



The 12th Lewes Creative Writers' Conference

Friday, August 16, 2019

Readings, 5:00 PM

Sandra Beasley, Linda Blaskey, Michele Chynoweth,
Richard Peabody, David Teague, and Billie Travalini

Saturday, August 17, 2019

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
Refreshments sponsored by The Happy Self Publisher
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 Delaware Division of the Arts
- Part I Grants & Opportunities for Artists: Step-by-Step
 - Part II The 2019 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 the Arts
Delaware Division of Libraries
Rehoboth Beach Writers' Guild





SESSION I – Select One

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Someone Else’s Shoes: Playing With Persona **Sandra Beasley**

Drawing from the well of the writer’s own life is a wonderful practice and at times, a tiring one. What about writing what we don’t know? The persona poem has a long tradition and is a powerful way to access a different place, era, or set of concerns. By looking at poems with unconventional points of view, ranging from a lonely mirror to an angry yak, you will explore how to inhabit someone else’s shoes for the length of a poem--and get ready to write your own persona poem.

The Importance of Rewriting and Editing **Michele Chynoweth**

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Often writers are in such a rush they don’t take the time, or rely on expert resources, to perfect their work before submitting. Yes, you can self-publish. But, if you do, you want to get it right. The rewriting and editing process plays a vital role in making sure a book sounds and looks polished before it’s published. Best-selling author, writing instructor, book coach and former news reporter and editor Michele Chynoweth will share rewriting and editing tips on organization, style, chapter, paragraph and sentence structure, voice, point of view, description, dialogue, proofing, formatting and more to make your story shine before you launch it into the marketplace!


Youth Fiction Roundtable* **David Teague**

At this roundtable, we will read and comment on one another's in-progress youth fiction. Participants are asked to submit a five-page excerpt, approximately, as self-contained as possible, by July 15 to teague@udel.edu.

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

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





SESSION II – Select One

10:35 AM – 12:05 PM

Which Publishing Path to Take & How to Land a Literary Agent **Michele Chynoweth**

Learn from an award-winning, best-selling author and marketing professional, who dreamed (like most writers) that she had the next bestseller and would be “discovered” by a major publisher – and after a tumultuous journey finally made that dream come true. Michelle has been through it all, from self-publishing to working with a small Christian publisher to landing a large Indie publisher out of New York to signing with a top literary agent to have her fourth upcoming novel published by a traditional publisher. This session will cover how to navigate the traditional and self-publishing world when it comes to time, money, marketing, literary agents, and more.

Anthology versus Contests: Which is the Better Choice and Why? **Linda Blaskey, Richard Peabody, and Billie Travalini**

For both emerging and established poets and writers, submitting to anthologies and contests can be a smart move that can lead to increased visibility in the highly competitive world of publishing. This said, anthologies and contests often have rules related to fees and/or publication rights. Therefore before submitting, it is wise to treat your writing like any other asset by balancing what you have invested against the possible outcomes.

A panel of three experts will share the simple steps you can take to help decide the best choice for you. A question and session will follow.

Poetry Roundtable* **Sandra Beasley**

At this roundtable, we will read and comment on one another's in-progress poems. Participants are asked to email a poem, no longer than one page, by July 15, to btravalini@gmail.com. Notice of acceptance will be emailed by August 1. If accepted, participants will bring eight copies of their poem to share. The workshop conversation will offer encouragement and constructive feedback regarding clarity, imagery, sound play, structural choices, and taking risks on the page. All styles are welcome.

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





Lunch Sessions, Book Sales, & Signings **12:05 - 1:50 PM**

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 2019 Delaware Division of the Arts Fellows in Literature will read from their work

Billie Travalini

Masters, Fiction

Jenifer Adams-Mitchell

Emerging Artist, Fiction

Don Foster

Established Professional, Fiction

Karen Hurley-Heyman

Emerging Artist, Poetry

Leslie Hsu Oh

Established Professional, Creative Nonfiction

Mary-Margaret Pauer

Emerging Artist, Creative Nonfiction

Chet'la Sebree

Established Professional, Poetry





SESSION III - Select One

2:00 – 3:30 PM

The Mind of a Young Reader: A Rare and Precious Thing

David Teague

To write for young readers (rather than to them or at them) is a rare and delicate skill. And extremely important, for the books children read in late childhood and young adulthood are typically the most influential of their lives. So what does it take to become a storyteller to young minds? How do we craft narratives of value that also engage the most fleeting and valuable of treasures, the imagination of an adolescent? How do we remain childlike without becoming childish? This session will explore ways in which groundbreaking Middle-Grades and Young Adult authors have mastered the skill of engaging young minds without overwhelming (or underwhelming) them, and help participants develop these skills in their own writing.

Flash Fiction (also known as Short-Short Fiction)

Billie Travalini

Readers root for spunk. This is especially true of readers of flash fiction, where characters are on a quest: they long for something. But, unlike longer stories, flash fiction has little space; therefore, some details have to be hinted at, not written. Using critically successful stories—all under 500 words—as our models, we will uncover what it takes to write flash fiction that is honest without being cruel and interesting without being self-serving, and we will write our own flash fiction stories.

*Workshop is ideal for both emerging and established writers.

Poetry Roundtable*

Richard Peabody

Participants will write poems from spoken and visual prompts to spark something invigorating and new via image and point of view. After this, participants will be encouraged to share their new work for gentle, and hopefully, useful feedback.

*Workshop is ideal for both emerging and established poets. No need to submit work beforehand. Workshop limited to the first fifteen poets who register.

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.

