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Virtual Event Connects Indie Authors with Local Libraries
Fifth Indie Author Day to be held online Saturday, November 7

Maybe all these months of quarantine have made you more determined than ever to write that great novel, or maybe you've even completed a manuscript. But what do you do now to get your work published and out in the world to be read? Writers wishing to publish their work have more options than ever, but may be unsure about where to begin. On **Saturday, November 7**, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library will host its annual **Indie Author Day** online, via Zoom, from **9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**. This free program is part of a nationwide initiative that connects independent writers, publishers and illustrators with their local public libraries and writing communities.

This year's Indie Author Day will feature four presentations by local experts that will provide advice and insight into writing, publishing and marketing a book during all stages of the process – whether one is beginning a writing project or a published author working to build their brand online. The online discussion will wrap up with a general Q&A panel of local authors. Click here to register:

<https://buffalolib.libcal.com/event/7140858>.

Although attendees will not be able to meet in person at Indie Author Day this year, the Library plans to help connect area authors through the compilation and distribution of an Erie County Indie Author Directory, featuring the bios and contact information of registered writers.

"Erie County is home to such vast literary talent," said Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "In 2019, more than 80 authors gathered at the downtown Central Library to network with their peers and learn from those in the field. We hope this year's digital format will allow this event to inspire and educate an even greater number of writers."

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Indie Author Day Schedule
Saturday, November 7, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **9:00-9:10 a.m.: “Welcome to All” - Buffalo & Erie County Public Library**
Director Mary Jean Jakubowski welcomes everyone and introduces the day’s agenda.
- **9:15-9:45 a.m.: “What to Do When You Have Finished Your Book” – Avril Marie**, personal assistant to indie authors. This presentation will explore how to make sure your manuscript is the best it can be and describe the different publishing options available to authors.
- **9:45-10:15 a.m.: “Considerations in Writing Memoir” – Dolores Johnson**, author of *Say I’m Dead: A Family Memoir of Race, Secrets, and Love*. Johnson will discuss the unique tools involved in writing memoir. Topics will include research, sensitivity of family and friends, and the difference between writing for the family versus creating a central theme for a published story.
- **10:15-10:45 a.m.: “What Mo Knows and More” – Barbara Sanchez**, writers’ advocate/Barb’s Book Buddies. From best-selling authors to small and indie literary publishers to her own “points to ponder,” Barb will share thoughts, ideas and tips to assist authors of all ages to hone their craft.
- **10:45-11:15 a.m.: “Behind the Scenes: How Books are Really Marketed” – Marti Gorman**, publisher at City of Light Publishing. Learn about book promotion at every step of your book’s journey, from a new author agreement to backlist status. Gorman will discuss marketing beyond Amazon and social media, as well as how to reach librarians, booksellers, reviewers, and readers.
- **11:00-11:45 a.m.: Q&A Panel Discussion.** Panelists include authors Noah Falck and Alyssa Palombo, and indie bookstore owner Kimberly Krug as well as several others.
- Additional links will be provided to attendees interested in watching national indie author presentations.

Indie Author Day is **free and open to the public**, but advance registration is encouraged. All Erie County writers, from notebook scribblers to published authors, are welcome to attend this online event. Details, registration, the Zoom link for the event, and the submission form for the author directory can be found on the event webpage: <https://buffalolib.libcal.com/event/7140858>

For more information about this event and other Library programming, visit www.BuffaloLib.org or call the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library at 716-858-8900.

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