

**8:30 Registration and Coffee** LCC Conference Center

**9:00 Opening • Rob Edwards**

**Keynote • Stephen Mack Jones** (free to the public)  
"Living the Writer's Life"

**10:00-11:00 Session 1** *Automaker names represent rooms*

**Aud.: CRAFT • Dawn Burns • Writing Stories from Place**

How a place can be an active force that shapes characters, themes, conflict, and the emotional core of fiction and nonfiction.

**Cadillac: POETRY • Mary Anna Kruch**

**How Art Influences Writing – Music and Words**

Learn how your response to music can result in new ideas and answers, compose a poem, and receive resources.

**Buick: Stephen Mack Jones • Living, Breathing, Bleeding**

**Characters**

How to create characters that come to life on the page..

**Chevrolet: Carrie Howland • Sara Maurer**

**From Michigan to Manhattan (Yes, it can happen to you)**

Join an agent and author in candid conversation about turning writers conference connections into a Big Five book deal.

**Oldsmobile: Book Swap/Swipe • Networking**

Catch your breath, meet other writers, and take a book (or more).

**11:00-11:30 Authors Alley: Break and Books**

*(Tables by invitation only)*

**11:30-12:30 Session 2**

**Aud.: CRAFT • Colleen Gleason • The Hero's Journey**

Understanding the structure and components of this classic character arc can help writers create compelling stories that help readers connect deeply.

**Cadillac: POETRY • Esther Belin • War Poetry**

Introduction to the history and function of War Poetry, including reading through examples and writing your own war poem.

**Buick: Holly Mayes • Tell the Truth Without Telling It All**

How memoir transforms lived experience into meaning. Find the central question beneath your personal stories and write with honesty and care.

**Chevrolet: Jim Hines • Fantasy Writing**

Beyond swords and wizards, learn to bring depth and originality to your magical world, characters, and story.

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**12:30-1:30 Feeding the Soul: Lunch & Networking**

**Authors Alley: Break and Books**

**1:30-2:30 Session 3**

**Aud.: CRAFT • Jim Hines • Worldbuilding**

Whether your story is set in downtown Lansing or a galaxy far, far away, the world you describe has to feel *real*.

**Cadillac: POETRY • Marcel Fable Price • Transforming Wounds in to Wings.**

Explore the creative journey of self-transformation turning wounds into scars, and scars into stories.

**Buick: Jen Wahi • Your Publishing Path**

Compare the pros and cons of the three-types of publishing: Traditional, Independent, and Hybrid. Find which one is right for you.

**Chevrolet: Kevin Fitton • Telling the Short Story Backward**

An approach to storytelling where the writer starts the process by considering the story's theme, only later turning to plot. This method emphasizes writing stories with meaning and significance.

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**2:30-2:50 Authors Alley: Break and Books**

**2:50-3:50 Session 4**

**Aud.: CRAFT • Bethany Neal • Charting Character Change**

We read novels to watch a character grow, develop a new mindset, a new worldview, and a healthier way of coping with life.  
Learn how to map the kind of character arc that every story needs.

**Cadillac: POETRY CRITIQUE • Marcel & Mary Anna**

Bring a short poem to read for instant, honest feedback.  
*At least 10 people will be chosen to read their poetry.*

**Buick: Erin Bartels • The First Page**

Improve your chances of getting an agent to read page two.  
*At least 10 people will be chosen to read their first pages.*

**Chevrolet: Julie Mariouw • Healing in Writing**

Learn how to create the most effective environment to encourage healing in writing, using metaphor, the senses, the physical body and nature.

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**4:00 Closing: Last Words and Drawing**