



NEWS RELEASE

1221-A Brass Mill Road 21017 • HCPLonline.org
410-273-5600, 410-575-6761 • Fax: 410-273-5606

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Janine M. Lis
Harford County Public Library
(o) 410 273 5600 x2256 (m) 443 252 0623
lis@hcplonline.org
HCPLonline.org

JUST WRITE WRITER'S CONFERENCE HUGE SUCCESS

(Belcamp, Maryland – October 14, 2014) The Harford County Public Library's second annual *Just Write* Writer's Conference was a huge success with eleven regional authors, three editors, two publishers, an agent, and 108 registrants participating in the day's activities. Attendees chose from workshops in young adult, adult, and children's writing and how the publishing process works, and was provided tips on how to make characters, dialog, settings, and even real life read more realistically. Five moderated discussion sessions engaged writers to talk about their writing habits and what they have learned through their trials and errors.

Baltimore author and a writer for the HBO show "The Wire", Rafael Alvarez, spoke at the conference about how to do a DIY book tour and the art of non-fiction and how to turn an interview into a conversation. "Please let me know the next time you are doing this! I want to continue to participate," stated Alvarez.

The day also offered an opportunity for novice writers to have their work evaluated one-on-one by a published author. "I can't believe I have this opportunity! It really brings the process to the next level," said one would-be novelist. "I was astonished at the caliber of work I reviewed and the interest in my sessions," commented author and editor Kathryn Craft. "These are serious writers."

A new addition to the Conference this year was the inclusion of a literary agent. Agent Dawn Dowdle of the Blue Ridge Literary Agency talked to participants about

how an agent works. "This was a great day and well-run! You have some dedicated writers here and I want to hear from them," stated Dowdle at the end of the day.

Local historical fiction novelist Erika Robuck, author of *Call Me Zelda*, *Hemingway's Girl*, and *Fallen Beauty* was the guest speaker at the wrap-up reception another new addition to the conference this year. A small reception and informal presentation was the perfect ending to the day.

Holding the *Just Write* Writer's Conference at the Bel Air Library enables the Library to offer an exclusive event with smaller session sizes. This equates to the attendees being able to interact more closely with the presenters and the relaxed schedule allows time between sessions to ask questions, get books signed, and just converse. An open lunch hour also encourages conversation and networking. "The Library will be listening to the feedback from attendees and presenters and evaluating the Conference to make it even better for next year," stated Conference Coordinator and Library Community Relations Specialist Bethany Hacker. "We want to make sure we are providing what our customers want and need!"

Harford County Public Library operates eleven branches located throughout Harford County, Maryland. The library serves over 191,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of over 4.1 million. Harford County Public Library is committed to connecting people with information and promoting the love of reading within the community.

###

Photo caption #1: Kevin Sherry, local children's author shared his writing and illustrating journey with as much animation as you will find in his books.

Photo caption #2: Harrison Demchick, developmental editor with Ambitious Enterprises speaks to attendees at Just Write Writer's Conference.

Photo caption #3: Erika Robuck signs books at the wrap up session.