

Let's Just Write! An Uncommon Writers Conference - March 25-26, 2023

SATURDAY, MARCH 25		
8:00 - 9:15	REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST	
	SESSION 1	SESSION 2
9:30 - 10:45	Welcome to the Conference - Samantha Hoffman, Conference Director Keynote Speech from Best-Selling Author Jane Hamilton	
11:00 - 12:00	Jeff Kurz - The Art of Pitching Learn how to craft a 2 or 3-minute pitch that will inspire an agent or publisher to request your manuscript. Even if you will not be pitching during this conference the information in this presentation will be invaluable as you move forward in your writing career.	
12:15 - 1:30	LUNCH in the Buckingham Room	
1:45 - 3:00	Poetry Panel Panelists: Faisal Mohyuddin, Tony Trigilio, CM Burroughs Moderator: Christina Rodriguez	Eric Charles May - Now You Scene It, Now You Don't: The Interaction Between Scene and Non-scene Forms in the Writing of Fiction and Nonfiction Prose writing is often the interplay, the back-and-forth, between the use of scene--moment-by-moment story episodes using dialogue and active character action--and other types of prose forms such as narrative descriptions, summaries of story actions, back story, etc. In this presentation Eric Charles May will give some examples for how this interplay of scene and non-scene forms can be put to effective use.
3:15 - 4:30	Oral History Panel Discussion - Mark Larson, Rachna Prasad, Shawn Shiflett In the tradition of Studs Terkel, oral history is a vital genre for gathering and preserving voices and memories of the past; a tool we can all use to pass on information that would otherwise fade away. This panel will discuss how an oral historian can faithfully capture a narrator's spoken words, tone, and intent while making it readable in print or performance. Moderator: Sandra Colbert	Kristin Oakley - Characters Who Jump Off the Page What makes a character jump off the page? In this workshop we'll examine some remarkable characters in literature and then run through a series of exercises to explore your protagonist's physical and psychological attributes, strengths, weaknesses (including the fatal flaw), desires, and overriding goal.
4:45 - 6:00	Agent Panel Discussion Joelle Delbourgo , Joelle Delbourgo Associates; Doug Grad , Doug Grad Agency; Lauren Bieker , FinePrint Literary Management; Tina P Schwartz , The Purcell Agency Moderator: Dan Burns	Billy Lombardo - Everything You Need to Know About Point-of-View Point-of-View: writing from 1st person, 2nd person, third person pov; switching pov, the POV contract with the reader
6:00 - 6:30	NETWORKING: WINE AND CONVERSATION	
6:30	DINNER in the Tip Top Tap LET'S JUST CHAT! with Jacquelyn Mitchard , author of <i>The Deep End of the Ocean</i> (the very first selection for Oprah's Book Club), interviewed by best-selling author Ann Garvin .	
SUNDAY, MARCH 26		
	SESSION 1	SESSION 2
8:30 - 9:30	BREAKFAST	
9:45 - 11:00	Fiction Panel Panelists: Jane Hamilton, Jacquelyn Mitchard, Sandra Jackson Opoku Moderator: Randy Richardson, moderator	Nonfiction Panel Panelists: Eric May, Jonathan Eig, Catherine Johns Moderator: Dan Burns
11:15 - 12:30	The Nuts & Bolts of Publishing for Authors - Steven L Baron, Lawyers for the Creative Arts Are you planning to publish your work? Learn how to navigate publishing agreements and mitigate legal risks as an author. We'll discuss publishing agreements; co-author, illustrator, and editor agreements; Intellectual Property, plagiarism, and copyright; trademark issues; defamation and privacy; and insurance for authors.	Publishers Panel Discussion Panelists: Kara Rota, Chicago Review Press; Leticia Gomez, Kensington Publishing Corp; Samantha Keating, Wild Rose Press Moderator: Rick Kaempfer
12:30 - 1:45	LUNCH (on your own)	
2:00 - 3:15	Donna Seaman - A Publishing Expert Riffs on the World of Books A perspective on the publishing world from this book reviewer, editor and writer. Seaman will discuss publishing trends and issues, the importance of book reviews, favorite genres and books, the symbiosis between reading and writing, and the editor-writer relationship.	Ann Garvin - How to Plot With Ease Plotting a compelling story is more than figuring out what obstacles to put in front of characters. The writer's job is to entice, compel and seduce. An emotionally and technically satisfying book has a plot that uniquely fits the character's arc and moves toward a rewarding conclusion. In this workshop participants will work step-by-step from premise to story to plot.
3:30 - 4:45	Panel: Writing Outside Your Own Race/Ethnicity Writing from the POV of a different race is a controversial topic in publishing. Is it appropriate? Are there rules to follow? When does it veer into appropriation? This promises to be a significant discussion as author and moderator Shawn Shiflett talks with panelists Don DeGrazia, Nancy Johnson and Alexis Pride.	Peter Rubie - Finding Your Book's Voice You've probably heard about books being turned down by an agent or editor who said, "It's great, but the voice didn't grab me." What does that mean? It's what makes you unique. Peter Rubie, CEO of FinePrint Literary Management, will help you embrace more than the simple mechanics of good writing. It will ask you to search for YOU and show you how to put it in your writing.
5:00 - 6:15	LET'S JUST READ! CWA's Live Lit Event with Kristin Oakley CLOSE	