

# 2012 6th ANNUAL MWG WRITERS CONFERENCE

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**Mandi Stanley** With more than 16 years of experience on the seminar circuit, Certified Speaking Professional Mandi Stanley works primarily with business leaders who want to boost their professional image and with people who want to be better speakers and writers. She has traveled throughout North America entertaining and educating more than 34,000 seminar participants, totaling 3800 platform hours. Some of her repeat clients include: Campbell's Soup Company, the United States Air Force, Kimberly-Clark's World Headquarters, Mississippi Bankers Association, McDonald's Corporation, Godiva Chocolate, The Rockefeller University and the National Football League (that's right—the NFL!) In 2003, she was designated a Certified Speaking Professional by the National Speakers Association. Fewer than 9 percent of all worldwide speakers have earned this designation, and Mandi is the first Mississippian to receive this honor. She's a summa cum laude graduate with concentrations in English, communications, and management, and the author of *The No-Panic Plan for Presenters: An A-to-Z Checklist for Speaking Confidently and Compellingly Anywhere, Anytime* released by Pecan Row Press in February, 2011. Mandi has served on the faculty of the American Management Association, where she received the coveted Quality Award and first-place ranking in market share. Audiences appreciate her platform enthusiasm, interactive style, and content-rich messages. She designs every presentation to help her audiences get their messages across with the results they want. You'll laugh! You'll learn! You'll leave with your "Hair-On-Fire!"

**C. Hope Clark** is author of *A Lowcountry Bribe*, the first of the new Palmetto State Mystery Series published by Bell Bridge Books out of Memphis. Hope lives on the bank of Lake Murray near Chapin, SC, where she not only pens mysteries, but she also manages [FundsforWriters.com](http://FundsforWriters.com). The website has received the honor of being selected for 101 Best Websites for Writers, an annual selection by *Writer's Digest Magazine*, for the past 12 years running. Her newsletters aid writers in finding grants, contests, markets and publishers for their work, and Hope's newsletters reach 42,000 readers each week. She's also published in *Writer's Digest*, *The Writer Magazine*, *TURF Magazine*, *Landscape Management*, *Voices of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*, numerous *Chicken Soup* and many more online and print publications. She speaks at writers conferences throughout the United States and is recognized as an expert in the freelance writing business. Read more about Hope in her blog, on Twitter, in Facebook as well as the newsletters available at [Funds for Writer](#) or her [Website](#)



**Rochelle Melander** is an author, speaker, and professional coach with more than 20 years of publishing experience. She is the bestselling author of ten commercially published books, hundreds of articles, and many educational resources including the new book to help fiction and nonfiction writers to write fast: *Write-A-Thon: Write Your Book in 26 Days (And Live to Tell About It.)* (Writer's Digest Books, October 2011). Melander teaches professionals how to get published, establish credibility, and navigate the new world of social media.

**Julie Cantrell** is a New York Times and USA Today Bestselling author. She was the editor-in-chief of the *Southern Literary Review*. She has been a freelance writer for ten years and has published two children's books. She has contributed to more than a dozen books, and her first novel, *Into the Free*, hit shelves February 1, 2012 (David C Cook). In addition to writing the sequel to that novel, Julie was honored to receive the 2011 Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Artist Fellowship and is currently working on a creative nonfiction book about her family's adventures as first-generation farmers. Julie and her family live in Oxford, Mississippi where they operate Valley House Farm. She is also a certified speech-language pathologist and currently teaches English as a second language to elementary students. Julie is represented by Greg Johnson of WordServe Literary.



**Kathryn Lay** is the author of 20 books for children including *CROWN ME!*, middle grade novel, winner of Texas State Reading



Association Golden Spur Award and Oklahoma Writer's Trophy Award for Best Children's Novel, republished in paperback with Scholastic Book Clubs; JOSH'S HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN, picture book; WENDY'S WEATHER WARRIOR series, 6 book chapter books for educational publisher, 4 Classic Adaptations (WIZARD OF OZ, LITTLE WOMEN, WAR OF THE WORLDS, JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH). 6 book nonfiction picture book series coming out September 2012, SENSING THEIR PREY. Book for writers, THE ORGANIZED WRITER IS A SELLING WRITER in paperback, e-book and kindle. Kathryn has had over 2000 articles, essays, and stories published in magazines and anthologies for children and adults including: 8 Chicken Soup books, 12 Guideposts anthologies, Woman's World, Family Circle, Kiwanis, Highlights for Children, Cricket, Spider, Pockets, and many more. She teaches 3 writing courses at Coffeehouseforwriters.com and is the new Magazine Expert Guide for Children's Book Insider magazine and website.



**Author/Illustrator Chuck Galey** has illustrated for book publishers, magazines, advertising and design firms nationwide. He has served adjunct instructor for the course on Illustration at Mississippi State Department of Art and is a Mississippi Arts Commission Teaching Artist. He won the 2003 Mississippi Library Association's special award for illustration in Children's Literature for Jazz Cats, 2002 Children's Book Council Children's Choice Award for Jazz Cats, and the 2003 Children's Book Council Children's Choice Award for My Brother Dan's Delicious. His presentations throughout the nation include the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Southern Breeze, Birmingham, AL; Georgia Reading Association, Atlanta, GA; the University of Southern Mississippi's Children's Book Festival, Hattiesburg, MS; SCBWI North-Central California Regional Fall Conference and much more.



**Evan Guilford-Blake** writes plays, fiction, creative non-fiction and poetry for adults and children. He is the author of about 40 plays which have been produced internationally; 20 are published by Playscripts, Eldridge, YouthPLAYs, Next Stage and others. He has won 36 playwriting competitions, including, twice, the New Orleans Literary Festival/Tennessee Williams and the Tallahatchie RiverFest contests (the only playwright to have done so), Ireland's Eamon Keane Award, the Richmond (VA) Firehouse Festival of New Plays, the Saints and Sinners Competition and the Aurand Harris/NETC award. A Pushcart Prize nominee, Evan's stories and poems have appeared in numerous print and online journals, as well as in several anthologies. Among his dozen short fiction awards are Soundings Review's Founder's Award, Wayne State University's Judith Siegal Pearson Award and the Porter Fleming prize. Evan is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the Alliance of Los Angeles Playwrights, and is a "Distinguished Resident Playwright Emeritus" at Chicago Dramatists. He has presented playwriting workshops at numerous venues including the American College Theatre Festival and the Georgia Theatre Conference. He and his wife (and inspiration), freelance writer and jewelry designer Roxanna Guilford-Blake, live in the Atlanta area with their two lovable, dumb-as-dirt doves, Quill and Gabriella and their equally lovable, smart-as-a-whip spitz/terrier mix Winnie Words.. More information is available at [www.guilford-blake.com/evan](http://www.guilford-blake.com/evan).

