

From Premise to Publication:
A Writing Workshop Presented by Local Authors

Join six local published authors for various sessions as they discuss different aspects of writing, from the bones of an idea to the process of publication. Writers ages 13 and up are welcome. The workshop will be held Saturday, November 5th from 2:00 – 5:00 at the Orange County Public Library, 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough. Featured authors and topics include:

Melissa Bourbon – *The Hero's Journey*



You've probably heard about the Hero's Journey, or the Monomyth, by Joseph Campbell (*The Hero with a Thousand Faces*). This fundamental story structure became the foundation for Christopher Vogler's *The Writer's Journey*, which outlines an incredibly intuitive story structure, and it is the *Go To* for Hollywood screenwriters.

If you've ever thought, "Yeah, cool, but how does it work for a story?", you've come to the right place! Melissa has taken this structure and applied it to the novel, and now she's sharing it with you. Join her as she shows you how to craft *your* story using the Hero's Journey.

Bio: Melissa Bourbon is the national bestselling author of more than twenty-eight mystery books, including the Book Magic mysteries, A Magical Dressmaking Mystery series, and the Bread Shop Mysteries, written as Winnie Archer. A former secondary English/Language Arts teacher and Creative Writing teacher with Southern Methodist University's CAPE program and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institution with North Carolina State University, she has applied her love of teaching to the creation of WriterSpark Academy, an online school for aspiring and new writers seeking to hone their craft. Learn more about Melissa at her website, www.melissabourbon.com, on Facebook [@MelissaBourbon/Winnie ArcherBooks](https://www.facebook.com/MelissaBourbon/WinnieArcherBooks), and on Instagram [@bookishly_cozy](https://www.instagram.com/bookishly_cozy), and learn about about WriterSpark at www.writersparkacademy.com.

Samantha Dunaway Bryant – *Writing for Anthologies*



Writing short stories can be a great way to build both your writing chops and a writing career. We'll explore different types of anthologies, where to find calls for submission, and tips for making it out of the slush pile and into the pages.

Bio: Samantha Bryant believes in love, magic, unexplainable connections, and second chances. Her favorite things are lonely beaches, untamed cliff tops, and sunlight through the leaves of trees. She's from Kentucky and lives in North Carolina, but left her heart in Alaska. She's tougher than she looks and softer than she likes to let on.

She's best known for The Menopausal Superhero series of novels, a series that would fail a reverse Bechdel test and asks why young people should have all the fun. She cheats on her novels with short fiction that ranges from comedy to horror, mostly featuring complicated women defying expectations.

When she's not writing, Samantha enjoys family time, watching old movies, baking, reading, gaming, walking with her rescue dogs, and going places. Her favorite gift is tickets (to just about anything). Learn more about her and her work at <http://samanthabryant.com>, check out her catalog of writing at <http://bit.ly/SamanthaBryant> or find her on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) @samanthabwriter If all else fails, check the woods. She likes to get lost there.

Diane Kelly – *Publishing Options: You've Finished Your Book. Now What?*



A hybrid author who has published books both independently and with traditional publishers, Diane will discuss the various publishing options available to authors. She will also detail the factors writers should consider in determining the best publishing options for themselves and their projects.

Bio: A former tax advisor, Diane Kelly inadvertently worked with white-collar criminals more than once. Lest she end up behind bars, Diane decided self-employment would be a good idea. Her fingers hit the keyboard and thus began her "Death and Taxes" romantic mystery series. A graduate of her local Citizen Police Academy, Diane Kelly also writes the hilarious Paw

Enforcement K-9 series, the Busted female motorcycle cop series, the House Flipper series, the Southern Homebrew moonshine series, and the Mountain Lodge Mysteries series. Diane's books have been awarded the prestigious Romance Writers of America Golden Heart® Award and a Reviewers Choice Award. More about Diane at www.DianeKelly.com or at her Author Diane Kelly page on Facebook. Follow her on Instagram and Twitter at [@DianeKellyBooks](https://www.instagram.com/DianeKellyBooks).

James Maxey – *Your Book is Only Two Words Long*



James will discuss the importance of fine tuning the core appeal of your book into its essential essence. Post-apocalyptic dragons. Menopausal superheroes. Creepy short stories. A thirty second pitch is pointless if your customer isn't drawn in by the first second where you present the core concept. This isn't important just for selling a book once you've written it; over time, it will shape the books you write. Knowing who your book will appeal to, and why, is the key to actually being able to write work that people will pay money to read.

Bio: James Maxey's mother warned him if he read too many comics they'd warp his mind. She was right! Unsited for decent work, James ekes out a living writing down his demented fantasies. His 20+ books include *Dragon Apocalypse*, *Bitterwood*, *Nobody Gets the Girl*, and *There is No Wheel*. He and his wife Cheryl also edit middle-grade science fiction anthologies under their Word Balloon Books imprint. James sums up everything he knows about making money through writing in *Write! Daydream, Type, Profit, Repeat!* It's a very skinny book. More at www.JamesMaxey.net.

Eryk Pruitt – *Slaughtering our Enemies and Killing our Darlings*



Fiction writers have a long tradition of using personal experience to inform the narrative of their stories. However, during the revision and editing process, how do we know when it is time to hold tight to those influences, and when to sacrifice them for the audience's sake, in order to tell a better story? Eryk will share tips for making these difficult decisions.

Bio: Eryk Pruitt is a filmmaker, screenwriter, and novelist, living in North Carolina. His films have won top prizes at film festivals across the country and his novel *What We Reckon* was a finalist for the coveted Anthony Award. His fourth novel, *Something Bad Wrong*, will be published on March 21, 2023. When he is not at home writing, you can usually find him tending bar at Yonder in downtown Hillsborough. More at: www.ErykPruitt.com.

Lynn Chandler Willis - *Characterization: Good Guys, Bad Guys, and the Ones in Between*



Like the best laid plans, the best characters will often go awry. Intentions get skewered. Consequences bite. And the line between right and wrong is blurred. In this mini workshop, we'll talk about having your characters walk that tightrope between good and bad, light and dark, and everything in between.

Bio: Former small town newspaper publisher, Lynn Chandler Willis is an award-winning, best-selling author of crime, mystery, and suspense. Book 1 of the Death Doula series, *What the Monkey Saw*, is scheduled for release in November 2022, followed by book 1 in the Raynor Beck series, *The Devil to Pay* in May 2023. She is the current president of the Southeast Chapter of Mystery Writers of America, past president of Sisters in Crime's Murder We Write chapter, and a member of International Thriller Writers. She's served as a judge for several national awards for novel-length and short fiction works, and has won these prestigious awards: 2013, St. Martin's Press/Private Eye Writers of America Best 1st Private Eye Novel Competition, *Wink of an Eye*; 2013 Grace Award Winner for Mystery/Romantic Suspense/Thriller, *The Rising*; 2013 IPPY Award Finalist, *The Rising*.

Lynn lives in a small farmhouse in the heart of North Carolina, surrounded by farmland, family, a bunch of free-range chickens, two Weimaraners, three goofy French Bulldogs, Willy the one-eyed hell cat, and her own chunky calico named Jingles and the best rescue dog ever, her border collie named Finn. Find Lynn online at www.LynnChandlerWillis.com, her Lynn Chandler Willis Author page on Facebook, on Twitter at @LynnCWillis, on Instagram at @LynnChandlerWillis_Author, and on BookBub.