

# Love What You Write – Speakers

## 1. POETRY TRACK SPEAKERS:



**Jomil Ebro** presents *Aesthetic Chills in the House of Language: Poetry to Break (and Re-make) Your Heart*

**Sessions #1 and #2**

In a letter to her editor who was skeptical about her understanding of poetry, Emily Dickinson wrote, “If I read [something] and it makes my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me, I know *that* is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know *that* is poetry.” Whether you are a beginning or seasoned poet, I will dialogue with you about four practices that I think generate the most authentic, enlivened, and “chilling” poetry: radical observation (how to begin), befriending vulnerability (how to form a first draft), diligent surrender (how to revise), and trusting what is not said (how to “finish”). I hope to give you helpful ideas on how to find your poem’s truest expression.

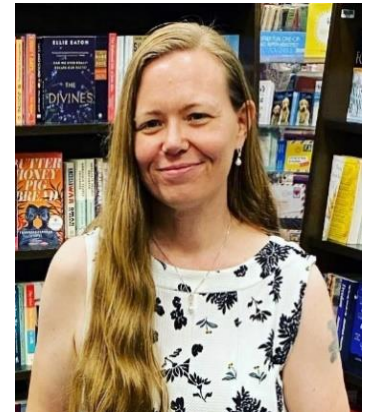
[www.arapahoe.edu/employees/jomil-ebro](http://www.arapahoe.edu/employees/jomil-ebro)

**Jomil Ebro** is a nondual poet and professor at Arapahoe Community College. His Ph.D. is in English and Consciousness Studies. He has received training at the Writer’s Workshop at the University of Iowa, and degrees in Cultural Studies and Communication at New York University. In all sincerity and without hyperbole, Jomil believes that poetry—in particular, the way it can teach us to give a name to the nameless so that it can be thought and sensed more fully—that poetry, as such, can save the world. He lives in Golden, CO with his wife and son.

**Brook Bhagat** presents *Stop Making Sense: The Exquisite Corpse and other Surrealist Games*

**Session #3 & Critiques**

Brook Bhagat (she/her) is the author of *Only Flying*, a Pushcart-nominated collection of surreal poetry and flash fiction on paradox, rebellion, transformation, and enlightenment from Unsolicited Press. Her work has won contests and appeared in *Monkeybicycle*, *Empty Mirror*, *Anthem: A Tribute to Leonard Cohen*, and other journals and anthologies. She is a founding editor of *Blue Planet Journal* and a professor of creative writing at Pikes Peak State College. <https://brook-bhagat.com/>



## 2. FICTION/NONFICTION TRACK SPEAKERS:



### **Jerry Fabyanic** presents **Session #1 *Writing Thoughtful Truth or Fiction: Telling It Like It Is***

No matter the genre, honest writing is an exercise in personal vulnerability. While publishing one's pieces heightens the risk for the writer, publishing pieces that are deeply personal in nature requires the writer to be willing to reveal or expose themselves in ways that might make them open to more scrutiny. Using metaphors, allusions, and symbolism as vehicles, Fabyanic probes answer to his perennial "big question": Why do people believe and act as they do? Jerry brings philosophical, psychological, and mythological concepts into the world of everyday understanding and meaning. Come prepared to write and possibly share a written piece from the workshop. We'll share positive comments and suggestions.

### **Session #2 The Challenges of Writing Manuscripts from Structure to Content**

Writing and publishing a memoir or a memoir-like literary fiction novel is one of the riskiest ventures a writer can engage in. When considering the pursuit, it's helpful to consider the various aspects of the intended work from structure to content. This workshop is designed to provide writers interested in or are already engaged in such a work to pick up, develop, and explore tools, parameters, and best-practices in a collaborative setting. Come to prepared to write and possibly share with the group positive comments on the strengths in the piece.

**Jerry Fabyanic** is an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction books. His novels are theme-focused and character-driven, and his essays explore a wide range of mind and spirit topics. Jerry has published four books to date: *Sisyphus Wins*, *The Lion's Den: Book Two in the Sisyphus Series*, *Food for Thought: Essays on Mind and Spirit, Volume One*, and *Food for Thought: Essays on Mind and Spirit, Volume Two*. Fabyanic coordinates the Christmas Market Book Nook at the annual Georgetown Christmas Market, a place for Colorado authors to display, promote and see their books during the holidays.

### **Sara Frances** presents ***Seeking Literary Value: Cross-Genre Elements that Embrace Readers***

#### **Session #3 & Critiques**

Seize hold of your readers and keep them with confidence. It takes more than a story; details matter, choices matter. Get the action down on paper, but there's so much more you can do to stand out from the perpetual hurricane of easily published books. Literary value based on crucial yet understandable elements will make you a fair-weather hero or heroine.



**BIO:** Memorable storytelling requires words, imagery, and design. Sara Frances' books embrace readers with dexterity in all three elements. Frances brings to her instruction a masters in comparative literature, publishing awards, master photographer credentials of 50 years, and book judge experience. Her most recent publication is *Unplugged Voices 125 Tales of Art and life from Northern New Mexico, the Four Corners and the West* that has won 8 books awards including finalist for Colorado Humanities. Frances has amassed a cornucopia of ingredients that will give your writing power and light.

### 3. CHILDRENS/MIDDLE GRADE TRACK SPEAKERS:

**Attention: Due to a family emergency, Andrea Rudolf will not be able to attend. Her illustrator, Jennifer Matthews, has graciously agreed to present in her place.**

Jennifer Matthews presents *What Works for Us – Illustration Tips & Storyboarding*



#### Sessions #1 & #2

Each person attending this workshop will go home with a Storyboard!

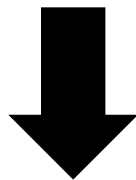
BIO: Jennifer is an award-winning illustrator of children's books, botanicals and fine art. Her art is completely by pencil and self-taught. She holds a Park, Recreation & Tourism Sciences degree from the Texas A&M University. Her illustrations have been published in books such as, *Theory...Find your Pony* and *Oh, Poop! My Pet Died* by Andrea Rudolph and *Searching for Design* by Dan Harwell. Her work can be found on her website at [jmatthewsillustration.com](http://jmatthewsillustration.com).

Allie Slocum presents *Pull Your Reader's in with Dialogue*

#### Session #3 & Critiques

Learn Why you should and how you can use dialogue to move your fiction or non-fiction story along. This interactive workshop will leave you with practical tips and practices to elevate your dialogue.

Allie Slocum's passion to introduce children to strong character values is what drives her to write the Character Club series and Character Club Lil Sibs Series. Slocum lives in Colorado with her husband, two daughters, and golden retriever. When not writing, she teaches gifted and talented K-5th graders at the local elementary school. She loves sloths, reading, gardening, and making memories with her family.



## 4. TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING VERSES SELF-PUBLISHING PANEL WITH Q&A:

### SESSION #4

**Becky LeJeune** is an agent at Bond Literary Agency, a Denver-based agency run by Sandra Bond. Prior to joining the agency, Becky spent time working as a bookseller, a freelance cookbook editor, and an acquisitions editor for a small, regional press. She is a graduate of the Denver Publishing Institute.



**Becky** is interested in cookbooks and YA and adult submissions in the following genres: horror, mystery/suspense/thriller, historical fiction, sci fi, fantasy, and general fiction. She enjoys plot driven narratives with unique settings, strong world building, and well-developed characters.

**Judith Briles** presents *Self-Publishing versus Hybrid: Plan A or Plan B, with Q & A Session*

Judith Briles brings experience in traditional publishing, self-publishing, and hybrid publishing to presentations. However, in this workshop, she will focus on the last two. First, she will outline what is entailed in self-publishing and what skills the writers need to succeed. Then she will explain what writers need to know about hybrid publishing, and how they can make contacts with industry experts who can help them pursue a mix of self and hybrid publishing.



**Judith Briles** is a nonfiction author, publisher, podcaster, book publishing consultant and professional speaker focused on writing and publishing. In 2019, she launched the [Colorado Authors Hall of Fame](#). Dr. Judith Briles' second fiction book in the Harmonie series, *The Secret Hamlet* was awarded WINNER in the Fantasy Historical Fiction category from the American Fiction Awards. Co-written with Brian Barnes, it is set in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.