

## 2020 Cedar Falls Christian Writers Workshop Speakers

### Keynote:

**Shelly Beach** is a multiple award-winning author of more than twelve books and co-author of numerous others. She helped co-found Breathe Writer's Conference in Grand Rapids, MI and the Cedar Falls Christian Writer's Workshop in Iowa. Shelly is also co-founder of [PTSDPerspectives.org](http://PTSDPerspectives.org) and founder of Caregiving Journey on Facebook. She served as managing editor for the NIV Hope in the Mourning Bible (Zondervan) and also contributed to the Mosaic Bible (Tyndale) and was one of three writers for the NIV Stewardship Bible (Zondervan).



Shelly is a national speaker for Prison Fellowship and speaks and consults across the nation. She can be found at [PTSDPerspectives.org](http://PTSDPerspectives.org), PTSDPerspectives and Caregiving Journey on Facebook, and [ShellyBeachOnline.com](http://ShellyBeachOnline.com). Shelly and her husband, Dan, moved back to Iowa from Michigan in 2019, and we are blessed to have her back in our community. She speaks, writes, edits, consults, and helps others bring their books to life.



**Mary Potter Kenyon** graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a BA in psychology and is a certified grief counselor. By day, she works as Program Coordinator for Shalom Spirituality Center. By night, she is a public speaker for churches and women's groups and a workshop presenter and writing instructor for community colleges, libraries, and writer's conferences. She is widely published in newspapers, magazines, and anthologies, including ten Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Mary is the author of seven books, including the award-winning *Refined by Fire: A Journey of Grief and Grace* and the upcoming *Called to Be Creative*, endorsed by #1 New York Times bestselling author Debbie Macomber. Mary lives in Dubuque, Iowa, with the youngest of her eight children. Visit her website at [marypotterkenyon.com](http://marypotterkenyon.com).



**Jean Vaux**, Life Design Coach, writer and speaker, helps influencers and communicators align with their design to re-invent body, soul and spiritual health, so they can serve and lead from strength, not stress. She was the former managing editor of the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Magazine* and the *Cedar Valley Christian News/Iowa Christian Chronicle*. She also helped start the *Cedar Valley Athlete Magazine* locally and was its Wellness Editor. Jean has a heart for Riverview. In the 1990's, she worked on a committee to revitalize the conference grounds to rescue it from developers. She leads workshops and retreats and is a natural foodie. You can find her on Tuesdays at Green Fields, a local health food store and can like her Facebook page at JeanVauxCoaching.



**Sue Schuerman** has taught workshops on Dialoguing with Nature, The Significance of Place and The Language of Landscape. Other experience includes teaching various writing and creativity workshops, leading writing groups, publishing in magazines (including *Iowa Horticulturalist*) and several anthologies, co-planning an annual Christian writers conference and attending nature retreats. Former executive director of the Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, Master Gardener, member of Prairie Rapids Audubon Society and a certified Life Legacy Facilitator.



**Wanda Sanchez** is executive producer of one of the nation's longest running talk shows, which broadcasts in San Francisco. With more than twenty-five years of broadcast media experience in television and radio, Wanda is the executive publicist at WLS Communications, a public relations/media consulting/communications firm based in Grand Rapids, MI. Her clients have appeared on *Larry King*, *Oprah*, as well as *Good Morning America* and top cable and network news shows. Wanda is a regular contributor to *Family Labs*, an online magazine. Wanda's writing has also been published in *Worldnet Daily*, and in the *Hope in the Mourning Bible* (Zondervan), and on *Examiner.com*. As a media personality, Wanda is followed by five thousand fans on Facebook and more than 1,500 fans on Twitter.

Partnered with Shelly Beach, Wanda is co-founder of [PTSDPerspectives.org](http://PTSDPerspectives.org) and co-author of the multiple award-winning *Love Letters from the Edge: Meditations for Those Struggling with Brokenness, Trauma and the Pain of Life* (Kregel Publications 2014) and the e-book, *The Truth about Trauma*. She speaks across the nation in prisons, in mental and medical health facilities, in churches and at women's conferences on the topic of trauma, hope and healing. Her blog can be found at [PTSDPerspectives.org](http://PTSDPerspectives.org)



**Maribeth Boelts** is the author of 37 books for children, published by Random House, Candlewick Press, Harcourt, and Zondervan. Her picture book, *Those Shoes*, is in its 35th printing, and like many of her titles, is translated in several languages. She is a former teacher, and in addition to writing for children, she enjoys visiting schools across the country to work with young readers and writers. To learn more, visit [www.maribethboelts.com](http://www.maribethboelts.com)



An Iowa farm girl (baby boomer), **Gail Kittleson** appeared with her thick glasses at the local library counter every Saturday of her childhood and hauled home a new pile of books. Later, she earned her MA in TESOL and taught English as a Second Language and college expository writing. Over a ten-year period during her husband Lance's deployments to the Middle East, Gail's memoir developed, and another is presently with a publisher. Since the World War II bug bit, she's never been quite the same. Her Women of the Heartland fiction brings to life this challenging era's make-do women whom she loves to introduce to new readers.

Gail delights in historical research, grandchildren, gardening in Northern Iowa, and Arizona's Mogollon Rim in winter. Facilitating workshops fulfills her teaching craving, and she also cheers other writers on through free-lance editing. You can find more about her publications and check out her blog at [www.gailkittleson.com](http://www.gailkittleson.com).



**Anne Fleck** is the owner of Write Team, a book coaching and editing business. She supports writers as they develop their talents and pursue their publishing goals. Anne works on memoir, fiction, and historical story telling. This year three of her clients published their work, two of whom are alumni of CFCWW. She lives in Polk City with her husband, two kids, dog, and both her parents.



**Kim Harms** is a writer and speaker represented by Karen Neumair of Credo Communications Literary Agency. She is under contract with Familius Publishing for her first book, tentatively titled *Life Reconstructed: A Girlfriend's Guide to Mastectomies and Breast Reconstruction*. Harms has a degree in English: Literary Studies from Iowa State University and has contributed to many magazines and devotionals, including Christianity Today, Guideposts, Wildfire and The Upper Room. She underwent a bilateral mastectomy and reconstruction surgeries in 2016 after being diagnosed with breast cancer at age 40 and provides encouragement and information on living a Life Reconstructed at [kimharms.net](http://kimharms.net). Her home is in Huxley, Iowa where she lives with her husband Corey, their three ever-growing man-children and one crazy dog.



**Doug Shaw** is a professor at the University of Northern Iowa who has won many awards for his teaching. He's been a systems engineer, street-busker, variety show performer, comedy troupe director, and elected member of the Cedar Falls school board. He's facilitated workshops about teaching, mathematics, improv, creativity, innovation, and all sorts of things since 1995 in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Montreal. He is the author of books on the teaching of Calculus, a co-author of a precalculus text, and the author of *Social Nonsense: Creative Diversions for Two or More Players - Anytime, Anywhere*. Find more about Doug at [www.dougshaw.com](http://www.dougshaw.com)