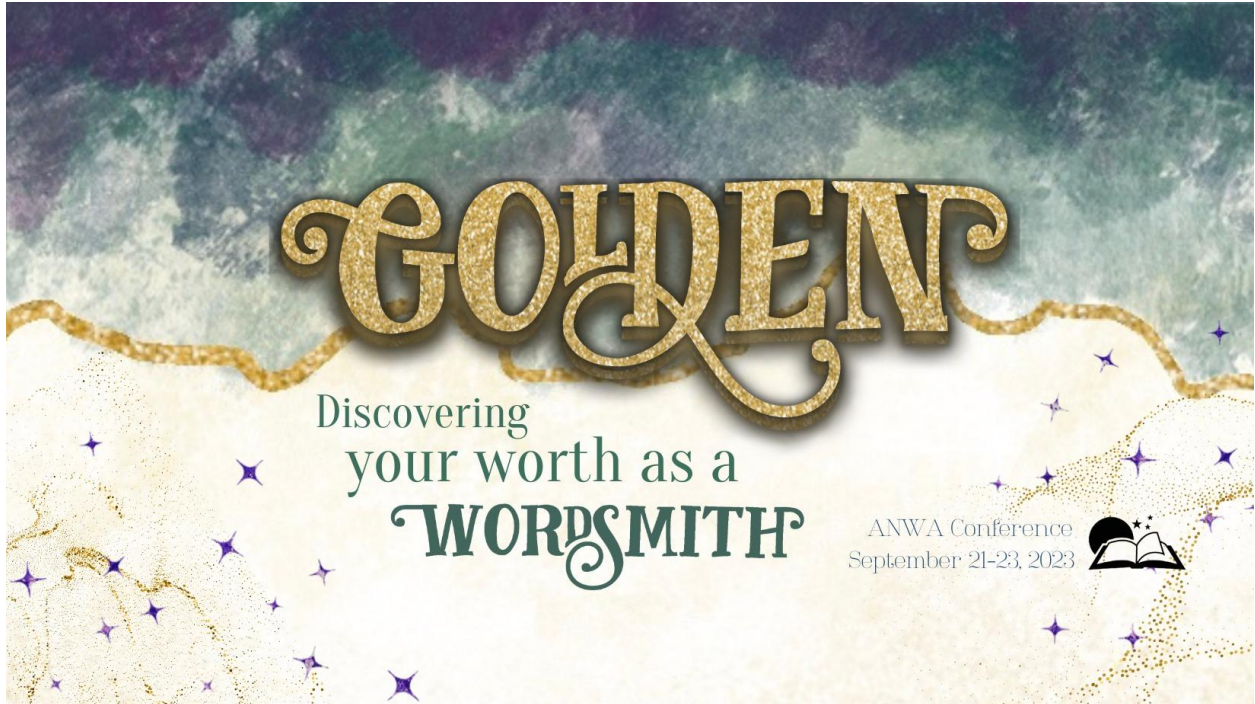


2023 ANWA Writers Conference



THURSDAY SCHEDULE

12:00	Registration / Check-in
1:00-1:05	Welcome & Critique Rules Red Mountain Ballroom
1:05-3:00	Critique Groups (Mentor & Writers) First Half
3:00-3:15	Snack Break fruit, cookies, soda, juice
3:15-5:00	Critique Groups (Mentor & Writers) Second Half
5:00-5:30	Jennifer Griffith Wrap Up
5:30-7:30	Dinner on your own
7:30	Karaoke & Lip Sync Party Red Mountain Ballroom

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 Welcome - Red Mountain Ballroom

Breakout #1 9:00 – 9:50

Traci Abramson

Red Mountain 1

Writing from Where it Hurts

Hope, despair, joy, devastation. Whether it's your greatest victory or darkest hour, this class will explore how to tap into your emotions and experiences in a way that will breathe life into the pages of your novel and add depth to your characters.

Paige Edwards

Red Mountain 2

Do the Twist! Plot Twists: Surprise your readers in a good way

A plot twist can impact your audience with an emotional punch they'll never forget. But using the wrong kind of twist will leave readers feeling cheated. Using the right moves: twists, turns, reveals, and surprise endings, are key elements of great storytelling. Come learn the steps to make your readers yearn for more.

Lisa Mangum

Red Mountain 3

Top 5 Things I've Learned from 25 Years of Editing

Lisa Mangum has been in the publishing business for more than twenty-five years, and she's learned a thing or two about both the practical side of storytelling (writing, revising, and editing) and the personal side (stress-management, honoring your heart, and finding your voice). Join her for a conversation to talk about her top 5 bits of advice that might help you on your journey as a writer, editor, and creator.

J. Scott Savage (2-Hour Intensive, part 1)

Palo Verde

Was that Me or You? Author and Character Voice

We're writers. Our characters talk to us. What is the difference between the voices of your characters and your Voice as an author? In this intensive we'll tackle that seemingly unanswerable question, "what is Voice?" We'll cover ways to develop an authorial voice so readers will say, "It's so voice-y! I love this author." Then we'll dive into creating a character voice bible so that each character sounds distinct from each other, and distinct from you as the writer. Because we all know our characters are real.

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #2 10:00 – 10:50

Cynthia Merrill
Navigating the Messy Middle

Red Mountain 1

When drafting a novel, or working through revisions, without fail we'll hit a messy middle. Something that makes it feel like the way forward is just too complicated to make it through. This class will inspire and inform you, giving you practical questions and tools to help you work through the messy middle.

Sara Larson
**Kicking Butt and Kissing Boys: How to Write
Strong Female Characters**

Red Mountain 2

Come learn how to create dynamic female protagonists, who are strong in a myriad of ways, making them worthy of the leading roles in your stories!

Erin Olds
Sensitivity Reading 101: What, Why, When

Red Mountain 3

You want to write compelling books that are intentionally inclusive, and you know that means hiring a sensitivity reader. But what exactly are sensitivity readers? Are they going to get mad at you for writing “out of your lane”? Is there a way to do it right, or should you just avoid writing diversely altogether? Join Salt & Sage Books’ CEO to go over the basics of writing diversely, including what sensitivity readers do (and don’t), when you should hire one, and how to hire one.

J. Scott Savage (2-Hour Intensive, part 2)
Was that Me or You? Author and Character Voice

Palo Verde

Continued.

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #3 11:00 – 11:50

Heather B. Moore

Red Mountain 1

Writing Historical Fiction for the Modern Reader

Writing historical fiction includes research, sure, but also a lot of decision making. How much should you research? What details are important to include? What can you embellish? When can you make exceptions to a timeline, event, or character experience? What dialog choices should you make for the modern reader while keeping them grounded in the era? How do you structure the scope of your novel? All of these questions, and more, will be discussed by historical fiction author Heather B. Moore.

Adam Berg & Clarissa Kae

Red Mountain 2

Side Hustle Success

Learn how to make your side hustle fertile ground for vibrant characters and epic love stories. Side-hustles are more than just a way to help pay the bills until your “Great American Novel” becomes a best seller. A side hustle allows your brain to take a break while also providing fodder for your creative endeavors. Learn from Clarissa and Adam's side hustles and how they helped their literary success.

Samantha Millburn, Special Guest Editor

Red Mountain 3

Rich Characters and Storylines

Without strong, rich characters, you don't have a book. That's how important it is to nail who your character is and what their storyline entails. Learn how important it is to know everything about your characters, from where they came from to their mannerisms to their internal thought process to so much more. And be ready to deep-dive into how their storyline should develop around them in realistic ways. Your characters will thank you for attending this class.

Serene Heiner

Ocotillo

Guilt-Free Goal Setting

Whether you've got big dreams or simply want to be an easy-going hobby writer, goals are the stepping stones to reaching those ideals. But what happens when you can't seem to stick to those goals? When you're constantly failing? Guess what, you're not failing. Every try counts and I'll show you why. Come learn how to allow yourself to accept those small wins and have fluid goals that propel you forward to your shiny big (or little) dream. Don't you want to see what happens if you don't give up?

LUNCH 12:00 – 12:50

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #4 1:00 – 1:50

Jolie Taylor

Red Mountain 1

Building a Platform is Fun!

In this class you will learn how to grow an online presence, tips and tricks, and why having a following on social media is beneficial. Come learn the best bookish places to hang out on the internet so you can make friends, find people interested in your books, and grow your community.

Dennis Gaunt

Red Mountain 2

True Stories Make the Best Stories

Sometimes, it feels like there's a certain stigma about non-fiction writing. After all, fiction is fun and escapist, whereas non-fiction sometimes feels like homework. Fiction is what we GET to read; non-fiction is what we HAVE to read. But it doesn't have to be that way. All the same rules about what make fiction writing great can (and do) apply to non-fiction. Whether you're writing something historical, or a memoir, or something inspirational, we'll discuss some tips to help blow the dust off your manuscript and have it shine.

Gina Denny

Red Mountain 3

6 Stages of Self-Editing Every Author Needs

You plotted and you drafted, now it's time to hit spell-check and send it off, right? Wrong! Revisions are so much more than just searching for typos and this class will give you a checklist to get you through big, story-level edits as well as nitty-gritty line-level edits and everything in between. We'll cover how to find critique partners who will help you push your writing to the next level as well as how to handle intense feedback.

Kaylee Baldwin and Rane Clark (2-Hour Intensive, part 1)

Ocotillo

The Next Big Thing: What Makes a Story Great

We've all thought it: what makes one writer sell a ton of books, get the contract, or get the agent when you know you're just as good of a writer? Well, the short answer is, it's all in the story. Come learn from two experienced editors about five elements that can make a story go from good to un-put-downable. Then we'll workshop real manuscripts so students can see how to put what they've learned into practice.

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #5 2:00 – 2:50

Pam Eaton

Red Mountain 1

Tools and Tricks that Help When We Struggle to Write

Our brains can be a fickle beast at times. We can have spurts of creativity pouring onto a page or every word is like squeezing water from a rock. So, how do we stay productive during times that our wells feel so dry? How do we create when our brains just won't cooperate? In this class we'll talk about tools that we can implement to help with productivity, methods for tackling burn-out, and ways to motivate ourselves through goal making and inspiration.

Lynette Novak, Special Guest Agent

Red Mountain 2

Traditional Publishing Demystified – What Writers Need to Know

Querying is hard. Signing with an agent can sometimes feel next to impossible. Well, I'm here to help. In Traditional Publishing Demystified – What Writers Need to Know, I'll share common questions agents are asked and also dispel some publishing myths to give you a better chance of finding the perfect partner for you and your career. Wait. What if it actually happens and you receive an offer of representation? Then what? No worries. I'll walk you through the dos and don'ts surrounding this exciting opportunity as well as cover realistic expectations so you can start or continue your publishing journey on the right foot.

Rebecca Connolly

Red Mountain 3

The Great Basic Banteroff

One cup of wit. Two teaspoons of laughs. Fold in the punchline. A dash of knock, knock. Let rise. Bake at 350 for as long as it takes. Whether you're crafting corny cakes or baking funny bones, however developed your sense of humor might be, come learn how to create banter that's a signature, tell jokes that pack a technical punch, and craft show stopping humor that will leave your readers in stitches and leave the judges wanting more. Come prepared to participate, and bring your best gags to share.

Kaylee Baldwin and Ranee Clark (2-Hour Intensive, part 2)

Palo Verde

The Next Big Thing: What Makes a Story Great

Continued.

SNACK BREAK 3:00-3:20

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #6 3:30 – 4:20

Jennifer Griffith

Red Mountain 1

Using a Romance-Specific Character Worksheet to Make Plotting (and Completing!) Your Next Romance a Breeze

What's a romance without characters who deserve one another? Unreadable! However, knowing your characters entails more than knowing what the hero and heroine look like or where they work. In this class, learn to efficiently use a tried-and-true list of interview questions for characters—built years of creating nearly fifty romance novels. You'll gain a valuable tool to use before outlining your next romance novel—and see the story practically spring to life on the page. Bonus: Learn how to outline side characters with their own goals and motivations, to flesh out the story and make it irresistible to readers—and have them coming back to you for book after book.

Heather Cashman, Special Guest Agent

Red Mountain 2

Find Your Formula: Synopsis Editing Combined with Plot Editing

The dreaded synopsis—you know, that thing that must convey a book's entire narrative arc in just a couple of pages—isn't as hard as you think. Believe it or not, it can be something you look forward to writing and editing. When writing books, formulas have their place. And it isn't until we understand the formulas that work that we can tweak them, change and bend and twist them. Sometimes they snap. Sometimes they look better twisted. Learn how editing the synopsis of your book can work as a formula to help edit your plot. After this class, your synopsis just might be one of your favorite ingredients in your literary lab or potions shelf.

Julie Wright

Red Mountain 3

Six Steps to Get Emotional

Readers read for the emotional payoff. Powerful emotions start with the writer. Whether you're creating a tear-jerking drama or a heart-stopping thriller, these 6 straightforward steps will show how to evoke a powerful emotional experience that will keep your reader satisfied long after the book has closed.

Kyro Dean

Ocotillo

How to Judge a Book by its Cover

Wondering what makes a fantastic book cover? This class will do an in-depth study of what cover elements draw in readers and what elements chase them away. We'll also go over the difference between illustrators, designers, and controversial AI, which one you need, and how to work with them. Then we'll discuss how to find the cover tropes for your genre and go over dozens of real examples so you can walk away knowing how to create the best cover for your book.

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #7 4:30 – 5:20

Kate Stradling
Point of View and Perspective

Red Mountain 1

The good, the bad, and the in-between of every story is a matter of perspective. Delve into the weeds of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person Point of View, along with the different styles and frameworks that give them life. We'll discuss advantages of narrative intimacy versus distance, what elements to consider when choosing focal characters, and the intrinsic manipulative power that every narrator holds. Expand your writer's toolbox and elevate your craft with this deep dive into POV.

Serene Heiner
Picture Perfect - Describing Scenes without Destroying Your Pacing

Red Mountain 2

A picture might be worth a thousand words, but how do you describe a picture without actually using a thousand words? Ensuring readers feel grounded in whatever world the characters are in is vital to the reader's experience, but too much unnecessary detail can slow down your pacing, especially during action scenes. In this class we'll discuss how to incorporate important details that make sense for your character to notice and are necessary without putting everyone to sleep.

Stephanie Black
Dealing with Negative Feedback

Red Mountain 3

A zinger from a critique group member. Rejection letters. A snarky one-star Goodreads post. Once you start sharing your writing with others, at some point you'll get feedback that will make you want to crawl under a rock. Getting told that your heart-and-soul creation isn't perfect is an inescapable part of being an author. When is feedback helpful and when is it noise you should tune out? In this class we'll discuss ways to evaluate feedback and put solid feedback to healthy, productive use instead of letting those comments stomp on your enthusiasm for your stories.

Martha Petersen
Using Elements of Fiction in Creative Nonfiction

Ocotillo

Creative nonfiction essays are based on actual experiences, and as writers, we work hard to bring our readers into these experiences. In this workshop, we will explore the ways elements of fiction—characterization, setting, plot, and so on—can help us write vivid, meaningful creative nonfiction essays. This class will have an instructional portion and also a time to work on our writing. Bring a piece you are working on or begin a new one!

5:30 Closing Remarks - Red Mountain Ballroom

Dinner (on your own)

7:30 GALA - Red Mountain Ballroom

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Welcome & B.O.B. Awards - Red Mountain Ballroom

Breakout #8 10:00 – 10:50

Ellie Whitney **Verbs in Motion**

Red Mountain 1

After ten years as an English teacher and more than eight as a writing tutor and freelance editor, I've found that verb choice remains the biggest weakness for many writers. Verbs equal action and are the heavy hitters of a sentence, so choosing the right verb is paramount to good writing. Fortunately, picking great verbs is easy to do. Learn how to hit a homerun with your verbs by replacing weak ones (passive, overused, filter, helping, un-evocative, or "to be") with strong, specific, evocative ones.

Special Guests and Moderator **Agent-Editor Panel**

Red Mountain 2

Q&A with special guests.

Rachel Huffmire **An Authorpreneur's Business Plan**

Red Mountain 3

Did you know that only 5% of authorpreneurs have a business plan and only 30% of small businesses are surviving long-term? Don't leave your success to chance. You need written goals and processes to hone in on the principles that will serve you best. That way, instead of chasing every trend and tactic, you can spend more time doing what you really love—WRITING! Come get a free business plan template built specifically for authors to help you define your brand and position yourself at the top of the industry.

Erin Olds (2-Hour Intensive, part 1) **Watch Yourself Rise: The Power of Tracking Your Writing**

Ocotillo

How many words can you write in a day? Do you write more in the morning or at night? Do you do best when you write in sprints or in long marathons? Is your word count influenced by the day of the week, the month, the weather? In this class, we will discuss the power that comes from knowing your habits in a detailed way. Learn how to track your work and you will learn how to unlock your best productivity. Tracking Excel spreadsheet included!

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #9 11:00 – 11:50

Liz Lowham

Red Mountain 1

“Stop Acting Like a Disgruntled Pelican”—Conveying Emotion Without Too Much Emotion

We want readers to laugh, cry, and cringe, but only WHEN we want them to. Sadly, emotion gone wrong means our readers can laugh or cringe during moments we wanted them to cry. What’s the secret to getting emotion right? The heart of it lies in a principle called melodrama vs. drama. Please bring an emotional scene from one of your stories to workshop in the class!

Donna Hatch

Red Mountain 2

Dressing the Regency Lady

Regency clothing, from the unmentionables all the way to the hats and shoes, the difference between stays and corsets, how clothing affected their lives, and what ladies wore to what occasion.

Victorine Lieske

Red Mountain 3

Writing to Market

What is writing to market, and how are authors using this to make six and seven figures? In this class we’ll talk about what writing to market is, what it isn’t, and how to create fiction that sells. There are many misconceptions about writing to market, and we’ll dispel those as well as give tricks on how you can write to market while still writing what you love.

Erin Olds (2-Hour Intensive, part 2)

Ocotillo

Watch Yourself Rise: The Power of Tracking Your Writing

Continued.

LUNCH 12:00 – 12:50

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #10 1:00 – 1:50

Stephanie Black

Red Mountain 1

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/ how to reveal information, and more to will help you intrigue and satisfy readers.

Kaylee Baldwin

Red Mountain 2

Harnessing the Power of Bittersweet

What do the endings of Toy Story 3, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows, and Casablanca have in common? They hit us right in the feels with their bittersweet notes. The final goodbye between Andy and Woody, the death of a beloved character, and the parting of a couple in love. Bittersweet is longing and sorrow mingled with joy; it's knowing that life and death are intertwined and light and dark are companions. Relying on research regarding the connective power of a bittersweet state of mind, we'll discuss why it is important to implement bittersweet moments into our stories, analyze specific examples in movies and literature, and consider ways we can add bittersweet moments into our own stories to create meaningful, poignant moments our readers will remember.

Rebecca Irvine

Red Mountain 3

10 Alternative Ways to Measure Success as a Writer

In the writing community there are countless ways to measure success—completing a first draft, landing an agent, winning the BOB contest, etc. So what does it mean to be a successful writer? In this class we will discuss 10 different ways to measure your success as a writer to help you discover your worth as a wordsmith.

Lisa Mangum (2-Hour Intensive, part 1)

Ocotillo

P.A.N.T.S. and P.O.C.K.E.T.S.

You've written a book. Now what? It's time to put on your Writing Pants and get down to the necessary work of structure and revision. We'll cover the five essential elements of story—Protagonist, Antagonist, Needs, Theme, and Stakes—as well as some practical tips of Promises, Obstacles, Consequences, Kismet, Empathy, Tension, and Surprise that you can store in your Pockets to make sure your story is perfectly tailored for presentation.

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #11 2:00 – 2:50

Gina Denny
The Only Plot Tool You'll Ever Need

Red Mountain 1

This plotting tool is “Save the Cat!” meets the Hero’s Journey with help from Dan Wells’ 7-point plotting system with room to plot and plan your subplots as well. Flexible enough to be used to plot before you get started writing or as a diagnostic tool after you’ve got a draft and need to figure out what’s not quite working.

Emily Poole
The World is Wide Enough: AI For Writers

Red Mountain 2

Artificial intelligence seems to be in the news everywhere lately. What is it? Do we need to fear our robot overlords becoming such good novelists that we are all written out of a job? Here’s your entry into understanding how AI works—and how you can make it work for you.

Jessica Guernsey
Tips from the Slushpile

Red Mountain 3

You finished a manuscript and now it’s time to get it published! With so many voices telling you the do’s and don’ts, how do you know which path to take? Ask a Slush Pile Reader! The first rung on the publishing ladder, slush pile readers have a grittier insight on what goes on once your manuscript is submitted. From crafting your query to strengthening your first pages, find out how to catch the reader's attention and keep it. First appearing in her popular Facebook posts, now brought to you live, Jessica will address your submission fears and give tips to float your manuscript to the top of the slush.

Lisa Mangum (2-Hour Intensive, part 2)
P.A.N.T.S. and P.O.C.K.E.T.S.

Ocotillo

Continued.

SNACK BREAK 3:00-3:20

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #12 3:30 – 4:20

Arianne Costner
Middle Grade Mayhem

Red Mountain 1

This class is all about Middle Grade! Middle Grade literature (for ages 8-12) is a growing and dynamic category. But how exactly is it different than Young Adult literature? In this class, we'll examine common themes and characteristics of middle grade books. We'll learn how to capture middle grade voice and humor. We'll discuss recent publishing trends in middle grade and review the current best-selling books. Bring your questions!

SD Simper
The Ultimate Indie Author Checklist

Red Mountain 2

Every writer knows the struggle of latching onto a new book idea and diving in, only to get lost partway through. Luckily, authors have a creative cousin they can look to for help: artists. By following the process artists use to create a piece from beginning to end, you, too, can turn your idea to a complete novel. What does it mean to thumbnail? How do you "kill your darlings" after working hard on a beloved project? And what is the golden rule of all creative work? With the help of your artist friends, you can learn how to make something you're truly proud of.

Stephanie Neilan
Writing and ADD

Red Mountain 3

Do you ever find yourself getting distracted? I've got some tips to help you get back on and stay on track while allowing yourself grace.

Rachel V. White
What to Expect When You're Expecting an Audiobook

Ocotillo

Many authors think that finding a narrator and producing an outstanding audiobook are simple tasks. But there are parts of the production process that can catch you off-guard if you're not prepared: How can I make sure I've picked the right narrator for my project? What are the first 15? What on earth are RS, RS+, and PFH? How much is all this really going to cost me? In this class, I'll give you tools you can use to set your audiobook apart and make your project a success from the beginning.

2023 ANWA Writers Conference

Breakout #13 4:30 – 5:20

J. Scott Savage

Red Mountain 1

How to Ride the Post-Conference Wave to Success

You went to a writing conference, now what? Come learn how NOT to leave overwhelmed from the fire hose of information you gained here at the ANWA conference. Figure out how to take what you've learned and add it to your writing toolbox to help you finish your book and start writing the next one.

Ranee Clark

Red Mountain 2

Woven Into Your Being: Why God Wants You To Create

For a variety of reasons, writers often find themselves stuck. Writer's block, family demands, mental strain, lack of support from friends and family, time constraints, the list goes on and on. How do you justify your writing when it's not paying the bills (and even when it is) and you have 101 other things that must be done? Come and discover why it's important to allow your God-given talents to blossom and grow, and maybe even find a bit of inspiration along the way.

Jennie Bennett

Red Mountain 3

Episodic Fiction: The Future of Reading is Now

With the launch of Kindle Vella last year many authors are curious about episodic fiction. From Webtoon to Wattpad we'll deep dive into different episodic platforms and what they can do to fill out your author career.

Julie Wright

Palo Verde

How to Write a Book in 30 Days

30 ways to get it done in thirty days. From organization to time to finding your groove, this class will give you what you need to successfully write a book in a month.

5:30 Closing Remarks
Keynote by Sara B. Larson
Red Mountain Ballroom

Updated 9/12/2023. Conference schedule may be subject to change.