

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Celebrating Writers and Readers at Columbus Public Library

Columbus Public Library's 5th Annual Book Festival for readers and writers is quickly approaching. On Saturday, April 27 from 2-4 p.m., join us in celebrating Nebraska authors who are independently or self-published. These writers cover a variety of topics from fiction to 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. Authors will also read selections from their work and they all look forward to meeting you.

To kick off the event, author Mary Connealy will deliver a keynote in the library's auditorium on the second floor at 2 p.m. Connealy writes romantic comedy with cowboys, always with a strong suspense thread. She is a two time Carol Award winner, and a Rita, Christy and Inspirational Reader's Choice finalist. She is the bestselling author of over 60 books and novellas.

Her most recent book series are: Garrison's Law, High Sierra Sweethearts, Cimarron Legacy, Wild at Heart, Trouble in Texas, and Kincaid Bride for Bethany House Publishing. She's also written four other series for Barbour Publishing and many novellas. Mary has nearly a million books in print.

The library will provide a delicious and tempting array of treats for those that attend. Come support Nebraska authors and enjoy visiting while finding new great reads.

If you are an aspiring author who can't make it to the festival to get tips from other Nebraska authors, 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.

Cheryl Klein offers writing assistance in "The Magic Words: Writing Great Books for Children and Young Adults." Use this resource to create multidimensional characters, build bonds between readers and your characters, and craft a strong story concept.

"The Art of the Graphic Memoir: Tell Your Story, Change Your Life" by Tom Hart offers readers encouragement to "hone their signature style in the best way to represent their journeys on the page."

"Finding Your Voice: How to Put Personality in Your Writing" by Les Edgerton, "Dear Ally, How Do You Write a Book" by Ally Carter, and "How to Write Good" by Ryan Higa, are a few other print resources CPL offers.

Find more writing tips in our Digital Library by searching our Ebscohost eBook Collection for "Authorship" to find "Writing Well: The Essential Guide" by Mark Tredinnick, "Writing from Life: How to Turn Your Personal Experience into Profitable Prose" by Lynne Hackles, "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 our programs and resources, visit the library or call 402-564-7116.