

Press Contacts

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Literacy Central Vancouver Island and Crime Writers of Canada present:

I Wrote a Book. Now What?

Saturday, June 15, 2024

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Literacy Vancouver Island

19 Commercial Street, Nanaimo

This 3-hour workshop is aimed at authors who are in the beginning stages of their writing careers, who have written a book and now need some guidance regarding the editing and publishing options available to them.

Attendance is free. Light refreshments will be served.

Please register in advance at winonakent@shaw.ca

Seating is limited to 20.

EDITING, FROM THE “BIG PICTURE” TO THE PERSNICKITY

Facilitator: Allyson Foster

“Have you considered hiring an editor?” Few questions induce grimaces, eye rolls, and even feelings of existential dread in novice writers quite like it. And those reactions are valid! It can be intimidating to turn your manuscript over to a stranger for feedback and corrections. You may worry that an editor will impose themselves on your story to such an extent that it no longer feels like yours; that their comments will be hypercritical and undermine your confidence; or that they’ll nitpick your grammar into oblivion without regard to context or intention.

But the truth is, a skilled fiction editor is your ally, not your adversary. Even the most experienced writers have blind spots when it comes to their own writing. An editor will bring a fresh perspective to your book, and their constructive feedback will help you craft a story on the page that is as vivid and compelling as the one in your imagination. Moreover, as a stand-in for prospective readers, an editor will run interference on those irksome infelicities, points of confusion, and momentum killers that diminish a reader’s enjoyment and your book’s saleability.

This session will demystify the different types and stages of editing, from the “big picture” to the persnickety. We’ll discuss how to identify your editing needs, choose the right editor for your project, and make the most of your editing budget.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

Facilitator: Joanna Vander Vlugt

Multi-published Vancouver Island thriller author Joanna Vander Vlugt will provide an engaging discussion distinguishing the differences between publicity and marketing and how that equates to book sales. She'll discuss fuelling the promotion wheel while avoiding burn out, drawing upon her own experiences with book signings, approaching bookstores and markets, as well as the importance of book reviews.

SELF-PROMOTION

Facilitator: Paulette McCarthy

Paulette will discuss one-to-one self-promotion and what tools she's found which are helpful and have led to success. The session will include a brief discussion on what the authors envision for themselves in their writing careers.

WRITER ORGANIZATIONS: WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOU DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

Facilitator: Winona Kent

National Vice-Chair of the Crime Writers of Canada, Winona Kent, will provide a quick overview of the main writer organizations in Canada and BC, along with what membership in each of the organizations provides, and the cost.

ALLYSON FOSTER has been a professional editor for over ten years. An inveterate word nerd, she finds joy in pretty much any editing project, be it copy editing a manual on how to prepare the perfect soufflé or doing a developmental edit of a book on 1990s one-hit wonders. But her first editing love and specialization is working with indie fiction authors who have been bitten by the writing bug and are in the early stretches of their storytelling journeys.

Prior to picking up her editing pencil, she worked in book publishing and lurked around the halls of academe teaching undergraduate English literature and composition courses.

JOANNA VANDER VLUGT is an author and illustrator. As a teenager, she drew charcoal portraits and wrote mysteries. Now, she uses Copic markers to illustrate motorcycles and scooters. Under the pseudonym J.C. Szasz, Joanna's short mysteries *Egyptian Queen*, and *The Parrot and Wild Mushroom Stuffing* were both published in Crime Writers of Canada mystery anthologies. Her essay, *No Beatles Reunion* was published in the *Dropped Threads 3: Beyond the Small Circle* anthology.

The Unravelling, her debut novel, and *Dealer's Child* were Canadian Book Club Awards finalists. Joanna draws upon her 13 years' experience working in the prosecutor's office and 10 years working in the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner for inspiration for her novels. Joanna is the VP of Memberships for the Sinc-CW. Joanna has just released her novel, *Spy Girls*, the third in her Jade & Sage series. *Spy Girls* was selected as the Chick Lit Book Cafés International Book of Excellence Award for best spy thriller and suspense. Joanna's novels, art and podcast can be found at joannavandervlugt.com.

PAULETTE McCARTHY has been writing for the past fifteen years. She started with co-founding the Starbucks Writers in Residence, moved on to writing, producing and hosting Writers Block on CHLY, taught creative writing classes for abused women, and published *The Final Hours of John Doe* all the while working full time.

Paulette's second murder mystery, *Who Killed Mr. Peanut* is nearly ready for the world to get their hands on. Currently she is working part time to earn enough money for the launch and cross country book tour.

WINONA KENT was born in London, England and grew up in Saskatchewan. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC and a screenwriting diploma from Vancouver Film School. Winona has been a temporary secretary, a travel agent, a screenwriter and the Managing Editor of a literary magazine. She's the author of 10 novels, including her four current Jason Davey mysteries, and an anthology of stories, one of which—*Salty Dog Blues*—was a finalist in the Crime Writers of Canada's Awards of Excellence for Best Crime Novella in 2021. She's the Vice Chair and the BC/Yukon Rep of the Crime Writers of Canada and is a member of Sisters in Crime - Canada West, the Federation of of BC Writers, and the Royal City Literary Arts Society. Winona lives in New Westminster, where she's happily embracing life as a full-time author. Winona's website is www.winonakent.com.

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