

2016 MONTE SANO WRITERS CONFERENCE

April 2, 2016

8:00 - 8:30 am Registration and Social

8:30 - 9:25 am Opening Session (Sanctuary)

- Welcome: **Rev. Dale Clem** (Author and Host)
- Orientation, Introduction to our Author/Instructors & Introduction of our Keynote Speaker: **Homer Hickam** (Author and Master of Ceremonies)

• Keynote Speaker - **Lynn Raye Harris** is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of the HOSTILE OPERATIONS TEAM SERIES of military romances as well as twenty books for Harlequin Presents. A finalist for the Romance Writers of America's Golden Heart Award and the National Readers Choice Award, Lynn lives in Alabama with her handsome former military husband, two crazy cats, and one spoiled American Saddlebred horse. Lynn's books have been called "exceptional and emotional," "intense," and "sizzling." Lynn's books have sold over 3 million copies worldwide.
<http://lynnrayeharris.com/>



5 minute break

9:30 - 11:55 am (Community Rooms)

• Breakout sessions by our featured Authors. Pick one to attend each session hour. There will be a five-minute break between each session.

• Your Session Choices:

•• Writing and publishing the Romance novel – it is just writing a novel with a little more! – Lynne Raye Harris in the Sanctuary. Course note: TBD

•• Cooking Up A Novel: The essential ingredients of a novel using *The Fuhrer Document* as an example. - Jerry Barksdale in Room TBD. Course note: TBD

•• Graphic Novels: But I can't draw! A how-to for this popular genre." - Danny Boyd in Room TBD. Course note:

•• Writing In Your Own Voice About Your Own Self: The art of writing memoirs – Dale Clem and Homer Hickam in Room TBD. Course note: Memoirs are one of the most popular genres in American literature. Among the topics to be discussed: The creative arc of the memoir. The difference between a memoir and an autobiography and the similarities between memoirs and novels. Do memoirs have plots? We'll talk about that along with a discussion of the use of composite characters and other novelistic techniques.

•• Blogging for fun and profit – MaryAnn Martin in Room TBD Course note: TBD

•• World Building for Fiction – Ashley Chappell in Room TBD. Course note: The universe is putty in your hands! This workshop is designed to introduce world building concepts to writers of fiction in all genres. We'll discuss considerations for creating and describing societal structures and physical settings and why they are important to your characters/story. We'll also discuss history/religion/mythological structures, as well as ways to set the stage for magic and/or tech in your new world. We'll use examples from literature and cinema.

12:00 – 12:55 pm – Hot Lunch

A big thanks to our hosts, the Monte Sano United Methodist Church Youth Group!

Reconvene in the Sanctuary for A SERIES OF PANELS with authors as shown:

1:00 - 1:55 pm PANEL 1 - Creating compelling characters. Q&A from attendees. (Hickam, Harris, Barksdale, Boyd)

2:00 – 2:55 pm PANEL 2 - Adventures in publication: Getting published, attaining agents, query letters, self publishing. Q&A from attendees.
(Hickam, Harris, Martin, Boyd)

3:00 – 3:55 pm PANEL 3 - Marketing, marketing, marketing! The how, when, where, and why of marketing your book. Q&A from attendees. (all authors)

4:00 – 4:30 pm - Social, Networking, and Author/Presenter Book signing in the Community Room (Books for sale all day, where lunch is served). Please support and thank our authors who so graciously shared with us today.