



## 23rd ANNUAL BLUE RIDGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

### September 4 & 5, 2020

The Mission of the Blue Ridge Writers' Conference is to educate, inform, and inspire writers. No matter the level of expertise, the Blue Ridge Writers' Conference provides a venue for professional writers, editors and agents to provide honest and accurate feedback to the aspiring writer in how to craft that first novel, sell a magazine article, market yourself in the literary world, or finding inspiration for your poetry. Other previous keynote speakers include a number of well-known writers such as novelist Claire Cook, Terry Kay, mystery writers Patricia Sprinkle, Joshilyn Jackson and Sharyn McCrumb, essayists James Kilgo and Steven Harvey, suspense writer Karin Slaughter, and former Georgia poet laureate, David Bottoms.

Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> begins with light breakfast fare and our keynote speech. The 2020 keynote speaker will be Melissa Fay Greene. Ms. Greene is the author of six books of nonfiction and her latest is an expansion of "Wonder Dog," a 2012 New York Times Magazine feature story which became one of the most-searched-for and most-shared TIMES stories of the year. Ms. Greene's work has been translated into 12 languages and has been honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship (2015-2016), two National Book Award nominations, a National Book Critics Circle Award nomination, the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize, the Southern Book Critics Circle Award, the ACLU National Civil Liberties Award, an Anthony J. Lukacs Book Prize finalist citation, the Hadassah Myrtle Wreath Award, Elle Magazine Readers' Prize, the Salon Book Prize, a Lyndhurst Foundation Fellowship, the Lillian Smith Book Award, the Georgia Author Award, an honorary doctorate of letters from Emory University in 2010, induction into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame in 2011, and the Georgia Governor's Award in the Arts & Humanities in 2013. Ms. Greene has contributed to The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, New York Magazine, Newsweek, LIFE, CNN.com, and other periodicals, and has been a frequent public radio guest. Sheetrock was named one of the Top 100 Works of American Journalism of the 20th Century and appeared on Entertainment Weekly's list of "The New Classics—The 100 Best Books of the Last 25 Years."

The day continues with concurrent workshops on everything from Fiction and Non-Fiction to marketing a manuscript. Our 2020 speakers include a wide variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry writers, editors, and even a Secretary Emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution. Conference attendees appreciate the chance to network with other writers and speakers during the day and the opportunity to submit their work for critique by one of the conference speakers.

The Blue Ridge Writers' Conference also offers a four-hour Workshop Intensive on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. For an additional fee, the Workshop Intensive provides a more concentrated workshop to strengthen and inspire your literary endeavors. The 2020 workshop instructor will be fiction writer, Sheila Athens.

If you are an author and have registered for the conference, you may sign up with the Art Center to have your books for sale on Friday evening during the reception and on Saturday afternoon during the conference until 3:00pm. Please email the Art Center no later than *August 7<sup>th</sup>* at [blueridgearts@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgearts@gmail.com) to pre-register for a space. Please limit your book sales to no more than (5) titles, with a total of (10) books per title. All books for sale must be delivered to the Art Center no later than 5pm on Thursday afternoon, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Art Center will sell books in the Mahan Gallery & Art Supply Station for a 10% commission. *We look forward to you joining us this year for our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Writers' Conference!*



**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BLUE RIDGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE**  
**September 4 & 5, 2020**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees: Your registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.**

(BRMAA Members & Active UNG Students will receive **10% off registration fees only**. Valid UNG Student ID must be present to receive discounted rate.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75/person (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Barbara Groce Memorial Fund. My donation will help to give the gift of the literary arts and support future conference scholarships.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**

**Please Note: No Refunds After August 14, 2020.**

**Method of Payment:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (payable to BRMAA)      \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard      \_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV (security code) \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

**Reception RSVP:** I \_\_\_\_\_ do/\_\_\_\_\_ do not plan to attend the Friday evening reception.

\*Please note if you have any special accessibility requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Temperature inside the conference center tends to be unpredictable, we suggest you dress accordingly.*