



2019 ANWA Writers Conference

Friday Schedule

Welcome
Desert Rose Ballroom
8:00 AM

Keynote: Mary Weber
Desert Rose Ballroom
9:00 AM

Breakout #1
10:00 – 10:50 AM

Lisa Crandall

Arizona

How Disney Parks Create Magic: Creating Emotional Connections in Your Writing

Nearly 150 million people visit a Disney park each year. These guests travel (and pay) for a magical, one-of-a-kind entertainment experience. But magic doesn't happen by accident. Disney uses tried and true principles to intentionally trigger emotional responses and create engaging experiences that keep guests coming back again and again. Taught by a former Disney Cast Member, this class will show how to create emotional connectedness through your writing by applying the same storytelling devices used at Disney parks.

Humor Panel: Donald Carey, Shelly Brown, Brad McBride **Writing The Funny**

Desert Rose

E. B. White famously compared analyzing humor to dissecting a frog; the results are dismal and the frog dies.*

Wit and whimsy are valuable weapons that should be a part of every author's arsenal. Despite E.B.'s statement to the contrary, humor is a skill that can be learned, practiced, and

perfected. Using a variety of non-dismal examples, this panel will teach the fundamental principles of humor. We will also discuss the many ways you can add “funny” to your writing. **No frogs will be harmed in this panel.*

Agent Quressa Robinson

Intensive

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Developmental Edit Intensive (2-HOUR INTENSIVE)

Preregistration required

Developmental editing is a key step in making your story the best it can be. More than a line edit, a developmental edit identifies and addresses higher-level problems in plot, character, storytelling and more. An agent and former Big Five editor, Quressa will help you mold your story into what you always hoped it would be!

Melissa Meibos

Legado

Three Ways to Level Up Your Story—An Editor’s Tale

Once upon a time, there was an editor who noticed that most of the stories she edited required similar techniques to take them from good to WOW! She decided to teach a class to show writers how to implement three of those techniques in their own writing using real-life examples from edits she had done (with the authors’ permission, of course). The writers attended her class where they laughed, learned, and had chocolate thrown at them for giving the write, er, right answers and everyone lived happily ever after. The end.

Breakout #2

11:00 – 11:50 AM

Stephanie Black

Arizona

Yikes, Eek, and I Didn’t See That Coming: How to Create Mystery/Suspense Stories Filled with Chills and Thrills

For a story that keeps readers up all night turning pages then impels them to triple check the door locks and impulse buy a large dog, there’s nothing like a mystery or suspense novel. How do you snare readers in your story’s spine-chilling clutches and keep them snared until the end? In this class we’ll discuss techniques for setting a suspenseful tone, creating multilayered heroes and villains, how to credibly put your characters into (and get them out of) danger, plot threads and subplots, when and how to reveal information, and more fun stuff that will help you scare and satisfy your readers.

Betsy Love

Workshop

Desert Rose

Plotting for Pantsers in 6 Easy Steps

For those who have tried to plot only to find they have deviated from their outline by chapter two, this class will explore some methods to achieve a great story writing by the seat of their pants. Participants will engage in a hands on class using six easy steps to create a skeleton novels that allows the freedom of “pantsing” while following a loose structure. Bring pen and paper or laptop.

Leslie Householder

Legado

Changing the World One Reader at a Time: Teaching True Principles Through Story

The world needs your true story. Whether you're telling your own experience in a memoir or helping to share someone else's story, inspirational nonfiction helps to change the world. Come learn more about putting principles to work in your nonfiction!

Lunch

Beginning of Book Contest Results

Desert Rose Ballroom

12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

Breakout #3

1:00 PM – 1:50 PM

Soquel Baumgardner

Arizona

The 32 Archetypes of Characters (2 HOUR)

Archetypes explain the most basic instincts of a character: how he thinks, how he feels, what drives him, and why he chooses both his goals and his methods. A villain is a hero gone bad. Archetypes are not stereotypes or personality types but a master mold upon which other character development elements are layered. In this two-hour intensive we will look at the 16 heroes and 16 villain archetypes and what makes each of them tick.

Agent Kari Sutherland
Show, Don't Tell

Workshop

Desert Rose

Dig into the nitty gritty of how to show instead of tell from characters, plot, and world-building to line-by-line writing in this hands-on workshop.

Melanie Jacobson

Flagstaff/Gilbert

From First Glance to First Kiss

Writing great romance—whether it's a subplot or THE plot—is not about writing good kissing. It's about writing everything that comes before it. If you do it right, every interaction is a payoff. Come learn the essential beats of romantic chemistry, and how to make these key moments crackle with tension.

Gina Denny

Legado

Feminism in Fantasy

Everyone is looking for the next Strong Female Character, but the girls and women in your books need more than bloodlust and stilettos. From Katniss to Hermione to Elizabeth Swann, we'll look at some of the ground-breaking feminist characters in fantasy and what you can learn from them. Hint: It's not enough to pass the Bechdel Test.

Breakout #4
2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

Kimberly Vanderhorst

Workshop

Desert Rose

Emotional Resonance: How to Craft Sentences and Stories That Will Wreck Your Readers

Do you delight in making people's emotions your playthings? Come learn how to unlock reader empathy, allowing them to feel your characters' pain and joy on a literary and literal level. We'll analyze heart-wrecking and heart-lifting passages, create POV depth through sensory sentences, examine the power of twining plotline with character arc, and ultimately craft our own emotionally resonant passages. Disclaimer: Taking this class will significantly increase your chances of receiving angry fan mail.

Mary Weber

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Young Adulting: Writing in the World of YA

It's no secret Young Adult publishing has vastly changed the book world and continues to be a defining force in its future. So how does that affect you (whether you write YA or not)? And what's the secret to writing (and marketing) successful YA? In this class we'll go over what you need to know about this unique market, the readers, industry expectations, and how to write the types of stories that make waves for years to come.

Dyany Munson

Legado

Scrivener Intro: Should I Take the Plunge?

You may have heard about Scrivener already—that it's amazing, that it's confusing, that it's 'meh.' If you are debating on whether you want to spend the time or money on trying it out and all the learning that goes with it, come to this class where you will learn what it is, what it isn't, how it's different from a word processor, and some basics on why you might want to use it (or not)! Note: bringing laptops to follow along is fine, but not necessary. The class will be using Scrivener version 3.

Snack & Book signing
3:00 PM

Breakout #5
3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

Christene Houston

Arizona

Developing Healthy Habits for the Career of a Lifetime

Do you ever find yourself mindlessly chugging skittles while pounding out your first draft? Drowning your writer's block in chunky monkey? Forgetting to use your legs for days at a time while chained to your keyboard? While these habits can be okay for a skinny college student with high metabolism, it's horrible for anyone hoping to make creative work a part of their everyday lives. In this class we'll talk about bad habits and why we use them and then we'll talk about how we can change those habits. Topics will include: Investing in yourself; Facing deadlines with energy; Dealing with stress—beyond the ice cream pint; how to ninja kick self doubt; and positive ways to deal with rejection. No pints of chunky monkey will be injured in this presentation.

Jared Garrett

Workshop

Desert Rose

The Anatomy of Action (2-HOUR WORKSHOP)

Effective action scenes have an anatomy that can be studied and used in your writing—without losing your character's voice. This session will examine the bones and flesh of effective action scenes, including pacing, setting, sentence and paragraph length, and perspective. This is a demonstration and workshop session, so bring your action scenes.

Editor Samantha Millburn

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Get Past the Slush Pile!

Getting ready to submit? Can't seem to get past the slush pile? Learn what to do (and what NOT to do) to attract an editor's attention. Topics will include knowing an agent or editor's interests, voice, characterization, conflict, proofreading and more!

Ann Acton

Legado

Growth Mindset for Writers

Use hands on exercises to retrain your thoughts for success, and stop letting insecurities and doubt keep you from your goals.

Breakout #6
4:30 PM – 5:20 PM

Jennifer Griffith

Arizona

[Writing] To Market, To Market, To Sell Lots of Books

Why do some books sell and other books flop, even when they are creatively amazing or filled with perfect prose? Are you ready to learn about one of the very best ways to sell

books—by writing books that readers already know they want? It’s called “writing to market,” and it works. This class will teach you strategies for 1) figuring out what it is readers want; 2) homing in on trends; 3) digging up the right tropes; 4) and choosing covers that sell for your genre, including nonfiction. It will also touch briefly on some of the powerful tools available to authors who are ready to turn their hobby into a lucrative career.

Editor Lisa Mangum

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Triangulating Your Characters: How Focusing on Character Relationships Drives Conflict and Plot

As an author, Lisa Mangum begins every plotting session by drawing a triangle and identifying the protagonist, the antagonist, and the alternate. With that “character relationship triangle” as her foundation, she builds out the relationships that will drive the conflict of the story as well as uncovers character goals, story themes, and plot points. In this class, she will teach you this method of character development and plot work as well as demonstrate how it works in her own books and other stories. Attendees will be able to develop their own character relationship triangles and apply them immediately to their own project.

Torsha Baker

Legado

Controlling Pacing

Learn how to control the tension in your story without exhausting your readers. We’ll discuss pacing through sentence structure, paragraphs, chapters, and scenes for a book readers can’t put down.

Closing Remarks
Desert Rose Ballroom
5:30 PM

Saturday Schedule

Welcome
Desert Rose Ballroom
8:00 AM

Breakout #7
9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Chris Morris

Arizona

Writing Can be so “Taxing”

Most entrepreneurs don't exactly get excited about taxes or accounting. Actually, it probably stresses you out...but it doesn't have to. This workshop will cover the following topics:

- What you can and cannot write off
- When it makes sense to hire a CPA
- When you have a business, not just a hobby
- Why you might be flagged for an audit, and how to avoid it

There will also be time for questions. When is the last time a CPA gave you an open forum to help you out, at no cost?

Agent & Editor Panel

Desert Rose

Questions and Answers with Editors and Agents

How much do I personalize a query letter? When should I give up on a book? What's the best way to make a good impression on an industry professional? Whatever your question is, get it answered by our visiting agents and editors. Questions will be anonymous.

Shelly Brown

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Reaching the Young Reader

Marketing directly to the children's market is a tricky one. We will talk about what works and what doesn't. We will address the ins and outs of school visits, library events, and family literacy nights. There are so many ways to do this right!

Stephanie Black

Legado

Foreshadowing: Paint Your Manuscript With Dots, Traces, and Shades of What's Coming So Your Readers Will Be Thrilled and You Can Get Away With Things

Foreshadowing is an excellent tool for plot and character development. It makes your story richer and more credible. In this class we'll discuss different ways to use foreshadowing, the

balance between giving too much away and blindsiding the reader, how to foreshadow in reverse, and how to take advantage of inadvertent foreshadowing. We'll learn how to convince the reader that your hero (who majored in piano performance and minored in philosophy) suddenly, at a crisis point, conveniently knows how to disable a bomb.

Breakout #8 **10:00 AM – 10:50 AM**

Melinda Carroll

Arizona

Speed Dating: Getting Close and Personal With Your Characters

Strong, complex, and realistic characters are crucial in any genre. But creating a character bible can often be time-consuming. Taking tips from the speed-dating world, this class will cover the important questions you need to ask to really get to know your characters in the shortest time possible. Then you can decide if the character is too shallow, or if they are compelling enough to build a lasting relationship with your readers.

Jordan McCollum

Workshop

Desert Rose

Fixing Stalled Stories

Whether you're planning, drafting or revising, your sometimes you just get stuck. The solution might depend on where you are in your story. Learn how to get your plot/your characters unstuck at any point in your story. Bring your stuck story and we'll work on fixing it!

Agent Kari Sutherland

Flagstaff/Gilbert

You're Done! Now the Work Can Begin—How to Revise and Query

There's nothing like typing "The End" on your first draft—but that's just the beginning of your publishing journey. Learn how to take your book to the next level and land the perfect literary agent to bring your book to its waiting audience.

Jared Garrett

Legado

Record Your Own Audiobooks

Audiobooks are becoming more and more ubiquitous. In the age when a dedicated writer should be doing all they can to capture as much audience as possible, doing your own audiobooks can be a great way to tap into a huge audience. This class will help you get started.

Also, we'll cover the basics of Amazon's ACX platform, for those who don't want to record their own, but do want to get audiobooks out there.

Breakout #9
11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Pam Eaton

Arizona

Why isn't my book selling? (Or) How to make sure my book sells

In this class we'll look at four key things to guarantee your book will sell. First we'll briefly touch on covers. Second (and the most important) book blurbs. With an easy formula you'll learn how to write that back cover. Third we'll talk about which categories to put your book in. And fourth we'll delve into keywords. So if you're looking to publish a book or have one that's not performing, this class will show you key things to do in order to increase sales.

Whitney Hemsath

Workshop

Desert Rose

Dialogue Dos and Dont's

From attribution tags and proper punctuation to gender differences and accents, we'll discuss what your characters should and shouldn't say and how best to have them say it. Come prepared to try your hand at crafting and editing various examples.

Melanie Jacobson

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Voice: The Art of the Filter

Voice is that electric special something that makes agents and editors take notice of your writing. It's also what makes readers fall in love with your work. But it's almost impossible to explain what it is and how to develop it. Word choice and pacing are definitely part of it. But it's also the art of knowing what to explain and what to trust the reader to understand. Come learn how to push your writing from competence to mastery.

Editor Samantha Millburn

Legado

Save Your Breath—Or Your Ink

Have you ever found yourself using the same word over and over again? Are your critique partners dinging you for wordiness and repetition? Come learn how to cut the repetition and unnecessary wording out of your writing.

Lunch
Desert Rose Ballroom
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

Breakout #10
1:00 PM – 1:50 PM

David Gill

Arizona

Crab Or Lobster? How To Flip Your Manuscript To Raise Stakes, Deepen Conflict, And Complicate Complications

Writers make more design choices than a reality TV house flipper. Will my main character choose butterfly curtains to frame a picture window that looks out up a golden pond? Or dank and moldy velvet drapes to hang in tatters from a crumbling wall? Will she be a nurse transported in time to Inverness? Or will he be a fisherman lost at sea? If he fishes, will it be in the calm waters of Newfoundland or in the rugged breakneck ice of the Bering Sea? Will conflict deepen or flatten? All choices have consequences – for our characters and for us.

Darci Cole

Workshop

Desert Rose

Better Beta-ing: How to Give and Receive Feedback

This class will discuss how to give appropriate feedback when a fellow writer asks you to read, how to ask your readers for the kind of feedback you need, and how to handle the beta/critique partner relationship. We'll address how to offer to critique for someone, how to know if their feedback is right for you, and you for them. We'll look over a few pages of writing from various sources and see what kind and how varied reactions we as a class give. Q&A if there's time.

Mary Weber

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Overcoming Your Roadblocks

Whether it's about career, a story issue, or writing goals, what roadblocks are keeping you from succeeding? In what areas do you need breakthrough? No matter what stage you're at, I'll help you identify what's holding you back and then apply the same techniques utilized in our stories to help you overcome.

Lisa Mangum

Legado

SPN 101: Writing Tips from 300 Episodes of *Supernatural* (2 HOUR) *Preregistration required*

In 2018, author and editor Lisa Mangum donned her superfan *Supernatural* hat and watched 287 in 6 months. She analyzed each episode for plot, character, and theme as well as offered up some writing tips. This class will distill the nearly 500 writing tips that came out of the project into a helpful Top Ten list that you can apply to your own writing.

Breakout #11
2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

Dr. Christy Alexon

Arizona

Your Brain on Food: Nutrition for Mental Health

Are you undermining your creativity and mental health with what you eat? Dr. Christy Alexon will discuss the optimal diet for mental health and wellness. We'll also discuss how to reduce stress and share tools for planning healthy meals in your daily life.

Paige Blaser

Workshop

Desert Rose

Three's a Crowd: Writing Scenes and Stories with a Large Cast of Characters

In this class we'll dissect crowded scenes and character development of introducing multiple characters in Leigh Bardugo's *Six of Crows*. Then we'll dive into our own work, or start something new, with some speed writing prompts designed to increase character awareness and help navigate scenes with multiple characters on the page.

Jen Johnson

Flagstaff/Gilbert

Once Upon a Time Meets The End: How to Write a Book 101

Not sure where to begin? Stuck in a saggy middle? Unsure how many pages to write or where to end your story? We will take a good look at story structure, spell binding opening lines and first pages, tried and true methods to get yourself out of the middle plateau and if we have time, how to write endings that send your readers searching for your next book.

Snack & Book signing

3:00 PM

Breakout #12
3:30 PM – 4:20 PM

Leslie Householder

Arizona

How to Achieve Uncommon Success

Often, there is just one small adjustment necessary in your approach that finally makes all the difference in achieving your dreams. Come learn about principles within yourself to help you find the power to achieve your dreams from someone who has helped thousands of people.

Gina Larsen

Workshop

Desert Rose

Loving Like, Adoring As, and Making Out with Metaphors

Like pollen or a FroYo joint in Anytown, USA, metaphors and similes are everywhere on the written page. Some are common place like Amazon Prime, while others are as rare as

Bismuth crystals. (Believe me, they're rare—like white peacock rare.) But if metaphors and similes seem like basic high school English, come take a look at what happens when voice meets metaphors and similes. Hint: it packs a punch to your writing, and the result is emotion. It's like mathing, but with words. This class is definitely for the beginning writer, but also for those who might like to sharpen a writing tool they may be neglecting. Attendees will discover how using metaphors and similes can deepen the feels of their stories as we unveil some seriously powerful phrases to show you why they work, and when they don't. *Please bring your first pages (printed out or on your computer) and together we will apply what we learn to your work.*

Angelica Hagman

Flagstaff/Gilbert

How to Create Deep Conflict Between Characters, and How to Bridge It (If You Wish)

Want to keep readers engaged? Then consider creating conflict between your characters that runs so deep, it seems impossible to resolve. The kind that starts out as a lovey-dovey conversation between newlyweds on which dishes to use at their housewarming party, and ends with porcelain shards and a shattered marriage. But how do we create that deep conflict? And how do we resolve it, if we wish? By playing around with such things as values, expectations, assumptions, and limiting beliefs. I hope my experience as a life coach offers a fresh perspective on this topic—if you don't agree, let's duke it out in class.

Soquel Baumgardner

Legado

Using MICE in Your Research

Unless you are a statistician, laboratory scientist, or a reference librarian research can be a daunting task. By breaking it down into the elements of Orson Scott Card's MICE Quotient (Milieu, Idea, Character, and Event) it becomes both manageable and fun. Learn how to research and access unusual resources, tips, and ideas that will help writers of all genres organize and create their story while instilling readers with a sense of the author's credibility and expertise. This class is based on the chapter in the 2018 ANWA craft book *Create, Craft, Critique, and More*.

Breakout #13

4:30 PM – 5:20 PM

Christene Houston

Desert Rose

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts and Learning How to Use Them

In this workshop style class, we'll first talk about what spiritual gifts are, why they're important in the lives of creatives everywhere, and how they can make a difference in the work you do. 2nd, we'll do some creative brainstorming to discover what our own personal spiritual gifts might be. This section will also include some talk about blocks to seeing our gifts, or ways to discover them. 3rd we'll talk about reasons we might hide from our gifts

and how to STOP THAT. Finally, we'll look at examples of people using their spiritual gifts in a variety of ways and get fired up about how we can go out and make this world a better place with the gift God has given us. Also a moment of reflection on developing gifts for more capacity.

Jennifer Griffith

Flagstaff/Gilbert

How to Rock the End

Like Mickey Spillane said, "The first page of your book sells that book. The last page sells your next book." So much has been said about making sure the beginning of a novel really captures the reader—but unless you deliver on all the promises of the premise with a soul-satisfying ending, the novel will leave a reader feeling meh. Do we want that? No! This course will discuss techniques for making that final third of your novel transport readers into the vicarious emotional experience they expected when they picked up your book. Learn several types of endings, a simple secret to creating the twist ending, and ways to tie up loose ends—all while packing the emotional wallop that drives your reader to buy your next book.

Jaclyn Weist

Legado

But I've Already Heard Cinderella . . . Making Fairy Tales Your Own

Fairy tales have been around for centuries, as have their retellings. So how do we make them original? We'll go over ways to make stories that everyone loves into a new version that's your very own.