ENGLWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS THIRD ANNUAL FREE “WRITER’S RETREAT” FOR ASPIRING AUTHORS

Englewood, CO, January 10, 2020 – For the third year in a row, Englewood Public Library is teaming up with several award-winning Colorado authors to host a free writing workshop on Saturday, January 25. Known as The Writer’s Retreat, the one-day event is designed to help aspiring writers get started, hone their skills, and learn about publishing.

“Libraries aren’t just for books and reading,” said Englewood Librarian Michelle Brandstetter. “If you’ve even considered writing, we encourage you to attend.”

This event consists of facilitated sessions and guided exercises for writing Fiction, Non-Fiction, Young Adult and Picture Books, as well as short stories, memoirs, and working with editors.

“What writers get out of a workshop is being able to share their pitfalls and triumphs,” said Jason Heller, one of the event’s coordinators. “Writing by nature is a solitary pursuit. One of the best things about the workshops is being able to see that you’re not alone.”

Heller, the author of Strange Stars (Melville House, 2018), worked with Englewood Public Library to create the Writer’s Retreat. Heller brings years of experience teaching at various writing workshops around the country.

“Being able to bond with other writers is really a powerful thing,” said Heller. “A lot of times in writing workshops people will carry on friendships or associations that they make and they will go on to form their own writing groups.”
Among the event’s other facilitators and new to this year’s Writer’s Retreat include Emily France, author of *Zen and Gone* which was named a Washington Post Best Book for Young Readers, Hilary Leftwich, author of *Ghosts Are Just Strangers Who Know How to Knock*, featured on Entropy’s Best Fiction list of 2019, and Donna Bryson, author of *Home of the Brave*, second-place non-fiction book category winner of the National Federation of Press Women’s 2019 Communications Contest. Also new this year is Erin Barnes, author of *Weekend Getaways from Denver*, whose work has appeared in Syfy, Huffington Post, and the Denver Post to name a few. Coming back for his third year to the retreat is national bestselling author of speculative fiction, Mario Acevedo.

“There are so many great writing workshops out there. Often they have a fee for something like this. And they can be well worth the money you spend, but it’s also great to get a taste for a writing workshop without having to pay,” said Heller. “Public Libraries are the ideal place for people to convene and talk about writing.”

For Englewood Library, this is a unique new way to reach out to community members in Englewood and the greater metro area.

“I’m very excited about the opportunity to provide this program to our customers,” said Brandstetter. “Libraries are dynamic, always changing to meet the needs of the community. For those who haven’t been in a library for a while, I suggest you stop in for a visit.”

Englewood Public Library is located at 1000 Englewood Parkway, Englewood CO. For registration details and information, visit [http://englewoodco.gov/library/writersretreat](http://englewoodco.gov/library/writersretreat).

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