

MAWC

An Entire Day Devoted to the Beginning Writer!

Do you make-up bedtime stories? Have you researched the history of your family? Is writing something you have enjoyed in your business life? Do you journal faithfully? Is poetry a stress reliever? Have you thought about going to a writers conference but felt intimidated by the “real” writers and “master classes” they support? If so, this is the conference for you!

The Mid-Atlantic Writers Conference brings non-writers together with established writers in a casual environment to help the beginners jump start their writing ambitions, whether for one specific project or to fulfill a dream. Learn the basics on how to get started, find support, and author tips, tricks, and resources. You'll learn and get advice from the region's established writing community, the ones who have been there, written that!

Choose your interest in fiction, non-fiction and memoir, or poetry. Stay the day in that track, or mix it up to get a taste of all that is on offer. Add in some bling to really get the creative wave going by lunching with an author who will answer your questions, having dinner with a writing legend, or getting one-on-one advice for a manuscript already started or a project you have in mind.

You also won't want to miss bestselling author [Lara Zeises](#) as Key-note Speaker! Lara is the author of six books for teenagers, including *Bringing Up The Bones*, *Contents Under Pressure* and *The Sweet Life of Stella Madison*, as well as *True Confessions of a Hollywood Starlet*, which was made into a Lifetime movie, starring multi-platinum recording artist Joanna “JoJo” Levesque and Golden Globe winner Valerie Bertinelli. There is no one more inspiring or entertaining on the subject of writing!



In addition to great sessions, you can choose to participate in other activities to help you get your writing off to a great start!

MANUSCRIPT and Project CRITIQUES

Have you already written something or have a project in mind? Would you like to get an opinion? Project proposals and prose of up to 2000 words may be submitted to be considered by professionals. Those with poetry may submit up to three poems. All work for manuscript reviews must be received by snail-mail by September 17, 2010. You will be notified in your conference packet when and where to meet with your reviewer for a one-on-one session to discuss your work and ideas. Payment for this review is separate from the registration and is an additional \$45.00.

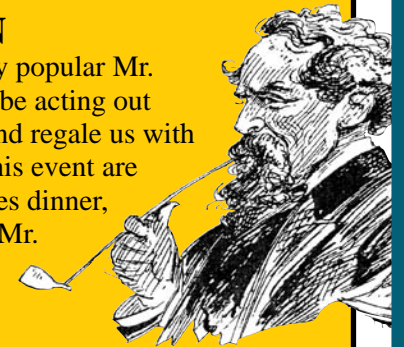
See requirements inside...

SHARE LUNCHTIME WITH A WRITER!

Some of the tables at our luncheon will be hosted by session leaders, ready to share their insights, tips and habits with their table mates. You can reserve your space at one of the tables for just \$10. Payment for lunch with one of the writers is separate from registration fee.

THE ULTIMATE DISCUSSION

Welcome the dramatic, hypnotic, and hugely popular Mr. Charles Dickens to Dover! The author will be acting out passages from his most memorable tomes and regale us with stories about his writing. Reservations for this event are very limited. The ticket price of \$50 includes dinner, a copy of *Oliver Twist*, and discussion with Mr. Dickens. **You do not have to participate in or register for the conference to attend this event.**



Scheduled Workshops

Each session is geared toward the new writer:

9-10:30am

They Live: Believable Characters and Dialogue

With novelist Diane Marquette

Make characters come to life by giving them depth and substance. Write believable dialogue unique to each character in the story and keep the plot moving forward.



Mementos Into Memoir

with poet/memoirist Nancy Mitchell

How many times have we heard “you have to write that down”? Learn to cull the best of your family stories, memories and events, and shape them into a memoir. Bring photos, mementos, and thoughts of family stories and traditions.

Making Music with Words

with poet/songwriter Crabmeat Thompson

Learn creative, right brain thinking as used by great poets from Chaucer to Bukowski to the Grateful Dead!

10:45am-12:15pm



Giving Shape to Experience: Plotting Your Story

with novelist Cruce Stark

How is a readable story different from a mere listing of events? Plotting! Learn the basic rules to make your stories better.

Turning Documents into Stories

with novelist Diane Marquette

What’s keeping you from writing a bestselling book or award-winning film? Learn how to find timely topics and craft them into fiction or nonfiction works that are sure to find an audience.

Poetry as Memoir

with poet Vanessa Haley

Explore sensory perceptions elicited by family photos and use elements of poetry to shape your memoir. Please bring an old photo to serve as inspiration!

1:45-2:30pm



Write Your Book in 9 Minutes a Day

with novelist Maribeth Fischer

No kidding! Learn to use writing prompts to start writing the book you’ve always dreamed of writing.

The Story Behind the Story, Part 1

with journalist and Assistant Professor Victor Greto

The real story often begins with a single detail that hints at conflict or tension. Learn the skills in finding the “back story”, which makes the difference between writing that simply conveys information and a compelling story.

The Working Writer Roundtable Discussion

with Diane Marquette, Nancy Mitchell, Mary Kennedy, Cruce Stark, and Vanessa Haley

Tips and habits that will keep you writing from those who keep on writing!

2:45-4:15pm



How to Write a Murder Mystery

with novelist Mary Kennedy

Whether your tastes run to medical suspense, detective mysteries, or legal thrillers, you’ll find all the tools you need to write your mystery.

The Perfect Scene

with novelist Maribeth Fischer
Scenes are the heart of writing. Each must employ the key elements of setting and characterization. Layer by layer, step-by-step, a chapter evolves!



Set Design

with poet Billie Travalini
Setting is central to the meaning, tone, and success of many poems, from “Harlem” by Langston Hughes to “Song of Myself” by Walt Whitman. Learn to use setting to enhance your own works.

4:30-5:15pm

Start Your Engines! Roundtable Discussion

with Billie Travalini, Maribeth Fischer, Mary Kennedy

All writers have their own ways of writing the first words, the ones that get them moving. Join these authors and find out where it all starts for them.



The Story Behind the Story, Part 2

with Victor Greto

Put the information from Part 1 to work as you interview and search for both an image and turning point in a person’s story.

Successful Peer Writers Critique Groups

with writer Robert Davis

Valuable tips on organizing and maintaining a successful peer writers critique group along with ideas for sharing manuscripts; line-editing; writing summary critiques; and conducting effective group meetings.

Manuscript and Project Review Guidelines

The details outlined below are **required** for manuscript submissions. Any not prepared in this way will be returned unread.

FONT: Times New Roman or Courier New, 12-point

MARGINS AND SPACING:

- Use 1” margins—top, bottom, left, and right.
- Do not justify the lines for text—use flush left.
- Double-space only (not single, not 1.5).

TITLE PAGE:

- Upper left corner: Name, address, telephone, e-mail
- Upper right corner: Word count
- Centered on page [Title of Your Work] (boldface, all caps)
by [Your Name or Pseudonym] (“normal” font)

HEADER: Writer’s name / TITLE OF WORK (use the slash and put the title in all caps) / page number

EACH PAGE: The title and/or chapter number starts 3” from the top of the first page of the text. Double-space under the title and use 5-space indentions for every paragraph except the first one, which should be flush left under any chapter or story title. Don’t forget that every piece of dialogue starts a new paragraph.

Registration Form

1. Deadline for guaranteed registration is September 27, 2010. Pre-registration is advised as space is limited!
2. Complete the registration form and mail with your check, *payable to Delmarva Discussions, Inc.* to Delmarva Discussions, 303 Elkton Blvd., Elkton, MD 21921. If you have questions about the registration process, please call Bethany Hacker at 302-724-9049 (please leave a message) or bhacker@DelmarvaDiscussions.org. You may also complete your registration online at www.DelmarvaDiscussions.org/conference and pay through PayPal.
3. You will receive confirmation that your registration has been received.
4. You are not locked into the sessions you choose here. Full descriptions of each session and presenter are available at www.DelmarvaDiscussions.org/conference.
5. For questions about the conference, please call 302-724-9049 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as we are able.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Sessions:

Choose one session within each time block:

- 9-10:30am *They Live: Believable Characters and Dialogue*
 Mementos Into Memoir
 Making Music with Words
- 10:45-12:15 *Giving Shape to Experience: Plotting Your Story*
 Turning Documents into Stories
 Poetry as Memoir
- 1:45-2:30pm *Write Your Book in 9 Minutes a Day*
 The Story Behind the Story, Part 1
 The Working Writer Roundtable Discussion
- 2:45-4:15pm *How to Write a Murder Mystery*
 The Perfect Scene
 Set Design
- 4:30-5pm *Start Your Engines! Roundtable Discussion*
 The Story Behind the Story, Part 2
 Successful Peer Writers Critique Groups

Fees:

CONFERENCE (Includes workshops and lunch/snacks.) \$125

Early "Bard" Discount (if registered by September 2, 2010) \$110

Extra activities:

Manuscript Critique (please enclose manuscript) \$ 45
 You will be matched with your writer for a 20 minute session the afternoon of the conference. Please check your registration packet for time and place.

Lunch at an Author's table \$ 10

Ultimate Discussion with Charles Dickens \$ 50

Discount for all three activities \$ 90

Ultimate Discussion **Only** \$ 50

McGlynn's Pub, Dover, DE 6pm

Additional Dickens tickets # _____ x \$ 50

Please enter the total registration amount: \$ _____

Please be sure to include your Check or Money Order (made payable to Delmarva Discussions, Inc.) with this form and mail to:
 Bethany Hacker, Delmarva Discussions; 303 Elkton Blvd, Elkton, MD 21921.

Registration may also be processed and paid for online at
www.DelmarvaDiscussions.org/conference

Hotel arrangements can be made directly with the Sheraton Hotel, 1570 North Dupont Highway, Dover. Rooms are \$99/night. Please call the hotel at 302.678.8500 and let them know you will be attending the *Mid-Atlantic Writers Conference*.