



NEWS RELEASE

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HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS WRITERS CONFERENCE

(Belcamp, Maryland – August 19, 2015) Join authors, editors, and agents at the Bel Air Library on Sunday, September 27th from 8:15am to 4:15pm for skill building, insight, and opportunities that provide valuable information on the craft of writing at the 2015 *Just Write Writers Conference*. The Conference will have accomplished regional authors including Elissa Brent Weissman, Jen Michalski, and Mary Hart Perry to work with writers at all levels. Learn about Thrillers from Robert Bidinotto, author of the *Hunter* series; Who done it from mystery writer Alan Orloff; Plotting from Laura Bowers; Editing and Memoir writing from Ramona DeFelice Long; Writing for Children from Mary Amato; and on and on! Informal panel discussions will cover Accuracy, Writing Habits, and more. Participants can choose five sessions from among 28 options that include discussions and presentations providing practical, relevant information and examples.

This year's keynote speaker is New York Times Bestselling author Nadia Hashimi. Her experiences growing up in the United States with a close knit Afghan family led her to write stories about the country of her parents and grandparents. *The Pearl that Broke its Shell* was released in 2014 and is based on Nadia's grandmother's life. Her second novel, *When the Moon is Low*, follows the perilous journey of an Afghan family as they flee Taliban-controlled Kabul.

New to the Conference this year are opportunities to participate in small group critique sessions geared to your genre and to pitch your manuscript or project to representatives from P.S. Literary, Grosvenor Literary, and the Booker Alpert Literary

agencies. To get you ready for Sunday's pitch, we even have a free, open to all, pre-conference session on Saturday, September 26th from 2 to 4:30pm. *Pitch Perfect* is taught by literary agent Sheree Bykofsky, founder of Bykofsky and Associates. She will turn your pitches, elevator speeches, and query letters inside out and make them sing! Of course, the one-on-one manuscript critiques will also be available.

The \$80 registration fee covers Conference sessions, lunch and snacks. Agent pitches and manuscript critiques are an additional fee. *Pitch Perfect* on Saturday is free and open to all, regardless of Conference registration. The *Just Write Writers Conference* and *Pitch Perfect* program are by registration only – you must pre-register to attend and space in both is limited. The deadline for registrations is September 21, 2015. Please go to www.hcpl-justwrite.com for more information and to register.

Harford County Public Library operates eleven branches located throughout Harford County, Maryland. The library serves over 181,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of over 3.8 million. Harford County Public Library is committed to connecting people with information and promoting the love of reading within the community.

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Photo caption #1: Children's author Kevin Sherry talks about various revisions his book went through.

Photo caption #2: Baltimore author Rafael Alvarez talks about the DIY Book Tour.

Photo caption #3: Novelist Kathryn Craft explains the intricacies of plotting.