

Friday - Nov 27**Semi-Final as of 11/22****12:30 - 2:00pm****Stimulating Your Muse - How and Where do you get those Great Ideas?**

Where do great ideas come from and how can you nurse those creative genes without a handover?

(M) Chris Weber**George Krstic****Leslie Ann Moore****Karen Willson****Aaron Mason**

Schedule is subject to change based on the whim of the cosmos and until each panel is seated.

2:00-3:30**The Business of Writing**

There's an ugly but necessary side to the craft of writing: the business side. If you take your work seriously and even think you want to make a living from it, don't miss this discussion that can save you money and time in the long-run.

(M) Ace Hall**Todd McCaffrey****Stephen Fisch****Deborah Pratt****Buzz Dixon****3:30-5:00****Books on the craft of writing that every writer should read**

Every writer should have two kinds of books in their library: books by authors they love to read and inspire them to write; and books on the craft that can help improve your skills. Learn which books should be in yours.

(M) Tony N. Todaro**Sheila Finch****Kelly Green****Deborah Pratt****David Gerrold****5:00-6pm****I have a Great Idea...Now What?**

Now that you've got that idea, what do you do with it? It's not easy getting started on that best-selling novel, but there's a few paths to take and choices to make that will get the ball rolling.

(M) Dan Lambert**Chris Weber****Mel Gilden****Karen Willson****John de Chancie****Saturday - Nov 28****10:00 - 11:30 am****Writing Hard Science Fiction If You're Not A Scientist (Researching Your Novel)**

They say "write what you know." But how do you write about technical and scientific matters when you don't know the difference between a plasma field and a plasma TV? Whether it's Harry Potter or the Da Vinci Code, having the facts straight will not only save you embarrassment later if you make an obvious blunder, but may inspire new ideas as well.

(M) Tony N. Todaro**Sarah Beach****Harry Turtledove****Tim Powers****Leonard Carpenter****11:30 - 1:00 pm****Things I Wish a Pro had Told Me When I First Started**

Many aspiring writers waste time and brain cells when they first enter the world of writing professionally. Learn from industry pros things you can avoid to save years of frustration and brain cells.

(M) Karen Willson**James C. Glass****Tony N. Todaro****John de Chancie****Leslie Ann Moore****1:00 - 2:30 pm****Which is more Important: Characters or Plot?**

Many aspiring writers waste time and brain cells when they first enter the world of writing professionally. Learn from industry pros things you can avoid to save years of frustration and brain cells.

(M) Leslie Ann Moore**Todd McCaffrey****Tim Powers****Kelly Green****Russ Woody****2:30 - 4:00 pm****World-Building for Fantasy vs. Science Fiction**

It sounds simple enough, but there are different mindsets for each. And the choices you make will effect the believability of your novel.

(M) Ace Hall**Deborah Pratt****Sarah Beach****Leslie Ann Moore****David Gerrold**

4:00-5:30

Make It or Break It (Your First Three Pages — Your First 50)

You hear from editors and agents that if the first paragraph you write isn't strong enough, they won't read the first page, let alone the first fifty. Separate fact from fiction and remain true to your story.

(M) **Kelly Green**

Denise Dumars

Sherwood Smith

David Gerrold

Deborah Pratt

Sunday - Nov 29

10:00 - 11:30 am

A Jury of Your Peers - When to join a Critique Group

Congrats! You've finished your story. Ready to have someone else read it? How about joining a Critique Group? Learn the benefits and pitfalls from those who have been through it all.

(M) **Ace Hall**

Kelly Green

Sheila Finch

Diana Glyer

Shannon Muir

11:30 - 1:00 pm

***My Laptop Has Fallen Over and It Can't Get Up!* (Dealing with Writer's Block)**

Is there really such a thing as writers block -- or is it just an excuse? There's more than one answer to this one. Pick right, and you may never be bothered again.

(M) **Rick Foss**

Diana Glyer

Tony N. Todaro

Tim Powers

Russ Woody

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Beyond the First Draft (Editing, or What to Expect of the Second Draft)

Okay, so you finished that big first draft. Is it done, or are you just getting started on the real work? Pros discuss the top tips on what to look for and how to turn that rough draft into a polished gem.

(M) **Chris Weber**

Dawn Atkins

Sheila Finch

John de Chancie

Sherwood Smith

2:30 - 4:00 pm

Why Manuscripts Arrive D.O.A. at Agents & Publishers

The mystery is over. The top ten (or more) things to avoid if you want your manuscript to have a chance of escaping the slush pile, let alone the envelope you mailed it in.

(M) **Tony N. Todaro**

Denise Dumars

Todd McCaffrey

Kelly Green

John de Chancie