

# 2018 ANWA Writers Conference Faculty

## Special Guests

### Guest Agents

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#### **Kristy Hunter**

As a graduate of Vanderbilt University and The Columbia Publishing Course, Kristy Hunter began her publishing career in New York City—first as an editorial intern at Bloomsbury Children’s Books and then as a book publicist at Grove/Atlantic and Random House Children’s Books. In 2014, she joined [The Knight Agency](#) and her first project, co-agented with Agency President Deidre Knight, sold at auction soon after. As an associate agent, Kristy enjoys being able to bring a unique perspective to her clients thanks to her diverse publishing background. When she’s not curled up with a fantastic book or manuscript, she can be found kickboxing or hiking with her dog.

Currently, Kristy is looking to add new talent to her list. She loves voice-driven stories, strong characters, and being surprised by the unexpected. As a result, she is open to most genres but is specifically looking for strong women’s fiction with book club appeal, literary fiction, historical fiction, romance (and all subgenres of romance), suspense, young adult, and middle grade. Books that feature a diverse cast of characters are always at the top of her list and she’d love to see even more own-voices projects in her inbox. Some of her favorite reads include *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman, *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, *Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake, *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before* by Jenny Han, *The Hating Game* by Sally Thorne, *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* by Melanie Benjamin, and *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin.

#### **Kelly Van Sant**

Kelly Van Sant has nearly a decade of experience in the publishing industry. She cut her teeth in New York working at esteemed literary agencies such as Writers House and Harold Ober Associates, where she developed an eye for compelling, emotionally resonant stories, honed her editorial skills, and soon grew adept at contract vetting. She quickly gained expertise in subsidiary rights management, with focuses on audio rights, foreign rights, and permissions.

After relocating to Minnesota, Kelly joined Llewellyn Worldwide as their Contracts Manager across all three imprints and then moved to Quarto Publishing Group USA where she led the contract department. She has worked as a freelance editor with

various publishers and is a teaching artist at the Loft Literary Center. She also blogs about writing and the publishing industry at [Pub\(lishing\) Crawl](#) and co-hosts their podcast.

Kelly is now an agent at Red Sofa Literary Agency and is actively building her client list. You can learn more about her and what she's looking for on website [Pen & Parsley](#) or on twitter [@bookishchick](#).

## **Guest Editors**

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### **Kami Hancock, Covenant Communications**

Experienced in editing and advertorial and web content writing, Kami Hancock collaborated with a select team to launch a veterinary journal publication and online therapeutics database. She then joined Covenant Communications as an editor and loves being immersed in stories.

### **Lisa Mangum, Shadow Mountain Publishing**

Lisa Mangum has worked in the publishing industry since 1997. She is currently the Managing Editor for Shadow Mountain Publishing and has worked with several New York Times best-selling authors, including Ally Condie, Brandon Mull, and Jason F. Wright. While fiction is her first love, she also has experience working with nonfiction projects (memoir, educational, cookbooks, etc.) and some children's picture books.

Lisa is also the author of four national best-selling YA novels (The Hourglass Door trilogy and *After Hello*) as well as several short stories and novellas. She has also edited four anthologies about magical creatures. She graduated with honors from the University of Utah, and currently lives in Taylorsville, Utah, with her husband, Tracy. [facebook.com/lisamangum](https://www.facebook.com/lisamangum) | [@LisaMangum](#)

## **Special Guests**

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### **Martine Leavitt, keynote speaker**

Martine Leavitt has written ten novels for young adult readers, including the following: *Calvin*, winner of the Governor General's Award of Canada; *My Book of Life by Angel*, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and winner of the Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book of the Year Award; *Keturah and Lord Death*, finalist for the National Book Award; *Tom Finder*, winner of the Mr. Christie's Book Award; and *Heck Superhero*, finalist for the Governor General's Award of Canada. Her novels have been published in Japan, Korea, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands and China. She teaches graduate students at Vermont College of Fine Arts, a low-residency program, and lives in High River, Alberta.

[www.martineleavitt.com](http://www.martineleavitt.com)

## **The Ready-Set-Write Podcast**

The Ready-Set-Write crew began meeting not only to critique one another's work, but to discuss other aspects of the business like marketing and dealing with publishers. This inevitably led to crying jags and chocolate binges, but it also led to some awesome collaborations. Most notably, the Ready-Set-Write writing conference held every October to help aspiring writers jumpstart their novels. The idea for a podcast came next when the group realized that others might be interested in hearing the sorts of conversations that writers have when they are together and talking about the business of writing. Who knows what will come next. Probably some sort of world domination. The [Ready-Set-Write podcast](#) is hosted by Randy Lindsay, Janette Rallison, Brock Booher, Adrienne Quintana, and Aaron Blaylock.

## Faculty

### **Anika Arrington**

Anika Arrington is a devoted wife and mother of six. She is a baseball fan, a Hufflepuff, and pluviophile. She has been writing and illustrating her own stories since the age of four. The writing has improved. The illustrations have not. Her first novel, *The Accidental Apprentice*, was published in 2014 and was a Whitney Award Finalist. She is currently working on the sequel, several short stories, and an illustrated book of haiku.

[www.anikasantics.com](http://www.anikasantics.com) | [@AnikaArrington](https://twitter.com/AnikaArrington)

### **Kaylee Baldwin**

A glamorous day in the life of Kaylee Baldwin includes: chasing after her four children, checking for a new season of *Serial*, writing her latest book, binge-watching reality cooking shows, hanging out with her husband, and reading in every spare second she can find. She graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in English lit and currently lives in southern Arizona with her family. Her books include the Whitney Finalist *Meg's Melody*, *Take a Chance on Me*, and the upcoming romance *Screen Play*.

[www.kayleebaldwin.com](http://www.kayleebaldwin.com) | [@kayleebaldwin1](https://twitter.com/kayleebaldwin1)

### **Stephanie Black**

Stephanie Black is the author of ten novels, most recently *Mind Games* (Covenant Communications, 2017). She is a four-time Whitney Award winner for Best Mystery/Suspense Novel and a finalist for Best Speculative Novel. She is excited to be teaching at ANWA and loves hanging out with people who discuss characters as though they were real people, fret over plot twists, and struggle with semicolons.

[www.stephanieblack.net](http://www.stephanieblack.net) | [@StephanieMBlack](https://twitter.com/StephanieMBlack)

### **Donald Carey**

Don Carey writes both Contemporary Realism and Science Fiction Adventure. He has long been fascinated by human nature, and loves trying to understand the thoughts and motivations of those around him. That interest has served him well as he writes stories about his "imaginary friends." Don currently lives in Kansas with his family. His day job involves writing computer programs, which is almost the same as writing fiction, but with a lot more semicolons.

[www.thedelusiontree.com](http://www.thedelusiontree.com) | [@delusion\\_tree](https://twitter.com/delusion_tree)

### **Darci Cole**

Darci Cole is an author and narrator, working mainly in the fantasy genre. She and her husband run Colevanders: a wand shop catering to lovers of magic and cosplay. Using her years of writing experience, she gives bits of advice on her YouTube series, *The Darci*

*Diaries*, as well as offering critiques for her friends and beta reading for acclaimed authors. She currently lives in Arizona with her husband and four children.  
[darcicole.blogspot.com](http://darcicole.blogspot.com) | [@darci\\_cole](https://twitter.com/darci_cole)

### **Julie Daines**

Julie Daines spent eighteen months living in London where she studied and fell in love with English literature. She loves reading, writing, and watching movies—anything that transports her to another world. She is a traditionally published author of five novels and several novellas, and has won a number of awards for her writing—including winning the Storymakers' First Chapter Contest multiple times. She is a three-time Whitney finalist, and her novel, *Unraveled*, was a contender for the American Library Association's Schneider Family Book Award.  
[www.juliedaines.com](http://www.juliedaines.com) | [@juliedaines](https://twitter.com/juliedaines)

### **Sarah M. Eden**

Sarah M. Eden is a USA Today Bestselling author of award-winning historical fiction and romance. Combining her obsession with history and affinity for tender love stories, Sarah loves crafting witty characters and deeply human stories set against rich historical backdrops. She holds a Bachelor's degree in research and happily spends hours perusing the reference shelves of her local library. Sarah lives with her husband, kids, and mischievous dog in the shadow of a snow-capped mountain she has never attempted to ski.  
[www.SarahMEden.com](http://www.SarahMEden.com) | [@SarahMEden](https://twitter.com/SarahMEden)

### **Dennis Gaunt**

Dennis Gaunt first began writing when he pulled a magic pen from a stone many years ago. At least, that's what he tells people. The truth is that he has always had a love of words, whether reading them or writing them. He is a published author with both Deseret Book and Covenant Communications, and has also been a slushpile reader for both Deseret Book and Shadow Mountain Publishing since 2000. Having a foot in both camps has given him a unique perspective on the writing and publishing worlds, and he loves to share the things he's learned. In addition to being an author, he is a popular teacher and speaker for LDS youth and young adults. He and his wife, Natalie, live in Salt Lake City, where he still practices the ancient art of making mixtapes. He likes playing the guitar, finding weird things to post on social media, and Godzilla movies. He dislikes clowns, spiders, and onions, not necessarily in that order.

### **David Gill**

David Macinnis Gill teaches in the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults program and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington,

specializing in young adult literature. He is a past president of ALAN, the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE, and he has published five acclaimed novels with HarperCollins.

[plotcasters.com](http://plotcasters.com) | [@plotcasters](https://twitter.com/plotcasters)

### **Valerie Ipson**

Valerie Ipson loves reading, writing, and Hershey's Extra Creamy Milk Chocolate with Toffee and Almond Nuggets. Her first romance, titled *Christmas Future*, part of the Holiday Romance Collection: Inspired by A Christmas Carol, is set to be released this November. She is also the author of *Ideal High*, a YA novel. Her hope is to give readers the same experience she has enjoyed through the years while being curled up with a good book!

[valerieipson.com](http://valerieipson.com) | [@valerieipson](https://twitter.com/valerieipson)

### **Melanie Jacobson**

Melanie Jacobson has published eight contemporary romances with Covenant, and contributed novellas to several other joint projects. Her YA work is represented by Alyssa Henkin of Trident. Melanie holds an MFA in Writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and she is a multiple Whitney Award finalist. She could also probably hold a second masters in shoe collection.

[melaniejacobson.net](http://melaniejacobson.net) | [@writestuff\\_mel](https://twitter.com/writestuff_mel)

### **Sandra Jarvis**

Sandra is an inspirational, non-fiction writer who has been blogging for the past 8 years. She has a knack for finding the silver lining--in just about any situation--and a passion for sharing the lessons she's learned from the challenges of life. Her unique insights come from her experiences as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse, the daughter of a homosexual father, the wife of a pornography addict, the mother of a transgender child, and her recovery from major medical trauma, including cancer and the severing of her right hand. As a certified life coach, she helps others overcome their limiting beliefs as she encourages them to begin living life more fully. She loves being part of ANWA and is currently serving as President Elect on the ANWA Executive Board. Her book, *Take My Hand, A Memoir*, will soon be released. For more information about Sandra, visit her blog at [offhandinspiration.com](http://offhandinspiration.com).

### **Catherine Jones Payne**

Catherine Jones Payne is a Seattle native who loves the written word, international travel, and crashing waves. Her earliest memory involves pulling up a rolling chair to her parents' old DOS computer—while wearing a tiara, naturally—and tapping out a story of kidnapped princesses. By day, she's the managing editor of Quill Pen Editorial, where

she's edited dozens of books, with a particular focus on urban fantasy, young adult, and neuroscience. Books she's edited have been featured on Good Morning America and Forbes and have sold hundreds of thousands of copies. By night, she spins stories about mermaids, murder, and mayhem. She lives in Greenville, SC with her historian husband and their cats, Mildred and Minerva.

[Quill Pen Editorial](#)

### **Heather Justesen**

Heather Justesen is the author of more than 30 romance and mystery/suspense novels. (Some books are both genres.) When she isn't being romantic or mysterious, she teaches early morning seminary, snuggles with her chihuahuas, forces her husband to taste-test new recipes, (oh, no, not cookies again!) and tries to figure out how to sneak chickens past her landlord.

[HeatherTullis.com](#) | [HeatherJustesen.com](#) | [@HeatherJustesen](#)

### **Josi S. Kilpack**

Josi is a multi-published and award-winning author. She has written a variety of genres and is currently writing regency and historical romance for Shadow Mountain, and women's fiction for Kensington Publishing. Josi loves to bake, sleep, read, and travel. She doesn't like to exercise, do yard work, or learn how to do new things but she does them anyway. She and her husband, Lee, are the parents of four children and live in Northern Utah.

[www.josiskilpack.com](#) | [@josiskilpack](#)

### **Randy Lindsay**

Randy Lindsay is a world traveler. Which sounds impressive until you realize the worlds he visits exist only in his mind and on the pages of his novels. He claims to prefer this method of sightseeing because he can stop at any time, go to the kitchen, and indulge his ice cream addiction. When he isn't busy making things up he likes going to movies with his wife to watch what other people have made up and plays board games with his children who are in the habit of making up the rules as they go along.

[www.randylindsay.net](#) | [@Randsay](#)

### **Annette Lyon**

Annette Lyon is a USA Today bestselling author, a 5-time Best of State medalist for novels and short stories in Utah, and a Whitney Award winner. She's had success as a professional editor and in newspaper, magazine, and technical writing, but her first love is writing fiction. She's a cum laude graduate from BYU with a degree in English and is the author of dozens of titles, including the Whitney Award-winning Band of Sisters, a chocolate cookbook, and a popular grammar guide. She is one of the original founders

of the Timeless Romance Anthology series, which she also edited for its first two and a half years. She has received five publication awards from the League of Utah Writers, including the Silver Quill, and she's one of the four coauthors of the Newport Ladies Book Club series. Annette is represented by Heather Karpas at ICM Partners.

[annettelyon.com](http://annettelyon.com) | [@AnnetteLyon](https://www.instagram.com/AnnetteLyon)

### **Jordan McCollum**

An award-winning author, Jordan McCollum can't resist a story where good defeats evil and true love. On the nonfiction side, she loves to teach about writing through her blog, online classes and Writing Craft nonfiction series. She served as the inaugural Education Director for Authors Incognito (now Storymakers Tribe). She's taught at conferences including LDStorymakers & UAACon and was the keynote speaker for the 2016 ANWA Northwest Writers Retreat. On the fiction side, Jordan specializes in stories about love, lies, secrets and spies. Her novels in the Spy Another Day series were all finalists for the Whitney Awards. In her day job, she coerces people to do things they don't want to, elicits information and generally manipulates the people she loves most—she's a mom.

[JordanMcCollum.com](http://JordanMcCollum.com) | [@JordanMcCollum](https://www.instagram.com/JordanMcCollum)

### **Lisa McKendrick**

Lisa McKendrick has published five books in the LDS market. Her most recent book, *Brush With Love*, is a 2017 Whitney finalist. When she's not writing Lisa likes to spend her time doing yoga, hunting for deals at yard sales, and hanging out with her family.

[dogateyourbabybook.blogspot.com](http://dogateyourbabybook.blogspot.com)

### **Heather B. Moore**

Heather B. Moore is a USA Today bestselling author of more than a dozen historical novels and thrillers, written under pen name H.B. Moore. She writes women's fiction, romance and inspirational non-fiction under Heather B. Moore. This can all be confusing, so her kids just call her Mom. Heather attended Cairo American College in Egypt, the Anglican School of Jerusalem in Israel, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Brigham Young University in Utah. Heather is represented by Dystel, Goderich, and Bourret.

[www.hbmoore.com](http://www.hbmoore.com) | [@heatherbmoore](https://www.instagram.com/heatherbmoore)

### **Jolene Perry**

Jolene Perry is a middle and high school teacher turned author, and former Author in Residence at Alaska Pacific University. She married the guy she kissed on her high school graduation night, is a life-long Alaskan living in Colorado, and has spent months sailing in the Caribbean. She writes romance books for grown ups as Jolene Betty Perry, and for teens as Jolene Perry. Her novels for young adults include *The Summer I Found*

*You, Stronger Than You Know*, *Has to be Love* (Whitney Award Finalist), *Love Blind* and *A Forever Thing* (Whitney Award Finalist). She writes for Albert Whitman Teen, Simon Pulse, and occasionally dabs in independent publishing. She is represented by Jane Dystel and Sharon Pelletier – both of Dystel, Goderich & Bourret Literary Management. You can find Jolene and her books online at [jolenebperry.com](http://jolenebperry.com), or at [CookieLynnPub.com](http://CookieLynnPub.com) where she works as a freelance editor.  
[www.beenwriting.com](http://www.beenwriting.com) | [@been\\_writing](https://twitter.com/been_writing)

### **Laurie Schnebly**

Laurie Schnebly grew up with a marriage-counselor mother, preparing her to write happy endings for her own books — including one that beat out Nora Roberts for “Best Special Edition of the Year.” The only thing she loves more than writing is working with other writers, which is why she now has 21 novels on her bookshelf with acknowledgments from authors who loved her class!  
[BookLaurie.com](http://BookLaurie.com) | [@BookLaurie](https://twitter.com/@BookLaurie)

### **Regina Sirois**

Regina Sirois is the author of three novels for young adults and is currently working on both contemporary and historical works. She is a history major, creative writing minor, the winner of the International Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award, and is both traditionally and self published. She loves the art of the written word, and is fascinated with human experience. She writes whatever story will not leave her alone. And when it doesn't come out right, she faceplants on her keyboard, has a smoothie and tries again. She lives in Kansas with her husband, two daughters, hairless cat, bunny, and bearded dragon.  
[reginasirois.com](http://reginasirois.com) | [@reginasirois](https://twitter.com/@reginasirois)

### **Kate Stradling**

Kate Stradling is a structure junkie who adores historical and descriptive linguistics. She graduated summa cum laude from Brigham Young University with her BA in English, and completed her MA in English at Arizona State. Her writing bounces through the fantasy spectrum, from dystopia lite to fairy tales to time-travel adventures. Devoted to token winters and scorching weather, Kate lives in sunny Mesa, Arizona.  
[katestradling.com](http://katestradling.com) | [@katestradling](https://twitter.com/@katestradling)

### **Kate Watson**

Kate Watson is a young adult writer, wife, mother, and the tenth of thirteen children. Originally from Canada, she attended college in the States and holds a BA in philosophy from Brigham Young University. A lover of travel, speaking in accents, and experiencing new cultures, she has also lived in Israel, Brazil, Utah, and the American South. She now calls Arizona home. She is the author of *Seeking Mansfield*, the companion novel *Shoot*

*the Moon*, and the forthcoming *Lovestruck*.  
[www.KateWatsonBooks.com](http://www.KateWatsonBooks.com) | [@katewatsonya](https://twitter.com/katewatsonya)

### **Julie Wright**

Julie Wright is the author of over twenty novels, including *Lies Jane Austen Told Me* with Shadow Mountain's Proper Romance line, the Hazzardous Universe Series, and *Death Thieves*. She is a Whitney Awards winner and a Crown Heart recipient. She is represented by agent Sara Crowe. She loves reading and writing, playing on the beach or hiking with her kids, and watching her husband make dinner.

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