



The Pikes Peak Writers present

Pikes Peak Writers Conference 2013

Writing from the Ashes ... Never Lose Sight of Your Dreams

PPWC 2013
April 19-21

❖
Special Add-on
Day April 18

Table of Contents

The General
Schedule, Hotel
Information, and
Registration
Information
Page 2

Get Informed About
Publishing with
Editors & Agents
Pages 3 & 4

Get Your Work in
Front of the Faculty
Page 5

Special Add-on
Day of
Programming
Page 6

Authors &
Specialists
Pages 7-9

Workshops to
Enhance the Craft
and Business of
Your Writing Life
Pages 10-12



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Libba Bray is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Gemma Doyle trilogy (*A Great and Terrible Beauty*, *Rebel Angels*, and *The Sweet Far Thing*), the Michael L. Printz Award-winning *Going Bovine*, and *Beauty Queens*, a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Teen Books of 2011. Her new novel, *The Diviners*, is the first book in a supernatural series set in 1920's New York City. When Libba is not scribbling words or watching *Dr. Who*, she is one-quarter of the all-YA author rock band, Tiger Beat. <http://libbabray.com/>

Barry Eisler spent three years in a covert position with the CIA's Directorate of Operations, then worked as a technology lawyer and startup executive in Silicon Valley and Japan, earning his black belt along the way. Barry's bestselling thrillers have won the Barry Award and the Gumshoe Award for Best Thriller of the Year, have been included in numerous "Best Of" lists, and have been translated into nearly twenty languages. Barry lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. <http://www.barryeisler.com/>



Amber Benson is a writer, director and actor. She wrote the "Calliope Reaper-Jones" series for Ace/Roc, and her middle grade book, *Among the Ghosts*, came out in paperback this past fall. She co-directed the Slamdance feature, *Drones*, and (co-wrote) and directed the BBC animated series, *The Ghosts of Albion*. Her acting work includes the Steven Soderbergh film, *King of the Hill*, and three years on the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. <http://amberbensonwrotethis.blogspot.com/>

David Liss is the author of seven novels, most recently *The Twelfth Enchantment*. His previous books include *A Conspiracy of Paper*, which was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and won the 2001 Barry, Macavity and Edgar awards for Best First novel. *The Coffee Trader* was also named a *New York Times* Notable Book. *The Devil's Company* has been optioned for film by Warner Brothers. David is the author of the graphic novel *Mystery Men*, has written *Black Panther* for Marvel Comics and *The Spider* for Dynamite Comics. <http://davidliss.com/>



Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 18

Special ADD-ON Day

Thursday Check-in 8:30 AM

AM Session: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

LUNCH: 12:00 – 1:00 PM

PM Session: 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Friday, April 19

CONFERENCE DAY 1

Check-in 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Session 1: 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Session 2: 10:15 – 11:15 AM

LUNCH: 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Session 3: 1:15 – 2:15 PM

Session 4: 2:25 – 3:25 PM

Break & Mixer: 3:30 – 4:00 PM

Session 5: 4:00 – 5:00 PM

DINNER: 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 20

CONFERENCE DAY 2

Session 6: 8:00 – 9:00 AM

Session 7: 9:10 – 10:10 AM

Session 8: 10:20 – 11:20 AM

LUNCH: 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Book Signing: 1:20 – 1:50 PM

Session 9: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Session 10: 3:10 – 4:10 PM

Break & Mixer: 4:15 – 4:45 PM

Session 11: 4:45 – 5:45 PM

BANQUET: 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 21

CONFERENCE DAY 3

Session 12: 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Session 13: 10:10 – 11:10 AM

Session 14: 11:20 – 12:20 AM

LUNCH: 12:30

Are You Ready to Register?

Registration for the 2013 Pikes Peak Writers Conference is online only. Click on this link <http://www.regonline.com/ppwc2013> if you're ready to register now.

Your PPWC Registration Fee includes access to all conference sessions, the FIVE sit-down meals and two breakfasts, as well as the opportunity to sign up for a Read & Critique and/or Pitch Appointment at no extra charge. Dollar for dollar, PPWC brings you an unparalleled return on your investment.

Registration Fee - \$395

(Registration Fee increases to \$450 on March 15, 2013)

Add-On Thursday Fee - \$85

ONLY Thursday Fee - \$135

Conference Hotel

We are pleased to say that PPWC 2013 will celebrate its twentieth consecutive year at the Colorado Springs Marriott. We offer heartfelt thanks for all the years the Marriott has partnered with PPWC.

Colorado Springs Marriott
5580 Tech Center Drive
Colorado Springs, CO, 80907

Book your room with our PPWC Rate!

The room rate for the 2013 Conference is **\$105.00** per night. Be sure to mention that you are with PPW, and give the code **ppwppwa** when making your reservation in order to secure this rate.

To make your reservation online and have the discount code applied automatically, [click here](#).

Please note that there are only a select number of rooms available at this special rate! In order to take advantage of this pricing, reservations must be made before March 29th. After that, there may be space available, but the rate is not guaranteed.



EDITORS



Michael Braff, Del Rey

Mike Braff was born in New York City but raised in the 'burbs on a diet of J.R.R. Tolkien, X-Men comic books, Star Wars, and strategy games. Eventually he fled to the Great White North, earning a BA in World History and Comparative Religion from McGill University in Montréal. An internship as a printer led to a managing editorial position at Random House Children's Books, ultimately culminating in a move to the Del Rey editorial department, where Mike has been ever since. He now lives in Brooklyn with his rescued pit bull, Ruby, and spends his free time playing music and reading genre fiction.



Melissa Miller, Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins

Melissa Miller is an Associate Editor at Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Children's books. She edits both literary and commercial projects—from middle grade to young adult novels. She seeks original voices wed to strong concepts and manuscripts with a vivid sense of place. She acquires realistic and genre fiction alike, but she has a soft spot for fresh, character-driven fantasy and richly imagined worlds. Books that she works on include the Pretty Crooked series by Elisa Ludwig and the forthcoming MILA 2.0 series by Debra Driza.



Pat VanWie, Bell Bridge Books

Author, editor, and writing teacher, Pat Van Wie has been immersed in the publishing world for over twenty years. Pat has taught writing workshops and classes in various formats and lengths around the country. As an author, she's published eleven novels for three major publishers, including: Ballantine, Bantam, and Harlequin. Her last three books were hardcover suspense novels released under the pseudonym Patricia Lewin. In 2010 Pat crossed to the other side of publishing when she took a position as senior editor for Bell Bridge Books to build their mystery and suspense list. However, she reads and acquires for all the genres BBB publishes. She enjoys all forms of fantasy, from urban to sword and sorcery, and the great YA books surfacing in the market.



Deb Werksman, Sourcebooks

Deb Werksman has been an acquiring editor and editorial manager for Sourcebooks for the past fourteen years, before which she had her own publishing company. She acquires single title romance in all subgenres, as well as historical and women's fiction. Sourcebooks is the country's largest woman-owned independent publishing house, and they're known for their sales and marketing, as well as their focus on building authors' careers.

Want to know six ways YOU can interact with these Editors and Agents at the conference?

Sign up for a Read & Critique appointment to read your work aloud to Editors and Agents. See Page 5 for more information

Attend one of the THREE Mythbusting Q&A Panels and find out what's really going on in the world of publishing.

Sit at a table hosted by an editor or agent at one of the sit-down meals.

Socialize with them at the bar after dinner, or meet Kate Testerman at her coffee klatch on Friday

Join one or more of the dozen workshops put on by these qualified professionals.

Sign up for a Pitch Appointment to pitch your manuscript to an Editor or Agent. See Page 5 for more information

AGENTS

Hannah Bowman Liza Dawson Associates

Hannah joined Liza Dawson Associates in 2011. Her current clients include Pierce Brown, Rosamund Hodge, and Brian Staveley. She has a B.A. from Cornell University, summa cum laude in English and magna cum laude in Mathematics. Hannah specializes in commercial fiction, especially science fiction and fantasy, women's fiction, cozy mysteries, romance and young adult. She's also interested in nonfiction, particularly mathematics, science, and religion. <http://www.lizadawsonassociates.com/>



Sorche Fairbank Fairbank Literary Representation

Sorche's tastes in novels tend toward literary fiction, international voices, and women's voices. On the nonfiction side, books that tackle current events and topical and societal issues with a narrative treatment. She has a strong interest in women's voices and class and race issues, quality lifestyle books (food, wine, design), memoir that goes beyond the me-moir, and humor, gift books, and pop culture. She's not interested in: SF, fantasy, children's, YA, self-help, romance, sports fiction, or anything that opens with a dream scene and/or exhaustive descriptions of weather. Unless, of course, it's really really REALLY good. <http://fairbankliterary.com/>



Shannon Hassan The Warner Literary Group

Having helped manage the transition from traditional to electronic publishing, Shannon sees exponential potential in the power of storytelling in the digital age. Shannon received her JD from Harvard Law School and her BA in economics and journalism from George Washington University. She works with a wide range of authors in adult fiction, young adult and middle-grade fiction, and narrative nonfiction. Shannon is drawn to strong characters, crisp prose, and stories that live on after the last page is turned. <http://warnerliterarygroup.com/>



Kate Testerman kt literary

After a dozen years in publishing in New York City, Kate moved to Colorado and formed kt literary in early 2008. Kate is a graduate of the University of Delaware's Honors Program, a former cast member of the New York Renaissance Faire, and an avid collector of shoes. She concentrates on MG and YA fiction, but her interests also include teen chick lit, urban fantasy and magical realism, adventure stories, and romantic comedies. <http://ktliterary.com/>

Kate is not available for pitch appointments.

Barry Goldblatt Barry Goldblatt Literary

Barry founded his agency in September 2000 after working for eleven years in subsidiary rights and contracts departments at Penguin, Putnam and Orchard Books. He represents everything from picture books to YA, with his current focus on growing his middle grade list. He is a hands-on agent, working with clients editorially as needed to get their work in the best shape possible, and then conferring with them every step of the way from sale to publication and beyond. He represents such award winning and bestselling authors as Angela Johnson, Holly Black, Lauren Myracle, Shannon Hale, Alan Gratz, Jo Knowles, and Libba Bray (to whom he is also fortunate enough to be married). <http://www.bgliterary.com/>



Nicole Resciniti The Seymour Agency

Nicole holds degrees in biology, psychology, and behavioral neuroscience. She is dedicated to promoting the advancement of quality fiction and nonfiction material. Recently named ACFW's Agent of the Year, Nicole is proud to help established authors take their career to the next level and to assist debut authors in making their dreams come true. For submissions, she is open to romance, inspirational fiction, mysteries/thrillers, YA, MG, picture books, sci-fi/fantasy, UF and horror. No poetry, screenplays or erotica. Very select on nonfiction, and only with authors who have an established platform. <http://www.theseymouragency.com/>



Pam van Hylckama Vlieg Larsen Pomada Literary Agents

Pam van Hylckama Vlieg is the newest agent at Larsen Pomada Literary Agents. In her first six months as an agent, she has sold fifteen books. Pam writes young adult fiction and believes this gives her an insight into the writer's heart. She is actively building her list. She is looking for YA, MG, romance, New Adult, SF, and Fantasy, and is willing to take back interesting pitches in genre fiction and women's fictions for others at her agency. <http://www.larsenpomada.com/>



Want to get your work in front of Editors and Agents?

PPWC offers two ways to make it happen!

PITCH

- ◆ What's a pitch appointment? It's an 8-minute block of time in which you get to sit across a table from an editor or agent and pitch them your manuscript. Think of it as a face-to-face query letter. A pitch appointment is your chance to talk about your manuscript at a high concept level, see if the editor or agent is interested, and find out if he or she is the right champion for your work.
- ◆ How do I get an appointment? When you register for the Pikes Peak Writers Conference you have the chance to sign up to pitch your manuscript. You'll be notified of the details of your appointment a few weeks prior to conference.
- ◆ Who should I pitch to? When you register, you have the opportunity to list your top three choices of editors and agents. Do your research! Read their bios in this brochure and check their websites for the most current information about what types of manuscripts they're looking for.
- ◆ Can I have more than one appointment? Sorry, but in order to ensure that as many of our attendees as possible have the opportunity to pitch, we limit these appointments to one per attendee.
- ◆ How much does a pitch appointment cost? There is no charge for a pitch appointment for registered conference attendees. Pitches are not available for those attending Thursday only.
- ◆ Please note that registering for conference does not guarantee you an appointment. Appointments are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so register soon!
- ◆ IF PITCHING, ATTENDEES SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED A MANUSCRIPT but should **not** bring the manuscript to the appointment in anticipation of giving it to an editor or agent.

READ & CRITIQUE

- ◆ What's a Read & Critique appointment? These appointments take a few different formats, but all three include the reading of the first page of your manuscript to a faculty member who provides immediate feedback.
- ◆ How do I get an appointment? When you register for the Pikes Peak Writers Conference you have the chance to sign up for a Read & Critique appointment. You'll be notified of the details of your appointment a few weeks prior to conference.
- ◆ Can I have more than one appointment? Sorry, but in order to ensure that as many of our attendees as possible have the opportunity to read, we limit these appointments to one per attendee.
- ◆ How much does a Read & Critique appointment cost? There is no charge for a Read & Critique appointment for registered conference attendees. R&C appointments are not available for those attending Thursday only.
- ◆ Please note that registering for conference does not guarantee you an appointment. Appointments are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so register soon!

R&C Appointments Come in Three Different Formats

Read & Critique X

Attendees read the opening page of their own manuscript to an editor or agent who then provides feedback. Other attendees are welcome to sit in and listen.

Read & Critique 1-2-3

The opening page of attendees' manuscripts are read anonymously to a panel consisting of an agent, an editor, and an author who provide feedback. Other attendees are welcome to sit in and listen.

Read & Critique Author

Attendees read the opening page of their manuscript to an author and participate in a conversation about their book in a round table environment. This session is closed to attendee spectators.

THURSDAY PROGRAMMING

Only \$85 with PPWC Registration Fee – or \$135 for Thursday only.
Lunch is included in your fee.

THURSDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS (Choose 1)

Truth and Consequences

The Pleasures and Perils of Writing Memoir, Personal Essay and Creative Nonfiction

Presenter: Kathryn Eastburn

We'll cover the limitations of memory, re-creating scenes, ethical considerations, researching, etc. Learn the concepts behind turning personal experiences into riveting stories with universal themes.

Pitch Perfect

Presenters: Chris Mandeville, Bonnie Hagan, and PPW Staff

What do you say when you pitch your book to an agent or editor, or when an author you admire asks "what are you writing?" What should you not say? What kinds of questions should you be prepared to answer? Do "elevator pitches" really happen? In this interactive workshop you'll learn all the ins and outs of pitching your manuscript, be able to ask questions of seasoned pitchers, get hands-on practice honing your "logline," and see pitching demonstrated live. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to practice your own pitch in a small group and receive immediate feedback from experienced PPW staff.

Sell Your Book, Not Your Soul

A Sales and Marketing Bootcamp Featuring a Newly Published Author, an Independent Publisher, and a PR Guru

Presenters: Deb Courtney, Susan Mitchell and Aaron Ritchey

In this multi-layered workshop, we'll start with planning for your success and what to do when you are pre-published. Crafting a marketing plan is as important as putting your plan in motion when your new book hits the stores, whether brick and mortar or the virtual bookshelves. Then it's all about keeping "Top of Mind" awareness. Each of our experts will bring their own unique angle to the conversation, from the newbie author, to the savvy publicist, to the small press editor. The workshop will also include interactive mock interviews, examples on how to hand sell, and media story pitches that will make your press kit shine!

Writing for Today's YA and MG Market

Presenter: Kate Testerman

An overview of the current market for YA and MG fiction, touching on top titles, authors, and trends, including aid from literary agent Kate Testerman, specializing in the market on querying.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (Choose 1)

Writing and Marketing Historical Fiction

Presenter: David Liss

Writing historical fiction has its own set of rewards, and its own dangers. In this seminar, we will explore the specific traps of this brand of novel, how to avoid them, and how to make historical fiction work for you. Specific topics will include research methods, effective use of research (or, how not to overwhelm your reader with detail), world-building, how to render plausible historical characters, and how to make your specific area of interest, no matter how arcane, marketable.

The Query Lab

Presenter: Sorche Fairbank

Most agencies receive between one and three hundred query letters each week, yet respond positively to a very select few. Do you know the secrets to writing a winning query? Have you ever wondered if there are fonts agents intensely dislike? Is any one day/week/month better to send your query? What commonly gets a letter rejected before it's read all the way through? Join agent Sorche Fairbank for lessons on the basics of a powerful query, review of a laundry list of query Dos and Don'ts, and open Q&A. Bring two copies of your single-page query letter to be edited on the spot!

The Four P's of Nonfiction

Presenter: Matthew Frederick

This workshop will help you assess the status of your nonfiction work and identify the next steps you need to take to improve your chances of publication. You will read aloud a brief statement or description of your work—a pitch, synopsis, first page, or similarly informative piece of 250 words or less. The instructor and class participants will assess your project in terms of the Four P's: Platform, Prose, Proposal, and Purpose. Bring to the session the first chapter of your manuscript, a chapter outline, and any related documents you have been working on (query, proposal, etc.).

Lie Like You Mean It

Presenter: Stephen Graham Jones

It's not enough to write engaging prose. Authors must forge a powerful connection with their readers. So, what makes your story compelling? Discover how to smear the line between memory and fiction, how to write – and revise – your work to give it that elusive ring of authenticity. Find out how to include the right details – minus expository lumps – to leave your readers haunted by your story long after they close the book.

For presenter bios, go to our website <http://pikespeakwriters.com/html/ppwc.html> and click on Thursday Programming.

Authors & Specialists

Bringing writing craft and business skills to PPWC for your benefit.

Jodi Anderson

Jodi (aka Jodi Dawson) is a prolific writer whose work has appeared in more than 15 languages. With a background that includes newspaper and magazine writing, as well as novels, she writes fiction and non-fiction, presents workshops for writers, and uses any opportunity to gain control of a microphone. <http://www.jodidawson.com/>

Donnell Ann Bell

Donnell is a two-time Golden Heart finalist who previously worked for a weekly business newspaper and a parenting magazine. Her debut novel, *The Past Came Hunting*, was an Amazon bestseller reaching #6 on the paid overall list. It also finished in 2012 Gayle Wilson Award for Excellence, RWA's Greater Detroit Bookseller's Best, and the 2012 Daphne du Maurier Award for Excellence in Mystery/Suspense. *Deadly Recall*, (Bell Bridge Books) is her most recent novel. <http://www.donnellannbell.com>

Jax Bubis

Jax a.k.a Jaxine Daniels is a published romance author. Her books include a two-book hockey romance series and a five-book military romance series. Her readers rave about the depth of her characters. Jax is an EMT, CPR instructor and small business owner. <http://www.jaxinedaniels.com>

Deb Courtney

Deb holds a degree in Fiction from the University of South Florida, where she was a Saunders Scholar in Fiction. She has had numerous short stories published and has worked as a freelance journalist. Her background includes marketing and public relations in several business sectors. Her most recent venture is Courtney Literary. <http://courtneyliterary.com/>

Todd Fahnstock

Todd is the author of multiple short stories published in the Dragonlance anthologies as well as the fractured fairy tales anthology, *Twice Upon a Time*. He is also the co-author of the Heartstone Trilogy: *Heir of Autumn*, *Mistress of Winter* and *Queen of Oblivion*. He just completed his most recent novel, *Fairmist*. He resides in Englewood, CO in a 100-year-old Victorian house with his beautiful and talented wife, their precocious children, and two big dogs. <http://toddfahnstock.blogspot.com/>

Terry Banker

Terry is the author of a dozen books (*Underdogs of the Caribbean*, *Orange Blossom Mambo*), a ghostwriter/creative consultant, and the author of over a hundred technical articles for the costume design industry. His memoir *Conquering Cancer, My Wife Our Love* won the Colorado best new nonfiction award in 2004. When not lecturing students on how to follow their dreams AND make money, Terry divides his time between Atlanta, Denver, and Key West with his wife and two Old English Sheepdogs, Fitz and Zelda. <http://www.terrybanker.com>

Kathy Brandt

Kathy writes "The Hannah Sampson Underwater Investigation" series (*Swimming with the Dead*, *Dark Water Dive*, *Dangerous Depths*, and *Under Pressure*), which were recently released as ebooks. Her memoir, *Walks on the Margins, A Mother and Son's Story of Bipolar Illness*, co-written with her son, Max Maddox, will be released in April 2013. Kathy has a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Rhetoric and taught writing at the University of Colorado for ten years. <http://www.kathybrandtauthor.com>

Becky Clark

Becky believes in humor. She's used it in her 20+ years of writing and publishing fiction and nonfiction to teach, inspire, make boring things fun, cut tension and lighten burdens. But even she was surprised there was such a market for her funny cookbooks. <http://www.lazylowcallifestyle.com>

J.T. Evans

Born and raised in the desolate, desert-dominated oil fields of West Texas. J.T. moved to Colorado in 1998 and thrives there with his lovely Montana-native wife and newly created son. He primarily pays the bills by performing software engineering and other technocentric duties. J.T. writes fantasy with the occasional deep dive into cyberpunk or horror. He is the current vice president of the Pikes Peak Writers and former president of the Colorado Springs Fiction Writers Group. <http://jtevans.net/>

Matthew Frederick

Matthew is an architect and best-selling author who conducts workshops on nonfiction writing. He began his career as an architect and later authored the highly successful *101 Things I Learned in Architecture School*. In 2010, his "101 Things I Learned" series released titles in Business, Culinary, Fashion, and Film School, all of which became best-sellers. His most recent books, *101 Things I Learned in Engineering School* and *101 Things I Learned in Law School*, will appear in bookstores in May 2013. <http://www.frederickdesignstudio.com/>

Authors & Specialists

Bringing writing craft and business skills to PPWC for your benefit.

Laura Hayden

Since attending the very first PPWC, Laura has sold fourteen books and four short stories to eight publishers under two names while living in six different states. Her most recent book is *Angel*, written with Nicole "Coco" Marrow (Mrs. Ice T) and her novella, "Wicked Looks" will be released soon in *The Big Book of Wicked* from Bell Bridge Books. She has served as PPWC Director/Co-Director seven times and is currently the President of Pikes Peak Writers. <http://suspense.net>

Lisa Renée Jones

Since 2003, Lisa has published over thirty novels and novellas across several genres. Her debuts with Harlequin Blaze and Nocturne hit Bookscan's Top 100 list and her Blaze Hot Zone trilogy made a showing on the list in 2011 also. In addition, she's the author of the highly acclaimed "Inside Out" trilogy which will debut internationally across many countries in 2013.

<http://www.lisareneejones.com>

Darby Karchut

Darby is an award-winning author, teacher, and compulsive dawn greeter. She lives in Colorado with her husband and owns more backpacks than purses. As she should. Her most recent book, *Finn Finnegan*, was released in March (Spencer Hill Press). <http://darbykarchut.com/>

Max Maddox

Max has a BA in philosophy from Grinnell College and an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, where he was nominated for the Joan Mitchell Award and received the Fellowship Trust Award. He lives in Colorado, where he teaches and pursues his career in art. His memoir, *Walks on the Margins: A Mother's and Son's Story of Bipolar Illness*, co-written with his mother, Kathy Brandt, will be published in April 2013. <http://www.maxmaddox.net>

Robert Liparulo

A former journalist, Robert is the best-selling author of the thrillers *Comes a Horseman*, *Germ*, *Deadfall*, *Deadlock*, and *The 13th Tribe*, as well as *The Dreamhouse Kings*, an action-adventure series for young adults. He is currently working on the sequel to *The 13th Tribe*. When not writing, Robert loves to read, watch (and analyze) movies, scuba dive, swim, hike, and travel. He lives in Colorado.

<http://www.robertliparulo.com/>

Lynda Hilburn

Lynda writes paranormal fiction about vampires, witches, ghosts, psychics and other supernatural creatures. She makes her living as a licensed psychotherapist, hypnotherapist, professional psychic/tarot reader, university instructor and workshop presenter. She's the author of *The Vampire Shrink*, *Blood Therapy* and *Crimson Psyche*, coming in late 2013. In addition, she has several novellas (*Undead in the City*, *Diary of a Narcissistic Bloodsucker*, *Until Death Do Us Part* and *Devereux: The Night Before Kismet*) available from most e-book outlets. <http://www.lyndahilburnauthor.com>

Stephen Graham Jones

Stephen is a Blackfeet Native American award-winning author of experimental fiction and science fiction. His work includes *Demon Theory*, *Ledfeather*, *It Came from Del Rio*, and the collection of stories *The Ones That Almost Got Away*. His most recent release, *Growing Up Dead in Texas*, is based on his own life and has been met with much acclaim. In his day-job he's a professor of English at the University of Colorado at Boulder. When he's not teaching, hanging with his family, reading or writing, you might catch him shopping for knives, watching movies, or eating the retro candy Sixlets.

<http://www.demontheory.net/>

DeAnna Knippling

DeAnna is a freelance writer, editor, and formatter from Colorado Springs. She won first place in the 2012 Parsec Short Story contest and is an assistant editor at Apex Publications. She writes kids' fiction as De Kenyon. She runs her own extremely small press, Wonderland Press.

<http://blog.deannaknippling.com/>

Cindi Madsen

Cindi sits at her computer every chance she gets, plotting, revising, and falling in love with her characters. Sometimes it makes her a crazy person. Without it, she'd be even crazier. She lives in Colorado with her husband and three children. Cindi is the author of YA books, *All The Broken Pieces* and *Demons of the Sun* and adult romances, *Falling For Her Fiance* and *Cinderella Screwed me Over*, coming October 2013. <http://cindimadsen.com/>

Chris Mandeville

Chris is a writer of fantasy, science fiction and young adult novels, and is developing her first book-length nonfiction project, *365 Ways to Tickle The Muse: Exercises to Break Through Any Writer's Block*. She's taught writing workshops on a variety of subjects including Goal, Motivation & Conflict, The Writer's Journey, World-Building, Improv Writing, and more. Chris has served on the Pikes Peak Writers' Board of Directors for more than ten years, and currently holds the office of Immediate Past President.

Authors & Specialists

Bringing writing craft and business skills to PPWC for your benefit.

Pam McCutcheon

An award-winning author, Pam has written paranormal romances, romantic comedies, and nonfiction books for writers under her own name, including the popular **Writing the Fiction Synopsis**. As Pamela Luzier, she has published several fantasy short stories, and as Parker Blue, she is the author of the popular YA "Demon Underground" series from Bell Bridge Books. The fifth in the series, **Dare Me**, will be out soon. <http://www.pammc.com/>

Chris Myers

Chris Myers suffers from an overactive imagination. She spent her high school years writing torch songs for fantasy guys then moved onto writing thrillers and young adult. She's the author of two books, **Date With the Dead** and **Lennon's Jinx**. Chris lives in Colorado with her daughter, her better half, and BeBe, a rambunctious Bichon.

Twist Phelan

A Stanford graduate and former plaintiff's trial lawyer, Twist Phelan wrote the critically-acclaimed legal-themed Pinnacle Peak mystery series for Poisoned Pen Press. Her short stories appear in anthologies and mystery magazines and have won or been nominated for the Thriller, Anthony, Ellis, and Derringer awards. Twist's most recent projects include DOUBT, a suspense novel set in Santa Fe featuring a corporate spy, and SNOWED, a middle-grade mystery set in Colorado. <http://www.twistphelan.com/>

Aaron Ritchey

Aaron got Amway'd twenty years ago, but it wasn't until his wife became a distributor for a Network Marketing company that he realized how interesting and challenging sales can be. His job in technical support is about as far from selling as you can get, but he is busy getting his first novel, **The Never Prayer**, out into the world. He's enlisted his young daughters into the sales game by inventing an incentive program for them. <http://www.aaronritchey.com>

Todd Wallinger

Todd is an award-winning playwright based in Colorado Springs. His one-act comedies *The Purloined Letter* and *Long Tall Lester* are currently available through Pioneer Drama Service. His full-length comedy *The Butler Did It!* will be published by Pioneer this spring. Todd is the founder and director of the Drama Lab playwriting workshop. He is also the theatre critic for the Colorado Springs Independent and serves with the Colorado Theatre Guild as a judge for their annual Henry Awards.

<http://toddwallinger.blogspot.com/>

Susan Goldstein Mitchell

Susan's work has appeared in literary magazines including *George and Mertie's Place*, *Poetry Motel* and *Wordwrights*. She has written and produced projects for TLC, regional ABC, NBC and CBS affiliates. Currently, she writes and produces television commercials, promotions and programs on a local level and is completing work on a darkly humorous urban fantasy novel.

MB Partlow

After moving to Colorado, MB got a job in the A&E department of *The Independent*. She wrote a parenting column for *Pikes Peak Parent* for several years, and currently free-lances for *The Gazette*. She's happiest, though, when rearranging reality to suit the needs of her characters, currently in the genre of urban fantasy. She's a longtime volunteer for PPW, working her way up from chair stacker at Write Brains to Moderator Coordinator, Contest Coordinator, and now Director of Programming.

Laura Resau

With a background in cultural anthropology and ESL-teaching, award-winning author Laura has lived and traveled in Latin America and Europe. Her experiences inspired her novels for children and teens-- **What the Moon Saw**, **Red Glass**, **The Indigo Notebook**, **The Ruby Notebook**, **The Jade Notebook**, **Star in the Forest**, and **The Queen of Water**. She lives with her family in Fort Collins, Colorado.

<http://www.lauraresau.com/>

Brian Schwartz

Brian is the creator of the award winning "50 Interviews" series and has published more than 50 titles since 2009. He launched KindleExpert.com in 2010 to provide digital conversion and sales optimization services for other authors and publishers. His title of 'Authorpreneur' encompasses the roles he fills as CEO, author, speaker, trainer, publisher, and consultant. He's currently the President of the Colorado Independent Publishers Association. He's been featured on NBC & CBS, in the Denver Business Journal, and is the author of a monthly column for the Northern Colorado Business Report.

<http://www.cipacatalog.com/brian-schwartz/>

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The Workshops

These nuts and bolts workshops will stock your writer's toolbox.

Agents: How to Find the Right One

Lisa Renée Jones

And why you still need one for Indie publishing! Choose your agent like you would your spouse -- don't let the diamond ring blind you from seeing the real bling you are after -- an agent who is your partner in success.

Exorcism for Writers - How To Uncover, Discover and Discard the Demons That Keep You From Creating

Aaron Ritchey

In this interactive workshop, you will be led through a process based on addiction recovery to inventory the demons that keep you from writing. Writing can be a lonely, agonizing process full of doubt and self-recrimination. 12-Step Programs have an inventory process where negative emotions including resentment, envy, fear, and self-doubt can be catalogued, then removed. By using the 4th step inventory process, we can get to the roots of our blocks so that the sunlight of truth can shine in and we can be free to create.

Dying Is Easy. Comedy Is Difficult: Writing Humor for Every Genre

Becky Clark

That's an Edmond Gwenn quip, but comedy doesn't have to be difficult. No matter your style or genre, humor endears you to your readers. Even the most serious thriller needs to let the reader take a breath once in a while. This workshop will study examples of humor and give you some practice doing the same, using your own voice and style.

Peak Productivity

J.T. Evans and Cindi Madsen

No time to write? This presentation is packed full of tips and tricks to help writers attain peak productivity, make time to write, fast draft your ideas, and juggle a busy life.

Lightening the Load: How to Reduce an Exposition-Heavy Manuscript

Mike Braff

You've got a great concept, an involved world, and complex characters, but your manuscript suffers from page after page of exposition, slowing the action down to a crawl. This workshop focuses on techniques to maintain the information of exposition scenes while constantly advancing plot. **Bring an exposition-heavy section of work, about 1-2 pages.**

Character Building With Tony and Phil

Jaxine Bubis

In the midst of plotting, we often find ourselves asking this question: What would this character have to believe to make him do that? Learn how to use Tony Robbins' and Dr. Phil's pop-psychology to bring characters to life and create conflict that is tailor-made for them.

eBook Covers: How to Pick a Title that Ranks and Design a Cover that Sells!

Brian Schwartz

It's sad, but true: most people do judge a book by its cover! In this workshop, you will learn the subtle distinctions that separate the bestsellers in an increasingly crowded eBook marketplace. Savvy authors publishing eBooks are using a variety of strategies to increase sales and rank higher on Amazon. Learn how to find affordable designers, discover the common mistakes authors and designers make, and take home techniques to promote your book using the cover art with Pinterest, Facebook, and Google Images.

Fast as a Snail: Pacing

Deb Courtney

You ever had someone tell you the pacing is 'off' in your story? Wonder what the heck pacing is and how to work with it and/or fix it? In this intensive look at pacing, Deb Courtney defines pacing, deconstructs it through analysis of examples from published works, then offers an opportunity to share and discuss your own work.

How to Avoid Sophomore Slump

Barry Eisler

Sophomore slump is as easy to avoid as writer's block. It's just a matter of feeding your imagination, asking the right questions, and being terribly afraid of all the right things.

Submission Hitlist

Cindi Madsen

Think you're ready to finally send off that manuscript you've been working so hard on? We'll discuss how to cross each item off your personal submission hit list quickly and efficiently so your book won't end up sleeping with the fishes. We'll also go over everything you need to know to help ensure that agent or editor you're sending it to will want to make you an offer you can't refuse.

The Workshops

These nuts and bolts workshops will stock your writer's toolbox.

How to Make Indie and NY the Combination to Success

Lisa Renee Jones

The release of Lisa Renee Jones's first book in her Inside Out trilogy, *If I Were You*, as an indie book August 24th was followed by a negotiated sale to Simon and Schuster only three days later, and inked on September 12th. In the short window of time the story was released it climbed to Barnes and Nobles top 100 and broke the top 50 at Amazon, while garnering more than 2500 reviews at Goodreads. In this workshop, explore new, exciting strategies to take your career from one step to the top of the ladder.

The Art of the Query

Pam van Hylckama Vlieg

Explore queries that are great, lousy, or just middling. Pam will show examples of great queries as well as flops. If you're ready to send that manuscript out into the world, this class is for you!

Plot, Structure, and Pushing your Characters

Hannah Bowman

What elements go into a satisfying plot? Learn how to structure the events in your novel to best hold the reader's interest, both on the small-scale (scenes and cliffhangers) and the large (overarching structure, internal and external conflicts, deriving conflict from your characters' flaws). **Bring a 3-5 page synopsis of your current project.**

Publishing Contract Basics --Understand Your Rights and Avoid Common Pitfalls

Shannon Hassan.

Get an insider's overview of publishing contracts. Learn all about typical contract terms, explore areas of concern, and simplify the legalese.

Small Steps to Big Books

Matthew Frederick

Unpublished writers make a frequent mistake: investing too much energy in finishing—some day!—one "great" work rather than creating more works. Discover how to temporarily scale back one's ambitions and pursue lesser but more immediate writing opportunities: community newspaper articles, letters to the editor, newsletter essays, magazine articles, PR copy, book and movie reviews, blogs, books-for-hire, and so on. Far from being distractions, such projects can help the ambitious writer focus and clarify his or her thinking, improve narrative skills, build an audience, make contacts in the industry, overcome creative blocks, and even generate an income stream that will fund the Big Book.

Pixels to Profit: 7 Steps to Self-Published Success

Brian Schwartz

This workshop will reveal common threads that successful authors share in the era of eBooks. The advantage today goes to authors who are knowledgeable, nimble and able to respond to an exploding marketplace. A deep dive will be made into each of the seven steps covering everything from market research to social media and the evolving paradigms in publishing.

How to Keep Your Readers Up at Night: Writing a Killer Thriller

Twist Phelan

Identify the elements of a compelling suspense-thriller and discuss techniques that help create a page-turning, adrenaline-inducing novel.

Practical Computer Security

J.T. Evans

This session will cover important aspects of computer security as it relates to writers. Learn how to protect your data, files, work, and livelihood from being lost to the great bit bucket in the sky. The session will also include information on how to write computer security in a plausible manner from the point of view of the defenders that protect data and the intruders who wish to steal or destroy data.

Worldbuilding 101

Mike Braff

Having a well-planned out world for your characters to explore is key for SF/F; authors must be anthropologists for their created worlds. Learn how best to construct an imagined world from the ground up, focusing on realism in imagination, detail, and helpful techniques and tools. Hands-on exercises.

Talking Your Book - Using the Power of Conversation To Sell Your Story To Agents, Friends and Strangers

Aaron Ritchey

Many authors can write day and night but are left breathless by the dreaded cocktail party question, "What's your book about?" Being able to artfully answer that question is critical before, during, and after you are published. In this interactive workshop, we'll cover the basics of querying and pitching, but then expand that to actually selling your book to strangers. Through role-play and real-life examples, you'll be able to conquer any cocktail party or book-signing and effectively share your story with the world.

The Workshops

These nuts and bolts workshops will stock your writer's toolbox.

How To Avoid Potential Roadblocks and Get Your Story Up to Speed: Creating Fast-Paced Suspense in Your Fiction

Twist Phelan

Identify and discuss common writer mistakes that can slow the pace of the narrative and drain the story of suspense.

What's the Big (or Little) Idea?

Matthew Frederick

Successful nonfiction books—memoirs, travelogues, cookbooks, self-help manuals, humor books, and the rest—are rarely published as they were initially envisioned. This workshop will use a number of exercises to help you discover, broaden, narrow, heighten, or otherwise redefine the core concept for your nonfiction project. Whether you are just beginning or are feeling mired in a long-term effort, you will leave with a fresh perspective on your project and its possibilities. **Bring a title/subtitle for your project, a one-sentence “tagline,” and a 200-word synopsis such as might appear on a book jacket.**

YA: More Than Just An Age Group

Cindi Madsen

We'll talk about the ins and outs of writing these popular novels and what you need to put into your YA novels to make them authentic. We'll discuss themes, how the books are about more than just a character's age, what separates YA from other genres, and the universal issues that appeal to both teens and adults.

Writing Your Story

Kathy Brandt and Max Maddox

Using their personal story, motivation, and writing process as jumping off points, Kathy and Max will engage with participants to determine what compels each of them to write their own stories. Topics will include how to determine what the story is really about, where it begins and ends, what the message is, and how the story arc applies.

Transforming Writers Block

Lynda Hilburn

Most writers admit to experiencing the dreaded block once in a while. What causes it? How do we wrestle it down? Are we doomed? Never fear. In this session, we'll discuss common triggers and ways to break free.

Writing About Characters with Psychological Disorders

Lynda Hilburn

Your characters -- like you and the people you know in the real world -- have to deal with emotional/mental challenges. Some of these challenges are mild, while others manifest as severe, chaotic, and life-destroying. In this session, we'll discuss several mental health diagnoses, their commonly occurring symptoms, how they impact the person/character, and ways to manage the illness (if it can be managed). **Bring your questions about your characters.**

Writing the Bad Guy Protagonist

Barry Eisler

Assassins, crime lords, serial killers, mercenaries and assorted other ne'er-do-wells make great protagonists, but you have to know how to pull it off. The same principles for writing the bad guy protagonist will help you write more compelling villains, too.

You're Published. Now What?

Lynda Hilburn

You created the book and now you can dream about cashing all those royalty checks. Right? Well, not so much. Prepare yourself, because you're about to enter: The After Zone. This surreal, post-sale landscape is filled with author challenges, such as continuous promo, second book syndrome, having a life, acquiring reviews, maintaining self-confidence, and planning your author future.

These are just some of the workshops at PPWC 2013. A full slate will be released in April.