Off-Campus Writers Workshop, penny@ur-pal.com, (847) 331-8591

Website: www.PatriciaSkalka.com

Contact: patriciaskalka@gmail.com, (773) 262-3534

NEW! **“How to do Legacy Writing: Writing Page-Turning True/Family Stories” by Sara Connell**

In this interactive workshop style presentation, participants will explore the joys and challenges of writing about people we know and love, how to shape an idea into a successful story/book/collection, and five master techniques that will make their true story read like page-turning fiction. Includes guided writing

prompts, Q&A, and follow-up with additional resources. (Adults; 90-120 min; \$250-500 with permission to sell books)

References: Linda Joy Meyers, National Memoir Association, lindajoymyers@comcast.net; Rebecca Makkai, Northwestern University, rebeccamakkai@gmail.com

Website: www.saraconnell.com

Contact: sara.connell@gmail.com, (773) 773-1183

NEW! **“Article Writing 101 + 10 Hot Spots For New Authors to Publish Their Work” by Sara Connell**

Learn three key techniques to formulate an idea, structure, and write a riveting article. Writers will also receive tips and strategies for choosing a compelling title, techniques to hook the reader from the first sentence, and 10 ideas of where to pitch and publish their work when it’s finished.

(Adults; 90-120 min; \$250-500 with permission to sell books)

References: Linda Joy Meyers, National Memoir Association, lindajoymyers@comcast.net; Rebecca Makkai, Northwestern University, rebeccamakkai@gmail.com

Website: www.saraconnell.com

Contact: sara.connell@gmail.com, (773) 773-1183

NEW! **“You Should Write a Book” by Sara Connell**

Often writers have a great idea for an article, short story, or book, but the story falls apart when they sit down to write. In this workshop presentation, new and established writers will learn how to use five craft elements to take an idea (or premise) and turn it into a workable story, article, or full-length book. Includes guided writing prompts, Q&A. (Adults; 90-120 min; \$250-\$500)

References: Linda Joy Meyers, National Memoir Association, lindajoymyers@comcast.net; Rebecca Makkai, Northwestern University, rebeccamakkai@gmail.com

Website: www.saraconnell.com

Contact: sara.connell@gmail.com, (773) 773-1183

“Public Speaking for the Painfully Shy Author” by Victoria Noe

Are you happiest when you’re writing? Miserable when you’re asked to speak in public? Let author and former stage director Victoria Noe give you the confidence to face any audience by learning how to choose a reading, introduce yourself, and use a microphone. Bring a

three-minute excerpt from your work. Up to three audience members will be chosen to show off what they’ve learned. (Adults; 75-90 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Porter Anderson, Publishing Perspectives, porter@porterandersonmedia.com; Kim Bookless, publishing consultant, kim@kimbookless.com

Website: www.victorianoe.com

Contact: victoria@victorianoe.com, (773) 450-0391