

Thursday November 14th**6:30 – 8 pm**

Olathe Public Library, 260 E. Santa Fe St.

Writers Social

Olathe Public Library and Johnson County Library are teaming up to bring you a social event just for writers.

You'll leave with some words on a page, an elevator pitch or two, a collage activity, maybe a prize, and a host of new writing friends.

On Friday, you and your new friends are invited to the Johnson County Library Writers Conference where you can pick up where you left off with lectures, workshops, discussions of *Save the Cat Writes a Novel* or *Wired for Story*, and community building activities. Both Olathe Library and Johnson County Library host many writing programs throughout the year. Join us for any or all! We would love to see you.

Friday, November 15th**9 – 9:30**

WELCOME

10 – 11:30 am

Carmack Community Room

Writing Without Thinking with Greg Neri

Following your gut instead of your brain is about being an intuitive writer who doesn't think plot and bios but writes without judgment or fear of failure. By trusting you know how to tell a story. The proof: anytime you are with friends you tell a story about something you saw or experienced. You know where to start, what the hook is, what the reveals are and how it leads up to its climax. Your audience leans in, offering verbal and physical reactions ("He did what?"), until the story builds to its payoff. In this workshop we'll write with that same sense of knowing and overcome our fear of putting stories to the page.

Conference Room 20 – live-streamed and recorded

Working with Bookstores with Erin Oliva from The Pretty Posie

As an independent bookstore owner Erin Oliva has spoken with countless authors. In this lecture she'll offer guidance on how to approach, engage, and work with bookstores. And maybe offer reminders of what not to do.

Logan

Beta Reader Matchup with The CE Coaches

Now that you've watched "What's a Beta Reader and Why Every Reader Needs One" and understand the ins and outs of what a Beta Reader does and doesn't do, let's find your perfect match! Jessica Conoley and her team from The CE Coaches will facilitate.

Conference Room 1

Book Discussion: *Save the Cat Writes a Novel* with Amber Logan and Amy Leigh Harden

Local authors Dr. Amber A. Logan and Amy Leigh Harden will facilitate a discussion of *Save the Cat*

Writes a Novel by Jessica Brady. In *Save the Cat* Brady applies the famed Save the Cat! screenwriting methodology to the world of novel writing, revealing the 15 "beats" (plot points) that comprise a successful story -- from the opening image to the finale. We'll discuss the Ten Story Genres (Monster in the House; Whydunit; Dude with a Problem) alongside quirky, original insights to help novelists craft a plot that will captivate.

Once registered, a staff member will contact you for further details and how to acquire the book.

Conference Room 4

Writing for Children with Kristy Nerstheimer

Join award winning author, Kristy Nerstheimer, as she provides guidance on how to write for kids. From selecting a topic to submitting a final draft, this session will leave you inspired to dive into the kid lit world.

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Carmack Community Room

The Story Center Local Author Panel

Everyone experiences the writing life differently. Listen as several Kansas City writers discuss their writer origin stories, their journeys thus far, and what it means to be a writer here specifically. Facilitated by The Story Center Program Manager, Melanie Pierce. Followed by Q & A.

1:30 – 3 pm

Carmack Community Room

Tell Me How You Really Feel: Writing Better Book Reviews with Amanda Sellet

They say everyone's a critic these days, but not all reviews are created equal. What does it mean to write a "good" review in the Internet age?

Whether you want to be a professional reviewer, level up your craft as an author, or blow away your book club, it's helpful to think about how we rate books. In this interactive workshop, we'll talk tools of the trade, personal taste vs. objective quality, constructive feedback, and how to evaluate intent as well as execution.

As members of the book community, we all have a role to play in advocating for more thoughtful conversations about what—and how—we read.

Conference Room 20 – live-streamed and recorded

The Art to Seeing with Greg Neri

Neri spends a lot of time in the places he writes about to capture the unseen details, sights, sounds, and smells. Both visitors and people who live in these places think he is from there because the details of his writing bring the place to life. In this workshop we'll use all your senses to capture a time and place, and to layer in the realism.

Logan

Social Media for Introverts Workshop with Jenifer Boles

You've watched the lectures, created your social media account, taken some sample pictures, and thought about your brand. Now you can bring your content ideas and workshop with other aspiring writers. You'll leave with a clearer vision for your brand, a content calendar, and an engagement group to match.

Conference Room 1

Book Discussion: *Wired for Story* with Amber Logan and Amy Leigh Harden

Local authors Dr. Amber A. Logan and Amy Leigh Harden will facilitate a discussion of *Wired for Story* by

Lisa Cron. In *Wired for Story* Cron reveals how writers can utilize cognitive storytelling strategies to craft stories that ignite readers' brains and captivate them through each plot element.

Once registered, a staff member will contact you for further details and how to acquire the book.

Conference Room 4

Inspiration Chat with Britney Lewis

How does inspiration work? Where do we get it from, and how can we use it to help us finish our drafts?

In this conversation, Lewis will explore many ways in which inspiration can be found to jump start creativity, and what we can do when imagination eludes us.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Carmack Community Room

Kidding Around! Discovering the Art of Play in Writing Children's Books with Kristi Nerstheimer and Boyd Bauman

Join Kansas City authors Kristy Nerstheimer and Boyd Bauman in fun and enlightening conversation. Kristy will reveal her process of creating a heartwarming children's book about beloved Kansas City icon Buck O'Neil, and Boyd will explain how he made the switch from penning poetry books for adults to writing his debut children's book, *The Heights of Love*. Bring your curiosity and questions!

Conference Room 20 – live-streamed and recorded

Writing My Way to Creative Freedom with S. Portico Bowman

S. Portico Bowman's *Would You Give Up Arms for Wings?*, is a story inspired by Paulus Berensohn's life and writings, particularly the unpublished novella *The Silver Sword*. In this workshop we'll explore what Berensohn learned about overcoming creative fear rooted in false ideals of perfectionism, and the demands of modern-day art careers.

Although Bowman would like to say she overcame her fear with ease, it was a four year-struggle. She'll share what that struggle looked like, what she learned from the process and why she wouldn't have wanted it to happen any other way.

Logan

Finding Your Story's Voice Workshop with Trai Cartwright

Whether you write fiction, creative nonfiction, or screenplays, one of the most important aspects in engaging your readers is your story's voice. But what even is "voice"? Why does Stephen King sound completely different than Jane Austen? And how exactly does a writer connect to the right voice for their story? In this craft workshop we'll break down this crucial craft element into its components, and then give you a step-by-step guide for engaging your own voice!

Conference Room 1

Ask the Author with Britney Lewis

In this small, informal discussion Lewis will be available to answer questions. Craft, inspiration, and community are among the topics Lewis is excited to discuss in this small group setting.

Conference Room 2

So What's Your Book About? Creating Story Blurbs with Amy Leigh Harden

Crafting a strong elevator pitch or story blurb is essential—not only to answer the common "What's your book about?" question, but also to help you as the author understand the core plot of your own story. In this workshop, local author Amy Leigh Harden will discuss how to create a concise and compelling story blurb that captures the heart of your book. Whether you're pitching to agents or editors or writing back-cover copy, you'll leave with a blurb that hooks.

Conference Room 4

A Poetry Smorgasbord & The Magnitude of Us with Dr. Marlee Bunch and Jordan Stempleman

Join us for this poetry smorgasbord, where we will read some poems, generate poems using writing

prompts, share and reflect upon what we've written, discuss, learn, and hopefully laugh a bit. This workshop is sure to offer something for everyone. We will delve into erasure poems, a renga, and more as we explore themes of education and the self. Join us!

Saturday, November 16

2:00 – 3:00 pm

The Story Center, 8900 Northeast Flintlock Road, Kansas City MO 64157

Writing Contest Readings at The Story Center

This year's Writers Conference coincides with Mid-Continent Public Library's annual Local Author Fair at The Story Center. With a mutual commitment to the local writing community, both libraries are supporting each other's events through collaborative programming. This event takes place at The Story Center during their annual Local Author Fair.

Johnson County Library has offered monthly writing contests since late 2015. Past contest winners have been invited to share how they approach writing prompts, read their winning pieces and field questions about their writing lives.

