<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thur., Oct 1</td>
<td>8:30 - 9:45  Kristen Millares Young – To Draft a Framework</td>
<td>Kat Falls – Writing for Teens</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 - 11:15 Michelle Barker/David Brown – Murder Your Darlings</td>
<td>Ryan Petty – Retire/Write</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:45 Mindy Halleck – Mermaids, Maidens or Mystics: Female Archetypes</td>
<td>Christine Dubois – Easy Steps to Great Grammar</td>
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<td>12:45-1:15   BREAK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:15-2:30    D.L. Fowler – The Psychology of Stories</td>
<td>Ray Ramey - How to Transform Ordinary Description into Characterization</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:45-4:00    Valerie J. Brooks – The Resurgence of Noir Fiction</td>
<td>Leslie J. Hall – Confessions of a Contest Judge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., Oct 2</td>
<td>9:00 - 12:00 Donald Maass – Writing 21st Century Fiction (morning half)</td>
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<td>12:00 - 12:45 BREAK</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:45 – 4:00 Writing 21st Century Fiction (afternoon half)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00 - 4:30  Rachel Weaver – Write Stronger Scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Oct 3</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:15 Bob Balmer – The Devil is in the Details</td>
<td>Kat Falls – How to Create a Fresh and Vivid World</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:45 Ken Letko – Image, Object, Surprise: The Power of the Five Senses in Poetry</td>
<td>Rachel Weaver – Building a Strong Foundation for Novel or Memoir</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00 - 1:15 Featured Lunch Hour Speaker: Jane Friedman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:45 - 4:00  Sophia McDonald Bennett – How to Become a Successful Freelance Writer</td>
<td>Curtis Chen – Talk Less, Smile More</td>
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<td>4:15 - 5:30  Michelle Barker/David Brown – Representation from an Editor’s Point of View</td>
<td>Kay Kenyon – Move Along, Folks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 – 12:15 Alison Acheson – A Renewed Look at Journal Keeping for the Writer</td>
<td>Kristen Young - &amp; I was done/ &amp; it was human</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:45 – 2:00 Curtis Chen – Query Letters that Work</td>
<td>Laura Moe – Make it to the Finish Line</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Session Descriptions & Presenter Biographies (alphabetical order by presenter)

Alison Acheson
A Renewed Look at Journal Keeping for the Writer | Sun. 10/4, 11:00 AM
What is the role and benefits of paying attention to our lives, from times of great change to the banal, especially when we have so little time to write? Why is the habit of keeping a journal so significant for writers? Often, this particular form of writing gets lost as we write more and more for publication. Yet it can be source and sustaining, and to neglect it is to neglect our growth as both human and writer. Attendees will discover how journal writing establishes and sustains the discipline to write, pushes us to write from the gut, as well as how journaling helps writers find a form or focus for their work.

Alison has published eleven books, from picture books to Middle Grade and Young Adult fiction, short fiction for adults and, most recently, a memoir of caregiving for her spouse through a rapid form of ALS. She lives on the east side in Vancouver, BC, and teaches in the creative writing program at University of British Columbia. https://www.facebook.com/Alison-Acheson-123402811080466/

Bob Balmer
The Devil is in the Details | Sat. 10/3, 9:00 AM
Why does a woman only get her haircut on Tuesdays? Why do people in Astoria, Oregon, have salmon trinkets hanging from their cars’ rearview mirrors? Details add insight into a character and a place. Details can drive a plot. Attendees will learn how to use details to develop characters and places, as well as how extraneous details hinder the story. We will discuss how brands show rather than tell something about a character or a place, how distinct mannerisms add to a character and develop a plot and define place.

Bob’s work has appeared in The Smithsonian, Golf Illustrated, The Seattle Times, The Seattle Weekly, ZYZZYVA, The Oregonian and other print media. His articles have aired on radio programs Marketplace, The Savvy Traveler, Oregon Public Radio and on Oregon Public Television. He has an MFA in creative writing from Portland State University. He has led workshops throughout the Pacific Northwest, most recently at Bainbridge Artisan Resource Network (BARN). https://discoveringlaughter.weebly.com/

Michelle Barker & David Brown
Murder Your Darlings | Thur. 10/1, 10:00 AM
Writers are admonished to murder their darlings before sending a manuscript out into the world. This is easier said than done—which is why there are editors. This workshop shines the spotlight on the editorial process. Geared to writers who want to take their manuscript to the next level.

Representation from an Editor’s Point of View | Sat. 10/3, 4:15 PM
Finding an agent is a huge hurdle for all writers, and yet if you want your manuscript to be read by the top publishers, you can’t get through the door without one. As authors with literary representation, and as editors who have interviewed agents to find out what they’re looking for, we will share our experience with query letters, synopses, and manuscript challenges. Best suited for writers with completed manuscripts.

Michelle Barker is the author of The House of One Thousand Eyes, which was named a Kirkus Best Book of 2018 and has won numerous awards, including the Amy Mathers Teen Book Award. Her newest novel, My Long List of Impossible Things, was released in the spring of 2020. Her poetry, short fiction, and non-fiction have been published in literary reviews around the world. Michelle holds an MFA in creative writing from
University of British Columbia and works as a senior editor at the Darling Axe. She lives in Vancouver, B.C. and is represented by Westwood Creative Artists. www.darlingaxe.com

David founded Darling Axe Editing in 2018 after working as a freelance editor for more than 15 years. He is an award-winning short fiction writer, and his debut novel is represented by the Donaghy Literary Group. He has published poetry, fiction, and nonfiction in magazines and literary journals, and he has an MFA in creative writing from University of British Columbia. David lives in Victoria, B.C., in the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. www.darlingaxe.com

Sophia McDonald Bennett

*How to Become a Successful Freelance Writer* | Sat. 10/3, 2:45 PM

Have you ever wished you could write for your favorite magazines, blogs and other publications? You can! This presentation will guide you through the process of becoming a writer-for-hire. Topics include the pros and cons of freelancing, identifying and researching publications, and writing query letters editors can’t refuse.

Sophia is a freelance writer, editor, communications consultant and instructor pro tem of marketing and public relations at the University of Oregon. She’s written articles for over three dozen consumer and trade magazines, newspapers and websites. Her areas of focus include food, wine, interior design and sustainability. Find her online at www.sophiawriter1.com and on Twitter and Instagram @SophiaWriter1.

Valerie J. Brooks

*The Resurgence of Noir Fiction* | Thur. 10/1, 2:45 PM

Noir has an important history, as it captures the ethos of its time. In this interactive lecture for writers of all levels, learn why noir is resurging, what its characteristics are, and how to apply it to any genre. Attendees will learn to identify noir characteristics, differentiate noir from other genres such as mystery, thriller, suspense and crime, and apply classic and modern noir tropes to setting, character, tone, style, language, voice and plot in their fictional work.

Valerie’s latest work, *Revenge in 3 Parts*, is a femme-noir psychological thriller, the first in a trilogy, where the women are badass and take center stage. Raised in Puritanical New England, Brooks was drawn to the gothic, secrets, mystery, and the dark side of human nature. Her second in the Angeline Porter trilogy, *Tainted Times 2*, will be published this September. She is the recipient of an Elizabeth George Foundation grant and a finalist for the Nancy Pearl Book Award. http://www.valeriejbrooks.com

Curtis C. Chen

*Talk Less, Smile More* | Sat. 10/3, 2:45 PM

“Dialogue,” she said. “It’s how we communicate in fiction. But it’s not a facsimile of reality.” “Them’s a lot’a ten-dollar words,” he sputtered. “Whaddya mean by all that?” “I simply mean to say that how people speak is not how characters may talk.” “Jeepers! Tell me more!”

Translating the rhythms of real-life speech into text is always a challenge, especially if one wants to preserve the meaning behind the words. There are simple tools to help with this, and using them can become instinct with practice. We’ll look at examples of expressive dialogue, work through exercises to affect the tone of an entire scene by changing just a few words, and discuss ways to improve your ability at making imaginary people say things that sound true to life.

Query Letters That Work | Sun. 10/4, 12:45 PM

You’ve written a novel, or story. Great! Now let’s talk about how to sell it. Query letters are still the best way to get an agent and have specific format agents expect to see, but the skills used to write a query will also help with other aspects of book marketing and promotion, no matter how you publish.
Once a Silicon Valley software engineer, Curtis (陳致宇) now writes fiction and runs puzzle games near Portland, Oregon. He’s the author of the *Kangaroo* series of funny science fiction spy thrillers and a contributor to *Ninth Step Station* and *Machina* on Serial Box. Curtis’ short stories have appeared in *Playboy Magazine*, *Daily Science Fiction*, and *Oregon Reads Aloud*. His homebrew cat feeding robot was displayed in the “Worlds Beyond Here” exhibit at Seattle’s Wing Luke Museum. You can find Curtis at Puzzled Pint on the second Tuesday of most every month. Visit him online: [https://curtiscchen.com](https://curtiscchen.com)

**Christine Dubois**

**Easy Steps to Great Grammar** | Thur. 10/1, 11:30 AM
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Confused about grammar and punctuation? This fun, hands-on workshop will help you master the latest rules, avoid common errors, and write with confidence. We’ll cover apostrophes, subject/verb agreement, commas, semicolons, style guides, how to avoid the ten most common grammar and punctuation mistakes, and more.

Christine is an award-winning writer and editor who has published more than 450 articles in 45 different magazines and newspapers. She teaches writing workshops at North Seattle College, as well as for local businesses. Her warmth, knowledge, and enthusiasm make her a popular instructor. Her professional experience includes everything from writing resumes for Boeing workers, to handling communications for an organic farm, to working at KING-TV News. She is author of *Praying with Creation: Meditations for a time of climate change*. [www.christinedubois.com](http://www.christinedubois.com)

**Kat Falls**

**Writing for Teens** | Thur. 10/1, 8:30 AM
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Middle Grade and Young Adult fiction are wildly popular and still-growing categories in book publishing that encompass many genres: fantasy, romance, science fiction, contemporary realism, literary fiction, and more. Having published in both markets, Kat will discuss the differences that define MG and YA and share strategies, tips, and tricks for writing engaging work for young readers. She will cover techniques for writing a great story as well as: the category’s unique parameters; creating a premise with “must read!” potential; and developing protagonists with teen appeal. In addition, Kat will touch on practical matters such as current and upcoming market trends, how to catch an agent’s eye, and the publishing process. This seminar will include writing exercises and is open to experienced writers and enthusiastic beginners.

**How to Create a Fresh and Vivid World** | Sat. 10/3, 9:00 AM
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Any story’s setting should be approached as if it is another character, offering obstacles and commenting on the story’s theme. This is even more true for science fiction and fantasy stories. Science fiction and fantasy let us wonder what might be by creating alternate realities teeming with mythical creatures or fantastic technology – usually while examining a controversial issue of today. But no matter the subject, theme, or sub-genre, successful sci-fi and fantasy writers get their readers to suspend disbelief. In this workshop, we will discuss ways to come up with original ideas within these genres and how to transform the real into the fantastic in believable ways, how to make it feel fresh and how to make it feel real. Through writing exercises, participants will invent their own fantastical story premises and settings, which are ripe with possibility.

Kat Falls writes sci-fi thrillers for kids. In her *Dark Life* series, Kat takes middle school readers on action-packed adventures under the sea. The series was featured on The Today Show; translated into 18 languages; and optioned for film by Disney. Her YA series, *Inhuman*, a dystopian romance, received a starred review from Kirkus and made the Tome It List for "clean" teen reads. Kat teaches at Northwestern University and presents at schools and conferences across the country. She lives in Evanston, IL. [katfalls.net](http://katfalls.net)
D.L. Fowler

**The Psychology of Stories | Thu. 10/1, 1:15 PM**

This session unpacks the psychological force of storytelling for aspiring and experienced fiction writers of any genre. Participants will explore tools and techniques to connect readers with the “why” of a story, to draw readers into characters’ emotional arcs, and to immerse readers in vicarious, visceral experiences. Participants will discover how great story arcs employ principles of human psychology; how personality types, compulsive needs, and emotional wounds make memorable characters; and how language fosters intimacy with readers.

Award winning author DL (Larry) Fowler created and teaches Psychology of Stories, a course for aspiring and published authors offered by Tacoma Community College’s Harbor Institute. He also leads discussions on writing craft for Kitsap Writers Forum. Known as the Lincoln Guy, he authored *Lincoln Raw*, a biographical novel, which is curated in the Lincoln Collection of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. [http://dlfowler.com](http://dlfowler.com)

Jane Friedman

**Featured Lunch Hour Speaker | Sat. 10/3, 12:00 PM**

WOTS is excited to present popular author and speaker on writing and the publishing industry, Jane Friedman, as this year’s featured speaker. Read what others who have attended her presentations have to say about Jane:

“After listening to [Jane] explain the current state of publishing, writing, and connecting, you could feel a lively energy buzz…and uplift of creativity, a juicy excitement about what we are all doing.”

“Jane Friedman is all genius. No joke. And not only publishing-smart, but savvy-smart. And generous-smart. ... She delivered what was easily the most organized, efficiently delivered and content-rich presentation that I attended all weekend.”

**The Art and Business of Author Platform | Sun. 10/4, 9:30 AM**

Most working writers have at least one thing in common: they seek to grow the readership for their work. But what leads to readership growth? And what can you do, especially without a publisher’s help (or a large bankroll), to encourage that growth? Sometimes this is called “platform development.” Author platform is one of the most difficult concepts to explain in publishing, partly because everyone defines it a little differently. But by far the easiest explanation of platform is: visibility to your target audience—which translates into an ability to sell your work. Platform building requires consistent, ongoing effort over the course of a career; the work is never really done, and your strategy will evolve over time. We’ll discuss how to develop an approach and philosophy that fits your personality and the unique qualities of your work.

Jane has 20 years of experience in the publishing industry, with expertise in business strategy for authors and publishers. She’s the editor of The Hot Sheet, the essential industry newsletter for authors, and has previously worked for F+W Media and the Virginia Quarterly Review. In 2019, Jane was awarded Publishing Commentator of the Year by Digital Book World. Jane’s newest book is *The Business of Being a Writer* (University of Chicago Press); Publishers Weekly said that it is “destined to become a staple reference book for writers and those interested in publishing careers.” Also, in collaboration with The Authors Guild, she wrote *The Authors Guild Guide to Self-Publishing*. In addition to being a columnist with Publishers Weekly and a professor with The Great Courses, Jane maintains an award-winning blog for writers at [www.JaneFriedman.com](http://www.JaneFriedman.com); her expertise has been featured by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, PBS, CBS, the National Press Club and many other outlets. Jane has delivered keynotes and workshops on the digital era of authorship at worldwide industry events, including the Writer’s Digest annual conference, Stockholm Writers Festival, San Miguel Writers Conference, The Muse & The Marketplace, Frankfurt Book Fair, BookExpo America, and Digital Book World. She also served on grant panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Creative Work Fund, and has held positions as a professor of writing, media, and publishing at the University of Cincinnati and University of Virginia. In her spare time, Jane writes creative nonfiction, which has been included in the anthologies *Every Father’s Daughter* and *Drinking Diaries*. 
Leslie J. Hall

Confessions of a Contest Judge: Tips for Becoming a Finalist | Thur. 10/1, 2:45 PM

Winning a contest can be the thrill, validation, and encouragement a writer needs to keep writing. Contest submission can also be an excellent practice ground for submitting work to an editor or agent. How does a writer submit a manuscript that will rise above all the other entries to be a winner? Participants will learn how to select a contest, how to avoid ‘fake’ contests, receive five critical tips for getting their work recognized, and what to avoid when entering a writing contest. Leslie has judged (and entered) numerous writing contests. Come and learn what you can do to help your entry rise to the top!

Leslie is a lover of words, books, writing, and sharing her passion with others. When not writing, Leslie can be found volunteering for writer events, leading Write Night—a weekly facilitated writing critique group, teaching beginning writing in adult education, talking about writing, thinking about writing, and once in a while, sleeping. www.lesliejhall.com.

Mindy Halleck

Mermaids, Maidens or Mystics: Eight Female Archetypes Every Writer Should Know | Thur. 10/1, 11:30 AM

Beyond the Hero’s Journey, there’s no denying it, rebellious female characters—from Katniss Everdeen to Olive Kitteridge—dominate literary fiction. This class advances a writer’s creative skill-set by exploring the eight female archetypes; their strengths and weaknesses, together with 7 key motivations that rule them, dictating their behavior in the story world. This session benefits writers of all skill levels. Part lecture, part media, part writing exercises.

Mindy is an award-winning author, motivational speaker and writing instructor. Halleck’s debut novel, Return to Sender, was released to 5-Star reviews, a Reader’s Choice award and selected as one of Kirkus Review’s Top Twenty Indie Novels of 2015. She has won short-story writing contests and is a frequent guest lecturer in University of Washington’s fiction writing classes, as well as other Puget Sound area colleges. In addition to being a writer, Halleck is a happily married, globe-trotting beachcomber and three-time cancer survivor who credits part of her healing journey(s) to the art of writing. www.mindyhalleck.com.

Kay Kenyon

Move Along, Folks | Sat. 10/3, 4:15 PM

An agent who gets 10,000 pitches a month says that 95% of rejected manuscripts are paced too slowly. We can fix this! This pacing workshop is for beginning and intermediate-level novelists and exposes classic pacing mistakes, large and small. We'll identify the dramatic underpinnings that give horsepower to a story’s unfolding and their use in structure and scene. We'll also come away with on-the-page tools that can keep the wind in your story's sails.

Kay is the author of fifteen science fiction and fantasy novels. Her work has been shortlisted for the Philip K. Dick award and the American Library Association Reading List award. Her work includes The Entire and The Rose quartet, as well as the Dark Talents trilogy, her historical fantasy recently optioned for film. Her short stories are collected in Dystopia: Seven Dark and Hopeful Tales and a second collection, Worlds Near and Far. She is a founding member of the Write on the River organization in Wenatchee, dedicated to helping aspiring writers improve their craft and navigate the writing life. www.kaykenyon.com.
Ken Letko  
**Object, Image, Surprise: The Power of the Five Senses in Poetry | Sat. 10/3, 10:30 AM**  
Ken will sequence a series of activities highlighting the power of five senses in poetry and how focusing on an object can lead to deep connections with people. Beginning, intermediate and advanced participants will make note of sensory details and generate a draft of a poem.

Ken grew up on the seasonal rhythms of Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay. He now lives in the magical intersection of ocean, redwoods, and mountains in Del Norte County of California's far northern coast, where he spent a portion of the last several summers as a fire lookout on top of Red Mountain. Both the North American Review and Poetry South have nominated his poems for the Pushcart Prize. *Bright Darkness*, his 2017 book of poems, was published by Flowstone Press. [kenletko.com](http://kenletko.com)

Donald Maass  
**Writing 21st Century Fiction: High Impact Techniques for Exceptional Storytelling in Modern Fiction | Fri. 10/2, 9:00 – 4:00 (Full Day Workshop)**  
What is it that makes twenty-first century fiction different from twentieth-century fiction? It's a real issue, attested by slush piles that are chock full of stories that are weak because they adhere to “rules,” feel old-fashioned, or in some other way are written the (outdated) way that writers think they should write in order to get published. This full day workshop will provide a concrete framework for writing powerful literary/commercial novels. Practical tools allow novelists to apply these methods immediately to create fiction that transcends genre, creates realities unique to its authors, conjures characters who feel more “real” than real people, and shows readers the world around them in new ways. By explaining the techniques of high-impact (and often best-selling) recent novels, expert author and literary agent Don Maass will push novelists beyond genre boundaries, beyond outdated styles, beyond their safety zone to ways of writing fiction that are personal, unique, contemporary, and excellent in ways that are both literary and commercial.


Laura Moe  
**Make It to the Finish Line | Sun. 10/4, 12:45 PM**  
During a conference presentation I was once asked, “What’s the key to your success?” My response was, “I finished the book.” Nearly 90% of people say they’d love to write a book, but only 5% actually finish. In this session I will address the numerous barriers that prevent many prospective novelists and memoirists from realizing their lifelong dreams of writing a book. I will also discuss long-term benefits of finishing a project, present strategies for participants to complete their manuscripts, and provide insights about publishing options.

Laura spent most of her working life as a librarian and English teacher in Ohio, and moved to Seattle where she writes full-time and is an active member of SCBWI and EPIC Group Writers. Moe is the author of *Breakfast with Neruda* (Simon & Schuster/Merit Press, 2016), *Blue Valentines* (2019), and *The Language of The Son* (2019). [www.lauramoebooks.com](http://www.lauramoebooks.com)
Ryan Petty

Retire/Write | Thur. 10/1, 10:00 AM

This workshop offers participants new ways to explore and think about the rest of their lives as writers. Many of us, middle-aged and older, feel we have the disadvantage of a late start. It’s time we got over it, looked with new eyes, and made better choices. Participants will better understand the actual situations (truths vs. myths) they face in making and renewing their commitments to write; learn how to fully appreciate the advantages they have as retirees and how to leverage them for success; develop an awareness of the hidden but very real scourge of age discrimination in traditional publishing and how best to deal with it; discover a new and heroic writer’s perspective; and, take away at least a few next-steps toward estate planning.

Ryan Petty writes business books for writers, personal finance books for everyone, and children’s books for those old enough to walk but not to drive a car. As a young man he studied Creative Writing at Princeton under Jerzy Kosinski and Anthony Burgess, and was for many years the proprietor of Austin-based Cold Mountain Press. He retired in 2014 from a career in law and economic development to become the writer he always meant to be.  www.ryanpettyauthor.com

Tiffany Pitts

It’s So Funny, It’s Scary: Using Humor to Enhance Suspense and Create Tension | Sun. 10/4, 11:00 AM

Many people think of humor as a genre unto itself when really, it’s a tool writers of all genres can use. In this class, we’ll look at examples of how humor is employed in suspense and horror genres, to help drive action and ramp up the thrills. We’ll discuss the ways in which humor is dismissed as ‘easy’ and strategies on turning that mindset back on itself to create complex characters and dire situations.

Tiffany is an award-winning author of speculative fiction. She’s also a freelance travel writer, focusing on the strangest places she can convince her family to visit. As a native of the Pacific Northwest, she enjoys dogs, rain, and Sasquatch stories. In her down time, she’s the thumbs behind the VacuumCleanerDefenseLeague, a German shepherd led coalition for the eradication of vacuum cleaners (and sometimes brooms).  http://tiffanypitts.com/wp/

Ray Rhamey

How to Transform Ordinary Description into Characterization | Thur. 10/1, 1:15 PM

A scene in a novel or short story doesn’t have to just be “what it is.” Description of a place, an action, or a person is an opportunity to set mood and to characterize the characters featured in the scene. That characterization can take place if the description is colored by the emotions and knowledge of the point-of-view character. Emotional description can take on new dimensions created by the nuances a character’s beliefs, feelings, objectives, knowledge, etc. This interactive workshop for all levels details techniques for emotionalizing description of action, people, and place in ways that add characterization that deepens the immersion of a reader into a character’s experience. Brief writing and class exercises explore the craft of creating a richer sense of character.

Rachel Weaver

**Write Stronger Scenes | Fri. 10/2, 1:00 – 4:30 (Half Day Workshop)**

Scene work is the backbone of any story. When your scene work is strong, your reader is pulled into the story such that he/she forgets everything else. In this class, you’ll bring in one of your scenes and will reshape it according to a check list of what makes great scene work, including, but not limited to: effective control over the point of view, ways to open and close scenes smoothly, walking the tightrope between telling and showing, tying one scene to another to create a watertight plot, and what to do with that back story.

**Building A Strong Foundation for A Novel or a Memoir | Sat. 10/3, 10:30 AM**

Without a strong foundation, your book will run into a ton of problems down the road. In this class, we will discuss the ways to create or shore up a foundation on which to build a story that does not leak or sway with the wind. We will discuss what makes a compelling character, how to effectively set character motivations, what sorts of obstacles create tension and how to set the stakes for your character, such that a reader will be pulled in most effectively.

Rachel is the author of the novel *Point of Direction*, which Oprah Magazine named a Top Ten Book to Pick Up Now. *Point of Direction* was chosen by the American Booksellers Association as a Top Ten Debut for Spring 2014, by IndieBound as an Indie Next List Pick, by Yoga Journal as one of their Top Five Suggested Summer Reads, and won the 2015 Willa Cather Award for Fiction. Prior to earning her MFA in Writing and Poetics from Naropa University, Rachel worked for the Forest Service in Alaska studying bears, raptors and songbirds. Rachel is an instructor at Lighthouse Writer’s Workshop in Denver and is on faculty at Regis University’s low-residency MFA program. Her work has appeared in *The Sun*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Alaska Women Speak* and *Fly Fishing New England*. [www.rachelweaver.net](http://www.rachelweaver.net)

Kristen Millares Young

**To Frame a Draft | Thur. 10/1, 8:30 AM**

“Face it. You will have to do,” said Gloria Anzaldúa. “Do it yourself.”

As writers, we must compress short periods into creative portals. Efficiency buys time. Spend those savings on future drafts. In this generative workshop, I will teach you to cultivate deadline discipline. “Nobody’s going to save you,” said Anzaldúa. “There is no one who will feed the yearning” – but for your own beleaguered self. Anzaldúa sat down for marathon writing sessions, and so shall we, after vigorous discussion. I’ve designed a series of timed prompts based on Anzaldúa’s “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” and applicable to both fiction and creative non-fiction. Together, we will design the architecture for a new short story, essay or chapter, and you will learn the magic of the timer.

“& I was done./& it was human.” – *Ocean Vuong* | Sun., 10/4, 11:00 AM

In this generative workshop, you will learn to begin with the elements of your story in motion. Good writers follow the lead of their characters to unwind what Eudora Welty called “the continuous thread of revelation.” On the long path toward completing a manuscript, discovery is both inevitable and disconcerting. As writers, we trace those epiphanies over many drafts. Each page must bring fresh urgency to the questions that first confront your characters. We will read and discuss the opening pages from Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*, then you’ll write a long-deferred letter.

Kristen is the author of the novel *Subduction*, a *Paris Review* staff pick called “whip-smart” by the *Washington Post* and a “brilliant debut” by the *Seattle Times*. A prize-winning journalist and essayist, Kristen serves as Prose Writer-in-Residence at Hugo House. Her reviews, essays and investigations appear in the Washington Post, Literary Hub, the Guardian, and elsewhere, as well as the anthologies *Latina Outsiders: Remaking Latina Identity*, *Pie & Whiskey*, a New York Times New & Noteworthy Book, and *Alone Together: Love, Grief, and Comfort During the Time of COVID-19*. She was the researcher for the New York Times team that produced “Snow Fall,” which won a Pulitzer Prize. From 2016 to 2019, she served as board chair of InvestigateWest, a nonprofit newsroom she co-founded to protect vulnerable peoples and places of the Pacific Northwest.