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July 9, 2019

WORDfest Southwest scheduled for Aug. 3

This first-ever free event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 at the Burleson Senior Center, 216 SW Johnson Ave.

Whether you're a beginning writer trying to find your way to 'The End' or a ten-book veteran ready to kick-start the next stage of your career, WORDfest Southwest is a place to share your expertise, get help, and discover the community you need to take your work to the next level. This first-ever free event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 at the Burleson Senior Center, 216 SW Johnson Ave. Although the event is free, tickets are required. You can get your ticket at <https://www.dfwordfest.org/southwest>

The event will open with New-York Times, USA Today and Wall-Street Journal bestselling author, Rachel Caine, presenting 'Check Your Assumptions' where she show examples of different projects she has worked on, share lessons from mistakes she has made and give other tips to aspiring writers.

Caine is a bestselling author of more than 50 books in several categories and genres, including adult thriller and adult urban fantasy/SF as well as books for young adults ages twelve to eighteen. She is the winner of several national awards, and most recently was a finalist in both the International Thriller Writers awards and the Killer Nashville awards for her debut thriller novel "Stillhouse Lake".

Then Taylor Stevens will address event-goers 'On Being Good Enough as a Writer.' Stevens is an award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of the critically acclaimed Vanessa Michael Munroe series. Published in over twenty languages and optioned for film by James Cameron's production company, Lightstorm Entertainment, the books are international boots-on-the-ground thrillers featuring a mercenary information hunter in a non-testosterone mix of Jason Bourne and Jack Reacher. In addition to writing novels, she shares extensively about the mechanics of storytelling, writing, overcoming adversity, and her journey into publishing.

After lunch, participants will select breakout sessions from a wide range of talented writers. Sessions include:

- 'How to Bring Your Dead Story to Life' with Kathryn McClatchy. McClatchy writes thrillers and creative nonfiction, she has created and/or managed social media campaigns for three non-profit writing organizations, created and facilitated a flash fiction contest that has since been named after her, and coaches writers and businesses on platform building, productivity, ADA Compliance, and developmental writing.
- 'Magic Beyond Middle Earth: Learning from Chinese Folklore' presented by Laurie Brown. Brown has a degree in History from the University of Texas at Austin, speaks and reads Mandarin Chinese, and lived in China, Taiwan, and South Korea for ten years.
- 'Characters Built to Order: The Frozen Burrito Theory for Writers' with Lynda Rodriguez. Rodriguez holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts, a Master's Degree in Educational Research and a Master's Degree in performing arts. She has been recognized as an outstanding playwright by the Langdon Review of the Arts in Texas and as an Art's

Educator by Texas Commission on the Arts.

- 'Writing Wickedly Good Villains' presented by Shayla Raquel. Raquel works one-on-one with authors and business owners every day. A lifelong lover of books, she has edited over 300 books and has launched several Amazon bestsellers for her clients. Her award-winning blog teaches new and established authors how to write, publish, and market their books. She is the author of the "Pre-Publishing Checklist", "The Rotting" (in Shivers in the Night), and "The Suicide Tree".
- 'How to Write a Memorable Short Story' with Brian and Marylou Condike. Marylou's short story "Until Your Better Is Best" was published in Boundless, Stories by Authors Destined to Soar, A Vinculinc Anthology, Vinculinc, Inc., 2017. She placed 3rd and received an Honorable Mention for 4th place in the 2019 Kathryn McClatchy Flash Fiction Contest. She also freelances for RedFinn Publishing. Brian has been writing fiction only the past few years. His ultimate goal is to traditionally publish one or more novels. He has won several local short story contests, and recently placed in the top 1% of a Writer's Digest national short story competition. He is currently attending the Writers Path program at Southwestern University and has completed the first draft of a mystery novel entitled, "Wrongful Death".

The first 200 participants through the door will receive a free tote bag and Nana's Lunchbox food truck will be on-site during the event's lunch break.

The event is hosted by Burleson Public Library and presented by Writers Organizations 'Round Dallas, Visit Burleson, Friends of the Burleson Public Library and the Burleson Senior Center.

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