



November 3-5, 2017



**“...But How do I get onto paper and into PRINT?”
A Writers' Workshop (Come prepared to *laugh!*)
November 3-5, 2017**

Welcome to Minerva's Writing Workshops, where we've developed a mantra of “friends don't let friends write alone.” In these weekends, we aim to build a community of support for your project, celebrate your progress, and hope to help inspire some “fixes” for places where you might be feeling stuck.

This November 2017 weekend comes with an emphasis on moving your project from “idea” to “published!”

The pages that follow include an introduction to your writing coaches, a draft schedule (emphasis on the “draft”, since we'll adjust it to suit our moods of the day), and some suggestions for preparation to help you get the most out of the weekend.

Your coaches, who come at “writing” from quite diverse perspectives:

Justine Bylo has a passion for working with independent authors and publishers, getting their books into the world. Justine currently works with IngramSpark authors and publishers to help grow their businesses and expand their flourishing platforms. She is committed to the innovation behind IngramSpark so that clients always have the most cutting edge services. Justine has worked with Ingram Content Group for 4 years in various parts of the business. She was a Lightning Source sales representative where she was committed to both the print and digital needs of independent publishers. She then worked for Ingram Publisher Services where she helped clients strategize. Justine started her career in the unlikely place of television. She was a writing intern for The Colbert Report, where her snappy one-liners landed her jokes on the air. She later worked in reality-TV development at Oxygen and Bravo before making the switch to publishing. A graduate of NYU Tisch in Dramatic Writing, she continues to work on her romance novels during her free time.

Annie Hwang,

Originally from Los Angeles, Annie represents a range of fiction and select nonfiction authors. As a former journalist, she possesses a keen editorial eye which she brings to her approach to agenting, taking an active role in helping clients reach their full potential and guiding them through every stage of their writing projects, from idea to publication and beyond. Since joining Folio Literary Management, she's had the pleasure of working with both debut and seasoned authors. Here's how Annie describes her goals:

“I am actively seeking new clients, and I gravitate toward literary fiction featuring diverse characters and authentic voices; rich historical fiction where the setting takes on a life of its own; visceral literary thrillers with dark psychological grit; and nuanced speculative/science-fiction or non-fiction that explores what it means to be human in the age of technology. I love to champion underrepresented voices, and am particularly drawn to complex characters with emotional resonance, deftly braided narratives, and captivating layered plots. Above all, I'm always on the hunt for gifted storytelling that stretches its genre to new heights. When it comes to nonfiction, I'm open to fresh, smart, well-branded nonfiction in the areas of pop science, pop culture, diet, health, fitness, food, lifestyle, and humor.

<http://www.foliolit.com/annie-hwang>

<https://www.publishersmarketplace.com/members/hwangan/>

Emma Lapsansky has spent the last half-century as an academic historian, consulting to museums, and to high-school curriculum specialists, as well as helping to design the latest iteration of the Advanced Placement curriculum and national exam. Since 1981, she has been published in various peer-reviewed venues at least once a year. She thinks of her strength as the



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ability to translate complex ideas into accessible and inviting language, and from that perspective she has been editing and teaching writing for the past fifteen years. She is now working on a history of a 1950s Philadelphia Quaker housing cooperative.

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&q=lapsansky+emma&as_sdt=1%2C31&as_sdtp=&oq=Emma

Kay G. Rock, author of *Over the Hill and Gaining Speed* and *Everything I Know About Relationships I Learned Dancing*, **Kay G. Rock** retired from corporate life at age 65, and has since been pursuing a lifelong dream of becoming a writer. She has written a monthly column for the "Bucks County Herald," covering a wide range of topics and observations that include travel, history, relationships, sports, and daily life. Previous writing includes articles for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* 'LifeStyle' section, focused on careers and vocational calling. Her Letters to the Editor and general commentary have been published by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Intelligencer*, and *Episcopal Life*. Her feature articles have been published in *Psychology Today*, the *Manchester Review*, and *St. Martin's Cloak*. A collection of her poems appears in *Soliloquy*, a literary magazine. Kay is also the author of a Kindle eBook entitled *Everything I Know About Relationships I Learned Dancing*, available at www.amazon.com. For more information about her work, please visit her blog and website

<http://www.kaygrock.com>.



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DRAFT Schedule

Friday, Noon-6 pm Arrival

6:30 Supper

8:00 Session I: “...the Space Between...” Emma Lapsansky

Many of us don't think of ourselves as “writers.” And yet, we know we have something we want to/need to say to the world. How to cross the canyon that separates our ideas from the readers' eyes and ears is always a delicate question. How does an author make the best of that space between our voice and our intended audiences' perceptions? This session, centered around “words-as-toys”, explores some of the dynamics of inviting a playmate into your view of the world.

Saturday

8:30-9:30- Breakfast in Minerva's kitchen

10: 00 Session II: “*ENJOYING THE PROCESS OF WRITING...*at least some of the time!” **Kay Rock**

Winston Churchill, an avocational artist, famously said that there is nothing more intimidating than a blank, pure white canvas. Writers the world over have had similar thoughts about a blank white page or the throbbing cursor on a computer screen. Kay will lead us in a series of fun, interactive exercises designed to help melt barriers that may keep us from conceiving of ourselves as “writers,” and may prevent us from writing. Kay has some suggestions for relaxing and enjoying the process. Whether you're just starting to acknowledge your desire/*(need?)* to write, or have been at it for decades, you'll come away with insights into what writing means to you, and how you can move your projects forward with less angst.

11:30 Lunch on your own, and the afternoon to give hospitality to the muse

******(Massages available during this time by prior arrangement)***

5:00 Session III: “In search of the perfect publisher relationship” **Justine Bylo and Annie Hwang**

Connecting yourself and your work with an agent and a publisher is perhaps a bit like speed-dating: the right relationship is out there, but how do you find it? The concept of speed-dating is built on the belief that the “right” relationship IS findable. Justine and Annie have many years experience in helping writers navigate that find-ability. In this interactive exploration and Q & A, they will help you think through your next steps to publication—including the seemingly-daunting terrain of *self*-publication.

6:30 Supper in Minerva's kitchen

- **Please bring with you 6 printed copies of 5-8 pages of a current project (or outline/notes for a project.)**

Evening to be spent reading each others' writing samples. This is a “solitary” assignment, in preparation for the Sunday morning discussion session. During supper, we will say more about this assignment and its goals.

Sunday

8:30-9:30 Breakfast in Minerva's kitchen

10:30-11:30 Managing Critique: A Look at Each Others' Wor(l)ds—Emma

- In this session, each writer is asked to become invested in the projects of the others, to be willing to be vulnerable to the group process, and to be compassionate about and focused on the progress of the others.