

JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY (JPL) WRITERS' FAIRE 2017

Joplin Public Library and Post Art Library are pleased to welcome you to the premiere JPL Writers' Faire!

But *what do we mean* by writers' faire?! Having evolved from JPL's Local Author Book Signing program, the writers' faire event aims to connect all sorts of writers - published and non, established and emerging, of varying forms and genres, etc. - to their existing and potentially new audiences; it aims to encourage community support of local and regional writers; and to help those who would like to become more involved in the wonderful world of writing learn how to get started.

This year, over 20 authors, writers' groups, and related organizations, including two publishers, are hosting booths and/or signing books throughout the event. We invite you to meet this year's participants and encourage you to engage, whether by discussing their works, asking questions, or by perusing books in our collection that might help those of you who are aspiring writers get started. Most of all, enjoy!

2017 JPL WRITERS' FAIRE PARTICIPANTS

Note: All biographies contained herein were submitted or written by writers' faire participants. Any opinions or views expressed are the opinions and views of the authors and not Joplin Public Library or Post Art Library.

Pub Hound Press catches talent that slips through the cracks. An independent publishing house in Joplin, MO they are dedicated to printing the works of local poets and authors who have, for whatever reason, hitherto gone unnoticed. Pub Hound Press is co-owned by Andrew D. Whitehead and Richard Porter.

Andrew D. Whitehead is a pretty good accountant and an average poet. He enjoys beekeeping, baseball, and hoppy beer. He lives in perpetual political frustration and his dog is a pain in the neck. Thankfully he has the very best girlfriend, many great friends, and lots of good reading material. Andrew is co-owner of Pub Hound Press and co-author of *Muddled*, a chapbook of poetry that he published with his friend Richard.

Richard Porter is best if used by 3/13/18. Refrigerate after opening. Oh, and he co-owns Pub Hound Press and co-authored *Muddled*, a chapbook of poetry that he published with his friend Andrew.

The Joplin Writers Guild is an affiliate of the statewide Missouri Writers' Guild. The Missouri Writers' Guild was established in 1915 and the Joplin Writers' Guild has been in continuous existence since at least the early 1960s. They meet the second Thursday of each month at the Joplin Public Library at 6 PM and anyone interested in writing is welcome to attend. Their purpose is to help and encourage one another in their development as writers and to recognize one another's achievements. Meetings include guest speakers, critiquing of one another's work, and writing exercises and contests. Members vary from veteran writers with many published works to beginners just starting out. For more information, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/266894820055092/>

Connect2Culture (C2C) is unlike any organization in the Joplin area – respected community arts agency, leader of the Joplin Arts & Entertainment Center initiative, and performing arts presenter. C2C is a not-for-profit arts organization founded in 2009 to enhance community through culture. C2C continues to grow audiences and develop resources that strengthen the arts, culture, and entertainment in the City.

C2C visits the JPL Writers' Faire to promote two literary-centric programs: Poetry Out Loud and National Poetry Month in Joplin, MO. Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a national recitation contest open to all high school students and conducted in all 50 states by the National Endowment for the Arts. National Poetry Month (NPM) is the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, bloggers, and, of course, poets marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives every April. C2C partners with Post Art Library and Pub Hound Press to organize an intentional collective effort to celebrate National Poetry Month (NPM) each year in Joplin.

Darla Noble is author of *Love, Momma D*, a book for every mom and grandma that makes us smile, laugh, and sigh as we are reminded of our value and the joys that

come from raising children; *All my love, George*, which shares the life and service of MO army medic George Burks through the letters he wrote to his parents and younger brother; and *Through the Eyes of a Shepherd*, a collection of 'now I get it' moments that remind us that God is faithful and in control—and that doing things his way is always the best way.

Billie Holladay Skelley received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Now retired from working as a cardiovascular and thoracic surgery clinical nurse specialist and nursing educator, she enjoys focusing on her writing. Billie is a member of the Missouri Writers' Guild, Joplin Writers' Guild, Ozarks Writers League, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Her poems, articles, and essays have appeared in various journals, magazines, and anthologies in print and online. She also has written three books for children (*Eagle the Legal Beagle*, *Luella Agnes Owen: Going Where No Lady Had Gone Before*, and *Ruth Law: The Queen of the Air*) and one book for teens (*Spice Secret: A Cautionary Diary*). Her books have received two Purple Dragonfly Book Awards, a Bronze Moonbeam Children's Book Award, and the 2017 Missouri Writers' Guild First Place Award for Best Juvenile Book.

Chris Mitchell is an inspirational and motivational author, writer, blogger, speaker, and podcaster. He currently has two eBooks available, *The Cheeseball Clann* and *Who's Your Bully?* and a collection of biographical stories, *IM Chris Mitchell: 7 Stories of Living Beyond Limitations*, which illustrates Chris' determination while overcoming adversities in his life. He is currently seeking an agent for his memoir, *It Doesn't Define Me: My Fight to Get My Life Back After Surviving a Stroke*.

Brad Aaron Modlin writes poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. His book of poems, *Everyone at This Party Has Two Names*, won the Cowles Prize, and his short collection of short stories, *Surviving in Drought*, won The Cupboard's annual contest. He has appeared on Pub Hound Press's podcast. He teaches at Missouri Southern. This spring he will teach a MSSU creative writing workshop at the Joplin Public Library.

bordertown is Missouri Southern State University's student-run, annually-published literary magazine. We provide opportunities at the undergraduate level for students to participate in the creation, editing, and publication of literary work. Those who work on *bordertown's* staff as editors, and those who contribute as writers, gain invaluable experience that helps prepare them for careers in writing/publishing-related fields after graduation. We at *bordertown* believe that publishing creative work is essential to a properly balanced community, and, so, desire to share such work with our university community and beyond.

Joey Brown is the author of two collections of poetry, *Oklahomaography* and *Feral Love*. Her poems, essays, and short stories have appeared in several literary journals including *Dragon Poet Review*, *Louisiana Review*, *The Oklahoma Review*, *The San Pedro River Review*, *The Florida Review*, and others. She is a regular presenter at writing festivals in Oklahoma and Texas, including Langdon Literary Review Weekend and Scissortail Creative Writing Festival. Currently she is working on two writing projects: *Content Subject to Change*, a new collection of poems dealing with memory, and *Cross-Cut Stanzas*, a mixed genre collection dealing with themes related to building, making, creating, learning, and failing. Joey teaches writing at Missouri Southern State University and lives on the Missouri-Oklahoma border with her husband, prose writer Michael Howarth, and their three rescue dogs.

Michael Howarth currently teaches Children's and Young Adult Literature at Missouri Southern State University where he also directs the Honors Program. His short stories and essays have appeared in such publications as *Flashquake*, *Mud Luscious*, *Cybersoleil Literary Journal*, *Cave Region Review*, *DASH Literary Journal*, and *Farmhouse Magazine*. His critical text *Under the Bed, Creeping: Psychoanalyzing the Gothic in Children's Literature* was published in 2014 by McFarland Press. His Young Adult novel, *Fair Weather Ninjas*, was published in 2016 by Lamar University Literary Press.

Shanti Navarre is author of *The Observations, Life Experiences, Rants and Raves of a Middle-Aged, Divorced, Unemployed U.S. Veteran with a Bachelor's Degree*. Exploding eggs. The Poultry Preacher. Blue Ghosts. Raccoons in the Bathroom. Shanti discusses relatable life topics with wit and humor. From topics about growing up on a farm, to

finding a job in today's economy, to online dating, she is sure to keep you captivated and laughing. Her conversational writing style is a comfort to read, almost as though you are listening to her tell the stories herself.

The Story Center develops writers, performers, and filmmakers through access to free resources, courses, and a community of storytellers. The Story Center offers a Storytelling Certification program in partnership with MCC Maple Woods, The Story Center Speaker Series in partnership with Rainy Day Books, a local author fair every December, and the Woodneath Press (and Imprint), which allows authors to see their work in print. For more information on our program and offerings for storytellers, please contact Story Center Program Manager Melissa Stan at mstan@mymcpl.org, or visit www.mystorycenter.org.

Certification Process – The Story Center and MCC Maple Woods have partnered to offer a world-class Storytelling certification program at no cost to the participants. Storytellers choose to participate in one of three tracts- Written Storycrafting, Oral Storytelling, or Digital Storymaking and then further narrow their field of study into a specialty. The Certification grows storytellers from creation and development to sharing their work. Online badges mark progression through the coursework and upon completion, storytellers will receive continuing education units as well as incentives such as a local vendor fair, showcasing opportunities, mentorship, and publishing. For more information on the Certification and additional offerings for storytellers, please contact Story Center Program Manager Melissa Stan at mstan@mymcpl.org, or visit www.mystorycenter.org.

The Woodneath Press is located in Liberty, Missouri at the Woodneath Library Center, a branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library System. In addition to offering use of an Espresso Book Machine and Print-on-Demand services, Woodneath published under their imprint.

Espresso Book Machine (EBM) – The Espresso Book Machine is a state-of-the-art device from On Demand Books that prints, binds, and trims a paperback book in the same amount of time that it takes to make a cup of coffee. From cookbooks to genealogies, classroom anthologies to novels and everything in between, the Espresso Book Machine provides high quality, professional bound paperback books in a print-

on-demand basis. Choose from EspressoNet's® catalog of over 3 million popular and public domain titles or bring your book in to become a published author. For more information, please contact Woodneath Press Manager Dave Burns at dburns@mymcpl.org or visit www.mymcpl.org/story-center/woodneath-press.

Print-on-Demand (POD) – This service provides authors with the opportunity to print their books at the Woodneath Library Center through the use of the Espresso Book Machine. For more information regarding printing, formatting, and price please contact Woodneath Press Manager Dave Burns at dburns@mymcpl.org or visit www.mymcpl.org/story-center/woodneath-press.

Publishing under the Woodneath Press Imprint – In addition to print-on-demand services, we offer publishing services through the Woodneath Press. If an item is selected for publishing, the Woodneath Press will provide the ISBN, apply for copyright, as well as offer additional publishing services and support for the author. The criteria for submitting works to the Story Center to be considered for publication under the Woodneath Press Imprint are as follows:

1. Query Letter
2. Proof of professional editing
3. Clean manuscript
4. Reviews the work has received or that the author's previous works have received
5. Business plan for marketing and reaching the audience

For more information, or to submit a manuscript for publication, please contact Woodneath Press Manager Dave Burns at dburns@mymcpl.org.

Jay Tepe has lived in Joplin, Missouri since 1985, after transplanting to the area for his second job in radio. Born in Youngstown, Ohio, he has also lived in Cincinnati, Ohio and Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri. (Yep, his dad was a salesman!) Jay is married to writer Mandie Tepe and they have two grown sons. He has been in both radio and television broadcasting for over 33 years. Jay fell in love with Jesus in 1984 and enjoys writing songs to glorify Him. He published his first novel in 2009 and hopes to write many more. He writes in the genres of Christian Suspense and Christian Fantasy.

Mandie Tepe was born and raised in Missouri. After growing up outside of St. Louis, she moved to Joplin, where she's lived for over 30 years. A life-long bookworm, she dreamed of writing her own books since taking a creative writing class in high school. It wasn't until January of 2009—when her husband tossed a spiral notebook in her lap and challenged her to “write it down...start making notes”—that she dove in and wrote the first of her New Beginnings book series. She has always favored books with likable characters that are overcoming hardships with courage and humor. Since experiencing Joplin's 2011 EF-5 tornado (which absolutely was not on her bucket list) she's been even more inspired by the determination and resilience of the human spirit. That's what she loves to write about. Mandie and her husband, writer Jay Tepe, are parents to two awesome grown sons and an amazing daughter-in-law. Mandie and Jay also enjoy their roles as Nana and Papa.

F.C. Shultz is an author from the American Midwest who did not begin writing fiction until his early twenties when the stories of Ray Bradbury grabbed hold of him and never let go. He likes to introduce one fantastical element into an otherwise realistic world and see what happens. It has been great fun so far. He lives with his wife, Sammi, and his cat, Batman, in Southwest Missouri.

Kimberly Rhea is a special education teacher by day, author by night. Her first book, *I'm Not Crazy: I Have Just Been Altered*, was written to share her experience, strength, and hope in dealing with the actual aftermath of the 2011 tornado, her personal devastation of PTSD, and the realization and acceptance of her childhood, which was riddled with chronic abuse and the ultimate recovery. Her second book, *Secrets That Bind the Heart*, is book one of a planned trilogy. Set in present day Joplin, it chronicles a relationship between Kate and Thomas and has Joplin's colorful history embedded in the story. Book two of the trilogy, *Unbound by the Truth*, should be completed by mid-to-late summer 2018. Book three should be released in late 2018 or early 2019.

Carol Russell is a freelance writer and speaker. She and her husband, Bob, have been married for more than 55 years and reside in Kansas. They have three daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She has had many articles, devotions and children's stories published.

Sally U. Smith has written over 500 articles for newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and online publications. She contributed devotionals and stories to *Cup of Comfort Devotional for Mothers*, *Along the Way for Teens*, *Extraordinary Answers to Prayers*, and *101 Facets of Faith*. Her first book in her Pray to Win Series, *Pit Crew: Praying for Our Pastors to Finish the Race*, will be released soon. Currently, she spends her days writing a humor gift book for the hospitalized.

Nancy Kay Grace is a speaker and the award winning author of *The Grace Impact*. She lives in Springdale, Arkansas, and is married to Dr. Rick Grace, who is a senior pastor. They have served in ministry for more than 40 years, seeing God's grace at work in many countries and in the US.

Nancy has published articles in *Just Between Us* magazine and stories in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* Series and in *Abba's Promise: 33 Stories of God's Pledge to Provide*. She has contributed to several blogs and online resources. Nancy's blog is found on her website, www.nancykaygrace.com, where you can sign up for the monthly *GraceNotes* newsletter.

Sandi McReynolds is the award-winning author of *Butterflies at the Window*, a novel based on the true experiences of her family and friends during the 2011 Joplin Tornado, and *Pain & Paradox: The Path of Praise*, a celebration of how God uses the worst things in our lives to bless us the most. Her newest release is *Standpipes and Storm Shelters*, which further accounts her experience of the Joplin tornado. Learn more about Sandi at www.sandimcreynolds.com.

Joyce Love is an award-winning author who enjoys writing for both adults and children. In addition to writing, she enjoys church and family activities, camping with friends and family, and travelling with her husband. She is a former teacher/librarian. Joyce and Bob live on a farm in Southeast Kansas.

Julane Heibert lives with her husband in a wee cottage by a lake in the beautiful flint hills of Kansas. Her love of prairie comes from a childhood spent as the daughter of a cowboy; she was named after a character in a Western magazine. While encouraged to

pen the family's story of raising two handicapped daughters, she has chosen to incorporate the lessons learned into the lives of the characters in her novels. She enjoys music, reading, junk shopping, and chocolate—mostly chocolate. Julane has a passion to present God's truth in everyday events, with ordinary not-too-perfect characters. Julane is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers, Christian Writers Fellowship, and is currently the chairman of the Called to Write conference held annually in Pittsburg, Kansas. She is currently contracted and published through Wings of Hope publishing. www.facebook.com/julanehiebert

www.nanowrimo.org is a FREE online writers' retreat.

THANK YOU!

Joplin Public Library and Post Art Library would like to thank the 2017 JPL Writers' Faire participants!

Also, many thanks to **Cottage Small Coffee Roasters** of Carthage, Missouri for providing locally roasted coffee for the writers' lounge. Visit www.cottagesmall.com for more information.

Finally, thanks to all who attended the **2017 JPL Writers' Faire**. We hope to see you next year....

For further information about the Joplin Public Library Writers' Faire, contact Derek Moser at dmoser@joplinpubliclibrary.org or Jill Sullivan at jhsullivan@postartlibrary.org. Registration for the 2018 JPL Writers' Faire begins September 1, 2018.

