

The 32nd Year of

A Rally of Writers

April 6, 2019

West Campus, LCC
5708 Cornerstone Dr
Lansing MI 48917

8:30 Registration and Coffee Conference Center

9:00 Opening • Linda Peckham
Keynote • William Langford (free to the public)
And Each One a Griot

10:00-11:00 Session 1 - Letters represent rooms

- A. Me, For Strangers • Mardi Link**
Memoir: Five lessons for making your life interesting to people you'll never meet.
- B. Song Form and Poetry • Dennis Hinrichsen**
Explore links between Shakespeare and Kendrick Lamar to expand dynamics and content in your own work.
- C. What NOT To Do • Ruth McNally Barshaw**
What doesn't work for children today, and what to do instead.
- D. Oh, Oh, Oh, It's Magic! • Sarah Zettel**
The nuts and bolts—or wands and spellbooks—of creating magical worlds that will astonish and delight readers.

11:00-11:30 Authors' Alley: Break and Books
(Tables by invitation only)

11:30-12:30 Session 2

- A. Finding Your Sleuth • Lev Raphael**
Veteran mystery author discusses how to create a believable protagonist in crime fiction.
- B. Write Your Life • Jan Shoemaker**
Memories haunt us—but what do they mean? Explore their significance through personal essays.
- C. Angst and Sticky Issues • Landis Lain**
How to create YA/NA voices, passion, and problems that leave the reader wanting, but hopeful.
- D. Your Inner Editor • John Smolens**
A discussion of questions, concerns, and revision strategies for your Inner Editor to use on your rough draft.

12:30-1:30 Feeding the Soul: Lunch & Networking
Authors' Alley: Break and Books

1:30-2:30 Session 3

- A. Writing Home • Will Langford**
Participants will explore their hometown/state as a source of poetic inspiration.
- B. Publishing for Rookies • Mardi Link**
How to get your work read, what editors are buying, and how to submit. Agents too.
- C. Abacadabra! • Dedria Humphries**
Discover how the amulet of research can charm readers, editors, and agents.
- D. Hurts So Good • Sarah Zettel**
The key to thrillers is not that final twist, it's the emotional build-up between characters.

2:30-2:50 Authors' Alley: Break and Books

2:50-3:40 Session 4

- A-D Editors' Panel • Dayna Edwards**, Moderator
Louise Ahern • Writing coach
Nancy Feldbush • *Michigan History Magazine* editor
Ken Zahrt • Literary magazine editor

3:45-4:00 Closing: Last Words and Drawing

Bring this schedule to Rally
Contact on Saturday only: 517-285-7444
Need more info now? Call Linda: 517-899-3281

The program is funded in part by Lansing Community College, the MSU Press, and the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



www.arallyofwriters.com

Richard Bradley Scholarship
Winner receives Registration for Rally
Age 22 years and younger • Submission guidelines online
Deadline: February 25, 2019

Register online or send registration panel below with check to:

A Rally of Writers
P.O. Box 4253
East Lansing MI 48823

After March 30, check website for availability of conference

Rally Speakers, April 6, 2019

Presented by the Skaaldic Society
www.arallyofwriters.com

Will Langford, Keynote • A native Detroiter, Will is a poet, teaching artist, and Fulbright scholar. He founded the MSU Slam Poetry Team, and as a performance artist has received the MSU Featherstone Endowed Prize and a Michigan Emmy Award. His writing has appeared on several sites. He is the Lead Language Arts instructor for MSU's Marshall Mathers Foundation's VERSES: Exploring Literacy Through Lyrics and Song Project. Will is a doctoral student at MSU. willthepoet.com

Louise Knott Ahern • An award-winning journalist and 20-year writing coach, Louise (writing as Lyssa Kay Adams) signed a three-book deal with Penguin/Random House for a romantic comedy series. *The Bromance Book Club* will be out in November. lkapublishing.com

Ruth McNally Barshaw • Ruth writes and illustrates children's books, including the six Ellie McDoodle Diaries (translated into eight languages). She illustrated *There's No Base Like Home* (2017) and *Leopold the Lion* (2015), and wrote short stories for Amazon Rapids, a children's reading app. She travels widely, teaching writing workshops to children and adults. ruthexpress.com

Dayna Edwards • With over 25 years as a producer, voice talent, and television/radio host, Dayna has interviewed actors, authors, community leaders, sports figures, and CEOs of Fortune 500 Companies.

Nancy Feldbush • Involved in words and pictures her entire career, Nancy is the director of communications for the Historical Society of Michigan. She is also the editor-in-chief of the Society's publications, including *Michigan History* and *Chronicle* magazines.

Dennis Hinrichsen • Author of seven books of poetry, Dennis's latest, *Skin Music*, won the 2014 Michael Waters Poetry Award from Southern Indiana Review Press. Other awards include the Akron, Field, and Tampa Poetry Prizes, the Third Coast Poetry Prize, and a Best of the Net Award. He is serving as the first Poet Laureate of Greater Lansing. lansingpoet.com

Dedria Humphries Barker • Dedria is the author of *Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, a Colored Man's Widow*. Her work has appeared in *The Detroit News*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Redbook*, the Michigan and Ohio history magazines, and the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. The Detroit native lives in Lansing. dedriahumphries.com

Landis Lain • An avid romance and mystery reader from Detroit, Landis graduated from MSU, snaffled a law degree, and is now an Admin. Law judge. She has won the Michigan L.A.N.D. Contest and been published in *Chicken Soup for the African American Soul*. Her new book from Brown Girls, *Butterfly Arising*, is a strong voice for young ladies of the #MeToo generation. landislain.com

Mardi Link • Mardi has written three true crime books and two memoirs, and holds two Michigan Notable Book Awards. She studied journalism at MSU, worked as a newspaper reporter and a magazine editor, and earned an MFA from Queens University, Charlotte. Her memoir, *Bootstrapper*, won the *Elle* Reader's Prize and the Great Lakes Bookseller's Award. She lives in Traverse City. mardilink.com

Lev Raphael • Prize-winning author of 25 books in many genres, including eight mysteries, Lev's next mystery is *State University of Murder*, due spring 2019. His fiction and creative non-fiction have been taught at colleges and universities across the U.S. Special Archives at MSU has purchased and collects his literary papers. Lev also teaches creative writing workshops online. levraphael.com

Jan Shoemaker • Author of an essay collection, *Flesh and Stones: Field Notes from a Finite World*, and two books of poems, Jan's work has been featured on public radio, anthologized, and seen in many magazines and journals, including *The Sun*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Sufi Journal*. She lives in Okemos with her affable husband Larry and hedonistic dog Scout. janshoemaker.com

John Smolens • John's eleven works of fiction include *Wolf's Mouth*, a Michigan Notable Book, *Cold*, and *Out*, published by the Michigan State University Press. A professor emeritus and former director of the MFA program at Northern Michigan University, he lives in Marquette. johnsmolens.com

K.M. Zahrt • Author of *Plots*, *Odd Man Outlaw*, and several short stories and essays, Ken formerly served as an editor and contributor for *Old Northwest Review*, a Midwest-themed literary journal. He lives in Grand Blanc.

Sarah Zettel • Award-winning, best-selling author with over 35 novels and numerous short stories to her credit, Sarah has written science fiction, fantasy, romance, young adult, and mystery (contemporary, paranormal and historical). Her latest novel, *The Other Sister*, marks her debut into thrillers and suspense. She lives near Ann Arbor with her husband and son. sarahzettel.com

Rally Warm-Up Friday April 5 • 7:00-8:00 pm • Free

First Page, On Stage!

What's your favorite first page? Why?
To read a published opening, or one of your own,
send 300 words max to edwardr5000@gmail.com.
Time for only 15 readers, so submit quickly.

Rob Edwards, Moderator

The Fledge 1300 Eureka Lansing 48912
www.thefledge.com

Refund of 70% if requested by March 27; thereafter,
refund of 50% for emergencies if requested by April 10.

Need a hotel? The nearby Country Inn & Suites offers
a special rate for A Rally of Writers. Call 517-827-7000