

2021 IYWM Schedule		
Schedule may change. Watch for updates.		
Track 1	Track 2	Panels
Thursday 7/8		Pre-recorded. Watch anytime during the con.
3:00 PM Promptopolooza/Donna J. W. Munro		Understanding Indie Publishing/(M) Joe Compton, Virginia Nelson, Johnny Worthen, Shelley Bates.
Come do writing sprints with images designed to get you writing. Write your own flash fiction or develop a new idea.		World Building/ (M) Renn (Cathy) Oswald, J.L. Gribble, Anna LaVoie, Kristopher Campa,
4:00 PM Diversifying Your Horror Curriculum/Joseph Colavito		About Editing/(M) Anna LaVoie, J.L. Gribble, Virginia Nelson, Deanna Sjolander.
It is becoming paramount to assure the presence of diverse voices in our horror courses whether they be about writing or literature, but what resources are out there to assist in this endeavor? Let's convene to share ideas and approaches; bring a favorite text, share a resource, present ideas on addressing the contributions women, people of color, LGBT, and writers outside the US bring to the table that can enrich our curricula.		Story Sturcture/(M) Renn (Cathy) Oswald, Jeni Fred, Jennifer Lorring, Anna LVoie.
5:00 PM Pitch Practice/Deanna Sjolander		Conflict and Plot/(M) Donna J. W. Munro, Jennifer Lorring, Tonia Ransom, Patricia Lillie, L. Marie Wood.
Prep your pitch for tomorrow with Deanna. Bring your elevator and polish it to a shine.		
6:00 PM Breaking the Rules: The Path to Authentic Writing/L. Marie Wood		
Do you sometimes feel like you are trying to fit a square peg into a round hole? Like you are trying to hit plot points that don't align with your story or add elements that don't belong in your story because they seem to be popular? If so, this presentation is for you! Breaking the Rules: The Path to Authentic Writing takes a look at this compulsion and really dives into what it means to be a creative. You may learn something about the business that you didn't know... you may also learn something about yourself along the way.		
7:00 PM Live Recording of the Spec Griot Garage/Anton Cancre		
The Spec Griot Garage is a podcast about poetry. Normally, it is just Anton Cancre and a guest talking about a poem. However, a live recording with an audience means the opportunity for audience participation in the discussion, which could be fun.		
8 PM-12 AM Parties	Critique Rooms	
Friday 7/9		
9:00 AM Finding a Short Story Markets/Samantha Lienhard	Wanna Play a Game? Old School Tricks to Start Your Story/Joseph Colavito	
You've written a short story, revised it, gotten feedback, and revised it again until it's ready for publication... now what? How do you find a home for your new short story? In this workshop, we'll take a look at helpful resources and methods for finding, researching, and tracking short story markets.	I teach a class in Horror Writing for non-majors, many of whom struggle with academic writing, and many have never even pondered writing creatively. To help the class along, I've developed a myriad of games that provide prompts. Using alphabet flash cards, tarot, dice, and the ubiquitous "what if" we work together to come up with story possibilities in large and small groups. We then discuss how these bases can turn into something new. Useful for teachers and writers.	

10:00	Cover Credit or Cash?/Jeni Fred	Delving Deep into Setting: How to Make a Setting More Than Just a Time and Place/Vanessa Essler Carlson	
	When COVID hit, I very quickly replaced my sub income ghostwriting and am just beginning to replace a full time teaching income. This session will focus on how profitable ghostwriting can be and all of the options available.	Once upon a time, in a land far away... Ah, the simple, vague sort of setting that opened classic fairy tales. There's nothing to it, just a time and a place. As tempting as it may be to merely plop in a date and a location into your story and leave it at that, there's so much more delicious power you can conjure with your setting. A setting is more than a stage waiting to be graced with characters; it's a crucial thread weaved in the tapestry of the tale. One you can use to highlight or contrast other elements of your story. This workshop will explore the often-overlooked opportunities that a setting can provide for a story. We will explore using the setting as a character, a means to set tone and symbolic uses, and setting as a vital part of the plot. Attendees will consider these possibilities through their own works in progress with brief brainstorming activities. We will wrap up with a discussion about utilizing setting in unique ways and questions.	
11:00 AM	Turning Your Book into a Screenplay/Joe Compton	Writing to Theme/Johnny Worthen	
	So you want to see your work become a movie or TV Series? Well Joe Compton did this for a living for a few years and is a screenwriter and author himself. There are some myths to shatter, there are some things to consider and there are some truths you need to hear. Joe will cover as much as he can to help you realize this dream, figure out what it is you really want to do with your work, and help you get that first step toward whatever your goal is.	Raise your work to literary levels by consciously incorporating themes. Learn how to identify what you're trying to say and actively nurture the subtler but greater questions you're addressing. Enhance your writing with symbols as signposts, layers of grays and depths of meaning. Give the literary critics something to enjoy, Class will study the therapeutic qualities of writing and ask the author to consciously incorporate ideas of theme into their work, exploring the human condition through parallel plots, symbols, conflict, and alternative points of view to address lingering questions and personal issues. From the lighthouse of intent, to hard questions, symbols, subplots and echoes, the class will encourage the writer to plumb the depths of meaning, bleed a little and create multiple strands of meaning in their work.	
12:00 PM	Watching and Reading Like an Academic/Elsa M. Curuthers and Rhonda J. Garcia	Characterization and Dialogue/Lucy A. Snyder	
	Learning to analyze books and film can enrich your enjoyment, strengthen your own writing, and open up new career opportunities. Workshop attendees will have learned how to approach a work with a more critical eye, deepening their enjoyment of the genre. They will have practiced analyzing several scenes and be presented with a list of resources to use in the future.	Characters are at the heart of stories; dialogue helps define characters and drives plot tension. In this workshop you'll learn to develop characters, consider word choice, and define their voice through dialogue. The workshop will present essential tips to improve dialogue and explore how to write dialogue that rings true, deepens character, creates conflict, and more.	
1:00 PM	Poetry Playground/Anton Cancre	Writing for Audio/Tonia Ransom	
	This workshop is for poets of all levels, from pros to people who have never strung together a haiku. We will play several writing games to kickstart your creativity. Time will be given to write, then we will share the joy of creation with each other. No critiquing. No rewrites. No workshopping. No stress. Materials: -Something to write with -Something to write on -a sense of adventure -an open heart -a willingness to throw caution to the wind.	In this workshop, we'll write the opening scene of an audio drama. You'll learn all the tools you need to write a successful audio drama script, including how to adapt your ideas to audio, script formatting, and nailing your hook.	
2:00 PM	Done to Death: Avoiding Cliches When Writing Horror and Dark Fantasy/Tim Waggoner	That's Not OCD: Accurate Representation of Mental Illness in Fiction/ Dr. Emily Smith	

	<p>Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's a Trope? • What's the difference between a trope and a cliché? • When does a trope become a cliché? • Familiar Horror Tropes • Horror is About the Unknown. • Putting a New Spin on Old Tropes • Deconstructing tropes • Using tropes from other cultures • Finding analogues of tropes • Disguising tropes • Combining tropes or elements of tropes • Borrowing tropes from other genres • Creating your own original tropes 	<p>This session will discuss how different mental illnesses and treatments thereof actually look so that participants can better write characters with mental illness while reducing misconceptions and stigma.</p>	
3:00 PM	Swipe Right: Your Book Cover is the Tinder Profile Pic of Your Book/François Vaillancourt	Formulas and Tropes in Romance/Kaye Dacus	
	<p>In this session, we will discuss what makes a good book cover, how eBooks have changed the way a cover must be done to be effective on Amazon, the briefing of the artist and the pitfalls to avoid.</p>	<p>There are two words you'll hear writers—especially romance writers—throw around which aren't always used correctly: FORMULA and TROPE. Formula, when it comes to romance, has taken on quite a negative connotation, which I hope to dispel today. Tropes are something we writers like to talk about—which ones we prefer to read and which ones we've used in which of our books. In this session, we'll define these terms and decide for ourselves whether they're good or bad for the romance genre.</p>	
4:00 PM	Clues and Red Herrings: Plotting the Modern Mystery/Victoria Thompson	Public Speaking for Creative Professionals/Carla E. Anderton	
	<p>Edgar- and Agatha-nominated mystery author Victoria Thompson will show attendees an easy method for plotting a mystery and ensuring you have enough suspects to keep the readers enthralled.</p>	<p>Are you paralyzed by the notion of speaking in public? You're not alone! More people are afraid of public speaking than of any other fear or phobia. But, as writers, we need to be comfortable speaking to groups. This 50-minute presentation will provide you with the tools you need to become a successful public speaker.</p>	
5:00 PM	Crafting and Writing/(M)Anna La Voie, Deanna Sjolander, Shelley Bates, Jacob Baugher, and Symantha Reagor.	Is Your Novel Ready for TV or Film?/Melissa Long	
	<p>Join us as we discuss how to combine crafting and storytelling, how crafting skills can influence your approach to writing, and the importance of maintaining a work/life balance.</p>	<p>Many authors dream of selling their novel or series idea to a big-time Hollywood producer and striking it rich, but does your story have what it takes to make it on the big screen? Hollywood is obsessed with buying IP or intellectual property. With so many outlets in need of original programming, now may be the perfect time to adapt your book into a screenplay. In this workshop, I will walk participants through the basics of film and TV adaptation and how to avoid rookie screenwriting mistakes when learning how to write in a new medium.</p>	
6:00 PM	Using the News: Generating Ideas from Headlines/Carla E. Anderton	Are Vampires Still Scary?/Michelle Renee Lane	

	Learn how to scan the news for headlines that translate into ideas for stories, novels, and more. This 50-minute presentation will help you generate ideas by using the news.	Vampires are a staple of popular fiction with origins in the Gothic Horror of Bram Stoker and Sheridan Le Fanu, inspired by the nightmarish myths and legends of Eastern Europe. Over time, they have been adapted to fit a variety of narratives, crossing genres, and evolving to meet the needs of diverse writers and readers. Vampires are one of the most recognized monsters in the traditional horror pantheon, but they are also intricately linked with romance and erotica. Vampires are extremely adaptable to many genres and can easily be used as metaphors for societal ills such as drug addiction, racism, homophobia, sexual repression, and even slavery. In this workshop we will examine the evolution of vampires in popular fiction from Dracula to Interview with the Vampire to The Gilda Stories to True Blood, and yes, even Twilight. Together, we will discuss the roles vampires play in popular fiction, how their images and tropes have changed or stayed the same over time, and we will debate whether vampires are still scary or not. I'll also provide examples of how you can incorporate vampires into almost any genre, and hopefully help you think of ways to make them uniquely your own.	
	7:00 PM Check out the Panels and Readings!		
8 PM-12 AM	Parties	Critique Rooms	
Saturday			
9:00 AM	The Invisible Element: ENERGY/Mike Arnzen	Beyond the Warrior and the Damsel in Distress: Creating 3-D Romance Characters/Kaye Dacus	
	Join Mike Arnzen in a discussion of the role "energy" plays in prose, examining techniques for generating more energetic fiction and modulating it effectively so that it keeps your reader riveted from beginning to end.	The true romance novel is a story about the developing relationship between two characters. Meaning that it is the characters who are the central focus of the story, the characters who drive the plot, the characters whom, at the end of the book, the reader really cares about. Therefore, when setting out to write a romance novel, a considerable amount of care and attention needs to be paid to developing your characters to move them beyond the stereotypical Warrior and Damsel in Distress caricatures.	
10:00 AM	Plotting Backwards/Anna La Voie	Diversifying Our Fiction/Kristopher L. Campa	
	In this workshop I will focus on macro plotting as a way to explore an idea and decide if it is worth pursuing before you get 20,000 words into a dead end. By starting with the ending, and ensuring the author knows where, even in a general sense, the story is going, I hope to save authors that frustrating moment when they realize their story has fizzled out or has an unsound premise. Using elements of Debra Dixon's GMC and lots of group participation, I will show authors how to turn their initial idea into a broad outline with a clear beginning, middle, and end.	Representation in science fiction and fantasy has historically been... lacking. Some authors genuinely don't consider diversity in their works. Others don't feel it is their place to bring up issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion and don't want to steal anyone else's voice. And still more are simply afraid of messing up. But in a world that is increasingly interconnected, where diversity should be at the forefront, our fiction should also accurately reflect the world around us. We will discuss how we as authors can write characters with intersectional identities while being respectful of those voices that aren't our own. And through our openness to diversifying our writing, give power to other writers to share their own unique voices. Strategies for research, descriptions, and general representation. This workshop will use science fiction and fantasy as a lens, but the strategies discussed will be relevant to any genre.	
11:00 AM	Killer Back-Cover Copy/ Shelley Bates	Fortifications 101/Timons Essais	
	Your book's cover gets your reader's attention. Then they read the back-cover copy, where you can clinch that sale. USA Today bestseller and award-winning author Shelley Bates will break down the back-cover blurb, from shoutline to hook. Back-cover copy is an art form, and whether traditionally or indie published, authors need to know how to write it well. The goal for this workshop is for attendees to leave with finished copy for their upcoming book.	"Fortifications 101" is a slide show, discussing defenses through history. This is part of Timons's Warfare for Writers project. There will be naming of parts, with a focus on the nine essential elements that tend to be missing when you visit castles, forts and bastions today.	

12:00 PM	Creating Stories by Changing the Past: Alternate History/J.L. Gribble	Breathing Life into Characters/Virginia Nelson and Vanessa Essler Carlson	
	Join author and editor J.L. Gribble for an interactive presentation on alternate history story-telling. This workshop is geared toward both readers and writers in all genres who are either curious about the genre or looking for inspiration on how to develop their own stories and worlds.	The course will cover character creation, honing your character’s backstory, and breathing life into your words for a more commercially viable story. Further, the course will touch on the difference between what the author needs to know to write the character realistically vs. what makes it into the final draft, which characters deserve “special” treatment, and briefly touch on setting as a character from the author’s standpoint.	
1:00 PM	Navigating Social Media to Promote Your Own Work Correctly/Joe Compton	Writing the Military/Kerri-Leigh Grady, J.L. Gribble, Alex Savage, and Bill Huff	
	Even if you are going to be a Traditionally or Indie/Self-Published Author you will be required and asked to promote yourself, on your own, and in some cases now Traditional publishers expect there first time authors to have an established following before even agreeing to publish them. Yet there is a right way and a wrong way to participate in Social Media strategies in promoting your work and each offers unique opportunities and challenges too. This panel will discuss what each social media platform can do for you, how to use them properly, how to get the most bang for your buck, and how to minimize and spend next to nothing to be successful on each platform. Joining me are Evan Gow, the creator and owner of StoryOrigin an online newsletter swap platform, C. L. Cannon, an expert online marketing strategist and owner of the publishing company Fiction Atlas Press, Jim Nettles, owner and operator of Con-tinual an online network for authors and writer of Business Essentials for Writers, and Katie Salidas, owner of Rising Sign Books a publishing consultant firm, Author of 30 books including Write and Edit the Damn Book - a self publishing guide to success.	Military members and their families often appear as characters in stories, with the military playing at least a small role in the plot or back story. But how often are these portrayals realistic? How often are they downright offensive? In this panel, we'll discuss and take questions about what military life is really like, how the military actually works, and offer tips on how to identify story conflicts that are organic to the military lifestyle.	
2:00 PM	The Art of Suspense: Techniques for Keeping Readers on the Edge of Their Seats/Tim Waggoner	Writing the Romance Novel: The Seven Story Beats/Kaye Dacus	
	Topics covered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do readers love suspense? • Using time constraints. • Creating great heroes and villains. • Creating exciting, unpredictable plots. • How to increase suspense as your story progresses. • Writing with suspenseful pacing. • Suspense in different genres. 	In Writing the Romantic Comedy, Billy Mernit breaks the romance storyline into “seven basic” pieces, or “beats.” Most of us have heard that we should structure novels like plays or movies: in three acts. In a romance, the three acts can be broken down by the plot points the meet, the lose, and the get. In this workshop, we'll break it down even further, learning how to use Mernit's seven story beats to give our work more depth and to help us structure the story.	
3:00 PM	What's Love Got to do With it?/Victoria Thompson	Disability Representation: The Real Deal/Susan Reynolds	
	Romance can always mess things up, especially in fiction. Unless you’re writing a Romance, it doesn’t even have to end happily. If you write Romance, find out how to subvert your tropes in another genre. If you write in any other genre, find out how to use a romance subplot to help and/or hinder your protagonist’s journey.	I would like to talk about what it's like to be truly inclusive and not to fall into the stereotype traps that surround the disability community. What are people with disabilities really like? Ask us! We love sharing with neurotypical people how to be more inclusive for all people with all disabilities. Nothing about us, without us!	
4:00 PM	Fairy Tales: Revised and Remixed/(M)Cathy Oswald, Jennifer Loring, Lee Murray, Donna J. W. Munro, Deanna Sjolander.	Foundations of Horror/Johnny Worthen	
	Fairy tales have always pulled at our imaginations, and recent years have seen an upsurge in spin-offs and reworkings of various fairy tales. This panel explores what fairy tales and fairy tale tropes we are tired of and which we would like to see more of, what are some of the best remixes and retellings out there and what makes them unique, and how we separate our remixed fairy tales from Disney's influence. Come prepared to discuss all things fairy tale and try your hand at reworking one yourself!	A class about the most visceral genre - HORROR. We'll discuss its evolutionary origins, compare it to its sister genre, then explore it, categorize it and wrestle with it to explore techniques to effectively use horror in our own writing.	

5:00 PM	Marketing and Publicity: What Works and What Doesn't/(M)Beverly Bambury, Donna J. W. Munro, Joe Compton.	Submitting Short Fiction: Rules, Tips, and Resources/Patricia Lillie	
	The panel will talk about their experiences on the marketing and publicity side of the business. They will advise viewers on what's worked for them and also what to avoid. Moderated by publicist Beverly Bambury.	You've written, edited and refined your short story. You're proud of it, and it's time to send it out into the world—which is almost scarier than writing it was. In this workshop, we'll discuss preparing your manuscript, writing cover letters, researching markets, reading and following guidelines, what to expect, the many flavors of rejection, and the Acceptance Happy Dance (Don't worry. I won't demonstrate.)\	
6:00 PM	Women Writing Dark Fantasy and Horror/Linda Addison, Stephanie Wytovitch, Lisa Morton, Lee Murray, Lucy Snyder, and Michelle Lane (m).	Secrets of Pacing and Clarity/Steve Saffel	
	Panel to discuss path, what we think are keys to success, and the particular strengths women bring to the craft of writing dark fiction.	The Secrets of Pacing and Clarity, focusing on techniques authors can use to enhance the narrative flow of their work, and use tricks taken from other media (including film, television, and video games).	
7:00-10:00	Book Sale and Readings		
10-?	Parties		
Sunday			
9:00 AM	Make Writing Pay (at least for Dinner)/Donna J. W. Munro, Vonnie Winslow Crist, Patricia Lillie.	Me Write Good and So Can't You/Matt Duvall	
	Let's figure out how to make a little money at this. Moving from a hobbyist to a paid writer is a process. Let's talk about what to expect, improving your chances, and finding a home for your writing.	In this session we will discuss grammar and style, using examples and activities to show how to identify and fix common issues.	
10:00 AM	Tackling Social Justice in Science Fiction/Kristopher Campa	Icelandic Sagas and Eddes/Timons Essais	
	Fiction reflects reality. We hear it and see it all the time. And science fiction in particular tends to reflect the many possibilities of reality into the far-flung future. But what if we want to change reality with our science fiction, mold the outlook for humanity in the real world? What if we want to intentionally contribute to positive social change in the world around us today? How can we as authors address the myriad issues that people are fighting and dying for - from racial injustice to gender and sexuality equality to police reform to immigration? This workshop will focus on ways we as writers can intentionally analyze the social justice themes around us and incorporate them into our writing, how much is too much so that we can avoid being heavy-handed, and look at a few examples of authors already tackling social justice. Come ready to change the world.	The Old Norse literature -- which is quite extensive -- has been a major source for J.R.R. Tolkien, George R.R. Martin, and even authors with no R initials. It seems like half of the Marvel Universe originated there. The recent release of Sagas of Icelanders has made a considerable number of the family sagas available in English, but that only scratches the surface. Timons will explain the world of the Vikings, where farmers would be warriors and poets and literate in three or four languages, and explain how different their literature is from the Medieval Romance literature of the rest of Europe.	
11:00 AM	Just Add Writer: Techniques for Writing Media Tie-In Fiction/Tim Waggoner	Writing Series that Endure/Valerie Burns	
	Topics covered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world of media tie-ins • Media and the written word • Capturing the tone of a media property • Respecting the property • Maintaining originality • Finding tie-in work • The collaborative nature of tie-in work • Business nuts and bolts 	This workshop will focus on tips for creating series that continue.	
12:00 PM	Craft at Paragraph Level/Timons Essais	Jack the Ripper Study/Carla Anderton	

<p>The paragraph is the basic unit of fiction writing, and we rarely teach it. This will be a discussion of how paragraphs work, and how to make sure they actually do something other than keep the header and footer apart. We'll include The Unwritten Rule, Avoiding the Stomp, but no malt balls. Specific attention will be paid to Getting Conflict In Every Paragraph, because conflict is what drives the story. (If possible, bring in 6-8 non-consecutive, non-dialog paragraphs of your own, 4 sentences or more each, to work on. Or somebody else's book.)</p>		
<p>1:00 PM Alumni/Attendee Meeting</p>		