

WHEN WORDS COLLIDE
A FESTIVAL FOR READERS AND WRITERS



August 13-15, 2021



Welcome to WWC’s pandemic-response online festival. This event includes a variety of live webinar presentations, workshops, discussion panels, and social activities. In conjunction, we are also happy to provide an online merchants corner.

This online festival is 100% volunteer operated and is open to the public. All online sessions are provided by presenters and meeting/webinar hosts as a community service. Get your free festival ticket at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/148673998933>

When Words Collide 2021 Festival Program (Final Version)

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Trouble Accessing the Festival

If you have any difficulties accessing the festival, please check our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/145797702140640/announcements

where we will post notices of any updated information. (Look under the Announcements tab rather than the Discussion tab). If appropriate, Eventbrite will email new information to all ticketholders. If your specific problem hasn't been answered, email a description of the problem to:

info@whenwordscollide.org

and we will see what we can do.

The Festival Schedule

Ongoing Events Friday 1 PM – Sunday 5 PM

(Listed times are MDT – Mountain Daylight Time)

Chatroom – Join the WWC Facebook Group for online discussion throughout the weekend

www.facebook.com/groups/145797702140640/

Twitter – Join the live conversation **#WWCYC2021**

Merchants Corner – Many of our merchants have eBooks available as well pickup and/or delivery of print books.

www.whenwordscollide.org/Events/Merchants_Corner/index.php

www.whenwordscollide.org/Events/Merchants_Corner/Shared_Author_Table.php (Shared Authors Table)

Thursday 6 PM (MDT)

Festival Guest Readings (2 Hours)

Cathy Ace, Vicki Delany, Steena Holmes, Fonda Lee, Dave Reynolds, Morgan Rhodes, Mark Leslie Lefevre (M)

This year's festival guests read from their work and answer questions from the audience.

<https://youtu.be/Wk5YQp5NWCg> (Youtube)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145797702140640/permalink/4234023126651390/> (Facebook)

Note: This session may be watched live or anytime later.

Friday 1 PM (MDT)

Ask Us Anything

Jonas Saul, Sam Hiyate, Shirlee Smith Matheson, Cliff Samuels [M]

A panel of past festival guests take questions from the audience. The wilder the questions, the better.

Not The First Won't Be The Last

Stephen B. Pearl, Allan Weiss, Beth Wagner, Diane Morrison

Plague has been with humanity from before we were human. What are some lessons we can learn from current plagues and what role can fiction play in preparing the populous for the current and next inevitable wave of contagious disease?

Live Action Slush – Early Bird Edition

Ella Beaumont, Rhonda Parrish, Holly Schofield, Robert Dawson, Claire McCague [Reader]

Submit the 1st page of your short fiction manuscript to be anonymously read aloud and receive comments from our editors.

Publishing Two Debut Novels In The Middle of a Pandemic: A Retrospective, One Year Later

J.R.H. Lawless

Launching a debut novel is notoriously tricky. Launching two of them in the same year from a small press is another level of difficulty entirely. Oh, and did we forget to mention that year was the dumpster fire known as 2020? Come along to explore the trials, tribulations, triumphs, and lessons learned after a debut year like no other.

How to Plot a Mystery

Pamela Kenney

Plotting definitely has its advantages. Especially when it comes to mysteries. Nothing makes writing a mystery go off the rails faster than working without an outline. Join Pamela Kenney, author of the "Retired Cop Cozy Mystery" series and the "Banff Writing Club Cozy Mystery" series as she explains how to go about plotting a mystery.

Must Backstory Take a Backseat?

Faith Hunter, Jennifer Estep, Susan Forest, Joy Norstrom

What is backstory? Too much backstory can weigh a story down. How do you make it work for your story and not against it? How much backstory do you need to include and how much is just FYI for the writer? What are strategies for giving the reader the information they need without it making it an info-dump?

Banish Writer's Block (2 hours)

Juanita Rose Violini

ATTENTION MYSTERY WRITERS

Say goodbye to writer's block due to lack of direction. Eliminate tedious re-writing due to unforeseen plot changes. The Mystery Bones Method will show you, step by step, how to create a murder mystery plot while avoiding these common pitfalls. Progressive charts and diagrams allow you to give your characters free rein and let your mind run wild with 'what if' before resistance and procrastination kick in. Once you have followed the steps you will know where your plot is going, and how to get it there.

Seedy Space Ports and Smoking Phasers...

Shannon Allen, J.R. Campbell, Robert Bose, Walter Jon Williams

Explore the gin-drenched, cigarette-smoked, laser-fried world of sci-fi noir with this panel of editors and authors, as they discuss the gritty elements of a genre with the feel of a 1950's detective novel downed with a shot of replicator bourbon.

Westerns

Bob Brill, Jim Christina

Writers of western prose and film discuss the challenges and charm of this evocative genre.

Writing YA Villians

Jenna Greene, Morgan Rhodes, Mandy Eve-Barnett, Talena Winters

In YA fiction, the bad guys used to be easy to spot in their metaphorical black hats and handlebar moustaches. What does the revamped 'villain' archetype mean for our young heroes? How does it affect the story and the other characters? How might this more nuanced sense of good and bad play out as young adult fiction continues to evolve?

Friday 2 PM (MDT)

Ask Us Anything

Arthur Slade, Marty Chan, D.J. McIntosh, Barbara Fradkin, Cliff Samuels [M]

A panel of past festival guests take questions from the audience. The wilder the questions, the better.

Cross Genre Writing

Lee Gowan, Ira Nayman, Allan Weiss, Caro Soles, Su J. Sokol [PM]

What happens if your book falls within multiple genres? Authors are pushing boundaries and challenging labels. What are the advantages? What are the drawbacks? Join us as our panel discusses this highly relevant topic.

Beyond Live-Action Slush

Adrienne Kerr, Sam Hiyate

You've hooked them with the first page, but what do you need in the next 10 pages to prompt an editor to request your full manuscript? What should you avoid at a novel start to keep them wanting more?

Edit an Editor

Raina Schnider & Tania Therien

Come in for some tips and tricks on editing. Bring your pens or computers, and practice your editing skills on Tania Therien and Raina Schnider's rough drafts.

Crafting Villains Readers Love and Heroes They Hate

Andy Peloquin, Laura VanArendonk Baugh, Brenda Chapman, Swati Chavda

Heroes aren't always good and villains aren't always evil. Understanding the nuances of both can lead to incredibly memorable characters guaranteed to attract a dedicated fan base.

Tracking Your Progress so You Can Stay on Track!

Lisa Wilde

There are so many methods to tracking your writing – which one will work for you? And why should you bother?

Facts in Fiction

Shirlee Smith Matheson, Faye Reineberg Holt, Loraine Fowlow Amanda Witow [PM]

How important is it to be factually accurate in fiction? Are there some things that are okay to make up, or get wrong? What are some different genre conventions? What are the actual consequences to getting something wrong?

Awakening to Social Sensitivity

Halli Lilburn, V. S. Holmes, Marilyn Ruth Liddell, Charise Jewell

This panel will discuss writing about other genders, races, classes, cultures with honesty and sensitivity. How can a writer be inclusive without appropriating or creating token characters?

Writing Groups—How To Run Them and How To Get Involved

J.L. Cole, Mandy Eve-Barnett, M. H. Callway, B.G. Cousins

Discussing the importance of writing groups, how to properly run one, different ideas to make it successful and how to get connected to groups online.

Rail:lines

Annabel Wilson & Laura Williamson & Liz Breslin

In late 2020, Liz Breslin, Annabel Wilson and Laura Williamson embarked on a "spoke'n'word tour" of the Otago Central Rail Trail, a 152-kilometre bike track through the Central Otago and Maniototo regions of Aotearoa New Zealand. The three poets packed amps, mics and notebooks into trailers and e-biked the length of the Rail Trail to perform in the historic community halls along the way. It was a poetry tour like no other: emissions-free, muddy, rowdy, and backdropped by otherworldly landscapes. Join Annabel, Laura and Liz for a screening of Rail:lines: The film, a documentary about the tour, followed by a Q & A.

Friday 3 PM (MDT)

Ask Us Anything

Jennifer Estep, Julie E. Czerneda, Peter V. Brett, James Alan Gardner, Robert Runte, Cliff Samuels [M]

A panel of past festival guests take questions from the audience. The wilder the questions, the better.

I Don't Belong Here

Mark Leslie (Lefebvre), Sarah Kades Graham, Brandy Ackerley, Laura VanArendonk Baugh

Impostor syndrome, the conviction that we're untalented, underqualified, and undeserving, afflicts writers at every stage of their careers, from the fear of putting words on a page to submitting work to publishers to living up to the heights of success. Where does it come from? What can we do to overcome it? Is it ever helpful?

Adventurous Writing

Lyndi Allison

Are you asking how do I start writing? Do you need to move your work-in progress forward? This workshop will introduce novice and experienced writers to the Amherst Writers & Artists method of writing based on Pat Schneider's book *Writing Alone and With Others*. Facilitators of this method believe everyone has a unique voice and these hands-on workshops provide space for writers to explore and develop their writing craft.

Passive Marketing for Self-published Authors

Ella Beaumont, Diane Morrison, Beth Wagner, P.L. Stuart

Passive marketing is the catch-all term for anything that you create, brand, or put on display for your customers to find. If active marketing is the post you put up on Facebook or the ad campaign you run on Amazon, then passive marketing includes things like the content of your sales page and the branding on your covers. Join a panel of self-published authors as they discuss passive marketing, how you can leverage it, and why it can be your best friend.

PTSD – Not all Wounds Are Visible

Dwayne Clayden

“It’s not that the person is refusing to let go of the past, but the past is refusing to let go of the person.” PTSD is a mental health injury that can result from being exposed to a traumatic event. For first responders, exposure to multiple traumatic events, especially witnessing others experiencing trauma, is an expected part of the job. Police officers, firefighters, and paramedics frequently encounter work-related situations involving multiple casualties, witnessing the death of a child, the death of a person in their care, critical medical emergencies, witnessing violence against others and threats of violence against themselves.

Big Things, Small Packages

Finnian Burnett

Writing flash hones your writing skills, teaching the important art of the economy of words. Flash stretches the creative impulse and is beneficial for poets, short story writers, and novelists alike. If you’ve always wanted to master flash fiction or you want to hone your already considerable flash skills, join Finn Burnett for this lively session.

Book Bones: Structure is Key to Writing a Novel

Susan Forest

This session briefly compares and contrasts the three-act structure, five-act structure, Hero's Journey, Virgin's promise, Transtheoretical Model, Stages of Grief, and Anatomy of Story.

It's a Bold Business, Making the Mental Shift to Being a Career Author

James Kademan

Being a career author takes more than writing books, it requires you to successfully position yourself and take effective action. Are you where you want to be? Where do you want to go? Join us as entrepreneur, business coach and author James Kademan leads us through the matrix of shifting your mindset from someday to now. More than business savvy, this presentation dares you to be BOLD and live the life, and writing career, you dream of.

Cli-Fi, or Writing to Change the World

Ariel Kroon, Holly Schofield, J.R.H. Lawless, Nina Munteanu

This panel explores the developing genre of Cli-Fi or Climate Fiction. Part speculative, part apocalyptic, part horror, part sci-fi, part literary—now that climate change is the future made present, where does cli-fi go from here? Is it all doom and gloom, or can cli-fi offer hope for a better future?

Writing Alternative Histories

Chris Patrick Carolan, Robert Dawson, Marie Powell, Den Valdron

Based on elements stemming from real life, Alternative History can mix elements of sci-fi, fantasy and historical fiction. Writing them requires impeccable research, and scrupulous attention to detail. Our panellists will share what makes a great alternative history and how to write them.

Time Travel: Not Just a Thing of the Past

Simon Rose

Simon Rose, author of fifteen science fiction and fantasy novels, eight guides for writers, and more than 100 nonfiction books shares tips and tricks to weave time travel elements into the plot for any age group. Learn how to plan and realize your novel with an alternate reality element that takes the reader on a logical journey, in an illogical world.

Friday 4 PM (MDT)

The Comic Book War: Meteorites, Superheroes and Impossible Messages from Another Dimension

Jacqueline Guest, Cliff Samuels [M]

Join Jacqueline Guest as she pulls the curtain back on her novel *The Comic Book War*. Discover how finding a meteorite allows Robert to communicate with superheroes in his comic books. Canada during WW2 creates an exciting backdrop for this compelling novel of one teen's desperate belief in the impossible and unflagging faith in a tiny piece of a fallen star. Novels available from author.

The Heroine's Journey Continues

Vicki Delany, Liz Westbrook-Treholm, J.E. Barnard, Elizabeth Whitton [PM]

We've all heard of the Hero's Journey, but is it exclusively a male journey? Or is the Heroine's Journey different? This fascinating panel will discuss the Heroine's journey, what it has in common with the Hero's Journey and how it is often different.

How to Keep Revising when You're Completely Sick of a Project

Diane Terrana, Alice Bienia, Charise Jewell, Carol Parchewsky

You've been working on this novel forever. You're so close to being finished but every time you open your project you hate every single word. How do you get over this and get it finished and submitted?

Authors Tell All: Hybrid Publishing, Self-Publishing and Traditional Publishing

Cathy Ace, J.R.H. Lawless, Dorothy Bentley, Barbori Garnet [PM]

Authors share their experiences - both successes and challenges - in publishing their books via Hybrid Publishing, Self-Publishing and Traditional Publishing.

Six Shades of Noir: Dark Crime

Axel Howerton, Melissa Ye, Julie Hiner, Robert Bose [PM]

How to write dark. From psychological thriller to Hard-Boiled/Noir to Gangster, what are the sub-genres/types of Dark Crime? What elements are common across them, and what aspects are unique? What is it that makes writing dark, creepy and horrifying enough to cause the reader to bite their nails until they bleed?

Talking Tanka

Joanne Morcom

Join poet Joanne Morcom to learn about writing and publishing the short lyrical poem known as a tanka.

Character Creation

Nancy M Bell

A good story or novel consists of these things: A good story line or plot, a well crafted backdrop or world, and characters who grab the reader by the throat and won't let go. So where does an author find these feisty characters? How does one go about convincing them to be part of the story? In a word— yourself. All characters are part of the author. No exceptions. Some characters will be front and centre-leaping up and down and shouting at you. Others will be more reticent and need to be coaxed into the limelight. But make no mistake they are all products of the author's fertile mind.

The Bold Business of Publishing Success—Authoring 101

James Kademan, Mark Leslie Lefebvre, Sarah Kades Graham [M]

Join us for the condensed masterclass Authoring Boot Camp, Basic Training. Want to take your author career to the next level? Business Coach James Kademan and Author Consultant Mark Leslie Lefebvre team up to help authors define and achieve their goals, from shaping-up their writing practice and effective scheduling, to publishing and marketing strategies, Mark and James unpack Authoring and help authors understand how they can create their own plan. Author Sarah Kades Graham joins as moderator, as well as prototype—hear how the Authoring Boot Camp has changed her career!

Horror—Future Scares

Nancy Kilpatrick, Colleen Anderson, Konn Lavery, Beth Wagner

Horror literature reflects the age in which it is written. This panel briefly touches on the themes and tropes which have been utilized by writers over the last 4 centuries. Panellists speculate and brainstorm with the audience on what new horror fiction will emerge in a post-pandemic world.

How Urban Is Your Fantasy?

Jennifer Estep, Kevin Weir, Faith Hunter, James Bow [M]

What separates Urban Fantasy from other forms of speculative fiction (i.e. contemporary fantasy, magical realism, and paranormal romance), what tropes are used, misused, and overused, and what individual cities like Toronto or Chicago can contribute to the genre. What would an urban fantasy set in Calgary be like?

Overcoming Imposter Syndrome

Amanda Witow, Morgan Rhodes, J.L. Cole, Krista Wallace

"The first problem of any kind of even limited success is the unshakable conviction that you are getting away with something and that any moment now they will discover you." – Neil Gaiman. Listen to a panel of authors discuss how they deal with this surprisingly common problem, and how they keep on writing.

Writers' + Editors' Speed Mingle

Sponsored by @CalgaryEditors

Speed dating for writers - only instead of looking for a love relationship, you're looking for a freelance editor or writing coach. Expect five-minute blocks of time as you rotate around the room talking about your writing and asking questions of professional editors. This is a great opportunity to find an editor who is right for you! Editors include: Raina Schnider, Karen Crosby, Brenna Bailey-Davies, Erin Servais, Robert Runte, Paul Deleske, Debs Dawson, Kari Watson

Friday 5 PM (MDT)

An Hour with Marty Chan

Cliff Samuels [M]

Join author Marty Chan as he reads from his work and answers questions from the audience.

Writing with a Partner

Det Dave Sweet, Mark Leslie (Lefebvre), Rhonda Parrish, Shawn Bird, Nikolette Jones, Sarah Kades Graham [M]

Does co-writing work? How does it work? What are the pitfalls to avoid? What are the advantages? Join us as our panel of co-authors share the ups and downs of writing with a partner, and if they will ever do it again?

Common Manuscript Problems

Adrienne Kerr, Nancy M Bell, Susan Forest, Barbara Radecki

Editors compare notes on common problems they see in manuscript submissions.

Author Websites In An Hour

Laura VanArendonk Baugh

How you, yes you, can have a great website without paying thousands to a designer. Build and maintain an attractive site for less and \$100/year. Laura walk you through the ins and outs of what's required for 2021 site visitors.

Scrivener for Beginners

Amanda Witow

You've heard of Scrivener before, and you like the sound of it, but haven't dived in yet. Or maybe the number of features feels intimidating. Well, worry not! I'll walk you through the basics and help you get past that initial learning curve.

Business Coaching for Professional Author Service Providers

James Kademan

Are you an editor, formatter, cover designer, virtual assistant or provide any of the myriad of professional author services? Do you want your business to grow, become more profitable, create systems, or free up free time? If you answered yes to any of those, join business coach James Kademan as he shares some of his strategic business coaching advice for your entrepreneurial spirit. There will be a Q&A period so come with questions!

Religion and spirituality in SF&F. Is this still an appealing genre to today's readers?

Nina Munteanu, Sandra Fitzpatrick, P.L. Stuart, Nicola MacCameron, Claudiu Mugan [PM]

Over the years, SFF writers have created exquisite worlds in which religion, more than spirituality, played a pivotal role in how those imagined societies functioned. We only can assume that those writers had a basis on what Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, and other religions movements meant for people on earth as guidelines for an ethical and empowered life. In a world filled with religious-based conflicts and heavy censorship, are today's authors staying away from such sensitive subjects in order to avoid criticism or they feel that there is no more curiosity from the audience to read a SSF book that touches on the religious/spiritual aspect?

Writing Alien History

Stephen B. Pearl, Diane Morrison, Claire McCague, Julie E. Czerneda [PM]

Just as in real life, a fictional character, whether human or alien, is shaped by two pasts, one racial and the other personal. A panel of authors will discuss how to build fully-fleshed, believable alien characters with robust, individual back stories.

Make Them Laugh: Injecting Humour into all Forms of Fiction

Ira Nayman, Krista Wallace, Holly Schofield, Faith Hunter [PM]

Dying is easy. Comedy is hard. Whether you are writing satire, humour, or just looking for comic relief, striking the right chord with readers can be difficult. Take Monty Python, for example. You either love them or hate them. Authors discuss their approach to applying humour to their fiction.

Writers Speed Mingle

Ella Beaumont

Speed dating for writers - only instead of looking for a love relationship, you're looking for critique partners or new people to add to your network. Circulate around the room meeting new people.

Friday 6 PM (MDT)

Festival Guest Keynotes (2 Hours)

Cathy Ace, Vicki Delany, Steena Holmes, Fonda Lee, Dave Reynolds, Morgan Rhodes, Randy McCharles (M)

Following a brief welcome by the festival chairman, each of this year's festival guests will speak on a topic of their choice.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaiko_N0gAA (Youtube)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145797702140640/permalink/4237620216291681/> (Facebook)

Note: This session may be watched live or anytime later.

Aphantasia for the Author/Artist

Brandy Ackerley

Aphantasia is a condition in which a person has is unable to form mental images of objects that are not present. As an author and artist, living with aphantasia, I'm often asked how I make my novels so descriptive and how I can draw when I have no inner picture in my mind to work from. Come and we'll talk about how to help you describe something you can't see, but your reader must.

GoIndieNow's Live Panel Discussion Show Hosted by Joe Compton

Joe Compton

Sit in on GoIndieNow's monthly panel discussion broadcasted via YouTube, live from When Words Collide!

An Editor's Guide to Understanding Feedback

Raina Schnider & Tania Therien

The manuscript that you've long laboured over, poured your heart into, sacrificed evenings and weekends for was violated with red markings purporting to be helpful advice by an editor. What do you do with it? Does your editor hate you? Are you a terrible writer? Do you have to start all over!? Editors Raina Schnider and Tania Therien relay the editor's perspective on feedback, how to know the difference between necessary edits and recommendations, and why not to despair.

Evil Fanatics

Julie Hiner

'Ted Bundy Tapes', 'Mind Hunter', 'Don't 'F' with Cats'. Why are audiences fascinated with true stories of evil and sadistic extremes? How does a writer capture these aspects on the page? How to blur the lines between reality and fiction.

Songwriting with Vanessa

Vanessa Cardui

How to go about songwriting, whether for pleasure, film, or theatre. Singer/songwriter Vanessa Cardui gives tips and insights into the creative process.

Story Structure for the Rest of Us

C R MacFarlane

Readers have an expectation of story. There is a pattern of highs and lows that pulls them in and keeps them invested in the story, no matter what genre of book. Nail this, and you've got a story they can't put down even though it's 3am. Fall off track, and you might write a book that gets set down permanently.

Use Universal Story Structure to easily plan, write, and edit your novels, by understanding what readers crave and characters need for full and complete story.

Building a Writing Life you Love

Suzy Vadori

Whether you're writing as a hobby or you want to make it your career, building the writing life you want takes time, patience and planning. Join YA Fantasy Author and Author Accelerator Book Coach Suzy Vadori to explore ways to go after the writing life you want, with creative strategies and practical tips to make it happen. Come to this session with a dream of where you want to be, leave armed with a plan to get there.

Sic Transit Terra and Other Universes

Arlene Marks

Arlene F. Marks, the creator of the Sic Transit Terra series, will walk you through the process of building that universe, among others, and offer tips for bullet-proofing your own story worlds.

Queer Representation in Mainstream Literature

Finnian Burnett, Cassie L Taylor, Cheryl Head, Thea van Diepen, Tagan Shepard [M]

Today, it's more important than ever to give LGBTQ readers characters they can relate to. This panel of diverse authors discuss how to accurately represent marginalized people with sensitivity and realism, including how to do research when writing queer characters, especially as people explore new worlds of gender identity and alternative orientations.

Let's Play Quiplash

Kevin Weir, Naomi Davis, Erin Weir, Chris Patrick Carolan, Winston Pei, Nikolette Jones

Take a load off from your weekend of panels and publishing by joining authors as they prove who's the funniest! In Quiplash, the players use their phones to submit the best quips for the questions asked and everyone else votes. Quickest and funniest wins! But it's not just the authors who decide that, bring in your phone/tablet/laptop/desktop setup and you get a vote as well. Could be rude, could be strange, but it has to be funny!

Friday 7 PM (MDT)

Editors Canada Social

Editors Canada

Join us at the Virtual Delta Hotel to network and chat all things editorial.

Noir at the Bar

Axel Howerton (host)

Literary mayhem with Canada's best crime writers. Drop by for teaser readings and discussions dark and deadly.

Living A Double Life – Making Time to Write

Konn Lavery, Nicole Bross, Faith Hunter, Julie E. Czerneda

Authors lead a double life. Either a day job or, for full time authors, a marketing job. Sometimes, often, finding time to write is a challenge. Authors of varying circumstances discuss their strategies for meeting deadlines while balancing the remainder of their busy lives.

Anniversary of the End of the World

The Imaginative Fiction Writers Association's annual Friday Night Readings. Always entertaining.

Reading After Dark

Jennifer Slebioda (host)

Erotic readings open mic. Bring your prose or poetry to share.

Saturday 10 AM (MDT)

"Ask Me Anything" with Morgan Rhodes / Michelle Rowen

Cliff Samuels [M]

Join author Morgan Rhodes as she discusses the pros-and-cons of her career path, from writing 36 books for multiple publishers, using pen names, and dipping my toe into being a hybrid author.

Writing Well: Diversity and Sensitivity

Bobbi Lee Lintner, Lisa Collins, V. S. Holmes, Erin Servais, Su J. Sokol

Proactively looking at writing diversity well in your works. Discussion on how to be mindfully inclusive while navigating the "forced diversity" narrative, how to avoid writing stereotypes offensive to minorities, and best practices on choosing sensitivity consultants/editors/readers.

Reaching a Wider Audience with Genre Mashups

Nicole Bross, Kevin Weir, Diane Morrison, Shannon Allen

From Supernatural Suspense to Sci-Fi Westerns, genres are meant to be combined. Can including multiple genres in your writing help you reach a wider audience?

Building a Personal Brand (2 hours)

Lacy Loeffers

Your brand is the storytelling portion of your journey, and a well-defined brand will highlight who you are as an author, establish your voice, identify your ideal reader, and serve as a guide for your words and strategic direction. Join Lacy Loeffers as she guides you through an assessment and development of your brand and its offerings, assists in defining your voice, gives clarity to your target audience, identifies your brand positioning, and builds a strategy to promote your "story" and brand message. Don't just write a book—build a brand.

Date with Death (2 hours)

Det Dave Sweet

Dave Sweet (author and homicide detective) returns, with a talk that will send chills across the audience. A man that knows death better than most; he'll discuss topics including near death experiences, hauntings, "bad" feelings, rituals, spiritual beliefs, the role of psychics in investigations and unexplained occurrences he's had while on the job.

Cast a Spell: The Power of Poetry

Swati Chavda, Jennifer Slebioda, Moss Whelan, Rowan Canterbury

Poetry is magical. Writing a poem is like casting a spell. Spells are charged by the intention of the caster, the force of belief and focus the foundation of energy. Does poetry transform us or do we transform poetry? It's difficult to demonstrate where a poem ends and a spell begins, or vice versa. Tapping into the divine and sharing through poetry is transformative for the poet and for the reader of the poem. Join us in exploring the history and future of poems as spells and spells as poems.

Critiquing 101: An introduction to critique groups revisited

Monica Zwikstra & Marilyn Ruth Liddell

How do critique groups support members' efforts while offering honest critiques that help everyone in the group grow as writers? Facilitated by members of Crowsnest Critters. This is a reprise of their 2019 session with more concrete examples.

Deconstructing Pace

Elizabeth Whitton & Elissa McColl

Pacing is often identified as an issue in writing and is broadly covered by three or five point novel plot structure tutorials. But how do you actually fix it? Elissa McColl and Aurora award winning author Elizabeth Whitton give you the tools you need to up your pacing game by drilling down into pacing issues at the scene, paragraph, sentence, and even word choice level. You will leave with practical examples and step-by-step strategies to remedy pacing issues in your writing.

On the Role of (Dystopian) Literature In Environmental/Water Awareness and Activism: Can Books Save the Planet?

Nina Munteanu, Ariel Kroon, Stephen B. Pearl, Claudiu Mugan [PM]

Paolo Bacigalupi's *The Water Knife*. Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood*. Kim Stanley Robinson's *Green Earth & New York 2140*, J.G. Ballard's *The Drowned World*. These are all compelling dystopian thrillers that engage readers with climate change and strong water themes that face us currently.

This panel — consisting of authors and scientists — will discuss the role of literature in raising awareness in environmental issues—with a focus on water—and the possible connections to action. We will discuss concepts of "solastalgia", "ecological grief" and "therapeutic storytelling", and whether literature by itself is enough: what other venues may enhance its efficacy. (e.g. social media, movements such as Strike4Climate, others).

Writing Historical Fiction

Simon Rose

Simon Rose, author of fifteen science fiction and fantasy novels, eight guides for writers, and more than 100 nonfiction books explores writing historical fiction. Learn how to write an effective, authentic, and appealing story in this genre and how to fully immerse yourself in your chosen time period. Understand what defines historical fiction and different time periods, how to create believable settings, plausible characters, and the role of research in the creation of your novel.

Debut Authors— A Journey to Publication

Lou Rider, Barbori Garnet, Nancy M Bell, Valerie Estelle Frankel

Discussing everything from query letters to rejections to different pathways to be published. What to look for in publishing companies, what to avoid and if it's worth getting your book professionally edited.

It's about Time Slip Fiction

Brian Wyvill, WL Hawkin, JP McLean, Randy McCharles

From Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* to Well's *The Time Machine*, authors discuss the attraction of writing and reading fiction that moves contemporary characters into the past or the future.

Saturday 11 AM (MDT)

An Hour with Fonda Lee

Cliff Samuels [M]

Join author Fonda Lee as she reads from her work and answers questions from the audience.

How to Write a Series without Losing Your Way (or Your Mind)

Cathy Ace, Arlene F. Marks, J.R.H. Lawless, Faith Hunter [PM]

Publishers love it when authors propose a series of books. But there's more to it than just writing one novel after another. This is a discussion about the nuts and bolts, the pitfalls and the rewards of diving into series fiction, provided by those who have been there (or still are).

Show, Don't Tell: What Does It Really Mean?

Angela Ackerman, Susan Forest, Joy Norstrom, Monica Zwikstra

Show, Don't Tell is advice all writers have heard yet is a source of confusions and frustration for many. Panelists talk about the spirit of this advice and dig into when (and when not to) use it.

Books by the Cover

Swati Chavda, H. Leighton Dickson, Dave Reynolds, J.E. Barnard (M)

Cover artists & booksellers sketch out the cover's job, the reader's psychology, and how to collaborate with your designer for the best possible wrapper on your pet project.

Let's Build a World!

Lisa Wilde & Amanda Witow

What does it take to fashion a believable world for your story? This hands-on workshop will walk you through the steps of creating the perfect world to be at the very least the perfect backdrop for your story.

SceneWizard

Brian Wyvill

SceneWizard is a software tool designed to help authors (both plotters and pantsers) keep track of their story. This includes timelines, characters, chapters, scenes, artifacts, and ideas. Two guiding principles influenced the design: First, to minimize the author's time spent giving data to the system. SceneWizard reads the author's manuscript directly from the script. Second, that the author's view of a story is very different from the reader's view; SceneWizard provides multiple views. The system has been designed and implemented by author Brian Wyvill who, by good luck, happens to also be a computer scientist in his spare time.

Writing True Ghost Stories: Ask Me Anything

Mark Leslie (Lefebvre)

Mark shares insights and strategies on how to research, plan, and write a book about true ghost stories. A look at the business itself, the underlying methodology of the trade publishing business for ghost story tales, why it is still a viable option, and what other options exist when it comes to sharing creepy tales. This will be an informal talk and draw upon questions from the audience.

The Book as Object, Sculpture, and Performance

Life Lessons from a Life Spent Reading, Studying, Designing, and Collecting Books

Winston Pei

Why does the physical book still have such appeal in a world of tablets and e-books? What's the difference between a book reader and a book collector? How can one justify having a house full of books that they likely will never be able to finish reading? Is a book still a book if you can't read it? Join a lifelong reader, book designer, and book collector in a wide-ranging discussion of the book as a material and cultural object, and expand your appreciation and love of this singularly magical medium.

Indigenous Voices

Chief Mi'sel Joe & Sheila O'Neill

Authors discuss behind the scenes of their YA/Young Readers/Middle Grade-focused book *My Indian*.

Creative Edge Social (2 hours)

Mickey Mikkelson

Join Creative Edge Publicity publicists and clients for hobnobbing and teasers from recent releases.

Saturday 12 PM (MDT)

An Hour with Cathy Ace

Join author Cathy Ace as she reads from her work and answers questions from the audience.

Library & Bookstore Strategies

Mark Leslie (Lefebvre)

Any author can get their book listed in an online catalog. Any publisher can have their book available for proper library and bookstore distribution. But what if you want more? What if you want to rise about the digital masses and slush piles of publisher catalogs and be relevant to booksellers and libraries? This overview of strategies, tools, and systems authors can use, regardless of whether you are traditionally published or indie-published, is based on more than three decades of industry experience and first hand insights and knowledge.

How to Win NaNoWriMo

Morgan Rhodes, Laura VanArendonk Baugh, Carol Parchewsky, P.D. Workman, Elissa McColl [M]

In this panel, writers who've won NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) by writing 50,000 words in the month of November, share the strategies that enabled their success.

Getting an Agent or Editor: Voice, Voice, Voice

Sam Hiyate, Stacey Kondla, Barbara Radecki, Elizabeth Whitton, Lee Gowan, Dianne Terrana [PM]

What is voice and how do writers capture a compelling one? *The Rights Factory* agents and authors discuss the importance of voice.

Stress Out Your Characters

Jenna Greene, Catherine Fitzsimmons, Brenda Chapman, P.L. Stuart

Life isn't easy. Especially in fiction. Much less easy. Authors discuss why making life difficult for their characters isn't abuse.

Lights Up! Writing for the Stage

Erin Weir, Claire Bolton, Jenn Taylor

Have you ever dreamed of writing a play but it just seemed a little out of reach? How would an audience even see your work? Erin Weir and Claire Bolton have been writing and producing theatre in Calgary for the past decade and they are ready to discuss the hows, whys, whats and dramas about writing a stage play and bring it to life.

Chapter One: Your Debut Book

Faye Reineberg Holt, Craig DiLouie, Ron Friedman, Susan Calder [PM]

Your first book will be published. Hooray! It is a dream fulfilled, but will it also be an anticlimax? What surprises are in store? What is the next stage and how do you prepare? What can you do to attract readers to your debut, make your fledgling book take wings and propel your writing career to a second chapter?

Plotters & Pantsers & Points In-Between

Arlene Marks, Jonas Saul, Dwayne Clayden, Alice Bienia

What's your story planning style? Some writers like to dive into an opening scene and follow wherever the action takes them, while others won't even begin drafting until the entire plot arc is nailed down. A panel of authors discuss the pros and cons, perks and problems of the full range of storytelling techniques.

Classic to Contemporary Cli-Fi: Notes on a Genre

Ariel Kroon

Cli-fi (climate fiction) sets its plot in a world irrevocably altered due to dramatic shifts in the planet's climate. Learn about the beginnings of this genre, its history from the 1960s until the present, and some examples of cli-fi from popular media – both classic and current, Canadian and American, in text and on screen. What kind of stories have been told using the cli-fi convention? Does cli-fi have to mean sci-fi?

Writing Game Fiction

Stephen B. Pearl, Jennifer Slebioda

Game tie-ins allow for storytelling in a highly predefined format. What are the challenges and advantages of working in a world defined for you by a game? How true to the game must you remain and where can the writer take liberties.

Apocalyptic Fiction and Nonfiction

Jennifer Gordon, Allan Weiss, Diane Morrison

The real world can be scarier than anything a person could make up. What are the common threads between fictional doomsday worlds and real ones, in the present, past or future? What draws us to read about the end of worlds, without hope? What's the scariest world you've encountered in literature, real or imagined?

Saturday 1 PM (MDT)

An Hour of Honesty with Steena Holmes

Join author Steena Holmes as she reads from her work and answers questions from the audience.

Book Research – Making Your Story Believable

Julie E. Czerneda, Faye Reineberg Holt, Shirlee Smith Matheson, B.G. Cousins [PM]

What is the accuracy and range of a .45 Colt pistol? What kind of engine is in a 1965 Mustang? What is the wind speed of a Class 2 hurricane? When writing a story, it's the little details that need to be right to keep the reader engaged. Research, research, research. The panel will discuss how writers find the little details that make the story come alive, and when it becomes a knowledge dump that overwhelms the reader and makes them throw your book across the room.

The Pitch Games

Faith Hunter, D.J. McIntosh, Jacqueline Guest, Ella Beaumont [PM]

Stand up and present your best 30 second elevator pitch in front of a panel of blind (we mean that literally) judges. Train hard, this is Olympic-style "Live Action Slush" for book pitches. Pitches are given a sizzle and delivery score. Judges will hold up two scorecards. Shaky delivery? No worries, your pitch might be HOT and we'll all want to read the book. Maybe your pitch fizzles instead of sizzles? No worries, maybe you'll nail the delivery. Get a ho-hum response? Maybe there's a training montage in your future. Ready? Get your game face on, it's pitch time!

Editors: When Can They Help and How?

Bobbi Lee Lintner, Nikol Popovics, Lisa Collins, Nancy M Bell, Raina Schnider [M]

This panel will introduce participants to the different types of editing and when to approach an editor. Participants will gain a better understanding of when to approach an editor and the importance of editing their work. Panel members will discuss how they choose to work, what they look for, and how writers can optimize editorial help. The discussion will touch on fiction and non-fiction, gender and diversity, and writing for accuracy.

From Crime Scene to Morgue

Sue Wigle, Det Dave Sweet

When the medical investigation team arrives at the scene of a suspicious death, what is the procedure from scene to the autopsy site? How does the medical investigator interact with the police? Who is called in first? Experienced Medical Investigator Sue Wigle, with the Office of the Medical Examiner, walks us through the steps, with law enforcement's collaboration on this angle of the investigation addressed by Det Dave Sweet.

What the If? Feeding Old Ideas Fresh Blood

Tim Reynolds

Humour columnist Tim Reynolds leads an interactive workshop in generating ideas for fiction both long and short.

Where to Even Start for Aspiring and Lost Writers

Adam Dreece

How, EXACTLY, does free the story or feelings that's locked in our head? Or even just get started writing? Join Adam who shares not only how he really got started, and has had to re-ignite his flame, but also insights from helping dozens of others get going. Warning, there's bound to be a few laughs and concrete helpful strategies shared along the way.

The Character-Culture-Conflict Connection

C R MacFarlane

Creating your story elements on purpose makes for better fiction. But how do we connect the little details, while still making our world, our characters, and the storyline new and complex? Learn a unique Story Planning process to help you create better story elements, make the writing process easy, and create a seamless final product.

Also Known As ... ?

Edward Willett, Monica Zwikstra, Su J. Sokol, Lisa Wilde [PM]

So you've finished your novel, it's been edited and it's ready for publication. The question is – what should the byline be? Use your real name, or some form of it, or go for a completely different pen name? This panel will discuss the pros and cons and whys and why nots of using a pseudonym vs your actual name.

Ghosts–Gruesome, Garrulous, and Godly

Celeste Peters, Jennifer Gordon, Stephen B. Pearl, Swati Chavda

What do ghosts mean for people and in literature? How are ghost characters different from living characters in the role they play in stories? Are they convenient packages of symbolism and themes or are they red herrings? Do you have to believe in ghosts to appreciate one in a story? What are your favourite ghost stories or ghosts and why are they effective?

Saturday 2 PM (MDT)

An Hour with Vicki Delany

Cliff Samuels [M]

Join author Vicki Delany as she reads from her work and answers questions from the audience.

Finding Deeper Shades of Meaning with Metaphor, Motif, Symbol, Allegory, and Theme

Craig DiLouie

Tools such as metaphor, motif, symbol, allegory, and theme enable authors to construct stories that can be far greater than the sum of their words. In this seminar, veteran author Craig DiLouie defines these literary concepts, provides examples of their use, and analyzes how they can be applied for maximum effect to help authors inject layers of meaning and engage readers on a deeper level.

Live Action Slush – YA Edition

Morgan Rhodes, Diane Terrana, Shirlee Smith Matheson, Barbori Garnet [Reader]

Submit the 1st page of your manuscript to be anonymously read aloud and receive comments from our editors.

Marketing Yourself as an Author through the Media World

Mark Leslie (Lefebvre), Andy Peloquin, Valerie Estelle Frankel, Joe Compton [M]

There have never been more choices for media where authors can market themselves. From traditional sources like newspaper, radio, and television to social media platforms including (but not limited to) podcasts, YouTube, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok. Join the panelists as they share ideas, experiences and options available for marketing yourself through this often complex and confusing media world.

Killer Dialogue

Susan Calder, Sarah L. Johnson, Axel Howerton, Alice Bienia, Robert Bose [PM]

How to make your evil characters sound evil without turning them into a cliché. How to capture dark detective speak and bad-ass/guy language on the page while making your characters sound authentic. A look at real examples, tips and tools.

Much Depends on PoV: Comics, Masculinities and Meanings of the Male Figure

Richard Harrison & Lee Easton

For most of its history in North America, the comic book medium has been dominated by superheroes, much in the way they dominate Hollywood movies today. Despite sharing a common origin in the pulp magazines of the 1920s and 30s, superhero comics came to dominate this medium because, in part, the 1950s saw the elimination of Romance, War, Crime, Horror and Fantasy comics from the marketplace -- leaving these genres to develop in written forms such as the Harlequin or SF novel. And yet, despite this divergence, comics remain stories told equally in words and pictures and equally by them. But the inherent flexibility of "the picture" reminds us that like novels and short stories, the question of point of view is still a shared interest. We contend superhero comics are populated by fantasy figures whose depictions aren't resemblances, they are messages: they don't tell the readers tell what to look at in the story, they are graphics that tell us how to look at the things the story is about. In this panel, comic studies scholars Lee Easton and Richard Harrison will use their work on the superheroic depiction of the male body to show point of view carries ideals of morality and conduct and what is both good and evil in masculinity itself.

Writing Your Book One Word at a Time

Julie Hiner

An intimate hour of inspiration with *Just a Girl and a Bike / Killers and Demons*. Learn the powerful tools that Julie has developed over 15 years of riding a bicycle up the biggest and most famous mountains of the pro cycling circuit. Learn how she applied these techniques to write and launch a work of non-fiction and two novels. Bring your journal, come with an open mind, and be prepared to face the fears within you. Walk away with your own toolbox that will enable you to climb your own mountain (A.K.A. write the book within you)! This session will include instruction, real life examples, private journaling/reflection and meditation.

The Logical Creative - Using Non-Fiction Structure to Deepen Your Creative Writing

Jim Jackson

Let's face it – letting it all hang out and letting our freak flags fly are great for mental health, but doing that on the page can lead to mediocre writing. How can we bring enough structure to enhance to enhance our creativity without stifling it? In this interactive workshop, we'll look at how tried and true techniques from non-fiction can give us a scaffolding for our creative writing – leading to more fun and better writing.

Woke in Space

Noami Richards, Hali Lilburn, Calvin Jim, Rayn Rose

Does science fiction allow us to radically break from our world to explore non-white, and gender non-conforming characters? Or are they being relegated to the "token" bin of the last frontier? This panel of diverse writers will discuss current issues of gender and race in the science fiction genre.

Twisted...

J.E. Barnard, Brent Nichols, Brenda Chapman, Juanita Rose Violini

Readers devour mind-blowing plot twists, and admire authors who pull them off, but writing them is harder than it looks. This panel of accomplished writers will school you in the subtle strategies of misdirection, dead ends and red herrings, to help you master the art of the plot twist.

Writing by Dictation

Carol Parchewsky, Konn Lavery, Tony King, Elissa McColl[M]

Panelists discuss the pros and cons of writing by dictation, software and apps they've used, and share tips and tricks on what works for them.

Poetry Open Mic

Jennifer Slebioda [host]

Drop by to enjoy a selection of poetry read by festival attendees. If you have a poem in your pocket, consider reading yourself.

Saturday 3 PM (MDT)

An Hour with Dave Reynolds

Cliff Samuels [M]

Join Indigo specialist Dave Reynolds as he discusses his industry experiences and answers your questions.

And Now, For A Change of Pace

Fonda Lee

Fonda Lee discusses the art and craft of narrative pacing. How do you determine what the right pace is for your story? (Faster isn't always better!) When do you need to speed up or slow down? How do you create a satisfying sense of rhythm and variety across your scenes and chapters?

Playing with Prompts

Shawn L. Bird

Come play with prompts in this hands-on workshop. Shawn will guide you through accessing your subconscious to bring deep truths into your writing. Relevant to both poets and novelists. Beginners welcome!

An Editor's Introduction to Dialogue

Raina Schnider & Tania Therien

Editors Raina Schnider and Tania Therien talk about the most common pitfalls in dialogue writing they see in manuscripts, from overly creative dialogue tags to repetitive character names to punctuation perils. If you're new to writing, or are curious about an editor's perspective on dialogue, this may be the panel for you.

Where History meets Mystery

Shirlee Smith Matheson, Jacqueline Guest, Loraine Fowlow, Bill Prentice

Our authors explore how historical events have inspired their writing; the challenges of researching the past; and how we walk a fine line between mystery and history when writing.

Self-Publishing Non-Genre Books

Joanne Morcom, Cassandra Arnold, Valerie Estelle Frankel

Non-fiction, memoir, poetry, children's books, etc. When your book is more than simply paragraphs of prose, how do you go about formatting, publishing, and marketing your product? How do you decide on layout? What about covers and illustrations? Special fonts? Where to use colour images? Indie authors of non-genre books discuss.

Intermediate Scrivener

Amanda Witow

If you feel you've got a handle on the basic features of Scrivener, but want to learn more about using Snapshots, Project Templates, Compiling, Meta-Data, and other features, then this is the session for you. This session will NOT cover creating new projects, using the binder, or formatting text in the editor.

Owning Your Story

Alex McGilvery

We could not write a story if we never used a trope. I'm using trope as a necessary or common device for a genre. So a love triangle, the Chosen One, the hero being captured by the villain are all tropes. If we use tropes without thinking about them, they can easily slide into cliché. The secret to using tropes, and even clichés is to own your story. Take each part and put your own spin on it. How can you take the classic love triangle, but play with it to keep the reader guessing? What is there is not one Chosen One, but a bunch of them, all vying to fulfill the prophecy? The hero is captured, does the villain really need laser sharks to deal with this? It is said that there are no new stories, but each story is a fresh look at the classic plots. By owning your story, you will keep your reader engaged and guessing to the end.

Let the Characters Tell the Story

Claire McCague, Krista Wallace, Marilyn Ruth Liddell, Su J. Sokol

It is not unusual to hear authors claim their characters took over the writing. But it can be hard to understand how this is possible. Authors discuss instances of how this has happened to them, and why this is a good thing.

Short Stories as a Stepping Stone

Susan Forest, Chris Marrs, M. H. Callway, Sandra Fitzpatrick

Short stories can help you develop writing skills and build a resume. Are there other benefits? How do you learn to write them? Where can you get them published? Are contests worth it? And what defines a short story anyway? Is it all about word count?

Kids Books on Science

Paula Johanson, Marie Powell, Claire Eamer & more

Writers from Sci/Why website present four new science books: Extremely Gross Animals, Science Critters, and more. This event is for science fans, writers, and is family-friendly.

Saturday 4 PM (MDT)

Ten Things I Wish I'd Known

Morgan Rhodes, Alice Bienia, Dwayne Clayden [PM]

When you started writing, what assumptions blocked your progress, lead you down dead ends, or limited your opportunities and experiences? Panelists share their initial faulty thoughts that slowed their journey into the writing world.

Rewind: WWC 10 Years Later

Randy McCharles, Ryah Deines, Susan Forest, Mark Leslie (Lefebvre), Jim Jackson, Cliff Samuels [PM]

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary, festival chair Randy McCharles is joined by several WWC long timers to look back at the origin and growth of what has become one of the best literary events in Canada. How did WWC happen in the first place? Why has it become so popular? How has it changed over the years? From the book business, to publishing, to digitizing conferences, it's been an incredible decade.

Writing Pain and Trauma

Det Dave Sweet, Sarah Kades Graham, Charise Jewell, Jennifer Rahn, Tim Reynolds

Can surviving and choosing to write about traumatic events transcend us? Is there a risk of being dragged too deeply back into the experience? Is it worth facing your biggest pain and trauma for the sake of creating? What do you hope to gain? Who, if anyone, is changed by the writing?

Wrapping Things Up

Adrienne Kerr, Sam Hiyate, Julie E. Czerneda, Jenna Greene

Endings are the last impressions readers take away from a story. What makes a satisfying ending? Should it be neatly-wrapped? Open and complex? What is the role of the denouement? Do all novels need one? What about epilogues? Have you read a book where the ending changed your whole view of the story, for better or worse? How do writers know when they've come to the end and what do they do about it?

Character Triage: Fixing People Problems In Your Story

Angela Ackerman, Becca Puglisi

Do beta readers say your protagonist is unlikeable or cliché? Are you struggling to nail down their career, motivation, backstory wounds, or secrets? If your characters are causing you problems, bring them to experts Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi so they can help you brainstorm solutions.

The Many Shades of Show, Don't Tell

Suzy Vadori

The concept of Show, Don't Tell is one of the most misunderstood pieces of writing advice and one of the hardest to spot and implement consistently in your own writing. Even if you've been writing a long time, over-telling can hide in unexpected places in your pages, robbing your readers of the chance to SEE the brilliant scene that's exploding in your mind. In this presentation, YA Fantasy Author and Author Accelerator Accredited Book Coach Suzy Vadori unpacks the mystery behind this advice. She'll articulate why this concept is important, how showing works in your reader's brain, and teach writers to spot the four ways telling commonly shows up in manuscripts.

A Diary in the Age of Water

Nina Munteanu

A reading and discussion on the role of climate, environment, and setting in stories today.

Bring on the Goths

Chris Marrs, Jennifer Gordon, Valerie Estelle Frankel

Victorian, American, Prairie, and Southern Gothic are all facets of the Gothic Horror genre. They may often share some elements like creepy houses, and desolate settings but what are the differences? Panelist will discuss writing in the variations of the Gothic Horror tradition.

Writing for Children and Young Adults

Simon Rose

Simon Rose, author of fifteen science fiction and fantasy novels, eight guides for writers, and more than 100 nonfiction books explores the art of writing for children and young adults. Explore research, planning, pacing your story, developing characters, connecting with the reader, choosing settings, the role of adults in children's stories, and more.

BLACKOUT ODYSSEY launch party

Catherine Fitzsimmons & Victoria Feistner

On the 18th anniversary of the start of the 2003 Northeast blackout, we celebrate the release of BLACKOUT ODYSSEY! Join author Victoria Feistner and Brain Lag owner Catherine Fitzsimmons for the launch of this "delightful, imaginative, insider view" magical realism tale taking place in Toronto during that fateful mass power outage. BYO candles and warm beer! Send us your blackout stories and we'll share them on the stream. Featuring an interview, reading, and Q&A. Jump in the chat and add your questions and comments to the discussion.

URL: www.twitch.tv/brainlagbooks

Saturday 5 PM (MDT)

Love of the Land – The Importance of Place in Fiction

J.E. Barnard, Claire McCague, Lee Gowan, Marilyn Ruth Liddell

Setting is a character that heavily influences a book. Authors discuss their choice of setting in their process, whether it is a generic big city, a coastal tourist area, or New Orleans during Mardi Gras.

Hooking Your Audience from Page One

Andy Peloquin, Stephen B. Pearl, Heidi Wicks, Faith Hunter [PM]

A great opening line will only work so well if the rest of the opening is slow, boring, or lacking tension. This presentation will provide actionable, practical insights on how to craft opening scenes that will have readers blazing through the book to find out what comes next.

The Sagging Middle of My Career

Laura VanArendonk Baugh

You're not a newbie—you've published a book or three, you've sold some stories, and you've officially paid taxes on writing income. But you're not famous yet, and you still have to fit part-time writing into your full-time life. Laura discusses setting and re-setting career goals, prioritizing projects, adjusting social media strategies and other marketing methods.

Should You Plan Your Crimes?

AJ Devlin, Seamus Heffernan, W.L. Hawkin, Erik D'Souza [PM]

Do you plan your novel to nth degree or do you fly by the seams of his pants? Four members of Crime Writers of Canada discuss the merits of being a Pantser or a Plotter. AJ Devlin often writes more notes than manuscript. Seamus Heffernan starts writing on page one and never looks back. Erik D'Souza and W.L. Hawkin sit in the middle of the debate. We will deliberate the pros and cons of both writing styles.

The Importance of Story to a Tech Startup

Adam Dreece

More than any other type of organization, Startups live and die on story. It's the story they tell the world, their customers, their investors, their employees, and those they are looking to join their cause. How does this work and what's the effect of good and bad story? Adam shares his first hand experiences.

Conflict without Guns: Creating Relationship Tension in Your Writing

Joy Norstom

Do you want to amp-up tension between your characters? Do you want to create real-life drama across the dining room table or between warring factions at the PTA meeting? Love is a battlefield, folks, and conflict is what will keep readers engaged in your story. Learn how to set your characters up for interpersonal failure and explore common relationship triggers that can be duplicated on the page. The facilitator will share knowledge she's gained as a social worker to help build authentic story tension as well as tips for creating the satisfying resolutions that readers crave.

The Synergy between Science Fiction and Science

Ron Friedman

From genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, satellites, sliding doors to cell phones. Ron S. Friedman, a science fiction writer and a blogger will explore how science fiction inspired new technology innovations and how new scientific discoveries ended up as bestselling stories.

Creative Edge Romance

Anna J. Stewart, Cari Lynn Webb, Melinda Curtis, Kayla Perrin, Lezli Robyn [M]

Creative Edge Romance Authors discuss the genre.

10th Anniversary Online Banquet (2 Hours)

Drop by our virtual Delta Calgary South Hotel (hosted by Kumospace) to chat with other festival attendees. Explore the online hotel's many meeting places to see who's there.

Saturday 6 PM (MDT)

Prophet and Loss: Cults and Extreme Beliefs in Fiction

Kenneth Neufeld, Faith Hunter, Edward Willett, Susan Calder [PM]

A discussion of how to work radical religious beliefs or extreme ideologies into your fiction, with an emphasis on indoctrinated characters and regular characters who must work with or deal with such characters.

Saturday Night Rapid Readings (3 Hours)

TBA (host)

Drop in for short teaser readings of published works from a worship of writers:

6:00 Ira Nayman	7:00 Stephen B. Pearl	8:00 Robert Dawson
6:15 Nancy Kilpatrick	7:15 Catherine Fitzsimmons	8:15 Robert Proudfoot
6:30 Alan Weiss	7:30 Su J. Sokol	8:30 Nancy M Bell
6:45 Julie E. Czerneda	7:45 Brenda Chapman	8:45 Claire McCague

Publishing Your Book: You've Got Options

Rachelle Kanefsky, Bill Prentice, Barbori Garnet, Adrienne Kerr

A panel discussion on the various publishing options available to authors. Moderated by a book industry professional, this panel will answer questions about the traditional publishing route versus the self-publishing path and the advantages and challenges of each. Attendees will come away from this panel discussion with a clearer sense of the best way for them to bring their books to market.

Taking that Stand-Alone Novel You Wrote and Discovering the Publisher Wants a Trilogy or a Series

Ronald Hore, Sandra Fitzpatrick, P.D. Workman

How do you go about taking the novel or story you've slaved over for months and go ahead and expand it beyond where you originally plotted? Should you always think about what happens next, or are you just ecstatic the original manuscript has been accepted?

The Cthulhu Mythos

Daniel Wright, Kevin Weir, J.Y.T. Kennedy, Justin Acton

The Cthulhu mythos is a shared fictional universe created by H.P. Lovecraft which incorporates slow-creeping madness and cosmic horror along with insanity resulting from contact with the impenetrable "Eldritch Gods". Its influence can still be seen in today's Marvel and DC Multiverses. Join our panelists as they discuss the seminal world of Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos.

Saturday 7 PM (MDT)

Saturday Night Dead

David A. Poulsen (host)

Hang out Saturday evening with various felons and miscreants. Sponsored by Crime Writers of Canada. Rumour has it there will be a door prize.

Ghost Stories from Mark's Haunted Fort [2 Hours]

Mark Leslie Lefebvre

The Spirit of the WWC Fort continues! Join us for Mark Leslie's live broadcast telling ghoulishly scary ghost stories from his WWC Haunted Fort. From the security of your very own fort celebrate this annual WWC tradition with us...if you dare. Warning: Content may not be kid-friendly.

Sunday 10 AM (MDT)

An Hour with Jonas Saul

Jonas will discuss several topics starting with the process of preparing and finishing your novel, and concluding with issues related to the business of writing once the novel is completed. Bring your questions to the session regarding any topic you feel you need answered and Jonas will do his best to answer them all.

The Danger of Digging too Deep: Self-Care for Writers

Jennifer Estep, P.D. Workman, Charise Jewell, Faith Hunter [PM]

Writers tend to write what they know, and this sometimes this means digging around in their own painful history. Panelists discuss their approach to writing difficult scenes and how to practice self-care before, during, and after practice emotionally-draining writing sessions.

Audiobooks: A New Chapter for Writers

Tony King, Marie Powell, Krista Wallace, Susan Forest

Audiobooks are selling at a faster rate than their e-book and print counterparts—impacting not only the way literature is consumed, but how it's written. Panelists discuss explains this format's rapid rise in popularity and how you can turn your own work into an audiobook.

Channeling Your Inner Demon

Julie Hiner & Rebekah Raymond

Writing dark requires evil characters that do unspeakable things. We all have a little demon within us - and it wants to help! Tapping into your dark side, and making friends with the little evil creature living deep down in your core can unleash a whole world of evil - propelling the darkness and authenticity of your characters and your stories. That little devil inside can also amp up your book selling - making it more fun and helping you to reach your readers. Come find out how to make friends with your inner demon, nourish it, and unleash its power!

Book Clubs for Readers

Amy Jo Fleming, Susan Calder, Joy Norstrom

How to form a book club; different types of clubs; informal and formal; in-person and online; novels vs short story clubs.*Book club questions.

Critiquing 102: Growing as Writers

Monica Zwikstra & Marilyn Ruth Liddell

Effective critique groups offer free, ongoing editing at every stage of writing. Join Marilyn and Monica to learn what they focus on when doing critiques. They'll answer the questions: Are there "rules" for writing? Do we need them? Building on ideas presented in Critiquing 101, they will share guidelines they believe make writing better.

Author Branding for 2021

Mark Leslie (Lefebvre)

Why is author branding so important? What is an author brand anyway? Why is it important, and in what ways can an author's brand be a significant and fundamental part of their long term content marketing and promotional strategy? What are some pitfalls to avoid? What are some rabbit holes to stay away from? And how do you determine what works best for you, and, ideally, for your target readers?

Law in Science Fiction and Fantasy, And Why It Matters

J.R.H. Lawless

If you don't take an interest in law, law will take an interest in you. In this presentation, lawyer and SF author J.R.H. Lawless takes us on a jurisdictional journey to explore the tools and concepts needed to analyze and build the legal systems that are a crucial element of any Science Fiction or Fantasy world.

Crafting Fantasy from Myth

Calvin D. Jim, Swati Chavda, Brandy Ackerly, Amanda Witow

Myths, legends, and folklore are great sources of inspiration for fantasy writers. You might set out to retell the old story, or seek to blend them with original material, but how do you do it well? This panel will discuss how to create a rich and engaging fantasy sourced from myth.

Understanding the Messy Middle

C R MacFarlane

Figure out what to write in the messy middle. Many writers mistake the purpose of the middle build and find themselves stuck thinking about the wrong things. Learn the true purpose of the middle, and how to easily write a stunning second act.

Brain Lag Book Social

Join Brain Lag owner Catherine Fitzsimmons and authors for discussions of their new and upcoming books. Near future sci-fi, magical realism, dark fantasy, zombies pulling pranks, short stories, and lots more. It's another big year for Brain Lag, so come celebrate all our new titles with us!

Sunday 11 AM (MDT)

An Hour with Julie E. Czerneda

Cliff Samuels [M]

Join Julie as she shares secrets from her latest Esen novel, describes her process for writing a prequel for the 20th anniversary edition of *In the Company of Others*, and what's coming next from her pen. There will be surprises.

A Spoonful of Humour Helps the Narrative Go Down

Arlene Marks

Laughter isn't only the best medicine, it's also a great way to win over a reader. In this workshop, led by multi-published author and editor Arlene F. Marks, you will find out why humour is important, how it works, and how you can use it to leaven any kind of story.

Live Action Slush – Mystery Edition

Vicki Delany, Cathy Ace, Steena Holmes, Jonas Saul, Talena Winters [Reader]

Submit the 1st page of your manuscript to be anonymously read aloud and receive comments from our editors.

Manifesting a Publishing Dream

Linda J. Pedley & Mandy Eve-Barnett

From a writer to a published author – it's a common dream for many who are impassioned by the written word. For those just starting out, you know what you want, but the options can be overwhelming; for those in the business longer there might be a time when a change is needed to kick-start the dream within to continue the journey. Traditional, self-publishing... or somewhere in between – what works for you? It's your dream and you should decide what direction your writing journey takes. Dream Write Publishing will compare the publishing options and discuss their perspective on "assisted" publishing.

Crime Fiction in 2021 – Trends and Evolution

M. H. Callway, Adrienne Kerr, Judy Penz Sheluk, Bill Prentice [PM]

Crime fiction evolves over time. What are the new trends and directions taken so far in 2021? Have the current pandemic and recent political upheavals influenced our fiction? How does evolving technology impact crime and crime investigation?

Poetic Dreamscapes

Josephine LoRe

Have you ever woken up to the fragment of a dream lingering in your consciousness? What kind of poetry would you write if you could wander barefoot through the dream imaginarium? A world coloured Chagall-blue, a world of underwater breathing, a world as evoked by Margaret Atwood in her poem *Variations on the Word Sleep*. A world where you could have a glass of wine with Pan or converse with long-gone ancestors. Come ready to release preconceptions and inhibitions, and allow your writing to grow wings in the wordless landscape of dreams.

Hacking Your Creative Flow: How to Track Absolutely Everything

Nicole Bross

Ever wanted to figure out when and where you do your best writing? Curious how much you really get done? This workshop will teach you how to keep track of your progress day by day using a variety of free tools so you can get the most out of your writing time.

When Is It Good Enough?

Laura VanArendonk Baugh

Perfect is the enemy of good—but bad is a career assassin. When do we stop editing and start selling? With limited resources of time and energy, and perpetual doubt that a work is “good enough”, we can find ourselves trapped in analysis paralysis. Laura discusses methods of determining when a work is “done” and should leave the nest.

Hekate & The Witch’s Diary

Rebecca Brae

Join author Rebecca Brae for readings from her fantasy novel, *The Witch’s Diary*, a talk about the classical origins of Hekate, and how writing brought her a deeper connection to the Greek goddess of witchcraft. This mysterious and enigmatic goddess’s roles have morphed over 3000 years of history from a goddess of prosperity and birthing, to a guide for the dead and goddess of the crossroads.

Birth of a Poet

Swati Chavda, Jennifer Slebioda, Cassandra Arnold, R. Graeme Cameron, Rayanne Haines

A discussion for poets — both published and yet-to-be-published — about their journey into poetry. How did you get started? What keeps you going? What are the ways to publish poetry in today’s world? How do you connect to your readers? Join us in discovering the trials and tribulations that birth a poet.

Exploring the YA Dark Side—Dark Fantasy vs Horror

Rhonda Parrish, Brandy Ackerley, Jenna Greene, Elizabeth Whitton [PM]

“The Hazel Wood”, “Children of Blood and Bone”, and “The Cruel Prince” are a few examples of dark, atmospheric YA novels making the best sellers lists. But dark fantasy isn’t simply code for horror. Join these panelists as they discuss what characteristics both distinguish and unite these two subgenres when YA writers explore the dark side.

Writers at the Improv

IFWA, Edward Willett

Attend this hilarious panel where teams of writers use audience suggestions to create a speculative fiction story. The results can--and have--been out of this world.

Sunday 12 PM (MDT)

An Hour with Robert J Sawyer

Rob gives his take on the current state of publishing -- traditional, self, and hybrid -- and the lessons he’s learned in trying to navigate all three types.

New Writer Roll Call Q&A

Mark Leslie (Lefebvre), Det. Dave Sweet, Sarah Kades Graham [M]

Ever dream of writing but have no idea where to start? Or are you a closet writer wanting a safe push? Maybe you simply want to write for yourself, or maybe you can’t wait to share something with the world? This one’s for you. Join us as our panel shares their journey, answers your questions, and do their best to inspire the writer within.

Live Action Slush – High Fantasy Edition

Susan Forest, Nancy M Bell, Talena Winters, Kevin Weir [Reader]

Submit the 1st page of your manuscript to be anonymously read aloud and receive comments from our editors.

Live Editing

Alex McGilvery

Participants bring a single double-spaced printed page. I will pick one at random from what is submitted and edit on the spot, commenting on the opening, character, plot etc. Depending on the number of pages, time for each page may vary.

Killer Scripts

Juanita Rose Violini

Knock 'em dead writing mystery scripts geared for successful interactive entertainment. Juggling the demands of creating events for corporate or public functions can have you reaching for the gun long before your script is written. Learn to manage the variables in venues, actors and live performance, with scripts that are both flexible and solid. Mystery events give people permission to relax and be outrageous, in a setting where anything can happen, and... usually does. Roll with the action by creating simple scripts to follow and learn lots of ways to cheat during the performance.

Taxes for Creative Folk

Sandra Fitzpatrick

What do authors and artists have to claim as income? What can they deduct as expenses? Will claiming home office space, trips to Europe for research, and lunch with your editor eventually land you with a tax audit? Tax specialist Sandra Fitzpatrick answers your questions.

The End

Suzy Vadori

Have you ever gotten to the end of a book and wanted to throw it across the room as you flip the last page because the ending wasn't satisfying? No matter how great your book is, if the ending is lacking, your readers won't tell their friends about it. So, what elements should a good ending have? In this interactive presentation, YA Fantasy Author and Author Accelerator Accredited Book Coach Suzy Vadori will share tips to creating a satisfying ending to your book that readers will LOVE.

What is Eco-Fiction and Why Should We Care?

Ariel Kroon, Cassandra Arnold, Claire McCague, Stephen B. Pearl, Nina Munteanu [M]

The rise of environmental fiction, both in literature and film, has spawned several sub-genres such as climate fiction, eco-thrillers, eco-mystery, eco-punk, and eco-romance. Is eco-fiction part of science fiction? In Barbara Kingsolver's 2012 novel *Flight Behavior*, climate change plays a major role in a story about people's beliefs and actions. Environmental catastrophe plays a major role in Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* and Ian McEwan's *Solar*. Is eco-fiction simply a new fad or does it reflect a cultural awakening to current environmental issues? What role does eco-fiction play in storytelling and defining ourselves. Who are its readers and why? Should eco-fiction educate? How can an eco-fiction writer prevent it from becoming polemic?

Character Motivations – They Must Have a Reason for What They Do

Angela Ackerman, Krista Wallace, Jennifer Gordon, B.G. Cousins

People act and react according to their experiences. Anything else is out of character. The panel will discuss how they keep their characters grounded and believable.

Imagery, Theme and Titles Aren't So Tough

Carol Parchewsky, Celeste Peters, Ira Nayman, Susan Calder

Imagery and theme add richness and depth to fiction. They can also inspire great titles. Should theme and/or imagery come to the writer before she sets pen to page and generate the story? Or do they develop from the prose? How do you bring them naturally into a work? Why do you and your readers want and need them there? What are the strategies for incorporating them? Can imagery and theme sometimes be too elusive and abstract for a title or book cover?

Online Writing Groups and Communities – Are They for You?

Amanda Witow, Monica Zwikstra, Nicole Bross, Lisa Wilde [PM]

There are so many writing groups and online communities out there, both professional and not. Are you missing out if you aren't part of them? What's their value to you as a writer? What are the downsides? And how would an in-person writing groups be better? Or not?

Sunday 1 PM (MDT)

An Editor's Approach to Advanced Dialogue

Robert Runte & Friends

Editors Raina Schnider and Tania Therien outline techniques for elevating dialogue to the next level. What kinds of dialogue errors are made even by advanced writers?

Novels Set in Canada

Diane Terrana, Konn Lavery, Nancy M Bell, Lee Gowan

Can you set your book in Canada and have any expectation of attracting a large publisher? Or will they make you change Alberta to Montana, Vancouver to Seattle etc.? With the current demand for more diverse stories is this practice changing? Writers and Editors will discuss their publishing experiences.

Live Action Slush – Science Fiction Edition

Ella Beaumont, Catherine Fitzsimmons, Robert Dawson, Barbori Garnet [Reader]

Submit the 1st page of your manuscript to be anonymously read aloud and receive comments from our editors.

An Editor's Approach to Advanced Dialogue

Raina Schnider & Tania Therien

Editors Raina Schnider and Tania Therien outline techniques for elevating dialogue to the next level. What kinds of dialogue errors are made even by advanced writers?

Cozies on the Edge

Cathy Ace, Pamela Kenney, P.D. Workman

While some cozies nail the form, others are constantly pushing the envelope with unconventional protagonists, darker subject matter, complex relationships, and even a little snark.

Memoir: The Stories of our Lives

Sue LeBreton

A deeper dive into this genre which uses all the creative writing techniques you use in your fiction and why you might be enticed to turn your life experiences into a memoir.

Integrating Place in Fiction to Deepen Meaning

Nina Munteanu

Learn the tools to increase the richness and meaning of your story through place and setting. Setting is best described as a character, defining and interacting with all other characters related to the theme. Learning to integrate setting with plot, theme, and character will provide depth and ground the reader in context and meaning. In this workshop we will use visual prompts and discussion to incorporate metaphor and sensual description to characterize place.

Characters Do Evolve During a Story

B.G. Cousins

So you've thought up a character. You've spent the time developing his/her backstory. He/she has certain skills. But in the real world, people change as they encounter new things and events in their lives, and they do so slowly. Your characters should too. Learn techniques on how to evolve your characters from who they are at the beginning of your story to who they are at the end without sudden or unbelievable changes.

Space Race 2.0 and the Upcoming Gold Rush

Ron Friedman

How SpaceX, Blue Origin, Rocket Labs and NASA will open up space, and why should the Canadian energy and mining sectors take part in the upcoming asteroid mining boom.

Page One Chapter One, Starting Your Novel with Impact (2 hours)

Vicki Delany

How to start your crime novel with impact: Publishers and agents are busy people. They will decide whether or not to read your novel submission in the first few pages, perhaps even the first page. If that gets their interest, they might read another twenty manuscript pages and then decide whether or not to continue. Modern readers aren't prepared to spend a lot of time slowly getting into a story. You need to get them hooked. And FAST. This doesn't necessarily mean a gun fight on page one or a dead body in the first paragraph. But it does mean creating a dramatic opening, introducing interesting characters and avoiding common pitfalls that lead to a dull start. This workshop is ideal for those who are working on their first (or second, or third) mystery novel and are wondering how to give it that... umph... agents and publishers are looking for.

Writing up and down the Children's Literature Category

Leanne Shirliffe, Brenda Joyce Leahy (Johnson), Dee Hahn, Elizabeth Whitton [M]

Do you write young adult novels and want to give picture books a try? Are you a middle grade author longing to write a young adult story? Then this exciting and informative panel is for you. Children's literature encompasses several genres including picture books, middle grade, and young adult fiction. What unique characteristics must be considered when changing genres? How is voice affected? This panel

of outstanding children's fiction authors will discuss the challenges and advantages of writing up and down the children's literature category.

Sunday 2 PM (MDT)

An Hour with Jennifer Estep

Jennifer discusses her books and answers questions from the audience.

The Introverted Writers Conundrum

Marie Powell, WL Hawkin, Thorsten Nesch, Kaiya Ansorge

Do you love writing yet hesitate and even fear the act of verbal communication? How do you manage interviews, group meetings, and conventions? Join the Introverted Writers Panel and see how we manage the "write it—promote it" roller coaster.

Live Action Slush – Historical Edition

Shirlee Smith Matheson, Jacqueline Guest, Erin Servais, Krista Wallace [Reader]

Submit the 1st page of your manuscript to be anonymously read aloud and receive comments from our editors.

HELP! How do I Sell my Book?

Monica Zwikstra, Angela Ackerman, Lacy Lieffers, Marilyn Ruth Liddell [M]

Your book has been published. Now what? Whether you have a contract with a publishing house or are self-published, you have to work to attract a readership and sales. How? Panelists will bring their stories of promotion and marketing successes (and failures), including book launches, readings, social media advertising, newsletters and blogs. Find out what sales strategies might work for you.

Street Drugs – Part One – Opioid Crisis

Dwayne Clayden

From approximately 2010 onward, opioids were added to almost every street drug. Why is this so dangerous. What is an opioid crisis? How did the opioid crisis start? Why is one opioid worse than another? Is there an antidote? This presentation will answer these questions and many more. Whether research for a novel or wondering how much damage the opioid crisis does to families and to society, this presentation will be eye-opening.

Altered Books: When Your Finished Book Becomes Another Artist's Raw Materials

Winston Pei

Trigger Warning: This presentation may contain content disturbing to some readers, authors, and booklovers!

The term "Altered Book" loosely describes a category of Artist's Book where an existing book is altered — marked up, folded, cut apart — to create a new work of art. Explore your own ideas and biases around "bookness" and push yourself out of your comfort zone as we explore examples of altered books through photos and physical examples. This presentation may include an opportunity for hands-on participation.

Six Ways to Get Rid of Creative Exhaustion and Finally Finish Your Writing Project

Sandra Wickham

Fitness coach Sandra Wickham shows you how to increase your energy levels so you can write (or outline, or edit or rewrite) more! Discover how to shift away from creative slowdown, exhaustion, and guilt when the words won't come so you'll know what you need to do for your physical, mental, and emotional health to have the energy to focus and write more. Every attendee will receive a 12 Writing Productivity Hacks guide, a fabulous Word Count Tracker that changes colour as your word count goes up!), Career Bingo, and a Simplified Writing To Do list. These Productivity Hacks are going to get you writing more words faster!

Keep Laughing

Joanne Morcom

Join writer and Certified Laughter Leader Joanne Morcom to discover the link between laughter and creativity.

Translating Real Science into Gripping Fiction

Claire McCague, V. S. Holmes, Stephen B. Pearl, Julie E. Czerneda [PM]

Fiction authors discuss using hard science as a source of inspiration, and sometimes a basis, for their fiction.

An Hour with Barbara Fradkin

Cliff Samuels [M]

Multiple award-winning author Barbara Fradkin talks about the inspiration for her cross-Canada Amanda Doucette series and her many adventures doing the research.

Tyche Books Presents

Margaret Curelas, Ryah Deines, Rhonda Parrish, Rebecca Brae, Randy McCharles, E. C. Bell, Laura VanArendonk Baugh, Marshall Moore, Joel McKay, Kate Shannon

Join us for celebrating Tyche Books' 2021 releases! Author readings, Q&A, and general authorial shenanigans.

Sunday 3 PM (MDT)

An Hour with James Alan Gardner

Jim talks about what goes wrong in writing: from the common beginner mistakes that he sees as a freelance editor, to reasons why some of his own novels didn't work out. Questions from the audience are heartily welcomed.

Experience and Share the Healing Power of Horses

Sue McIntosh

Some pain is simply too painful to touch – or talk about – directly. Emotional defenses intended to protect us, sometimes build walls that thwart our healing, learning or growth. When traditional therapy, parenting or teaching approaches are ineffective, working 'one-step-removed' through the right story may provide a better way through. Learn how to select and use stories in a parenting, education, or therapeutic context. Sue will share some stories she draws upon as a counsellor and homeschooling parent, including those featuring the animals she partners with at Healing Hooves. You can preview the story, 'SuperThor' on the Healing Hooves. website:

<https://healinghooves.ca/super-thor-preview-of-our-new-therapeutic-childrens-story/>

Do's and Don'ts for a Debut Novel

J.L. Cole

From writing to publication to marketing-- a crash course on things you need to know for your debut novel. Whether you are just starting writing your book or you are looking to get published for the first time, this session is for you!

Street Drugs – Part Two – Methamphetamine and other Dangerous Street Drugs

Dwayne Clayden

Methamphetamine competes with opioids as the most dangerous drug on the streets. Pot, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, and LSD are all substances that have been around for generations. In the 1990s, Molly, ecstasy, and MDMA were the new 'hot' drugs. What is meth? How is it made? Why is it so dangerous? Is there an antidote? What are other dangerous street drugs and why? This presentation will answer these questions and many more. Whether research for a novel or asking for a friend, this presentation will be jaw-dropping.

Crash Course in Music Theory

Vanessa Cardui

This is a basic, down-to-earth, practical explanation of how to read and write musical notation, designed to help non-musicians conduct musical research.

Troubleshooting Scrivener

Amanda Witow

Whether you're new to Scrivener or have been using it for a while, you have questions. It makes sense. Scrivener has a lot of features. From Index Cards, to Footnotes; Split-Screen to Project Statistics. If there's something you need help with, here's 50 minutes dedicated to answering your questions!

Workshopping Your Work

Lisa Wilde

Would being part of a Workshop Group help you with your writing? Writing can be such a solitary endeavour! Yet for decades writers have been seeking each other out for support and inspiration. Starting

with one of the original Workshops – the Clarion Writer’s Workshop in Science Fiction and Fantasy, we’ll look at different styles and types of modern workshops, and discuss how they work, and if one of them might work for you!

Pulp Mythology - Using Mythical Characters in Your Writing

Jim Jackson

From Marvel’s Thor movies to Filmation’s Hercules cartoon, mass entertainment has often looked the world of myth for characters and inspiration. In this interactive workshop, we’ll look at what works when importing mythic presences into genre writing, what doesn’t work and how we can straddle the thin line between mythological accuracy and keeping readers hooked.

Identity Crisis: What’s My Genre?

Catherine Fitzsimmons, Bill Prentice, Susan Forest, Beth Wagner

Genre is a marketing strategy for readers to know which shelf to look at in the book store. But we've come a long way since then. Cross-genre, multi-genre, hard-to-pin-down genre, "is this genre even marketable?" genre. Is genre even useful anymore?

Live Action Slush – Kids Critique

?, ?, Finn Lilburn, Alice Willett [Reader]

A panel of teen readers respond to YA long form of any genre.

J.R.H. Lawless Live Reading

J.R.H. Lawless

Excerpts from ALWAYS GREENER and THE RUDE EYE OF REBELLION

Sunday 4 PM (MDT)

An Hour with Walter Jon Williams

Cliff Samuels [M]

Walter Jon Williams reads from his latest work, answers questions, and does his best to be amusing.

Circles of Humanity: Change Your Life, Your Writing, and the World around You

Jack Richardson

Circles of Humanity is a facilitated process that answers the question: What would happen if the first thing you learned about someone was their hopes and fears instead of their appearance. Come and learn about a facilitated process that will create trust, respect, and caring within a diverse group of strangers. Participate and co-author a book about your experience.

Live Action Slush – Romance Edition

Steena Holmes, Nancy M Bell, Talena Winters, Joy Norstrom [Reader]

Submit the 1st page of your manuscript to be anonymously read aloud and receive comments from our editors.

In the Beginning Is the Sentence

Susan Calder & Tania Therien

As the word is to poetry, prose begins with an opening line and continues sentence by sentence to the final phrase. Do you favour short, simple sentences? Long and complex? Varied length? Do different types work best for different material? How do you avoid repetitive sentences, and do you always want to? Do grammar rules apply to all types of prose? What has bugged you about sentences you’re read in books? What sentences have you loved? What makes a sentence sing? Come and get your word-nerd, lit-nit, sentence-geek on!

Mystery: Big Crimes, Small Towns

Cathy Ace, Jayne Barnard, M. H. Callway, Pamela Kenney

It is said you can't keep secrets in a small town. Everyone knows everybody and everybody's business. Or do they? Mystery writers discuss the benefits and challenges of small-town settings.

How to Haiku

Joanne Morcom

Join poet Joanne Morcom if you’re curious about the world’s shortest poem and how to write and publish your very own haiku.

Plotting Methods

Shawn L. Bird

Pantsing is fun, but can mean more work editing. Planning too much can spoil the story. What are some strategies and resources to structure a project for efficient writing, especially if you prefer to pants? Visit www.shawnbird.com/writers to download materials referenced in this workshop.

Science Fiction As a Critical Tool for Understanding Social and Political Issues

Ron Friedman, Nina Munteanu, V. S. Holmes, Claire McCague [PM]

"Art plays a key role in shaping people's view of the world, and on the twenty-first century science-fiction is arguably the most important genre of all, for it shapes how most people understand things such as AI, bioengineering, and climate change. We certainly need good science, but from political perspective, a good science-fiction movie is worth far more than an article in Science or Nature."

- Yuval Noah Harari, "21 Lessons for the 21st Century"

Wide for the Win: Mastering the Mindset & Methodology

Mark Leslie (Lefebvre)

Within the indie author community, the debate continues to rage: "Should I publish wide or be exclusive to Amazon with my eBooks." It's a gigantic discussion, but it's not the right one to be having because that view of wide is still quite narrow. Based upon the underlying theme and structure of his 2021 book WIDE FOR THE WIN, Mark Leslie Lefebvre outlines what being "Wide" truly means for authors in a way that transcends indie publishing and embraces the options available for authors. Learn how an author can optimise their IP to the full extent, embrace options within traditional and indie publishing, and increase the multiple streams of income that lead to long term writing success.

Talking with Kids

?, ?, ?, ?, Alice Willett (M)

Panel of young readers discuss what they are looking for.

Moments of Joy (Laksa Media Social)

Brent Nichols, Heather Osborne, Susan Forest, Calvin D. Jim, Hayden Trenholm, Liz Westbrook-Trenholm, Vanessa Cardui, Lucas K. Law [PM]

Seasons Between Us celebrates the boundaries we cross as our identities shift and re-define at new stages throughout our lives. Come to hear eight of Laksa Media's authors and editors share incidents that marked them, through the lens of joyful moments in their lives.

Sunday 5 PM (MDT)

Dead Dog Social

Randy McCharles (host)

Hang out for a chat Sunday evening after the festival has ended.

Sign-Up Sessions (Sign-Up Window July 1-25)

Several of this year's activities have limited capacity. Participation will be determined by advance sign up with selections made by blind draw on July 25th. After selection, presenters will contact applicants via email to arrange session times, most of which will occur as phone calls or ZOOM meetings the week prior to or following the festival weekend.

***Note: To participate, you must be a registered attendee of the 2021 When Words Collide Festival and submit your material using the same email address you used to purchase your festival Eventbrite ticket.

Blue Pencil Café

We are fortunate this year to have a number of editors willing to host our blue pencil café. If you would like to Receive a 1-on-1 critique, please send your opening pages (max 1200 words) along with your top 3 preferences of editors to info@whenwordscollide.org

Blue Pencil Café		
Editor	Agency/Publisher	Website
Adrienne Kerr	Freelance	www.adriennekerr.net
Alex McGilvery	Freelance	http://celticfrogediting.com
Cathy Ace	Author	www.cathyace.com
Carol Parchewsky	Author	https://twitter.com/ca_parchewsky
Catherine Fitzsimmons	Brain Lag	www.brain-lag.com
Claire McCague	Author	https://clairemccague.weebly.com
Dorothy Bentley	Author	www.DorothyBentley.ca
Ella Beaumont	Freelance	www.linkedin.com/in/ella-beaumont-71b1a211a
Gerald Brandt	Author	www.geraldbrandt.com
Halli Lilburn	Author	https://twitter.com/hallililburn
Holly Schofield (short fiction)	Author	https://hollyschofield.wordpress.com
Ira Nayman	Author	www.lespagesauxfolles.ca
Julie E. Czerneda	Author	www.czerneda.com
Jonas Saul	Author	http://Jonassaul.com
Melissa Yi	Author	http://melissayuaninnes.com
Nancy M Bell	BWL Publishing	www.bwlpublishing.ca
Nicole Bross	Author	http://nicolebross.com
Nina Munteanu	Author	www.ninamunteanu.me
P.L. Stuart	Author	www.plstuart.com
Pamela Kenny	Author	http://pamelakenney.com
Robert Dawson (short fiction)	Author	
Ron S. Friedman	Author	https://ronfriedman.wordpress.com
Simon Rose (Adult)	Author (YA/MG)	www.simon-rose.com
Simon Rose (YA & MG)	Author (Adult)	www.simon-rose.com
Swati Chavda	Freelance	www.swatichavda.com
Talena Winters (SF&F, YA, Memoir, Romance, Historical, Woman's Fiction)	Author	www.talenawinters.com
NEW ADDITIONS!		
Karen Crosby	Editor	www.editors.ca/directory/karen-crosby
Brenna Bailey-Davies	Freelance	www.brennadaviesediting.com
Paul Deleske	Editor	www.blacklok.com

Pitch Sessions

We are fortunate this year to have a several agents/acquisition editors willing to accept manuscript pitches. If you would like an opportunity to pitch, let us know your agent/editor preference as well as the genre/category of your manuscript by contacting: info@whenwordscollide.org

Pitch Sessions		
Agent/Editor	Agency/Publisher	Website*
Catherine Fitzsimmons	Brain Lag	http://www.brain-lag.com/
Nancy M Bell	BWL Publishing	www.bwlpublishing.ca
<i>Naomi Davis</i>	BookEnds Literary Agency	https://bookendsliterary.com/submissions/

Shelly McGowan	BWL Publishing	www.bwlpublishing.ca
Stacey Kondla	The Rights Factory	https://querymanager.com/query/1760
Tasneem Motala	The Rights Factory	https://querymanager.com/query/2005

*Please check the agent/editor's web site for what they are looking for. Pitching your YA Steampunk manuscript to a house that only accepts Romance may be a hard sell.

Is Your Story Really Ready for Submission?

On Spec is back with a limited number of extended critiques. Send your manuscript to: info@whenwordscollide.org

Is Your Story Really Ready for Submission?
On Spec Magazine (https://onspecmag.wordpress.com/) editors Barb Galler-Smith and Marston provide full editorial critiques on your short story (or Chapter 1) in a 20-minute one-on-one discussion. All genres. No more than 3500 words (query if longer).

Lighting Coaching with James Kademan

Professional coach James Kademan (<https://drawincustomers.com>) is offering 5 20-minute consultations to help you meet your personal and business goals. If interested contact: info@whenwordscollide.org

10-Year Anniversary SnapChats with Joe Compton

To help celebrate When Words Collide's 10th anniversary, Joe Compton of GoIndieNow is interviewing guest, presenters, and attendees for their reflections of festivals past. If interested contact: info@whenwordscollide.org

Live Action Slush Submissions (Sign-Up Window July 25-August 12)

We are asking those who wish to participate in our online Live Action Slush to email us their opening pages (max 1000 words) for our sessions readers to have in hand well before the festival. Please indicate which session your pages are for. Our readers will deliver them live, anonymously and in random order for our experts to consider and respond to. If you wish to claim authorship after the comments are given, please do so by clicking "Raise Hand" on ZOOM. Submit your pages to: info@whenwordscollide.org

Tips for Attending an Online Meeting or Webinar

Festival sessions are voluntarily provided by presenters working in conjunction with a variety of online hosts (online meeting software managers) who are also volunteers. Your attendee experience may vary depending on how each session is configured and managed. Most, but not all, sessions will be facilitated using ZOOM online meeting software. The method for attending a session is to click the associated link that will be provided below each session description at the time of the festival. (In some cases, there may be more than one link to choose from). You may be asked to download and execute a small client application before you can access your first session. Some sessions may also require you to enter a provided password.

1. Online meetings can be resource intensive. We recommend that at the beginning of each festival day you:
 - a. Reboot your computer (or viewing device) to maximize your system memory and processing power.
 - b. Do not run other apps in the background.
 - c. Ensure you have a strong wireless signal. (Position yourself near the router you are using. Even a few feet can make a big difference.)
 - d. Ensure you have good room lighting (if using video)
2. Please attempt to join a session no earlier than 5 minutes before it is scheduled to start.
3. Sessions may or may not ask you to wait to be admitted by the session host.
4. Most sessions are limited to 100 or 300 attendees. If you are not admitted, the session may have reached attendance capacity. Or the session may be having technical issues. Please check <https://www.facebook.com/groups/145797702140640/> for pinned notices of technical issues. If you are still having problems joining the session, email info@whenwordscollide.org citing the session name and describing your problem, and we will try to help.
5. While webinars generally do not allow audience members to share audio and video, some sessions may override this. You may always disable your video, if desired. If your environment is noisy, please disable your audio. It is good etiquette to keep your mic muted when not speaking. It is also good etiquette to tap the "Raise Hand" icon in the participants list and wait to be acknowledged by the moderator, rather than interrupt the current speaker.
6. Sessions where Closed Captioning has been enabled will display a button along the bottom of the screen to turn CC on/off.
7. Some sessions may only allow you to participate by text Chat or Q & A. (Icons near the centre bottom of your screen). If audio is disabled, please use Q & A (if available) to ask the presenters questions. Use Chat for any other communications.
8. Near the top-right corner of your screen you may find a Full-Screen toggle or icon. There may also be a Speaker-View/Grid-View toggle or icon. Use these to manage how you view the session.
9. The session host may pre-configure the session to manage your participation in a certain way, causing your experience to vary session to session.
10. Have a document open to take notes. You may also wish to copy and paste information shared in Chat to your notes document.

Finally, please remember that the festival is holding this online event in place of our regular in-person festival. All aspects of this festival are being offered by volunteers, many of whom have limited experience with online events. Please accept what is offered in a spirit of community and gratitude, even when things go wrong, as they inevitably sometimes will. We are all doing our best. Some of the sessions may be recorded and available for viewing following the festival. If you missed something you'd like to see, it may be available later. Whatever happens, enjoy the festival weekend as much as possible.

Tips for Attending Kumospace (our virtual Delta Hotel)

Kumospace is an awesome web-based virtual environment for socializing with a few or many people. Within Kumospace we have built a virtual Delta Hotel for several of our social sessions. Unfortunately, the product is still new and only runs on Google Chrome. If you do not use Chrome as your web browser, you can download and install it here: <https://www.google.ca/intl/en-ca/chrome/>

To access Kumospace, launch Google Chrome (it will not interfere with your regular browser) and enter into the search bar: www.kumospace.com/whenwordscollide

When the site opens, enter your Name and click Join. You will now see our 10 hotel rooms and how many people are in each (max 30). Click on a room to enter. You will see your avatar within a sound bubble.

- Everyone with overlapping sound bubble may hear each other, but not those outside their bubble.
- To move around, click anywhere to move in that direction.
- Scroll your mouse to zoom in/out
- Click Exit Room to return to the room list.

Some of the objects found within rooms are interactive. Try them if you dare.