

2018 Festival of Faith & Writing Schedule

In the following pages, you'll find the details of our schedule—look for the icons below to help you navigate the different types of sessions you can attend. You can also use the Festival Mobile App to customize your own schedule.

THURSDAY

8am

[Registration Desk opens](#)

The Registration Desk will be temporarily located in the Fireside Room through Thursday morning.

Prince Conference Center, Fireside Room

[Madcap Coffee Pop-Up Café opens](#)

The café is open 8am–5pm today.

DeVos Communications Center, Lobby

9am

[Exhibit Hall opens](#)

The Exhibit Hall is open from 9am–6pm today.

Prince Conference Center, Exhibit Hall

[Warm-Up Yoga](#)

Jenny Sheffer-Stevens

Prime body, mind, and imagination for the Festival with this 90-minute class that is suitable for all experience levels and bodies. We'll practice yoga to warm, stretch, and release key muscle groups, explore the ways movement encourages creative flow, and discover how breath acts as the interface between body and imagination. We'll incorporate vocal release, verbal and nonverbal forms of communication, visceral exploration of text, and conclude with deep relaxation.

Hoogenboom 300 (the Dance Annex)

Note: This practice is 90 minutes and lasts from 9–10:30am. You'll need to bring a yoga mat (a limited number of extra mats will be available for those who don't have one with them), a large towel, comfortable clothes you can move in, pen, and paper. Suggested items include: a change of clothes and a freshen-up kit. Showers and lockers rooms are also available in the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex.

9:30am

[Attention + Spirit](#)

Judith Hougen

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.

Hiemenga Hall, Room 314

[Making Your Characters Their Own People](#)

Marjorie Maddox

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.

Spoelhof Center 300, Education Department Conference Room

Self-Editing to Take Your Writing to the Next Level

Erin Bartels

All great writers have one thing in common: they rewrite—sometimes dozens or even hundreds of times—until their work is the best it can be. But in a culture of instant gratification and do-it-yourself publishing, the kind of slow, dedicated tweaking that is a necessary part of writing is often avoided. Learn how to do an effective, targeted revision—to edit on the sentence, paragraph, and chapter level; to reshape your voice; and to free yourself to finish a first draft. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Chapbook Construction for Poets, Essayists, and Short Story Writers

Robert Hudson

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.

Prince Conference Center, President's Dining Room

10am

Vamos a Adorarlo

Carlos Colón

Sounds of Latino worship led by Carlos Colón for the Calvin community and Festivalgoers. This daily chapel service lasts 20 minutes.

Calvin College Chapel

RECEPTION: Collegeville Institute Alumni

Calling all alumni of the Collegeville Institute's writing programs! Connect with fellow alumni, learn more about opportunities from the Collegeville Institute, and provide feedback on our writing workshops, all while enjoying light refreshments.

Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

10:30am

Sacred Reading, Sacred Writing: Practicing Poetry as Prayer

Katherine Willis Pershey

Inspired by the rich tradition of contemplative practices, workshop participants will engage in a series of reading and writing exercises designed to nurture creativity, awaken spirituality, and deepen engagement with both the written word and the Word-made-flesh.

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

12pm

Saying Yes to the Writerly Life

Kwame Alexander

An energetic ambassador to folks around the world on behalf of the power of books and poetry to empower young people, Kwame Alexander shares a bit of conversation, a dash of storytelling, and a splash of performance—all to promote writing and reading as a way of life.

Introduced by Gary D. Schmidt, Calvin College English Department

Van Noord Arena

1:15pm

book signing

Van Noord Arena

Kwame Alexander

Note: Students from area middle and high schools who have attended Kwame's keynote will be given priority at the front of the book signing line. Please be patient.

1:45pm

Navigating Faith and Religion in Writing

Natashia Deón

Natashia Deón explores how a writer can approach personal religious beliefs or those of others while writing for general audiences. She explains how to show spiritual feeling rather than just telling the reader about it, how to use detail to evoke spiritual spaces, and how to demonstrate what religion means to a character (without including the entire history of the religion). She also considers whether faith or lack of faith affects the stories writers choose to tell and how to navigate real or imagined religious restrictions on creative writing.

Introduced by Caitlin Horrocks, Grand Valley State University

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

A Reading: Anya Silver

Anya Silver's four books of poetry actively explore how faith can be threatened, re-wrought, and deepened while living with metastatic breast cancer. Through fairy tales, ekphrastic poems, and meditations on memory, history, and family, Anya seeks to create meaning and wholeness out of unknowingness, wrestling belief in an all-loving God from the daily fear and trauma of illness.

Anya reads from her book and offers audience members the opportunity to share their own experiences of living with chronic or terminal illness and the ways in which their lives have been impacted by their faith and writing.

Introduced by Otto Selles, Calvin College French Department

Hiemenga Hall, Meeter Center Lecture Hall

The Death and Resurrection of Sacred Speech

Jonathan Merritt

According to a new study, sacred words and spiritual conversations are in rapid decline among Americans. This matters because, as the latest linguistic research demonstrates, the words we use impact our emotions and thought patterns. But hope is not lost. Jonathan Merritt demonstrates how lovers of sacred speech can "learn to speak God from scratch" and use their words to ignite a rhetorical revolution, reviving the vocabulary of faith for generations to come.

Introduced by Gwyneth Findlay, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Calvin College Chapel

The Enduring Appeal of Cults

Anbara Salam

The success of novels like *The Girls*, *Survivor*, *Gather the Daughters*, and *The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly* demonstrate that fiction readers still have a healthy—or unhealthy—interest in cults. Why do people find cults so fascinating? Anbara Salam, who earned a PhD in Apocalyptic prophecy belief while writing a novel featuring a cult, explores what popular fiction about cults reveals about our own relationship with the uncanny valley of faith.

Introduced by Sarah Bass, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Finding God (and Poetry) in All Things

Margarita Pintado

In her poetry, Margarita Pintado searches for instances in which beauty, mystery, and meaning unexpectedly coincide to reveal the poetic in the everyday. How can we learn to see the invisible, to find miracles in the mundane, to find solace where we are? How can poetry, by turning the familiar into something foreign and vice versa, bring us closer to God, the world, and ourselves? In this talk Margarita shares some of her insights into poetry's power to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Introduced by Liz Page Vrooman, Calvin College Center for Student Success
Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

Publicity Confidential: What Authors and Publicists Wish Each Other Knew

Robin Barnett, Cathleen Falsani, Jennifer Grant, Kelly Hughes, Caryn Rivadeneira

What's the difference between marketing and publicity? What are best practices for making the most of the publicity-marketing one-two punch? What are the limits of what a publicist can do—and what an author can do—to promote a book effectively? How can both authors and publicists manage each other's expectations well? Seasoned publicists and authors address these questions and share horror stories, happy endings, and more.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

What Writers Can Learn from Flannery O'Connor's Prayer Journal

Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Ralph C. Wood

Flannery O'Connor kept a prayer journal when at the Iowa School for Writers, in which she wrote, "Please let Christian principles permeate my writing and please let there be enough of my writing (published) for Christian principles to permeate." Three writers and scholars of O'Connor's work discuss her journal and its fascinating look into the complexities a Christian writer faces—wanting to write to the glory of God but also craving an admiring audience for one's efforts. Humility and pride stand side by side in the writer's efforts. What is the proper response for the writer attempting this balancing act?

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

Beg/Steal/Borrow—Poetry & Experimental Translation

Matthew Landrum

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 1:45–3:45pm.

Hiemenga Hall, Room 314

Breaking Out the Gate: Getting a Good Start to Your Story

Jaelyn Dwyer

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: Registered Festivalgoers should bring the first 500 words of a short story, flash fiction, or novel in progress to fully participate in the workshop.

Prince Conference Center, President's Dining Room

2:45pm

coffee break

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Lower West Lobby

Hekman Library Lobby

Prince Conference Center, Fireside Room

meditation break: breath

Whitney R. Simpson
Center Art Gallery

3pm

book signing

Campus Store
Jonathan Merritt
Anya Silver

Prince Conference Center

Natashia Deón
Margarita Pintado
Anbara Salam

3:15pm

A Conversation with Kwame Alexander and Nate Marshall: Hip-Hop, Poetry, and What's Next

Two writers shaped by spoken word and oral culture discuss rhythm, publishing, and basketball.

Interviewed by Billy Mark
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

A Prisoner and a Purpose

Barbara Bradley Hagerty

Early in her career, journalist Barbara Bradley Hagerty knew the types of stories that drew her—stories of injustice, of people wrongly convicted or trapped in a legal system that can be blind to the truth. At NPR and other news outlets, she touched on those stories now and again. Then she investigated the murder conviction of Ben Spencer in a recent *Atlantic* article. In her talk, she weaves the story of Ben Spencer—a man who has spent the past 30 years in a Texas prison for a crime he may not have committed—into the story of her own search for, and discovery of, a worthy purpose in life.

Introduced by Christina Edmondson, Calvin College, Intercultural Student Development
Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Silence and Beauty in the Sister Books of Shusaku Endo and Makoto Fujimura

Shann Ray

Makoto Fujimura's explication of the novel *Silence* by Shusaku Endo in his own book *Silence and Beauty* sets the stage for a discussion of the soul of Christ, the *Anima Christi*, at work in the world. Participants engage themes of humility vs. self-reliance, the Judas shadow in mystical life, and the restorative beauty of Christ in the silent wake of American and global genocidal amnesia.

Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

Giving and Receiving Gracious Feedback

D. S. Leiter

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 3:15–5:15pm.
Prince Conference Center, President's Dining Room

A Reading: Marie Howe

Introduced by Susan Blackwell Ramsey
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

Writing through Devotion and Darkness

Macy Halford

“I am terrified,” wrote Sylvia Plath, “of this dark thing / That sleeps within me.” Writing is an act of bringing light. But how can we write when our minds are cluttered and confused, when the darkness seems to lie within? Drawing on her recent book about the beloved evangelical daily devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*, Macy Halford explores creativity as an act of devotion, focusing on how a daily practice can transform the drudgery and difficulty that often attend writing into “a glorious struggle.”

Introduced by Debra Rienstra, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
Prince Conference Center, Board Room

A Reporter’s Notebook: Writing from the Holy Land

Emma Green

Jerusalem is one of the most faith-filled places in the world—a religion reporter’s dream, but also a potential minefield of controversy. Political issues in Israel are perennially reoccurring; narratives about identity, claims to the land, and historical sins loom large. Emma Green explores the challenges of reporting on the land that is so holy to so many people and addresses some of the biases and foibles of media coverage in this little stretch of desert. She talks about the differences in reporting on religion in the United States and abroad and how she fills her notebooks in this complex—never boring!—reporting environment.

Introduced by Lyz Lenz, The Rumpus
DeVos Communications Center, Bytwerk Theater

Playfulness, Creativity, and Bravery

Jennifer Trafton

Jennifer Trafton discusses the importance of playfulness in creativity as a means of overcoming fear and inhibition in both children and adults, using examples from her creative writing classes and workshops. She talks about her own struggles with fear as a writer and artist and her long, rocky journey towards publication, mirrored in her latest novel *Henry and the Chalk Dragon*. Of special interest to parents and educators, but relevant to anyone who needs to rediscover their childlike love for creative play.

Introduced by Donald Hettinga, Calvin College English Department
Hiemenga Hall, Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Whose Story Is It Anyway? When Ministers Write Memoirs

Susan Baller-Shepard, Ruth Everhart, Mary S. Hulst, Barbara Melosh, Carol Howard Merritt

Memoirists who are ministers face particular ethical questions as they tell stories of congregational life and share personal stories that push the boundaries of what a leader ordinarily discloses. But these underlying questions are shared by all who write memoir. Whose story is it, anyway, and what are the writer’s responsibilities to those who share their stories? In this panel, clergywomen discuss navigating these lines in the context of their pastoral vocation.

Calvin College Chapel

Making Space: The Literary Journal as Witness

Daniel Bowman, Angela Doll Carlson, Nathaniel Lee Hansen, Katie Manning, Brianna Van Dyke

Small journals have a unique role in the literary ecosystem, building readers by cultivating and publishing enduring work. In this panel, four editors of small magazines discuss the role of the literary journal in the life of readers of faith, the push and pull of the “market” versus the “craft,” and how to make space for both spiritual writers and spiritual readers.

Commons Annex, Commons Lecture Hall

4:30pm

book signing

Campus Store

Marie Howe

Jennifer Trafton

Prince Conference Center

Barbara Bradley Hagerty

Macy Halford

Holding Space, Creating Space: A Southern Baptist Embraces Daoism

Afaa M. Weaver

In 1973, Afaa Weaver began reading the Dao De Jing; five years later, he began practicing Taijiquan; and 29 years later he began a daily practice of Daoist sitting meditation. This integrative practice now constitutes the core of his faith, and he discusses his growing awareness of its real and potential benefits for his personal development and his creative development as a poet.

Introduced by Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Earlham School of Religion

Calvin Seminary, Chapel

The Risks of Writing on Race—and the Obligation to Continue

Shannon Dingle, Dorothy Littell Greco, Carolina Hinojosa-Cisneros, Cara Meredith

Do white writers have an obligation to use their influence and privilege to serve as allies to people of color? These writers argue yes, despite the fact that painful mistakes are inevitable. They discuss the personal cost of writing about race, what it means to serve with an open and humble heart, and how to respond when things get ugly.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

What’s a Peacebuilder?

Abigail Disney

Along with Gini Reticker, Abigail Disney founded Fork Films in 2007 to create and support media that makes an important societal contribution. Fork Films puts a particular emphasis on projects that bring women’s voices to the forefront. Abigail discusses her work on the award-winning documentaries *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* and *The Armor of Light* and explores what it might look like to build peace through storytelling.

Introduced by Peter Ford, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

Becoming a Successful Blogger without Selling Your Soul

Jonathan Merritt

You believe in your ideas, but how do you break through the noise and deliver those ideas to a wider audience? Jonathan Merritt knows this struggle well and has spent the last decade developing and testing a simple path toward success as a blogger—one that any writer can implement. He shares how to expand readership and build a platform while avoiding the common pitfalls of sensationalism and shameless self-promotion.

Introduced by Julia Mason, Calvin College English Department

Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

A Conversation with Natasha Deón and Suzanne M. Wolfe: Walking the Line between Fact and Fiction in Historical Novels

Natasha Deón and Suzanne M. Wolfe discuss writing novels based on real people and events, including what liberties to take and when. They also address why stories rooted in history are so compelling.

Interviewed by Marlys Admiraal, Calvin College English Department

Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Queja con Alas: A Lament with Wings

Carlos Colón

Carlos Colón, a Salvadoran-American composer, reflects on how lament, as found in traditional prayers and poetry, gives us language and raw material to express anger and hope. Carlos takes Salvadoran poetry as a point of departure to guide us through the painful history of his resilient people, and he envisions a future where Salvadorans can partner with the community of nations to emerge forever from the depths of a legacy of oppression and violence.

Introduced by Linda Naranjo-Huebl, Calvin College English Department

Calvin College Chapel

Liturgy Where the Prayer Books Ends

Laura Everett

After her car died, pastor and author Laura Everett joined the ranks of Boston's cyclists, many of them non-religious or defiantly anti-religious. Within this community, a "ghost bike" is a public memorial where a cyclist has been killed, and their dedications are communal practices of joy and grief beyond the scope of prayer books. Laura explores how you deduce a liturgy and write faithfully and respectfully about the spiritual practices of others, even those who don't consider themselves spiritual.

Introduced by Emily Ulmer, Western Theological Seminary

Commons Annex, Lecture Hall

The Academy and the Art of Religious Biography

David Bratt, Heath W. Carter, Elesha J. Coffman, Kristin Kobes Du Mez, Nancy Koester, George Marsden, Anne Blue Wills

Religious biographies are immensely popular among both readers and writers of all stripes. This panel brings together accomplished historians and editors who publish for both the academy and lay readers. They discuss accessible research methods that can enhance all kinds of writing projects, the art of crafting spiritual biographies, and the spiritual rewards of reading and writing about history.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

Writing through Doubt: Quieting the Voices That Say You Can't Do This

Catherine Knepper, Yasmina Din Madden, Kali VanBaale, Jennifer Wilson

Who are we to write? Why have we been called? How do you claim time for a creative pursuit in today's world? From early draft to revision to the publishing process, the hard work of writing can create debilitating self doubt—doubt about voice, audience, authenticity, the merit of the work, even the right to call oneself a writer. This panel of working authors offers strategies for fear of submitting, understanding peer critique, finding writing community, and creating a balance between the real world and the creative life—all vital tools to help writers combat doubt.
Prince Conference Center, Board Room

5:30pm

RECEPTION: Calvin Alumni and Prospective Students

Meet alumni journalist and FFW 2018 speaker Tony Norman, learn about studying at Calvin College, and reconnect with former professors and old friends. Light refreshments served.
Covenant Fine Arts Center, East Lobby

5:45pm

book signing

Campus Store

Laura Everett

Afaa M. Weaver

Suzanne M. Wolfe

6pm

festival circles

7:30pm

What We Need Is Here: An Evening of Song and Spoken Words with Parker J. Palmer and Carrie Newcomer

We live in hard times, and hope is sometimes hard to come by. But by faith and the evidence of our own eyes, we know that “what we need is here” (to steal a line from Wendell Berry). In a time when it's easy to feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or cynical, Carrie, Parker, and pianist Gary Walters offer a journey of mind and spirit characterized by thoughtfulness, realism, vulnerability, good humor, and hope.

Introduced by Jennifer L. Holberg, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Van Noord Arena

9pm

book and music signing

Van Noord Arena

Carrie Newcomer

Parker J. Palmer

FRIDAY

7am

Madcap Coffee Pop-Up Café opens

The café is open 7am–4pm today.

DeVos Communications Center, Lobby

7:15am

RECEPTION: Wheaton College Breakfast Gathering

Grab a coffee at the Madcap Pop-Up Café in the DeVos Lobby (if you'd like) and then join a gathering of Wheaton College folks for light breakfast fare in the Prince Conference Center. Any friends of the college, alums, and current students are welcome.

Hosted by Nicole Mazzarella

Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

8am

Shaping Family History in Compelling Stories

Annette Gendler

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they'd like.

Prince Conference Center, President's Dining Room

Short Story Lab

Hugh Cook

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they'd like.

Hiemenga Hall, Room 314

8:30am

Choosing Us

Deidra Riggs

How do we put our focus on self-preservation aside and make the first move toward reconciliation? Deidra Riggs offers space to explore the choices we make as writers and readers—to do, to speak, to keep silent, to endure, to forgive, or not to forgive. What do our choices say to us, and to others, about what we believe about one another? Deidra reveals the walls we've built, the lines we've drawn, the grudges we hold, and the doors we've closed, all of which perpetuate our perceived polarity and divisiveness. We can choose to stay where we are, or we can choose to try something different.

Introduced by Elisha Marr, Calvin College Sociology and Social Work Department

Calvin College Chapel

[A Conversation with John Wilson and Macy Halford: The State of the Evangelical Mind](#)

Historian Mark Noll helped launch *Books & Culture* in 1995, the year after his landmark book *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* was released. And for the next 21 years, under the editorial guidance of John Wilson, the bimonthly review engaged arts and culture from a Christian perspective, testifying to many of a new era of evangelical intellectual vigor. Now, almost two years after the last issue of *Books & Culture* was published, John Wilson and Macy Halford reflect on the current state of the evangelical mind, the fault lines around evangelical identity, and the faithful arts and culture criticism they find compelling now.

Interviewed by Heath W. Carter, Valparaiso University

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

On Writing and Mindfulness

Dinty W. Moore

Writers must develop the art of seeing with fresh eyes, thinking with open minds, searching the nooks and crannies of any subject to find what has not yet been explored (or what might be explored further to shed original light). Otherwise, we're just playing with language, and though language is a wonderful gift, here play is not the goal. Dinty W. Moore explores how writers can nurture the habit of mindfulness in thought and observation rather than seeing or hearing only what's on the surface or only what they expect to see and hear.

Introduced by Beth Peterson, Grand Valley State University

DeVos Communication Center, Bytwerk Theater

A Conversation with Afaa M. Weaver

Afaa M. Weaver discusses how his 15 years of writing poetry at night while working in a factory laid the foundation for subsequent decades as a professor and celebrated writer, the spiritual practices that have sustained him through tragedy, and the relationship between thinking and doing.

Interviewed by Sarina Gruver Moore, Grove City College

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

On Finding and Growing Ideas for Fiction

Shawn Smucker

Christian publishing needs the new and exciting voices of those who are able to write outside current market boundaries. But fresh ideas for novels or short stories sometimes seem hard to come by. In this workshop each attendee cultivates their own ideas for fiction writing by beginning with character creation and then working through setting, conflict, and the formation of a plot.

Commons Annex, Alumni Board Room

How to Conduct Interviews That Enhance Your Stories

Dean Nelson

Whether you're writing fiction or nonfiction, sometimes you need someone else's perspective in order to make your stories more accurate and authentic. How do you get sources to talk to you? How do you get past clichés and one-word answers? How do you capture a person's voice? How do you get over your own insecurity and shyness? A seasoned journalist guides you into getting the best information out of even the most inexperienced, reluctant, or too-talkative sources.

Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

Writing and Revising Religious Poetry and Prose

Miriam Bat-Ami, Janet Ruth Heller

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 8:30–10:30am.

Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

Against Scarcity: Generosity and Writing Communities

Jessica Goudeau, Stina Kielsmeier-Cook, D. L. Mayfield, Kelley Nikondeha, Amy Peterson, Christiana N. Peterson

Four years ago, the panelists were mostly unpublished writers who admired each other's work. They started a writing group over email, editing each other's work each month; then they started talking daily via an app; finally, they met in-person at the 2014 Festival. Since then, three have

published books and two have contracts. They have acted as agents and editors for each other, shared connections and ideas, and accomplished things they never would have accomplished alone. Here they discuss their experience and offer advice for finding vital forms of creative community.

Calvin College Chapel, Undercroft

[Pocket Journals](#)

Christine Darragh

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 8:30–10:30am.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Room 297

[Writing as Action, Writing as Contemplation: Interacting with Thomas Merton](#)

Ben Brazil, Lynn Domina, Dave Harrity, Sophronia Scott

As a poet, essayist, and memoirist, Thomas Merton described the struggles and rewards of a contemplative life, yet he also remained engaged with the challenges of his time. Modern writers of faith face similar challenges, for writing requires similar commitments to the contemplative life, yet we are nearly always writing to and for someone else—God, the community, readers not yet born. Panelists discuss how Merton influences, cautions, encourages, intimidates, and challenges them.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

[Crossing Cultures: Among Others, Embracing Others](#)

Aaron Brown, Susanna Childress, Natasha Oladokun, Shann Ray

What happens when, as an outsider, you are welcomed into and become a part of a community? At the same time, what are the slippages and breaking points that separate you from that community? How do you accurately and lovingly represent the community in writing? In this panel, writers who have grown up in varied cultural contexts—Native American reservations, the Philippines, Chad, and the Nigerian diaspora—share their opinions on what it means to write from a place of solidarity and of difference and discuss the responsibility as writers of faith to embrace and understand the other.

Commons Annex, Commons Lecture Hall

9am

[Exhibit Hall opens](#)

The Exhibit Hall is open 9am–6pm today.

Prince Conference Center, Exhibit Hall

9:30am

[coffee break](#)

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Lower West Lobby

Hekman Library Lobby

Prince Conference Center, Fireside Room

[meditation break: centering prayer](#)

J. Dana Trent

Center Art Gallery

9:45am

book signing

Campus Store

Deidra Riggs

Prince Conference Center

Dinty W. Moore

10am

Too Much to Ask: A Celebration of Luci Shaw

Leslie Leyland Fields, Luci Shaw, and Friends

The Baron Lecture

A vital force in faithful literary publishing for more than a half century, Luci Shaw's poems, essays, editorial guidance, and friendship have left an indelible mark on countless readers and writers. In this hour, several readers offer their own stories of how a poem she wrote changed their lives, interspersed with Luci reading these poems. Luci offers concluding remarks, including a reading from her forthcoming collection of poetry and its opening essay, "On Poets and Prophets."

Introduced by Henry Baron, Calvin College English Department Emeritus

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

Religious Readers and Sexually Transgressive Fiction: "What Does Your Husband Think?"

Jamie Quatro

Jamie Quatro is often asked—especially by southern, "religious" readers—"What does your husband think about your work?" What inherently sexist assumptions are buried in this question? Why is art that depicts illicit sexual desire offensive, specifically, to the church? Does Matthew 5's "thinking = doing" apply to the reading and writing of fiction? Jamie explores these questions in the context of the current socio-political polarization in America, in which secular readers find serious treatment of Christian themes ludicrous, while readers on the "evangelical" right find explicit sexual content related to spirituality obscene, even blasphemous.

Introduced by Mara Naselli

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

A Reading: Nate Marshall

Nate Marshall reads from his poetry collection, *Wild Hundreds*.

Introduced by Michelle Loyd Paige, Calvin College Office of the President

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

A Conversation with Abigail Disney and Dorothy Fortenberry

In the era of #MeToo and Time's Up, Hollywood is clearly an interesting place for women.

Producer Abigail Disney and screenwriter Dorothy Fortenberry discuss faith, film, and feminism.

Interviewed by Jennifer L. Holberg, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Spoelhof Center, Gezon Auditorium

A Conversation with Parker J. Palmer and Carrie Newcomer: On Art and Activism

Parker J. Palmer and Carrie Newcomer discuss art as a potent force for social change, how creative collaboration sustains them, and what activists need to know now more than ever.

Interviewed by Shirley Hershey Showalter

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

[Godsong Resung: A Tour of the Bhagavad-Gita](#)

Amit Majmudar

Poet and novelist Amit Majmudar has created a verse translation of the ancient Indian scripture in living American English, this translation is painstakingly close to the original Sanskrit. In this talk, Amit walks his listeners through the Gita from beginning to end. Selections from his new translation illuminate the setting, drama, and philosophy of this profound poem of friendship and existential questioning.

Introduced by Cheryl K. Brandsen, Calvin College Office of the Provost
Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

[A Conversation with Barbara Bradley Hagerty and Tony Norman](#)

Two journalists who've seen their industry undergo radical transformation over the last three decades talk about their own careers' twists and turns, how new technology does and doesn't affect the fundamentals of good writing and storytelling, and the future of the Fourth Estate.

Interviewed by Jesse Holcomb, Calvin College English Department
Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

[The Clever Researcher: Finding and Integrating Source Material without Sounding Like an Academic](#)

Wendy Bilen

We tend to think of research as the work of scientists or scholars, but sources can significantly strengthen our creative writing. Infusing prose with researched detail creates depth and credibility and enriches narrative. This process involves moving beyond critical dates and facts to contextual elements such as weather and social norms. Deduction, documents such as military records, and old maps can inform and even help craft our narratives. This workshop explores where to look for information, how to find unexpected nuggets in traditional sources, and how to incorporate material with a creative, non-academic touch.

Prince Conference Center, President's Dining Room

[Freelancing Isn't Free: How to Get Paid to Write](#)

Dorcas Cheng-Tozun, Ed Cyzewski, Edward Gilbreath, Cara Meredith, Kate Shellnutt

Many writers dream of getting paid to write but find themselves stuck writing blog posts, guest posts, and other articles that "pay" in social media numbers without offering a clear path toward paid writing work. By sharing personal stories and experiences, a diverse panel of seasoned writers, authors, and editors provide helpful tips to those eager to take writing to the next level through editing, blogging, writing articles for magazines, publishing books, and more.

Spoelhof Center, Lab Theater

[Writing for Our Lives](#)

Marlena Proper Graves, Lisa Sharon Harper, Kathy Khang

Some industry professionals advise authors against writing about polarizing social issues or using social media to express political opinions. Experts fear it will affect writers' platforms—costing authors readers and sales. In this session, three writers count their personal costs for speaking out and explore the sometimes fraught relationships between book sales, platforms, and moral conviction.

Commons Annex, Lecture Hall

11:15am

Campus Store
Jamie Quatro
Luci Shaw

Prince Conference Center

Amit Majmudar
Nate Marshall

11:30am

[A Conversation with Edwidge Danticat](#)

Edwidge Danticat talks about grappling with memory, mothers and daughters, politics and powers, religions, Haiti—and maybe spirits, love, and death. In other words, she answers questions about her life and stories.

Interviewed by Dean Ward, Calvin College English Department Emeritus
Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

[A Reading: Dave Harrity](#)

Introduced by Jake Schepers, University of Notre Dame
Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

[Reading, Writing, and the Art of Preaching](#)

Fleming Rutledge

Reading, especially literary fiction, is vital to writing good sermons. Fleming Rutledge discusses the writers who have influenced her own preaching, the beauty and power of well-constructed sentences, and why theologians must love books.

Introduced by Kristine Johnson, Calvin College English Department
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

[Examining the Space of the Page in Your Poems](#)

Rob Stephens

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Calvin College Chapel, Undercroft

[A Conversation with Emma Green and Sarah Pulliam Bailey](#)

Reporters covering the “God beat” have never been busier. Emma Green and Sarah Pulliam Bailey discuss why most news stories are really religion stories, what interviews took them by surprise, and why women have become so prominent in the field.

Interviewed by Jana Riess, Religion News Service
DeVos Communications Center, Bytwerk Theater

[Come and Go with Me](#)

Walt Wangerin Jr.

After a serious cancer diagnosis, Walt Wangerin has thought about and written about the time before the end of life. Here he tells the story of his experience.

Introduced by Elizabeth A. Vander Lei, Calvin College Office of the Provost
Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Family Business: The Problems and Possibilities of Writing about Our Kids' Lives

Beth Adams, Amy Julia Becker, Micha Boyett, Grace Ji-Sun Kim

Our lives, and our children's, intersect. But what stories are "mine" to tell, and what stories belong to them alone? In what ways can telling our family stories, including anecdotes about our children, harm them? In what ways might it benefit them? What will our kids think when they read about themselves later on in life? How do we protect them and write about them at the same time? Panelists address both practical concerns and philosophical questions about how to welcome strangers into our family's stories while also protecting the privacy of our children.

Commons Annex, Commons Lecture Hall

Truth Has Stumbled in the Streets: Writing Faithfully about Social Issues

Kimberly Burge, Madeleine Mysko, Kathleen O'Toole

The prophet Jeremiah said that when truth stumbles in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Writing from Mississippi during the Civil Rights era, Eudora Welty pondered a question, "Must the novelist crusade?" When writers take up social and political issues, how do we aim to create art rather than propaganda? A narrative journalist, a novelist, and a poet grapple with the tension between conviction and proselytizing, frankly discussing times when they felt they succeeded as well as times when fear of stumbling made the work more difficult—and crucial.

Spoelhof Center, Lab Theater

The Ethics of Going Dark in Middle-Grade Literature

Karen Coats, Nikki Grimes, Alexandria LaFaye

Representing the emotional experience of loss children feel as they transition into early adolescence, either directly or through metaphor, can be challenging for writers. Especially for writers exploring the redemptive possibilities—and sometimes negative outcomes—of ordinary or extraordinary trauma and hardship, honesty requires avoiding simplistic resolutions. In this panel, two award-winning authors and a literary critic discuss the ethics and craft of writing honest yet redemptive fiction for middle grades.

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

A Conversation with Marie Howe and Pádraig Ó Tuama: Poetry and the Body Politic

"Language is almost all we have left of action in the modern world," observes Marie Howe. She and Pádraig Ó Tuama discuss the political possibilities of poetry: to bear witness, to inspire the moral imagination, and to provide perspective on our neighbors' lives and the broader world.

Interviewed by Micah Lott, Boston College

Calvin College Chapel

Writing about Animals with the Respect They Deserve

Lonnie Hull DuPont, Susy Flory, Alison Hodgson, Karen Swallow Prior

The animals we love are either cute, smart, or super intuitive, right? But what if they are none of the above? This panel delves into the joys and pitfalls of writing about the creatures who share our lives; who have their own personalities, wants, desires, and opinions; and who are increasingly being perceived as the unique and valuable sentient beings they truly are.

Spoelhof Center, Gezon Auditorium

12:45pm

The Art and Wonder of Writing and Marketing for Children and Teens

Annette Bourland, Lorie Langdon, Glenys Nellist

Have you ever wanted to write a children's picture book? Has YA fiction captured your imagination and writing zeal? It takes a special kind of writer to create stories (and intrigue!) for children and young adults. Writing for them requires not only a degree of child-brain and kid-memory, but a certain skill set and calling. In our time together, Zondervan publisher Annette

Bourland will introduce two dynamic writers. Glenys Nellist will share how she made her picture-book writing dream a reality and some effective marketing lessons she's learned along the way. Then, best-selling author Lorie Langdon will share how a story she's dreamed of for years became a reality and how dynamic marketing goes hand-in-hand with great content. The first 10 attendees who arrive to the forum will receive a signed copy of either *Olivia Twist* by Lorie Langdon or *Love Letters from God* by Glenys Nellist.

Commons Annex, Commons Lecture Hall

Sponsored by Zondervan

How to Write—and Live—When the World Is Burning

Sarah Arthur, Kyle David Bennett, Christina Jasko, Erin F. Wasinger

Is it possible to chase the writing life and also care about your neighbor? Can you be a parent and still pursue social justice? Join Sarah Arthur and Erin F. Wasinger, coauthors of *The Year of Small Things: Radical Faith for the Rest of Us*, and Kyle David Bennett, author of *Practices of Love: Spiritual Disciplines for the Life of the World*, for a panel discussion on how writing can fit with the call to follow Jesus in the world.

The first 100 people will receive a complimentary copy of *The Year of Small Things!*

Calvin College Chapel, Undercroft

Sponsored by Brazos Press

The Creative and Spiritual Possibilities of Making Lists

Marilyn McEntyre

At this luncheon gathering you'll be invited to try out some of the various approaches to list-making that can open wide avenues of reflection. We'll talk about how list-making can allow you to surprise yourself into seeing problems or possibilities from new angles and how it can help you move toward greater specificity in planning, self-awareness, and prayer. We'll look at how lists can "grow up" to be poems, how they might become tables of contents for books you haven't written yet, and how they may deepen your appreciation of people you care about.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Sponsored by the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company

Still Evangelical in the Age of #MeToo?

Katelyn Beaty, Kathy Khang, Karen Swallow Prior, Deidra Riggs, Sandra Maria Van Opstal

What does it mean to call yourself an evangelical in the wake of the 2016 election? Does the word still hold meaning and value? Is it repulsive or can it be redeemed? InterVarsity Press recently released *Still Evangelical?* in which essayists tackle these questions, exploring the genesis of the word and what the future could possibly hold. This lunch forum takes those questions a step further and asks *what does it mean to be evangelical and female in 2018?* Join us for a brief panel discussion with women who have been both thoughtful and vocal on the topic of evangelicalism today and who will examine this question in light of political movements in the United States, the church's response to #MeToo, and current trends in evangelicalism.

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

Sponsored by InterVarsity Press

book signing

Campus Store

Fleming Rutledge

Walt Wangerin Jr.

Prince Conference Center

Dave Harrity

2pm

Poems and Stories That Save

Pádraig Ó Tuama

Poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama explores a spirituality of language and story that faces conflict, exorcisms, murder, and suicide. Responding to personal distress with language both powerful and gentle, Pádraig sees that both poetry and story—sacred stories *and* personal stories—might be the thing to save us.

Introduced by Chloe Selles, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
Calvin College Chapel

A Conversation with Walt Wangerin Jr.

Twelve years after their last conversation at the Festival, Karen Saupe interviews Walt Wangerin Jr. about the surprising twist in his final act and his storied career as a writer, reader, and pastor.

Interviewed by Karen Saupe, Calvin College English Department
Spoelhof Center, Lab Theater

Cultivating Compassion through Literature for Young Readers

Nikki Grimes

There's a great deal of discussion about the need for diversity in children's and YA literature, a topic routinely viewed from the perspective of numbers and statistics. While it's true that the growing shift in population toward a greater percentage of people of color in this country heightens the need for diverse literature, a great deal more is at stake than how the numbers shake out. Sharing a mixture of her poetry and prose, Nikki comments on a larger issue, namely where compassion fits into the diverse-literature equation. We have the powerful opportunity and responsibility to plant seeds of empathy and cultivate compassion through the intentional use of well-crafted diverse literature in our libraries, classrooms, and homes.

Introduced by Kim Doele
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

A Bike Ride through Grand Rapids

Laura Everett

Join Laura Everett, author of *Holy Spokes: The Search for Urban Spirituality on Two Wheels*, and Martel Posey, executive director of Spoke Folks, for a short bike ride through Grand Rapids. The 10-mile route will be largely flat and accessible for most riders. Park your bikes outside the DeVos Communications Center and meet in the lobby for a brief orientation and instructions. The group will reassemble there for reflections from Laura after the ride.

Introduced by Jon Brown, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
DeVos Communications Center, lobby

A Conversation with Jamie Quatro and April Ayers Lawson: Sex, the Spirit, Short Stories, and the South

Jamie Quatro and April Ayers Lawson discuss the twin desires of spirituality and sexuality in their work, the craft of short stories, and how the South shapes their writing.

Interviewed by Amy Frykholm, *Christian Century*
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

On Living, Making Meaning, and Writing

Kerry Egan

People are meaning-making creatures. We search for and make meaning of the events of our lives in the stories we tell. Meaning making is the hallmark of both the writing and the spiritual life, yet it isn't something we always notice. Kerry Egan explores how the great spiritual practices can teach us to be more aware of how we make meaning in our writing and in our lives.

Introduced by Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, Spectrum Health

Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Bullet Journaling for Readers and Writers

Jennifer Trafton

Jennifer Trafton muses on her “theology of beautiful lists” and discusses how she uses a Bullet Journal as a creative outlet, a therapeutic tool, a way to keep track of reading and writing projects, and a strategy for spiritual, mental, and vocational decluttering. Audience interaction and doodling highly encouraged.

Introduced by Amanda Smartt, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Prince Conference Center, President's Dining Room

Writing Well about Adoption—and Other Complicated Things

Lorilee Craker, Melissa Frantz, Jessica Goudeau, Kelley Nikondeha

Writers wrestle with complex things—death, depression, racism, gentrification, and, yes, adoption. The stakes are high; our words affect our families and communities. And it matters if we write well or not, especially when we write about things that change over time and our words sit static on the page. These panelists—writers who have all adopted and/or been adopted—explore how to write, wrestle with, and transform such stories with honesty. In these days fraught with complexity and polarization, can we learn together in humility and grace?

Spoelhof Center, Gezon Auditorium

Advancing Fiction Narratives via Character Development

Katherine James

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 2–4pm.

Hiemenga Hall, Room 314

A Conversation with Sandy Sasso

Sandy Sasso discusses being the first woman ordained as a rabbi in the Reconstructionist branch of Judaism, how Hasidic tales introduced her to the power of storytelling, and why thoughtful spiritual formation for young people is so important.

Interviewed by Mary S. Hulst, Calvin College Office of the Chaplain

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

A Conversation with Amit Majmudar

A radiologist and poet, a family man and novelist, Amit Majmudar has said his life's work “all has to do with pattern.” In this interview, Amit will field questions about the patterns that his poems, fictions, and essays examine: those we inherit from our families, cultures, and religions; those we invent in our art and politics; and those we intuit at work in the cosmos.

Interviewed by Jane Zwart, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

Why Don't Men Read Women Writers? Closing the Gender Gap in Christian Publishing

Katelyn Beaty, Robert N. Hosack, Al Hsu, Jen Pollock Michel, Tish Harrison Warren

According to panelist Al Hsu's doctoral research, women read relatively equally between male and female authors (54%/46%), whereas men are much more likely to read male authors than female authors (90%/10%). This panel explores reasons for this gender gap as well as practical ways in which women writers might gain a broader readership among men.

Commons Annex, Commons Lecture Hall

3pm

coffee break

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Lower West Lobby

Hekman Library Lobby

Prince Conference Center, Fireside Room

meditation break: lectio divina

Whitney R. Simpson

Center Art Gallery

3:15pm

book signing

Campus Store

Nikki Grimes

Lorie Langdon

Glenys Nellist

Prince Conference Center

Kerry Egan

Marilyn McEntyre

Pádraig Ó Tuama

3:30pm

A Conversation with Jen Hatmaker

Dale Brown Memorial Interview

Anyone who has read Jen Hatmaker knows she writes with a winsome combination of authenticity and hilarity. Having known success as a bestselling writer, Jen has also undergone criticism for stances she has taken in recent years. This wide-ranging interview explores it all.

Interviewed by Jennifer L. Holberg, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Calvin College Chapel

My Prosperity Gospel

Kate Bowler

As an expert in the American prosperity gospel, Kate Bowler had a good handle on why Americans are obsessed with being #blessed. But after her own cancer diagnosis, she discovered that she was a little more invested than she realized.

Introduced by Kristin Kobes Du Mez, Calvin College History Department

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

Learning to Tell Great Stories

Lea Thau

Drawing from her decades developing stories for projects including *The Moth* and *Strangers* podcasts, Lea Thau discusses the key principles of great storytelling and offers concrete tips for creating compelling narratives both on and off the page. She explores how to grab an audience's attention—and keep it—by building suspense, landing your points, using the right details, developing a story arc, delivering your story in the manner that best suits your audience and personal strengths, and more.

Introduced by Micah Lott, Boston College

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Lost to History: Giving Voice to Augustine's Concubine

Suzanne M. Wolfe

Suzanne M. Wolfe reads short passages from her novel *The Confessions of X* and discusses the project of imagining a life for the mother of Augustine's child.

Introduced by Katherine Swart, Calvin College Hekman Library

Hiemenga Hall, Meeter Center Lecture Hall

A Reading: Oliver de la Paz

Introduced by Chris Haven, Grand Valley State University

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

A Conversation with Carlos Colón and Adam Tice: The Shared Psalms

The Psalms have long been a source of inspiration to composers across cultures, religious traditions, and political contexts. A Reformed worship leader interviews a Mennonite hymn text writer from the United States and an ecumenical composer from El Salvador about their creative work in bringing the Psalms to life in fresh ways today. Together, they explore their approaches and sing a few examples of their psalm settings.

Interviewed by Emily R. Brink, Calvin Institute for Christian Worship

Calvin Seminary, Chapel

Daughters Writing about Mothers

Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Barbara Crooker, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Jeanne Murray Walker

The mother/daughter relationship is complex and often further complicated by toxic patterns and a reversal of roles as the parent ages. In this session, four writers examine both the intimacy and distance in their relationships with their mothers and describe the process, tensions, and challenges of capturing what are sometimes-fraught mother/daughter friendships in poetry and prose, where imperfection and loss become public.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

In Others' Words

Seth Haines, Kathy Khang, Shawn Smucker

The co-writer is tasked with a particularly difficult form of writing: that of getting down some other person's words, some other person's story. How does one go about doing such a thing, practically speaking? Artistically speaking? This panel explores these questions plus the economics of co-writing and the ethics of ghostwriting.

Commons Annex, Lecture Hall

Confessions of a Newspaper Columnist in an Angry Age

Tony Norman

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Tony Norman has been writing about the intersection of race, politics, and culture twice a week since 1996. There has never been a shortage of hot topics, but in the last two years, the temperature of everyday discourse has steadily risen. Suddenly the public square is a very angry place. Commentators on every platform have to deal with the weight of their words in ways they never have before. He asks: Is there a way to resist the powers-that-be without succumbing to partisan anger and hatred? Or does speaking truth to power necessitate raising the temperature of political and cultural discourse?

Introduced by Paul E. Bylsma, Calvin College Alumni Association

Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Writing behind Bars

Kimberley Benedict, Phil Christman, Cozine Welch, the CPI Writers' Club

Prison both monopolizes time and wastes it. Inmates lose control (of their time, safety, and labor) yet spend many hours in enforced solitude and idleness. No surprise, then, if many take up writing—a habit often found among people who have time but little power. How does writing in prison differ from writing in the free world? How can readers and writers outside of prison support their fellow readers and writers in prison—without slipping into condescension, or worse, exploitation? This panel explores these questions and checks in via video with a group of writers at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan—writers who are also undergraduate students at Calvin College, part of a partnership between the college and Calvin Theological Seminary that provides a liberal arts education to inmates.

DeVos Communications Center, Bytwerk Theater

5pm

An Evening with Edwidge Danticat

Wiersma Memorial Lecture

Introduced by Isabelle Selles, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Van Noord Arena

6:15pm

book signing

Van Noord Arena

Edwidge Danticat

6:30pm

Wind-Down Yoga

Jenny Sheffer-Stevens

This low-key restorative yoga flow will focus on areas of the body that get tight and cramped when sitting at a desk and writing all day, as well as particular muscle tensions that inhibit the creative response. We'll practice balancing breath techniques to calm and de-clutter the mind, and conclude with a guided relaxation designed to inspire the imagination.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, East Lobby

Note: For this one-hour class you're encouraged to bring a large towel or small blanket, comfortable clothes you can move in, a cozy sweater or sweatshirt, and socks. This practice is suitable for all levels and every body type. All are welcome.

RECEPTION: Five Minute Friday Meet-and-Greet

Connect with Kate Motaung and other members of the Five Minute Friday online writers group.
Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

7:30pm

Film Screening: *De Verloren Zoon*

Jaap van Heusden

Enjoy light refreshments before a screening of Jaap van Heusden's *De Verloren Zoon*, an adaptation of Flannery O'Connor's short story "The Lame Shall Enter First" set in modern Netherlands. Runtime: 40 minutes

Introduced by Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Wheaton College Emerita

Post-Screening Conversation featuring Jaap van Heusden, screenwriter and director; Herman De Vries Jr., Calvin College German Department; and Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Wheaton College Emerita

DeVos Communications Center, Bytwerk Theater

Sponsored by the Frederik Meijer Chair in Dutch Language and Culture

Sense and Sensibility

Calvin Theater Company

The classic story by Jane Austen, adapted by Jessica Swale and directed by Debra L. Freeberg. Tickets available at the Calvin College Box Office and at the door.

Gezon Auditorium

RECEPTION: Book Release Party: *The Wonder Years: 40 Women Over 40 on Aging, Faith, Beauty, and Strength*

Celebrate the launch of *The Wonder Years: 40 Women Over 40 on Aging, Faith, Beauty, and Strength*, with essays by Ann Voskamp, Brené Brown, Luci Shaw, Lauren Winner, Jeanne Murray Walker and others. More than a dozen contributors will be present for readings, signings, book giveaways, great food and the all-important swag! (Folks under 40 are welcome, but might be carded.)

Hosted by Kregel Publications

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

9pm

Open Mic Poetry Reading

Hosted by the FFW Student Committee, this open mic event allows writers to share their poetry (or other work) for up to 10 minutes. Sign up at the Registration Desk by 6pm.

Commons, Fish House

RECEPTION: Poiema Poetry Night

Meet Poiema series poets and hear them read: Anya Krugovoy Silver, Brad Davis, Julie L. Moore, Barbara Crooker, D.S. Martin, Paul J. Willis, Tania Runyan, Marjorie Maddox, Nathaniel Lee Hansen, James A. Zoller, and Jill Paláez Baumgartner. Many of these poets are included in the anthologies *The Turning Aside: The Kingdom Poets Book of Contemporary Christian Poetry* and *Adam, Eve, & the Riders of the Apocalypse: 39 Contemporary Poets on the Characters of the Bible*.

Hosted by Cascade Books

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

SATURDAY

7am

Madcap Coffee Pop-Up Café opens

The café is open 7am–4pm today.

DeVos Communications Center, Lobby

Sunrise Stretch

Jenny Sheffer-Stevens

Greet the final morning of the Festival and energize for your busy day with this 45-minute yoga practice. We'll limber up the body with a traditional sun salutation series, followed by refreshing stretches, and an exercise to sharpen the mind and invigorate the imagination.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, East Lobby

Note: For this 45-minute class you're encouraged to bring comfortable clothes you can move in, a towel, and yoga mat (a few extras will be available). This practice is suitable for all levels and every body type. All are welcome.

8am

Tiny Take-Along Book Structures

Joanna Battjes

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they'd like.

Prince Conference Center, President's Dining Room

Getting It Done

Sarah Arthur

While many of us would like to wait for inspiration to hit, the truth is that writing is work. And we need to honor the process by bringing all our skills to it. Veteran writer Sarah Arthur helps you identify what's keeping you from moving forward, whether it's organizing materials, narrowing your focus, setting goals and deadlines, pacing the process, or simply getting the words. She also offers some practical tools for pushing through these obstacles.

Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they'd like.

Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

8:30am

Do I Have to Be a "Christian Writer"?

Leslie Leyland Fields

If we believe in the exclusive claims of Christianity, are we obligated then to be "Christian writers"? How do we reconcile the command of Jesus to "go and make disciples of all nations" with the aesthetic demands of good Art? Leslie shares her own wobbling path through the limits and the possibilities of writing from and about her faith, offering a third path that honors and embodies both Art and Gospel.

Introduced by Debra L. Freeberg, Calvin College Communication Arts and Sciences

Calvin Seminary, Chapel

A Reading: Scott Cairns

Scott Cairns reads from his published poetry and prose works—and from his new poetry manuscript, *Anaphora*—discussing how a sense of pilgrimage has come to inform his relationship to his own writing, as well as how he understands the writer's vocation to be less

about expressing what one thinks or knows and more about writing to glimpse something just out of view.

Introduced by Gregory Wolfe, *Image*
Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

He Said, She Said

Hugh Cook

One of the important components of successful fiction is effective dialogue. This workshop examines detailed aspects of dialogue, such as how to use both direct and indirect dialogue, proper use of dialogue tags, and avoiding common dialogue errors.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Room 115

Eros, Poetry, and the Divine Body

Alexandra Barylski

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Hiemenga Hall, Room 314

Cars, Kitchens, and Couches: Family Life as Story in Young Adult Realism

Sara Zarr

From the inception of the Golden Age of young adult literature, family has been the context of our best coming of age stories. How families love or fail to love each other and how adolescent characters are parented—by their actual parents, parental figures, found families, or themselves—is a primary source of drama and comedy in classic and recent young adult fiction. Sara Zarr explores the innate drama of the family unit and home life in her own work and that of others.

Introduced by Deborah Visser, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
Spoelhof Center, Gezon Auditorium

Retelling the Bible for Children

Sandy Sasso

Educator, rabbi, and children's book author Sandy Sasso guides participants to learn new ways to tell Bible stories to children. Using examples from both the Hebrew scriptures and parables from the New Testament, Sandy gives examples of storytelling that allow children to bring their questions and curiosities to the story; that enable children to read the Bible without having to unlearn things later; and that don't reduce Bible stories to moral object lessons.

Introduced by Laura Keeley, Christian Reformed Church Faith Formation Ministries
Prince Conference Center, Board Room

Ancient Sources for Contemporary Writing

Diane Glancy, Karen Wright Marsh, Donyelle McCray, James K. A. Smith, Lauren F. Winner

Panelists from diverse backgrounds and traditions recount the ancient stories and wisdom that fuel their essays, short stories, poems, and novels. Writers from all faith traditions will discover an untapped trove of inspiration in the broken and beautiful sinner-saints who have gone before us.

Calvin College Chapel

The Creative Nonfiction of a Niche Historian

Russell Rathbun

Writers have written about particulars in the past to find meaning in the present. The author of *Exodus* wrote the story of God delivering Israel from Egypt while in exile in Babylon hundreds of years later. Sarah Vowell chronicled her vacation researching the assassinations of Presidents

Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley in hope of exorcising her irrational impulse to take out George W. Bush. Russell Rathbun reports in from the Salton Sea in the Southern California desert where he researches and writes about the history of an unfolding man-made natural disaster in search of a spiritual practice for the end of the world.

Introduced by Krista Carter, Calvin College English Department
Hiemenga Hall, Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Testing the Virtues in Story

Daniel Taylor

Compelling stories put the virtues at risk, which puts the characters at risk, which keeps us reading. This session includes reflections on the relationship of the virtues to craft and theme and the reading experience.

Introduced by Roy Anker, Calvin College English Department Emeritus
Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Focus off the Family

Gina Dalfonzo, Kathryn Freeman, Karen Swallow Prior, Joy Beth Smith, Chelsea Patterson Sobolik

Church has long been a space characterized by married people and families and is just beginning to wake up to the discomfort this creates for faithful people whose lives don't fit this description. This panel offers practical wisdom for writers who seek to help the church become more balanced and sensitive through writing deeply personal stories about the struggles and joys of lives that don't have marriage and/or children as their focus.

Commons Annex, Lecture Hall

The Pre-Dawn Birds: Some Thoughts on Faith & Writing

Joy Williams

Introduced by Jamie Quatro
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

Platforms and Privilege

Austin Channing Brown, Jeff Chu, Rachele Gardner, Deidra Riggs

If we publish—or aspire to publish—we write to be read. (Otherwise, we'd journal.) And the reality of the publishing industry is that it obsesses about platform. Who will buy your book? We wish we lived in a world where platforms were built entirely on merit. We don't. Race, gender, sexuality, class, various forms of privilege—all these enter the equation. While our temptation is simply to say #BurnItAllDown, we can't, and perhaps we shouldn't. This frank, difficult, but necessary conversation examines the sorrows and joys of our publishing experiences, the possibilities and limitations of platform, the ways in which the business may be changing, our hopes for the future, and the theological implications of it all.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

9am

Exhibit Hall opens

The Exhibit Hall is open from 9am–6pm today.
Prince Conference Center, Exhibit Hall

9:30am

coffee break

*Covenant Fine Arts Center, Lower West Lobby
Hekman Library Lobby
Prince Conference Center, Fireside Room*

meditation break: loving-kindness

J. Dana Trent
Center Art Gallery

9:45am

book signing

Campus Store
Hugh Cook
Leslie Leyland Fields
Daniel Taylor
Sara Zarr

Prince Conference Center
Scott Cairns
Russell Rathbun
Sandy Sasso

10am

Writing Our Wrongs: Alternatives to the Savior Complex When Teaching Writing within Marginalized Communities

Joanna Eleftheriou, Rebecca Lauren, Zenique Gardner Perry, Beth Peterson

While God created all human beings equal, not everyone has an equal opportunity to tell their story or create a work of art that expresses who they are. Four panelists who are inspired by Christ's model of communing with the marginalized share what they've learned while teaching incarcerated men, adults with HIV and AIDS, immigrants, students of color, and LGBT students attending Christian colleges. Each writer explains how her faith informs her teaching philosophy and how she deconstructs privilege in the process, cultivating space for all voices.

Commons Annex, Lecture Hall

A Conversation with Jaap van Heusden

Dutch screenwriter and director Jaap van Heusden discusses telling stories via film, adapting Flannery O'Connor's Christ-haunted South for a secular European audience, and his current project, *In Alaska*.

Interviewed by Geert Heetebrij, Calvin College Communication Arts and Sciences
DeVos Communication Center, Bytwerk Theater

A Conversation with Luci Shaw: Making and Keeping Friends for the Journey

As an editor, mentor, and friend, Luci Shaw has enjoyed deep creative partnerships with many writers, perhaps none so dear as her relationship with the late Madeleine L'Engle. Despite differences both held dear, the two animated each other's work in important ways. They coauthored three books, and Luci suggested and then edited Madeleine's seminal treatise on faith and writing, *Walking on Water*. Madeleine's granddaughters, Charlotte Jones Voiklis and Léna Roy, have known Luci for years as a close friend of the family. Here they interview her

about the role of community in the life of a writer and what it takes to forge and sustain friends for the journey.

Interviewed by Léna Roy and Charlotte Jones Voiklis
Calvin College Chapel

Writing about Suffering

John Blase, Sharon Garlough Brown, Susie Finkbeiner

Luis Alberto Urrea once said, “If you can see God in the muck and the mud, then you’ve got it, man.” This panel explores the importance of writing about suffering, adversity, and grief, particularly from a perspective of faith. Panelists discuss the beauty of seeing God from out of the depths and Urrea’s “it,” hope.

Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Words for Worship: Crafting Congregational Song

Adam Tice

What makes a hymn different from other forms of poetry? What are the elements of good text craft? How do texts and tunes get combined? And what in the world is 8.7.8.7D? These questions and more are discussed as Adam Tice, a seasoned hymn writer and teacher, explores the mechanics of writing texts for sung worship. Come engage in several exercises to create simple, short songs—and learn what it takes to dive deeper into writing for your own community’s worship.

Introduced by James Vanden Bosch, Calvin College English Department
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Room 115

A Conversation with Natalie Diaz and Margarita Pintado

Two poets—one from Puerto Rico, the other an enrolled member in the Gila River Indian community—discuss how fluency in Spanish and Mojave, respectively, gives them expanded ways of accessing the world that both informs and enriches their writing.

Interviewed by Linda Naranjo-Huebl, Calvin College English Department
Calvin Seminary, Chapel

A Conversation with Bill McKibben

One of the original voices warning about climate change, Bill McKibben discusses how the climate has changed for him as a writer over the past 30 years. What is it like to suffer harassment from the most powerful corporations on earth? What keeps him going? What gives him hope under the current administration? And how has he balanced his roles as a writer, teacher, activist, and person of faith?

Interviewed by Paul Willis, Westmont College
Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Words & Images: Stories at the Intersection

John Hendrix

The pairing of pictures and text is as old as literature itself. Working in concert, words and images create a new space, a third language that neither can replicate on its own. Illustrator and author John Hendrix talks about his work and the rich potential of visual storytelling, both spiritually and aesthetically.

Introduced by Kenneth Kraegel
Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

[A Conversation with Kate Bowler and Kerry Egan](#)

Kate Bowler and Kerry Egan consider both shared and distinct terrain in their experiences as cancer patient and hospice chaplain, while exploring the power of language to shape our understanding of illness, identity, and belief.

Interviewed by Jessica Bratt Carle, Spectrum Health
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

[The Story behind the Story](#)

Melissa Frantz, Lea Thau

Three years ago Lea Thau started documenting the life of Melissa Frantz's family—chronicling how their approach to open adoption has turned into a radical experiment in community and also an ongoing confrontation with systemic racism—for her podcast *Strangers*. In this conversation Lea and Melissa discuss what it's like being on either side of the microphone, the ethics of telling other people's stories, the possibilities and limits of empathy, and what might be next for both of them.

Interviewed by Lisa Ann Cockrel, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

[Sometimes Walking into a Sunset Is Walking into a Dawn](#)

Jeff Zentner

When Jeff Zentner came to a crossroads in his musical career, the path he took—writing books for young people—was one he never expected. In this talk, he discusses his winding journey to becoming a writer: how it intersected with his faith and its struggles, how he balances a full-time job with his writing career, and how he writes books on his phone on the bus.

Introduced by Deborah Visser, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
Prince Conference Center, Board Room

11:15am

[book signing](#)

Campus Store

John Hendrix

Adam Tice

Prince Conference Center

Kate Bowler

Jeff Zentner

11:30am

[A Conversation with Joy Williams](#)

Interviewed by L. S. Klatt, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

[From *Micromégas* to Terra Ignota: Science Fiction's Love/Hate Relationship with Spirituality](#)

Jo Walton

You'd expect fantasy to be concerned with God, gods, and spirituality, but by and large it isn't or engages religious themes poorly. Whereas science fiction, while generally claiming to be atheist and secular, has a secret fascination with the spiritual and engages it in fascinating ways. Many of sci-fi's classic texts are deeply engaged with religion, including *Dune*, *Stranger in a Strange*

Land, A Canticle for Lebowitz, and The Left Hand of Darkness. Walton discusses these books and the genre's love/hate relationship with spirituality.

Introduced by Jennifer H. Williams, Calvin College English Department
Prince Conference Center, Board Room

Writing Real Stories in a World of Fake News

Sarah Pulliam Bailey

These days our news channels and social media feeds often feel like a cacophony of hot takes, posturing, outrage, and lies. Sarah Pulliam Bailey discusses how she learned to break through the noise as a religion reporter to tell the authentic, true stories readers still crave. She shares how to find good ideas, shape meaningful stories, and pitch and write articles with integrity.

Introduced by Josh Parks, Calvin College *Chimes*
DeVos Communications Center, Bytwerk Theater

A Reading: Tania Runyan

Tania Runyan reads from *What Will Soon Take Place*, an imaginative journey through the book of Revelation. She offers a poet's view of the prophetic, not in the sense of seeking out clues to the "end times," but as a means of taking this strange, fantastic book of scripture and letting it read its way into personal lives. This is not prophecy as foretelling, but forth-telling: telling us the truths of our lives in the light of God's light.

Introduced by Otto Selles, Calvin College French Department
Hiemenga Hall, Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Writing Honestly about Race (When Your Audience Is Primarily White)

Edward Gilbreath, Karen Gonzalez, Lisa Sharon Harper, Margot Starbuck, Sandra Maria Van Opstal

Communicating nuanced ideas about race is fraught with the possibility of misunderstanding, resistance, or outright hostility. Yet in these polarized times, it's crucial that Christian voices infuse public discourse with prophetic messages of hope, compassion, and justice. In this session, a diverse panel of leaders offers stories and tips to equip communicators to clearly address issues of race, ethnic identity, and reconciliation—especially when their audience is predominantly white.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Wisdom in the Shadows: Bringing Seasoned Women's Voices to Light

Amanda Cleary Eastep, Jennifer Grant, Kathy Khang, Michelle Van Loon

Those in the second half of life—particularly women—are often just beginning to discover their voices as writers. But it can be discouraging when it seems like attention is skewed toward the young and novel, instead of the experienced and wise. What's an older writer to do? This panel explores these challenges and issues a call to see the wisdom that comes from age and experience.

Spoelhof Center, Lab Theater

Play Your Way to Creative Productivity

MaryAnn McKibben Dana

Writers, artists, and other creatives know the importance of discipline in our work: Applying butt to chair. Getting the pages done. Not waiting for "inspiration" to strike. Sometimes, though, we get dried up and burned out. We lose our sense of mystery and wonder. Writing becomes a chore, and the work suffers as a result. This interactive workshop, inspired by improv comedy, offers practical, accessible tools for getting out of your own way so the creativity can flow. Get up and get in touch with your playful side.

Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

[A Reading: Robin Coste Lewis](#)

Introduced by Natasha Oladokun, Hollins University
Calvin College Chapel

[Spirituality in Young Adult Literature](#)

William Boerman-Cornell, Katherine Gibson, Kristine Gritter, Gary D. Schmidt, Deborah Vriend Van Duinen

Religion is often, though not always, avoided in mainstream young adult literature. Panelists discuss the latest developments in the YA scene related to spirituality; recommend books that deal with issues and themes rooted in diverse faith traditions; and share suggestions for writers, readers, and teachers about how to approach religion in YA literature.

Spoelhof Center, Gezon Auditorium

[A Conversation with Fleming Rutledge: The Cross and the Christian](#)

Acclaimed preacher Fleming Rutledge discusses common misconceptions even theologians have about the crucifixion, how modern ideas about sin and evil distort our understanding of what actually happened on the cross, and why Anselm is still important today.

Interviewed by Scott Hoezee, Center for Excellence in Preaching
Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

[A Conversation with Oliver de la Paz](#)

Oliver de la Paz talks about art as a collaborative exercise, the ingenuity of hybrid forms, the importance of creating spaces that foster solidarity and support among minority writers, and what it means to mentor young writers.

Interviewed by Susanna Childress, Hope College
Calvin Seminary, Chapel

[Detoxifying Masculinity through Story and Verse](#)

Jeff Chu, Kristin Kobes Du Mez, Jonathan Hiskes, Billy Mark

Stories can help us discover who we are and who we want to be. Rarely is this more urgent than with the complex, contested, and confusing question of what it means to be a 21st-century man. We examine the rise of a toxic masculinity that seeks dominance and control, and look to literature for more faithful visions of masculinity. We reflect on our own writing and the art that sustains us while also considering how masculinity intersects with race, class, sexuality, faith, and other dimensions of identity.

Commons Annex, Commons Lecture Hall

12:45pm

[festival circles](#)

[book signing](#)

Campus Store

Oliver de la Paz

Robin Coste Lewis

Joy Williams

Prince Conference Center

Tania Runyan

Jo Walton

Tish Harrison Warren

Publish or Parish: Pastors and the Writing Life

Arthur Boers, Scott Cairns, Ann Gillespie, Chris Hoke, Lauren F. Winner

Four active writers who also serve pastoral roles—two Episcopal priests, an Anglican priest, and a gang pastor/jail chaplain—discuss how their pastoral roles are enhanced by their writing disciplines and how their writing is enriched by their pastoral service.

Commons Annex, Commons Lecture Hall

Sponsored by the Seattle Pacific University MFA in Creative Writing

Writing the Wrinkles in Time

Sarah Arthur, Léna Roy, Charlotte Jones Voiklis

Sarah Arthur, author of the forthcoming *A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle*, explores what Madeleine's life and books have taught her about writing from the stuff of your life when life doesn't go as planned—about surprises in your topic, plot twists in your personal circumstances, or feedback that requires rebuilding a project from the ground up. Special guests include Madeleine L'Engle's granddaughters, Léna Roy and Charlotte Jones Voiklis, coauthors of *Becoming Madeleine: A Biography of the Author of A Wrinkle in Time by Her Granddaughters*.

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

Sponsored by Zondervan

Writing about Politics in an Age of Rancor

Sarah Pulliam Bailey, Karen Swallow Prior, C. Christopher Smith, James K. A. Smith, Jeremy Wells

Can we actually communicate about politics these days? Is anyone listening? Join four writers who model different approaches on conversation in our fragmented times: Sarah Pulliam Bailey of the *Washington Post*; Karen Swallow Prior, professor at Liberty University; C. Christopher Smith, editor of the *Englewood Review of Books*; and James K. A. Smith, professor at Calvin College. Everyone who attends will receive a poster that celebrates reading, featuring Ned Bustard's original cover art for Karen Swallow Prior's forthcoming book, *On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life through Great Books*.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Sponsored by Brazos Press

2pm

Private Prayer, Public Writing: The Positives and Pitfalls of Writing about the Spiritual Life

Angela Doll Carlson, Kaitlin B. Curtice, Ed Cyzewski, Lisha Epperson, Seth Haines, Tara M. Owens

Thomas Merton wrote that artists run the risk of “exploiting every experience as material for ‘creation,’” and, as a result, may never enter the deeper aspects of contemplative prayer. With the rise of memoirs and blogs alongside books of spiritual writing that often use personal anecdotes, a discussion of boundaries for writers of faith is essential. Panelists discuss how writers can write about the spiritual life so that others receive instruction and guidance, while maintaining the privacy and intimacy of their relationships with God.

Prince Conference Center, Board Room

It's the End of the World as We Know It and I Feel Fine: Apocalyptic Literature and the Meaning of Life

Russell Rathbun, Anbara Salam

A novelist and niche historian discuss why stories about the end of the world—as we know it, as we hoped for it to be, across genres and cultures—capture our imaginations. Why does apocalyptic literature fascinate us? What does it reveal about the nature of modern life?

Interviewed by Jana Riess, Religion News Service

Calvin College Chapel

Successful Intergenerational Book Clubs

Deborah Vriend Van Duinen

Book club participation has risen in North America over the past decades, including in the form of intergenerational clubs—parent/child, teacher/student, and so on. In this workshop, Deborah Vriend Van Duinen shares best practices of successful intergenerational book clubs based on her years of experience facilitating both mother/daughter and mother/son clubs, as well as on her scholarly work about book club participation.

Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Writing and What Matters Most

Jen Hatmaker

Jen Hatmaker discusses what it looks like when writing things that matter take a turn into advocacy, theological tension, and political resistance. How do we write and lead on meaningful topics in a way that encourages dialogue without feeling silenced by criticism? When writers are also thought leaders, how do we steward our influence by choosing words that both reconcile and challenge while also maintaining best practices for soul care? It is an important time to be a writer, and we have a role to play in culture that will require intelligence, courage, and an intentional use of our voices.

Introduced by Sarah L. Turnage, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

Sentiment without Sentimentality: Women Writers Who Won't Stay in Their (Inspirational) Lane

Karen Gonzalez, Jessica Mesman Griffith, Lyz Lenz, D. L. Mayfield, Kaya Oakes, Christiana N. Peterson

Made up of women who don't fit the standard definition of what it means to be a religious writer in this day and age, this panel explores how to get published when you are religious but not inspirational; how to be sad in a publishing world that rewards tidy solutions; and transcending the traditional boundaries of genre, religion, class, and gender.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

Breaking Up and Breaking Down: Spiritual Stories

April Ayers Lawson

How people behave when their relationship is breaking down is at least as interesting and mysterious as how they behave when they're falling in love. People going through breakup trauma see themselves and reality in ways they never have before. Through an examination of relationship breakup trauma in fiction and the breakup narrative, April Ayers Lawson analyzes the psychological, spiritual, and existential effects of relationship breakdown, drawing connections between our struggle for meaning during breakup and our need for God.

Introduced by Cindy Kok

Hiemenga Hall, Meeter Center Lecture Hall

[A Conversation with Dinty W. Moore](#)

Dinty W. Moore discusses the art and craft of literary nonfiction, writing flash essays for the digital age, and how Buddhism shapes his own creative practice.

Interviewed by Sarina Gruver Moore, Grove City College

Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

[A Reading: Natalie Diaz](#)

Introduced by Kristina Faust Kaminskas

Calvin Seminary, Chapel

Sponsored by the Mellema Program in Western American Studies

[A Conversation with Sara Zarr and Jeff Zentner](#)

Sara Zarr and Jeff Zentner discuss writing about class, poverty, and fraught family relationships in YA novels.

Interviewed by William Boerman-Cornell, Trinity Christian College

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

[The Art of the Personal Essay](#)

Meghan Florian

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Note: This workshop is two hours, from 2–4pm.

Hiemenga Hall, Room 314

[101 Ways to Cultivate Online Literary Conversations](#)

Alexis De Weese, Lindsay Gustafson

With endless banter in digital spaces, how does one inspire conversations of value around topics that matter? This workshop provides readers concrete and manageable ideas to instigate genuine digital conversations about their favorite books and authors.

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Room 115

3pm

[coffee break](#)

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Lower West Lobby

Hekman Library Lobby

Prince Conference Center, Fireside Room

[meditation break: devotional](#)

Whitney R. Simpson

Center Art Gallery

3:15pm

[book signing](#)

Campus Store

Natalie Diaz

Jen Hatmaker

April Ayers Lawson

Prince Conference Center

Sarah Arthur

Léna Roy

Charlotte Jones Voiklis

Erin F. Wasinger

3:30pm

Thomas Merton and Bob Dylan: Joined at the Hippocampus

Robert Hudson

Although they never met, Thomas Merton and Bob Dylan were two of the most controversial figures of the 1960s. In the summer of '66, after a brief affair with a student nurse, hermit-monk Merton became a Dylan fanatic, an interest that changed the direction of his writing. Robert Hudson, author of *The Monk's Record Player: Thomas Merton, Bob Dylan, and the Perilous Summer of 1966*, examines both Merton and Dylan during that influential period, when social and spiritual forces came into conflict like never before. Come ready to hear music—Dylan, Joan Baez, and John Coltrane—and to discuss.

Introduced by Donald Hettinga, Calvin College English Department

Calvin Seminary, Chapel

A Conversation with Jo Walton

Jo Walton is a prolific writer, poet, and reader of both science fiction and fantasy. From her blog pieces on Tor.com to her far-ranging Thessaly trilogy, she explores time, space, and the interactions of people in difficult situations. She discusses why so much modern fantasy gets religion wrong; the legacy of Ursula K. Le Guin; her forthcoming novel about the Dominican friar, Savonarola; Renaissance-era humanism; and more.

Interviewed by Francene Lewis, Calvin College & Calvin Theological Seminary, Hekman Library
Prince Conference Center, Board Room

Building Community through Conversations about Books

Denise McClellan

[Pre-registration required.](#)

Prince Conference Center, Hickory Room

When the Wild Things Are Not

Dorothy Fortenberry

Playwright and screenwriter Dorothy Fortenberry reflects on reading classic books to her young daughters while the natural world depicted in them is evaporating. She explores what it feels like to read books including *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Where the Wild Things Are* in a time of accelerating climate change and what such stories might offer her children in their uncertain future.

Introduced by Allie Vroegop, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Spoelhof Center, Gezon Auditorium

A Conversation with Robin Coste Lewis

Robin Coste Lewis talks about the black female figure Western art, why Beauty is not for the faint of heart, black joy as an aesthetic, and why her traumatic brain injury is “the gift that keeps on taking.”

Interviewed by Lisa Van Arragon, DisArt

Covenant Fine Arts Center, Recital Hall

Why We Still Need a Room of Our Own

Marlena Proper Graves, Jessica Mesman Griffith, Rachel Marie Stone

It's hard to make a living from writing, and writing takes serious time. Representation in print, therefore, represents privilege. Virginia Woolf and Tillie Olsen knew this and argued forcefully for those silenced voices—first, that we be aware of the silence, and then that we work to correct the material conditions that lead to silencing. Panelists get beyond dreamy aphorisms about

“write or die” to discuss why some people—women, minorities, the working class—still can’t live out their vocations as writers, at least not as fully as others, and what readers and writers can do to amplify marginalized voices.

Commons Annex, Alumni Association Board Room

Insider Info: Nonfiction Book Proposals Agents and Editors Love

Chad Allen, Rachele Gardner, Stephanie Smith, Margot Starbuck, Jessica Wong

Agents and acquisitions editors share what makes so many proposals feel tired and overdone, as well as what it is in well-crafted proposals that sparks their interest and keeps them reading. Learn how to delight agents and publishers and, ultimately, your readers. Bring questions for Q&A.

Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

Surprised by Joy: Poetry about Faith and Happiness

Barbara Crooker, Julie L. Moore, Tania Runyan, Anya Silver

Four poets from different Christian traditions read their work and discuss the role of joy in their poetry and creative lives. All four seek to incorporate profound joy in their poetry and to explicitly address God as the source of their rejoicing, even when happiness is hard-won.

Calvin College Chapel

Dwelling in the Discomfort Zone

Marilyn McEntyre, Marcia Meier, Susan S. Phillips, Shirley Hershey Showalter, Jeanne Murray Walker

Tricky issues come up in writing—writing about others without harming, then writing about public controversies without alienating those you hope to engage, using or avoiding politically charged or loaded language, weighing the proprieties of self-disclosure, and more. Based on long experience writing memoir, personal essays, creative nonfiction, and poetry, panelists offer strategies for navigating the “discomfort zone”; new approaches to the ethics of writing about self, others, and God; and, ultimately, a new vision for what it might mean to be both bold and compassionate writers.

Prince Conference Center, Willow Room

4:45pm

book signing

Van Noord Arena

Kyle David BENNETT

Dorothy Fortenberry

Robert Hudson

5pm

An Evening with Bill McKibben: Storytelling, Activism, and Keeping the Faith

Lionel Basney Memorial Lecture

Bill McKibben has been sounding the alarm about climate change for over 30 years—through investigative journalism, essays, books, op-eds, and, most recently, his first novel. He discusses how narratives drive social action (*and* inaction), how faith grounds his commitment to climate justice through both breakthroughs and setbacks, and what we can do now in the face of renewed political opposition to creation care.

Introduced by Debra Rienstra, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Van Noord Arena

6:15pm

book signing

Van Noord Arena

Bill McKibben

7:30pm

Sense and Sensibility

Calvin Theater Company

The classic story by Jane Austen, adapted by Jessica Swale and directed by Debra L. Freeberg.

Tickets available at the Calvin College Box Office and at the door.

Spoelhof Center, Gezon Auditorium