

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2018

Contact: Donald Vaughan
dvaughan@mindspring.com
919-888-8198

11TH ANNUAL WRITERS CONFERENCE FEATURES AWARD-WINNING FICTION WRITER AND ESQUIRE EDITOR

Raleigh, N.C. – The **Triangle Association of Freelancers (TAF)** will offer sessions on fiction and nonfiction writing at the organization’s annual **Write Now!** conference on Saturday, April 28, 2018, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at The McKimmon Conference & Training Center in Raleigh. Highlights include an opening keynote address by award-winning fiction writer Megan Mayhew Bergman; a concluding keynote by *Esquire* contributing editor Mike Sager; and a session on landing an agent by literary agent Lisa Hagan, co-founder of Lisa Hagan Books.

Write Now! 2018 will offer topics aimed at educating, motivating and inspiring beginning and established writers. In Bergman’s morning keynote, “Harnessing Inspiration for Publishing Success,” she’ll reveal how writers can set themselves up for receiving and harnessing inspiration, cultivate a relationship with wonder, and move from ideas to putting words on the page. Bergman’s first collection of stories, *Birds of a Lesser Paradise*, was met with widespread critical acclaim. Angelica Houston called her latest, *Almost Famous Women*, “lovely and heartbreaking.” In addition to her keynote, Bergman will present “I’ve Got Something to Say: Writing and Selling Personal Essays.”

Sager’s closing keynote, entitled “Creativity and Self-Reinvention,” will answer the question “How can you achieve and maintain professional success as your writing career moves forward?” Sager, who has been called “the Beat poet of American journalism,” has written for *Esquire* magazine for more than 20 years. His awards include the American Society of Magazine Editors National Magazine award for profile writing. Nine of his articles have been optioned for or have inspired television movies and series and feature films, including *Boogie Nights*. Sager will also present a session entitled “51 Ways to Improve Your Writing.”

Additional conference presenters include TAF founder Don Vaughan, “Building A Better Article”; John Kessel, “Character Development in Short Fiction”; John Claude Bemis, “Children’s Writing 101”; Mandy Howard, “A Beginner’s Guide to Writing Success”; Karin Wiberg, “From Children’s Lit to Business Legit: Making Your Message Stick”; Tivi Jones, “Seven Keys to Creating a Profitable Online Brand”; and Jeff Davidson, “Introduction to Copyright.”

Online registration is now open: \$89 is the standard registration fee; \$75 for students with valid ID, seniors 65+, and retired/active-duty military personnel. Walk-in attendees are welcome the day of the conference, where registration will be \$109. The conference fee includes all conference activities, coffee during morning registration, a catered lunch, and the opportunity to enter to win a variety of door prizes. For more information, or to register online, visit <https://TAFNC.com/WriteNow>.

Triangle Association of Freelancers (TAF) is a nonprofit organization serving independent nonfiction and fiction writers in the Triangle region of North Carolina. Founded in 2003, TAF is committed to educating, mentoring and promoting both aspiring and established writers by connecting them with fellow writers and the vital resources and services available to them. TAF advocates for fair compensation of writers and content creators, as well as the ongoing professional development of those in the writing profession. To those ends, TAF hosts monthly meetings featuring guest speakers presenting on a diverse array of topics, and presents an annual writers conference each spring.

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