

A FREE intensive creative writing skills workshop

Sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History
and the West Virginia Library Commission

Writers' Toolkit

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

7 p.m.

Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater



"INSPIRED BY DR. SEUSS"

Mary Calhoun Brown

In her keynote address, award-winning author and speaker Mary Calhoun Brown will discuss the important role authors, songwriters and artists have as a voice for positive change in the world. Using a quote from Dr. Seuss and excerpts from her book, *There Are No Words*, Brown will illustrate how she uses her work to affect change in classrooms and beyond. She will talk about how to give your writing that extra something that can turn your words into an award-winning book and a useful tool for educators. Following her presentation, Brown will answer questions about writing and the evolving publishing business.

***"Be who you are,
And say what you feel;
Because those who mind
Don't matter,
And those who matter
Don't mind."***

-- Dr. Seuss

Mary Calhoun Brown of Huntington, started her writing career at the age of five when she figured out that letters made words. She's been creating stories ever since. Her most recent novel, *There Are No Words*, is the recipient of 10 awards, including the Moonbeam Children's Book Award, an Eric Hoffer Award, an International Book Award, a Mom's Choice Award, and a USA Book Award. In addition to her professional work as a writer and speaker, Brown advocates for children and adults with autism and serves on the board of the Autism Services Center. Brown stands firm on her soap box in classrooms and at conferences, encouraging kindness and an end to bullying.

Reception to follow

Writers' Toolkit



SATURDAY, MARCH 19

9 - 9:45 a.m. – REGISTRATION (Pre-registration not necessary)

10 a.m. - 12 noon – MORNING SESSIONS

**“CREATIVE WRITING:
A SENSORY APPROACH
FOR TEACHERS,
STUDENTS AND
YOUNG WRITERS”**

Library Commission
Reference Room

Mary Calhoun Brown

Award-winning author Mary Calhoun Brown will lead you through a series of writing prompts to help you improve your writing skills. Brown uses a unique combination of humor and sensory awareness to bring out the best in young writers. Students and educators be warned: Brown asks participants to share portions of their in-session work and brings prizes along for outstanding ideas and vocabulary.

JOURNALISM CLASS

Green Room

Paul Nyden

The workshop will cover how Nyden talks and relates to people to get a good story. He will discuss the value of statistical information and how it is enhanced when you talk to people who give a human face to those statistics. Nyden will provide participants with copies of a 1993 investigative series he wrote for the *Charleston Gazette* on coal contracting and how contract mines had more accidents and ran up huge debts, for which he received the George Polk Award for business reporting.

Paul J. Nyden has been a reporter for the *Charleston Gazette* since June 1982, covering political, environmental, labor and foreign policy issues. He also has written extensively about the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd. Nyden received a Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University in 1974, after completing his dissertation, *Miners for Democracy: Struggle in the Coalfields*. Since 1994, he has taught courses in sociology and labor history at the West Virginia University Institute of Technology. Between 1979 and 1982, he did research projects for federal agencies, including the National Park Service. In addition to the George Polk Award, Nyden has won three first-place national awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and Investigative Reporters and Editors.

**TAKING OFF THE
TRAINING WHEELS**

Library Commission
Training Room

Sherrell Wigal

This workshop will emphasize tips, techniques and tricks to put the writer into an open and receptive mind. Participants will take part in “hands-on” writing exercises designed to free them from the fear presented by the blank page. A question and answer session will be included the workshop. All ages and skill levels are welcome in the workshop. Please bring pen and paper with you.

A West Virginia native, Wigal focuses her writing primarily upon poetry and very short fiction. She has been featured at events throughout West Virginia and the Appalachian region, both as a performer of her original poetry and as a workshop leader. A founding member of Allegheny Echoes, Wigal is dedicated to helping writers establish their own voices in writing and to be confident in the creation and presentation of their work. She is planning a creative writing workshop which she will conduct in Venice, Italy this fall.

**WRITING
SPECULATION
FICTION PART 1**

Norman L. Fagan
West Virginia State Theater

Michael Knost

This class will be a two-part lesson plan that will serve any genre writer, especially those seeking to write science fiction, fantasy, horror, or supernatural thrillers. Part one of the class will be a detailed study of what story is and the necessary components of plot.

Michael Knost is a Bram Stoker award-winning author, editor, and columnist of science fiction, fantasy, horror, and supernatural thrillers. He has written books in various genres, helmed anthologies such as the bestselling series *Legends of the Mountain State*. His *Writers Workshop of Horror* recently won the Black Quill and Bram Stoker Awards for superior achievement in nonfiction. He served as ghostwriter for several projects, including associations with the Discovery Channel and Lionsgate Media. He is writing a *Mothman* novel slated for release in 2011.

Noon – 1 p.m. Great Hall – Networking and book sales
1 - 3 p.m. – AFTERNOON SESSIONS

**BRING A
BAG LUNCH**

**“CREATIVE WRITING:
USING TECHNOLOGY
AND OTHER STRATEGIES
TO ENRICH THE
WRITING PROCESS”**

Library Commission
Reference Room

Mary Calhoun Brown

The afternoon session will be for more advanced writers. Award-winning author Mary Calhoun Brown will help you enrich your writing using both high- and low-tech methods and simple strategies. Brown will discuss how to end writers' block, how to navigate changes in the publishing business, and she will answer specific questions about the writing process. For the published author, Brown will talk about the benefits of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube as ways to market your book and increase sales.

SONGWRITING

Library Commission
Training Room

Kodac Harrison

The songwriting workshop will cover all aspects of being a songwriter from becoming a songwriter, what it means to be a songwriter, the elements of a good song, what to do with a song once you've written it, and how a songwriter makes money. Participants will analyze several types of songs.

Kodac Harrison is a long time Atlanta singer/songwriter and acoustic guitar player. He has released 15 recordings of original music and the spoken word in the past 30 years. He has made seven tours of Europe and played all over the USA. Harrison has been called “a Southern Tom Waits and a rural Leonard Cohen” and one of Atlanta's best songwriters. He is involved in the Atlanta poetry community as chairman of the non-profit Poetry Atlanta, and hosts the weekly “Java Monkey Speaks” poetry reading, which will celebrate 10 years in June. In 2008, he produced and performed in a theatrical presentation of his music and spoken word at 7 Stages theater. In the spring of 2010, Harrison held the McEver Chair in Poetry at Georgia Tech. He has been named Atlanta's best spoken word artist four times in Atlanta's “Creative Loafing” and Atlanta's best poet three times.

**WRITING
SPECULATION
FICTION PART 2**

Norman L. Fagan
West Virginia State Theater

Michael Knost

This class is the second of the two-part lesson plan that will serve any genre writer, especially those seeking to write science fiction, fantasy, horror, or supernatural thrillers. It will focus on how the writer can successfully suspend the reader's disbelief with the speculative nature of story or plot.

For more information, call (304) 558-0220.