



The 2nd "BIG SUR IN THE ROCKIES" CHILDREN'S WRITING WORKSHOP

May 14 – 16, 2010
Chautauqua Park in Boulder, CO

Why join us for this workshop?

For the past twelve years, writers have gone to the Big Sur (California) Writing Workshops for an intensive weekend of working on manuscripts with **publishing professionals who are dedicated to helping new writers**. For the second time, Literary Agent and Executive Director of the Big Sur Writing Workshops Andrea Brown and RMC-SCBWI are bringing that workshop to Boulder, Colorado.

The workshops are designed for writers who have a finished or partially finished manuscript that needs critiquing, revisions, editorial help, and guidance. Our workshop provides tools needed to **prepare one's work for publication** as manuscripts must be totally polished to sell in this tight market. The format of the weekend program is different from other conferences and workshops. Writers meet and work closely with faculty members throughout the weekend, from agents to editors to authors. The ratio of faculty to writers is mostly five to one or better.

No two writers have the same experience, and it is the unique nature of our workshops that have made them so popular that **a large number of attendees return year after year**. The number of writers is limited so there is an intimate feel to the weekend and writers get many opportunities to talk, share information and work with each other, as well as most of the faculty. The weekend is filled every moment with small critique groups, lectures and panels, rewriting time, and delicious meals. The faculty are all established book professionals and wonderful people who know how to target weak spots and help writers polish their works because they care about giving back.

We are proud of our over 20 success stories including Jeff Stone's half-million dollar deal with Random House for the *Five Ancestors* series, and Christina Meldrum's two book, six-figure deal with Alfred A. Knopf. Add the magical setting of beautiful Chautauqua Park at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and we know **you will have an unforgettable, rewarding experience**. Our goal is to have writers leave on Sunday with the knowledge needed to see their works published.

What makes the Big Sur Children's Writing Workshops unique?

First, the format of the weekend is different from other conferences and workshops. Ratio of faculty to writers is mostly five to one or better.

Second, the weekend is limited to 70 writers -- just enough people to share valuable information and not too many so each writer feels special.

Third, the weekend is packed with critique groups, lectures, private sessions, rewriting time, panel discussions, delicious meals, and much sharing of information. Writers devote the entire time to focusing only on their writing.

Fourth, the faculty are all children's book professionals and wonderful people who know how to target the weak spots and help writers polish their manuscripts.

FACULTY

EDITORS

KRISTIN (DALY) RENS first became interested in children's books as a career in high school, when she worked in her local public library shelving—and often covertly reading!—books in the children's room. While studying at Boston College she became sidetracked by a newfound love for the works of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and decided to learn German in order to get her Masters in Comparative Literature. In 1999, degree in hand and thoroughly finished with academia, she made the decision to return to her original love, children's books, and moved back to New York to become an Editorial Assistant at Golden Books. In January 2002, she began working at HarperCollins, where she has been for the past eight years and counting. In May 2008 she joined the team at Harper's newest imprint, Balzer & Bray.

Kristin has been privileged to work with authors and illustrators such as Michael Bond, Valeri Gorbachev, Charles Santore, Lee Bennett Hopkins, Jack Prelutsky, and Barbara McClintock. Currently, she is especially excited to be working with several talented newcomers to the Harper list, including Sudipta Bardhan, on the picture books *Pirate Princess* and *Hampire!*; Audrey Vernick, on the biography *She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story* and the humorous picture books *Is You Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?* and *Teach Your Buffalo to Play Drums*; Diana Peterfreund, on the YA unicorn hunter fantasy *Rampant* and its upcoming sequel, *Ascendant*; and debut author Crystal Allen, on the middle-grade novel *How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy*.

The first cover letter **NANCY MERCADO** ever wrote began like this: "My friends are worried about me. It seems my current bookshelf resembles that of a ten year old girl." That odd little letter got her an interview at Scholastic where she worked for four years, which led her to Penguin where she worked for six. She is currently an executive editor at Roaring Brook Press, working on middle grade and young adult novels. Nancy has had the good fortune of editing such books as *Spilling Ink: A Writer's Handbook* by Ellen Potter & Anne Mazer, *Neil Armstrong is My Uncle and Other Lies Muscle Man McGinty Told Me* by Nan Marino, *Episodes: My Life as I See It* by Blaze Ginsberg, *Emma Jean Lazarus Fell out of a Tree* by Lauren Tarshis, & *My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins & Fenway Park* by Steve Kluger.

LITERARY AGENTS

ANDREA BROWN, President of the Andrea Brown Literary Agency, Inc. Founded in 1981, it was the first literary agency to represent both children's book authors and illustrators. It has been the number one rated children's book agency in the country during the past two years by Publisher's Marketplace. Prior to opening her own firm, Andrea was an editor at Alfred A. Knopf, and worked in the editorial departments of Random House and Dell. Her literary agency has sold over 2,000 books to publishers, from toddler board books to serious, award-winning young adult and adult fiction. Several have been *New York Times* bestsellers in the top ten list of children's books. Author of *WRITERS' AND ARTISTS' HIDEOUTS: Great Getaways for Seducing the Muse*, Andrea has published numerous articles for *Writer's Digest* and other publications. She is the executive director of the Big Sur Writing Workshops.

JENNIFER MATTSON came to the Andrea Brown Literary Agency after 10 years of children's publishing experience, both as an editor at Dutton Children's Books in New York and as a staff editor and reviewer for the Books for Youth section of *Booklist* magazine. Clients include Tom Leveen, whose forthcoming debut YA novel *Party* is the lead Spring 2010 title at Random House Children's Books and Eileen Crandall, whose *Skin Deep* was the Delacorte Press award winner for a first Young Adult novel in 2006. As an editor, Jennifer acquired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's first picture book, *CHICO*.

AUTHORS

LINDA ASHMAN is the author of many critically acclaimed picture books and poetry collections for children. Recent titles include *Stella Unleashed: Notes from the Doghouse*, *Creaky Old House*, *Come to the Castle!* and *M is for Mischief*. Her books have been named to the "best of the year" lists of Bank Street College of Education, New York Public Library, and *Cookie*, *Parenting* and *Child* magazines, among others. She lives in Denver with her husband, son, and two dogs.

HILARI BELL writes science fiction and fantasy for middle grade and teens. Although she's had over a dozen books published she's still learning nuances of the writer's craft--and she's not at all shy about sharing what she's learned! If you want to pick her brains before the workshop, her website, hilaribell.com, lists numerous writing tips on topics as varied as; the minutia of self-editing, comparing the two basic methods of hunting for an agent, and why irrational optimism is a necessity for writers. If you want to pick her brains in person--she'll see you at the workshop!

JULIE DANNEBERG has written several award-winning books, including *First Day Jitters* (2001 Storytelling World Award, *Publisher's Weekly* "Children's Bestsellers"), *Margaret's Magnificent Colorado Adventure* (2000 Colorado Book Award, Children), *First Year Letters* (*Learning Magazine's* Teacher's Choice Award) and *Women Artists of the West*, (Mountains and Plains Booksellers' 2003 Regional Book Award). A Colorado native and a middle school teacher, Julie often finds inspiration in her love of history, travel and teaching.

A resident of Elizabeth, Colorado, **ALANE FERGUSON** is completing her 33rd book. She won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for her young adult novel *Show Me the Evidence*. *The Christopher Killer*, the first in Alane's forensic series for teens, was a 2007 Edgar nominee and is currently on numerous state award lists. Internationally published, Alane speaks across the country about her passion for mysteries. Contact Alane at aferguson@alaneferguson.com or visit her website at www.alaneferguson.com.

VICTORIA HANLEY is the bestselling author of six books. Fiction novels include three YA (*The Seer and the Sword*, *The Healer's Keep*, *The Light of the Oracle*) and one MG (*Violet Wings*). She has also written two nonfiction books, one for adults (*WILD INK: How To Write Fiction For Young Adults*), and the other for teens (*SEIZE THE STORY: A Handbook for Teens Who Like To Write*). Her works have been published in ten languages, collecting many awards and honors along the way. She believes the best way to improve as a writer is to receive constructive critique.

CLAUDIA MILLS is the author of 43 books for young readers, including picture books (*Ziggy's Blue-Ribbon Day*), easy readers (the Gus and Grandpa books), chapter books (*How Oliver Olson Changed the World*, *7 x 9 = Trouble!*), and middle-grade novels (*The Totally Made-Up Civil War Diary of Amanda MacLeish*, *One Square Inch*). Her books have been named as notable books of the year by the American Library Association, Bank Street College of Education, and the *Bulletin from the Center for Children's Books*, and have been nominated for many state readers' choice awards. A past judge of the National Book Award, Claudia is also a professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the author of many scholarly essays on children's literature.

PHYLLIS PERRY is the author of more than 70 books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for children and adults. Among her works are the *Fribble Mouse Library Mystery Series* and four books on Colorado: *A Kid's Look at Colorado*, *Colorado Fun*, *It Happened in Rocky Mountain National Park*, and *Images of America: Rocky Mountain National Park*. *The Ghost in the Music Room* and *The Field Guide to Ocean Animals* were both recent winners of the Colorado Authors' League Award. Her newest book, out in Spring 2010, is *Panda's Earthquake Escape*. She also writes for a variety of magazines and journals. Phyllis studied at the University of California, Berkeley, at San Francisco State University, and at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

LYNDA SANDOVAL is the author of 29 books for both teens and adults. Her first teen novel, *Who's Your Daddy?*, was an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers nominee, landed on the NYPL "Books for the Teen Age" list, won the National Readers' Choice Award among others, and was nominated for the Colorado Book Award. Lynda's novels have spent several weeks on the Borders Group Bestsellers list, peaking at #3, and her full body of work has racked up close to forty awards and list placements. Her books have sold foreign translation rights in Argentina, Mexico, Spain, Holland, Denmark, Japan, Germany, Italy, Australia, Portugal, Central and South America, France, and the UK. After 16 long years in emergency services, first as a police officer and then a 9-1-1 medical/fire dispatcher, Lynda now owns and operates a novel editing/mentoring business. Please check out her website, www.A-Good-Eye-Editing.com, to find out more.

LINDA ARMS WHITE is the author of 10 books, both fiction and nonfiction, for children and adults. Her picture books, *Too Many Pumpkins*, *Comes A Wind*, and *I Could Do That: Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote* have been recognized with many awards, including: ABA Pick of the List, Children's Choice Book, Junior Library Guild selection, ALA's Booklinks Lasting Connections Book, Booklist Editor's Choice Book, and Amelia Bloomer Project. *I Could Do That* won the prestigious Christopher Award for material that affirms the highest values of the human spirit. Her *Too Many Turkeys* will be released by Holiday House this fall. Linda, a popular speaker, addresses conferences, workshops, schools and libraries. As co-owner of Children's Authors' Bootcamp (www.WeMakeWriters.com) she travels the country helping writers of books for children improve their skills.

Other faculty may be added accordingly to keep a small ratio of writers to faculty.

PRICING

- Registration is \$425.00 for SCBWI members and \$465.00 for non-members. This includes the entire workshop, plus dinners and lunches from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. (Breakfasts are on your own).
- Want to stay overnight? Cottages on the grounds of Chautauqua Park may be booked for the weekend through Chautauqua's Lodging Office. Make your reservation directly at lodging@chautauqua.com or call 303-952-1611. Four sizes of cottages (efficiency, one-, two-, and three-bedroom) are available starting from \$140 per cottage per night, plus 10.25% accommodations tax. All cottages have fully equipped kitchens. For more information, see www.chautauqua.com/lodging_overview.htm and www.chautauqua.com/lodging_ourcottages.htm Book early and mention you are with the SCBWI workshop!
- Cancellation policy: 75% REGISTRATION REFUND IF CANCELLED THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO STARTING DATE. AFTER THAT NO REFUND.
- If you would like to bring a guest for dinner on Friday evening, extra dinner tickets are \$50 per person. For Saturday evening, extra tickets are \$30 per person.

SUBMISSION and REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

To register and submit your manuscript please follow the instructions below.

1. Print and fill out the Registration Form at the end of this brochure. Make your check payable to "RMC-SCBWI" and send with registration form to: "Big Sur in the Rockies Children's Writing Workshop" c/o A'ra Blair, 11842 West 36th Place, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Your manuscript submission will not be considered until payment has been received.

2. Submit the first two pages of one manuscript (maximum 500 words) to: chris.rmcsbwi@gmail.com with "Big Sur workshop submission" in the Subject line. Send the submission in the body of the email, not as an attachment. If sent as an attachment, it will not be read.

Deadline for submission is [April 10, 2010](#).

Note: Works may not be accepted if the content falls outside the faculty area of expertise, or if the executive director feels the work and writer would not benefit from attending the workshop. You will be notified as soon as possible, with a full refund of registration fee, should your work not be approved. Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance is via email.

Register early. Space is limited so we can keep the workshop small for personal attention.

Questions? Contact A'ra Blair (Registrar) AsstEd@rmcsbwi.org or (303) 456-1320, or Christine Liu Perkins (Coordinator) chris.rmcsbwi@gmail.com (preferred) or (303) 666-9530

THINGS TO BRING

- 5 copies of what you plan to work on in the small critique groups. There may be time to work on more than one project so feel free to bring a second manuscript or a different section of the first manuscript. (Think in terms of sections that can be discussed productively in 15-20 minutes; up to five pages usually works well.)
- 5 copies of a query letter, synopsis, or pitch to work on in a small group session.
- 1 copy of the first page of a manuscript, if you wish to participate in a First Page critique session led by Andrea Brown. Bring that first page to the Welcome session on Friday at 5:00 PM.
- Plan to write, so bring works-in-progress and writing equipment.
- Bring a flashlight and comfortable shoes. Nearby trails lead into The Flatirons foothills.

Breakfast options:

- Bring breakfast food if you are staying in a Chautauqua cottage.
- The Chautauqua Dining Hall is open for breakfast.
- One mile away (east) at the corner of Baseline Road and Broadway Street is a shopping center with Whole Foods, Einstein Bros. Bagels, The Egg and I restaurant, Starbucks Coffee, Brewing Market coffee, and Subway. A little further east at Baseline Road and 30th Street is Sprouts Farmers Market.

SCHEDULE: TBA

The workshop begins at 5 PM Friday at the Chautauqua Dining Hall and ends around 1:00 PM Sunday.

HOW TO GET TO CHAUTAUQUA PARK

900 Baseline Road
Boulder, Colorado 80302
Main Number 303.442.3282
www.chautauqua.com

The workshop will open Friday at 5:00 PM with dinner at the Dining Hall. The main meeting room will be the Grand Assembly Room in the Community House.

By Plane: If you're flying, the nearest major airport is Denver International Airport. You can transfer to Chautauqua by riding the Boulder Super Shuttle (303) 227-0000 or www.bouldersupershuttle.com

By Car: In Boulder, from Baseline Road just past 9th Street, turn left into Chautauqua Park. From the main road (Kinnikinic) to the:

Academic Hall (lodging office and main office): Take 3rd left after large green area onto Morning Glory Drive. It's the two-story tan building on the right-hand side.

Community House (our big meeting room is the Grand Assembly on the main floor): Take 3rd left after large green area onto Morning Glory Drive. It's the 4th building on the left (stucco and stone).

Dining Hall (Friday dinner): Turn left just after the large green area onto Clematis. It's a two-story white building on the right-hand side.

REGISTRATION FORM
Big Sur in the Rockies Children's Writing Workshop
May 14-16, 2010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ (for confirmation and other information)

Home Phone (_____) _____

I am a: RMC-SCBWI member (Colorado and Wyoming) other SCBWI region's member
 not yet an SCBWI member

\$_____ SCBWI member \$425.00

\$_____ Non-SCBWI member \$465.00

\$_____ Extra Friday dinner ticket(s) for guest(s) @\$50 # ___ Friday

\$_____ Extra Saturday dinner ticket(s) for guest(s) @\$30 # ___ Saturday

\$_____ TOTAL

- I'd like confirmation of my registration via e-mail and have included my e-mail address above.
- I've enclosed a self-addressed, stamped postcard for registration confirmation.

- Please include vegetarian entree options for me.
- Please include gluten-free entree options for me.

I'd prefer a critique group with writers of (*check a maximum of two, i.e., 1 for each of your 2 groups*):

- Picture books
- Early readers and Chapter books
- Middle-grade novels
- Young adult novels
- Nonfiction
- Combination

[PLEASE NOTE: we'll do our best, but we'll be limited by the distribution of workshop attendees.]

- I have fellow critique group members also attending this workshop. If possible, please put us in different groups. Names of fellow members: _____

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