

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2026

NEWBERY MEDAL-WINNING CHILDREN'S AUTHOR MEG MEDINA AND NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR MOLLY GUPTILL MANNING TO KEYNOTE WRITE NOW! 2026

Raleigh, N.C. – **Triangle Association of Freelancers (TAF)** is proud to announce that Meg Medina, Library of Congress National Ambassador for Young People's Literature 2023-2024, and Molly Guptill Manning, Associate Professor of Law at New York Law School, will keynote Write Now! 2026, TAF's 16th annual spring writing symposium.

The conference will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at The McKimmon Conference & Training Center at North Carolina State University, 1101 Gorman Street, in Raleigh. Doors will open at 8 a.m. and the conference will begin with Meg Medina's opening address at 9 a.m. The event will conclude at 4:15 p.m.

Meg Medina is the author of the Newbery Medal-winning book *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*, which was followed by two more acclaimed books about the Suárez family: *Merci Suárez Can't Dance* and *Merci Suárez Plays It Cool*. Her young adult novels include *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*, which won the 2014 Pura Belpré Author Award; *Burn Baby Burn*, which was long-listed for the National Book Award; and *The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind*. Meg has also authored several picture books, as well as young-reader biographies of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and author Pura Belpré. Her newest middle-grade novel, *Graciela in the Abyss*, is her first fantasy. Meg's keynote address is entitled "Writing for Young People in Times of Turmoil." In addition, she will present "The Way In and the Way Out: A Blueprint for Writing Children's Literature."

Molly Guptill Manning is an author, historian, curator and associate professor of law at New York Law School. She is the author of the New York Times bestseller *When Books Went to War*, as well as *The Myth of Ephraim Tutt* and *The War of Words*. Her next book, *A Librarian's War*, will be published later this year [2026]. Molly has spoken across the country about the power of the written word, and curated the exhibit "The Best-Read Army in the World," which showcases the essential role that books, magazines and newspapers played in World War II. The exhibit launched in New York City in 2023 and is traveling internationally. Molly's keynote address is entitled "Lessons from Wartime Writers: Truth Telling Under Pressure." She will also present a session on "Searching for Needles in Haystacks: Adventures in Researching."

Additional conference presenters include Don Vaughan on “50 Years a Writer: 10 Career Lessons From the Freelance Trenches”; Sarah Merritt Ryan on “Writing Personal Truths that Resonate”; Rita Lewis on “Shadow Writing: How to Write When you Can’t”; Karin Wiberg on “Crafting Emotion on Purpose”; Mitch Tuchman on “Negotiating Your Publishing Agreement: Keeping a Watchful Eye”; and Kianna Alexander, Karen Booth, and Deborah Fletcher Mello on “Writing for Harlequin: A Romance Panel.”

The fee for Write Now! 2026 is \$109 through April 15; \$119 from April 16 through May 14; and \$125 at the door. A special rate of \$99 for Students and Seniors will be offered through April 15. Registration includes all conference activities, coffee/tea/water during morning registration, a catered box lunch, and door prizes. For more information or to register online, visit <https://tafnc.com/WriteNow>.

Triangle Association of Freelancers is a nonprofit organization serving independent nonfiction and fiction writers throughout 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.

Contact: Donald Vaughan

Tel: 919-888-8198

Email: tarzanswings58@gmail.com

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