



MWA Workshop Schedule, March 25, 2017

8:00– 9:50 Keynote Breakfast with Maria V. Snyder in the Admiral’s Ballroom

10:00– 10:50 Workshop Slot One

What Can (and Should) We Learn from Tolkien as a Writer

Michelle Markey Butler

Room: Glebe

It would be difficult to overstate the influence of J.R.R. Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings. Since its publication in 1954, LOTR has never been out of print. It was voted the most important book of the twentieth century in several polls (much to the annoyance of many professional literary critics). LOTR is brilliant, beloved—and casts a big shadow. Anyone writing fantasy has to deal with Tolkien, but if we don’t want to merely imitate him (and we shouldn’t), what can we learn from him? This session discusses Tolkien’s approaches to reading and writing, what we can gain from adopting them—and a couple we should avoid.

Pitch Perfect

Austin Camacho

Room: Severn

You’re finally face-to-face with that agent or publisher’s representative you’ve been chasing and you have one chance to make them understand why they should publish your book. At that moment it is critical that you have a strong pitch that will make them want to at least consider the book for publication. In this workshop I’ll show you how to best pitch to an agent or editor to get their attention and hook their interest.

Writing Rollercoaster: Dare to Ride

Melissa Dunn

Room: Chester

Jump aboard and buckle in on this daring ride! Soar across the peaks and valleys of this workshop as you move between different writing sprints. Think it’s an easy ride? At the end share your writing with others to determine a winner!

Is Self-Publishing Right for You?

Panelists

Room: Rhode

Benjamin Franklin, Carl Sandburg, George Bernard Shaw, John Grisham, Margaret Atwood, Stephen King, Deepak Chopra and a growing number of other authors have self-published their works. This panel will discuss how to begin, pros and cons, and other facets of the self-publishing world with comparisons to traditional publishing.



MWA Workshop Schedule

11:00– 11:50 Workshop Slot Two

From Family to Fiction

Jenny Yacovissi

Room: Glebe

The funny, heartbreaking, crazy, or horrifying family stories so many of us hear throughout our lives often seem like they were tailor-made for fiction, but using those stories to create compelling narratives is rarely straightforward. Jenny Yacovissi, who has used her own ancestors' stories to develop her debut novel, takes participants through several issues to consider:

Privacy and Ownership:

The Fiction of Truth:

Legacy:

A Time for Fiction:

Finding the Universal in the Personal:

Placing the Story in Time

Alternate Narratives

The YA Voice: Releasing your Inner Teenager

Maria V. Snyder

Room: Severn

Ever read a young adult book that sounds like it was written by an adult? That's so preachy and boring to that your reaction is an underwhelming meh? Yeah, me too. This workshop will focus on how to tap into the teenager living inside all of us and use that so your YA novel doesn't sound so last year.

Conquer Your Word Count Goals

John Edward Lawson

Room: Chester

Publisher, freelance editor, and author John Edward Lawson provides strategies for creating maximum efficiency in your writing efforts. From planning through composition to expediting the editing process, these techniques are regularly employed by the most prolific authors of our time.

The Writing Roller Coaster: Agent Panel

Panelists

Room: Rhode

Ask a panelist of agents your questions, seek their advice, hear their thoughts and opinions.



MWA Workshop Schedule

12:00– 12:50 Workshop Slot Three

Where Nonfiction Book Babies Come From

Anna Sproul– Latimer

Room: Glebe

When a great idea and a great author love each other very much...I won't belabor this metaphor. Join me, a literary agent, as I explain the early stages in the life of a nonfiction book: how it travels from good idea in an author's head to representation with a literary agent and then on to submission in New York, a book deal, and beyond. Depending on the attendees' experience level and knowledge of the industry, we will survey the following topics, discussing one or more in depth: what agents like me look for in potential clients; the anatomy of a book proposal; trends in nonfiction book markets; the issue of author platform, and whether or not it's worth developing yours; why literary agents are worth it; the merits of traditional vs. indie publishing.

From an Oyster to a Pearl Motivating yourself from Writer to Author

Vickie Fischer

Room: Severn

Inside every oyster is the potential of a pearl, inside every writer is the potential of an author. The irritating object trapped inside is self-sabotaging. So how do we turn that into a pearl? I will go over five easy steps to releasing the pearl within:

1. Change your way of thinking
2. Gave yourself the power
3. Self Motivation
4. Learn the trade
5. Walk the walk

Tell Me About Your Book

Larry Matthews

Room: Chester

Learn how to interview from an interviewer's point of view, what they want and how they will grade you. I will explain certain truths, namely that the interviewer most likely will NOT have read your book and doesn't care about it. What he or she wants is something that is of value to the audience, meaning someone who has something interesting to say. I will offer a guide to preparation, etc.

The Writing Roller Coaster: Editor Panel

Panelists

Room: Rhode

Ask a panelist of editors your questions, seek their advice, hear their thoughts and opinions.



MWA Workshop Schedule

12:50– 2:50 Keynote Lunch with Jeffery Deaver in the Admirals Ballroom

3:00– 4:00 Workshop Slot Four

Working with a Small Press

Austin Camacho

Room: Glebe

The experience of publication with a small press is not like being self-published, nor is it quite like being published by one of the giant publishers in New York. There are certainly plusses and minuses in terms of quality, time and money, but it may be the best choice for you. This workshop will help you to have realistic expectations if a small press accepts your next book.

Writing Sprints: Exercising your Creative Muscles

Maria V. Snyder

Room: Severn

Have you heard about writing sprints? Have you seen people post about them on Facebook and Twitter? Are you wondering what exactly is a writing sprints and if you need special footwear? This workshop will explain the growing popularity of writing sprints and will go over the basics on how to join or host a writing sprint. There will be a number of fun exercises as we'll be sprinting without breaking a sweat.

The Essence of a Romance Writing

Rebecca York

Room: Chester

Two people in love, aching for each other but unable to work out their problems until the end of the book. How to open a romance novel, integrate plot and character, keep a relationship story from getting boring and insure the all-important happy ending.

The Writing Roller Coaster: Query Panel

Panelists

Room: Rhode

In this enlightening workshop the submission of queries will be drawn at random. The moderator will read the submission and each panelist will raise their hand at the point they would stop reading and provide feedback why. Each submission must be typed on an 8 x11 sheet of paper in Times New Roman, double spaced with one inch margins. Format the query as if you're submitting. Failure to submit to these rules may result in disqualification. *We cannot guarantee all submissions will be read.



MWA Workshop Schedule

4:10-5:10 Workshop Slot Five

Writing a Thriller– Part One

John Gilstrap

Room: Glebe

Award-winning and New York Times bestselling thriller author John Gilstrap presents a two-hour seminar on the construction of an intelligent thriller. Over the past three decades, the commercial thriller has developed as a genre unto itself. Through lively lectures and a few writing exercises, you'll get a chance to peek at the skeleton that gives structure to the stories that keep us reading long into the night.

Q&A with Jeffery Deaver

Jeffery Deaver

Room: Severn

Ask a NYT bestseller how he did it! Learn from his success and failures. Pick at the brain of a man who writes dozens of books and ask him about his stories.

It Takes One to Know One

Michele Chynoweth

Room: Chester

Award-winning author Michele Chynoweth will lend her expertise as a writing instructor, former journalist and TV commercial director to present an entertaining and informative workshop on character development. Learn practical tips on how to create more captivating characters including thinking like a reporter to conduct a "character interview" and thinking like a movie director to "cast" your next novel!

The Writing Roller Coaster: Query Panel

Panelists

Room: Rhode

In this enlightening workshop the submission of first pages will be drawn at random. The moderator will read the submission and each panelist will raise their hand at the point they would stop reading and provide feedback why. Each submission must be typed on an 8 x11 sheet of paper in Times New Roman, double spaced with one inch margins. The author's name cannot appear on the paper. Please bring five copies and place them in an envelope on the table. Failure to submit to these rules may result in disqualification. *We cannot guarantee all submissions will be read.



MWA Workshop Schedule

5:20-6:20 Workshop Slot Six

Writing a Thriller– Part Two

John Gilstrap

Room: Glebe

Award-winning and New York Times bestselling thriller author John Gilstrap presents a two-hour seminar on the construction of an intelligent thriller. Over the past three decades, the commercial thriller has developed as a genre unto itself. Through lively lectures and a few writing exercises, you'll get a chance to peek at the skeleton that gives structure to the stories that keep us reading long into the night

Work in Progress, MD

Various agents and editors

Room: Severn

Have a question about your book? Your query or synopsis? Want to ask an industry professional what they do every day? Join Work in Progress, MD! This workshop allows you to have a one on one appointment with an agent or editor to "doctor" you. Give yourself and your book the greatest chance and an extra edge by seeking advice before you query.

Critique Groups, Criticism and Reviews: How they can level the playing field for self-published authors.

Eileen McIntire

Room: Chester

Book reviewers, libraries and the Library of Congress shun self-published books. Why? Because most self-published books have not gone through a vetting process and, sadly, are amateurishly produced. How can self-published authors produce quality products and find reviewers to add the credibility they need?

The Writing Roller Coaster: The summits and plunges of an author's career.

Panelists

Room: Rhode

Ask a panel of published writers how they did it! Learn their stories of successful triumphs and failed attempts.

6:30– 7:30 Booksigning with hor d'oeuvres

Room: Wye