

Thursday Afternoon Add-On Sessions Choose One! 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday,

October 15, 2020

Roundtable Advance Critique with Editors & Agents

Join one of our guest editors or agents for a group critique session. Submit your first ten manuscript pages in advance and receive critique comments from other participants and the editor/agent. You will be contacted to select the editor/agent best suited to your genre and given instructions for submitting your pages. Requires advance submission and reading and critiquing others' pages. Intended for those comfortable with and open to receiving critique. Editors/Agents participating to date: Deni Dietz, Shannon Hasson with more TBA

Query Letter Boot Camp with Angie Hodapp

Most writers will tell you that writing a good query letter is more difficult than writing the whole manuscript. How do you distill the essence of your novel into one pithy pitch paragraph? Come find out! Angie will divulge why so few query letters lead to requests for pages, and then walk you through how to write a standout four-part query letter while avoiding common pitfalls. Angie Hodapp is the Director of Literary Development at Nelson Literary Agency.

Self-Publishing Step-by-Step with Polly Letofsky

Polly Letofsky is owner of My Word Publishing. This condensed version of her all-day intensive will cover what and how to get your self-pub work out there. You'll walk away with information to produce, publish, and distribute a really well produced book.

General and Concurrent Workshop Sessions

Editor and Agent Spotlights (including journal editors!): We'll offer our traditional Q&A sessions with acquiring editors and agents to share acquisition and submission information as well as general publishing information. This year, two journal publishers will join us to provide perspective for the journalists among us.

Craft and Inspiration sessions: The conference will offer over thirty general and breakout sessions to share expertise on the publishing industry, options for publishing, craft, marketing & PR, creativity and inspiration, getting reviews, radio interviews, and career development. More details forthcoming as the full slate of workshops is selected.

Tours

Walking Tour/Presentations @ Pioneer Museum

The Friday add-on is a walking tour to the Pioneer Museum, located just a few blocks from the conference hotel. Included will be special presentations in the restored historic district courtroom of the

museum. Learn about William Palmer and Spencer Penrose and their wives and enjoy a visit from Helen Hunt Jackson! Followed by docent-led tour of museum.

Garden of the Gods, Manitou Springs/Miramont Castle

On Sunday, the add-on tour will include a bus tour through the spectacular Garden of the Gods. This will be followed by a visit to the historic town of Manitou Springs. You may wander the town and it's many shops or visit Miramont Castle for a tour and some history about tuberculosis treatment in the Colorado Springs area.

Bookstore and Member Signing Gala

Our conference bookstore (open Friday and Saturday) will be operated this year by Hooked on Books, a Colorado Springs local business. As usual, they'll set up for the signing gala late Saturday afternoon so attendees can discover new and greet favorite authors, get books signed, and mingle together. A cash bar will be available for those who want liquid refreshments.

Attendees who wish to have their books stocked and/or participate in the signing event are encouraged to check the appropriate box on the registration form. You will be contacted by the Bookstore Coordinator with further details.

Silent Auction

The annual silent auction will be held with proceeds going to support the WILLA Literary Award. We're expecting a wide variety of items with a poster signed by Tony Hillerman already among the donations. Bidding will close late Saturday afternoon. If you are planning to donate an item, please let us know and we'll put you in touch with the Silent Auction Coordinator.

Thursday Evening Readings Reception

This event has become a favorite for attendees. Enjoy light hors' d'oeuvres, cocktails, and entertainment then settle back and enjoy our readings! Finalists and winners of the Laura Award, Downing Journalism Award, and WILLA Literary Award will take the stage to share excerpts of their work. Come and go as you like. The cash bar will remain open. This is a special opportunity to hear some of the best writing around and pick your favorites (for purchase at the bookstore). This is included in your registration, guest tickets are available.

Friday LAURA Award and DOWNING Journalism Award Banquet

The Friday evening banquet honors those who are finalists for and winners of the Laura Award (short-stories) and the DOWNING Journalism Award. The LAURA Award is named in honor of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the DOWNING Journalism Award in honor of our own Sybil Downing. This is always a celebratory night and this year, **Bob Boze Bell**, publisher of **True West** magazine will join us to present the DOWNING Journalism Award. Keynote speakers **Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear** will leave us with words of inspiration. Entertainment and cash bar to precede the event. This is included in your registration, guest tickets are available.

Saturday WILLA Literary Finalist Award Luncheon

Our Saturday luncheon honors the finalists of the WILLA Literary Award, winners in their own right, and they'll take a moment in the spotlight. This is included in your registration, guest tickets are available.

Saturday WILLA Literary Award Banquet

Of course, the conference would not be complete without the WILLA Literary Award presentation. Named in honor of Willa Cather, this prestigious award recognizes novels that highlight strong women in western settings. It's always a night of fun and celebration with entertainment and a cash bar complementing the event. This is included in your registration, guest tickets are available.

Pitch Appointments

Our acquiring guest editors and agents will offer their time to take pitches. These free 10-minute appointments are geared for those who have completed novels ready for submission. Hone up your tag lines! If you're interested, mark the registration form and you'll be contacted by the Pitch Appointment Coordinator to set things up. All the editor/agent bios are listed on the website so you can find your perfect match. Appointments are limited to one per person (if slots remain when conference opens, extra sessions can be scheduled at that time, during pitch appointment desk hours. And don't be nervous—the editors and agents will guide you through and experienced WWW members are always ready to offer advice.

Exhibitors

This year, we're planning on exhibitors to add that something extra to conference with writing-related goods and services.

Annual Membership Meeting

Of course, we will hold our annual membership meeting so attendees can get updates on what the Board of Directors has done on behalf of members over the past year and see what's planned for next year. Don't miss the announcement about next year's conference location! Please note: a quorum of members is needed for this meeting so we urge all WWW members to attend.