



Lighthouse North Writers Fest

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Lighthouse North: 357 S. McCaslin Blvd, Louisville, CO 80027

\$165 members/\$175 nonmembers

Join us at our satellite location, Lighthouse North, for a full day of craft classes, advice from agents, and a chance to meet with one of four agents one-on-one to discuss your book. Craft classes will cover a variety of topics including how to hook a reader, how to use secrets to build plot and character, and how to best pull readers inside our characters' experiences. In addition, there will be breakout sessions for memoir and speculative fiction, as well as a query letter workshop with agent Sara Megibow of kt literary. Every participant will be eligible to apply for a one-on-one chat about ten pages of your book with agents Sara Megibow, Sandra Bond, Noah Ballard, or Devin Ross.

Schedule and Course Descriptions:

8:30-9:00 AM

Check in, coffee, book table, breakfast snacks

9:00-10:30 AM: Craft Classes

The Memoir Toolkit: 5 Best Practices with Karen Auvinen

In this workshop for both new and experienced memoir writers, we'll discuss some tips on how to take your personal story and make it something sharable and universal. Please bring a notebook and pen for writing practice.

Social Commentary and Change Through Speculative Fiction with Courtney Morgan

N.K. Jemisin says, "Fantasy and science fiction are the means through which we ponder the slow ongoing revolutions of the present and foreshadow—or incite—the next revolutions to come." In this workshop, we'll look at ways writers are using speculative fiction to shift how we understand our current reality—and to imagine and incite new visions of possibility. Where speculative fiction and social change intersect we'll write and share our own speculative fiction. Each writer will leave the workshop with a richer understanding of what they're trying to describe, why, and what effect they may have on the worlds we are all able to imagine, create, and inhabit.

Secrets: Strategies for Story with Sarah Schantz

In this workshop, we will explore secrets as a major component for all storytelling. Secrets both separate and bind us. Writers will learn how to make powerful allusions in their writing to build plot and develop character. In addition to learning the art of confession, we will also explore subtext as

strategy and when and how to privilege the reader's experience. This course is open to fiction and memoir writers.

10:45 AM-12:15 PM: Craft Classes

How to Hook a Reader in Your First Ten Pages with Rachel Weaver

It doesn't matter how good your book is overall if your first ten pages don't hook a reader effectively. Most agents request the first few pages to see if they want to read the rest of the book. Readers standing in a bookstore or on Amazon will often give the opening a try to decide if they want to buy your book. In this class, we'll discuss concrete ways you can ensure readers have to read your book by employing Jerome Stern's concept of position changes, effective crumb-dropping, identifying your inciting incident, and what to do with that backstory. This class is open to fiction and memoir writers.

Personality Typing: A Tool for Memoir Writers with Karen Tolchin

Understanding the wide array of human personalities can help us clarify and develop our own voices in creative nonfiction. It can also help us distinguish between supporting characters so that everyone doesn't sound the same. We'll do an exercise involving the Enneagram, an ancient Greek personality-typing tool, apply these concepts to our own work, and have the opportunity for some on-the-spot feedback.

Making it All the Way to the End with Victoria Hanley

How many years does it take to write a book, and why do so many writers run into a block somewhere along the way? Whether you're writing a novel, a memoir, or a nonfiction book, there are several common issues that tend to arise while traveling the writer's path. This class will explore ways to break through those blocks, so that when they come up, you'll have some tools handy to help you reach The End.

12:15-1:45 PM

Lunch

1:15-1:35 PM

Agent Meetings with Sara Megibow, Sandra Bond, and Devin Ross

1:45-2:45 PM: Panel Discussion

Advice from Agents with Sara Megibow, Sandra Bond, and Devin Ross

Sara Megibow of kt literary, Sandra Bond of Bond Literary Agency, and Devin Ross of New Leaf Literary will offer up some sound advice for anyone seeking representation. They'll also answer any questions you have about query letters, how to stand out in the slush pile, what agents look for, how to find the right one, or anything else you've been wondering about when it comes to representation.

3:00-4:30 PM: Craft Classes

Query Letter Workshop with Sara Megibow of kt literary

If you are struggling with your query letter, this is the session for you! Please bring a draft of your query and copies for the class. Each participant will read their letter out loud and receive feedback from agent Sara Megibow about grabbing the attention of agents. We will discuss the do's and don'ts of query letters, and there will be some time for questions. All genres welcome!

Creating a Writing Habit with Tanja Pajevic

Do you find yourself starting and stopping the same piece of writing, unable to complete it? Ever notice how challenging it is to keep the thread of your story going when you can't find the time to sit down and write consistently? Through discussion and writing exercises, we'll discuss the power of creating a consistent writing habit. You'll leave with a handful of tricks for making sure that your writing routine actually works with your real, human-scaled life.

Trapped in the Body with Daniel Levine

We all a body and at nearly every moment we are subjected to its whims and appetites. Our characters have bodies too, but sometimes we forget this, so caught up in plot and dialogue and interior musings. How do we infuse this bodily awareness into our characters' perceptions and emotional responses? How do we make our readers feel like they are stuck in our characters' bodies, too? This workshop, open to writers of fiction and memoir, will help participants engage with their own physical awareness through writing exercises that will inform their understanding of character embodiment.

4:30-5:30 PM

Happy Hour at Murphy's Taphouse, 585 McCaslin Blvd., Louisville, CO

One-on-One Meetings with Agents:

How to submit your work to win one of the four 20 minute conversations with an agent:

To apply for a 20-minute conversation with one of the four agents, email up to ten double-spaced pages with standard 12-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins to rachel@lighthousewriters.org by February 15 at midnight. Winners will be contacted by email by February 21. Please only submit once, and choose the agent who fits your project most closely. In the subject line write: sub for (agent name)

At the top of every page of your submission include: a page number, your first and last name, your email address, and the genre of the submission.

Devin Ross, New Leaf Literary

Devin hails from the windiest city in the Midwest where she spent most of her childhood. She earned her B.A. in English from Lawrence University and her Publishing Certificate from the Denver Publishing Institute. She began her publishing career as an author's assistant, helping authors grow their platforms and meet their deadlines. Her next career move landed her in the Subsidiary Rights department at Crown Publishing Group before she found her home at New Leaf Literary & Media where she worked under Joanna Volpe, soaking up every lesson in agenting she could, before becoming an agent herself.

Devin is looking for peculiar, eccentric, character-driven, commercial or upmarket fiction that is conceptually unique. She's looking for upbeat women's fiction or rom-coms. She loves contemporary romance with a unique hook, and stories told by diverse voices. Romance written for millennials is her focus, she loves modern stories that appeal to a younger audience. She is especially drawn to stories that explore the difficulties of being a young woman and feeling the pressure to conform to societal norms.

She loves all types of fantasy and is drawn to stories with magical realism. She is especially intrigued by magical realism that investigates emotion, psychology, or trauma. While she loves science fiction, she is not looking for it at this time. She also represents YA and select MG.

Noah Ballard, Curtis Brown, Ltd

Noah Ballard is an agent at Curtis Brown, Ltd. He studied creative writing at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and began his career in publishing at Emma Sweeney Agency. Noah focuses on literary fiction, short story collections, and narrative non-fiction, including memoir, journalism, and pop culture.

Sandra Bond, Bond Literary Agency

Sandra Bond started her agency in Denver (born & raised!) many, many years ago. She represents adult commercial and literary fiction, mystery, thriller, crime fiction, and YA fiction in all categories.

Sarah Megibow, kt literary

Sara Megibow is a literary agent with twelve years of experience in publishing. Sara specializes in working with authors in middle grade, young adult, romance, erotica, science fiction, and fantasy and represents *New York Times* bestselling authors Roni Loren and Jason Hough and international bestselling authors Stefan Bachmann and Tiffany Reisz. Sara is LGBTQ-friendly and presents regularly at SCBWI and RWA events around the country.

Not sure of the difference between upmarket, literary, and commercial fiction? Check out [this helpful website](#).