

Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference 2019 Faculty



Sally Apokedak, Apokedak Literary Agency & Paraklesis Press

Sally Apokedak, previously with Les Stobbe's Agency, launched her own agency and small press, both focused on children's lit, in 2017. You can find her at [Apokedak Literary Agency](#) or [Paraklesis Press](#).

She's been in the industry for 20 years. As the manager of the Kidz Book Buzz blog tour she was privileged to work with great authors such as Jeanne DuPrau, Ingrid Law, and Shannon Hale. She currently represents 20 authors including Hannah C. Hall, Taryn Souders, and Joyce Magnin. She teaches at writers' conferences as well as teaching online. Her Udemy writing courses, have over 5000 students enrolled.

What Sally Is Looking For:

I'm a kids' book person. So I want children's books, from board books to YA novels, that can be written for the Christian market or the general market. I love reading fantasy and mystery most, but historical and contemporary are okay with me if the books are great.

The key to gaining me as an agent is that the books writers pitch to me need to fit in with publishers' programs (have certain word counts and be slanted certain ways with regards to content), and they must also have fresh concepts. They must be the same but different. The same in regard to fitting the publishers' but different in regard to having fresh premises.

The key to breaking in at Paraklesis Press: I'm not really looking for books. I can't really make money from publishing because I can't sell books well (I can't get your book into bookstores). But I'm willing to look at great children's books that do not fit into the narrow confines set by big publishers. That means they may be great books that are deemed \"not fresh enough\" to break in at the big publishers, or they have too much Christian content for NY houses, or too much worldly content to fit in the Christian houses. If writers have excellent children's books that have not been picked up by big publishers and they want a small press to do a nice copy for them so they can have something to take to school visits, I may be the publisher for them.



Candy Arrington, Author

Candy Arrington often writes on tough topics with a focus on moving beyond difficult life circumstances. She has written hundreds of articles, stories, and devotionals published by numerous outlets including: *Focus on the Family*, *CBN.com*, *Arisedaily.com*, *Healthgrades.com*, *Care.com*, *NextAvenue.org*, *CountryLiving.com*, and *Writer's Digest*. Candy's books include *When Your Aging Parent Needs Care* (Harvest House) and *AFTERSHOCK: Help, Hope, and Healing in the Wake of Suicide* (B&H Publishing Group). She is a member of AWSA (Advanced Writers and Speakers Association), CAN (Christian Authors Network), and ASJA (American Society of

Journalists and Authors). Read Candy's blog, *Forward Motion*, at <https://candyarrington.com/blog/>



Lynn Blackburn, Author

Lynn H. Blackburn believes in the power of stories, especially those that remind us that true love exists, a gift from the Truest Love. Her Dive Team Investigations series includes *Beneath the Surface* and *In Too Deep* (a Fall 2018 Okra Pick and 2019 Selah finalist). The conclusion to the series, *One Final Breath*, releases in September 2019. She is also the author of *Hidden Legacy* and *Covert Justice*, which won the 2016 Selah Award for Mystery and Suspense and the 2016 Carol Award for Short Novel. You can follow

her real life happily ever after at www.LynnHBlackburn.com and on social media @LynnHBlackburn.



Brad Bloom , Publisher of *Faith & Fitness Magazine*, *Shout! Outdoor Lifestyle Magazine* and *map Travel Lifestyle Magazine*.

Brad is president of Lifestyle Media Group, a ministry that develops and distributes content to help people fuel their passion to connect daily living and Christian faith. Bloom says, “We’re called to ***Be Life*** – the life of Christ to others.”

Founded in 2003, with the launch of the flagship brand, ***Faith & Fitness Magazine***, his commitment has been to deliver crafted content that isn’t a Christian alternative to secular media but instead defines how the Christian faith powerfully influence active living.

Brad was raised in rural Indiana doing non-denominational Christian ministry at La Campagne Ministries, a sixty-acre wooded retreat that has hosted people from around the world since 1982.

Brad studied media production at Anderson University and did production at LeSea Broadcasting in Indianapolis. He transitioned from local television to film production with Del Rey Communications in Chicago. Later, as an associate producer for the Agency for Instructional Technology, he produced more than twenty educational video series for the K-12 market.

The April/May 2018 release of ***Faith & Fitness Magazine*** is the 81st. Brad describes bi-monthly magazine production as a [Good Workout Routine](#). His sessions at the Blue Ridge Mountains Writers Conference will help attendees to write adventurously.



Wm. Gregg Bridgeman, Editor-in-Chief, Olivia Kimbrell Press

Gregg Bridgeman is the Editor-in-Chief at Olivia Kimbrell Press. An accomplished apologist and logician, he has edited, formatted, or typeset more than 100 published Christian works.

Gregg continues to serve in the National Guard having served more than 20 years in both active and reserve forces including two combat tours with the 101st Airborne Division and 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne). He holds many industry and professional certifications and letters and is a recognized expert in the field of Cybersecurity.

He is husband to best-selling Christian author, Hallee Bridgeman, and parent to three.



Hallee Bridgeman, Author

With over half a million sales, Hallee Bridgeman is a best-selling Christian author who writes action-packed romantic suspense focusing on realistic characters who face real world problems. Her work has been described as everything from refreshing to heart-stopping, exciting, and edgy. Hallee loves coffee, campy action movies, and regular date nights with her husband. Above all else, she loves God with all of her heart, soul, mind, and strength; has been redeemed by the blood of Christ; and relies on the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide her.



Lisa Carter, Author

Multi-published author Lisa Carter likes to describe her romantic suspense novels as “Sweet Tea with a Slice of Murder.” [**The Stronghold**](#) won a 2017 Daphne du Maurier. [**Under a Turquoise Sky**](#) won the 2015 Carol Award. [**Beyond the Cherokee Trail**](#) was a 4 ½ star Romantic Times Top Pick. She also has two contemporary romance series with Love Inspired. Lisa enjoys traveling and researching her next fictional adventure. When not writing, she loves spending time with family and teaching writing workshops. A native North Carolinian, she has strong opinions on barbecue and ACC basketball.

<http://lisacarterauthor.com/>



Jenny L. Cote, Author

Award-winning author and speaker Jenny L. Cote developed an early passion for God, history and young people, and beautifully blends these passions together in her two fantasy fiction series, *The Amazing Tales of Max and Liz*® and *Epic Order of the Seven*®. Likened to C.S. Lewis by book reviewers, Jenny L. Cote opens up the world of creative writing for students of all ages and reading levels through fun, highly interactive workshops. Her books are available worldwide, and in e-book and audio (book one) formats. Learn more at www.epicorderoftheseven.com.



Michelle Cox, Author

Michelle Cox is a speaker and bestselling author, and she's just signed a contract for her 24th book project, *Divine Beauty: Becoming Beautiful Based on God's Truth*, which is tied to an upcoming movie from the Farmer and the Belle franchise. Her newest release (co-authored with Brian Bird), is *When God Calls the Heart to Love: 30 Heartwarming Devotions from Hope Valley*, which is based on the *When Calls the Heart* television series (Hallmark's #1 show).

Michelle has written for *Guideposts*, headed up the devo team for *Fox News* personality Todd Starnes, and has written for *FoxNews.com*, *Focus on the Family*, *Christian Cinema*, *Whoa Magazine for Women*, *Leading Hearts Magazine*, and other publications. She also has a syndicated parenting blog, *Just 18 Summers*®, with a staff of writers. Michelle has been a guest on *Home & Family*, *Hannity*, *The Harvest Show*, *Focus on the Family*, and numerous other radio and television stations.

Most importantly, she and her favorite husband, Paul, are the parents of three grown sons and grandparents to seven perfect grandchildren. She can be bribed with cupcakes. Visit her at WhenGodCallstheHeart.com, www.just18summers.com, and on her Facebook pages at www.Facebook.com/MichelleCoxInspirations and www.Facebook.com/just18summers.

What Michelle Is Looking For:

Michelle is looking for parenting articles (parenting advice, inspirational, tips on organization, etc.) for the *Just 18 Summers*® parenting blog.



Lisa Crayton, Author

Lisa A. Crayton, is a versatile nonfiction writer with more than 30 years' experience. Her background includes corporate publications management, public speaking, e-publishing, and freelance writing. She is an award-winning freelance writer, freelance editor, conference speaker, and writing mentor. She writes devotionals, articles, and other nonfiction content for adults and children, and for general and Christian markets. Moreover, she is a multi-published author of 13 books, including 12 children's books (YA). She earned her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from National

University, and her dual Bachelor of Arts (cum laude) in PR/Journalism from Utica College.



Vicki Crumpton, Executive Editor for Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group

Vicki Crumpton, Executive Editor, Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, has thirty years of publishing experience. A recipient of ACFW's Editor of the Year award, AWSA's Editor of the Year award, and AWSA's Fiction Editor of the Year award, she has acquired a number

of award finalists and winners, as well as several *New York Times* bestsellers, including *90 Minutes in Heaven*. She holds an M. Div. and Ph.D. from Southwestern Seminary.

When she's not taking care of the menagerie, you can often find her riding a road or mountain bike, paddling a kayak, or taking photos.

www.revellbooks.com

What Revell Is Looking For:

Fiction: Romantic Suspense, Contemporary Romance, Suspense, Contemporary, Historical, Historical Romance

Nonfiction: Christian Living, Spiritual Growth, Personal Growth, Health, Marriage, Parenting



Karissa Culbreath, Author

Karissa Culbreath is a microbiologist, author and speaker. She was named one of Albuquerque's Business First 40 Under 40. Her first children's book, *Daddy's Little Girl*, was nominated for an NAACP Image Award.

She seeks to connect to individuals desiring to achieve spiritual, emotional, and personal balance by delivering powerful messages on living a purposeful life.

By far, her greatest achievement is in her personal life — she is blessed to share her life with her husband, daughter, and son.



Sandra Dalton-Smith, Author

Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith is an author, speaker, and board-certified internal medicine physician. She is an international media resource on the mind-body-spirit connection and has been featured in *Women's Day*, *Redbook*, *First For Women*, *MSNBC*, *FOX*, *Prevention*, and recognized as a top 100 medical expert in *Good*

Housekeeping Doctors' Secrets. Her books include *Set Free to Live Free* (Revell), *Come Empty* (SonRise Devotionals) and her newest release *Sacred Rest: Recover Your Life, Renew Your Energy, Restore Your Sanity* (FaithWords). She is a sought-after keynote speaker who is passionate about helping others live their best life. Learn more about her at IChooseMyBestLife.com.



Blythe Daniel, Owner & Literary Agent with The Blythe Daniel Agency, Inc.

Blythe has represented authors with churches, parachurch organizations, and businesses. She has booked authors on hundreds of media outlets. Blythe has worked in radio and was a publicist for music artists and a writer for publications. She was the Publicity Director and Marketing Director for Thomas Nelson Publishers (Harper Collins Christian Publishing) before developing products for Ransomed Heart Ministries (John and Stasi Eldredge). She started her agency in 2005 and is a member of CBA and AWSA.

Blythe has a degree from Auburn University. She is the co-author with her mom of *Mended: Restoring the Hearts of Mothers and Daughters*.



Vincent B. Davis II, Author, BRMCWC Conference Assistant

Vincent B. Davis II is an author, entrepreneur, speaker, and soldier. His first novel "The Man with Two Names" was published in July 2017, and has since become an Amazon International Best Seller. He is passionate about helping authors improve their brand and platform. He created [Warrior Book Marketing Group](http://WarriorBookMarketingGroup.com) in 2018 and now works with publishing companies and individual clients to help them sell more books in the modern publishing environment.



Mary Denman, Conference Photographer

Headshot Costs:

\$50 per 1 headshot

\$75 per 2 headshots

\$100 per 4 headshots

Mary Denman is a writer who also loves photography. Or a photographer who loves writing. As a freelance writer, Mary has had articles published in various forms ranging from Focus on the Family publications to magazines to devotions to op-ed pieces. She's a member of several professional writing organizations including ACFW, My Book Therapy, and Word Weavers.

As a professional photographer, Mary has had photos published in both print literature and online. Her shots have been used by businesses and by fellow authors alike.

Her philosophy is to catch a moment that reflects God's beauty and creativity, whether in nature, in life or in the face of her subjects. And as a writer herself, she understands what authors need in a headshot. Mary blends the two mediums of writing and photography on her blog. www.marydenman.blogspot.com.



Catherine DeVries, Editor – Kregel

Catherine is Publisher of Kregel Publications, with over 25 years of experience in Christian publishing and a proven track record of crafting best-selling Bibles, books, and ministry resources for all ages. She began her career with Zondervan/HarperCollins over 25 years ago, where she helped launch the NIV translation and Zonderkidz and acquired *The Jesus Storybook Bible*. As brand manager at United Methodist Publishing House, DeVries launched the Common English Bible translation. Then as Publisher for David C Cook, Catherine was responsible for Sunday school curriculum lines, trade books, and ministry resources. Catherine is also the author of 25 children's books.

What Kregel Is Looking For:

Through every format and for every age, Kregel is passionate about helping believers grow spiritually with resources that fit their specific needs. We publish a variety of genres, from fiction (Regency, historical, mystery) and non-fiction to Bibles, academic, and ministry resources. We are looking for non-fiction titles that hit a felt need from authors who have a trustmark and credentials to speak into issues and equip readers with practical application at the intersection of life and faith. Kregel is an independent publisher, and we are not afraid of tough or unique topics.



Lynette Eason, Author

Lynette Eason writes for Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group. Her books have appeared on the CBA, ECPA, and Publisher's Weekly bestseller lists. In 2016, Lynette placed in the top ten in the James Patterson co-writers contest. She has won the Carol Award, the IRCC award, the Selah, Killer Nashville's Reader's Choice Award, the Christian Retailing's Best Award and more. Lynette's novel, *Her Stolen Past*, was made into a Lifetime Movie Network movie which aired in February 2018. Lynette is a

member of ACFW, RWA, MWA, ITW, FHL and KOD. She can be found at

www.lynetteeason.com and www.facebook.com/lynette.eason.



Eva Marie Everson, Conference Contest Director, Author

Eva Marie Everson is the bestselling and multi-award winning author of both fiction and nonfiction work. She is the president of Word Weavers International (word-weavers.com) and the director of Florida Christian Writers Conference. Eva Marie is a popular speaker at writers conferences across the United States and the Contest Director for Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference. Eva Marie is a seminary graduate and student and has taught a Bible study for over 20 years. Either she's really good and the folks just can't get enough ... or she's really bad and they're still trying to learn something (the jury is

out). Eva Marie and her husband enjoy their three grown children and children-in-love and are especially proud of their grandchildren. They are owned by their dog, Poods.



Aaron Gansky, Author

Aaron Gansky is an award-winning novelist, author, podcast host, and sasquatch slayer. He earned his MFA in Fiction from the prestigious AULA and loves to help both new and experienced writers develop their craft. In years past, he has been a writing mentor and acquisitions editor. He loves nerdy board games and card games and all things Marvel.

What Aaron Is Looking For:

Aaron Gansky will be acquiring fiction manuscripts for Elk Lake Publishing Inc. while at Blue Ridge. ELPI is interested in a wide range of fiction, but is not actively acquiring nonfiction, westerns, or Amish literature.



Alton Gansky, Author

Alton Gansky has been writing professionally for over two decades and has written over fifty books, fiction and nonfiction. He has also served as a fiction consultant, cowriter, and editor on many projects and for many publishers. He is one of the hosts of *Firsts in Fiction*, and hosted *Writers Talk*, *Typewriter Tuesday* (now *Typecast*). He has taught and keynoted at writers conferences from California to North Carolina and Canada. He has had an eclectic career and been a firefighter, worked in architecture for over a decade, and served three churches as a Baptist minister before turning to full time writing. He has won several awards for his writing and was granted a D.Litt. for his body of work. He also served as director of the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference for six years. He is also an avid (addicted) collector of typewriters. www.altongansky.com



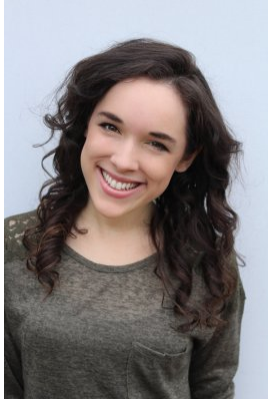
Linda Gilden, Conference Chaplain & Bookstore Manager

Linda Gilden is an award-winning writer, speaker, editor, certified writing and speaking coach, and personality consultant. Her passion is helping others discover the joy of writing. Linda recently released *Articles, Articles, Articles!* and is the author of over a thousand magazine articles and 17 books including the new *LINKED Quick Guides for Personalities*. As Director of the Carolina Christian Writers Conference, Linda helps writers take the next step in reaching their writing goals. Linda's favorite activity is floating in a pool with a good book surrounded by splashing grandchildren—a great source of writing material! www.lindagilden.com



Linda Goldfarb, Author

Linda Goldfarb is a bold communicator who's passionate about personalities, parenting, and purposeful living. She believes in the power of relational transparency, especially as a wife, mother, and grandmother. Linda works with parents, women, and professionals as a board certified Christian life coach, presentation coach, and audio book narrator. She lives in Texas with her hubby, Sam and their three country dogs. Her coauthored book, *LINKED Quick Guide to Personalities*, won the 2018 Golden Scroll Award's nonfiction book of the year. You can connect with Linda at LivePowerfullyNow.org and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#).



Tessa Emily Hall, Author, Editor with IlluminateYA, Associate Agent with Hartline Literary Agency

Tessa Emily Hall is an award-winning author who writes inspirational yet authentic books to show teens they're not alone. Her first teen devotional, *COFFEE SHOP DEVOS*, will release with Bethany House September 2018. Tessa's passion for shedding light on clean entertainment and media for teens led her to a career as an Associate Agent for Cyle Young at Hartline Literary Agency, YA Acquisitions Editor for Illuminate YA (LPC Imprint), and Founder/Editor of PursueMagazine.net. She's guilty of making way too many lattes and never finishing her to-read list. When her fingers aren't flying 116 WPM across the keyboard, she can be found speaking to teens, decorating art journals, and acting in Christian films. Her favorite way to procrastinate is by connecting with readers on her blog, mailing list, social media (@tessaemilyhall), and website: www.tessaemilyhall.com.

What Tessa's Looking For:

I'm interested in representing YA, MG, and Christian non-fiction at Hartline Literary Agency.

At IlluminateYA (teen imprint of LPC Books), we search for books that shed light on positive and inspiring books and engross readers in an entertaining journey from beginning to end. These books are geared toward the general market. We consider all subgenres of YA fiction.



Bob Hostetler, Literary Agent with The Steve Laube Agency

Bob Hostetler is an award-winning author, literary agent, and speaker from southwestern Ohio. His fifty books, which include the award-winning *Don't Check Your Brains at the Door* (co-authored with Josh McDowell) and *The Bard and the Bible: A Shakespeare Devotional*, have sold millions of copies. Bob is also the executive director of the Christian Writers Institute (christianwritersinstitute.com). He and his wife, the lovely Robin, have been married for forty years. They have two children and five grandchildren.

What Bob Is Looking For:

Fiction: contemporary, historical, mystery, romance, suspense, thriller. Select children's books.

Nonfiction: Nearly all topics written from a Christian perspective – business and leadership, contemporary issues and current events, Christian living, devotionals, humor, marriage and family, parenting, prayer, spiritual growth, teens/young adult, women's nonfiction.

As a rule, I will not be looking at:

Fiction: fantasy, horror, science fiction, speculative fiction, YA, middle readers.

Nonfiction: memoir, cookbooks, and poetry.

Andrew Jackson, Conference Videographer



A.E. Jackson is a “GECO”. Gregarious, Encouraging, Creative, and Outgoing individual. It is these personal strengths which serve him so well as a transmedia storyteller and direct marketing expert. From a young age A.E. Jackson dreamed of being a published author. His first self published work is an original play-by-post game “Realms of Adventures” which expanded into a collection of serial stories in the fantasy genre. Currently, A.E. Jackson is the Director of Marketing at [The Bridge](#), a Christian Radio Station that is Connecting and Strengthening Delmarva.



Katy Kauffman, Editor of Refresh Bible Study Magazine

Katy Kauffman is an award-winning author, an editor of *Refresh Bible Study Magazine*, and a co-founder of Lighthouse Bible Studies (not the same as Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas). She graduated from Luther Rice Seminary with a BA in Religion (2004), and she has taught the Bible to women and teens. Her Bible studies focus on winning life’s spiritual battles. Her compilation, *Breaking the Chains*, was a 2018 Selah finalist.

What Katy Is Looking For:

At the conference, Katy represents [Refresh Bible Study Magazine](#), and she will gather names of potential contributors, provide information about the magazine, and collect Bible study articles for the 2019 issues (a special format for 2019).

Refresh seeks to be a Christian voice in an increasingly secular world, and its mission is to connect God’s word to life today. It’s a free, digital magazine published by Lighthouse Bible Studies. The quarterly topics for 2019 are below, and some of the articles from the first three issues will also be included in a compilation called *The Power to Make a Difference*, which is likely to be published sometime after September 2019.

March 15 – [The Power of Words](#)

June 17 – The Power of Doing

September 16 – The Power of Knowing

December 4 – Christmas

2019 is a special year for *Refresh*. In the past we have taken devotions, short stories, and poetry, and if we receive enough of those, we will make a special 2019 issue. But this year we are looking for Bible studies of 800-1200 words, followed by a few questions and a prayer. For full details, please see [our guidelines](#). New contributors attending the conference will receive an extension to submit to the June issue.



Rowena Kuo, Editor – Brimstone Fiction

Rowena Kuo is the CEO and executive editor for Brimstone Fiction. She is also the development executive producer for Lighthouse Productions of the Carolinas. With over 15 years of ministering to children, youth groups, young adults, women, and family groups, Rowena advocates for writers to build God-centered support systems consisting of people, perseverance, practice, and most of all, prayer. She has written for Christian Devotions, Written World Communications, Splickety, and the 168 Write of Passage. When not working on words or films, she is a full-time mom with secret aspirations for spaceflight.

What Rowena Is Looking For:

Brimstone Fiction seeks engaging, well-written stories in the genres of Speculative Fiction (YA Science Fiction and YA Fantasy) and chiller thrillers with supernatural/paranormal elements. I will be open to considering all genres of fiction, but I will be more interested in your work if you already know your audience. During appointments, I would like to see a one-sheet and the first chapter of your novel. I look for authors with enthusiasm and a willingness to develop their writing skills, whether they are just at the beginning of their writing career or multi-published world-wide. Although Brimstone Fiction maintains a Christian worldview, our audience will extend to the general market. I look forward to meeting you, no matter where you are on your career path as you continue your journey to publication.



C.S. Lakin, Author

C. S. Lakin is an award-winning author and blogger, a writing coach and instructor, and a freelance copyeditor. In addition to her twenty novels, she has a series of writing craft books in her Writer's Toolbox series that helps novelists understand and master story structure. She teaches online video courses for writers at cslakin.teachable.com and does more than two hundred critiques a year. Her blog, books, and courses have been praised by best-selling writing instructors and authors, such as Jerry Jenkins,

DiAnn Mills, Michael Hauge, and Warren Arnold. Connect with C. S. at www.livewritethrive.com



Steve Laube, Owner & Literary Agent with The Steve Laube Agency

Steve Laube, a literary agent and president of The Steve Laube Agency, has been in the book industry nearly four decades, first as a bookstore manager where he was awarded the National Store of the Year by CBA. He then spent many years with Bethany House Publishers where he was named Editor of the Year by AWSA. Fifteen years ago he became an agent where he and his agency have represented over 1,500 new books and Steve was named Agent of the Year by ACFW. He was also inducted into the Grand Canyon University Hall-of-Fame by their College of Theology. In addition, he oversees acquisitions for Enclave

Publishing and serves as president and owner of The Christian Writers Institute and author of *The Christian Writers Market Guide* and *Book Proposal Tips and Tricks*. His office is in Phoenix, Arizona.

What Steve Is Looking For:

Bob Hostetler. Has anyone seen him?

Also looking for donuts.



Yvonne Lehman, Acquisitions Editor of Romance & Women's Fiction for Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas

Yvonne Lehman is author of 59 novels (*Hearts that Survive – A Novel of the Titanic*, Abingdon) and 11 non-fiction books in the *Divine Moments* series (Moments with Billy Graham, Grace Pub). She founded and directed BRMCWC for 25 years and now directs Write Right... A Mentoring Service (WRAMS) with associate Cindy Sproles (director of ACWC). She serves as Acquisitions Editor for several lines for LPC, specializing in Romance and Women's Fiction.

What Yvonne Is Looking For:

As editor with LPC, I'm looking for romance that includes action and faith plot lines, with an emphasis on the emotional journey of falling in love, which leads to the hero and heroine making a lifetime commitment to each other. Women's Fiction may include romance, but is primarily about women who have already found, and perhaps lost, their love and now focus on family, female bonding, midlife crisis, death, divorce, illness, and other issues of interest to women.



Jill Roman Lord, Author

Jill is an award-winning author and has been writing children's books for over 20 years. She believes books can draw children closer to Jesus as they cuddle up in their loved-one's laps and that books can truly make a difference in a child's life. She has taught at writer's conferences, on-line classes, classes for teachers, has been a key-note speaker for a young-writer's award ceremony and blogs. She lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband and enjoys visiting with her three children wherever they may live, traveling and running which is where she finds much inspiration for her

books.



Torry Martin, Author and Screenwriter

Torry Martin is an award-winning actor, screenwriter, comedian and author. In addition to penning humor columns for a variety of national print and online publications, Torry is the author of *Of Moose and Men*, published by Harvest House Publishing. Martin's unique sense of humor caught the attention of the producers of the popular children's radio series, *Adventures in Odyssey*, who enlisted him to lend his writing skills to the show. Torry went one step farther, creating the delightful, recurring character of Wooton Bassett.

Martin has written eleven full feature length scripts with co-writer Marshal Younger, including the comedies *The Boonies*, *Helen of Troy, TN*, *Heaven Bound* and *The Matchbreaker*. An accomplished actor, Torry Martin starred in the national touring company of Columbia Artist's musical comedy, *Around the*

World in Eighty Days. He has won top honors as both writer and actor in the Nashville 48 Hour Film Project and has twice been named Grand Prize Winner for both Acting and Writing by the Gospel Music Association.



Torry has also served as a board member for the National Religious Broadcasting conference, the International Christian Visual Media conference and the Gideon Film Conference.

Lucinda Secrest McDowell, Author

Lucinda Secrest McDowell is a storyteller and seasoned mentor who engages both heart and mind while "Helping you Choose a Life of Serenity & Strength." A graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Furman University, McDowell authored

13 books, including the award-winning [*Dwelling Places*](#) (2017 Christian Retailing BEST Award for Devotional) and [*Ordinary Graces*](#) (2018 Selah Finalist).

Lucinda guest blogs for [The Write Conversation](#), [Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference Blog](#), (in)courage. Known for conveying deep truth in practical and winsome ways, McDowell co-directs "reNEW ~ retreat for New England Writing," and blogs weekly at encouragingwords.net



Edie Melson, Director Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference, Author

Edie Melson—author, blogger, speaker—has written numerous books, including her most recent fiction – [Alone](#), and nonfiction – [While My Child is Away](#). She’s also the military family blogger at [Guideposts.org](#). Her popular blog, [The Write Conversation](#), reaches thousands each month

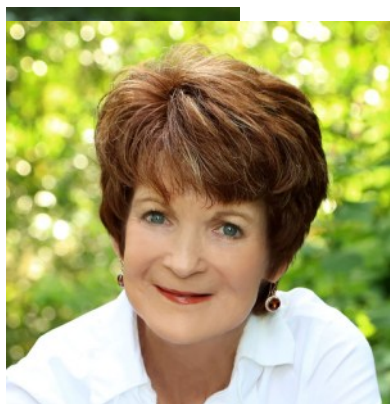
and is one of Writer’s Digest Top 101 Websites for Writers. She’s the director of the [Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference](#) and the Vice President of the [Advanced Writers and Speakers Association](#), as well as the Social Media Director for [Southern Writers Magazine](#).

DiAnn Mills, Director Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference, Author

DiAnn Mills is a bestselling author who believes her readers should expect an adventure. She is a storyteller and creates action-packed, suspense-filled novels to thrill readers. Her titles have appeared on the CBA and ECPA bestseller lists; won two Christy Awards; and been finalists for the RITA, Daphne Du Maurier, Inspirational Readers’ Choice, and Carol award contests.

DiAnn is a founding board member of the American Christian Fiction Writers, a member of Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and International Thriller Writers. She is co-director of The Blue Ridge Mountain Christian Writers Conference, Mountainside Marketing Conference, and Mountainside Novelist Retreat with social media specialist Edie Melson where she continues her passion of helping other writers be successful. She speaks to various groups and teaches writing workshops around the country.

Connect with DiAnn here: www.diannmills.com



Alycia W. Morales, Conference Manager, Author

Alycia W. Morales is an award-winning freelance editor and author. Her clients have won the Selah Award, BRMCWC Director’s Choice Award, and many others. Her writing has been published in *Thriving Family* magazine, *Splickety Love*, and several compilation books. Her first ghostwriting project, *The Spirit of Hospitality* by Larry Stuart, releases December 2018. Alycia is the Conference Manager of the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference.

When she isn’t busy writing, editing, and reading, Alycia enjoys spending time with her husband and four children taking hikes in Upstate SC and NC, creating various crafts, coloring in adult coloring books, and watching TV.

Alycia blogs at [The Write Editing](#) and [Life. Inspired.](#) Connect with her on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Twitter](#).



Beth Patch, Internet Acquisitions editor for [CBN.com](#).

Beth Patch manages CBN.com's Spiritual Life channel, one of five magazine-style sections of the award-winning Christian website. She holds a Journalism Master's from Regent University and a Communication Bachelor's from the University of Virginia. She acquires, reviews, and approves all devotions, Spiritual Life-themed articles, and online Bible courses on CBN.com. She publishes the approved content on the site, as well as, promotes each post via subscription emails and social media. Beth also manages Christian Courses, Bible in a Year, and Daily Devotion reading plans. On occasion, she interviews best-selling Christian authors and writes movie reviews for CBN.com's Entertainment section.



Edwina Perkins, Managing Editor of Harambee Press

Edwina Perkins is an award-winning writer, experienced teacher, speaker, and free-lance editor. She served on the Word Weavers Orlando Leadership Team and now is a part of the Word Weavers International Advisory Committee. She worked as a content editor with *Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas* and is currently the Managing Editor for Harambee Press—LPC's ethnic voices imprint which seeks to publish ethnic writers.

She is a wife, mother of four adult children, grandmother of two, and owner of a 16 year old bichon poodle mix who believes the world revolves around him.

What Edwina Is Looking For:

Harambee Press:

We are looking for writers who want to express the diversity of their culture and who have stories and life lessons. Whether through fiction or nonfiction, HP authors should carry a message of hope and redemption.

At this time we are acquiring fiction, nonfiction, and YA by ethnic writers. We are not looking for poetry, articles, or children's books. We are accepting submissions from people we meet at conferences, agents, and referrals.



Karen Porter, Co-owner of Bold Vision Books

Karen Porter is an international retreat and seminar speaker and a successful businesswoman. She is the author of seven books including her newest release **Speak Like Jesus** and is a frequent guest on regional and national radio and TV programs and contributes to national magazines.

Karen served as Vice President of International Marketing of a major food company in Texas for more than 30 years. Today she and her husband, George, own **Bold Vision Books**, a Christian publishing company.

Karen is a coach of communicators in both writing and speaking and serves on numerous boards of national ministries.

Karen says her marriage to George is her greatest achievement, but she'd love to talk to you about her five grandchildren! In her spare time, Karen continues her life-long quest to find the perfect purse. Karen is a people person, plain and simple and you will love to laugh with her and maybe even cry a little as she shares her joys and struggles.



Deborah Raney, Author

Deborah Raney's first novel, *A Vow to Cherish*, inspired the World Wide Pictures film of the same title and launched Deb's writing career. Twenty-five years, thirty-five books, and numerous awards later, she's still creating stories that touch hearts and lives. Her awards include RWA's RITA Award, ACFW's Carol Award, the National Readers Choice Award, and the HOLT Medallion. Deborah is also a three-time Christy Award finalist. She and husband, Ken Raney, traded small-town life in Kansas for life in

the friendly city of Wichita. Find out more about Deb's newest releases at www.deborahraney.com.



Rhonda Rhea, Author

Rhonda Rhea is an award-winning humor columnist for great magazines such as *HomeLife*, *Leading Hearts*, *The Pathway* and many more. She is the author of 14 books, including the Christy finalist, *Turtles in the Road*, co-authored with her daughter, Kaley Rhea. Rhonda and Kaley are also excited to be teaming up with *Bridges* TV host, Monica Schmelter, for the book and TV series, *Messy to Meaningful—Lessons from the Junk Drawer*. In addition

to regular TV appearances, Rhonda speaks at conferences and events from coast to coast and serves on the publishing team of Bold Vision Books.

She lives near St. Louis with her pastor/hubs and has five grown children.



Lori Roeleveld, Author

Lori Stanley Roeleveld is an author, speaker, and disturber of hobbits. She's been making comfortable Christians late for dinner for years on her blog at www.loriroeleveld.com. Lori authors unsettling books for restless believers living on the frontlines of faith. Her newest non-fiction release is, *The Art of Hard Conversations (Biblical Tools for the Tough Talks that Matter)*. Her first two non-fiction works, *Running from a Crazy Man* and *Jesus and the Beanstalk* each won Director's Choice Awards and her novella, *Red Pen*

Redemption, was a Selah finalist.



Maggie Rowe, Author

Maggie Wallem Rowe is a national speaker, dramatist and author who writes from Peace Ridge, her home in the mountains of western North Carolina. Sr. Publicist at Tyndale House for 12 years, Maggie has also contributed to ten books including numerous devotional Bibles. As the author of several original one-woman dramas, she has traveled extensively throughout the US speaking at conferences and retreats. In 2014 Maggie received her Master's degree in Biblical Studies from Wheaton Graduate

School. Maggie is currently writing her first book as a solo author, to be released by NavPress in the spring of 2020.



Monica Schmelter, General Manager, WHTN Christian Television Network

Monica Schmelter helps you discover your most beautiful life one biblical truth at a time.

Author, speaker and broadcast journalist Monica Schmelter loves a good story. But not just any story. She tells the stories of everyday people. People that experience real life, in all its dimension. People that journey through struggle, to ultimately find the goodness of God.

Monica skillfully leverages her heart for storytelling in the media as host of the Christian Television Networks daily program, *Bridges*. The program is seen in over 50 million homes weekly. Currently, she serves as the station manager at WHTN in Nashville. www.monicaschmelter.com



Linda Evans Shepherd, Author

Linda Evans Shepherd is the author of over thirty books including the *Potluck Club* novel series, which she wrote with Eva Marie Everson, and *When You Don't Know What to Pray*, *Experiencing God's Presence* and *Winning Your Daily Spiritual Battles*.

She is the 2017 Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference Writer of the Year.

Linda is also the publisher of the Evangelical Press Association multi-award winning, *Leading Hearts Magazine* where conferees can receive a free subscription at www.LeadngHearts.com.

She is the CEO of Right to the Heart ministries, which also oversees the work of Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, an association of over 500 Christian women communicators. She is the founder of the Golden Scroll Awards, which gives awards to Christian editors and publishers for their ministry partnership with their authors, as well Golden Scroll Books of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Linda and Paul have been married over thirty years and have two children. She is a secret Internet geek and loves to create websites, and online ministries. Her website www.GodTest.com, a gospel sharing website has seen over 300,000 people come to faith.

Follow Linda at: www.GotToPray.com, www.LeadngHearts.com, www.AWSA.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)



Tim Shoemaker, Author

Tim Shoemaker is the author of fourteen books and is a popular speaker at conferences and schools around the country. Over twenty-five years working with kids has helped him relate to his reading and listening audience in a unique way. He is a regular contributor to *Focus on the Family Clubhouse* and *Clubhouse JR.* magazines.

His contemporary suspense, *Code of Silence*, was named in the “Top Ten Crime Novels for Youth” by Booklist.

Tim's energetic style of teaching helps make even difficult topics clear. He is all about encouraging and equipping writers to do what they do—better.



Caleb Sjogren, Editor – Tyndale House Publishers

Caleb Sjogren is an editor at Tyndale House Publishers. Since 2006 he has specialized in fiction. Caleb has a strong affinity for stories that put spiritual needs front and center, and he is eager to promote diverse voices within the Christian publishing community.

What Caleb Is Looking For:

Tyndale fiction publishes a wide range of genres: historical, contemporary, romance, suspense, romantic suspense, family drama, legal drama, humor. Particularly looking for suspense submissions (not romantic suspense). Sci-fi and fantasy are only in our YA line, which is not acquiring at this time.

Tyndale's nonfiction focuses on memoir and Christian living. We're not looking for Bible studies or academic theology right now.



Cindy Sproles, Editor Straight Street Books & SonRise Devotionals, Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas & Author

Cindy K. Sproles is an author, speaker, and conference teacher. She is the cofounder of Christian Devotions Ministries and the executive editor of www.christiandevotions.us and www.inspireafire.com. Cindy is the managing editor of Straight Street Books and SonRise Devotionals, imprints of Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas. She is an award-winning and best-selling author and the director of the Asheville Christian Writers Conference.

What Cindy Is Looking For:

I am acquiring for Straight Street Books, SonRise Devotionals, and ChristianDevotions.us.

Straight Street books: We are looking for good Christian Living. We would love to see a veterans compilation, ms with tools for developing a solid Christian walk. Christian World View and it's importance in this day in time. (no memoirs)

SonRise Devotionals: We are looking for a devotional that speaks across the board to men and women – something that addresses daily life and is applicable for any season of life. Think *Streams in the Desert* or *My Utmost for His Highest*. These devotionals get deep into scripture and work for everyone. There is a reason they are still top selling devotionals. We are not looking for books like *Jesus Calling* – this is being overdone.



Craig von Buseck, Author

Dr. Craig von Buseck is Editor of Inspiration.org. He also writes for CBN.com, ChristianPost.com, MTL Magazine, and Charisma. He holds a Doctor of Ministry and an MA in Religious Journalism from Regent University.

Craig's latest book is, "I Am Cyrus: Harry S. Truman and the Rebirth of Israel", from Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas.

Other books include "Seven Keys to Hearing God's Voice"; "Nobody Knows: The Harry T. Burleigh Story"; and "Praying the News."

Craig has extensive speaking experience and travels often to conferences, professional events, churches, and writer training meetings.

vonbuseck.com

facebook.com/craigvonbuseck

twitter.com/craigvonbuseck

ANNOUNCING OUR POST-CONFERENCE INTENSIVE with DONALD MAASS



A literary agent in New York, Donald Maass's agency sells more than 150 novels every year to major publishers in the U.S. and overseas. He is the author of *The Career Novelist* (1996), *Writing the Breakout Novel* (2001), *Writing the Breakout Novel Workbook* (2004) and *The Fire in Fiction* (2009), *Writing 21st Century Fiction* (2012) and *The Emotional Craft of Fiction* (2016). He is a past president of the Association of Authors' Representatives, Inc.

This year we're offering something new at the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference – a Post-Conference Intensive. We've got the best-selling author and New York Times agent, Donald Maass, coming in and teaching for an entire day.

It's important to note that this event requires a SEPARATE REGISTRATION. We are offering a special price to all who are registered for the Blue Ridge Conference, but just because you have booked an extra night doesn't guarantee you entry into this amazing all-day workshop.

Details:

Date: Friday, May 24, 9am – 4:30 pm

Cost: Workshop Fee is \$150 for those who are registered for BRMCWC 2019

To Register: Contact Melissa Inman via email at Melissa.inman@lifeway.com

NOTE: You will need to reserve an additional night onsite for Thursday May 23.

The class size of this post conference is limited to 200 registrants. Be sure to reserve your spot now!

THE EMOTIONAL CRAFT OF FICTION: How to Tell the Story Beneath the Surface
– The emotional effect of fiction on readers is a craft. Based on psychological research and study of what makes novels emotionally gripping, this intensive workshop takes participants beyond showing or telling to create an emotional journey for readers—one unseen but nevertheless deeply felt and ultimately unforgettable.

This is an intensive, hands-on workshop for serious fiction writers. Participants should bring a WIP and writing materials.