

# BOOK MAXINE!

AUTHOR | WRITER | SPEAKER

I give workshops and presentations at schools, libraries and conferences both nationwide and internationally. I've been a workshop leader and guest lecturer at numerous venues including Case Western Reserve University, University of California,, University of San Francisco, San Francisco Writing Conference Mendocino Coast Writing Conference, San Francisco Writer's Salon, American Library of Paris, and Shakespeare & Co., Paris.

I'm able to connect with and inspire a variety of audiences. Besides sharing wit and wisdom about my books and award-winning travel writing. As a former professional actress, I'm a dynamic, riveting presenter. I create fun presentations about my children's books for kids from kindergarten through high school.

For adults, I speak on the writing of children's books as well as the craft of the literary travel essay.

## SAMPLE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

### BRAVE WITH BEAUTY

Telling the story of a little known queen in 14th century Afghanistan whom many historians now think was the most powerful woman in history, **Brave with Beauty** provides a window into the history of a country most people know nothing about. This advanced picture book lends itself perfectly to a program for 6-10 year children. Together, we explore the life of Queen Gohar Shad and touch on topics of art, beauty, poetry, courage, history and geography—all in a way that children can understand and enjoy.

### THERE'S A BABIRUSA IN MY BATHTUB!

Have your kids ever bathed with a babirusa, tangled with a tanglung or met a matamata? No? Then they're going to love this program! Every year, scientists discover new animals and together, we'll discover them too. We'll learn about animals that most people have never ever heard of - animals that not only look really strange, but have really strange habits.

This is an interactive, high-energy program, designed to ignite the curiosity of children (and parents!) about the extraordinary diversity of life on earth. Through funny poems, song, incredible facts and visual aids, we'll look at some unsung, unusual animals that are nothing short of amazing.

The program's activities include elements of language arts, vocabulary development and natural history. Oh we're going to have fun!



## ABOUT MAXINE

Maxine Rose Schur is the author of award-winning children's books and travel essays. To learn about her latest books, please visit [maxineroseschur.com](http://maxineroseschur.com).

TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT MAXINE, OR  
VIEW HER WORK,  
VISIT:



[www.maxineroseschur.com](http://www.maxineroseschur.com)

## GULLIBLE GUS

Poor Gus! He's a cowboy that believes everything. Here are three rollicking tall tales telling how Gus was cured of gullibility forever. In this lively program we'll have fun reading one of the stories and exploring its language arts elements such as synonyms, hyperbole, simile, metaphor, idioms and the very sound of words. Kids will have a ball making up their own words and their own creative idioms.

Also, we'll learn about the tall tale genre, its history and characteristics and we'll touch on some other famous American tall tale heroes such as Paul Bunyan, John Henry and Steamboat Annie.

## THE MARVELOUS MAZE

A romantic fairy tale set in a beautiful garden that tell how a clever princess outwits a spoiled, lonely prince and helps him find love.

**The Marvelous Maze**, becomes a springboard for exploring a wealth of topics including the Renaissance, the history of mazes, the definitions of strength, riddles, vocabulary and similes. This program could also include interactive activities such as maze-making and riddle making!

## MARIELLE IN PARIS

**Marielle in Paris** is a comic adventure story of a brave mouse heroine and it's also a loving homage to the beautiful city of Paris. In my interactive, program, I enhance storytelling with activities that spark artistic creativity and imagination including a fun guessing game. We'll also talk about how everyone has fears, how shy doesn't mean timid and how being afraid of something doesn't mean you're not brave.

This program's activities touch on psychology, geography, vocabulary development and encourage a child's imagination, artistic creativity and observation.

## PIGS DANCING JIGS

Storytelling and game time for the little ones. **Pigs Dancing Jigs** is a rhyming alphabet book showing animals around the world doing busy, zany things. My program is geared to children from pre-school through 1st grade and encompasses storytelling, rhyme games, animal knowledge and song. With high-energy and engagement, we have more fun than a barrel of monkeys!

## LET'S DIVE INTO JEWISH HISTORY!

As the author of eight books both fiction and non-fiction that tell Jewish-themed stories,, I offer programs that are both fascinating and fun on a great variety of topics for children from seven years through high school. Please check out these books to see if any one of them might be right for exploration by your students: **The Peddler's Gift, Day of Delight, When I Left my Village, The Circlemaker, Sacred Shadows, Hannah Szenes: A Song of Light, The Story of Ruth, When Zissel Got Rich.**

## AND THERE'S MORE...

Contact me to learn about programs for **Child of the Sea, Finley Finds his Fortune, The Witch at the Wellington Library** and other children's books.

## SCHOOL VISITS: FEES & TERMS

### IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA:

Full Day: \$900 (Includes three sessions)  
Half Day: \$550 (includes two sessions)  
Classroom Visit: \$100 (up to 45 minutes)

### OUTSIDE THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA:

\$1000 per day, plus expenses.

### Public Library Fees:

Storytelling: \$150 (up to 45 minutes)  
Local only.

### CONFERENCE FEES:

Please inquire.

### PREPARING THE STUDENTS

To ensure that my presentation is optimally engaging and educational, I recommend that students in fourth grade and above are familiar with my books ahead of time. Ideally, each student should have read one my books. It's also a good idea to share my website with these older students.

### BOOK SALES

I recommend that my books be offered for sale to the students. I cannot handle sales myself or directly supply books except out-of-print ones. Sales can be handled by a local bookseller or directly from the publisher. Schools managing their own sales should send an order form home to parents before my visit. I'm happy to assist and advise on ordering and book sales.

### AUTOGRAPHING

I can autograph only books and am always happy to stay as long as necessary to sign books.

### EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

For books published by, Lawley Publishing, I've provided fun online activities that enhance the learning of my books. These activities are easily accessed from their website: [www.lawleypublishing.com](http://www.lawleypublishing.com).

## PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

### WANT TO KNOW ABOUT WRITING AND PUBLISHING? AN AUTHOR TELLS ALL.

This program is for high school students who not only want a glimpse into the life of a published author, but want to learn the nuts and bolts of the writing life. This interactive and engaging presentation covers topics such as finding inspiration, brainstorming, understanding the key elements of a story, finding your voice, the secret power of outlining, and an overview of the publishing business from submitting your manuscript to promoting your writing. This proves both a motivational and educational experience for adolescents.

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Not a kid anymore? No problem! I offer intriguing lectures and workshops for adults. I've share my writing experience and provide guidance for your own writing. I've been a guest lecturer both in the US and in France including at Case Western Reserve University, University of California, University of San Francisco, Mendocino Coast Writer's Conference, American Library in Paris and Shakespeare and Company, Paris.

**Please contact me for more information on the following topics. References provided upon request.**

### LECTURE: TO GIVE VOICE

#### EXPLORING LESSER-KNOWN PERIODS AND PLACES IN JEWISH HISTORY

I've twice won the Sydney Taylor Award given by the Association of Jewish Libraries for "The Most Outstanding Book in the Field of Jewish Literature for Children." I've also been twice nominated for the National Jewish Book Award and won the Sugarman Family Award and the Louis B. Dessaur Grant for excellence in Jewish Writing for Young People. In this lecture I tell how I came to the writing about lesser-known periods and places in Jewish history. *I touch on the importance of recording oral history and of rescuing from obscurity the "nooks and crannies" of Jewish life that have been hidden for centuries.*

### LECTURE: CURTAIN UP!

#### USING THEATRE TECHNIQUES TO CREATE BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS

This 90-minute lecture has proved enormously helpful to both beginning and advanced writers who want to improve the quality of their work. With a BA in Theatre Arts from U.C. Berkeley and diverse experience as a professional actress for both stage and television, I will show how I apply acting techniques to my fiction writing to create believable characterization, enhance dialogue, tighten structure, gain grace, and uncover meaning. *Original, entertaining and highly practical, this lecture offers tips and tricks that participants can easily use right away.*

### LECTURE: WRITING AS RITUAL-SEVEN STEPS TO SACRED AUTHORIZING

#### POWERFUL WAYS TO FOSTER A WRITER'S PERSONAL AND ARTISTIC GROWTH

This is for all working writers, whether aspiring or experienced. I share my guide to the writing life using as a framework, seven spiritual rituals by which a writer can gain insight, inspiration, confidence, order and joy. Writing as Ritual is packed with nuggets of advice, writing tips and techniques for enhancing your spiritual and emotional connection to your work. Learn how the rituals of sacrifice, communion, reflection, pilgrimage, candle lighting, recitation and hallowing serve as acts for a writer to strengthen commitment, increase efficiency and foster both personal and artistic growth. *This talk is as much about the writer's worth as it is about the writer's words. It is designed to encourage and empower writers to take charge of, and value their writing aspirations.*

# LECTURE: A SUITCASE FULL OF IDEAS (CAN BE EITHER 60 OR 90 MINUTES)

## CRAFTING GREAT TRAVEL WRITING

In this 60 to 90-minute talk, I'll share my professional travel writing tips that will help you kickstart your own travel writing journey. **You'll learn to:**

- Recognize the difference between a travel essay and a travel article
- Shape and deepen your experience-the 2 keys to turn anecdote into story
- Use fiction techniques in your writing
- Craft sensory details and dialogue
- Leverage your unique talents and knowledge
- Create an "angle" to market your work
- Hook your reader right off the bat

## READING AND INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION: PLACES IN TIME

### REFLECTIONS ON A JOURNEY

Once, I traveled the world for a year and a half, meeting people from Austria to Afghanistan. Years later I wrote about the adventures I experienced and the extraordinary people I met. Through the lens of time and with middle-aged wisdom, I came to understand how my youthful adventures lent meaning and perspective to my life. Now in its third printing, **Places in Time**, was named Best Travel Book of the Year by the Northern California Travel Writers Association and won the Gold Award from the Society of American Travel Writers. **This program includes the dramatic reading of a story followed by Q &A and some tips on getting started as a travel writer.**

## WORKSHOP: THE ART OF TRAVEL WRITING

For those who dream of being a professional travel writer or just want to sell the occasional article from their vacation, this is the workshop! I discuss the craft of the travel writer including the art of selection and description, use of creative non-fiction techniques, hooking the reader, and finding the right "traveler voice." Also covered is the business of travel writing: how to find the right market for your work, as well as information about press trips and travel organizations. An inspiring combination of hands-on exercises, discussion and personal guidance. **This can be a half or full-day workshop.**

## WORKSHOP: WRITE A BOOK KIDS WANT TO READ

All children's books need to tell a story but how do you know if you have a good story? I can move you closer to getting published by examining the elements of your story idea or manuscript: plot, structure, character and dialogue.

Whether you're interested in writing a picture book, chapter book for beginning readers, a middle grade book, or a young adult novel, you'll learn these easy tips and techniques to take your writing to the next level. **You will learn:**

- The main elements your story must have
- To visualize scenes before writing them
- To bring forth your own unique and authentic voice
- The best way to plot your story
- Techniques to make your character believable
- When to use narrative and when to use dialogue
- The goals your revision must accomplish

This workshop is appropriate for beginning and intermediate writers. It's a combination of lecture, discussion, readings, in-depth critiques and hands-on exercises. The focus is deeply personal: on your specific work and your writing goal.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MY PROGRAMS,  
CONTACT ME AT:**

✉ [maxineschur@yahoo.com](mailto:maxineschur@yahoo.com)

