



## The 11<sup>th</sup> Lewes Creative Writers' Conference

**Friday, August 17, 2018**

**Readings, 5:00 PM**

Sheree Bykofsky, David Robson, David Teague, and BJ Ward

**Saturday, August 18, 2018**

**Conference, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM**

Lewes Public Library

111 Adams Avenue

Lewes, DE 19958

(302) 645-2733

### **Conference Schedule**

- 8:00 - 8:30      Registration and Refreshments  
Book Sales
- 8:30 - 8:50      General Remarks - Lea Rosell and Billie Travalini
- 9:00 - 10:30     Session I
- 10:35 - 12:05    Session II
- 12:05 - 1:50     Presentation of Florence C. Coltman Award for Creative Writing  
Delaware Division of the Arts
- Part I Grants & Opportunities for Artists: Step-by-Step
  - Part II The 2018 Recipients of a Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowship in Literature will read from their work
  - Book sales and signings
- 2:00 - 3:30    Session III

### **Conference sponsored by**

Lewes Public Library

National League of American Pen Women, Diamond State Branch

Delaware Division of Libraries

Delaware Division of the Arts

Rehoboth Beach Writers' Guild





## **SESSION I - Select One**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM**

### **Crafting a Life: The Art of Memoir**

**David Teague**

To document, explore, commemorate, and ultimately to understand the relationship of ones' life to history is no easy undertaking, but this is the task of the memoirist. From the initial recollection of events to the quest to bestow on these events inward and outward meaning, memoir requires the imagination of the storyteller, the knowledge of the historian, and the discipline of the editor. *Crafting a Life* will explore the practice of written recollection and consider paths forward in its participants' quests to commit memory to language.

### **“I’m Talkin’ Here”: Exposing Character Through Dialogue**

**David Robson**

Like life, writing dialogue is hard. How do you make it sound natural? What’s the best way to bring authenticity to your characters’ voices? How do you develop an “ear” for dialogue? This hands-on session will dig deeply into the ways in which characters speak and present themselves verbally, and how these idiosyncrasies and habits can be crafted to reveal and expose character traits on the page and on the stage. Participants will get a crash course in creating distinctive “voices” and verbal patterns for each of their characters, all the while keeping the prose sharp and thrilling. Examples will be drawn from a variety of common literary styles, with an emphasis on building believability and truthfulness into our work. By session’s end, participants will be primed to unleash snappy, character-driven dialogue into their plays, novels, short stories, poetry, and screenplays.

### **Poetry Roundtable**

**BJ Ward**

At this roundtable session, we will read and comment on one another's in-progress poems. Participants are asked to submit a poem in any style, by July 15 to [bjwardpoetry@gmail.com](mailto:bjwardpoetry@gmail.com).

Notification of acceptance will be emailed by August 1. If accepted, participants will be asked to prepare for the workshop by studying each other's poems and preparing written comments beforehand.

**\*Workshop is limited to 8 participants.**





## **SESSION II - Select One**

### **10:35 AM – 12:05 PM**

#### **The Essentials of Pacing**

##### **Maribeth Fischer**

“Pacing is part structural choices and part word choices, when driving a manual transmission car, you choose the most effective gear needed for driving uphill, maneuvering city streets, or cruising down a freeway. Similarly, when pacing your story, you need to choose the devices that move each scene along at the right speed.”

- Jessica Page Morrell, *Crafting Novels & Short Stories*

Is your novel written all in scenes? All in summary? Does everything come to the reader at the same pace? Understanding when to slow the action in your novel, essay or story and when to speed up are crucial decisions that will affect the reader’s choice whether to keep reading your work or not. And how does one include enough of the backstory without weighing the reader down? When should one use flashbacks and how are flashbacks written differently from scenes in the present tense? How does one move seamlessly from present to past back to present without losing the reader? Are there rules? What about flashforwards? Pacing, in other words, is essential.

#### **A Master Class in Pitching Agents and Publishers**

##### **Sheree Bykofsky**

Learn the difference between a pitch, a query and a proposal. You can gain an edge in the competitive world of publishing. Get noticed and get published. Please bring pen and paper to this entertaining and illuminating hands-on workshop.

#### **Memoir Roundtable**

##### **David Teague**

At the Roundtable, we will read and comment on one another's in-progress memoirs. Participants are asked to submit a five-page excerpt, approximately, as self-contained as possible, by July 15 to [teague@udel.edu](mailto:teague@udel.edu). Notification of acceptance will be emailed by August 1. If accepted, participants will be asked to prepare for the workshop by studying each other's submissions and preparing comments beforehand.





## **Lunch Sessions, Book Sales, & Signings**

### **12:05 - 1:50 PM**

## **Presentation of the Florence C. Coltman Award for Creative Writing**

### **Delaware Division of the Arts**

#### **Part I Grants & Opportunities for Artists: Step-by-Step** **Roxanne Stanulis, Program Officer, Artist Services Coordinator, Marketing, Grantee Liaison**

In this short session you will learn what services are available to writers, including who's eligible for grants and fellowships and what's involved in the application process. All services are free. Learn how much the DDOA has to offer you and how easy it is to participate. You will also learn what the Delaware Arts Roster can do to get your work in the public eye, increase sales, and open up opportunities for readings, lectures, and more.

#### **Part 2 Reading: The 2018 Delaware Division of the Arts Fellows in Literature will read from their work**

##### **Maribeth Fischer**

Professional, Creative Nonfiction

##### **David Kozinski**

Professional, Poetry

##### **Jen Epler**

Emerging, Fiction

##### **Gemelle John**

Emerging, Poetry

##### **Shannon Connor Winward**

Emerging, Fiction





## **SESSION III - Select One**

### **2:00 – 3:30 PM**

#### **The Six Secrets of Successfully Published Authors**

##### **Sheree Bykofsky**

Becoming a published author is like becoming a contestant on Wheel of Fortune. Literary agent and best-selling author of over 30 books, Sheree Bykofsky will tell you the six secrets of successfully published authors and how she won \$34,000 on Wheel of Fortune. She will also tell you why most authors need an agent, how to work with an agent, and how to work without an agent. Bring every question you have about getting published.

#### **Craft Discussion: A Fresh Break for Your Writing—Viewing a Poem’s Line Breaks as Possibilities, Not Endings**

##### **BJ Ward**

Examining a wide range of poems written in the last 80 years, we will explore how line break choice can augment a poem’s tone by emphasizing images, sounds, and silences. Poets examined will include Stanley Kunitz, e.e. cummings, Lucille Clifton, Ross Gay, Stephen Dunn, Heather McHugh and Margaret Atwood, among others. Participants will then receive a writing prompt and be invited to compose a new poem based on the prompt and share their poem with the class.

#### **Playwriting Roundtable**

##### **David Robson**

This Roundtable will give writers a chance to deepen and polish a particular scene. Scenes should aim to tell the broader story through the building of character driven tension. The scene can be from a play or script: Act I, Scene I, or a later scene. Please submit up to six pages of your play OR script (typed) by July 1, to [djrobson42@gmail.com](mailto:djrobson42@gmail.com). Notification of acceptance will be emailed by August 1. If accepted, members will be sent each other's work to read and prepare written responses that will, hopefully, help each writer strengthen his or her scenes.

**\*Workshop is limited to eight writers**

**This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.**





## Bios

### **Sheree Bykofsky**

founded her agency, Sheree Bykofsky Associates, Inc., in New York City and has represented over 100 authors. She is also the author of more than two dozen books, including five editions of **THE COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO GETTING PUBLISHED** (not for idiots). Her agency represents all adult genres, but concentrates on prescriptive non-fiction, especially health, business, self-help/psychology, parenting, food, spiritual, games, biography and current affairs, women's interest, humor, pop culture. In fiction, we particularly like commercial fiction with literary appeal and mysteries. We are always looking for a bestseller in any category. For a more comprehensive bio see [shereebee.com](http://shereebee.com).

### **Maribeth Fischer**

is the author of two novels, *The Language of Goodbye* (Dutton 2001), and *The Life You Longed For* (Simon & Schuster, 2007), which was published in five countries. Since 2009, Fischer has received three Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowships for fiction and nonfiction. Most recently she was awarded a fellowship as an Established Writer in Creative Nonfiction for 2018. She has published essays in such journals as *The Iowa Review*, *The Yale Review* and *Creative Nonfiction* and has received two Pushcart Prizes for her essays: "Stillborn," in 1994; and "The Fiction Writer," in 2014. She has two essays forthcoming in *Fourth Genre*. Maribeth founded the Rehoboth Beach Writers' Guild (RBWG) in 2005, where she currently serves as Executive Director and teaches classes in both novel writing and creative nonfiction.

### **David Robson**

is an award-winning playwright whose work for the stage has been hailed as "compelling, "forceful," and "gut-wrenching" by the New York Times, and "an important contribution to contemporary theater" by the Philadelphia Inquirer. His plays include **BIRTHRIGHT; THE PASSION OF M.; MULEHEADED; AFTER BIRTH OF A NATION; PRICELESS; PLAYING THE ASSASSIN; PLAYING LENI** (co-written with John Stanton); **A FEW SMALL REPAIRS; MAN MEASURES MAN** (Barrymore Award nomination); and **AFTER DENMARK**. His work has been produced by TheaterWorks Hartford, Delaware Theatre Company, Penguin Rep, InterAct Theatre Company, Act II Playhouse, and City Theater Company, among others. Robson was recently named Delaware's Best Playwright by Broadway World and is recipient of the Hotel Obligado Audience Choice Award for New Work. Other honors include the Susan McIntyre Playwriting Award, the Panowski Playwriting Award (runner-up), and two playwriting fellowships and two





grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts. His plays and monologues are published by Smith and Kraus and Original Works Publishing. Robson is a member of the Dramatists' Guild, the Playwrights' Center, and is a former playwright in residence at the Lark Play Development Center in New York City. He is the author of more than a dozen books for young adults, including *Shakespeare's Globe Theater*, *The Murder of Emmett Till*, and *The Black Arts Movement*. **PLAYING THE ASSASSIN** is slated for an Off-Broadway production in the summer and fall of 2019.

## **David Teague**

is Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Delaware Associate in Arts Program in Wilmington and a member in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program, where he specializes in the instruction of Memoir Writing. He is the author of three books of literary criticism: *The Southwest in American Literature: The Rise of a Desert Aesthetic*, *The Secret Life of John C. Van Dyke: Correspondence, 1890-1932*, and *The Nature of Cities*, as well as six books for children: *Franklin's Big Dreams*, *The Red Hat*, *Saving Lucas Biggs*, *Connect the Stars*, *Henry Cicada's Extraordinary Elktonium Escapade*, and *How Oscar Indigo Broke the Universe and Put It Back Together Again*. Dr. Teague serves on the board of the Delaware Humanities Forum, and is a Fellow in the Delaware Teachers Institute and the Yale National Teachers Initiative. He is the UD Community Engagement Fellow and a director of the Just Write! Wilmington initiative, a creative writing program for underserved children in Wilmington, as well as a participant in 100 Men Reading, a local literacy collaborative.

## **BJ Ward**

is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *Jackleg Opera: Collected Poems 1990-2013*, which received the Paterson Award for Literary Excellence. His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *The New York Times*, *The Normal School*, and *The Sun*, among others. He is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and two Distinguished Artist Fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. His website is [www.bj-ward.com](http://www.bj-ward.com).

