

Let's Chicago's Just Writers Write! Conference

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

6:00 - 9:00

REGISTRATION/WELCOME COCKTAIL PARTY/LET'S JUST READ!

Tip Top Tap, Warwick Allerton Hotel
Join us for food, drink and fellowship, and our live lit event Let's Just Read! hosted by Shawn Shiflett

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 - 9:15

REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST

Master Classes

SESSION 1

SESSION 2

Class descriptions can be viewed on the registration page

9:30 - 10:30

Welcome to the Conference - Samantha Hoffman, Conference Director Keynote Speech from Best-Selling Author Jonathan Eig

10:45 - 11:45

How Writing with Others Can Improve Your Craft - Keir Graff
Writing can be lonely and hard, but you're only alone if you want to be. Veteran collaborator Keir Graff shares the secrets to letting coauthors, editors, agents, and others help make your work better.

Social Media: It Doesn't Have to be Overwhelming - Cyrus Webb
Pinpoint the social media platforms that are worth your time, simplify your content creation, and maintain a presence without stressing out. You'll develop your personalized approach and make social media your friend.

1. Karen Karbo - All Hail the Second Draft.
2. Curtis Crisler - Get Out of Your Own Way and Create

12:00 - 1:30

LUNCH in the Buckingham Room

1:45 - 2:45

The Importance of Storytelling in Memoir - Cyn Vargas
Whether you're writing memoir or fictionalizing your story, it needs to be engaging. The elements of fiction apply to both. Cyn Vargas will help you decide which one to do and how best way to grab your readers.

Let's Get Personal - Eric Charles May
The personal essay, be it a standalone piece or part of a book-length work, has a longstanding tradition in literature and is as popular as ever. In our session, we'll examine writing forms—both traditional and modern day—that can quickly get us to interesting territory that we can build upon for our personal essay efforts.

1. Ann Garvin - Grab the Attention of An Agent
2. Lyn Liao Butler - Writing Your Query Letter

3:00 - 4:00

How Poetry Overlaps with Storytelling - Curtis Crisler
Whether you're a poet, a fiction or nonfiction writer, or a memoirist, poetry could be the thing to help you in your storytelling. This interactive workshop will help you to improve your craft of poetry or, if you need inspiration to get over a roadblock in your storytelling.

From Armchair to Being There: Making Travel Writing Pop - Dipika Mukherjee
The world has opened up again and we are traveling, leaving the routine to explore new adventures. Participants of all genres are welcome in this generative workshop, where a series of short exercises will mine new and old memories, to create vivid and transportive writing.

1. Keir Graff - Capture Readers with Conflict
2. Cyn Vargas - Igniting Your Short Story

4:15 - 5:15

Agent Panel Discussion, Moderator: Rick Kaempfer
Andy Ross, Andy Ross Agency, Doug Grad, Doug Grad Agency; Tina Schwartz, The Purcell Agency

When the Writer Plays God - Bonnie Jo Campbell
Using omniscient narration in your literary short stories and novels. We'll explore what happens when the writer knows it all.

5:15 - 6:30

NETWORKING: WINE AND CONVERSATION

6:30

DINNER in the Tip Top Tap LET'S JUST CHAT! with Ana Castillo interviewed by Christine Maul Rice

SESSION 1

SESSION 2

8:30 - 9:30

BREAKFAST

Master Classes

9:45 - 10:45

Fiction Panel - Genre Fiction: What is it, How to Do It and Does It Matter?
Raymond Benson, Tracy Clark and Catherine Lanigan - Randy Richardson, moderator

Nonfiction Panel - Your Nonfiction Story From Pitch to Publication
Mary Wisniewski, Dominic Pacyga, Dipika Mukherjee - Dan Burns, moderator

1. Audrey Wilson - Adapting Your Book Into a Screenplay

11:00 - 12:00

Making a Living Writing While Writing the Great American Novel - Karen Karbo
Don't quit your day job! That's the common wisdom, but should you ignore this advice and just go for it? New York Times best-selling author Karen Karbo has made her living as a writer since 1990. In this session she'll offer tips and secrets for rocking the freelance writing life with satisfaction and joy.

Writing Across Genres - Lyn Liao Butler
Have you been told to stay in your lane, to only write in one genre? That may have been the case in the past, but now, more and more authors are writing across genres and getting them published. Hear why this is becoming a trend and how some agents are starting to embrace this concept by repping clients who write in more than one genre. Learn how to effectively grow your writing in different genres. After all, we read across genres; why not write across them?

12:00 - 1:30

LUNCH (on your own)

1:30 - 2:30

From Story to Screen: Adapting Your Book into a Screenplay - Audrey Wilson
Award-winning screenwriter and author Audrey Wilson will teach you how to adapt your novel into a screenplay. From formatting, using industry-standard screenwriting software, to pitching your work and seeking representation, you'll walk away prepared to take your first steps into the world of screenwriting.

How Writing Your Synopsis Can Fix Your Book - Ann Garvin
Even the most skilled authors find distilling their book into a compelling paragraph (or two) is difficult to do. This session will show you how to get to the very heart of your project, and how doing that will help you make certain the story you're working on is compelling and clear and really works.

2:45 - 4:00

The Changing Face of Publishing: What All Authors Need to Know, April Eberhardt
April Eberhardt will examine the state of publishing today, along with the implications and opportunities for authors. She presents five different paths to publication, including a candid discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each. Discover what partnership publishing is, along with hybrid authorship, and collaborative publishing.
Samantha Hoffman - Farewell. See you next year.