Learn about the market and the craft of writing. Make contact with editors, agents, and other writers. Socialize with people who care about the same things you do in an inspiring and enjoyable environment. As you prepare for the conference, think of questions you’d like answered during the 90-minute panel. Write them down and be prepared to take the microphone and ask them.

Take advantage of the opportunity to network with other writers, teachers, agents and editors at breaks and during lunch. Move around from table to table and engage in the conversations.

Check out the book table, not only for books written by the participants, but for additional books on the craft of writing in your genre, whether it be historical fiction or poetry or memoir.

Follow-up: Accept business cards and take the time to jot a note on the back of the card about the person who gave you the card, in case you decide to follow up with a new connection.

Most writers are nervous. Remember editors and agents are human, they have as much invested in finding a great new writer as you have in being that writer. Be clear, precise, and prepared. Outline the premise of your project.

Fiction: Three things will get the agent or editor hooked on your project: Setting, protagonist, and problem. Deliver those briefly, and with punch, and you have a basic pitch. Be brief and focus on the elements that give your story plausibility, inherent conflict, originality, and gut emotional appeal.

If your project is nonfiction, talk about the subject, your unique slant on it, your research, and your qualifications. Publishing credentials are helpful to include: Prior novel publication, short stories in recognized magazines, journalistic experience, professional articles, and writing all indicate you have professional experience as a writer.

Bring a two-page, single-spaced synopsis and be prepared to give it to agents, editors, and other writers as the opportunity presents itself and seems appropriate. Do not bring your manuscript to the conference.
Conference Topics
Grace Menary-Winfield, Editor with Sourcebooks
John Byram, Director, UNM Press
Elizabeth Trupin-Pulli, agent at Jet Literary Agency
Grace Ross, agent at Regal Hoffman & Associates
Kira Watson, agent at Emma Sweeney Agency
Upewale Women Fiction That Really Sells
Leila Meacham, keynote speaker, author of four major bestsellers including Roses, Tumbleweeds, Somerset, and Titans. Leila’s novels are published worldwide with sales in the tens of millions.
Western Mysteries and Adventures
Michael McGarrity, featured speaker is famous for his novels set primarily in New Mexico which explore the history of the development of New Mexico as well as memorable characters of Native Americans, Hispanics, and Anglos. These groups who make New Mexico the amazing state it is.
Workshop Leaders
Seven Ways to Build A Poem. Through writing exercises that incorporate readings, the class will explore what makes a memorable poem, and how one can and should go about writing one. Jeanne Shannon, an editor at Skyhorse Publishing and writer will work with the class to develop writing skills. Jeanne has received numerous awards in her career.
Leila Meacham is a writer and former working journalist. Her first book, The Last Nightingale of Samarkand was a New York Times bestseller. She is the author of the best selling Roses, Tumbleweeds, Somerset, and Titans. Her books have been translated and sold in more than twenty countries.
Michael McGarrity is the author of fifteen Western mystery and adventure novels including the recently published trilogy Hard Country, Back Lands, and The Last Ranch. His books are published in Japan, France, England, and Norway. Previous to becoming an author, he was a Santa Fe City Fire Department Captain. He has received numerous awards in both of his careers.
Maxim Brown is an editor at Skyhorse Publishing working with a range of fiction and literary nonfiction. He is looking for strong, creative and marketable fiction. He looks at the elements that make the difference between a memorable poem and a poem that “sings,” and one that is ho-hum or downright boring.
Chris Eboch, author of Kid-friendly Children’s Literature. Chris will discuss the basic criteria for writing good children’s stories, articles, and books for kids and teen age, as well as advanced plotting.
Sue Boggio and Mare Pearl: Using Practical Magic in Fiction Writing. They will cover the practical nuts and bolts of fiction writing, but also address the challenges of the page for the reader. This includes tips on how to access one’s own creative magic via the muse.
Melody Groves will cover the pros and cons of magazine writing. Did you know what “the” brings in the same amount that “platoons” does? We’ll look at choosing the right topic, ways to nail the magazine’s style, the query letter, and the article itself. Plus many more tips. With over 9,000 magazine publications annually, there is at least ONE magazine that fits your article!
Conference Registration
Writing: From Start to Sales XIII
Course # 14899 (SPA) Cost: $150
Date: April 8, Saturday
Time: 8:30am-4:30pm
Course # and Title 14899 Writing: From Start to Sales
Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone # (Day) (Evening)
Email Address
REGISTRATION FORM
UNM
Continuing Education