



Preliminary agenda as of 5/16/2022; subject to change (all times are EST)

## **Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7:00 pm **(Virtual) Carnegie Center Author Academy Celebratory Reading**

## **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

1:00-5:00 pm **\*Pre-Conference Retreat (optional conference add-on, extra fee required, limited slots available)**  
**Defamiliarization: Or, How Details Win the Day**, **Bob Johnson, EKU Bluegrass Writers Studio**  
*In his essay, "On Defamiliarization," Charles Baxter says "...the business of the novelist is not to relate great events but to make small ones interesting." In other words, while our books of poetry and prose may contain grand ideas, the devil will always be in the details. Agents, editors, and contest judges read books with great ideas all the time, but the books that capture the reader at the sentence level are the ones that get the contract or win the contest.*

*In this workshop we'll take a deeper look at defamiliarization—defining it and seeing it in action—and other techniques for making your details work harder without making you work all that much harder to get them there.*

5:30 pm **Welcome Reception (FREE for conference participants, pre-registration open for 1<sup>st</sup> page critique)**

## **Saturday, June 4**

8:00 am **Breakfast & Registration**

8:45 am **Welcome** by Shayla Lynch, Executive Director & Sarah Chapman, Program Director

9:15-10:30 am **Keynote by Gwenda Bond, followed by book signing**

10:45 am-12:15 pm **Breakout sessions A:**

- **Panel: The Author/Agent Relationship, David Dominé & Alice Speilburg**  
*Join author David Dominé (A Dark Room in Glitter Ball City) and his literary agent Alice Speilburg (Speilburg Literary Agency) for a conversation about the relationship between author and agent. Moderated by Jennifer Hester Mattox, this panel offers the unique perspectives of both parties so you can get a behind-the-scenes look at the expectations, roles, and communication patterns in this important literary partnership.*
- **Panel: The Challenges of Writing a Series, Tracee de Hahn, Z. Knight, Robyn Peterman (moderated by Claudia Love Mair)**

12:15-2:00 pm **Writing Time & Lunch on Your Own (optional downtown Literary Walk with Tom Eblen)**

2:00-3:30 pm **(Virtual) First Page Critique, session 1 – with Erin Clyburn & Eric Smith**

*Panelists offer feedback to participants on first 250 words of manuscripts. Submission information will be emailed in advance of the conference. **Join us in the Stuart Room to watch the reading virtually.***

3:45-5:15 pm **Breakout sessions B:**

- **Traditional Publishing or Self-Publishing—Which is the Right One for Me? David Dominé**  
*The publishing world has seen huge changes in the last decade or two, and it is now more challenging than ever to see your own book on the shelves—if you go the traditional route, that is. At the same time, independent publishing platforms and a variety of online resources have made it easier to see your own work in print. Many authors who have gone the self-published route swear by it; some, on the other hand, don't recommend it. So, how do you know if traditional publishing or self-publishing is the right thing for you as a writer? Join a successful author who has experience in both fields as he shares the secrets of each industry.*
- **Worldbuilding with Theme, Ashley Blooms**  
*World-building can be overwhelming because it encompasses so many different facets of a story: culture, language, religion, food, hobbies, taboos, fears, and the list goes on. World-building with theme is one way to narrow the scope and help you choose scenes, subplots, and details with precision and purpose to create a more cohesive sense of the world. We'll break down the process and look at examples from literature, film, and video games to serve as guideposts.*
- **Historical Fiction (Title TBD), Sheila Williams**

5:30-6:30 pm **First Page Critique, session 2 - Same as session 1 description above, but in-person with Author/Publisher Z. Knight, Agent Alice Speilburg, & Robyn Peterman**

## **Sunday, June 5**

8:30 am

**Breakfast**

9:00-10:30 am

**Breakout sessions C**

- **The Heart of the Heart of the Story, Leatha Kendrick**  
*To craft a memoir that urges the reader forward we must become editors of our lives, “imposing a narrative pattern on a mass of half-remembered events” (as William Zinsser put it). Ideally, the scenes, seasons, places, objects, voices, and actions of our memoir build and coalesce to reveal the wisdom that telling our story has brought us. In this workshop, we will try some exercises to crystallize your sense of the heart of your story and clarify what belongs in your book – and what needs to be left out.*
- **Writing Diversity Right, Claudia Love Mair**  
*Have you always wanted to make your writing more diverse, but were afraid of getting it wrong? Writing Diversity Right is a generative workshop that will help you identify colorblindness, otherness, and stereotypes in your work, in a safe, non-judgmental environment.*
- **The Final Edit, Tracee de Hahn**  
*The final polish goes beyond spellcheck, it includes elevating plot, character, and setting along with the themes that make a manuscript shine. In this class we will lay out strategies to take you through that final critical revision.*

10:45 am-12:00 pm

**Breakout sessions D**

- **“Dialogue Matters!” She Exclaimed., Tiffany Reisz**  
*What should your characters say and how they should say it is one of the hardest aspects of fiction-writing craft to master. In this one-hour lecture, USA Today bestselling author Tiffany Reisz will explore the art and craft of writing realistic, entertaining, and downright snappy dialogue. For novelists and short story writers, all genres, levels, and ages.*
- **Marketing for Authors: Before, During & After Your Book is Published, Julia Royston**  
*We carefully review each word used in the book, get feedback and hang on every suggestion that the editor provides because that is such a crucial part of the publishing process but what have you been doing to build an audience prior to the book's release? Marketing and promotion are key elements to the success of a book's release. Find out the before, during and after activities of authors for a success book launch.*
- **Panel: Young Adult & Middle Grade Writing, Ashley Blooms, Elizabeth Kilcoyne, & Bryce Oquaye**

12:15-12:30 pm

**Closing Session & Giveaways**

**\*Post-Conference Writing Retreat (optional conference add-on, extra fee required, limited slots available)**

1:00-4:00 pm

**Writing Retreat, Jennifer Mattox & Z Jackson**

*Don't wait to put what you learned during the conference into practice! This post-conference retreat will begin with a short group-sharing of conference highlights and goal-setting to help you continue the momentum inspired by your conference experience. Writing prompts will be offered to help propel your writing into high-gear! Bring your lunch and wrap-up your conference experience with a refreshing and inspiring retreat.*