

**IYWM 2021 PANELIST/GUEST BIOS**

**Quick Reference Schedule**

**Amy Acosta** is an acquisition and production editor at Entangled Publishing. She is interested in diversity-rich YA, NA, and Adult fiction in the genres of Contemporary Romance, Historical (Regency/Victorian), Fantasy, and Science Fiction. One of her main goals is to help LGBTQIA+ and POC voices become mainstream and bring diversity into the publishing world. Amy lives in Puerto Rico with three very bossy rescue cats, and she ardently believes that love has no boundaries, that representation matters, and that spaceships are very cool. Find her on Twitter @AmarilysWrites

Editor/pitches Fri. 9:00am - 10:00am, Sat. 3:00pm - 4:00pm

**Linda D. Addison** is an award-winning author of five collections, including How To Recognize A Demon Has Become Your Friend, and the first African-American recipient of the HWA Bram Stoker Award®. She is a recipient of the HWA Lifetime Achievement Award, HWA Mentor of the Year and SFPA Grand Master. Addison has published over 360 poems, stories and articles and is a member of CITH, HWA, SFWA and SFPA. She is a co-editor of Sycorax's Daughters, an anthology of horror fiction/poetry by African-American women. Catch her work in Black Panther: Tales of Wakanda, The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction (May/June), Weird Tales Magazine #364 and Don't Turn Out the Lights.

Women Writing Dark Fantasy and Horror 7/10 6PM,

**Carla E. Anderton** is Editor-in-Chief of Mon Valley Vistas, an online publication that covers the arts, entertainment, education, lifestyle, health and wellness, and other areas of interest in the Mon Valley and surrounding areas, with a particular focus on people of color, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. She is also a professor of English and communications at Westmoreland County Community College and Seton Hill University. From 2014-2019, she published Pennsylvania Bridges, a monthly regional newsmagazine, and from 2006-2009, she was Editor-in-Chief of California Focus. Previously, she served as President of the Board of Directors at Jozart Center for the Arts from 2010-2016, during which time she oversaw the general operations of the organization as well as helped plan and coordinate over 500 arts and entertainment programs and events. She holds a Masters in Fine Arts from Seton Hill University and an undergraduate degree in English from California University of Pennsylvania. Carla is the author of The Heart Absent, a fictional take on Jack the Ripper, and is an internationally recognized expert on the Jack the Ripper murders. She currently lives in Daisytown, PA. Visit her website at [carlaanderton.com](http://carlaanderton.com).

Public Speaking for Creative Professionals 7/9 4PM, Using the News 7/9 6PM, Jack the Ripper Study 7/11 12PM

**Michael Arnzen** is one of the full-time professors at Seton Hill University. He teaches and writes horror fiction and poetry, and has won Bram Stoker Awards and the International Horror Guild Award for his terrifying (and sometimes hilariously sick) work. His books include Grave Markings and 100 Jolts, and he co-edited the how-to guide, Many Genres One Craft: Lessons in Writing Popular Fiction with alum Heidi

The Invisible Element:ENERGY 7/10 9AM

<p>Ruby Miller.</p>	
<p><b>Beverly Bambury</b> is a publicist and social media specialist for authors and comic creators. She offers an affordable publicity coaching option, too. Learn more at <a href="http://beverlybambury.com">beverlybambury.com</a>.</p>	<p>Marketing and Publicity: What Works and What Doesn't 7/10 6PM</p>
<p>USA Today bestselling author <b>Shelley Bates</b> is the author of 42 novels published by Harlequin, Warner, Hachette, and Moonshell Books, Inc., her own independent press. As Adina Senft, she writes Amish women's fiction; as Shelley Adina, she writes steampunk adventure; and as Charlotte Henry, she writes classic Regency romance. Formerly adjunct faculty with the MFA in Writing Popular Fiction program at Seton Hill University, she is now at work on a PhD in Creative Writing at Lancaster University in the UK. She appeared in the 2016 documentary film <i>Love Between the Covers</i>, is a popular speaker and convention panelist, and has been a guest on many podcasts, including <i>Worldshapers</i> and <i>Realm of Books</i>. When she's not writing, Shelley is usually quilting, sewing historical costumes, or enjoying the garden with her flock of rescued chickens.</p>	<p>Crafting and Writing 7/9 5PM, Killer Back-Cover Copy 7/10 11AM, Indie Publishing Panel</p>
<p><b>Jacob Baugher</b> earned his MFA from Seton Hill in 2017. He has several stories out on a small Australian Press and has taught creative writing at the university level. When he's not writing, he can be found hiking in Cuyahoga Valley National Park and brewing beer on his front porch.</p>	<p>Crafting and Writing 7/9 5PM</p>

**V.M. (Valerie) Burns** was born and raised in Northwestern Indiana. A lover of dogs and mysteries, Valerie combines both in her RJ Franklin Mysteries, Dog Club mysteries, and the Agatha Award-nominated Mystery Bookshop Mystery series. She is a member of Dog Writers of America, Crime Writers of Color, and International Thriller Writers. She is also on the board for the Southeastern Chapter of Mystery Writers of America (SEMWA) and is the Grants and Awards Coordinator for Sisters in Crime. A 2015 graduate of Seton Hill University's MFA program, she is now a mentor in the Writing Popular Fiction program. Valerie lives in Eastern Tennessee with her two poodles, Kensington and Chloe. Readers can visit her website at [vmburns.com](http://vmburns.com).

Writing Series that Endure 7/11 11AM

**Kristopher L. Campa** received his Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Washington University in St. Louis and his Masters of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. He is an avid reader and writer of Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror. He teaches creative writing courses in all three genres at Washington University in St. Louis's University College. In each class, he strives to push his students to think outside the box, stretch genre conventions, and most importantly, promote Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. That's how they get more readers. He also serves as an academic advisor at the McKelvey School of Engineering at WashU, where he focuses his efforts on supporting diversity initiatives and diverse students.

Diversifying Our Fiction 7/10 9AM, Takling Social Justice in Science Fiction 7/11 10AM, Word Building Panel.

<p><b>Anton Cancre's</b> mother wasn't really pregnant with him when she went to see <i>The Exorcist</i>, but he tells people that anyways because it sounds cool. His first poetry collection, <i>Meaningless Cycles in a Vicious Glass Prison</i> is available from Dragon's Roost Press. He's also a luddite who still has a blogspot website (<a href="http://antoncancre.blogspot.com">antoncancre.blogspot.com</a>) and runs the Spec Griot Garage podcast (<a href="http://specgriotgarage.podbean.com">specgriotgarage.podbean.com</a>) where he gets to gush over other people's poems with cool folks.</p>	<p>Live Recording of Spec Griot Garage Poetry Podcast 7/8 7PM, Poetry Playground 7/9 1PM</p>
<p><b>Elsa M. Carruthers</b> is a poet, writer, and genre scholar. She has contributed book chapters to <i>Uncovering Stranger Things</i>, <i>The Many Lives of The Twilight Zone</i>, and <i>The Streaming of Hill House</i>. Her fiction and poetry is published in <i>The HWA Poetry Showcase</i>, <i>Space and Time Magazine</i>, <i>Amazing Stories Magazine</i>, and several anthologies.</p>	<p>Watching and Reading Like an Academic 7/9 12 PM,</p>
<p><b>(Joseph) J. Rocky Colavito</b>-I'm a Professor of English at Butler University where I teach a plethora of horror themed courses and an aspiring horror writer who sold my first story in 2020. I'm currently working on a collection of professional wrestling set horror stories, the first in a novel series about an academic who investigates cryptids on college campuses, and a new project about a paranormal investigator who chases ghosts that haunt the porn industry.</p>	<p>Diversifying Your Horror Curriculum 7/8 4PM, Wanna Play a Game? 7/9 9AM</p>

**Joe Compton** is an Indie Author, Filmmaker, and he runs an online network called Go Indie Now. Since 2016, Go Indie Now highlights, promotes, supports, and educates Indie Artists of all artforms via shows we produce and the events we cover on a weekly, monthly, and seasonal basis. Joe himself has written 2 books, both Crime Thrillers. He has written, directed, and produced 3 short films of his own, worked on over 30 film productions and spent a year in Hollywood where he worked as a writing assistant, script doctor, and writing consultant for many networks trying to develop pilots for potential series. In the fall Joe will be teaching his own online Screenwriting writing program through an online university and re-publishing his 1st book through Three Furies Press and the 2nd in 2022 to complete the trilogy.

Turning Your Book into a Screenplay 7/9 11 AM, Navigating Social Media to Promote Your Own Work Correctly 7/10 1PM, Indie Publishing Panel.

**Vonnie Winslow Crist**, MS Professional Writing (Towson University), is author of Dragon Rain, Beneath Raven's Wing, The Enchanted Dagger, Owl Light, The Greener Forest, Murder on Marawa Prime, and other books. Her stories appear in Amazing Stories, Cast of Wonders, Cirsova, SLAY: Stories of the Vampire Noire, Lost Signals: A Terran Republic Anthology, Chilling Ghost Short Stories, Killing It Softly 2, Best Indie Speculative Fiction: 2018, Insignia 2020: Best Asian Speculative Fiction, Deep Space, Of Gods & Globes, Black Infinity, and elsewhere. Over 200 of Vonnie's poems and over 1,000 of her illustrations have also been published. A member of HWA, SFWA, NLAPW, and SCBWI, Vonnie believes the world is still filled with mystery, magic, and miracles.

<http://www.vonniewinslowcrist.com>

Fairy Tales: Revised and Remixed 7/10 4PM, Make Writing Pay (at least for Dinner) 7/11 9AM.

<p><b>Kaye Dacus</b> is the author of 11 traditionally published contemporary and historical romances. She holds a Master's in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University (her first published novel was her master's thesis!) and is a former officer of national and regional writing organizations. Kaye lives in Clarksville, TN, where she is a full-time training &amp; development professional in the financial services industry and is mom to a diva-princess dachshund-poodle mix named Noodle.</p>	<p>Formulas and Tropes in Romance 7/9 3PM, Beyond the Warrior and the Damsel in Distress 7/10, Writing the Romance Novel 7/10 2PM.</p>
<p><b>Matt Duvall</b> is an educational technologist who lives in central Pennsylvania with his wife, Natalie, and their three children. You can catch up with him on Twitter @MattDuvall15.</p>	<p>Me Write Good So Can't You 7/11 9AM.</p>
<p><b>Alicia Ellis (Wright)</b> decided to write books about ten minutes before graduating from law school. She's now an Atlanta attorney, but she moonlights as an author, electronics junkie, and secret superhero. With two degrees in computer science and an MFA in writing popular fiction, Alicia loves all things high-tech and unreal. She writes science fiction and fantasy for young adults. Her debut novel, Girl of Flesh and Metal, was the first self-published book to be included in the American Library Association's LITA Excellence in Children's and Young Adult Science Fiction Notable Lists.</p>	<p>Make Writing Pay 7/11 9AM</p>

**Timons Esaias** is a satirist, writer and poet living in Pittsburgh. His works, ranging from literary to genre, have been published in twenty-two languages. He has been a finalist for the British Science Fiction Award, and he won both the Winter Anthology Contest and the Asimov's Readers Award. His story "Norbert and the System" has appeared in a textbook, and in college curricula, so yes, he is required reading. He was shortlisted for the 2019 Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize. His full-length Louis-Award-winning collection of poetry -- Why Elephants No Longer Communicate in Greek -- was brought out by Concrete Wolf. He teaches in Seton Hill University's MFA in Writing Popular Fiction program.

People who know him are not surprised to learn that he lived in a museum for eight years.

Fortifications 101 7/10 11AM, Icelandic Sagas and Eddas 7/11 10AM, Craft at the Paragraph Level 7/11 12 PM,

**Vanessa Essler Carlson** is a storyteller and author with an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. Essler uses her lyrical voice to craft cross-genre fiction, blending sci-fi and fantasy with a dark political edge. Essler's love of story started at a young age with her introduction to Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark, which inspired her to stay up far past bedtime writing her own spooky stories. This late-night tinkering grew into an art form. Essler received the Founder's Award from the Professional Writers of Prescott for her short story "The Photograph." She's had other short fiction publications in Story Emporium Magazine, Zimbell House anthologies, and Raw Dog Screaming Press' Like Sunshine After Rain. Currently, Essler is working on novel-length stories in steampunk and biopunk.

Delving Deep into Setting 7/9 10 AM, Breathing Life into Characters 7/10 12 PM.

<p>When she isn't reading, writing, or researching for her next book, Essler enjoys yoga, and afternoon cat naps. She collects tarot card decks and has been known to give a reading or two. Recently relocated to the Seattle area, she has lofty hopes of taking her coffee obsession to the next level. Essler's a Pisces, Ravenclaw, and foodie. Find her on twitter at @VanPunkAuthor.</p>	
<p>After falling in love with a book in 2009, <b>Jeni Fred</b> realized she wanted to work with words too much to do anything else. She is a hybrid author and has published with Harlequin Escape and Limitless Publishing. She finds joy in bringing other people's stories to life and helping entrepreneurs market via fiction—ask her how! She ghostwrites fiction, blogs, website content, and anything else her clients need. Whether you need a romance, dystopia, business parable, engaging weekly emails, or a web page, Jeni will deliver content you're proud of.</p>	<p>Cover Credit or Cash? 7/9 10AM, Story Structure Panel.</p>
<p><b>Kerri-Leigh Grady</b> writes horror and sometimes romance. She's a software developer, a military spouse, and a hobby collector.</p>	<p>Writing the Military 7/10 1PM.</p>
<p><b>J.L. Gribble</b> writes the urban fantasy/alternate history Steel Empires series, which starts with Steel Victory and includes six titles so far. Her other jobs include medical editing, Netflix watching, cat snuggling, and book reviewing. Find more info about her and her books at <a href="http://jlgribble.com">jlgribble.com</a>.</p>	<p>Creating Stories by Changing the Past 7/10 12 PM, Writing the Military 7/10 1PM, Editing Panel, World Building Panel.</p>

**Bill Huff's** US Navy career spans over 2 decades and shows no sign of ending any time soon. While answering the call, he's served on both shore and sea-going commands. His sea experience ranges from submarines through surface ships (specifically, mine sweepers and Marine-carrying platforms) with a small touch of aviation.

While some of his operations are still classified, his experiences deal with strategic deterrence, clandestine operations (being the "mother ship" not "boots on ground"), deploying Marines from the ship (again, "mother ship" operations), and searching for sea mines using various methods.

Writing the Military 7/10 1PM.

**Rhonda Jackson Garcia** earned her MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University and currently works as an associate professor of English in Houston, TX. She has had several stories published in various venues, including two anthologies of horror written by Black, female writers, the Stoker Award™ finalist Sycorax's Daughters and Black Magic Women, as well as in Paranormal Contact: A Quiet Horror Confessional, and the Halloween 2020 issue of Southwest Review. Her academic essays have also appeared in acclaimed collections, such as the Stoker Award™ finalists Uncovering Stranger Things: Essays on Eighties Nostalgia, Cynicism and Innocence in the Series and The Streaming of Hill House: Essays on the Haunting Netflix Series. Her essay from The Streaming of Hill House, "The Beloved Haunting of Hill House: An Examination of Monstrous Motherhood", is also a Stoker Award™ finalist for 2020.

Watching and Writing like an Academic 7/9 12PM.

Rhonda lives in the suburbs of Houston with her huge blended family of one husband, four adult sprouts, seven teenaged sproutlings, and one hellbeast that pretends to be a dog sometimes. She can sometimes be found peeking out on Twitter from behind @rjacksonjoseph or her blog at <https://rjoseph.wordpress.com>.

**Kate Jonez, Editor. Omnium Gatherum** is a Bram Stoker Award winning small press that specializes in weird fiction, dark fantasy and horror. We are seeking novel series and novella series with compelling main characters and contemporary or near future settings. Writers whose stories feature locations or mythologies from countries other than the US and UK are encouraged to submit.

**Michael Knost** is a Bram Stoker Award®-winning editor and author of science fiction, fantasy, horror, and supernatural thrillers. He has written in various genres and helmed multiple anthologies. His Writers Workshop of Horror won the 2009 Bram Stoker Award® in England for superior achievement in non-fiction. His critically acclaimed Writers Workshop of Science Fiction & Fantasy is an Amazon #1 bestseller. Return of the Mothman, Barbers and Beauties, and Author's Guide to Marketing with Teeth were all finalists for the Bram Stoker Award®. Michael received the Horror Writers Association's Silver Hammer Award in 2015 for his work as the organization's mentorship chair. He also received the prestigious J.U.G. (Just Uncommonly Good) Award from West Virginia Writer's Inc. His Return of the

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Making Writing Pay 7/11 9AM.

<p>Mothman is currently being adapted into a film. Writers Workshop of Horror 2 will be released in September 2021. He has taught writing classes and workshops at several colleges, conventions, online, and currently resides in Chapmanville, West Virginia with his wife, daughter, and a zombie goldfish.</p>	
<p><b>Michelle Renee Lane</b> writes dark speculative fiction about identity politics and women of color battling their inner demons while fighting and/or falling in love with monsters. Her work includes elements of fantasy, horror, romance, and erotica. Her short fiction appears in the anthologies <i>Terror Politico: A Screaming World in Chaos</i>, <i>The Monstrous Feminine: Dark Tales of Dangerous Women</i>, <i>The Dystopian States of America</i>, <i>Graveyard Smash</i>, <i>Dead Awake</i>, <i>Midnight &amp; Indigo: Twenty-Two Speculative Stories by Black Women Writers</i> and <i>The One That Got Away</i>, and has been featured on <i>The Wicked Library</i> podcast. Her Bram Stoker Award nominated debut novel, <i>Invisible Chains</i> (2019), is available from Haverhill House Publishing. Her nonfiction and book reviews can be found at Medium (<a href="https://medium.com/@chellane">https://medium.com/@chellane</a>) and <i>Speculative Chic</i> (<a href="https://speculativechic.com/author/chellane72/">https://speculativechic.com/author/chellane72/</a>).</p> <p>Follow Michelle's blog, <i>Girl Meets Monster</i>, at <a href="http://michellerlane.com/">michellerlane.com/</a>.</p>	<p>Are Vampires Still Scary? 7/9 6PM, Women Writing Dark Fantasy and Horror 7/10 6PM,</p>
<p><b>Anna La Voie</b> is a freelance developmental editor with 10 years of experience helping authors attain the strongest, clearest representation of their vision. Her MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University and experience leading workshops and</p>	<p>Crafting and Writing 7/9 5PM, Plotting Backwards 7/10 10AM, World Building Panel, About Story Structure Panel, and Editing Panel.</p>

<p>slush reading for a genre focused publisher have provided her a strong toolbox of editing skills to help writers shine.</p>	
<p><b>John Edward Lawson</b> is co-founder of Raw Dog Screaming Press and former editor-in-chief of The Dream People literary journal. In addition to receiving the HWA Specialty Press Award in 2019 John regularly helps authors find their audience while earning nominations for the Stoker, Wonderland, and World Fantasy Awards, among others. He currently serves as vice president of Diverse Writers and Artists of Speculative Fiction.</p>	<p>Editor/Pitches. 07/09/2021 (Fri.) 6:00pm - 8:00pm EDT</p>
<p><b>Samantha Lienhard</b> is a horror, fantasy, and pulp fiction writer whose publications include the comedy/horror novella <i>The Zombie Mishap</i>, the cosmic horror novella <i>The Book at Dernier</i>, and the pulp fiction story "The Domino Lady Takes the Case." In addition to fiction writing, she also works as a freelance writer on video game and visual novel scripts. She graduated from Seton Hill University with an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction and is an affiliate member of the Horror Writers Association.</p>	<p>Finding a Short Story Market 7/9 9AM.</p>
<p><b>Patricia Lillie</b> grew up in a haunted house in a small town in Northeast Ohio. Since then, she has published picture books, short stories, fonts, two novels, and a collection of short stories. Her latest, <i>The Cuckoo Girls</i>, is a 2020 Bram Stoker Award finalist in the category of Fiction Collections. As Patricia Lillie, she is the author of <i>The Ceiling Man</i>, a novel of quiet horror, and as Kay Charles, the author of <i>Ghosts in Glass Houses</i>, a cozy-ish mystery with ghosts. She is a graduate of Parsons School of Design, has an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from</p>	<p>Submitting Short Fiction 7/10 5PM, Conflict and Plot Panel.</p>

<p>Seton Hill University, and teaches in Southern New Hampshire University's MFA program. She also knits and sometimes purls.</p>	
<p><b>Melissa Long</b> is a published author, tv writer, and a creativity coach. She's the co-host of the Writing Easy Podcast and runs the Creative's Tarot YouTube channel. Melissa started her career as a film school drop-out who quickly pivoted to politics. Over the years, she embraced her creative roots -- earned an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction and published three novels before returning to film and television once again. Melissa has a passion for creating inclusive character-driven dramas and helping women and people of color live their best creative life. Her writing is heavily influenced by shows like THE VAMPIRE DIARIES, THE GOOD WIFE, SCANDAL, and FRINGE.</p>	<p>Is Your Novel Ready for TV or Film 7/9 5PM.</p>
<p><b>Jennifer Loring's</b> short fiction has been published in Tales from the Lake, Nightscript IV, Dim Shores Presents, and the Bram Stoker Award-nominated anthologies Not All Monsters and Arterial Bloom. She holds a BA in studio art, an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction with a concentration in horror fiction, and is currently working toward a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies - Humanities &amp; Culture, focusing on queer possibility in fairy tales. She is also a member of the American Folklore Society. Jenn lives in Philadelphia, PA, where she and her husband are owned by a turtle and two basset hounds.</p>	<p>Fairy Tales: Revised and Remixed 7/10, Conflict and Plot Panel.</p>

**Lisa Morton** is a screenwriter, author of non-fiction books, and prose writer whose work was described by the American Library Association's Readers' Advisory Guide to Horror as "consistently dark, unsettling, and frightening." She is a six-time winner of the Bram Stoker Award®, the author of four novels and over 150 short stories, and a world-class Halloween expert. Her recent releases include *Weird Women: Classic Supernatural Fiction from Groundbreaking Female Writers 1852-1923* (co-edited with Leslie S. Klinger) and *Calling the Spirits: A History of Seances*; her latest short stories appeared in *Best American Mystery Stories 2020*, *Final Cuts: New Tales of Hollywood Horror and Other Spectacles*, and *In League with Sherlock Holmes*. Forthcoming in 2021 is the collection *Night Terrors & Other Tales*. Lisa lives in Los Angeles and online at [www.lisamorton.com](http://www.lisamorton.com).

Women Writing Dark Fantasy and Horror 7/10 6PM.

**Donna J. W. Munro's** pieces are published in *Nothing's Sacred Magazine IV and V*, *Corvid Queen*, *Hazard Yet Forward* (2012), *Enter the Apocalypse* (2017), *Beautiful Lies*, *Painful Truths II* (2018), *Terror Politico* (2019), *It Calls from the Forest* (2020), *Gray Sisters Vol 1* (2020), *Borderlands Vol 7* (2020), *Pseudopod 752* (2021), and others. Check out her first novel, *Revelation: Poppet Cycle Book 1*. Contact her at <https://www.donnajwmunro.com> or @DonnaJWMunro on Twitter.

Protopolooza 7/8 3PM, *Fairy Tales: Revised and Remixed* 7/10 4PM, *Make Writing Pay* 7/11 9AM, *Marketing and Publicity* 7/10 5PM, *Conflict and Plot Panel*.

**Lee Murray** is a multi-award-winning author-editor from Aotearoa-New Zealand (Sir Julius Vogel, Australian Shadows), and a two-time Bram Stoker Award®-winner. Her work includes military thrillers, the Taine McKenna Adventures, supernatural crime-noir series The Path of Ra (with Dan Rabarts), and debut collection Grotesque: Monster Stories. She is proud to have edited seventeen volumes of speculative fiction, including international Bram Stoker Award®-winning title Black Cranes: Tales of Unquiet Women co-edited with Geneve Flynn. Her latest work, released May 2021, is non-fiction title, Mark My Words: Read the Submission Guidelines and Other Self-editing Tips co-authored with Angela Yuriko Smith. She is co-founder of Young NZ Writers and of the Wright-Murray Residency for Speculative Fiction Writers, HWA Mentor of the Year for 2019, NZSA Honorary Literary Fellow, and Grimshaw Sargeson Fellow for 2021 for her poetry collection Fox Spirit on a Distant Cloud. Read more at leemurray.info

Fairy Tales: Revised and Remixed 7/10, Conflict and Plot Panel. Women Writing Dark Fantasy and Horror 7/10 6PM.

USA Today Bestselling Author **Virginia Nelson** is best known for The Penthouse Prince. She's a hybrid author, published traditionally and indie, and has been working in the industry for the past decade.

Breathing Life into Characters 7/10 12PM, Understanding Indie Publishing Panel, Editing Panel.

**Kristopher O'Higgins**—Founded in 2004, **Scribe Agency** is a full-service boutique literary agency located in Madison, Wisconsin. Scribe's focus is Science Fiction and Fantasy, and has sold works to publishers big and small, foreign and domestic, in multiple media channels. Scribe authors have won various awards including: World Fantasy, James

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<p>Tiptree Jr., Carl Brandon Parallax and Kindred, Locus, and Philip K. Dick Special Citations.</p>	
<p><b>Rynn Oswald</b> is a fantasy author and all-around book-geek. She has an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. She works as an Adjunct Professor of English at three colleges in Chicago and tries to imbue her students with a love of genre fiction while polishing their writing skills. When not teaching, grading, or writing, she enjoys baking and playing with sharp, pointy weaponry. You can visit her at @RynnOswald on Twitter or on Facebook.</p>	<p>Fairy Tales: Revisited and Remixed 7/10 4PM, Story Structure Panel.</p>
<p><b>Tonia Ransom</b> is the creator and executive producer of NIGHTLIGHT, a horror podcast featuring creepy tales written by Black writers. Tonia has been scaring people since the second grade, when she wrote her first story based on Michael Myers. She's pretty sure her teacher was concerned, but she thinks she turned out fine(ish). Tonia tells horror stories regularly on Twitter @missdefying, and her debut novella Risen was released early December 2020. She lives in Austin, Texas.</p>	<p>Writing for Audio 7/9 1PM, Conflict and Plot Panel.</p>
<p><b>Symantha Reagor</b> has an English Literature Degree and a Masters Degree in Writing Popular Fiction, and a Certificate in Copyediting. She writes poetry and fantasy and enjoys knitting, sculpting, and drawing weird pictures of slugs.</p>	<p>Crafting and Writing 7/9 5PM</p>
<p><b>Susan Reynolds</b>-I'm a mom, a writer, a woman with multiple disabilities, and a passionate disability rights advocate. I am currently, the field organizer for the National Center for Learning Disabilities and work with people on how to build a more inclusive world for people with all disabilities, both visible or</p>	<p>Disability Representation: The Real Deal 7/10 3PM.</p>

invisible.

**Andy Ross** opened his literary agency in 2008. Prior to that, he was the owner of the legendary Cody's Books in Berkeley for 30 years. His agency represents books in a wide range of non-fiction genres including: narrative non-fiction, science, journalism, history, popular culture, memoir, and current events. He also represents literary, commercial, historical, and upmarket women's fiction, and YA and middle grade fiction.

For non-fiction Andy looks for writing with a strong voice, robust story arc, and books that tell a big story about culture and society by authors with the authority to write about their subject. In fiction, he likes character and voice-driven stories about real people in the real world. Sorry. No zombies at the prom, thank you very much.

Andy has participated and taught classes in numerous writers conferences including: San Francisco Writers Conference, Kauai Writers Conference, San Miguel de Allende Writers Conference, Nebraska Writers Conference, and more. He has organized and conducted writing intensive workshops with Linda Watanabe McFerrin in Santa Fe and in Scotland.

Andy is the author of *The Literary Agent's Guide to Writing a Non-Fiction Book Proposal*

Authors Andy represents include: Daniel Ellsberg, Fritjof Capra, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Susan Griffin, Thomas Sanchez, Leonard Shlain, Gwen Strauss, Anjanette Delgado, Elisa Kleven, Tawni Waters, Randall Platt, Mary Jo McConahay, Gerald Nachman, Michael Parenti, Paul Krassner, Milton Viorst, and Michele Anna Jordan, and Scott Ostler.

Check out Andy's website.

Agent/Pitches. 07/09/2021 (Fri. 1:00pm - 3:00pm), 7/10/2021 (Sat. 12:30pm - 2:30pm)

<p>Website: <a href="http://www.andyrossagency.com">www.andyrossagency.com</a></p>	
<p><b>Steve Saffel</b> is a senior acquisitions editor for the London-based publisher <b>Titan Book</b>, with a list that includes science fiction, fantasy, and horror, as well as media-tie in properties that include Alien, Predator, Gears of War, Mass Effect, and the Marvel novels.</p>	<p>Editor/Pitches 07/09/202 (Fri. 2:00pm - 4:00pm), 07/10/2021 (Sat. 9:00am - 12:00pm). Secrets of Pacing and Clarity 7/10 6PM.</p>
<p><b>Alex Savage</b> is a USNA graduate with 14 years of experience in the navy and army. He graduated from SHU WPF in January 2015 and writes in multiple genres. He currently works as a writing tutor at USNA and is excited to begin teaching English at USNA for AY 2021-22.</p>	<p>Writing and the Military 7/10 1PM</p>
<p><b>Deanna Sjolander</b> graduated in 2004 with a Masters in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University and has been writing and editing since. She is an active committee member for several science-fiction and fantasy conventions and dedicated ten years as Committee Lead and Fundraising Chair for the In Your Write Mind Workshop in partnership with Seton Hill University. She is currently the Senior Editor and COO for Rook Creek Books, a freelance editor, voice actor and a founding member of The Hobbyist Collective. She released her first novel, Sophie and the G-man, durring 2020 and is working on new projects in Sophie's exciting world. (GET DEANNA"S OKAY)</p>	<p>Pitch Practices 7/9 5PM, Crafting and Writing 7/9 5PM, Fairy Tales: Revised and Remixed 7/10 4PM, Editing Panel,</p>
<p><b>Dr. Emily Smith</b> is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow and Resident Leader of the Women's Mental Health Area of Concentration at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. She has discussed the impact of gun violence and mental health on a national stage after working as psychiatric</p>	<p>That's Not OCD: Accurate Representation of Mental Illness in Fiction 7/9 2PM.</p>

<p>resident on call after the Pittsburgh Tree of Life mass shooting. She has a passion for normalizing mental health in the media and has discussed accurate representation of mental health in fiction once previously at the Confluence conference in 2020.</p>	
<p><b>Lucy A. Snyder</b> is the Shirley Jackson Award-nominated and five-time Bram Stoker Award-winning author of 15 books and over 100 published short stories. Her most recent books are the story collection Halloween Season, the forthcoming poetry collection Exposed Nerves, and the forthcoming novel The Girl With the Star-Stained Soul. She also wrote the novels Spellbent, Shotgun Sorceress, and Switchblade Goddess, the nonfiction book Shooting Yourself in the Head for Fun and Profit: A Writer’s Survival Guide, and the collections Garden of Eldritch Delights, While the Black Stars Burn, Soft Apocalypses, Orchid Carousals, Sparks and Shadows, Chimeric Machines, and Installing Linux on a Dead Badger. Her writing has been translated into French, Russian, Italian, Spanish, Czech, and Japanese editions and has appeared in publications such as Asimov’s Science Fiction, Apex Magazine, Nightmare Magazine, Pseudopod, Strange Horizons, and Best Horror of the Year. She lives in Columbus, Ohio. You can learn more about her at <a href="http://www.lucysnyder.com">www.lucysnyder.com</a> and you can follow her on Twitter at <a href="https://twitter.com/LucyASnyder">@LucyASnyder</a>.</p>	<p>Characterization and Dialogue 7/9 12PM, Women Writing Dark Fantasy and Horror 7/10 6PM.</p>
<p><b>Alethea Spiridon</b> has been an editor for over twenty years working both in-house and freelance. She spent seven years at Harlequin as an editor and has been with <b>Entangled</b> since 2011. She also writes fiction in her spare time.</p>	<p>Editor/ Pitches. 07/10/2021 (Sat.) 8:00am - 10:00am EDT</p>

**Victoria Thompson** is the USA Today bestselling author of the Edgar® and Agatha Award nominated Gaslight Mystery Series and the Sue Grafton Memorial Award nominated Counterfeit Lady Series. Her latest books are Murder on Wall Street and City of Schemes, both from Berkley. She has published 20 historical romances and 28 mysteries, and she currently teaches in the Master's program for writing popular fiction at Seton Hill University. She lives in Illinois with her husband and a very spoiled little dog.

Clues and Red Herrings: Plotting the Modern Mystery 7/9 4PM, What's Love Got to do With it? 7/10 3PM.

**Francois Vaillancourt**—I am a Montreal artist who specializes in images illustrating dark worlds and stories where horror and macabre meet. My images are characterized by a highly textured, emotionally evocative and sensitive universe. Even through my darkest images, we can recognize a certain beauty and fragility. Although I am trained as a classical artist, my work and creative methods have been transposed into the digital world, allowing me to rework my images in a more fluid way until the desired result is achieved. Check out my work at <https://www.francois-art.com/>.

Swipe Right: Your Book Cover is the Tinder Profile Pic of Your Book 7/9 3PM.

**Tim Waggoner's** first novel came out in 2001, and since then he's published over fifty novels and seven collections of short stories. He writes original dark fantasy and horror, as well as media tie-ins. He's written tie-in fiction based on Supernatural, Grimm, The X-Files, Alien, Doctor Who, A Nightmare on Elm Street, and Transformers, among others, and he's written novelizations for films such as Kingsman: The Golden Circle and Resident Evil: The Final Chapter. His articles on writing have appeared in Writer's Digest, The Writer, The Writer's Chronicle, and Writer's Journal. He's the author of Writing the Dark, a horror-writing guide, as well as the forthcoming companion volume The Writing in the Dark Workbook. In 2017 he received the Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in Long Fiction, and he's been a finalist for the Shirley Jackson Award, the Scribe Award, and the Splatterpunk Award. His fiction has received numerous Honorable Mentions in volumes of Best Horror of the Year, and he's had several stories selected for inclusion in volumes of Year's Best Hardcore Horror. In addition to writing, he's also a full-time tenured professor who teaches creative writing and composition at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio.

Done to Death: Avoiding Cliches WHEN Writing Horror and Dark Fantasy 7/9 2PM,  
The Art of Suspense 7/10 2PM, Just Add Writer: Techniques for Writing Media Tie-In  
Fiction 7/11 11AM.

Lisa Wood, aka **L. Marie Wood**, is an award-winning author and screenwriter as well as an educator. She won the Golden Stake Award for her novel, The Promise Keeper. Her screenplays have won Best Horror, Best Afrofuturism/Horror/Sci-Fi, and Best Short Screenplay awards at several film festivals. Wood's short fiction has been published widely, most recently in Slay: Stories of the Vampire

Breaking the Rules: The Path to Authentic Writing 7/8 6PM, Editing Panel, Conflict  
and Plot Panel.

<p>Noire and Bram Stoker Award Finalist anthology, Sycorax's Daughters. Wood is also a contributor in the upcoming cross-curricular work, Conjuring Worlds: An Afrofuturist Textbook. Wood teaches creative writing, literature, and composition in the post-secondary space. Learn more about her at <a href="http://www.lmariewood.com">www.lmariewood.com</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Johnny Worthen</b> is an award-winning, multiple-genre, hybrid, tie-dye-wearing author, voyager, and damn fine human being! Trained in literary criticism and cultural studies, he writes upmarket fiction, while mentoring where he can.</p>	<p>Writing to Theme 7/9 11AM, Foundations of Horror 7/10 4PM, Understanding Indie Publishing,</p>
<p><b>Kenya Wright</b> is a bestselling author of over 60 novels. For her ten-year career, she's focused on increasing the presence of diverse characters in romantic fiction. She also writes mysteries that touches on societal problems. Her books have been sold all over the world and published in print, eBook, and audio. In between full-time writing, she homeschools her three children. They live a nomadic lifestyle, traveling and connecting with amazing people.</p>	<p>Make Writing Pay 7/11 9AM, Marketing and Publicity 7/10 5PM</p>

**Stephanie M. Wytovich** is an American poet, novelist, and essayist. Her work has been showcased in numerous venues such as *Weird Tales*, *Gutted: Beautiful Horror Stories*, *Fantastic Tales of Terror*, *Year's Best Hardcore Horror: Volume 2*, *The Best Horror of the Year: Volume 8*, as well as many others.

Wytovich is the Poetry Editor for Raw Dog Screaming Press, an adjunct at Western Connecticut State University, Southern New Hampshire University, and Point Park University, and a mentor with Crystal Lake Publishing. She is a member of the Science Fiction Poetry Association, an active member of the Horror Writers Association, and a graduate of Seton Hill University's MFA program for Writing Popular Fiction. Her Bram Stoker Award-winning poetry collection, *Brothel*, earned a home with Raw Dog Screaming Press alongside *Hysteria: A Collection of Madness*, *Mourning Jewelry*, *An Exorcism of Angels*, *Sheet Music to My Acoustic Nightmare*, and most recently, *The Apocalyptic Mannequin*. Her debut novel, *The Eighth*, is published with Dark Regions Press.

Women Writing Dark Fantasy and Horror 7/10 6PM.