

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

### Celebrating Authors at Columbus Public Library

Columbus Public Library's third annual event showcasing regional authors is fast approaching. The Author Fair features area authors who are independently or self-published. These writers cover a variety of topics via fiction and nonfiction and are excited to share their work with CPL visitors. Many of our authors will have copies of their books for you to purchase and have graciously agreed to add their autographs.

Join us Saturday, November 12 at 2:00 p.m. to connect with these writers and discover new reads. This event is free to the public and guests are welcome to enjoy refreshments while visiting with all of our local authors in the art gallery in the library's lower level.

November is a fine time to feature these authors. It is National Novel Writing Month, otherwise known as "NaNoWriMo." Participants set a goal to write 50,000 words – the approximate length of a novel – during the month of November. According to the NaNoWriMo website (<http://nanowrimo.org>), during the month of November 2015, "431,626 participants, including 80,137 students and educators in the Young Writers Program, started the month as auto mechanics, out-of-work actors, and middle school English teachers. They walked away novelists."

Writers are always welcome to use the library's comfortable seating and meeting room spaces to work but we want to extend a special invitation to "Come Write In" on Thursday, November 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Share your progress, swap ideas, commiserate, and write alongside other writers during this event. Light refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

Also on November 10, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., join a local writing club for their November meeting.

The library has resources to help you on your writing journey. Sandra Scofield's "The Scene Book: A Primer for the Fiction Writer" covers the basics of scenes, their beats, and focal points. Scofield explains useful skills for scene development and how to read and evaluate scenes. Each section includes clear examples as well as writing exercises to turn the readings into practical application.

For writers who are itching to tell their own story, check out Steve Zousmer's "You Don't Have to Be Famous: How to Write Your Life Story." Zousmer's book starts with encouragement to those looking to write an autobiography. On page 8 he discusses writing as an amateur rather than a professional and that the amateur writer is one who "may be as competent as a professional but is motivated by a love or passion for the activity." Throughout the rest of the book he offers assistance in organization, rewriting, and what to do when the book is finished.

"Finding Your Voice: How to Put Personality in Your Writing" by Les Edgerton, "This Year You Write Your Novel" by Walter Mosley, and "Handling the Truth: On the Writing of Memoir" by Beth Kephart are a few other print resources CPL offers.

Find more writing tips in our Digital Library by searching our Ebscohost eBook Collection to find "Creative Writing : How to Unlock Your Imagination, Develop Your Writing Skills - and Get Published" by Adele Ramet, and "Awaken the Writer Within: A Sourcebook for Releasing Your Creativity and Finding Your True Writer's Voice" by Cathy Birch.

For more information about any of these programs and resources, visit the library or call 402-564-7116.