



PIKES PEAK 2006 writers conference

April 21-23, 2006

Presented by the Pikes Peak Writers

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

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Welcome to Conference 2006

Let me welcome each and every one of you to the 14th Annual Pikes Peak Writers Conference. As always, the PPWC staff have been busy preparing for this event and we believe we've hit a new high water mark again this year. We hope everyone, from the newcomers to the old-timers, will have a chance to educate and energize themselves throughout the weekend.

New for Friday is a track of advanced writing workshops for the advanced writers and published authors. For those new to the conference, we're holding our Newcomer's Orientation twice, once on Friday and again Saturday morning. We're also having a Pitch Practice for those folks who want to percolate, practice or perfect their pitch prior to their Saturday appointment. And back by popular demand, R.T. Lawton reprises his interactive Surveillance Workshop on Friday afternoon. That night, Spur award-winning author Johnny D. Boggs will kick off the official festivities.

Our Saturday lunch speaker is the queen of culinary mysteries, Diane Mott Davidson. On Saturday evening, we welcome a man who hasn't met a genre he doesn't like; Dan Simmons is one of the few novelists whose work spans the genres of fantasy, science fiction, horror, suspense, historical fiction, noir crime fiction, and mainstream literary fiction. Wendy French will wrap up the weekend with words of inspiration and levity for writers of all genres. The rest of the weekend is filled with 50 specialized workshops covering a variety of creativity, craft, business and genre-



Laura Hayden
2006 PPWC Director

specific topics. Agents and editors will offer advice for those writers seeking representation. Authors from across the country will share their insights to help you improve your skills.

On Sunday, in addition to regular workshops, we present our reality track workshops, Law & Order: Criminal Writers Unit, in which you can talk to and ask questions of law enforcement and legal professionals in order to help you weave authentic details through your stories. Most importantly, this weekend will give us all a chance to gather together, to talk, to share tales of triumph and woe, to network. Take advantage of the opportunity to pick brains, share experiences and build friendships. Mingle. Ask questions. Exchange e-mail addresses. Organize critique groups (local or online!). Ask more questions. It's not often that you have this sort of access to such a sterling faculty plus be in the company of 400 other writers who understand your goals, share your dreams and speak a common language of creativity.

This brochure will be your lifeline. Study it, mark it up and plot your trip into this wonderful weekend world of writing. And if you find yourself torn between competing workshops, don't despair. Audio tapes and CDs of most of the workshops will be available for purchase.

Buckle your seatbelts, ladies and gentlemen and put your writing tray down in a locked position. Grab your notebook and your favorite pen. It's going to be a GREAT ride!

—Laura Hayden, 2006 Conference Director

Schedule of Events

2006 CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Friday, April 21

11:00 a.m. — Conference Check-in Begins
 11:00-2:30 p.m. — Mystery Writers Surveillance Workshop (Off Site)
 12:00 noon — Bookstore Opens
 12:00-12:30 p.m. — Newcomer's Briefing
 12:00-1:00 p.m. — Market Your Way to the Top
 12:00-1:30; 1:30-3:00 p.m.; 3:00-4:30 p.m.—
 Read & Critique/Editor and Agents
 Read & Critique/Authors
 12:40-3:00 p.m. — Pitch Perfect: How to Pitch
 1:30-2:30 p.m. — Hollywood 101
 1:30-2:30 p.m. — Agent Roundtable
 1:30-4:30 p.m. — Flash Fiction Project
 3:00-4:00 p.m. — Always Keep Five Copies in Your Trunk
 3:00-4:00 p.m. — Agent Roundtable
 3:00-4:30 p.m. — Dave's Top 10 Tax Things
 5:30 p.m. — Faculty and Staff Meeting
 7:00 p.m. — Sit-down Buffet
 8:15 p.m. — Opening Ceremonies
Laura Hayden, PPWC Director
Jodi Beyes, PPWC Emcee
Featured Speaker — Johnny D. Boggs,
"The Most Glamorous Profession in the World"

Saturday, April 22

7:30 a.m. — Continental Breakfast
 7:45 a.m. — Newcomer's Briefing —
 Laura Hayden and Charlie Rush
 8:00 a.m. — Late Check-in
 8:40-9:40 a.m. — Session 1
 9:50-10:50 a.m. — Session 2
 11:00-12:00 noon — Session 3
 12:30 p.m. — Lunch
Keynote Speaker — Diane Mott Davidson,
"Cooking up a Mystery"
 2:10-3:10 p.m. — Session 4
 3:20-4:20 p.m. — Session 5
 4:30-5:30 p.m. — Session 6
 6:00 p.m. — **Keynote Speakers Book Signing** in
 the Library (Relax and Renew Room)
 7:30 p.m. — **Awards Banquet**
 8:15 p.m. — Recognition of Winners of the
Paul Gillette Writing Contest
 Presentation of **PPWC Volunteer**
of the Year Award
 Presentation of **PPW Volunteer**
of the Year Award
Keynote Speaker — Dan Simmons,
"Going After the Rubber Chicken"

Sunday, April 23

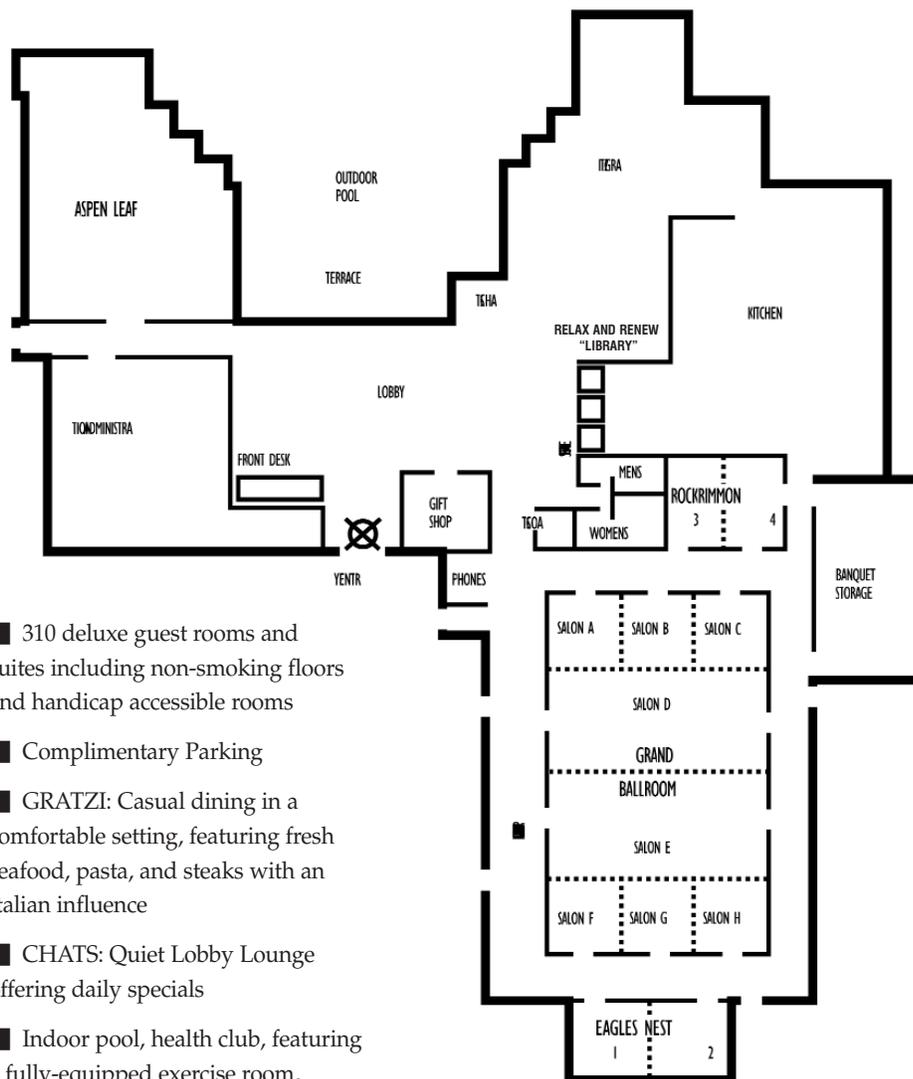
7:30 a.m. — Continental Breakfast
 8:45-9:40 a.m. — Session 7
 9:50-10:45 a.m. — Session 8
 10:55-11:50 a.m. — Session 9
 12:15 p.m. — Lunch
Featured Speaker — Wendy French,
"How on Earth I Got Published"

Wyndham Colorado Springs

We are extremely pleased to return for the thirteenth straight year to the beautiful Wyndham Colorado Springs. Once again the Wyndham is a major supporter of the Pikes Peak Writers Conference, and we appreciate their sponsorship. Among the Wyndham's generous support is hosting the Friday-night festivities and providing some special accommodations. The very attractive rates offered for rooms and conference space help us bring in out-of-town speakers and still keep our registration fees as reasonable as possible.



We enjoy using the Wyndham's Conference Center, which allows virtually everything necessary to the success of our 2006 conference to be conveniently located. Although we have set a demanding pace of events, we urge you to check out all the facilities of the Wyndham. We appreciate the excellent food and service the Wyndham provides. We're glad the conference is back for another year and hope the relationship continues to be beneficial to the Wyndham associates as well as the Pikes Peak Writers Conference.



- 310 deluxe guest rooms and suites including non-smoking floors and handicap accessible rooms
- Complimentary Parking
- GRATZI: Casual dining in a comfortable setting, featuring fresh seafood, pasta, and steaks with an Italian influence
- CHATS: Quiet Lobby Lounge offering daily specials
- Indoor pool, health club, featuring a fully-equipped exercise room, hydrotherapy whirlpool, and sauna

Events and Sessions Schedule

Friday the 21st

SESSION 1F

- 11:00 a.m. **Begin Check-in**
- 11:00-2:30 p.m. **Mystery Writers Surveillance Workshop: Interactive Crime Scene Investigation** with RT Lawton
Preselected attendees only, meet at 10:15 in the Relax and Renew Room. Sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America
- 12:00 p.m. **Bookstore Opens**
- 12:00-12:30 p.m. **Newcomer's Briefing**, *Aspen Leaf*
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. **ADVANCED TRACK: Market Your Way to the Top** with Lilly Ghahremani, *Salons F and G*
We'll examine what every author should know about marketing your work. Using the principles of marketing, we will explore the most effective ways to make your writing career a success. You're guaranteed to leave this room with a big dose of inspiration!
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. **Editor Read and Critique** with Erin Clarke, *Salon A*; Diana Gill, *Salon B*; Shana Drehs, *Salon C*; Peter Joseph, *Salon H*
Editor Read and Critiques are by **pre-appointment**. Aspiring authors will read the first three pages of their manuscripts aloud before an audience—anyone is welcome—and be critiqued by a professional **editor or agent**.
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. **Author Read and Critique** with Jodi Beyes, Giles Carwyn, Deb Stover, *Salon D*
Sign-up at check-in. Aspiring authors will read the first three pages of their manuscripts aloud before an audience—anyone is welcome—and be critiqued by a panel of **published authors**.
- 12:40-1:30 p.m. **Pitch Perfect: How to Pitch** with Pam McCutcheon, *Aspen Leaf*

SESSION 2F

- 1:30-2:30 p.m. **ADVANCED TRACK: Hollywood 101** with Margaret Marr, *Salons F and G*
Co-agents, superstars, directors, writers, studio executives and producers...what does it all mean and how does it all fit together? Hollywood is a complex industry and tight-knit community. Come to this workshop and learn why some books are made into films and how your manuscript can become a film.
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. **Agent Roundtable** with Laura Rennert, Rolph Blythe, Michelle Wolfson, Emily Sylvan Kim, *Eagles Nest 1 and 2*
Various literary agents will sit in informal discussions with those interested in learning what an agent can do for writers. These free-wheeling seminars are meant for writers trying to get educated in the writer-agent-publisher process. This is **NOT** an occasion to pitch your manuscript.
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. **Pitch Perfect: How to Pitch** with Pam McCutcheon *continuing*
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. **Author Read and Critique** with Todd Fahnstock, Maureen McKade, Elizabeth Vaughan, *Salon D*
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. **Editor Read and Critique** with Erin Clarke, *Salon A*; Stacy Creamer, *Salon B*
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. **Agent Read and Critique** with Linn Prentis, *Salon C*; Kristin Nelson, *Salon H*
- 1:30-4:30 p.m. **Flash Fiction Project** with Deb Courtney and Bret Wright, *Relax and Renew Room*
Follow the life cycle of a flash fiction story from beginning to publication with both the writer and the publisher. Includes flash fiction instruction, exercises and Q&A. As a bonus, attendees will gain insight into PPWC's on-site contest, with practice prompts and instant feedback from contest directors.

SESSION 3F

- 3:00-4:00 p.m. **ADVANCED TRACK: Always Keep Five Copies in Your Trunk** with Suzanne Strempek Shea, *Salons F and G*
- 3:00-4:00 p.m. **Agent Roundtable** with Kristin Nelson, Linn Prentis, Lilly Ghahremani, *Eagles Nest 1 and 2*
- 3:00-4:30 p.m. **ADVANCED TRACK: Dave's Top 10 Tax Things** with Dave Moja, *Aspen Leaf*
Dave uses the "Top Ten List" format to count down 10 tax planning issues for writers. Strategies for retirement plans, automobile write-offs, health insurance planning, and education/research expenses are discussed. Participants will leave with new ideas to take full advantage of the tax code.
- 3:00-4:30 p.m. **Editor Read and Critique** with Diana Gill, *Salon A*; Stacy Creamer, *Salon B*; Peter Joseph, *Salon C*; Shana Drehs, *Salon H*
- 3:00-4:30 p.m. **Author Read and Critique** (Optional if needed)
- 5:30-6:30 p.m. **Faculty and Staff Meeting**, *Aspen Leaf*
- 7:00 p.m. Sit-Down Buffet, *Grand Ballroom* (Menu: Barbeque Chicken, Southwest Baked Porkloin, Baked Beans (Vegetarian), Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Salad Bar, Cornbread, Strawberry Short Cake)
- 8:15 p.m. **Opening Ceremonies**, *Grand Ballroom*, Laura Hayden, PPWC Director and Jodi Beyes, Emcee
FEATURED SPEAKER: Johnny D. Boggs—"The Most Glamorous Profession in the World"
Tell people you're a writer, and—unless they're writers themselves and happen to know better—they immediately think it's all glamour and fun and megabook deals with words just flowing off your keyboard. What it is, though, is a job, painstaking, brutally hard, lonely, demanding. On the other hand, while it typically lacks in glamour, it is one glorious profession that grabs your soul. So here's what writing's really all about.

Events and Sessions Schedule

Saturday the 22nd

- 7:30-8:40 a.m. Continental Breakfast in Salons D, E
The Wyndham Continental, Chilled Juices (Orange and Grapefruit), Freshly Baked Breakfast Pastries with Butter, Jelly and Preserves, Hard Boiled Eggs, Freshly Brewed Coffee and Teas
- 8:00 a.m. Late Check-in
- 7:45-8:30 a.m. Newcomer's Briefing—Bring your breakfast in for an informal yet informative Newcomer's Briefing in F, G, H with Laura Hayden and Charlie Rush
- 8:40 a.m. Begin Workshop Sessions

SESSION 1: 8:40-9:40 a.m. SATURDAY

Spotlight on Publishers, *Aspen Leaf*

Erin Clarke, Stacy Creamer, Shana Drehs, Diana Gill, Peter Joseph

Our invited editors will speak about themselves and their publishing companies before opening the floor to questions. No pitches allowed.

Girl Talk: Chick Lit, Lady Lit, Mom Lit...Whatever Lit by Ally Carter, Margaret Marr, and Wendy French, *Salons A, B, C*

This fascinating session will update you on the latest trends in chick lit in all its many forms and what it takes to make it in this field.

Writing, Researching, and Selling Historical Suspense Fiction by Dan Simmons, *Eagles Nest 1*

What are the special challenges of writing convincing historical fiction? What are the research challenges and responsibilities? What

are the difficulties of making the reader care about characters who, in the words of one disinterested editor, "have been dead for years"? Dan will discuss these issues and more.

Hands-On Voice by Barbara Samuel, *Eagles Nest 2*

Your voice is unique to you—as individual as a fingerprint—and a distinctive voice is the single most important thing an editor is looking for. Barbara will explain what voice is...and show you how to recognize and develop yours.

Brainstorming Using the Plotting Board by Pam McCutcheon and Karen Fox, *Salons F, G, H*

In this interactive workshop, Pam and Karen will show you how to brainstorm characters and plot to form the skeleton of a story using a visual plotting board.

SESSION 2: 9:50-10:50 a.m. SATURDAY

Spotlight on Agents, *Aspen Leaf*

Kristin Nelson, Linn Prentis, Lilly Ghahremani

This workshop will feature our invited agents and allow them a chance to speak about themselves and their agencies before opening the floor to questions. No pitches are allowed.

Dialogue Coach: Making Your Characters Talk Authentically While Moving Your Story by Johnny D. Boggs, *Salons A, B, C*

Dialogue may be the most important tool in a fiction writer's toolkit and the most difficult one to master. Flat, stiff, or overdone dialogue can kill the liveliest characters or cause a writer to fumble the plot. Learn how great dialogue can move your characters and story forward.

The Three Elements of Page-Turning Fiction: Character, Plot, and Structure by KJ Erickson, *Eagles Nest 1*

Character, plot, and structure are the building blocks of fiction. Using examples from fiction and nonfiction masters, Erickson shares insights into the creation of sympathetic villains, flawed heroes, plot points, and writing structures that keep characters and plot spinning in readers' imaginations.

A Series of Fortunate Events: The Current Trends in the Children's Book Market by Editor Erin Clarke, *Eagles Nest 2*

What's working at the moment in the marketplace, what isn't, and why it doesn't matter because YOU will set the next trend.

Writing is Rewriting by Kathy Brandt, *Salons F, G, H*

Good writers are rewriters who approach writing as a process. We'll look at the revision process and provide strategies for analyzing audience, structure, plot, clarity, and sentence level effectiveness.

SESSION 3: 11:00-12:00 p.m. SATURDAY

Writing Romance by Karen Fox, Jodi Dawson, Pam McCutcheon, Deb Stover, and Elizabeth Vaughan, *Aspen Leaf*

The romance market has changed dramatically over the past few years. Folks, it ain't your mother's romance anymore. Join these romance authors to find out the real scoop on how to write romances in today's market.

Writing Fantasy and Science Fiction by Giles Carwyn, Todd Fahnstock and Kage Baker, *Salons A, B, C*

Whether it's the fictional world of fantasy or the fantastical world of science, these two genres are often lumped together. Learn the similarities and differences between SF and F and the latest trends.

The A-Z of Writing for Children by Debbie Dadey, *Eagles Nest 1*

Debbie takes the mystery out of writing children's books by going step-by-step through the process, beginning with action! While geared more for children's book authors, this talk is helpful to any beginning writer.

A Trip to the Head: Point of View by Lucia St. Clair Robson, *Eagles Nest 2*

Learn how to use period detail and language to make characters come alive.

A Movie-Lover's Guide to Writing Novels by Ally Carter, *Salons F, G, H*

This session teaches the screenwriting staples that help novelists tell strong, compelling stories that keep readers hooked from beginning to end.

Events and Sessions Schedule

LUNCH: 12:30-1:45 p.m. SATURDAY

- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch in the Rocky Mountain Grand Ballroom (No unpaid guests please.)
Jodi Beyes, Emcee
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Diane Mott Davidson—"Cooking Up a Mystery"
Diane will talk about taking ingredients from life and stewing them into a novel.
- Menu** Chicken and Penne Pomodoro with Parmesan Cheese, Fresh Seasonal Vegetables, House Garden Salad, Mixed Greens with Shredded Carrots, Red Cabbage and Tomato, Ranch and Vinaigrette Dressing, Rolls, Vegetarian/Vegan: Grilled Portobello with Roasted Vegetables, E.V. Olive Oil and Balsamic Vinegar, House Garden Salad, Coffee, Tea
Dessert: DYING FOR CHOCOLATE Cake

SESSION 4: 2:10-3:10 p.m. SATURDAY

Spotlight on Agents, *Aspen Leaf*

Laura Rennert, Rolph Blythe, Michelle Wolfson, Emily Sylvan Kim

This workshop will feature our invited agents and allow them a chance to speak about themselves and their agencies before opening the floor to questions. No pitches are allowed.

Trends in Writing Mysteries by KJ Erickson, Kathy Brandt, Laura Hayden, *Salons A, B, C*

Hard-boiled detectives, cozy mysteries, suspense novels, police procedurals...do you know the difference? If not, let these mystery writers explain the different kinds of sub-genres within mystery and how the market looks for the future.

Writing Across Genres in the 21st Century by Dan Simmons, *Eagles Nest 1 and 2*

Dan has been called "a literary chameleon." How does one write across multiple genres and still create and maintain a readership?

Dan will talk about the problems, tactics, and rewards of not being identified with one form of fiction.

Mysteries of Collaboration: When Two Heads Are (and Aren't) Better Than One by Todd Fahnestock and Giles Carwyn, *Salons F, G*

Long-time writing partners discuss their past failures and recent successes in collaborative novel writing. Issues discussed will include: rewards and detriments to collaboration, rule by inspiration, their eight-step process for writing each chapter, dual-brainstorming, finding a complementary partner, resolving conflict, melding styles, and maintaining synergy and inspiration.

Sex Cells—Er, Sells by Deb Stover, *Salon H*

You write character-driven fiction, and those characters insist it's time for a sex scene—or a love scene. Learn why some writers consider these scenes the icing on the cake, while others would rather have a root canal!

SESSION 5: 3:20-4:20 p.m. SATURDAY

Ask Us Anything—Q&A Session with Kathy Brandt, Giles Carwyn, Elizabeth Vaughan, and Wendy French, *Aspen Leaf*

Ask published authors in mystery, fantasy, romance, and chick lit those burning questions you've always wanted to ask.

Creative Nonfiction Expedition by Laurie Wagner Buyer, *Salons A, B, C*

Traverse the unmapped terrain that lies between the worlds of journalism ("just the facts") and fiction ("the imaginary realm") in this investigative adventure of a genre that eludes capture or being definitively categorized. Dig deep for authentic voice, individual style and genuine tone.

Writing the Synopsis by Literary Agent Linn Prentis, *Eagles Nest 1, 2*

Hate writing a synopsis? Have no clue what to put in one? Linn will share her insights on what makes a great synopsis that will wow your editor and help you sell your book.

The Key Elements to Successful Fiction by Literary Agent Laura Rennert, *Salons F, G*

Laura discusses five crucial elements of commercially successful fiction. Learn the criteria agents and editors use in assessing fiction, gain an awareness of the formal and conceptual tools at your disposal and discover the common criteria for books that garner the biggest deals.

Creating a Strong Sense of Place by Faith Sullivan, *Salon H*

Every story is set somewhere, in some place. Though setting is one of the key components of a good story, it often takes a back seat to character or plot. Learn techniques for placing your reader in the midst of a setting so real they'll feel like they're there.

SESSION 6: 4:30-5:30 p.m. SATURDAY

I Sold, Now What? New Author Panel Featuring Elizabeth Vaughan, Ally Carter, and Margaret Marr, *Salons A, B, C*

These recently-sold authors tell their stories of what led to their first sales, then open the floor for questions.

Seriously Funny by Wendy French, *Eagles Nest 1, 2*

How to inject humor into not-so-humorous situations, and tackle heavy topics with a light touch.

Writing the Perfect Query Letter by Literary Agent Michelle Wolfson and Editor Stacy Creamer, *Salons F, G*

Want to know if your query letter gets the job done? Bring your

query letter for an agent and editor to read during the session. They'll let you know what works, what doesn't work, and if your letter would prompt them to ask to see your manuscript. This session is for feedback only (not pitching), so you can bring a query letter (three copies, please) for any genre.

Putting the Me in Memoir by Suzanne Strempek Shea, *Salon H*

You don't have to be 90 and looking back on an entire life. Whether it's the week you spent floating in an out-of-control hot air balloon, or the 50 years married to the King of Transylvania, we'll look at a genre that's currently red-hot.

Events and Sessions Schedule

Saturday Evening the 22nd

- 6:00 p.m.** **Booksigning in the Relax and Renew Room featuring Keynote Speakers**
Johnny D. Boggs, Diane Mott Davidson, Dan Simmons, Wendy French
- 7:30 p.m.** **Awards Banquet** in the Rocky Mountain Grand Ballroom
- Menu Noisette of Beef with Lemon Chicken, Rice Pilaf and Julienne Vegetables, Dinner Rolls
Vegetarian Option: House Garden Salad, Ranch and Vinaigrette Dressing, Vegetarian Wellington, Rolls
Vegan Option: Garden Salad, Vinaigrette Dressing, Rolls, Red Beans and Rice, Julienne Vegetables, Fresh Fruit Cup,
Iced Tea, Coffee
Chefs Choice of Dessert, Coffee, Iced Tea
- 8:15 p.m.** **Jodi Beyes, Emcee**
Recognition of Winners of the **Paul Gillette Writing Contest** by Dawn Smit Miller
Presentation of the **PPWC Volunteer of the Year Award** by Chris Mandeville
Presentation of the **PPW Volunteer of the Year Award** by Laura Hayden
KEYNOTE SPEAKER, Dan Simmons—"Going After the Rubber Chicken"
Some men and women go after money. Some go after power. Some go after sex or love or excitement or security or a 40-hour work week with lots of vacations. Writers—especially those asked to give banquet speeches—always go after the rubber chicken. (Or after the bouncy beef, depending upon which banquet entree you chose.) While going after the rubber chicken with you, Dan will discuss some of the odder aspects of being a full-time writer in the 21st Century and a few amusing (although perhaps not so amusing at the time) tales from his own 25 years as a professional writer, novelist, and screenwriter.

Sunday the 23rd

- 7:30 a.m.** Continental Breakfast in Salons D, E
- Menu The Wyndham Continental, Chilled Juices (Orange and Grapefruit), Freshly Baked Breakfast Pastries with Butter,
Jelly and Preserves, Hard Boiled Eggs Coffee, Teas
- 8:45 a.m.** Begin workshop sessions

SESSION 7: 8:45-9:40 a.m. SUNDAY

Getting to Know You: Learning the Ins and Outs of Your Characters by Jodi Beyes (aka Jodi Dawson), *Aspen Leaf*

As a writer, you want your reader to understand the motivations behind your characters and their choices. Join us as we explore the ins and outs of what makes your characters tick. Bring paper, pen, and a sense of humor for this interactive workshop.

Working With the Girls in the Basement by Barbara Samuel, *Salons A, B, C*

The muses in your subconscious—the girls in the basement—sit around smoking and playing cards and every once in awhile send up something you can actually use for the project at hand. Barbara will explain how to listen to them and work with them to improve your writing.

How to Avoid Science Fiction and Fantasy Clichés by Kage Baker, *Eagles Nest 1, 2*

Does your SF/F story end with your character waking up to find out

it was a dream? If so, you're guilty of writing a cliché. Let Kage help you avoid the most common clichés in fantasy and science fiction to improve your chances of getting published.

Journey of a First (Published) Novel by Giles Carwyn and Todd Fahnestock, *Salons F, G*

Walk through the evolution of a first published fantasy novel from previous failures, getting an agent, marketing the book in an auction, securing the contract, copy edits, cover art, PR and marketing, and finally seeing the lovely book on the shelves.

Resources for Writing Crime Fiction by KJ Erickson, *Salon H*

Technology and procedure are important factors in creating believable crime fiction. Erickson reviews information resources from libraries, government agencies, community resources, professional organizations and experts, and the Internet.

Events and Sessions Schedule

SESSION 8: 9:50-10:45 a.m. SUNDAY

Reality Track 101: Law and Order, *Aspen Leaf*

Whether you're plotting, plugging through the middle of your novel, or editing, you need to get your facts correct. Join our panel of local law enforcement, medical, and legal experts for an opportunity to answer that question you just can't get off your mind. (Offered twice with different speakers)

Why Work Hard to Write Well When Many Bestselling Authors Don't? by Dan Simmons, *Salons A, B, C*

Using a few mega-bestsellers as his text for "what not to do in writing...ever," Dan will discuss amateurish writing idiocies in such areas as losing control of viewpoint, said-bookisms, adverbitis, foolish plot contrivances, characters who act like idiots, and clichés-up-the-wazoo writing.

How to Turn Facts into a Story by Lucia St. Clair Robson, *Eagles Nest 1, 2*

Lucia will discuss methods of researching the past and making it relevant when writing historical fiction.

Say Goodbye to the Slush Pile: Writing E-mail Queries that Get Results by Literary Agent Kristin Nelson, *Salons F, G*

Tired of getting rejection letters on your query? Want agents begging to read your sample pages without spending a lot on postage? Kristin will discuss the fastest growing trend—sending queries by e-mail. Learn how to make your e-mail query stand out from the hundreds agents receive, what pitfalls to avoid, and who are the agents who accept them.

Rainbow Editing™ Part 1 by Dawn Smit Miller, *Relax and Renew Room*

Introducing a colorful new weapon in the war against sloppy writing and the eternal editing cycle. Learn how to find the unintentional patterns that bog down even the best writing. Using the writer's best friend—the computer—a slew of colors, and pages from their own manuscripts, writers will learn how to highlight patterns so that they practically jump off the page and fix problems they never knew they had.

SESSION 9: 10:55-11:50 a.m. SUNDAY

Reality Track 101: Law and Order, *Aspen Leaf*

Whether you're plotting, plugging through the middle of your novel, or editing, you need to get your facts correct. Join our panel of local law enforcement, medical, and legal experts for an opportunity to answer that question you just can't get off your mind. (Offered twice with different speakers)

Writing Short Stories by Kage Baker, *Salons A, B, C*

Short stories are an art form all their own. Join Kage as she explains how to write and market your shorter work.

Being a Serie-ous Writer by Debbie Dadey, *Eagles Nest 1, 2*

Debbie has created and written eight series for children. She has recently been asked by Scholastic to create a new beginning chapter book series. Find out the steps to follow to create your own successful series, adult or children's.

An Exercise in Creating Mood by Faith Sullivan, *Salon F, G*

Long after a story is over, one of the things you remember most is the mood it evoked—anger, hope, humor, sorrow, satisfaction. Mood gives your writing structure and purpose. Join Faith as she helps you find the words to create specific moods in your readers.

Rainbow Editing™ Part 2 by Dawn Smit Miller, *Relax and Renew Room*

Introducing a colorful new weapon in the war against sloppy writing and the eternal editing cycle. Learn how to find the unintentional patterns that bog down even the best writing. Using the writer's best friend—the computer—a slew of colors, and pages from their own manuscripts, writers will learn how to highlight patterns so that they practically jump off the page and fix problems they never knew they had.

The Mating of Poetry and Prose by Laurie Wagner Buyer, *Salon H*

Explore the ways poetic techniques can enhance prose and create the finely paced rhythm and evocative imagery with which editors and readers fall in love. Discover a new relationship with language that creates writing to leave a lasting impression.

LUNCH: 12:15-1:30 p.m. SUNDAY

12:15 a.m.

Lunch in the Rocky Mountain Grand Ballroom, **Jodi Beyes**, Emcee

FEATURED SPEAKER, Wendy French, "How on Earth I Got Published"

Wendy French revisits the bumpy road which led to her first book deal.

Menu

Smoked Turkey on French Baguette with Swiss Cheese served with a side of Dijon Mustard, Mayonnaise and

Sweet Gherkins, Fresh Fruit

Vegan/Vegetarian choices available

Thank you, Cottonwood!

Please join us in extending a warm thank you to PPW partner Cottonwood Artists' School for providing the use of their classrooms for PPW non-conference events. Cottonwood is part of Colorado Springs' Depot Arts District and offers a dedicated gallery space, numerous classes for artists of a wide range of abilities and ages, and studios for over thirty artists. Visit www.cottonwoodartistschool.com for more information or say hello to Cottonwood's directors Peggy Vicaro and Kay Jeansonne who will be recognized during Sunday lunch. Also, please join us at Cottonwood's festive "First Friday" gallery opening on June 2, 2006 as PPW and Cottonwood jointly host booksignings for several Colorado authors. Watch for details on our Web sites and in the *PPW NewsMagazine*.

Pikes Peak Writers Conference Scholarship Fund

Each year the Pikes Peak Writers organization offers full conference scholarships to Pikes Peak region aspiring writers who couldn't otherwise afford to attend. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on scholarship fund health. The scholarships are possible through generous contributions by many PPW friends, PPWC participants, and funds generated by PPW activities during the preceding year.

Should you wish to make a donation, address it to:
PPWC Scholarships
4164 Austin Bluffs Parkway #246
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Sponsors

The 2006 Pikes Peak Writers Conference is sponsored by the Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration and the Wyndham Colorado Springs Hotel. The Pikes Peak Writers organization appreciates the continued cooperation of the Pikes Peak Library District for supporting the year-round education of regional writers.

2006 Workshop Audio Tapes Available Through:

Swank Audio Visuals
Wyndham Colorado Springs
5580 Tech Center Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Prices for audio items at the Pikes Peak Writers Conference:

Quantity	CD	Cassette*
1-5	\$8.00	\$8.50
5-9	\$7.50	\$8.00
10-24	\$7.00	\$7.50
25+	\$6.00	\$6.50

Method of payment: Cash, Credit Card and personal checks.
*Cassettes will be mailed post-conference.

Post conference orders:
No additional charges for pick up at Swank office. Mail orders will have an additional handling charge.

Guide to Workshops/Presentations by Category

This list will assist you in selecting the presentations you attend during the 12 sessions. With writers' egos being what they are, we hesitate to designate classes for beginners, advanced, etc., for fear that those who could benefit from classes marked for beginners might shun such classes.

About Writing

Session 1F Friday
Pitch Perfect: How to Pitch
Session 3F
Dave's Top 10 Tax Things Writers Need to Know

Session 1 Saturday
Hands-On Voice
Brainstorming Using the Plotting Board

Session 2 Saturday
Dialogue Coach: Making Your Characters Talk Authentically
While Moving Your Story
The Three Elements of Page-Turning Fiction: Character, Plot, and Structure

Session 3 Saturday
A Trip to the Head: Point of View
A Movie-Lover's Guide to Writing Novels

Session 4 Saturday
Writing Across Genres in the 21st Century

Session 5 Saturday
Ask Us Anything—Q&A Session
Mysteries of Collaboration

Session 6 Saturday
Creating a Strong Sense of Place
I Sold, Now What? New Author Panel

Session 7 Sunday
Getting to Know You: Learning the Ins and Outs of Your Characters

Session 8 Sunday
How to Turn Facts Into a Story

Session 9 Sunday
An Exercise in Creating Mood

Sessions 8 & 9 Sunday
Reality Track: Law and Order
Rainbow Editing

Creativity and Promotion

Session 3F Friday
Always Keep Five Copies in Your Trunk

Session 6 Saturday
Seriously Funny

Session 7 Sunday
Journey of a First Published Novel
Working With the Girls in the Basement

Session 8 Sunday
Why Work Hard to Write Well When Many Bestselling Authors Don't?

Session 9 Sunday
The Mating of Poetry and Prose

Genre-Oriented

Session 1 Saturday
Girl Talk: Chick Lit, Lady Lit, Mommy Lit, Whatever Lit
Writing, Researching, and Selling Historical Suspense Fiction

Session 3 Saturday
Writing Romance
Writing Fantasy and Science Fiction

The A-Z of Writing for Children

Session 4 Saturday
Trends in Writing Mysteries
Mysteries of Collaboration: When Two Heads Are (and Aren't Better Than One)

Sex Cells—Er, Sells

Session 5 Saturday
Creative Nonfiction Expedition

Session 6 Saturday
Putting the Me in Memoir

Session 7 Sunday
How to Avoid Science Fiction and Fantasy Clichés

Resources for Writing Crime

Session 9 Sunday
Writing Short Stories
Being a Serie-ous Writer

Presented by Editors

Session 1 Saturday
Spotlight on Publishers

Session 2 Saturday
A Series of Fortunate Events: The Current Trends in the Children's Book Market

Session 6 Saturday
Writing the Perfect Query Letter

Presented by Agents

Session 1F Friday
Market Your Way to the Top

Session 2F Friday
Hollywood 101: Through the Looking Glass, Alice—Welcome to Wonderland

Session 2 Saturday
Spotlight on Literary Agents

Session 4 Saturday
Spotlight on Literary Agents

Session 5 Saturday
The Key Elements to Successful Fiction

Writing the Fiction Synopsis

Session 6 Saturday
Writing the Perfect Query Letter

Session 8 Sunday
Say Goodbye to the Slush Pile: Writing E-mail Queries that Get Results

THANKS!

The Pikes Peak Writers organization and the Pikes Peak Writers Conference require hundreds of hours of behind-the-scenes work from a number of very dedicated volunteers. They deserve a thank you from all of us.

PPW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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—and many more worker bees.

Special Presenters



Johnny D. Boggs—Winner of a 2006 Spur Award

Johnny D. Boggs is one of the few Western writers to have won both the Spur Award from Western Writers of America and the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for his fiction. In 2004, Boggs won the Western Heritage Award for his novel *Spark on the Prairie: The Trial of the Kiowa Chiefs*. His short story, "A Piano at Dead Man's Crossing," won the Spur Award in 2002; *Ten and Me* was a Spur finalist in 2000; and another novel, *Camp Ford*, just won a Spur in 2006. Other titles include a Civil War baseball novel, and the nonfiction book *Great Murder Trials of the Old West*. He has also had more than 25 short stories published in various magazines and anthologies. A native of South Carolina and former newspaper journalist in Texas, Boggs is a frequent contributor to *True West*,

Persimmon Hill, *New Mexico Magazine*, *Wild West* and *Boys' Life* magazines. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his wife, Lisa, and son, Jack. Visit his Web site at www.johnnyboggs.com.



Diane Mott Davidson

Hailed by *Entertainment Weekly* as "today's foremost practitioner of the culinary whodunit," *New York Times* bestselling author Diane Mott Davidson has written thirteen mysteries including her latest novel *Dark Tort* (William Morrow/hardcover; released April 4, 2006) all featuring caterer/sleuth Goldy Schulz. In 1990 she was Writer of the Year for the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers and won the Anthony Award for Best Short Story for 1992. Born in Honolulu, she grew up in Washington, D.C. and Charlottesville, Virginia and currently lives in Evergreen, Colorado. She is married with three sons and previously served on the Board of Examining Chaplains of the Episcopal diocese of Colorado.



Dan Simmons

Dan Simmons' first published story appeared on Feb. 15, 1982, the day his daughter, Jane Kathryn, was born. He's always attributed that coincidence to "helping in keeping things in perspective when it comes to the relative importance of writing and life." Dan has been a full-time writer since 1987 and lives along the Front Range of Colorado—in the same town where he taught for 14 years—with his wife, Karen, his daughter, Jane, (when she's home from Hamilton College) and their Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Fergie. He does much of his writing at Windwalker—their mountain property and cabin at 8,400 feet of altitude at the base of the Continental Divide, just south of Rocky Mountain National Park. Dan is one of the few novelists whose work spans the genres of fantasy, science

fiction, horror, suspense, historical fiction, noir crime fiction, and mainstream literary fiction. His books are published in 27 foreign countries as well as the U.S. and Canada. His latest release is *Olympos*, a science fiction novel and sequel to the highly acclaimed *Ilium*.



Wendy French

Wendy French was raised in Vancouver, where she was certain her parents unwittingly cursed her writing career with a happy and stable childhood. In an effort to overcome her unfortunate beginnings, she sought artistic torment at the University of Victoria, but despair eluded her. Although she earned a BA in Writing and English in 1994, she didn't suffer for a moment. Hoping for worse luck south of the border, she moved to Portland, Oregon with her husband, but happiness continued to stalk her, day and night. Finally, she conceded defeat, abandoned her quest for misery, and began writing humorous women's fiction. She has sold her first two novels, *sMothering* and *Going Coastal*, and she is currently working on her third novel, *After the Rice*.

Literary Agents



Rolph Blythe—Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency

Rolph represents a range of fiction and narrative nonfiction titles as an agent with the Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency. Blythe began his career as a bookseller at the St. Paul, Minnesota independent, The Hungry Mind Bookstore. Before turning to agenting he worked as a book review editor and a marketing manager for both Basic Books and Counterpoint Press. His interests

include literary fiction, narrative nonfiction, biography, history, and science. He handles very few genre titles, but is interested in mystery and crime books.



Lilly Ghahremani—Full Circle Literary

Lilly is a literary agent with Full Circle Literary, founded in 2004 with Stefanie Von Borstel. After being employed as an attorney with an accent on authors' affairs, she was compelled to jump headfirst into the literary world. She now represents a range of projects from nonfiction (pop culture, how-to, humor, lifestyle, relationships and more) to fiction. FCL represents children's

and YA books as well. Lilly is always interested in books—fiction or nonfiction—that offer a multicultural viewpoint for today's readers. She seeks to join forces with authors whose passion for their work is contagious. Some representative sales: *The Grilled Cheese Madonna* and *99 Other of the Weirdest*, *Wackiest eBay Auctions*, Random House; *The Rough Guide to Blogging*, PenguinUK; *Craftster's Guide to Nifty, Thrifty and Kitschy Crafts*, Ten Speed Press; and *Thirty to Wife*, Marlowe & Co., among others. She speaks four languages, each of which hint to her midwestern roots.



Emily Sylvan Kim—Prospect Agency

Emily, founder of Prospect Agency, opened her doors after almost six successful years working at Writers House Literary Agency in New York City. Her commitment to authors and dedication to wonderful stories takes its root from her grounding in the field and her life-long passion for reading and writing. Emily's strong relationships within the publishing community assures her clients top-notch representation in everything

from negotiating contracts and handling auctions to decoding royalty statements. Emily also excels at offering each client editorial guidance and helping shape innovative, sustainable careers. Emily specializes in romance, women's fiction, young adult literature and literary fiction. She loves books that transport readers to new places, surprise and entertain.

Margaret Marr—ICM

Margaret is an author and an agent at ICM specializing in subsidiary rights, i.e. turning books into film and television. ICM has the biggest book department in the world. A few of their notable authors are: Carl Hiaasen, Haruki Murakami, Toni Morrison, Patricia Cornwell, Linda Fairstein, George Saunders and John Feinstein. Margaret has worked on such projects as *The Rule of Four*, Warner Bros., *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen, New Line, with Jimmy Buffet and Walden Media producing, *He's Just Not That Into You* by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tucillo, New Line and *Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiaasen. She also works with motion picture directors Jay Roach, *Austin Powers*, *Meet The Parents*, *Meet The Fockers*, Len Wiseman, *Underworld 1 and 2*, and Nancy Meyers, *What Women Want* and *Something's Gotta Give*. Her first book, *Hollywood Girls Club*, which is "glam lit" will be released in hardcover Spring 2007.



Kristin Nelson—Nelson Literary Agency, LLC

Kristin established the Nelson Literary Agency in the chic/hip urban setting of lower downtown Denver in 2002. She has sold more than 30 books to Random House, Simon & Schuster, and the Penguin Group. She has landed numerous film deals and has contracted foreign rights on behalf of her clients in all the major territories, including

Germany, Holland, Japan, Russia and Indonesia. Her authors have become national bestsellers and appeared on Barnes & Noble and *The Denver Post* bestseller lists. She specializes in representing commercial fiction, with a particular interest in romance and women's fiction, and high caliber literary fiction. She also considers nonfiction projects such as memoir and narrative. Kristin provides editorial and marketing guidance as well as aggressive expertise in contract negotiation. She is a member of the AAR, RWA, and Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America. Please visit the Nelson Literary Agency Web site at www.nelsonagency.com before submitting.



Linn Prentis—Linn Prentis Agency

Linn protested the content and style of her first-grade reader by standing and, voice dripping sarcasm, reciting its entire text to her teacher. She always read nonstop, but was 32 when she took a job as an editor, got her first writing assignment at 35, started as copy chief for a magazine at 37, and 45 when she went to work for Virginia Kidd, a literary agency where she remained until the founder's death. At that

point she started her own agency. She represents science fiction and fantasy authors, YA fiction, mainstream and literary fiction, historical fiction, and biography. She is interested in memoirs and is looking for a good mystery writer and someone with a talent for family sagas.



Laura Rennert—Andrea Brown Literary

Laura is a senior agent with Andrea Brown Literary Agency, which *Writer's Digest* named one of the top 25 literary agencies for developing new writers. She specializes in children's books, literary fiction, women's fiction, chick lit, mysteries and thrillers, and narrative nonfiction. Her recent deals include a middle-grade/YA series to Random House for over half a million dollars, a two-book six-figure YA deal for a bestselling

author to Knopf, and a six-figure deal for a work of literary fiction to Doubleday. She is also the author of a picture book, *Buying, Training, and Caring for Your Dinosaur*, forthcoming with Knopf.



Michelle Wolfson—Artists and Artisans

Michelle joined Artists and Artisans in 2006 and is actively seeking authors of commercial fiction in the following categories: mainstream, thrillers, suspense, chick-lit, romance, and women's fiction. She will consider almost anything as long as it is well written with strong interesting characters. She is also interested in practical and narrative nonfiction projects,

particularly those of interest to women. Michelle holds a BA from Dartmouth College and an MBA from New York University. Prior to joining the agency Michelle spent two years with the Ralph Vicinanza agency. Before that, she spent several years working outside of publishing, in nonprofit and then finance, and she brings the skills she learned there plus a lifetime love of reading to the table as an agent.

Editors and Publishers



Erin Clarke—Knopf Books for Young Readers

Erin began her publishing career in the publicity department at Random House adult. After a year in publicity, she accepted a position at Knopf Books for Young Readers, where she is currently an editor of picture books, middle grade fiction, young adult fiction, and nonfiction for all age levels. Authors and illustrators with whom she works include Julia Alvarez, Tonya Bolden, Dick

King-Smith, Meghan McCarthy, Mark Alan Stamaty, Tamar Stein, and Markus Zusak.



Stacy Creamer—Doubleday and Broadway Books

Stacy is a vice president, executive editor at Doubleday and the deputy editorial director of Broadway Books. She edits commercial fiction and nonfiction for both Doubleday and Broadway and helps oversee the acquisition and publication of titles for the Broadway list. Her authors include Lance Armstrong, *Every Second Counts*; Lauren Weisberger, *The Devil Wears Prada*; Carrie Karasyov

and Jill Kargman, *The Right Address*; and Kurt Eichenwald, *Conspiracy of Fools*. She has worked with many best-selling writers, including Patricia Cornwell, Robin Cook, Steve Martini, Catherine Coulter, Daniel Silva, Dean Koontz, and Alice Hoffman.

Shana Drehs—Crown Publishers

Shana, an editor at Crown Publishers/Random House, is looking for commercial women's fiction and chick lit. She also acquires a range of nonfiction, including sports, memoir, offbeat reportage, humor and pop culture, and historical and contemporary narrative. Her nonfiction list includes the *New York Times* bestseller *The Boys of Winter: The Untold Story of a Coach, a Dream, and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team*, *You'll Never Nanny in This Town Again: The True Adventures of a Hollywood Nanny*, and the forthcoming *Six Days in Berlin*, a chronicle of Jesse Owens' epic accomplishments, *Prisoner of Trebekistan: Eight Years in Jeopardy*, a sharp-witted take on the trivia—and trivial—pursuits of the game-show experience, and the humor book *Sports Off-Center*, a hilarious send-up of modern sports culture in the vein of *The Onion*. Her upcoming fiction list includes the novels *Singletini*, *Model Student* and *Hollywood Girls Club*, the latter two inspired by their respective author's experiences in fascinating subcultures.

Diana Gill—Eos

Diana, senior editor, has edited a variety of books from science textbooks to fantasy novels. She started her career at W. H. Freeman in 1996 and moved to Morrow in 1998, where she now oversees Eos, the science fiction and fantasy imprint. The authors with whom she has worked include *USA Today* bestselling author Trudi Canavan, William Gibson, *New York Times* bestseller Kim Harrison, Anne McCaffrey and Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, Mary Stewart, and Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman, among others. In addition to science fiction and fantasy, her interests include commercial and historical fiction, supernatural novels and thrillers (à la *Douglas Preston* and *Lincoln Child*) and historical and travel nonfiction.

Peter Joseph—St. Martin's Press

Peter is an assistant editor at Thomas Dunne Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Press, where he has worked on titles by authors such as Michael Palin and director Norman Jewison. His list includes popular history such as the forthcoming *Curious Scotland: Tales from a Hidden History*, a biography of the rock band Modest Mouse, the story of the Baghdad Zoo, the memoir of Nobel prizewinner Dario Fo, and several novels due for publication in the coming year. He is interested in acquiring both fiction, particularly mysteries, historical and literary novels, and nonfiction, with a focus on pop culture, history, film, music, and humor. Peter is also an associate editor at *PopMatters*, U.S. editor of *AE* magazine, and departments editor of *Lost Magazine*.

Last Knight Publishing Company is proud to sponsor this year's "Faculty Welcome Reception"

Writing, as an art, is a solitary act. The PPWC is a wonderful format for we solitary creatures to pad out into the light and meet those of like obsessions. We would like to thank the PPWC for including Last Knight in this year's conference. Last Knight Publishing Company has been publishing books since June of 2002. We have released three novels and a nonfiction title to date with two more titles to be released this year, including our first mass market release. Submission requirements can be found at www.lastknightpublishing.com.

Charles Kaine started Last Knight Publishing in 2002 with the arrogant belief that he could do better than "that." Ignorant to the daunting odds against him, he took his foolhardy quest to the presses. Dumb luck and persistence led him to the massive and turbulent world of publishing and bookselling to an island of moderate successes where personal rewards abound (in season) and the "well of satisfaction" is never low enough to drive him away for long. Besides, being a publisher is still a kick in the pants!

are an excellent opportunity to get to know your fellow writers and to network.

Our member benefits also include the *Pikes Peak Writer NewsMagazine* which is a bi-monthly publication dedicated to serving you, the aspiring writer; you, the published writer; you, the somewhere in-between writer. The *Pikes Peak Writer* is filled with fantastic features and captivating columns designed to light a fire under your creativity, answer your burning questions, and lead you in the direction you need to go.

PPW also sponsors an informal e-mail loop where writers can pose questions at two in the morning and have answers/opinions/sympathy/cheers by breakfast time. Our Web site is continually being expanded with more timely information and easy online registration for all programs. And don't forget, members receive a discount to all PPW sponsored programs and workshops, including the Pikes Peak Writers Conference.

If you have questions about the organization, any staff member can point you to the right person to supply the answers. You can identify staff members by his or her green badge.



PIKES PEAK WRITERS

Pikes Peak Writers was formed for the purpose of serving the Front Range and beyond, acting as a central clearinghouse of information about all aspects of the commercial fiction writing community. We are dedicated to offering year-round quality education and a network of information for writers. Our organization provides a pooling place of information for writers' meetings, critique groups, seminars, workshops and an annual writing contest.

We sponsor the Pikes Peak Writers Conference which has built its reputation for success over the past 14 years by presenting annual multi-genre conferences that consistently bring together highly professional industry experts, a host of experienced authors, and a hungry audience of writers who want to perfect their craft and find success placing their works.

PPW offers year-around programs including monthly "Write Brain" sessions and special quarterly programs. Free for members, Write Brain sessions are informal, interactive workshops where you can stretch your writing skills with hands-on activities. They

FRIDAY READINGS

Our editors and agents have agreed to listen to a couple of hours of readings on Friday afternoon. You must have signed up on your registration form and received a reading assignment. To accommodate as many people as possible—and in recognition of the critical importance of the opening pages—readings are limited to a half-page description of your book and the opening THREE pages of properly formatted manuscripts.

Priority sign-up is based on contest placement and the order of conference registration. Bring an additional copy of your reading for the editor. If you're not reading, you're welcome to sit in on the readings and hear first-hand the advice given to those who are presenting their stories.

Published authors will host read and critique sessions "drop in" read and critique sessions for those without appointments.

OTHER FRIDAY OPTIONS

- Several Advanced Track workshops for experienced and published writers
- Newcomer's Briefing
- Flash Fiction Project

AGENTS ROUNDTABLE

During two sessions on Friday, a group of literary agents will sit in open informal discussions with those interested in learning what an agent can do for writers. These free-wheeling seminars are meant for writers trying to get educated on the process of the writer-agent-publisher process. This is not an occasion to pitch your manuscript.

NEWCOMER'S BRIEFING

We're pleased to welcome a number of writers attending their first PPWC. Got questions? Two sessions are offered, Friday noon and Saturday morning at 7:45 a.m. Come listen to "old heads" give tips on planning which sessions to attend, conference etiquette, pacing, and generally what to expect. This is a chance to ask your neophyte questions and not be embarrassed.

Authors and Specialists



Kage Baker

Kage grew up in Hollywood, California. She spent 12 years in assorted navy blue uniforms obtaining a good parochial school education and numerous emotional scars. Rapier wit developed as

defense mechanism to deflect rage of larger and more powerful children who took offense at abrasive, condescending and arrogant personality in a sickly eight-year-old. Her previous occupations were graphic artist and mural painter, and over a period of years for the Living History Centre, she was a playwright, bit player, director, teacher of Elizabethan English for the stage, stage manager and educational program assistant coordinator. Presently she is engaged in the above-listed capacities for the LHC's triumphant reincarnation, As You Like It Productions. She is now happily settled in beautiful Pismo Beach, Clam Capital of the World, in a charming seaside cottage which is unfortunately not haunted by a ghost of a dashing sea captain.



Jodi Beyes aka Jodi Dawson

Jodi is a multi-published romance writer in 11 languages. Two of her books, *Her Secret Millionaire* and *Their Miracle Baby*, were finalists in the Romance Writers of America Golden Heart

contest. Crediting the Pikes Peak Writers Conference and its prestigious Paul Gillette Writing Contest, as well as the Pikes Peak Romance Writers, with starting her on the path to publication, Jodi now writes novels for Harlequin, works for *Denver Woman Magazine*, presents workshops on writing, and uses any opportunity to gain control of the microphone in front of a captive audience.



Kathy Brandt

Kathy is the author of the *Underwater Investigation* series featuring scuba diver and underwater crime scene investigator, Hannah Sampson. The most recent is *Dangerous Depths*, Penguin Putnam/Signet. The fourth book in

the series, *Under Pressure*, will be released in June, 2006. The Caribbean setting was a natural for Kathy. She and her husband have been sailing and scuba diving in the islands for 18 years. She taught writing at the University of

Colorado for 10 years before deciding to write full time. Her articles have appeared in *Cruising World*, *Sailing*, *Yachting*, *Diver*, and many other publications. Her other novels are *Swimming with the Dead* and *Dark Water Dive*.



Laurie Wagner Buyer

When she is not hiking in the high country or on the road performing, speaking, and presenting workshops, poet Laurie Wagner Buyer lives in Woodland Park, Colorado, where she also

devotes time to her mentoring and editing business, Creative Adventure: A Guide Service for Writers. Laurie's award-winning poetry books include *Red Colt Canyon* and *Glass-eyed Paint in the Rain*. Her memoir, *Spring's Edge*, won the Beryl Markham Award for Creative Nonfiction from Story Line Press and *Side Canyons*, a novel based on a true story, has just been released from Five Star Press. The recipient of a Literature Artist Fellowship and numerous grants from the Colorado Council on the Arts, Laurie has worked with the Young Audiences Program and the On-line Poetry Project. With an MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College in Vermont, and having been featured in *Reader's Digest*, *The Rocky Mountain News*, and *Persimmon Hill*, Laurie is in demand at conferences and venues across the country including Writing the West at Western State College, Missouri Valley College, Ozark Creative Writers, Western Writers of America, Women Writing the West, Wyoming Writers, and the Western Folklife Center. She also teaches with Writers on the Net. Laurie's new collection of poetry, *Across the High Divide*, is forthcoming from Ghost Road Press, and she is co-editor with W.C. Jameson, PhD, for a collection of poetry about the contemporary West titled *Open Range*.



Ally Carter

Ally is a writer living and working in the Midwest. In 2004 she dusted off an old screenplay from the back of her closet and turned it into her debut book, *Cheating at Solitaire*, Berkley December 2005, which will soon be

followed by a sequel, *Learning to Play Gin*. Her first novel for young adults, *I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have to Kill You*, will be Hyperion's lead title in April 2006 and has already been optioned by Disney and the producers of *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *The Princess Diaries*.

Upcoming PPW Events

May Write Brain Session will be our Annual Open Meeting

FREE and Open to the Community

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

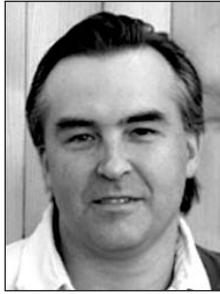
Cottonwood Artists' School,
25 Cimino Drive

This "Open Meeting" will be a Social as well as a Write Brain Session. Come chat with the PPW Board of Directors and other PPW members. We will also have a multi-genre panel showcasing PPW Success Stories. Panel features Jeff Shelby, Paula Reed, Bob Spiller, Karen Lin and Beth Groundwater. The authors will be available to chat and sign books through the evening. We encourage you to mingle and socialize while enjoying an assortment of delicious desserts and beverages. This occasion will mark the unveiling of the brand new "PPW Tea & Coffee Bar!" Plan for time to visit our on-site bookstore, too. We'll have copies of our panelists books plus select nonfiction writers' books and some auto-graphed novels for sale.

Please bring your writing friends who want to learn more about PPW. The event is free to all, members and nonmembers alike. If you plan to attend, we kindly ask that you RSVP by e-mailing rsvp@ppwc.net. In the body of the e-mail indicate your name and

continued on page 14

Authors and Specialists



Giles Carwyn

Giles dropped out of college in his senior year determined to write a story that would change the course of human evolution. He only completed three chapters that somehow managed to be pretentious and juvenile at the same time. Despite

such humbling beginnings, he never gave up on his goal of spending his life telling stories. Over the next 15 years he continued writing novels, short stories and screenplays. The highlight of his writing career came when his wife, Tanya, proposed to him the day she read his first screenplay. Giles' latest novel, *Heir of Autumn*, co-written with his long-time writing partner, Todd Fahnstock, was published in hardback by the Eos imprint at Harper Collins in February of 2006. He currently lives one hundred blocks too far from the mountains in Englewood, Colorado with his wife Tanya and his two daughters, Liefke and Luna.



Debbie Dadey

Debbie is the author and co-author of over 130 books for children and adults, including the best-selling *Adventures of the Bailey School Kids* series. New titles include *Trapped in the Principal's Office*, *Swamp Monster in*

Third Grade #3, *The Worst Name in Third Grade*, *Dragons Don't Throw Snowballs*, *The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids series #51*, and *Frights! Camera! Action!*, *Ghostville Elementary series #12*. In addition, *Writer's Digest* asked Debbie to write *Story Sparkers*, a how-to-book on getting ideas and using them to write a sparkling children's book. Debbie has traveled all over the world sharing her books, but loves being home in Fort Collins, Colorado with her husband and three children the best. She has heard great things about the Pikes Peak Writers Conference and is eager to attend!



KJ Erickson

KJ writes the *Mars Bahr* mystery series, set in Minneapolis. Her first book in the series, *Third Person Singular*, was nominated for Anthony and Barry Awards as the best first mystery published in 2001. *The Dead Survivors*

received a Friends of American Writer's prize for adult fiction published in 2002. *The Last Witness* and *Alone at Night* were nominated for

Minnesota book awards in 2003 and 2004, respectively. *Alone at Night* received the Minnesota book award for popular fiction published in 2004 and is a nominee for the Barry Award for best novel, awarded by *Deadly Pleasures* magazine.



Todd Fahnstock

In his senior year in high school in 1988, Todd wrote his first novel, forevermore addicted to the power of creating a character who was everything he wanted to be. Sixteen years, many adventures and almost a dozen novels later, he

continues to perpetuate his dream of bringing heroes to life. His latest novel, *Heir of Autumn*, co-written with his long-time writing partner, Giles Carwyn, was published in hardback by the Eos imprint at Harper Collins in February 2006. Todd resides in a 100-year-old Victorian house in Englewood with his true love Lara, their brilliant and beautiful daughter Elowyn, a big blue dog named Lancelot, a big red dog named Ade, and a baby on the way.



Karen Fox

Karen is the author of eight romance novels. Her second book, *Somewhere My Love*, was a finalist for Romance Writer of America's prestigious RITA Award and *Buttercup Baby* became a Bookseller's Best Award winner, voted on by book-

sellors around the country. A partner in the online author community, NovelTalk.com, she also serves on the RWA National Board. She lives in Fountain, Colorado and belongs to the Pikes Peak Romance Writers. She is a member of the infamous Wyrd Sisters critique group.



Laura Hayden

Laura attended PPWC's inaugural year as the bookstore coordinator and contest winner. Since then, she's sold 10 novels and three short stories to six publishers under two names while living in five different states. Laura is a two-time former director

of PPWC, a founding board member of PPW and survived her terms as PPW's first president and is now its first FORMER president.

PPW Events

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contact number, the number of people in your party and the event you plan to attend. An RSVP does not commit you to attending, but helps us to provide sufficient materials and enables us to contact you should there be a change in event plans.

VIP Judges for the Paul Gillette Writing Contest

For the first time, the Paul Gillette Contest had editors and agents serving as VIP judges. These judges determined the order of the top three entries in each category. This gave the entrants the opportunity to get their manuscripts before industry professionals in their genre. Final round judges were:

Children's:

Erin Clarke

Alfred A. Knopf Books
for Young Readers

Creative Nonfiction:

Shana Drehs

Crown Publishers

Mainstream:

Kristin Nelson

Nelson Literary
Agency, LLC

Mystery/Suspense/Intrigue:

Stacy Creamer

Doubleday Broadway

Romance:

Emily Sylvan Kim

Prospect Agency

Science Fiction/

Fantasy/Horror:

Diana Gill

HarperCollins

Short Stories:

Linn Prentis,

Linn Prentis Agency

Young Adult:

Lilly Ghahremani

Full Circle Literary, LLC

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Authors and Specialists



R.T. Lawton

R.T. has 40 published short stories, seven of them in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*. Having a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, R.T. is a Vietnam vet and a retired

federal law enforcement agent. He currently resides in Colorado Springs with his wife, Kiti, who is also his first reader.



Pam McCutcheon

Artist, math teacher, spy, flight attendant, inventor, psychic, astronaut, writer, detective, alien contact specialist...these are all the professions Pam considered as a child, discovered through the worlds of the novels her parents had

laying around the house. But though she loved words and the creative worlds they evoked, she also loved numbers—the pure logic and elegance of them. So, for many years she satisfied her logical side as an industrial engineer for the U.S. Air Force. Now, she's happy to be indulging her creative writing side during the second half of her life by writing and beading. Pam is the award-winning author of ten romance novels, four fantasy short stories (under the name Pamela Luzier) and two how-to books for writers. She has been involved with the PPWC every year it has been in existence.



Dawn Smit Miller

In *Rainbow Editing™*, Dawn shares many of the colorful secrets she has learned in eleven years of freelance editing and nearly twenty years of proof-reading. She was born the youngest of four children in Colorado Springs,

Colorado, where she spent nearly all of her formative years. Entering the business world, Dawn found herself in a dilemma: she wanted to write, but she also wanted to eat. So she got her master's in international management from Thunderbird College, and in doing so learned what she didn't want to do for a living. Marriage to a wonderful, supportive husband put her back on the writing track, which led to the development of *Rainbow Editing™*. Dawn currently lives in Monument, Colorado, and writes under the name Dawn Smit.



David C. Moja

Dave is a CPA and has a BS in Accounting. He's worked for three national accounting firms and also managed his own CPA firm for seven years. Dave specializes in mission organizations, planned giving and church consulting.

He has spoken extensively, conducting not-for-profit tax, fundraising, and ministers' tax workshops. Currently, he pens the regular column, "Makes Cents to Me" for *InSite* magazine. Dave has participated on the faculty of conferences for CMA, Regional Christian Management Institute, PPWC, Christian Camp and Conference Association and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Dave serves on the board of CMA and is a former board member of James Irwin Charter High School. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and is a CPA in Colorado and Georgia.



Lucia St. Clair Robson

Lucia was born in Baltimore and grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida. She has been a Peace Corps Volunteer in Venezuela, a teacher in New York City, and a librarian in Annapolis,

Maryland. She has also lived in Japan, South Carolina, and Arizona. She is the author of *Ride the Wind*, a *New York Times* and *Washington Post* best seller. The Western Writers of America awarded *Ride the Wind* the Golden Spur for that year's best historical western. Her novel, *Ghost Warrior*, was one of three finalists for the Golden Spur in 2003. Also in 2003, *True West* magazine named Lucia Best Living Western Historical Novelist. In their critique of her latest book, *Shadow Patriots: A Novel of the Revolution*, *Kirkus Reviews* said, "Few novelists working today have a better grasp of early American history than Robson."



Barbara Samuel

Barbara is a multiple RITA award-winning author with more than 25 books to her credit, both historical and contemporary romances and women's fiction. She has made her way by writing since she was eighteen,

penning newspaper and magazine articles, columns and opinion, before settling in with an ancient IBM typewriter and even more ancient

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June Write Brain Session

Writing and Marketing
Short Stories

Tuesday, June 13th, 2006

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cottonwood Artists' School

July Write Brain Session

Creating Collages to Help
Your Writing featuring
Barbara Samuel

Tuesday, July 11th, 2006

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cottonwood Artists' School

July Workshop

American Icon!

Aspiring novelists are invited to read short excerpts from their original work in any genre. A panel of "Celebrity Judges" will give off-the-cuff comments and suggestions. Prizes are awarded for "Best Overall," "People's Choices" and a variety of other categories. Last year's prizes included readings from editors and agents—the Grand Prize winner received permission to place those coveted words "Requested Materials" on a submission sent to New York Literary Agent Donald Maass. This year's prizes are still under wraps, but check our Web site frequently for news and updates.

How to Contact us:

For information on upcoming PPW programs, visit www.ppwc.net. Contact us via e-mail at info@ppwc.net or write to: Pikes Peak Writers

4164 Austin Bluffs Parkway #246
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
or call (719) 531-5723

Authors and Specialists

house, rescued from the wrecking ball, to write fiction. Her work has captured a plethora of awards, including four RITAs; the Colorado Center for the Book Award (twice); Favorite Book of the Year from Romance Writers of America, and the *Library Journal's* list of Best Genre Fiction of the year, among many others. She now writes women's fiction for Ballantine, romances for Silhouette, and columns for her Web site and *Novelist's Ink*.



Suzanne Strempek Shea

Suzanne is the author of five novels, *Selling the Lite of Heaven*, *Hoopi Shoopi Donna*, *Lily of the Valley*, *Around Again* and *Becoming Finola*, all published by Washington Square Press. Winner of the 2000 New England

Book Award, which recognizes a literary body of work's contribution to the region, she's also written two memoirs: *Songs From a Lead-lined Room: Notes—High and Low—From My Journey Through Breast Cancer and Radiation*, and *Shelf Life: Romance, Mystery, Drama and Other Page-Turning Adventures From a Year in a Bookstore*. She also has freelanced for publications including *Yankee Magazine*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Organic Style* and the former *New England Monthly*. Suzanne is a member of the faculty at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast MFA program in creative writing, and an adjunct faculty member in the MFA program in Writing, Literature and Publishing at Emerson College in Boston. A native Western Massachusetts, she still lives there, in the village of Bondsville.



Photo by
Martin Yaslowitz

Deb Stover

Once Upon a Time, PPWC veteran and past director Deb Stover wanted to be Lois Lane, until she discovered Clark Kent is a fraud and there is no Superman. Since publication of her first novel in 1995, Stover has received

dozens of awards for her unique work, including a 2005 Career Achievement Award for Contemporary New Reality from *Romantic Times BOOKclub Magazine*. Deb's twelfth novel, *The Gift*, will be a paranormal romantic suspense for Dorchester Publishing.



Faith Sullivan

Faith grew up in small-town Minnesota (Lakefield and Pipestone) and graduated from Minnesota State University at Mankato. Though she has lived in St. Louis, New York and Los Angeles, forty-some

years of her life have been spent in Minnesota. In 1975 she began writing novels because she had a great idea for one and was unable to talk her husband Dan, theater critic for the *Los Angeles Times*, into writing it. Since then she has published seven novels: *Repent*, *Lanny Merkel*, *Watchdog*, *Mrs. Demming and the Mythical Beast*, *The Cape Ann*, *The Empress of One and Gardenias*. She is currently at work on numbers eight and nine. The Sullivans have three grown children, Maggie, Ben and Kate, who are all writers. Of writing Sullivan says, "The wonderful thing about it is that you're never too young or too old. I intend doing it until my pencil runs out of lead."



Elizabeth A. Vaughan

Elizabeth is the author of *Warprize* and *Warsworn*, the first two books in the *Chronicles of the Warlands*, published by Tor Books. She's always loved fantasy and science fiction and has been a fantasy role-

player since 1981. By day, Beth's secret identity is that of a lawyer, practicing in the area of bankruptcy and financial matters, a role she has maintained since 1985. Beth is owned by four cats and lives in the Northwest Territory, on the outskirts of the Black Swamp, along Mad Anthony's Trail on the banks of the Maumee River.

Conference Book Store

The Conference Bookstore will again offer a wide variety of books by our faculty and speakers as well as many selections to enhance your writing skills. We will also have conference shirts, bookbags and other items. If you're looking for a place to get a cup of coffee or lemonade and just relax and chat, the bookstore has that too. Also check out the bookstore's schedule for author book signings.

NOTE: We will accept checks and cash. We also accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover with minimum purchases of \$15.

2006 Paul Gillette Writing Contest Winners

Children's

First Place	Colin Murcray	Littleton, CO	<i>Merely Players</i>
Second Place	Rebecca Davis	Colorado Springs, CO	<i>Fairy Trails</i>
Third Place	Meridee Jones Cecil	Golden, CO	<i>Through Celtic Mists</i>

Creative Nonfiction

First Place	Manette Snow	Centennial, CO	<i>I Am Other</i>
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Mainstream

First Place	Chris Myers	Colorado Springs, CO	<i>Born to Kill</i>
Second Place	Douglas M. Fain	Evergreen, CO	<i>Sink the Kamkara</i>
Third Place	Traci C. Adams	Ringgold, GA	<i>The Truth of Wishing Wells</i>

Mystery/Suspense/Intrigue

First Place	Barbara Nickless	Colorado Springs, CO	<i>To Each Man an Island</i>
Second Place	Pete Sheridan	Penrose, CO	<i>The Last Bear God Made</i>
Third Place	Laura Chambers	Colorado Springs, CO	<i>Murder in Spades</i>

Romance

First Place	Donnell Ann Bell	Colorado Springs, CO	<i>Bad Timing</i>
Second Place	Michele Braun Whiteaker and Karen Clark	Colorado Springs, CO	<i>Southern Serenade</i>

Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror

First Place	Josh Vogt	Lakewood, CO	<i>When the Six Bards Sing</i>
Second Place	Robin Widmar	Elbert, CO	<i>Bloodstone Legacy</i>
Third Place	R. Craig Fraser	Erie, CO	<i>Wizard's Way</i>

Short Story

First Place	Heather Sappenfield	Eagle, CO	<i>Tryst</i>
Second Place	Scott Brendel	Westminster, CO	<i>Aunt Tilly</i>
Third Place	Christian M. Lyons	Lafayette, CO	<i>Andante, Andante</i>

Young Adult

First Place	Pamela Mingle	Littleton, CO	<i>Pandemic!</i>
Second Place (Tie)	Ceil Boyles	Parker, CO	<i>Found Guilty</i>
	Karen Wester Newton	Rockville, MD	<i>Nomads</i>



2007 Pikes Peak Writers Conference is set for April 20-22

Registration opens January 1, 2007

The deadline for the Paul Gillette Writing Contest is November 1, 2006