

A Rally of Writers

April 18, 2015

West Campus, LCC
5708 Cornerstone Dr.
Lansing MI 48917

8:30-9:00 Registration & Coffee Conference Center

9:00-10:00 Opening Session *Linda Peckham*
Keynote • Jack Lessenberry

"How Writing Has Changed in the Age of the Internet and Online Publication"

10:00-11:00 Session 1

A. One Path for Poetry • Keith Taylor

A workshop: One simple way to build a poem for wonderful results, once you've begun.

B. Bad Sex Writing 2.0 • Lev Raphael

How to avoid writing bad sex scenes in fiction.

C. Children's Book Industry 101 • Carrie Pearson

Terms, conventions, and how the industry works.

D. Nonfiction Basics • Dedria Humphries

Checklist for success: audience, reading level, focus, thesis and points, expertise, and query letter.

11:00-11:30 Authors' Alley: Break & Books
(tables by invitation only)

11:30-12:30 Session 2

A. Quality and Payment • Jack Lessenberry

The secrets behind writing nonfiction professionally and making money at it.

B. Workshop for Memoir • Mardi Link

Mining memories of ordinary life for people, place, time, and theme.

C. Wit and Conflict • Monica McFawn

How to use comedy in writing short fiction.

D. Choosing Great Cover Art • Lev Raphael

How to make wise choices that will appeal to readers.

12:30-1:30 Feeding the Soul: Lunch & Networking

1:15-1:45 Authors' Alley: Break & Books

1:45-2:45 Session 3

A. Quality and Payment • Jack Lessenberry

Repeat of 2A.

B. The Tiny Essay • Keith Taylor

Factual, lyrical, and very short: not journalism, not fiction, not a prose poem, but can be mistaken for all of these.

C. Romance-Suspense Novels • Sylvia Hubbard

Creating a story to keep readers glued to the page.

D. How Books Get from Authors to Buyers

• Robin Agnew & Bill Fehsenfeld

2:45-3:15 Authors' Alley: Break & Books

3:15-4:15 Session 4

A. Workshop for Memoir • Mardi Link

Repeat of 2B.

B. Joyful Production • Hillary Rettig

How to write a lot, finish what you start, submit what you finish, and enjoy the process.

C. Children's Book Industry • Carrie Pearson

Repeat of 1C.

D. How To Write Comics • Dan Mishkin

Basic concepts of comics storytelling and applying them even if you "don't know how to draw."

4:20 Closing: Last Words & Drawings

Bring this schedule to Rally.

Contact on Saturday: 517-285-7444

More info? 517-372-3385

This program is funded in part by Gibson's Bookstore, Lansing Community College, and the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Michigan Humanities Council
our stories, our lives

www.arallyofwriters.com

Manuscript Review: 10 pp, \$30, by March 30

Fiction or nonfiction only, double-spaced.

Send fee with Registration.

Submit ms by email to <arallyofwriters@att.net>.

Include name, email, and phone number on ms for written and oral review by Teresa Crumpton, MFA, writer and editor.

Register online or send registration panel with check to

A Rally of Writers

P.O. Box 4253

East Lansing MI 48823

After April 5, check website for availability.

Rally Speakers 2015

Presented by the Skaaldic Society



Jack Lessenberry, Keynote, head of Journalism at Wayne State University, delivers daily essays and commentary on important Michigan issues as WUOM-FM's senior political analyst on MPR. He hosts a weekly television show, and writes or has written for *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *George*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, and many regional publications. He was a foreign correspondent for the *Detroit News*, reporting from more than 40 countries. He has won a National Emmy for a *Frontline* documentary on Dr. Jack Kevorkian, and his new book with former Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelly is due in September.

www.jacklessenberry.com

Robin Agnew is co-owner of Aunt Agatha's Mystery Bookshop in Ann Arbor, the host of hundreds of author events, book clubs and book celebrations for 22 years. In 2014, Aunt Agatha's was awarded the Raven by the Mystery Writers of America for service to the mystery community. Robin is also president of Kerrytown BookFest in Ann Arbor and reviews for *Mystery Scene Magazine*. www.auntagathas.com

Bill Fehsenfeld is co-owner of Schuler Books & Music in Grand Rapids, Okemos, and Lansing, and Nicola's Books in Ann Arbor. Schuler's has been in business for 32 years and is one of the largest independent bookstores in the country. They host book celebrations and author events, including the annual Rally Warm-Up. www.schulerbooks.com

Sylvia Hubbard is a speaker, blogger, and author of many print books and ebooks, including the romance-suspense novels *Dreams of Reality* and *Cabin Fever*. She's founder of the Motown Writers Network, African-American Electronic Literary Network, and Motown Romance Network; and a member of the National Assoc. of Black Writers, RWA, Sisters In Crime, and MRA. www.sylviahubbard.com

Dedria A. Humphries is an English professor at Lansing Community College who teaches freelance writing and is a former journalist and magazine editor. She has many published articles and essays, including in *Redbook*, *Timeline* (Ohio History Connection), and *The Chronicle* and *Michigan History Magazine* (Michigan Historical Society).

Mardi Jo Link's most recent book, *Bootstrapper*, is a memoir of single-motherhood, rural life, and badassery (Knopf 2013). It was named a Michigan Notable Book, won the Housatonic Book Award for non-fiction, and the Great Lakes Independent Bookseller's Association's Choice Award. Rachel Weisz has optioned the book for film. Mardi has also written three true crime books about unsolved murders. Her second memoir, *The Drummond Girls*, is due from Grand Central in 2015. She lives in Traverse City. www.mardilink.com

Monica McFawn teaches writing at Grand Valley State

University, and her fiction has appeared in the *Georgia Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Web Conjunctions*, *Missouri Review*, and others. Her collection of short stories, *Bright Shards of Someplace Else*, won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction and was named a Michigan Notable Book for 2015. She is also the author of a hybrid chapbook, "*A Catalogue of Rare Movements*," and her plays and screenplays have had readings in Chicago and New York. www.moniamcfawn.com

Dan Mishkin has written comic books for over thirty years for DC Comics, Marvel, Disney, and others. He is co-creator of *Blue Devil*, *Creeps*, and *Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld*. His most recent work is the comic book documentary *The Warren Commission Report: A Graphic Investigation into the Kennedy Assassination*. He lives in East Lansing. www.danmishkin.com

Carrie Pearson, an award-winning children's book author from Marquette, is a former teacher, a member of SCBWI and the co-Regional Advisor for Michigan. Carrie won a Work of Outstanding Promise (WOOP) grant from SCBWI to research the tallest living tree in the world. Her first two books, blends of fiction/nonfiction, grew from experiences in nature. She is working on an historical novel for middle graders set just before the Bay of Pigs. www.carriepearsonbooks.com

Lev Raphael is the author of 25 books in genres from memoir to historical novel to mystery that have been translated into over a dozen languages, most recently Romanian. *Publishers Weekly* calls his new suspense novel *Assault With a Deadly Lie* "compelling" and "terrifying." He writes full-time; reviews for WKAR; blogs for *The Huffington Post* on books, culture, art and politics; and also teaches creative writing at Michigan State University. www.levraphael.com

Hillary Rettig is the author of *The 7 Secrets of the Prolific: The Definitive Guide to Overcoming Procrastination, Perfectionism, and Writer's Block* (Infinite Art, 2011), a bestseller in Amazon's productivity and time management categories. She lives in Kalamazoo. www.hillaryrettig.com

Keith Taylor has written some 15 books and chapbooks – collections of poetry, fiction, translations and edited volumes of essays. He teaches Creative Writing at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he also works as Director of the Bear River Writers' Conference and as Poetry Editor of the *Michigan Quarterly Review*. www.keithtaylorannarbor.com

Rally Warm-Up

Friday, April 17 7:00 pm Free
Schuler Books, Eastwood Lansing

"Narratives of WWII"

Russ McLogan, *Boy Soldier*
Personal story of the War in the Pacific

Mark Woodbury, *Trinity Flight*
Uncle's surprise flight through first Atomic Bomb Test