

A FREE, intensive creative-writing-skills workshop

Sponsored by
the West Virginia Division of Culture and History,
West Virginia Library Commission,
the West Virginia Center for the Book and
the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission



SATURDAY, MAY 11 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WEST VIRGINIA INDEPENDENCE HALL, WHEELING

10 a.m. - Noon – MORNING SESSIONS

Sean Duffy

WRITING HISTORY: FROM TONGUE TO PAGE

Duffy's session will help participants to explore oral history research techniques, including developing interview questions based on research goals, conducting and recording interviews, converting raw interviews into narratives, and reviewing ethical issues involved in oral history research.

Marie Manilla

FICTION: SESSION ONE

Manilla will guide students in ways to identify those "light-bulb" moments in their lives that provide excellent fodder for fiction. She will discuss the importance of emotional honesty and urgency in fiction and how language can propel a story forward or bog it down in minutia. Manilla will include short readings and exercises to help students apply these skills.

Colleen Anderson

ENGAGE AND ENCOURAGE

Anderson's session will focus on how to inspire children to write and how to improve their writing without stifling their creativity. Participants will hear some tried-and-true writing prompts and learn how to create their own prompts for children of all ages. She also will discuss ways to give gentle guidance to beginning writers so that they are motivated to hone their skills.

John Morrison

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GEOCACHING

Morrison will discuss the rapidly growing phenomenon of geocaching. Geocaching is a free outdoor recreational treasure hunt and a family-friendly activity in which players try to locate hidden containers using a mobile device or Global Positional System (GPS) receiver to hide and seek containers. Geocaches have been placed all over the world, ranging from extremely easy-to-find containers to containers that require more skill and stealth. The workshop will consist of a PowerPoint presentation that teaches the intricacies of geocaching and a hands-on demonstration of different types and sizes of containers used in geocaching. Participants also will gain experience using handheld GPS units.

Noon – 1 p.m. - BRING A BAG LUNCH

PANEL DISCUSSION with all presenters
1 - 1:45 p.m.

2 - 4 p.m. – AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Sean Duffy

**PICTURING HISTORY:
INCORPORATING PHOTOGRAPHS INTO WRITTEN HISTORIES**

Duffy will lead participants in methods for using photographs in research, interviews and writing. He will discuss how to handle photographs properly, the basics of scanning, labeling and identifying photographic images and writing captions. Participants are encouraged to bring photographs to the session.

Marie Manilla

FICTION: SESSION TWO

Manilla will have students read short selections from authors like Breece Pancake, a native West Virginian, to discover the importance of giving just the right amount of information and characterization while leaving room for the reader to fill in the gaps. She will discuss ways to select appropriate details that can add to characterization, and look at how to weave historical events into fiction. Manilla also will lead students in writing exercises.

Colleen Anderson

WRITING FOR YOUR INNER CHILD

Anderson will discuss some favorite children's picture books and chapter books that combine real life with real art. She will talk about how she approached the writing of her own children's chapter book, *Missing: Mrs. Cornblossom*, and offer a writing prompt to get participants started on their own story for young readers

John Morrison

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GEOCACHING

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Writers' Biographies

The logo for the West Virginia Writers' Toolkit is located in the top right corner. It features the text "WEST VIRGINIA WRITERS' TOOLKIT" in a bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "WEST VIRGINIA" on the top line, "WRITERS'" on the middle line, and "TOOLKIT" on the bottom line. The text is white and set against a dark teal background that resembles a stylized house or a book cover.

Sean Duffy

Duffy, who grew up in Warwood, W.Va., is the author of three books on local history: *The Wheeling Family: A Celebration of Immigrants & Their Neighborhoods* (Creative Impressions, 2006); *Wheeling: Then & Now* with Paul Rinkes (Arcadia, 2010); and *The Wheeling Family, Volume 2: More Immigrants, Migrants & Neighborhoods* (Jim Thornton, 2012). A fourth book, *Legendary Locals of Wheeling*, that he edited and wrote with historian Brent Carney, is due from Arcadia

in 2013. Duffy represents the Ohio County Public Library (OCPL) on the Wheeling Heritage Roundtable, the Wheeling Civil War 150 Committee, the West Virginia Independence Hall Foundation Board, and the City of Wheeling's Arts and Cultural Commission and Hall of Fame board. He lives in Wheeling and works at the OCPL in programming, publicity, archives and special collections and reference.

Marie Manilla

Huntington native Manilla is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her fiction has appeared in *The Chicago Tribune*, *Mississippi Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Calyx Journal*, *The Portland Review*, *Kestrel*, *South Writ Large*, and other journals. Her novel *Shrapnel*, set in Huntington, won the Fred Bonnie

Award for Best First Novel. Manilla's collection of stories, *Still Life with Plums*, was a finalist for the Weatherford Award and ForeWord Reviews Book of the Year. Her next book, *The Patron Saint of Ugly*, is scheduled for publication by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2014.

Colleen Anderson

Anderson is a freelance writer, performer, graphic designer and owner of Mother Wit Writing and Design, a creative studio in Charleston. She writes poems, radio essays, fiction, magazine articles and songs. She has taught weeklong workshops on short essays at Ghost Ranch, an arts center in

New Mexico, and has written editorial copy for West Virginia's official visitor guide, which earned the designation of "best state visitor guide in the U.S." in 2005. Her book, *Missing: Mrs. Cornblossom*, won a Moonbeam Children's Book Award.

John Morrison

Morrison holds a bachelor's degree in history from West Virginia State University in Institute, W.Va. He is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa honors society for leadership, the West Virginia Civil War Geo-Trail Board, and the Sesqui-centennial Geocaching committee. He works for the Divi-

sion of Culture and History and is the assistant for Explore West Virginia Geo Challenge. He has taught geocaching to Outdoor Classroom and 4-H groups in the Kanawha Valley and has been geocaching since 2012, finding more than 200 geocaches and placing many of his own.

The West Virginia Center for the Book, a project of the West Virginia Library Commission and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, brings the national Center's message of the importance of books and reading to audiences statewide. It actively works within West Virginia to highlight the unique literary heritage that abounds from the earliest storytellers to modern novelists and poets.

For more information about programs at West Virginia Independence Hall, contact Travis Henline, site manager, at (304) 238-1300.

West Virginia Independence Hall is located on the corner of 16th and Market Streets in downtown Wheeling