

WRITERS & WANT-TO-BE'S!

2019 Southwest Florida Writers Conference

Possibilities! The Hudson comes to the Peace



- Title: "Possibilities! The Hudson comes to the Peace" ("River" that is)
- Primary Area Served: From Sarasota/Bradenton to Naples/Marco Island and inland (Everyone is welcome)
- Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019 --- 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM
- Theme: Writing's possibilities!
- Areas included: Books (fiction & non-fiction), Magazines, Newspapers, TV/radio, & Electronic media.
- Location: Charlotte County Cultural Center, Port Charlotte
- Program: One jam-packed day of writing possibilities featuring 70 individual classes, discussion panels, and a special keynote speaker.
- One to One Sessions: A special opportunity! – Have your writing reviewed or pitch your work to a publishing professional ... including 16 agents and editors from NYC. Submit your sample/pitch in advance and spend 20 minutes with someone who may aid you in your writing career.
- Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the registration fee.

Spare yourself the expense of a major trip. Attend a high quality event that brings quality presenters and publishing professionals to Southwest Florida. The conference is centrally located ... a two hour drive for anyone in the primary service area. Reasonable hotel accommodations are available with blocks of rooms reserved. Conference registration is limited!

Discounts for early bird registrations!

For more information go to: <https://southwestfloridawritersconference.com> or <http://www.abc-artisansofbooks.com>

Coming from NY

Sheree Bykpfsky
Sheree Bykofsky Asso



Sheree Bykofsky founded Sheree Bykofsky Associates, Inc. in 1991. A long standing member of the AAR, and the first agent to have a web page, Sheree has represented over a thousand authors in all areas of adult non-fiction as well as literary and commercial fiction. Her non-fiction specialties include popular reference, business, health, psychology, poker, spirituality, self-help, humor, cookbooks, pop culture, biography, women's issues, decorating; crafts, music, and much more. Sheree is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Publishing at New York University and an Adjunct Professor at Rosemont College, and she teaches at conferences around the country.

Katharine Sands
Sarah Jane Freymann Agency



Katharine Sands Literary Agent is a book agent with the Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency. Katharine has worked with a varied list of fiction and non-fiction authors who publish a diverse array of books. She is the agent provocateur of *Making the Perfect Pitch: How to Catch a Literary Agent's Eye*, a collection of pitching wisdom from leading literary agents. Actively building her client list, she likes books that have a clear benefit for readers' lives in categories of food, travel, lifestyle, home arts, beauty, wisdom, relationships, parenting, and fresh looks, which might be at issues, life challenges or popular culture. When reading fiction she wants to be compelled and propelled by urgent storytelling, and hooked by characters. For memoir, she likes to be transported to a world rarely or newly observed.

Toni Robino
Windword agency



Toni Robino is a leading editorial collaborator, with credits that include New York Times bestsellers titles Toni teaches writers how to write marketable books and create powerful pitch packages. She empowers writers to free their imaginative minds and entice the muses to come out and play. As a literary talent scout, she's always on the lookout for projects that the agents in her network will be excited about.

During one-on-one sessions, she can suggest improvements for your pitch package (query, synopsis, first 10-15 manuscript pages) or review your writing and identify strong skill sets and areas for development.

Emily Keys
The Fuse Agency



Emily S. Keyes joined Fuse Literary in 2013 after working as an agent at the L. Perkins Agency for 2 years. Before entering the world of agenting, she worked in the contracts department of Simon & Schuster, Inc and graduated from New York University's Center for Publishing. She uses her knowledge of contracts, copyright and the publishing business to benefit her clients and the Fuse team.

Stephany Evans
Ayesha Pande Agency



Stephany Evans put a toe in the publishing waters at Simon & Schuster Audio when audio publishing was just beginning to be “a thing.” Now, for more than twenty-five years, Stephany has represented nonfiction writers in the areas of health and wellness, spirituality, lifestyle, food and drink, and sustainability, running and fitness, memoir, current affairs and narrative non-fiction. She also represents a range of women’s fiction, from literary to up-market commercial, to romance, as well as crime fiction (mysteries, thrillers), and the occasional literary or commercial novel not aimed at a female market. She is looking for fine, accomplished writing, whether the work is by a first time or established author. Her authors have been New York Times and USA Today bestsellers and award winners in multiple categories

Rebecca Scherer
Jane Rotrosen Agency



Rebecca Scherer began her publishing career as an intern at JRA in 2010 while earning a BA in English Literature, Political Science, and German from the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter. Immediately upon graduating, she was offered the unique opportunity to work within each department at the agency to gain a deep understanding of the business before going on to become an agent. She represents commercial fiction across genres, with particular interest in women’s fiction, crime/mystery, suspense, book club fiction, and upmarket/literary-leaning fiction.

Paula Munier
Talcot Notch Agency



Paula Munier, Senior Literary Agent and Content Strategist at Talcott Notch Literary Services, boasts broad experience creating and marketing exceptional content in all formats across all markets for WGBH, Disney, Fidelity, Gannett, Greenspun Media Group, F&W Media, and Quayside, among others. She began her career as a journalist, and along the way added editor, acquisitions specialist, digital content manager, and publishing executive to her repertoire. Her specialties include crime fiction, women's fiction, upmarket fiction, MG and crossover YA, high-concept SFF, and nonfiction.

Lisa Abellera
Kimberly Cameron Associates



Lisa Abellera joined Kimberley Cameron and Associates in 2013 with a background in management, marketing, and finance. After earning her MFA in Creative Writing from University of San Francisco, Lisa now follows her true passion for books and writing. She enjoys stories with high personal stakes, characters with rich inner lives, and lush world-building. She is seeking upmarket and literary fiction, women's fiction, historical fiction, mystery, suspense, thrillers, science fiction, fantasy, literary horror, most speculative fiction except paranormal (no demons, angels, vampires, zombies, werewolves, etc.), romance if an element or sub-genre, and all YA and middle grade fiction genres. Across all categories, she is especially looking for stories by #ownvoices authors and writers from marginalized or underrepresented backgrounds.

Dede Cummings
Green Writers Press



In her role as publisher of Green Writers Press, she is looking for environmentally-themed fiction, poetry and nonfiction (childrens-adult). In addition to her work as a literary agent, she also has a new publishing imprint to work one-on-one with authors at DCDesign Books. where she acquires books that tell literary and compelling stories with a focus on writing about place.

Nicole Resciniti
Seymour Agency



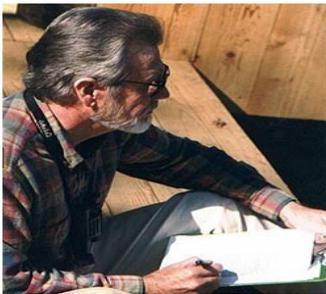
The Seymour Agency strives to offer aspiring and established authors the representation they need to thrive in the publishing world. From foreign rights to film rights and everything in between, we provide emotional, professional, promotional, and editorial counsel to each of our authors. HEA's are a must for romance. Mainstream suspense, thrillers, mysteries, YA and inspirational novels are welcome. A consummate science geek and card-carrying Mensa member, Nicole would love to find the next great science fiction/fantasy novel or action/adventure masterpiece.

Doug Grad
Doug Grad Agency



The agency opened for business in 2008, after Doug had spent the previous twenty-two years as a senior editor at four major New York publishing houses. Throughout his editorial career, Doug was always an author's advocate--the kind of editor authors wanted to work with because of his keen eye, integrity, and talent for developing projects. He was also a skillful negotiator, sometimes to the chagrin of literary agents. Now he brings those experiences to the other side of the table in offering publishers the kind of high-quality commercial fiction and nonfiction that he himself was proud to publish.

Dr. Robert Fulton
River Geezer Editing



Robert Fulton is an award winning freelance writer for magazines, literary, conservation, and education publications. He has had over fifty stories and articles featured in more than thirty different publications as varied as *Reader's Digest*, *NurseWeek*, and *North Carolina Sportsman*.. He was ranked second among book editors in the national P&E Readers Poll this year. Robert is a member of the Charlotte Writer's Club, the Florida Writers' Association, the Florida Outdoor Writers' Association, the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society, the North Carolina Writers Network, and the North Carolina Poetry Society.

From the local area

Melody Dean Dimick



Melody Dean Dimick taught at Northern Adirondack Central School, DeLand High School, and at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. She draws from experiences teaching to write Young Adult fiction and poetry. Her latest books, *Blame* and *Backpack Blues: Inspire the Fire Within*, were published by Taylor and Seale Publishing. Prior to publication, *Backpack Blues* won a First-Place Royal Palm Literary Award (Unpublished General). Her short works appear in six Florida Writers Association (FWA) collections.

In addition to leading the FWA Villa Writers Group, Melody offers workshops, has served as an RPLA judge, and is the current president of the Florida Writers Foundation. She has an ability to provide critical advice to the novice writer.

James Abraham



James Abraham is a former reporter, editor, editorial writer, literary critic, and columnist with several newspapers including the Milwaukee Journal, Tallahassee Democrat, Charlotte Sun, and Sarasota Herald-Tribune. He has written a well-received political biography that is used in university curricula and has published a collection of his insightful book essays. Abraham is a popular writing coach, critic, and lecturer at writers' centers and colleges who understands book editing and packaging. His Book-broker Publishers, which he founded 15 years ago, has produced or edited more than 500 books in a variety of genres. The native of Baltimore stopped reading and writing long enough to marry his wife of 35 years and raise two children. He lives in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Lynn Marie Thompson



As president of Thompson Writing & Editing, she has worked with authors since 2003 to help them write, edit, and market their books. Audiences to which Lynn has spoken include writers' and business organizations, state and regional conferences, and community service groups. She is currently booking speeches based on topics from *The Feline CEO*.

Lynn has ghostwritten several memoir books and edits book manuscripts in multiple fiction and nonfiction genres.

Lane Gregory



Lane DeGregory is a Pulitzer Prize-winning Tampa Bay Times reporter who prefers writing about people in the shadows. She went to work with a 100-year-old man who still swept out a seafood warehouse, hung out beneath a bridge with a colony of sex offenders, followed a feral child who was adopted.

She previously worked for the Daily Progress and The Virginian-Pilot and moved to Florida in 2000 to write for the Times.

She teaches at the University of South Florida, the Poynter Institute and journalism conferences around the world. Listen to her weekly podcast, WriteLane, on SoundCloud or iTunes.

Veronica Helen Hart



Veronica Helen Hart the author of nine novels and many short stories. Her award-winning Blender Series is published by Champagne Books. She also publishes her work under her own imprint, Uppity Woman Press. She is senior consulting editor for Taylor & Seale Publishing, LLC and Armstrong Media Group. She is also a Regional Director for the Florida Writers Association. Through her workshops, editing, and individual coaching she has helped many authors create marketable as well as prize-winning manuscripts. Visit her website at: www.uppitywomanpress.com.

Joanne Simon Taillele



Joanne Simon Taillele wrote her first short story at the age of ten. For fifty years, writing was her private release for her soul. In 2010, she accepted the NANOWRIMO challenge to write a novel in thirty days. Of course, she admits it took two years of edits to make it print worthy, but the drive to become a novelist was born.

When describing her writing style, she coins the phrase “moral fiction” from her favorite author, Jodi Picoult. “I consider my stories ‘moral fiction,’ the intent to raise the social conscience about people and circumstances more comfortable hidden as family skeletons.

Ms. Taillele originally has published three Women’s Fiction, two biographies and a children’s book. She is the current president of Marco Island Writers Inc. and owner of Simon Publishing. Originally a mid-west girl from Ohio, she lives on Marco Island, FL with her husband. You can find her books on her website at www.JoanneTaillele.com

T.M.Jacobs



T.M. Jacobs, a native to the shoreline area of Connecticut. He has published nine books, over 400 articles published in various newspapers and magazines, teaches classes on writing and publishing, and currently is the owner of Jacobs Writing Consultants. His book, *The 1864 Diary of Civil War Union Soldier Sergeant Samuel E. Grosvenor: A first-hand account of the horrors at Andersonville Prison* is a biography of Grosvenor who kept a small diary while in the Andersonville Prison. This title was featured on C-SPAN2 TV. He current travels and works with his fiancé out of their RV.

Ronnie Miller



Ronni Miller, Book Midwife/Developmental Editor is the founder and Director of Write It Out® a motivational and expressive writing program since 1992. She facilitates Write It Out workshops in the US, Bermuda and Italy. She is an award winning author and has published seven books of fiction and nonfiction for adults and children. Graduate of Boston University with a BA in English and Master's credits from Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College, she has studied fiction with Arturo Vivante, winner of the Katherine Anne Porter prize for literature.

Dr. Mary Custuerier



Dr. Mary Custerie is the owner of Taylor and Seal publishing.. Taylor and Seale is a traditional publisher featuring quality fiction and non-fiction for readers around the globe. Founded in 2011, it deals with multi-media educational products, novels and non-fiction. All educational products have been tested by key educators.

She is a member of the SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators), the FWA (Florida Writers Association); the National Council of Teachers of English, the International Reading Association, The Delta Kappa Gamma association of key teachers, and is active in the semination and awareness of good literature. She has served on educational advisory boards, including a reading board for a national children's magazine and on a county board of education as consultant

Angelina Assanti



Angelina is a Massachusetts native. She moved to Florida to go to college and never went back. She won a President's Award in Humor for "Mark Taylor's Checkered Past" in 2015. In 2016, she won two President's Awards; one in Humor, and one in Health for "Thank God I Got Cancer...I'm Not a Hypochondriac Anymore!" This book was also a finalist in the international Readers' Favorite book competition and went on to be a #1 bestseller. She is a member of the Gulf Coast Writers Association, Mystery Writers of America and she is the President of the Florida Authors and Publishers Association.

Liz Coursen



She owns EditNation.com. Liz is the author of 17 books, including *The Book Tourist: Seven Steps to a Wildly* Liz Coursen is an award-winning author, editor, and book coach from Sarasota, Florida, where *Successful Book Tour*; *Self-Editing for the Modern Author*; and *Shade in the Sunshine State: Reflections on Segregation in Florida*. In 2017, in addition to speaking engagements in the US, Liz presented editing and writing programs in Milan, Zurich, and in five different cities in India. In November 2018, Liz presented editing workshops at WordPress conferences in Portland, Maine, and Seattle, Washington, on back-to-back weekends.

Dr. Lynn Hawkins



As a professor, Dr. Hawkins spends most of her time right now practicing surgical skills: amputating dangling participles, excising run-on sentences and comma splices, removing empty modifiers, and bandaging wounded egos of student writers at Daytona State College. As a former metropolitan newspaper and magazine writer, Lynn has published more than 2,500 feature stories, authored three books, written a weekly tv show, and hosted a live talk radio program for five years. Her doctoral research examined how non-verbal and co-verbal behaviors could free or block the writing process. Her award-winning biography of renowned anthropologist/civil rights leader/educator Dr. Annie Mae Walker, *Always the First* is the result of more than 250 hours of oral interviews.



Your faculty from ABC Books 4 Children & Adults, Inc.

Brenda M. Spalding



Award-winning author Brenda M. Spalding is a prolific writer with several children's books and adult novels to her credit. She is a member of the National League of American Pen Women, Sarasota Authors Connection, Sisters in Crime and a founding member and current president of ABC Books 4 Children & Adults.

She also has a micro-publishing company, Heritage Publishing US, where she helps new and aspiring authors to achieve the dream of publishing. She also is a marketing consultant to help authors navigate their way through Social Media.

www.heritagepublishing.com

Lucy Tobias



Lucy Tobias is a three-time winner of the coveted New York Times Chairman's Award for outstanding newspaper writing. She worked for 26 years as a reporter and photographer for the New York Times Regional Group. The New York Times syndicate carried her columns, travel and environmental stories.

Lucy served as Authentic Florida Expert for Visit Florida providing videos, blogs and podcasts. She currently lives in Sarasota, Florida, writes books that are family and travel friendly plus free lances stories to newspapers and magazines. Her Website is: www.LucyTobias.com

When you sign up for a Lucy one-on-one, bring story ideas or a 500-word piece on any subject typed double-spaced. Lucy recently coached a writer on ways to be published in a magazine and that helped lead the writer to a new job.

Clarissa Thomasson



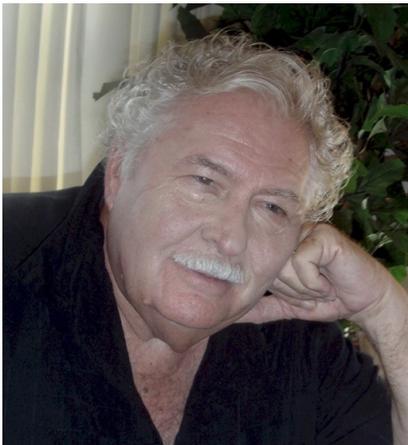
Clarissa has written five children's books, four novels set in Southwest Florida, a World War II novel, a compilation of local Venice heroes, a poetry book and two full-length stage plays. Thomasson is also a freelance magazine writer—having written for *GRAND* magazine and *Yesterday in Florida* and currently writing a monthly column for *Eastside Venice Neighbors*. Thomasson won a 2005 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation award for her contribution to Florida history. In 2006, she was listed in the *North Carolina Literary Review* for her contributions to North Carolina literature. In 2014, Thomasson won first place in the Clarence “Bud” Jones Playwriting Competition at the Firehouse Theatre in LaBelle, Florida, for her play, *Over the Bridge*. Thomasson's newest play, *Florida Shadows*, also won first place for 2015 in the Clarence “Bud” Jones

Joe Eckstein



Joe Eckstein is a professional book designer and the illustrator of over fifteen published books for children, including *Herby Gets a Life*, which he also authored. He has several more books in the works. Drawing and writing stories since he can remember, he grew up in central Ohio, holds a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art from Bowling Green State University, and worked as a staff illustrator for leading children's educational publisher Carson-Dellosa. He now calls Florida home, where, in addition to writing and illustrating children's books, he teaches art and theatre to school children.

DL Havlin



DL Havlin is an eclectic author whose varied experiences and background provide him with a memory chest full of material for writing his novels. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati and attended pre-law at Rollins.

His life has been as varied as his novels. Havlin's occupations have included tasks from systems analyst to world-wide customer service director and from licensed boat captain to football coach. He's in demand as a speaker and seminar presenter for relationship and writing skills.

Jo Ann Glim



Jo Ann V. Glim lives in Bradenton, FL with her husband Bill, and their Scottish terrier, Lucy. Her debut novel, "Begotten with Love," is a Florida Writers Association Royal Palm Literary Award recipient, first place, Biography. Writing, photography, travel, church, and handbells all rock her world. Two things she loves as much as family are a Chicago thin-crust pizza and her husband's homemade spaghetti sauce. Life is yummy!