

Class Descriptions:

Thursday

1:30 PM

The Prepared Panster by Michelle Pennington

For panthers who want a little more control over their free-wheeling writing adventures--or for those who simply want to hate extensive rewrites, this class will teach you how to prepare for your first draft without an outline. (Because we all know that doesn't work for us.) Don't worry! Planners are welcome too!

Michelle Pennington is a USA Today Bestselling author of clean romance. Because she was never good at making decisions, she writes contemporary, young adult, historical, romcom, and fantasy. The genre might change but her characters will always be falling in love. When not writing, she spends her days quoting movies with her husband and making messes faster than her four kids. She used to have a lot of hobbies, but then she got addicted to k-dramas. Michelle also teaches and supports other authors as one of The Writing Gals.

TikTok: Use the Fastest Growing App to Market – 2 hour Intensive by Dee Ann Williamson

Take the marketing of your books to the next level using TikTok.

TikTok is the fastest growing social media app today and you should get on board to market your books. New and old.

We'll go over using the app, what is TikTok and plenty of how-tos.

You'll learn about growing and expanding your reach to thousands of TikTokers, including the basics of marketing. We'll also discuss the subgenre #booktok which is trending immensely. And so much more.

We'll have a question and answer session including a detailed handout.

You too can become TikTok famous!

Dee Ann has a BS in Marketing and has been in the marketing field for over twenty years. Further, she is a writer and began her writing journey in 2000. She has taught numerous classes on Marketing Your Book, The How, What, When, Why, and Where of Marketing, Guerilla Marketing and The Five Senses of Writing.

Writing a Book Summary by Jaye Viner

From jacket copy, to website blurbs, to that all-important middle of a query letter, writing an effective book summary is a special kind of torture. This workshop will demystify the pieces of a summary, explore what information needs to stay and go, and how to match tone, themes, and genre so your book reaches its best audience. Students will have participate in guided writing exercises and have the opportunity share their work for critique.

Jaye Viner lives on what used to be the plains of eastern Nebraska with two feline fur bombs and a very tall man. She knows just enough about a wide variety of things to embarrass herself at parties she never attends. She holds an MFA and MA from the University of Nebraska. Her writing has been published in Drabblecast, The Roanoke Review, and Everyday Fiction. Her first novel, Jane of Battery Park, is now available from Red Hen Press

2:30 PM

Dissecting the Frog: How and Why to Use Humor in Writing by Dennis Gaunt

EB White once said: "Analyzing humor is like dissecting a frog. Few people are interested in it, and the frog dies of it." With that ringing endorsement, this class will analyze humor in writing. Not only how to incorporate it effectively into your writing, but why humor is necessary. Humor is a skill that anyone can and should learn, and virtually every kind of story can be strengthened by it. Come and let's have a laugh together. And no frogs will be harmed, I promise.

Dennis Gaunt has been a writer ever since that fateful day he pulled a magic pen from a stone. At least, that's what he tells people. The truth is that he's been a slushpile reader for Deseret Book and Shadow Mountain Publishing since 2000, and in that time, he's seen it all and then some. He's a published author with both Deseret Book and Covenant Communications. He enjoys photography, playing the guitar, going to Disneyland, and Godzilla movies. He also hates onions.

Developmental Editing: Why You Shouldn't Skip This Crucial Step by Julie Haase

We know the benefits of copyediting and proofreading—to create a clean, consistent, professional book. But no one will care if you avoided adverbs and used serial commas effectively if your book isn't well written. We'll explore common reasons why authors skip developmental editing and why those reasons don't outweigh the benefits of a good DE (even for seasoned authors!).

Julie Haase is a freelance editor and writer, the Business and Publishing Manager for The Writer's Ally, an editing and publishing services company, and the Publications Chair for the Nebraska Writers Guild. Julie has published in various NWG pubs and The First Line as well as self-published a guide for narrative writers called Tips & Tricks for Great (Narrative) Writing. Julie lives in Omaha and is a proud cat mama.

3:30 PM

So, You're Thinking About Quitting by Shelly Brown

Burnout, we all know it. How do you keep going when a very loud part of you tells you that you're done? Come find some motivation and ways laugh at it all during those times when it just might feel impossible.

Shelly Brown is the author of the thought-provoking children's middle-grade books, *Mustaches for Maddie*, *Squint*, *Willa and the Whale*, and *Virtually Me*. She also writes scary books for young readers like her book *Ghostsitter*. When she's not writing you can find her parenting her five awesome kids, and wife-ing her husband and co-author, Chad Morris. She loves to discover the world, both close to her home in the mountains and far across the sea. She loves people, cultures, and food. She adores Austen, Dickens, and Hardy. Her patronus is an otter. She also writes romance on the side but by using a pseudonym she keeps her youthful readers from finding her kissing books. Though she has no shame about it, kissing books are the best, chances of her telling you said pseudonym are slim.

How to Nail Pacing by Chad Morris

Pacing is critical to grabbing your reader and taking them on an adventure with your characters. If it's too slow you lose them. If it's too fast you lose them. So how do you know when to go fast and when to

go slow? Join award-winning author Chad Morris for some practical advice on how to decide what pacing goes where and how to apply that knowledge to your manuscript.

Chad Morris coauthored *Mustaches for Maddie, Squint, Willa and the While*, and *Virtually Me* with his wife, Shelly Brown. He is also the author of the Cragbridge Hall series (*The Inventor's Secret*, *The Avatar Battle*, and *The Impossible Race*). He has won the Buckeye Award, the Nebraska Book award, the Utah Book award and the Silver Foreword INDIES award for Juvenile fiction. He has also appeared on CNN and the Hallmark Channel.

Writing Rich and Revealing Dialogue by Margaret Lukas

Dialogue is a bedrock of nearly every genre. Rich dialogue creates memorable characters, heightens tension, adds mystery or passion, and makes readers turn pages. In this class, we will discuss do's and don'ts to help you bring your dialogue alive.

Margaret Lukas is the author of three novels published by BQB Press. She taught writing for eleven years at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Her short story "The Yellow Bird," was made into a 'short' and premiered at the Cannes Film festival. She is the winner of a Nebraska Arts Council Fellowship Award and her novel, *River People*, won a High Plains Book Award. She's published in anthologies and magazines.

Friday

9:00 AM

Self-Edit Like an Indie Pro by Michelle Pennington

For an indie author, the pressure to have a well-crafted novel is all on your shoulders, and time is of the essence. Hiring professional editors is a must, but the quality of the product you send them determines how good the final product will be. In this class, you'll learn the editing process of a full-time indie author that was developed while writing and publishing over forty novels and novellas, as well as unique tips and tricks you can add to your own editing process.

Michelle Pennington is a USA Today Bestselling author of clean romance. Because she was never good at making decisions, she writes contemporary, young adult, historical, romcom, and fantasy. The genre might change but her characters will always be falling in love. When not writing, she spends her days quoting movies with her husband and making messes faster than her four kids. She used to have a lot of hobbies, but then she got addicted to k-dramas. Michelle also teaches and supports other authors as one of The Writing Gals.

Making Money with Audiobooks on YouTube by Victorine Lieske

Since putting her audiobooks up on YouTube, Victorine has brought in over \$30,000 in ad revenue, and you can do it, too. This class will focus on best practices to be able to earn money from your audiobooks on YouTube. We'll talk about how to please the YouTube algorithms, what thresholds you need to hit in order to monetize, and how to get people to your channel, and how to avoid or overcome demonetization. Don't have any audiobooks? That's okay! We'll also talk about how to inexpensively create them, and other ways to use YouTube to bring people to your work.

Victorine self-published her first book, *Not What She Seems*, in April of 2010. In March of 2011, *Not What She Seems* began its 6-week run on The New York Times best-selling eBook list. By May 2011 she had sold over 100,000 copies. Victorine's first romantic comedy novel hit the USA Today Bestselling books list in January 2015. When she's not writing, she's watching Korean Dramas, or making something with her extensive yarn collection.

Canning the Comparisons and Blazing Your Own Path by Katharine E. Hamilton

Shifting your mindset to face the facts of your business without comparing your success against other authors' platforms.

Sometimes it is hard to accept that good things take time. A successful, thriving business takes time... especially when we are surrounded by Cinderella stories or "fast tracks" to reach certain milestones. There's nothing wrong with those success stories. But what if that doesn't happen to us? What then? This course will give practical tips on how to take an honest look at your book business and grow your brand in ways that will benefit your long-term growth and success all while embracing the ways your business is different and unique and making that work for you.

Katharine E. Hamilton is a veteran, six-figure, indie author with over thirteen years of experience in the industry. She has collectively sold over 275,000 copies of her books, has over 45 million page reads in Kindle Unlimited, and has become a friend and advisor to many indie authors entering the industry. She lives in Rockport, Texas, and enjoys raising her two little boys, loving her handsome husband, and catering to her geriatric chihuahua.

10:00 AM

True Stories Make the Best Stories: Bringing Your Non-Fiction to Live by Dennis Gaunt

Fiction and non-fiction sometimes feel like they're two completely different worlds, and never the twain shall meet. The truth is that there is a lot of overlap between the two, and many of the ideas and rules behind fiction writing also apply for non-fiction. You still need to be able to tell a compelling story that grabs readers. This class will offer tips on how to blow the dust off your non-fiction and make it shine with new life.

Dennis Gaunt has been a writer ever since that fateful day he pulled a magic pen from a stone. At least, that's what he tells people. The truth is that he's been a slushpile reader for Deseret Book and Shadow Mountain Publishing since 2000, and in that time, he's seen it all and then some. He's a published author with both Deseret Book and Covenant Communications. He enjoys photography, playing the guitar, going to Disneyland, and Godzilla movies. He also hates onions.

The Four Element Ensemble and Cast Calculus by Don Carey

Water. Earth. Fire. Air. Long ago the four elements were fundamental to writing teams of characters. None of that changed when science discovered the atom.

In this workshop, we'll use the four element ensemble and related tropes to show how Cast Calculus can be used to create complementary, well-balanced groups. We'll draw from obvious, literal examples like the Last Airbender and the Fantastic 4, as well as more nuanced casts from such varied sources as Seinfeld, Friends, and the Golden Girls.

Don Carey is an author and software team leader currently living in Kansas. When not working or writing, he can be found riding his bicycle and playing ukulele. As a child of the 70s and 80s he dreamed of a future world with videophones, pocket supercomputers, and televisions so thin and flat they could hang on the wall like a picture. He is currently using his forward-thinking imagination to develop a series of sweet, post-contemporary romance projects under the pen name Leslie Dacapo.

Back Matter, Matters by Sandra Schehl

“The End” should NEVER be the last words in your book. What needs to be included at the end of one book, to help sell the next? Your back matter can help you build your brand, get reviews, sell other books you’ve authored, or even help other authors find an audience. Learn how to use those precious few back pages to establish a fan base, and push your career forward.

Sandra Schehl is the author of the Uncommon Gentlemen Victorian Romance series, as well as co-owner of Willow and Oak Press. She is a true word nerd and history fanatic. She was born and raised in Omaha Nebraska, but now calls rural Illinois home. She is happily married to her husband Doug and “mom” to an assortment of furry creatures. She is an avid board game player, film festival follower, and coffee house connoisseur.

11:00 AM

Mistakes Not to Make by Janette Rallison

Would it surprise you to learn that agents reject most manuscripts after only reading a few pages? Agents, editors, and readers will never know what a great plot or characters you have if you make mistakes that send your manuscript to the rejection pile. Learn how to identify and fix problems in your description, dialog tags, pacing, opening, and much more

USA Today, bestselling author, Janette Rallison/ CJ Hill writes books because writing is much more fun than cleaning bathrooms. Her avoidance of housework has led her to writing 31 novels that have sold over 1,000,000 print copies and have been on many reading and state lists. Her books are fantasy, sci-fi, and romantic comedy because hey, there is enough angst in real life, but there’s a drastic shortage of humor, romance, and hot guys who fight dragons. She lives in Chandler, Arizona with her husband, kids, and enough cats to classify her as eccentric.

To Plot or Not by Amy White

Who’s journey is this, and what is the deal with all these plot options anyway? Is plot a many-layered onion, a mountain, a heroic journey, a grid, an architect thing, or maybe something to do with a cat--and what about the need for character to trump it all? In this class you will learn how to see the hidden story beneath the surface, going beyond pedantic, or equally frustrating, pretentious plotting. Let’s get a handle on the inner workings of WHY plotting matters, WHEN do you pull it into play, HOW to do it right, for WHAT reason, and for WHOM.

Amy White is licensed with the patent-pending Farmer System of Narrative Analysis (aka The Story Cone) as a masterclass teacher, story analyst, and Cracking the Story Code graphic artist with 13 years of experience analyzing, green-lighting, and coaching. A retired librarian, Amy now co-creates FSNA licensing conferences with Katherine Farmer, and Story Code courses with Wendy Folsom. Amy is the author of the bestseller Dressing the Naked Hand and is a master puppeteer and performer. When not

recording YouTube movie reviews—it's the best excuse EVER to watch movies--Amy drives tractor on the family farm harvesting alfalfa.

Expanding Your Brand by The And I Thought Ladies

You have written a book, but now what? Truly you can do anything. This class teaches how to make your book the foundation of an empire around words. From books to clothing lines, to owning your own wine it is possible.

Jade is the 2019 Poet of the year, and Wilnona is Advocate Awarded. The Ladies are known for their quick wit, ability to laugh at themselves, and being pop poets. The duo has contributed writings to eleven books or what they call "literary life guides w/ pop poetry": The And I Thought Series & The Miss-Fit Guides. Jade and Wilnona are the Co-Founders of The Inspirational Women in Literature Media and Journalism Awards, The Thoughtful Book Festival, the 25 Hottest Authors Magazine & And I Thought Literary Magazine. They have several podcasts including The Ladies Tales podcast is their most inventive podcast to date. They co-hosted conferences on three continents.

1:30 PM

Mastering Mindset to Level Up Your Business by Anne-Marie Meyer

Come learn how to level up your mindset to make the most of your writing business. You are the only thing standing in your way to success.

USA Today Best Selling author Anne-Marie Meyer lives south of the Twin Cities in MN. She spends her days with her knight in shining armor, four princes, and baby princess.

When she's not running after her kids, she's dreaming up romantic stories. She loves to take her favorite moments in books and movies and figure out a way to make them new and fresh.

How to be a Healthy Author by Lisa Swinton

The wonderful thing about writing is you can do it anywhere. Usually sitting. For long periods of time. Mostly alone.

Write, they said. It'll be fun, they said.

No one mentioned the dreaded expansion of your backside due to the constant sitting. Or the aches and pains that come along with being hunched over a screen. Or the feelings of loneliness and isolation that may follow.

Enjoy this class where we'll chat over how to keep your body and mind in author-fit shape to keep doing what you love: telling stories.

Award-winning author Lisa Swinton loves romance, travel, Disney, Jane Austen, and tidying up, not necessarily in that order. When she's not writing and being a mom, you might find her singing on stage.

Giving and Accepting Feedback with Grace by Linne Elizabeth

As writers, we live and die for constructive criticism, but do you know how to give it? Even more important, do you know how to receive it? This presentation covers the finer aspects of giving and accepting constructive feedback. You will learn about how feedback benefits fellow writers, as well as how it will improve the writer you're trying to become.

Linne Elizabeth is a freelance content writer and adjunct English professor by day and award-winning author by night. She has written content for Microsoft, Cisco, IHS Markit, Brainstorm Inc, and more. When she's not instructing composition students in the finer aspect of academic writing or developing twisted plotlines, you can find her playing in the russet desert of southern Utah with her incredible (sometimes feral) kids and her handsome husband. Check her out on Instagram: @library4one or on Facebook: @linneelizabeth

Come Sit By Me: A Celebration of Courage, Community & Confidence for Writers of Color by Mari Beck

Many BIPOC writers struggle to find their place at the table in the predominant writing community. This class will provide resources, inspiration, validation and motivation for BIPOC writers while celebrating their courage, helping them find their writing community and elevating their confidence!

Mari Beck is a Latina author and co-founder of the Central Nebraska Writers Group with two published books & five full-length novels publishing weekly in Kindle Vella. A former Director of an undergraduate program in Spanish Translation, she is a beta reader for authors writing people of color and mentors authors in all phases of the writing process.

2:30 PM

Creating Engaging Characters Instead of Cardboard Cutouts by Heather Justesen

We all have books we've read where characters live in our mind for months or years after the book has been read, but what makes these stories stick with us? Chances are it was all about the characters--who they are, why they make their choices and their quirks. This class will discuss what makes characters great and how to apply it to your own stories.

Heather Justesen is the author of more than three-dozen sweet romance and cozy mystery novels. She is also graduating with her MFA in creative writing this spring.

Eating the Elephant: Breaking Down Big Goals into Small Steps by Jess Elliott

For some, having the big picture goal is motivating. For others, it is overwhelming! Learn how to take your big picture writing goals, and break them down into small, meaningful steps that fit your stage of life.

Jess Elliott is a Kansan girl through and through. Her three great loves are her amazing Prince Charming, their five children, and telling great stories. She writes sweet romance under Jessica L. Elliott, and YA/NA fantasy under Jaelyn Elliott.

Peeking at the Monster by AE Stueve

In "Peeking at the Monster" students learn some horror writing basics. We begin with a reading of Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and spend our time together discussing what Jackson does and does not do in order to scare her readers. If time allows, students will also share their own short scary stories in campfire style.

AE Stueve teaches, writing, photography, filmmaking, and design at Bellevue West High and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His novels, short stories, poems, and essays can be found online and

in print. To learn more about him, check out his website: aestueve.com and follow him on twitter or Instagram @aestueve.

Yes! You Can Write a Poem by Charlene Pierce

This workshop will make poetry easy, fun, and accessible. You will leave with the beginnings or maybe even a complete poem. If the thought, “I can’t do that,” just ran across your mind – this workshop is for you! We will pull back the curtain, demystify poetry and have fun writing it!

Poetry provides an outlet to release our emotions and unwind our thoughts. It can be a healing process. Writing poetry will sharpen your writing skills, regardless of the genre you typically write. This is your chance to try something new, flex your writing muscles, and have fun doing it.

Charlene Pierce is the author of “The Poet’s Journal, A Beginners Guide to Writing Poetry.” Her poetry has appeared in several anthologies and literary journals, and she is in the process of publishing her first chapbook. She is a freelance writer by day, appearing on websites across the country and “Women’s Edition” magazine. She teaches writing workshops and earned her degree in creative writing from UNO. She is also the Founder and President of the Nebraska Poetry Society, a non-profit organization whose mission is to make poetry accessible to all by providing high-quality monthly workshops and celebrating our Nebraska poets.

3:30 PM

Finding Your Voice by Shelly Brown

You’ve heard people talk about how great an authors voice is but you’re still not sure what that means or how to make your own voice unique. This skill is one of the more allusive but powerful tools to have in ones arsenal as a creator. Come and learn how to refine what you’re probably already doing so that people will start talking about your fabulous voice and waiting for the chance to read your next unique story.

Shelly Brown is the author of the thought-provoking children's middle-grade books, *Mustaches for Maddie*, *Squint*, *Willa and the Whale*, and *Virtually Me*. She also writes scary books for young readers like her book *Ghostsitter*. When she's not writing you can find her parenting her five awesome kids, and wife-ing her husband and co-author, Chad Morris. She loves to discover the world, both close to her home in the mountains and far across the sea. She loves people, cultures, and food. She adores Austen, Dickens, and Hardy. Her patronus is an otter. She also writes romance on the side but by using a pseudonym she keeps her youthful readers from finding her kissing books. Though she has no shame about it, kissing books are the best, chances of her telling you said pseudonym are slim.

Does Your Perspective Change Your Point of View? The Difference Between POV and Perspective in Writing by Julie Haase

We use “point of view” and “perspective” as synonyms all the time, but in a literary sense, they’re actually quite different. Once you learn exactly what they are, you can use them together to help build stronger characters and more enriching narration that ultimately enhance your readers’ experience—and your reviews!

Julie Haase is a freelance editor and writer, the Business and Publishing Manager for The Writer’s Ally, an editing and publishing services company, and the Publications Chair for the Nebraska Writers Guild.

Julie has published in various NWG pubs and The First Line as well as self-published a guide for narrative writers called Tips & Tricks for Great (Narrative) Writing. Julie lives in Omaha and is a proud cat mama.

Author's Instagram—How to Build a Network and Get Readers by Tara Cummins

Do you want to meet other like-minded writers and build a network for gaining readers? Do you want a space to gain reviewers, and get help from readers with promoting your latest books? Instagram is the place to go! Tara will walk you through the best ways to create an author's Instagram account, ideas on how and what to post, and tips on the best ways to get actual followers. Tara will also help you learn how to get those likes, comments, and followers to turn into loyal readers, promotors, and reviewers!

Tara Cummins has always loved being a storyteller and began writing her stories down on her father's old typewriter when she was in elementary school. She received her MFA in Creative Writing literature/fiction from the California State University of San Bernardino. Her stories have appeared in the Redlands Review, the Pacific Review, and Draught City Lit Mag. Her memoir, *Mother's Ingredients*, debuted in April 2020. She went from having zero followers on her author's Instagram account to 1700 in 2 months without paying for any ads or followers. Some of her videos have gotten up to 15K views. She now has made several close friends with whom she has worked on collaborations for promoting books, getting reviews, starting a beta reading group, and starting a writers critique group.

Building Daily Habits to Ensure Better Writing by Brandy Prettyman

Finding time to create is one of the greatest challenges of writers today. We live in a society that is always on the go. So how do you make time to write without sacrificing time with your family (or your sanity!?) Sadly there is no magic pill but there is a way to build small sustainable habits that will help alleviate the feeling of not having enough time in the day to accomplish what you want with your writing. Join Brandy Prettyman as she delves into the six daily habits she has employed to help her write more, and write more often, than ever before.

Brandy Prettyman is a published poet, mother, teacher, business owner, and Army veteran. In her spare time, she loves to travel the world and visit local coffee shops but most days you will find her sipping a latte and watching her three trusty pups Muffin, Spidie and Mary Puppins playing at home in Papillion, NE.

Saturday

9:00 AM

Using Internal Thought to Create Characterization and Voice by Janette Rallison

Agents and editors continually say that they're looking for a strong voice, but are frequently vague about how to go about accomplishing said feat. This class will not only teach you what voice is, it will give practical advice and hands on practice at developing your story's voice. You'll learn why internal thought is one of the most important tools in your author toolbox.

USA Today, bestselling author, Janette Rallison/ CJ Hill writes books because writing is much more fun than cleaning bathrooms. Her avoidance of housework has led her to writing 31 novels that have sold over 1,000,000 print copies and have been on many reading and state lists. Her books are fantasy, sci-fi,

and romantic comedy because hey, there is enough angst in real life, but there's a drastic shortage of humor, romance, and hot guys who fight dragons. She lives in Chandler, Arizona with her husband, kids, and enough cats to classify her as eccentric.

Writing Voices of Color: Respect, Research, and Relevant Issues by Mari Beck

When writing BIPOC characters it is absolute necessity as a non-BIPOC writer to know whether you're telling the story from a primary source or your own "translated" version. This class will demonstrate how respecting your characters' culture, language & struggle, doing multi-faceted research at the source and understanding the relevant issues facing the BIPOC community/reader will make for a truly "successful" work of fiction/non-fiction.

Mari Beck is a Latina author and co-founder of the Central Nebraska Writers Group with two published books & five full length novels publishing weekly in Kindle Vella. A former Director of an undergraduate program in Spanish Translation, she is a beta reader for authors writing people of color and mentors authors in all phases of the writing process.

Creating Believable Dialogue by Brandy Prettyman

One of the main challenges in writing is crafting believable dialogue between characters without bogging down the story. Cutting through the "ums" and "uhs" to draw your reader further into your story without having a character word vomit on the page can be difficult - especially if you don't have a well of similar conversations to draw from. During this class we will be exploring ways to write characters speaking and interacting with each other in ways that are true to life, without injecting all the unnecessary 'filler' that we tend to use when we speak.

Brandy Prettyman likes to live in worlds of make believe and magic. Ms. Prettyman is the author of the soon to be released fantasy novels Jumpers Fall and Flawed. Creating characters to kill in epic battles of good and evil is hard but rewarding work; you can find her unwinding after a long day of creation and destruction at one of the many fabulous local coffee shops around Omaha, Nebraska.

Comic Book Basics & Superhero Starting Points – 2 hour Intensive by AE Stueve

In "Comic Book Basics and Superhero Starting Points" students will learn a short lesson on the superhero comic book as a work of literature, the history of comic books in the United States, and some of the positive and negative examples of superhero comic books available. Additionally, they will learn a simple formula to create their own comic book superhero.

AE Stueve teaches, writing, photography, filmmaking, and design at Bellevue West High and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His novels, short stories, poems, and essays can be found online and in print. To learn more about him, check out his website: aestueve.com and follow him on twitter or Instagram @aestueve.

10:00 AM

How-To: Vendor Tables by Katherine Wielechowski

Grab your favorite signin' pen and your extrovert pants because you just signed up to sell your books at a convention/fair/festival/makers fair! In this class, we'll talk about what you'll need to outfit your table for your first event and what you can gradually add to make your display pop.

Katherine is a Nebraska native who writes all of the things and hangs out with her cat.

First Steps into Hollywood by The And I Thought Ladies

Every author has the desire to see their book as a movie. The mystery is how to get started. This presentations explains the first steps toward this happening. We discuss loglines, how to create a pitch deck in detail, what is required in a pitch for a tv show to a producer and lastly where any writers can meet producers/directors to pitch their tv show. There will be a short time to create a pitch. If time permits we'll review the pitches developed during class.

Wilnona and Jade are one of the 20 Iconic Authors according to every writer's resource. Jade was the Poet of the Year 2019. They are the founders of The IWLMJ Awards, 25 Hottest Authors magazine, Thoughtful Book Festival,& AITL Literary Magazine. They have done 4 European book tours, they starred in the docu-series Just Writing life on Amazon and channel 18 and the documentary film Create Aspire and Inspire. They are on the list of #18th most interviewed authors in the world.

You Can Do it All—Just Not All at Once by Tara Grace Ericson

Best-selling author and engineer-turned-stay-at-home mom, Tara Grace Ericson will be talking about productivity, prioritization, habits, and goal setting from the perspective that is familiar to many of us: over-scheduled, under-rested, over-stimulated, and unmotivated by the end of the day.

Come learn how you can carve out time for your writing, use your time more efficiently to get more done, and create a writing production and marketing schedule that fits both your life and your goals.

Whether you're juggling kids, jobs, medical issues or something else in addition to your writing, this class will encourage and equip you to find a fulfilling balance.

Tara Grace Ericson is an award-winning author of Christian romance and romantic suspense. She lives in Missouri with her husband and three sons. Before embracing her creative side to become a full-time author and mom, Tara worked as a manufacturing engineer for many years.

Tara is also the author of Prayers for Writers and the co-author of the Romance Trope Encyclopedia Series.

11:00 AM

Taking the Emotional Journey by Kristin Ganoung

Some books beg to be reread again and again, having characters and worlds that seem to come alive. Some books are forgotten almost immediately after the final page is turned. How can a writer boost the odds that his/her book will be in the former category rather than the latter? Perhaps the key lies not so much in the book's plotting or protagonist's outward physical journey as how strongly the story causes the reader to feel. Learn some ways you can map out your story's emotional journey so that it will resonate in readers' memories long after they've finished the book.

Kristin Ganoung is the author of three middle grade novels about George, a cat who does his best to keep the other animals and humans on his farm doing exactly as he wishes—sometimes with

unintended results. Two of the books are Nebraska Center for the Book award winners. Kristin lives in the beautiful Sandhills of Nebraska with her family and not one, but two cats named George.

Library Appearances and How to Get Them by Tammy Marshall

Library appearances can boost your book sales and increase your exposure to the people you most need as an author -- readers! I've appeared at over twenty Nebraska libraries (so far) and placed my books in libraries in three states (so far) -- all in the past two years. Forming solid connections and relationships with librarians is essential for indie authors. Learn how to start and what to do when you secure an appearance and hear what librarians across the state have to say about hosting local authors.

Tammy Marshall is a novelist, columnist, poet, blogger, retired teacher, mother, motorcyclist and American Legion Rider, watercolor artist, and world traveler. Her published books are *The Clearwater House*, *State of Georgia and Other Writings*, *Ticker Tape*, *Twinges*, and *Trouble on Tybee* and her regular column, "Novel Thoughts," runs in *The Norfolk Daily News* in Norfolk, Nebraska, and in the *Bristol Herald Courier* in Bristol, TN/VA. Her website is tammymarshallauthor.wordpress.com. Follow her on Facebook or Instagram @tammymarshallauthor. She is also on Twitter and has a YouTube channel.

Receiving Feedback Without Breaking by Lisa Swinton

You're a good writer. Except when you get feedback from your critique group. Or read your reviews. Or get unsolicited advice from Aunt Jane about how to improve your story. Then you want to drown your sorrows in a big plate of nachos or a tub of ice cream. So, how do you grow a strong spine, thick skin, and fearlessly face down the mighty red pen? Come to this class and learn.

Award-winning author Lisa Swinton loves romance, travel, Disney, Jane Austen, and tidying up, not necessarily in that order. When she's not writing and being a mom, you might find her singing on stage.

You Want to Write Your Life's Story—Now What? By Tara Cummins

Memoir can be some of the most touching and memorable books available. But how do you take your day-to-day life and make it into a book that people can't put down? Tara will walk you through narrowing down which events should be in your memoir and which ones can be left out to grab a reader's attention and keep them turning the pages of your book. Tara will also talk about the best ways to thread something throughout the book so that the ending satisfies all the readers hopes and your own

Tara Cummins has always loved being a storyteller and began writing her personal stories down on her father's old typewriter when she was in elementary school. She received her MFA in Creative Writing literature and fiction from California State University of San Bernardino using a memoir as her thesis. While attending school she studied under great memoir authors: James Brown (*L.A. Diaries* et al) and Paula Primos (*The Shyster's Daughter*, et al). Her memoir stories have appeared in the *Redlands Review*, the *Pacific Review*, and *Draught City Lit Mag*. Her memoir, *Mother's Ingredients*, debuted in April of 2020.

2:00 PM

The Ballad of the Hero's Journey by Don Carey

"Gather 'round while I sing of the Great Hero's journey, The archetype of story and play."
In his book, "The Hero of a Thousand Faces," Joseph Campbell explores the ideas common to many

world mythologies. This workshop introduces the storytelling gold uncovered by Campbell's research. We will discuss how character archetypes and story elements common to all times and cultures can apply to you and your story, no matter what type of fiction you write. There may also be a sing-along.

Don Carey is an author and software team leader currently living in Kansas. When not working or writing, he can be found riding his bicycle and playing ukulele. As a child of the 70s and 80s he dreamed of a future world with videophones, pocket supercomputers, and televisions so thin and flat they could hang on the wall like a picture. He is currently using his forward-thinking imagination to develop a series of sweet, post-contemporary romance projects under the pen name Leslie Dacapo.

I Spy for Writers by Julia Kay

Has your writing lost its sparkle and shine? Are you struggling to find fresh ideas? Has your writing process become dry and boring? If so, join Julia Kay for a fun, interactive workshop to help ignite your creativity. This workshop is designed for writers of all genres and all career levels. Bring a positive attitude and your favorite pen or device. And be prepared to discover or rediscover the joy of letting your imagination out to play.

Julia Kay has a bachelor's degree in English from Southwest Baptist University and is currently pursuing an MFA from Lindenwood University. As a columnist, poet, and fiction writer, she explores and illuminates the human condition. She currently serves as an officer for the MozArks Chapter of American Christian Fiction Writers. She also serves as a director for a local nonprofit ministry that helps women find transformative freedom and rebuild their lives after incarceration.

Characters Who Take Up Space – 2 hour Intensive by Jaye Viner

It is often difficult to fully realize a physical body in a physical space for a reader. Both bodies and spatial possibilities are often overlooked in writing craft. This generative workshop will use texts like Amy Cuddy's, *Presence*, to explore new ways of creating characters' physical presence on the page, and how their experiences with themselves, with their environment, and with other characters co-create that embodiment. Expect to come away with tools for building characters and revised or new scenes.

Jaye Viner lives on what used to be the plains of eastern Nebraska with two feline fur bombs and a very tall man. She knows just enough about a wide variety of things to embarrass herself at parties she never attends. She holds an MFA and MA from the University of Nebraska. Her writing has been published in *Drabblecast*, *The Roanoke Review*, and *Everyday Fiction*. Her first novel, *Jane of Battery Park*, is now available from Red Hen Press

Romancing the Cone by Amy White

Level up your romance using the secrets found in FSNA Story Cone—before anyone else has access to this ground-breaking research and get that predictable emotional response from your audience! Learn what a configurative character structure is and how to apply these empirically proven dynamics that gets your writing noticed, whether you have a full blown romance, or if your drama happens to have a bit of the romantic vibe going. Value added bonus of learning how to apply it in a friendship, alliance, or other give and take relationship.

Amy White is licensed with the patent-pending Farmer System of Narrative Analysis (aka The Story Cone) as a masterclass teacher, story analyst, and *Cracking the Story Code* graphic artist with 13 years of experience analyzing, green-lighting, and coaching. A retired librarian, Amy now co-creates FSNA

licensing conferences with Katherine Farmer, and Story Code courses with Wendy Folsom. Amy is the author of the bestseller *Dressing the Naked Hand* and is a master puppeteer and performer. When not recording YouTube movie reviews—it's the best excuse EVER to watch movies--Amy drives tractor on the family farm harvesting alfalfa.

3:00 PM

Kickstarter for Authors by Heather Justesen

Unless you lived under a rock, you've probably heard about how Brandon Sanderson made \$41 million dollars on his Kickstarter campaign. Even if you are not Brandon Sanderson, you too can have a successful Kickstarter to fund your creative work--even if it is on a much smaller scale. In this class, you'll learn what Kickstarter is and how you can use it to create buzz, fund Indie projects, build community, and reach new audiences.

Heather Justesen is the author of more than three-dozen sweet romance and cozy mystery novels. She is also graduating with her MFA in creative writing this spring.

Writing to Market to Sell More Books by Victorine Lieske

The secret to selling a lot of books is learning what people want to read and giving it to them. In this class we will learn what writing to market means, and what it doesn't mean. There is no certain path to massive sales, but there are best practices you can do in order to increase your chances of earning a living from your writing. We will discuss how to research the market in order to gain insights into what people want to read, and how to do all of this without feeling like you are selling out.

Victorine self-published her first book, *Not What She Seems*, in April of 2010. In March of 2011, *Not What She Seems* began its 6-week run on The New York Times best-selling eBook list. By May 2011 she had sold over 100,000 copies. Victorine's first romantic comedy novel hit the USA Today Bestselling books list in January 2015. When she's not writing, she's watching Korean Dramas, or making something with her extensive yarn collection.

Do You Need a Y Chromosome to be a Hero by Cambria Engstrom

One of the biggest challenges in storytelling is developing a protagonist with whom your audience can relate, and by whom your audience can be inspired. It can be particularly challenging to write an impressive female protagonist due to old but still influential cultural and literary traditions that frame women as weak. Author Denise Ross has gone so far as to claim if there is a man in the story, then it is by definition a Hero's Journey about that man. Nothing could be further from the truth. In this lecture, we will explore the key differences between what author Kate Hudson describes as the Virgin's Journey, which is fundamentally a journey of inner progression, and the more well-known Hero's Journey, famously outlined by Joseph Campbell, which is at its core a journey of preservation; and we will discuss the key feature these journeys share, which is the use of the protagonist's strengths to overcome adversity in the narrative. Attendees will emerge with a stronger grasp of the key to creating heroic protagonists, which is not gender but movement in the narrative itself.

I am mother, a wife, and a writer. Each one posses it's own challenges. But each of them is an extremely important part of who I am. Especially since I have come a long way from traveling to foreign countries

to sleeping in a coffin size bed on an air craft carrier. God has led me through fire and high water to become a Mother of goblins, Master of writing, and a gaming partner for my nerdy husband.