

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.

Oldsmobile: Book Swap/Swipe • Networking

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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.

Oldsmobile: Book Swap/Swipe • Networking

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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.

Oldsmobile: Book Swap/Swipe • Networking

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4:00 Closing: Last Words and Drawing