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The Writing Center  
Writing | Literature | Culture

## 2018

# *Summer Symposium*



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# The Writing Center-CE 2018 Summer Symposium

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018

## WELCOME



*Photo: Bill Crumlic*

The 2018 SUMMER SYMPOSIUM features distinguished keynote speakers and superb panels to create the mood that will propel you along your writing career. This year's program presents *The New Yorker* Fiction Editor Deborah Treisman, as well as best-selling authors Jeffery Deaver, Daphne Merkin, and a host of other leading writers, editors, and literary agents. The day-long event offers a unique opportunity to both learn from and interact with these top professionals in a friendly, personal way. The speakers and panelists will be available to inscribe books or exchange contact information at the luncheon and then again at the wine and cheese gathering at the end of the day's events. I hope to meet you at The Summer Symposium, which promises to leave you inspired by the presenters and filled with new ideas and literary contacts.

### Lewis Burke Frumkes

Director of The Writing Center, CE

Registration, including Lunch: \$175\*

*\*A fee of \$35 will be included in registration after June 1st*

**For more information or to register:**

*Email:* [twcce@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:twcce@hunter.cuny.edu)

*Call:* 212-772-4295 or

*Visit:* [www.hunter.cuny.edu/thewritingcenter-ce](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/thewritingcenter-ce)

*Location:* Hunter College West, 3rd Floor Glass Café

The Symposium will conclude with a  
**WINE AND CHEESE GATHERING** at 4:45pm

## 8:45am BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

## 9:30am – 10:30am MEMOIR PANEL

**Lucinda Franks** is an acclaimed reporter and novelist, as well as the first woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting. She has written five novels, the latest being a memoir published by Farrar Straus & Giroux called *Timeless: Love, Morgenthau, and Me* (2014), which tells the story of her unlikely marriage to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau.

**Steven Gaines** recently authored *One of These Things First*, a memoir about his adolescent stay at the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic, his struggle with the conversion therapy he underwent there, and his memories of the erudite people he met during that time — a book *The New York Times Book Review* called “an absolute treasure.”

**Molly Haskell**, a feminist author and film critic, has written for publications such as *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *The Nation*, and *The New York Review of Books*. Her books include *From Reverence to Rape: The Treatment of Women in the Movies*, *Love and Other Infectious Diseases*, *Holding My Own in No Man's Land: Women and Men and Films and Feminists*, and *Frankly My Dear: Gone with the Wind Revisited*.



Photo by Tina Turnbow

**Daphne Merkin** is an American literary critic, essayist, and novelist who has won the Edward Lewis Wallant Award and whose work has been featured in a list of notable books selected by the *New York Times*. Her most recent memoir, *This Close to Happy: A Reckoning with Depression*, was chosen as *The New York Times Book Review* Favorite Read of 2016.

**Maxine Rosaler** is a writer whose work has been featured in *The Southern Review*, *Glimmer Train*, *Green Mountains Review*, and *Fifth Wednesday*. Rosaler is the author of many books, including *Coping with Asperger Syndrome*, and most recently *The Devil on Trial: Witches, Anarchists, Atheists, Communists, and Terrorists in America's Courtrooms*, co-authored with Phillip Margulies.

**Strong-Cuevas** is a renowned sculpture artist and the subject of David Kipler's retrospective, *Strong-Cuevas Sculpture: Premonitions in Retrospect*. Her work can be found in galleries, museums, and exhibits across the United States. Her newest book, *Strong-Cuevas Drawings — Ideas on Paper*, was released in May.

## 10:45am – 11:30am KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Photo by Beowulf Sheehan

**Deborah Treisman** is the fiction editor of *The New Yorker* and the host of the award-winning *New Yorker Fiction Podcast*. Her translations of Francophone writers, such as Patrick Chamoiseau, Marguerite Duras, and Tahar Ben Jelloun, have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, and *Grand Street*. In 2012, she received the Center for Fiction's Maxwell E. Perkins Award for Distinguished Contribution to Fiction. Recently, she co-authored *The Dream Colony: A Life in Art*, a memoir based on numerous conversations between pioneering curator Walter Hopps and co-author Anne Doran.

## 11:45am – 12:45pm FICTION PANEL

**Nancy DiBenedetto** has worked as a successful book doctor for many years. She has taught at Marymount Manhattan College as a professor in the Fine Arts Department and has served as administrative dean at New York School of Interior Design.

**Kathleen Hill** is an American novelist and short story writer. Her first novel, *The New York Times*' Notable Book of the Year, *Still Waters in Niger*, focuses on the tenacity of the family in light of famine, while her follow-up novel, *The New York Times*'s Editor's Choice *Who Occupies This House*, explores a similar dynamic within her own Irish histories.

**Dara Horn** has earned accolades for her unique writing style that blends magical realism with Jewish culture and history. Her five books, including her most recent, *Eternal Life* — a study of a Jewish woman who has been alive for 2,000 years — have received honors such as the Editor's Choice in *The New York Times*, the Harold U. Ribalow Prize, and the Reform Judaism Prize for Jewish Fiction. In addition to writing, Horn has taught Jewish literature and Israeli history at Harvard University and Sarah Lawrence College.



Photo by William D. Bird

**Malachy McCourt** is an Irish-American actor, writer, and politician. His memoirs, *A Monk Swimming* and *Singing My Him Song*, detail his life in Ireland and the United States. Most recently, his 2017 memoir, *Death Need Not Be Fatal*, details McCourt's musings on mortality.

**Joseph Olshan** has been a prolific writer for more than three decades, publishing nine novels — one of which, *Clara's Heart*, was made into a feature film starring Whoopi Goldberg. In addition to his award-winning novels, Olshan has had countless pieces published in various newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, where he is a regular book reviewer.

**Iris Smyles** is an accomplished author and editor. Her debut novel, *Iris Has Free Time*, was published in 2013, and she is the current literary editor of *EAST, The East Hampton Star Magazine*. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Paris Review Daily*, *Bomb*, *Guernica Magazine*, *Nerve*, *New York Press*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and *Best American Travel Writing 2015*, and *Splice Today*.

## 1:00pm – 2:00pm LUNCH + KEYNOTE SPEAKER

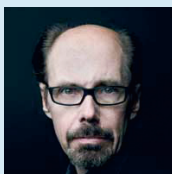


Photo by Niko Giovanni Coniglio

**Jeffery Deaver** is one of America's greatest writers of mystery and crime novels. In addition to his best-selling Lincoln Rhyme trilogy and Kathryn Dance thriller series, he served as president of the Mystery Writers of America. His books have sold 50 million copies internationally.

## 2:15pm – 3:15pm LITERARY AGENTS PANEL

**Mark Gottlieb**, a literary agent in Trident Media Group, is adept in all categories and genres of literature and has represented a multitude of *New York Times* bestselling authors. He has been ranked first among Literary Agents on *Publisher's Marketplace* based on his volume of deals.

**Sara Nelson** is an editor, book reviewer, consultant, and columnist who sat as the editorial director of Amazon.com. Her book *So Many Books, So Little Time* was published in 2003. Nelson has contributed work to the *Wall Street Journal* and *Huffington Post*, and has served as book editor at Oprah's *O Magazine*. She is currently Vice President, Executive Editor and Special Advisor to HarperCollins Publisher Jonathan Burnham.

**Sidney Offit** received his B.A. in English Literature from Johns Hopkins University, where he was also editor of *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*. He was part of the Offit-Abend debates, which were a regular feature of the 10 o'clock news for a decade. His most recent work is his 2008 novel, *Friends, Writers, and Other Countrymen: A Memoir*.

**Peter Rubie**, a veteran literary agent, is the CEO of Fine Print Literary Agency. He calls himself a "sucker" for good writing and represents a wide variety of topics in both fiction and non-fiction genres.

**Jennifer Weltz** is the president of the Jean V Naggar Literary Agency. She has sold books internationally, domestically, and for film. She takes up an author's career, not just a project, and is very selective in her decisions for that reason.

## 3:30pm – 4:30pm LITERARY ROADSHOW: PITCH TO THE EXPERTS PANEL

**Megan Abbott** is the Edgar award-winning author of eight novels, including *Dare Me*, *The Fever*, and the bestselling *You Will Know Me*. She is currently a staff writer on HBO's new David Simon show, *The Deuce*. Her next novel, *Give Me Your Hand*, comes out in July 2018.

**Glenn Lewis** is the director of journalism and professor of English at York College, where he created the BA in Journalism Degree Program. He is also a professor at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, responsible for teaching long-form narrative journalism, feature writing and a nonfiction book writing seminar. Lewis, a veteran journalist and author, has written about journalism, education, business, sports, and societal trends. He has also served as Founding President and Creative Director of the book packaging company Book Smart, Inc.

**Rita Rosenkranz** is a literary agent and founder of a well-established boutique agency that works with major publishing houses, as well as regional publishers that handle a variety of niche markets.

**Richard Schiffman** is an environmental journalist, published poet, and author of several biographies. He has also been a contributor on NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition*.

**Bernard Starr** is an author, columnist, media host, and professor emeritus at Brooklyn College. He was a writer, producer, and host of an award-winning radio commentary, *The Longevity Report*, as well as the founder of the *Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics*. His most recent work is his 2007 novel *Escape Your Own Prison: Why We Need Spirituality and Psychology to be Truly Free*.

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**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Lewis Frumkes  
695 Park Avenue, Room E1022C  
New York, NY 10065

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**Deborah Treisman**

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**Jeffery Deaver**

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**PITCH TO THE EXPERTS PANEL**

**4:45pm: WINE AND CHEESE GATHERING**