



Lighthouse North Writers Fest

October 6, 2018

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

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

\$165 members/\$175 nonmembers

Join us at our new satellite location, Lighthouse North, for a full day of craft classes taught by LHN faculty, advice from agents and a chance to meet with one of four agents one on one to discuss your book. Craft classes will include Five Hooks That Keep Readers Reading, Getting Unstuck, and Pulling That Backstory into Plot, and more. In addition, there will be breakout sessions for YA and MG writers, memoir and personal essay writers, and speculative fiction writers to choose from, as well as a query letter clinic with agent Shana Kelly. Every participant will be eligible to compete for a one on one chat about ten pages of your book with agents Shana Kelly (literary and general fiction), Kate Testerman (YA and MG), Alexis Hurley (memoir), or Sara Megibow (sci fi, fantasy, and romance).

Schedule and Course Descriptions:

8:30-9:00 AM: Check in

9:00-10:00 AM: Panel Discussion

Advice From Agents with Kate Testerman and Shana Kelly (no RSVP needed)

Kate Testerman of kt literary and Shana Kelly from Einstein Literary Management will offer up some sound advice for anyone seeking representation, as well as answer any questions you have about query letters, how to stand out in the slush pile, what agents are looking for, how to find the right one or anything else you've been wondering about working with agents.

10:15-11:45: Craft Classes

Pulling Backstory into the Plot with Doug Kurtz

If you're a novelist or memoirist who feels bogged down and confused by backstory, this class is for you. What details of your protagonist's past are really important? Where do you put them to deepen the story rather than detract from it? Why don't those flashbacks ever seem to fit? In this discussion and exercise-based class, we'll drill into the relevant aspects of your protagonist's backstory and learn strategies for pulling them successfully onto the page, to create more compelling characters and engaging plots.

Query Letter Roundtable with Shana Kelly, Einstein Literary Management

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 a working literary agent as to how to strengthen it such that it will be more likely to grab the attention of whatever agent you send it to. We will discuss the do's and don't's of query letters and there will be some time for questions.

The Sense of a Beginning: Where and How to Start Your Memoir with Karen Auvinen

The beginning of any great book cinches the reader and writer together as companions along a journey; the whole point is to pique interest and create a story that compels the reader to go along for the ride. This workshop covers how to drop your audience in on the action using timing, flashback, character, scene, and voice. Bring a notebook for some writing practice along with your questions.

11:45-1:15: Lunch

1:15-2:45: Craft Classes

Five Hooks That Keep Readers Reading with Rachel Weaver

There are some tried and true ways to hook a reader into a story. Without them, a reader can easily put the book down to vacuum the living room. In this class, we will discuss five ways to strengthen your novel or memoir that will keep the reader reading even if he or she has a meeting to go to, or a bedtime to keep or a kid to make dinner for.

Personal Essays Plus with Jenny Shank

Essayist Leslie Jamison has described her writing as "memoir and journalism and criticism woven together." Hanif Abdurraqib also weaves personal stories with criticism of music, sports, politics, and more in his acclaimed debut collection *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*. We'll examine their work to learn how we can expand our personal essays outside the parameters of the self and make felicitous connections that improve the resonance of our essays

My Brave New World: World-building in Speculative Fiction with Mario Acevedo

What sets fantasy and science-fiction apart from other literature is the invented setting. But when you're building your new world, where do you start? What details do you need to share? How do you immerse the reader in your story without drowning them in minutiae? How much can you "steal" from real life? In this seminar we'll discuss the three essential elements of world-building and use a few writing prompts to help lay the foundations of our story world.

3:00-4:30: Craft Classes

Getting Unstuck with Ramona Ausubel

Whether you are embarking on a first draft or puzzling through revision, it can seem like there are a thousand ways to get stuck. But luckily there are a thousand ways to get unstuck, too! We will talk about several especially good ones, and leave with new doorways where it seemed like there were only walls.

Top Tips for Writers of Young Adult and Middle Grade Novels with Victoria Hanley

Are you writing a YA or MG novel? Considering it? This class will delve into the differences between genres and give top tips for getting that novel written! We'll explore how your own wild wanderings, horrible heartaches, and quixotic quirks can guide you to your most compelling

stories for young people. Also discussed will be down-to-earth ways to survive writing a whole book.

Developing the I Narrator with Shari Caudron

When writing with the “I” pronoun, it is not enough to simply describe events from the narrator’s point of view – you must consciously develop the first-person narrator into a character readers can relate to. Through a series of fun and revealing freewrites, this workshop will help you transform your “I” narrator (whether real or fictional) from a distant storyteller or shadowy talking head into a fully realized character.

4:30-5:30: 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 submit your work to win one of four 20-minute conversations with an agent, email up to ten double spaced pages with standard 12 point Times New Roman font and one inch margins to rachel@lighthousewriters.org by September 19 at midnight. Winners will be contacted by email by September 23.

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.

Shana Kelly will be reading general and literary fiction submissions.

Shana Kelly started her publishing career in the Literary Department of the William Morris Agency, where she worked for 10 years. She was the signing agent for many successful authors, including *New York Times* bestseller Curtis Sittenfeld, author of PREP and ELIGIBLE. For the past nine years, Shana has worked as a freelance editor and publishing consultant.

In 2016, Shana joined Einstein Literary Management as an agent. She is looking for adult novels with great writing and surprising plots—her favorite books fall between commercial and literary. She has a soft spot for well-written thrillers and psychological suspense. Shana doesn’t represent books for young readers, science fiction or most nonfiction. She will consider memoir with excellent writing and an unusual story.

Shana has a Bachelor of Philosophy from Miami University, and attended the University of Denver’s Publishing Institute. She currently lives in Denver, Colorado with her husband and daughter.

Alexis Hurley will be reading memoir submissions.

Alexis Hurley started her career in 1998 and has been at InkWell since its inception in 2004. Alexis works in the dual capacity of Co-Director of Foreign Rights and agent of domestic works in the areas of literary and commercial fiction, memoir, narrative non-fiction and more. She is a native of the Berkshires and a graduate of Dickinson College where she received her BA in English and Art History and a minor in Italian.

Kate Testerman will be reading YA and MG submissions.

After a dozen years working in publishing in New York City, Kate moved to Colorado and formed kt literary in early 2008, where she concentrates on middle grade and young adult fiction. Bringing to bear the experience of being part of a large agency, she enjoys all aspects of working with her authors, offering hands-on experience, personal service, and a surfeit of optimism.

Her [clients](#) include Maureen Johnson, Ellen Booraem, Stephanie Perkins, Carrie Harris, Trish Doller, and Matthew Cody, among other exciting and acclaimed authors. Kate is a graduate of the University of Delaware's Honors Program, a former cast member of the New York Renaissance Faire, and an avid collector of shoes, bags, children, and dogs. Her interests cover a broad range including contemporary drama, urban fantasy and magical realism, adventure stories, and romantic comedies. She is an active member of the [SCBWI](#) and [AAR](#). For additional information, please read this [Agent Spotlight](#).

Sarah Megibow will be reading Sci Fi, Fantasy and Romance submissions.

Sara Megibow is a literary agent with eleven 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.