

2018 IWWG Summer Conference

Workshop Descriptions and Workshop Leader Bios

NOTE: All workshops run for 75 minutes each day, Saturday through Thursday, and are open to all, unless otherwise indicated.

Anya Achtenberg (Fiction)

Beyond Mechanical Approaches: The Essential Elements of Fiction—Custom-Made! for Deeper Story

Old ideas dictate we structure all our stories the same—in five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, dénouement. Tension rises; tension falls! Many of our best fiction writers use organic, not conventional, form—discovering form rather than being constricted by it. They go *beyond mechanical approaches* to find their work's coherence *at deeper levels*. We know that character-driven novels don't work by preordained plot, but—for *any* kind of story—how do we use our full creative power to re-open the elements of story and arrive at compelling story structures? These daily sessions will liberate and deepen your work by: opening your story through a look at the story next to the story (simultaneity); breaking open characterization and narration with new perspectives on “writing from a sense of place” *and* placelessness; developing your narrator's personality, attitude, specificity; understanding narration's complex choices; discovering the organic structure of *your* story; and practicing our new tools with daily writing explorations and critiques.

Anya Achtenberg is an award-winning writer whose publications include *Blue Earth* (novel); *The Stories of Devil-Girl* (novella); two poetry collections, *The Stone of Language* and *I Know What the Small Girl Knew*; and recent poetry and prose in *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Malpaís Review*, *Gargoyle*, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *Hinchas de Poesía*, *Poet Lore*, and *Taos Journal of Poetry and Art*. She's received prizes and distinctions from *Southern Poetry Review*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, Francis Ford Coppola's *Zoetrope: All-Story*, *New Letters*, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and others. The anthology *How Dare We! Write: A Multicultural Creative Writing Discourse* (2017) includes her essay on identity and the inadequate instruction to “write from a sense of place.” Anya's almost-completed novel, *History Artist*, centers on a Cambodian woman born the moment the U.S. bombing of Cambodia begins. She recently completed a poetry chapbook, *Advice to Travelers*. Nonfiction work includes essays on writing craft and creative nonfiction on Cuba, where she conducts arts-focused and multicultural journeys. Anya teaches creative writing workshops nationally, as well as online internationally for Udemy.com, Writers.com, and the Transformative Language Arts Network, a Goddard affiliate; and consults with writers individually. In-person and online workshops include *Writing for Social Change: Re-Dream a Just World Workshops* and *The Disobedient Writer Workshop Series*.

www.thedisobedientwriter.com

Lynne Barrett (Fiction)

Spinning Straw into Gold: Exploring Fiction's Many Forms

In this generative workshop, we'll look at the forms fiction can take, from flash fiction that covers a few intense minutes to longer works that may pull in decades. We'll use myths, tales, and modern examples as prompts so that you'll have the chance to build a portfolio from micro-fiction to scenes, sequences, and sketches for longer works, depending on your interests and ideas. At the same time, you'll be provided with tools for understanding time structure, pace, character invention, scenic development, meaningful action, and measurable change. This workshop is open to everyone, whether you've never tried fiction or you're working on projects, as we'll discuss strategies for development and revision.

Lynne Barrett's third story collection, *Maggies*, received the Florida Book Awards Gold Medal for Fiction. Her handbook, *What Editors Want*, guides writers through the submissions process, and her recent fiction and nonfiction can be found in *Necessary Fiction*, *Mystery Tribune*, *The Miami Rail*, *The Southern Women's Review*, *Fort Lauderdale Magazine*, and *Just to Watch Them Die: Crime Stories Inspired by the Songs of Johnny Cash*. A recipient of the Edgar Award for best mystery story, Lynne teaches in the MFA program at Florida International University and is editor of *The Florida Book Review*. www.lynnebarrett.com; www.facebook.com/LynneBarrettauthor; <https://twitter.com/lynnebarrett>

Suzi Banks Baum (Mixed Media)

Illuminated Pages: Connect with the Source of Your Most Powerful Writing through Sensual, Multimedia Play

(Attendance for all 6 days preferred, as lessons cumulatively build. Materials fee: \$2 per day or \$10 for 6 days.)

Our challenge as writers is to get out of our heads. Brain-centered thinking analyzes, argues, organizes, but doesn't create. Creation belongs to the body-realm of the feminine, a place of wholeness that's always with us and accessed through sensual, hands-on play. Through the serendipitous, playful art of mixed-media collage, you'll remember your deep intelligence and connect to the source of your most powerful writing. Suzi is your guide to the divine feminine, on this six-day journey home to your best resource. Your senses will be nourished by the generous provision of gorgeous materials, soulful physical practices and song, and safe sharing. You'll leave with twelve illuminated pages, trust in your hands, and a taproot to your truth. Bring journal, pen, and apron (for inspired mess-making).

Suzi Banks Baum is a writer, artist, actress, teacher, community organizer, and mom. With roots in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, she lives in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. Suzi uses the written word, hand-bound books, and photographs to say what she means. Her first book, *An Anthology of Babes*, celebrates the writing of women artists. Deeply curious about the thresholds we cross into creative practice, she writes personal narrative with an ear for transformation through engagement with the ordinary. Suzi has an ongoing artist residency in Gyumri, Armenia, where she leads an art and writing workshop called New Illuminations,

while also interviewing Armenian women artists about their daily lives. She inspires us to live from the space of creative spirit and to value our contributions to the world and one another through workshops steeped in book arts, ritual, and writing. Suzi's work has been published in *The Collection: Flash Fiction for Flash Memory* (Anchala Studios, 2018) and *Writing Fire: An Anthology Celebrating the Power of Women's Words* (Green Fire Press, 2017). Hear Suzi interviewed on NPR's "51 Percent"; read about Backyard Art Camp in *Mingle* magazine by Stampington & Company; and find her work on *Easy Street*, *Literary Mama*, *Mother Writer Mentor*, *Rebelle Society*, *Mothers Always Write*, and her blog. www.suzibanksbaum.com

Linda Bergman (Screenwriting)

So You Think Your Life's a Movie?

No experience necessary! This six-day, cumulative class is not just for screenwriters. It is for novelists, memoirists, personal essayists, short-story writers, and *anyone* who wants to learn to get to good story *fast*. Linda focuses on the importance of a vivid log line and the industry-standard, three-act structure of a saleable script. As an experienced buyer and seller in the entertainment industry, Linda uses popular films to teach you subplots, plot points, and act breaks. On the last two days, she will stop and start an Academy Award–nominated film so you can see the structure of the film in action! Dialogue, character, research, and the legal aspect of the process is also covered in this fun and entertaining class.

Linda Bergman has written over twenty-four films and produced five of them. Her scripts have been nominated for an Emmy, an Access Award, The Alpha Award for Excellence in children's programming, and the prestigious Writers Guild of America Award. While enrolled at UCLA, she joined the groundbreaking team of the ABC Movie of the Week series under the aegis of creative force Barry Diller. After three years, she moved on to be the Assistant to the President of MGM, then retired to write full-time. She's taught screenwriting at local venues in Los Angeles, in New York City for the Barnard Film Group, at Marin's Book Passage, and at many locales for IWWG. She was also a faculty member for the 2018 San Miguel de Allende Writers' Conference. Linda wrote *So You Think Your Life's a Movie?: Ten Steps to a Script That Sells*, a 2011 Global E Award Winner in the category of Arts and Entertainment, and also *So You Think Your Life's A Movie? The Sequel*, published in 2016. Her first play, *Wanna Play?*, was published by Samuel French and produced on PBS. She is adapting a thriller based on Linda Rappoport's *Moving Targets Live Longer* and working on her third book, *So You Think Your Life's a Movie?: Structure Breakdowns*. www.lindabergmancreativewriting.com

Kelly DuMar (Playwriting)

Play Lab: Writing & Producing Your Short Play or Monologue for the Stage

(Pre-registration required; limited to 12 participants on a first-come/first-served basis)

Have you always wanted to write for the stage, but didn't know how to begin? Short play and monologue festivals are a regular feature of theatre companies, offering novice and experienced playwrights the opportunity to see their writing performed. You'll develop (or

bring) a draft of (1) a ten-minute play, (2) a monologue, (3) an excerpt from a one-woman show, or (4) a short scene from a longer play. Through in-class writing, script reading, and feedback, we'll explore theatrical structure, setup, dialogue, plot, character development, theme, theatricality, and production. We'll discuss successful plays and monologues and tools for avoiding common pitfalls. Our Lab culminates in a performance on Wednesday evening (for an enthusiastic audience of conference attendees), where actors will read your play on stage so you can hear your script on its feet. Our final session focuses on revision and submitting to play festivals for production. No prior playwriting experience is required.

To reserve one of the twelve spaces, email Kelly your intent to participate, at kellydumar@gmail.com, by Friday, July 6, at 9:00 PM. Preference will be given to full-week registrants; there is no additional fee; all participants will be notified immediately upon their request.

Kelly DuMar is a playwright and poet from the Boston area who facilitates creative writing workshops around the U.S. and online, including for IWWG, Mass Poetry, the Power of Words Conference, Playback North America, Berkshire Women Writers, and the New England Theatre Conference. She authored a nonfiction book, *Before You Forget: The Wisdom of Writing Diaries for Your Children*; *Tree of the Apple* (Two of Cups Press 2016 poetry chapbook contest finalist); and *All These Cures* (Lit House Press 2014 poetry chapbook contest winner). Kelly's award-winning plays and monologues are produced around the U.S. and Canada and published by dramatic publishers, including her award-winning one-act play for youth, *The Adventures of Rocky & Skye*, published by Youth Plays. Kelly is a past president of Playwrights' Platform, Boston, where she led new play development for many years. Kelly currently serves on the Board of IWWG and produces IWWG's annual Boston Writing from Your Life Retreat. She founded and produces the Our Voices Festival of Women Playwrights at Wellesley College, now in its twelfth year, founded the Farm Pond Writers' Collective, now in its third year, and facilitates a Monologue Play Lab online. www.KellyDuMar.com

Yael Flusberg (Movement)

Pen & Pose: Exploring the Elements through Yoga & Writing

Yoga and writing are two practices that can help us be witnesses to the fullness of our physical, emotional, and spiritual lives. Like compelling writing, yoga uses description, metaphor, and figurative vehicles to discover hidden or dormant parts of our identities. By moving seamlessly between yoga and writing, we'll get out of our habitual ways of physical, social, and psychological posturing, illuminate pathways to feelings, memories, images, and stories embedded within our tissues, get into what University of Chicago professor Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi describes as a flow state, and help us reflect, heal, and build community. In this experiential six-session workshop, we'll explore the five elements (earth, water, fire, air, and space) and the supra elements of light and sound by using visualization, breathwork, postures, and free-writing exercises. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat and your favorite notebook and pen.

Yael Flusberg is an award-winning poet and yoga therapist. Since 2007, she's married these two loves into her *Pen & Pose* series, leading workshops at IWWG's Summer Conference, Split This Rock Poetry Festival, public libraries, universities, hospices, community gardens, and yoga studios. Yael lives in Washington, DC. www.yaelflusberg.com

Lisa Freedman (Social Justice)

Wounded Planet Seeks Wounded Healers

Four-and-a-half-billion-year-old, single, blue, temperate (at least I used to be!) orb in search of storytellers to help me work through the traumas of exploitation; classism, racism, xenophobia, sexism, able-ism, and cis-genderism; deforestation; mass extinction; and greed. Yes, greed on all levels—inside and systemic. Respond if you care enough to share your wisdom and resilience with me. In this workshop, we will play with the form of the personal ad to do the hard work of figuring out the myriad ways our experiences and lessons learned are compatible with Earth's needs now. If you have a "that almost killed me—but it didn't; it made me stronger" tale, let's unpack it and see what gifts and pathways to leadership it might hold. Through meditation, free-writing, mini assignments, and sharing, we will articulate and actualize our healing love for the world.

Lisa Freedman divides her time between writing, teaching, and coaching. She weaves meditation into these practices because it connects us to our deep wisdom and the clarity and confidence to express it. Her prose and poetry appear in *Resist Much / Obey Little: Inaugural Poems to the Resistance*, *Satya Magazine: The Long View*, *Grabbing the Apple: An Anthology of New York Women Poets*, *Art & Understanding: 20th Anniversary Anthology*, and *POZ Magazine*, among others. Lisa has received residencies and awards from Blue Mountain Center, Soul Mountain, and the National Arts Club. She is a proud co-founder of Poets against Xenophobia and teaches at the New School, where she received her MFA in Creative Writing. After the 2016 presidential election, Lisa started *Breathe/Read/Write*, a free-writing circle for people who want to face the news with less reactivity, more creativity. www.lfwritingcoach.com

Vanessa Jimenez Gabb (Poetry)

The Contemporary Narrative Poem

I want to live..../...I say/ Do what you are going to do, and I will tell about it. —Sharon Olds

This workshop will focus on the contemporary narrative form in poetic verse. Through exercises and readings, we will think more intentionally about the elements of the narrative poem, including storytelling, perspective, rhythm, line breaks, and imagery, and the way they synthesize to capture experience. In order to see how others are telling stories through poems, we will look at the narrative work of such contemporary poets as Sharon Olds, Rita Dove, Yusef Komunyakaa, Marie Howe, and Li-Young Lee. Ultimately, we will create our own narrative poems that explore identity and assert voice.

Vanessa Jimenez Gabb is the author of *Images for Radical Politics*, the Editor's Pick in the 2015 Rescue Press Black Box Poetry Contest. Recent work has appeared in *The Brooklyn Rail* and *Sixth Finch*. She received an MFA in Poetry from CUNY Brooklyn College. Vanessa teaches at Newark Academy and for Brooklyn Poets, and is from and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Janice Gary (Memoir)

Our Bodies, Our Selves: Unlocking the Stories Our Bodies Hold

The Buddha says, "The body is the greatest dharma door." But, as women, the wisdom of our bodies is often diverted by confusion, shame, and culturally imposed stereotypes. In this six-day workshop, we will give voice to the stories our bodies hold and, in the process, generate deeply rich writing. Whether you attend for one day or the entire workshop, you will come away with the seeds for a powerful essay and a better understanding of what your body has to tell you about yourself.

Janice Gary is the author of *Short Leash: A Memoir of Dog Walking and Deliverance*, winner of the Eric Hoffer Prize and Nautilus Book Award and Finalist for the Sarton Memoir Award. Her work has been published in *River Teeth*, *Brevity*, *The Spring Journal*, *Ms. Magazine*, and the feminist anthology *Women Speak Out*, among other publications. She is on the faculty of the Master of Liberal Studies Program at Arizona State University and conducts writing workshops combining memoir, myth, and the self as metaphor. www.janicegary.com

June Gould (Multi-Genre)

Women's Eureka Moments: The Transformative Power of Women Writing about Childhood Memories

This intensive, hands-on writing workshop will deal with the power of your childhood memories to improve and inspire your poetry, storytelling, and creative nonfiction skills. You will discover how memories can jumpstart your writing life, how they can teach about beginnings and endings, and how a memory can lead you to completely new topics and lists for future writing. You will find the originality and creativity hidden within your memories; develop multiple writing starting points that can lead toward fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction; sharpen your voice and dialogue skills beyond memory writing; and capture and highlight emotional moments that enable readers to understand and empathize with your experiences.

June Gould, Ph.D., is the author of *The Writer in All of Us: Improving Your Writing through Childhood Memories* (EP Dutton), *Beyond the Margins: Rethinking the Art and Craft of Writing*, and the novel *In the Shadow of Trains*; and the co-author of *Counting the Stones*, a book of Holocaust poetry. June has given readings at The 92nd Street Y (NY), The Holocaust Museum (Washington, DC), the Jewish Museum and Yeshiva Museum (NY), and libraries, synagogues, churches, universities, and bookstores throughout the U.S. and in Greece and Canada. She has been an IWWG workshop leader for over twenty-five years. She gives ongoing, full-day writing workshops in New York City, and facilitates and leads book groups. She has published poetry in numerous journals, including the *Jewish Women's Literary Annual*; and, in 2016, she was a

workshop leader for WHAM at Skidmore College.

Dorothy Randall Gray (Multi-Genre)

Succulent Storytelling: Writing Beyond Definition

Women's stories have the power to heal, transform, ignite, and enlighten. How do you tell the stories inside you? How do you craft the poems that call you? What memories awaken your sleep and whisper to you in the night? What do you call the writing you do? Whether you call it poem or polemic, fiction, fragment, memoir or magic, we invite all of your voices into our circle. We know you are beyond definition, a vessel of the radical divine. Let us seduce your writings onto the page with music, evocative prompts, stimulating handouts, and juicy feedback. We will witness your words and shape your work in a safe creative space of acceptance and guidance. Come and be succulent—the world is waiting for you.

Dorothy Randall Gray is the bestselling author of *Soul Between the Lines: Freeing Your Creative Spirit Through Writing* (Avon/HarperCollins), an inspirational teacher, a prize-winning artist, and a global activist. She has been featured on radio and television and at universities and cultural centers throughout the world. She has been a Poet-in-Residence at Hunter College, a National Public Radio commentator, an NYU faculty member, and a literary consultant to the United Nations. She is the author of *Muse Blues*, *The Passion Collection*, *Woman, Family, A Taste of Tamarinda*, and *Sharing the Same Sky*, and the editor of the anthology *MuseMatrix*. Her writings have appeared in *San Gabriel Quarterly Review*, *Drum Voices*, *The New York Times*, *Best Black Women's Erotica*, *SisterFire*, and *Personal Journaling*, among others. Dorothy's creative writing workshops and healing seminars have been commissioned by the National Writers Union, PEN America, Columbia University, Carnegie Mellon Institute, and other organizations. Highlights of her life include sharing the dais with the Dalai Lama and boogying with James Baldwin. www.DorothyRandallGray.com

Marj Hahne (Poetry)

Poetry Seminar/Critique

This seminar/critique is an integrated workshop and critique session, open to anyone, though best suited for writers of poetry who (1) want to realize their poems beyond their habitual ways of seeing and saying; (2) are committed to assessing a poem on *its* terms, whether or not they "like" the poem or value its aesthetic; and (3) recognize that a critique of a poem is not a critique of the poet. Using Stephen Dunn's essay "The Good and the Not So Good," from his book *Walking Light: Essays and Memoirs* (I will supply this handout), we will interrogate each poem's integrity in terms of content and form, sense and sound, the personal and the universal, and offer suggestions, local and global, for revision/re-vision.

If you wish to receive feedback on your work, bring 10 copies, if you're able to, of a 1-page poem. We may be able to accommodate more poems per poet over the six sessions, depending on the class size. We can also critique writing generated during the conference, with or without copies. Anyone, not just poets seeking feedback, can participate in the critiquing. You do not

have to attend all sessions to participate. HOWEVER, a sign-up sheet for critiquing slots will be created at the end of the first session, for attendees whose poem we didn't have time to critique. A signed-up poet who does not attend the next session will be moved to the end of the running list, after that session's attendees whose poem we didn't have time to critique. Come daily to maintain your place in line.

Marj Hahne is a freelance editor and writing teacher, and a 2015 MFA graduate from the Rainier Writing Workshop, with a concentration in poetry. She has performed and taught at over 100 venues around the country, as well as been featured on public radio and television programs. Her poems have appeared in literary journals, anthologies, art exhibits, and dance performances. www.MarjHahne.com

Maureen Murdock (Memoir)

Advanced Seminar in Memoir FULL
(Pre-registration required; limited to 10 registrants; \$50 fee)

This workshop is designed for experienced memoir writers who want to deepen their work. Whether you are writing a full-length memoir or short memoir pieces, we will critique your work focusing on narrative voice, scene development, and the meaning the author makes out of the events in her life. The essence of a great memoir is the voice of the writer and how she brings the reader into a scene with sensory details. Memoir has to deliver vivid characters, evocative settings, and pitch-perfect dialogue for the reader to remain interested. How you select and order the events in your life adds to the meaning you make of these events and helps you find a cohesive theme. Each day of the seminar, we will look at the work of two participants.

Seminar Prerequisite: Substantial work on a full-length manuscript or the completion of several short memoir pieces. In addition, bring a one-page synopsis of your memoir (no more than one page, please) that includes in narrative form the following: What issues are you addressing? What questions are you asking? What is the theme of your memoir? We will discuss these on the first day.

To apply for one of the twelve spaces, email ten pages of one or more pieces of memoir in a single Word document by Monday, May 28, to Dixie King, IWWG Conference Coordinator, at dking@tlcprofessionals.com, with the subject line: ADVANCED SEMINAR IN MEMOIR. Twelve writers whose work would be served by an advanced memoir critique will be selected and invoiced for the additional \$50; preference will be given to full-week registrants; all applicants will be notified by Monday, June 4.

Maureen Murdock has been on the psychology faculty at both Pacifica Graduate Institute and Antioch University in Santa Barbara, but her real love is memoir writing. To that end, she is teaching in Pacifica's new nine-month Memoir Certificate Program. Since 1990, she has taught memoir writing in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, where she received the Outstanding

Teacher of the Year Award in 1995. She is the author of the bestselling *The Heroine's Journey*, which explores the rich territory of the feminine psyche; *Unreliable Truth: On Memoir and Memory*; *Fathers' Daughters: Breaking the Ties that Bind*; *Spinning Inward: Using Guided Imagery with Children*; and *The Heroine's Journey Workbook*. She is the editor of an anthology of memoir writing entitled *Monday Morning Memoirs: Women in the Second Half of Life* and has published a memoir, *Blinded by Hope*, under a pseudonym. Maureen volunteers for AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) working with men in prison and has presented short memoir pieces at Center Theater in Santa Barbara and Spark Theater in Los Angeles about the men she works with. Her blog is on her website: www.maureenmurdock.com

Lisa Dale Norton (Publishing)

Memoir Is Still Nonfiction: Why Some Memoir Books Sell, Others Don't, and How to Tip the Scales in Your Favor

In this six-day workshop, you will learn about narrative nonfiction and why, if you want to sell your memoir book, it's important to remember that memoir is nonfiction. Memoir is sold, purchased, pitched, shelved, and reviewed in the category of nonfiction, and you need to understand what that means for you as a writer who wants to sell a book of memoir. You will acquire narrative nonfiction tricks that distinguish memoir that sells; rehearse bringing those qualities to your work; master the categories that drive book buying; grasp the interplay between manuscript, category, and platform; and practice positioning your story in a category that supports your platform. Finally, you will study how to prepare your content for an editor, work productively with an editor, and navigate the process of marketing yourself to an agent

Lisa Dale Norton wrote America's go-to memoir guide *Shimmering Images: A Handy Little Guide to Writing Memoir* and the narrative nonfiction story *Hawk Flies Above: Journey to the Heart of the Sandhills*, which combines natural history writing and memoir and earned comparisons to the work of Annie Dillard. Both books are published by St. Martin's Press, in New York. Lisa graduated from Reed College and the University of Iowa. She has taught writing through the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and at universities, conferences, and arts centers nationwide. She has written for the *Huffington Post*, been interviewed for radio, and appeared on television. Lisa lives in Santa Fe; Venice, Italy; and a 97-year-old writing cabin in the Sandhills of Nebraska. Lisa writes, "As a teacher, I'm passionate about the process of writing a narrative about your life. As a writer, I'm captivated by the ways in which complex structural approaches can be used to recreate lived experience. Braided narratives, collage structure, parallel topics, circumambulations of memory—all these can help make a memoir mirror the messy truth of life." www.lisadalenorton.com

Cathleen O'Connor (Fiction)

From Jo March to Katniss Everdeen: How to Write Iconic Characters That Readers-Agents-Editors Will Love!

At the heart of every story, whether fiction or nonfiction, are characters we love. But how does one create such memorable and relatable characters? How does one create characters so real that readers feel sad when their relationship with them ends on the last page of the book? Readers love characters that feel vibrant and engaging, just as we are drawn to the effortless charisma of people with those qualities. In this workshop, you will be guided through the keys of character development. You will learn what qualities make for a compelling protagonist, how to outline your characters and bring them to life, and why you must let your characters lead your plot. If creating unforgettable characters is your goal, then don't miss this workshop.

Cathleen O'Connor, Ph.D., is a published author, writer in all genres, workshop leader, intuitive, and writing coach who helps other writers get their work out into the world. Her fictionalized account of her transition from corporate executive to writer, *High Heels on the Hamster Wheel*, was her first foray into fiction. She co-authored and co-edited *The Collection: Flash Fiction for Flash Memory* (2018). Her articles have been published in Canada's *alive* magazine and Australia's *The Sphere*. She has been featured on ABC News in Green Bay, WI, and quoted in *The Huffington Post*. Cathleen is currently finalizing her first romance novel. www.cathleenconnor.com; www.facebook.com/metacathleen; <https://twitter.com/cathleenconnor>; www.instagram.com/metacat322

Caridad Pineiro (Fiction)

So You Want to Write Commercial Fiction?

In this six-day workshop, you will learn the secrets of breaking into publishing and crafting fiction that will be marketable in today's volatile publishing marketplace. Sessions will cover how to choose the publishing path that's right for you and legal issues to consider, world-building for both otherworldly and contemporary settings, character development using archetypes, plotting and pacing with the Hero's Journey, effective dialogue and understanding communication between the sexes, and social media and promotion strategies that will either jumpstart your commercial fiction writing career or help you refine the skills you have in these various areas.

Caridad Pineiro is a transplanted Long Island girl who has fallen in love with the Jersey Shore. When she isn't taking long strolls along the boardwalk, she's also a *New York Times*- and *USA Today*-bestselling author with over a million romance novels sold worldwide. Caridad is passionate about writing and helping others explore and develop their skills as writers. She is a founding member of the Liberty States Fiction Writers and has presented workshops at the RT Book Club Convention and the Romance Writers of America National Conference, as well as for various writing organizations throughout the country. www.caridad.com; <https://twitter.com/caridadpineiro>; www.facebook.com/Caridad.Author;

www.instagram.com/caridadpineiro; <http://pinterest.com/caridadpineiro/>;
www.goodreads.com/Caridad_Pineiro

Jan Phillips (Multi-Genre)

Getting Your Story Straight

Writing what we know is the surest path to success for any writer. *Knowing* what we know is a process of discovery, an act of courage. As we return to and rethink the turning points of our lives—putting words to the feelings, images to the narrative—the story often shape-shifts before our eyes. Looked at from different perspectives, our experience begins to speak to us in different ways. “Look, I have brought you this...that suffering was meant to teach you that...that person had a gift for you...” Our conflicts turn out to be grist for the creative mill. Our struggles are the very things that give us something to write about. In this workshop, we will take a few different approaches to story. Our prompts will come from poets, essayists, short-story writers, memoirists, and novelists, all of whom used their own lives as a basis for their work. Whether you are a poet or a fiction or nonfiction writer, this class will help you hone in on the wisdom in your body and transform into light what felt at first like the darkness.

Jan Phillips is a writer, photographer, and activist who connects the dots between evolutionary creativity, spiritual intelligence, and social action. In her workshops, she uses music, poetry, and images to keep the heart and brain connected. Jan is the author of ten award-winning books, including *Creativity Unzipped*, *There Are Burning Bushes Everywhere*, *No Ordinary Time*, *Finding the On-Ramp to Your Spiritual Path*, *Finding Ourselves on Sacred Ground*, *The Art of Original Thinking*, *Divining the Body*, and *Marry Your Muse*. She has taught in over twenty-five countries, and her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Ms.*, *Newsday*, *People*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *New Age Journal*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Sun Magazine*, and *Utne Reader*. She is currently working on a memoir, *Unveiled: The Making of a Lesbian Mystic*. Jan’s quest has led her into and out of a religious community, across the U.S. on a Honda motorcycle, and around the world on a one-woman peace pilgrimage. She has performed with Pete Seeger, worked for Mother Teresa, taught with Jane Goodall, and sung to Gladys Knight. Jan is co-founder and director of the Livingkindness Foundation, a grassroots activist organization supporting women in leadership and art in activism. The Livingkindness Foundation, in collaboration with the NGO Hope for the Village Child, built the Livingkindness Centre for Learning, in Ikuzeh, Nigeria. It houses twenty solar-powered computers and has apartments for two full-time teachers. www.livingkindness.org; www.janphillips.com

Paula Chaffee Scardamalia (Publishing)

Queries & Synopses & Proposals, Oh My! Into the Woods of Pitching Your Book

One of the prevailing myths about being a writer is that once the writer has typed, “The End,” at the end of her manuscript, her job is done. Now, she has only to wait to be discovered by an awed agent or editor who will see to its publication. Sales worthy of J.K. Rowling will ensue while the author sits back and collects royalties. That’s a myth, even more today than thirty years ago. The writer has to be promoter, marketer, and business person as well—scary as that

may be. And the marketing of the book starts with well-crafted queries (also pitches), synopses (if you write fiction), and book proposals (if you write nonfiction). If you've been intimidated by these important marketing tools, this workshop will provide you with the information, tips and tricks, and resources you need to craft compelling queries, synopses, and proposals that will have editors and agents asking for more.

Paula Chaffee Scardamalia, former dream consultant for *PEOPLE Country Magazine*, is an author, book coach, and dream and tarot intuitive. She's taught at small private workshops on the East Coast, at both national and regional Romance Writers of America conferences and meetings, at the 2014 San Diego University Writers' Conference, and at IWWG's Spring Big Apple and Summer Conference. Paula publishes a weekly e-newsletter on writing, dreams, and tarot, and is the award-winning author of *Weaving a Woman's Life: Spiritual Lessons from the Loom*. She is currently under contract and at work on a book on tarot for fiction writers.
www.diviningthemuse.com

Eunice Scarfe (Multi-Genre)

The Writer at Work: Exercising Creativity

This workshop will introduce exercises designed to explore and enhance creativity. Some writers assume that in order to make a text, rules must be followed and editors must be engaged. Perhaps so. Equally important, however, is exercising your own creativity. As a writer, you'll want to know its character and its hunger; you'll want to engage its wisdom and its energy. One way to explore your own creativity is to listen to examples of what language can do and observe your response—Gertrude Stein, for example, does not sound like Mary Oliver. Another way to explore creativity is to write often and long without regard to audience or evaluation or publication. Nicole Brossard calls this work writing adrift—a kind of yoga for writers, a way to increase confidence, ignite innovation, and open new doors. If Emily Dickinson had followed rules rather than listened to her own creativity, would she have written even one of her poems? We'll write every day. Suitable for writers of both prose and poetry.

Eunice Scarfe has kept company with writers since completing her MA in Creative Writing. She has taken her distinctive Blank Page workshop across North America through her company Saga Seminars (*saga* is old Norse for “woman speaker”), teaching Life Writing at the Banff Center and designing Writing for the Health of It for use within Harvard Medical School. Her short stories have been widely published since her first story was taken for the annual *Best Stories in Canada* anthology after appearing in *Malahat Review*. Her writing has been supported by Canada Council and Alberta Foundation for the Arts; she has won fiction competitions sponsored by Prism (U of British Columbia) and Event (U of Alaska). She is proud to be the most recent recipient of the annual Recognition Award from LEAF Edmonton—the Legal Education and Action Fund created to defend the equality rights enshrined in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Eunice is particularly interested in how women have been silenced, how we silence ourselves, and how we break our silence. She hopes that one day women's writing will appear in school anthologies in numbers equal to the other gender; that one day Penelope will have a journey as well known as the journey of Ulysses.

Linda Leedy Schneider (Poetry)

The Art and Craft of Poetry: Amaze Yourself

When it's over, I want to say: all my life / I was a bride married to amazement.—Mary Oliver
And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.

Come share the life-changing and healing mystery of Poetry. Writing is a way of finding and making meaning in our lives as well as a way of creating art. This workshop will stimulate new work, build your confidence as a writer, and help you strengthen your unique voice. Poets, would-be poets, prose writers, and the curious are all welcome. Much of our time will be spent writing, but there will also be opportunities to read your in-class writing. Poetry, physical prompts, class discussion, visualization, and music will be some of our ways into the process of amazing ourselves.

Linda Leedy Schneider, winner of the Contemporary American Poetry Prize awarded by Chicago Poetry, is a psychotherapist in private practice and a poetry mentor. She has written six collections of poetry including *Through My Window: Poetry of a Psychotherapist* (Plain View Press). A former faculty member at Aquinas College and Kendall College of Art and Design, Linda facilitates workshops nationally, including The Manhattan Writing Workshop, which she founded in 2008. Linda is the editor of two poetry anthologies, *Poems from 84th Street* (Pudding House Publications) and *Mentor's Bouquet* (Finishing Line Press), and her poetry was included in *Not a Muse: The Inner Lives of Women*, a World Poetry Anthology for which she produced a reading to benefit The International Women's Writing Guild at The Bowery Poetry Club (NYC). Linda has been the featured poet at readings in New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Taos, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids.

Myra Shapiro (Poetry)

The Art of Writing and Reading Poems (4-day: Saturday thru Tuesday)

Encouraging the world to walk toward us and taking it in hand, we will explore each day through writing (expression and craft) what it means to use our senses, to value and enjoy the complicated human beings we are.

Myra Shapiro has published poems and stories in many periodicals and anthologies, including *The Best American Poetry*. Her books of poetry include *I'll See You Thursday* and, most recently, *12 Floors Above the Earth*. She is also the author of a memoir, *Four Sublets: Becoming a Poet in New York*. She is devoted to both solitude and community and serves on the board of Poets House.

Arielle Silver (Creative Nonfiction)

Feasting with Form: A Food-Inspired Workshop on Lyric Essay

From holiday feasting to grocery shopping, every bite-sized moment is ripe for narrative discovery. Inspired by the menu as well as the mess, we will dig through our own food-inspired, story-filled pantries, and, using ingredients like the flour that can be made into both sweet croissants or savory croutons, we will taste the flavors and create new work in different forms. This inventive workshop is open to writers at any level, particularly those adventurers interested in using memory, senses, and experiment to explore the cravings we feed, the appetites we can't deny, and the hungers that consume us.

Arielle Silver spends half her life hunting words, the rest singing and baking pies. She previously served as editor in chief of *Lunch Ticket* and teaches at Antioch University Los Angeles in the MFA, BA, and inspiration2publication programs. She is currently at work on a memoir about (step)mother/ing and an historical novel set in the bebop and burlesque world of 1940s New York City. And though she shivered through many Boston winters, the wind was blowing west. Her last music tour ended at the cliffs above El Matador beach on a night when the Pacific shimmered under a full moon. She now lives in Los Angeles with her sweet and snarky family. www.ariellesilver.com

Deborah Singletary (Mixed Media)

Vision Carriers: Making Art Workshops

Come to one or all sessions in this six-day series of topical art workshops. On Saturday, in Making Money Fun, you will create a vibrant, energetic art envelope that will attract money to you and entice you to save. On Sunday, you will make a Word Wand. This session will encourage you to develop practices that transform negative thinking into healthy thoughts that help you live the life you love. You will go home with your word wand and a handout with suggestions for using it. On Monday, you will create—with semi-precious stones, Czech crystals, shells, vintage and modern glass, ceramic beads, and good vibrations—sparkling Light Catchers that make rainbows indoors during the day and invite the moonlight in at night. (Bring jewelry-making pliers if you have them.) On Tuesday, we will explore From Enrage to Outrage to Courage: The Rage Child. Many of us first learned to suppress our anger when we were children. When we suppress our anger, we suppress our power. You will learn to transform the energy of anger into productive and constructive modes of expression. On Wednesday and Thursday, we will explore The Sacred Vessel and the Extraordinary Power of Emptiness. The Sacred Vessel invites us to create space for the gifts that come with being alive in this body. The Vessel is an attitude, a dynamic way of living in prayer, and a powerful form of asking for the heart's desires. Says Lao Tzu, "We turn clay to make a vessel, but it is on the space where there is nothing that the utility of the vessel depends." The workshop concludes with a brief ceremony. **For the two-day Sacred Vessel workshop, bring a \$12 materials fee. For EACH of the Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday sessions, there is a \$10 materials fee.**

Deborah Singletary is a contemporary urban folk artist whose artwork has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *New Woman* magazines, *The New York Daily News*, *Painting from the Source* (HarperCollins), *Making What Your Means Can't Buy* (Vision Carriers Press), and *Art's Buoyant Felicity: An Anthology – Art/Creativity/Healing* (Evolutionary Girls). She was included in The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture's major show, "Black New York Artists of the 20th Century." Sought after for her paintings, assemblages, and word wands, Deborah's recent exhibition credits include: "American Hoodoo and Southern Black American-Centric Spiritual Ways," Rush Gallery, New York City; "Her Story: Voice Vision & Memory," LeRoy Neiman Art Center, Harlem, NY; and "On the Matter of Water," Kenkeleba Gallery, New York City. Utilizing her passion and art in her work as an interfaith minister, Deborah helps pierce the veil separating us from our true selves. As a facilitator and instructor for make-art workshops for those who want to make art but are afraid to, she has inspired many to exercise their right to make art. She uses the art-making process to help people get in touch with their inner wisdom and courage by creating word wands, sacred vessels, spirit guides, and red shoes. She says, "For me, making art is a spiritual path, and being an artist is living a love story."

Pamela Sneed (Poetry)

Poetry, Performance, and Writing from the Body

In this six-day workshop, will explore and look at contemporary practices of Poetry writing and explore various forms of writing from the epic to the narrative to the list poem, protest poetry, and hybrid forms, among others, and ways of staging and performing your work. Among the artists surveyed will be Layli Long Soldier and Amiri Baraka. We will also explore my own philosophy and techniques of using the body to write, including gentle physical exercises to create new awareness, confidence, and connectivity in writing and performing writing. The workshop is open to all levels of experience, from the novice to the professional writer.

Pamela Sneed is a New York-based poet, writer, and performer. She is the author of a memoir, *Sweet Dreams* (Belladonna, 2018); two poetry collections, *Imagine Being More Afraid of Freedom than Slavery* and *KONG and Other Works*; and a chaplet, *Gift*, by Belladonna. She has been featured in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Time Out*, *Bomb*, and *VIBE*, and on the cover of *New York Magazine*. She has appeared in *Art Forum*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Hyperallergic*. In 2017, Pamela was a Visiting Critic at Yale and Columbia University; and she is a Visiting Professor at Columbia University's School of the Arts for 2017/18. She is an online faculty member at Chicago's School of the Art Institute (SAIC), teaching Human Rights and Writing Art, and has also been a Visiting Artist for SAIC's low-residency MFA program. She has performed at the Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Poetry Project, New York University, Pratt Institute, the Smack Mellon Gallery, and The High Line, and was an artist-in-residence at Pratt Institute, Denniston Hill, and Poet-Linc, Lincoln Center Education. She directed a final showcase at Lincoln Center Atrium, and her collage work appeared in Avram Finklestein's FOUND at The Leslie Lohman Museum in 2017. Pamela's work appears in *The 100 Best African American Poems*, edited by Nikki Giovanni.

Susan Tiberghien (Creative Nonfiction)

Ways to Wholeness through Writing

How has the longing for wholeness been answered throughout the centuries? How do we answer it? In reading C.G. Jung and Thomas Merton, along with such contemporary writers as Annie Dillard, Orhan Pamuk, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, we will look at different ways of writing toward greater wholeness: Saturday, journaling; Sunday, pursuing our images; Monday, exploring dreams; Tuesday, seeing beauty; Wednesday, practicing alchemy; and Thursday, learning Zen. Each day, we will write a piece of creative nonfiction: a personal essay, a short memoir, or part of a longer memoir. In bringing the pieces together, within ourselves and within the world around us, we will uncover our essential oneness and take our place in Indra's web, an ancient metaphor for the holographic nature, the oneness, of our universe.

Susan Tiberghien is an American-born writer living in Geneva, Switzerland. She holds a degree in Literature and Philosophy and did graduate work at the Université de Grenoble and the C.G. Jung Institute of Zurich. She is the author of four memoirs—*Looking for Gold: A Year in Jungian Analysis*, *Circling to the Center: An Invitation to Silent Prayer*, *Side by Side: Writing Your Love Story*, and *Footsteps: In Love with a Frenchman*—and a writing book, *One Year to a Writing Life: Twelve Lessons to Deepen Every Writer's Art and Craft*. Her latest book is *Writing Toward Wholeness: Lessons Inspired by C.G. Jung* (Chiron Publications, 2018). She has extensively published narrative essays in literary reviews and anthologies. For over twenty years, Susan has been teaching creative writing for IWWG, at C.G. Jung Societies, and at writers' centers and conferences in the U.S. and Europe. She is a founding member of the International Writers Residence at the Château de Lavigny and an active member of International PEN. Susan founded and directs the Geneva Writers' Group (230 English-language writers).

www.susantiberghien.com

Pamela Varkony (Social Justice)

The Time for Truth: Stories of Our Lives (3-day: Saturday thru Monday)

We all have our stories, ones that are funny, sad, inspirational, tragic—and true. Writing your truth can inform, influence, heal, and entertain your reader, as well as yourself. Just as journaling provides a private mirror to reflect on your life, telling the tales of your journey can have great power, and never more so than now, when women's experiences resonate across the culture. In this three-day workshop, we will combine memoir, history, and current events with a dash of journalism. No matter what we call the genre, our writing will be based in truth, reality, and facts. You will have the opportunity to put your experiences and your passion to paper, read it aloud, and receive feedback from your sister writers. Our goal is to finish with a piece for submission. Please join us for this intimate experience.

Pamela Varkony's nonfiction topics range from politics to women's empowerment, from small-town Americana to global perspectives. As a columnist for Tribune Publishing, Pamela's work has appeared in newspapers across the county. She has written magazine feature stories as

well as PBS and NPR commentaries. Her poetry has been published in *The New York Times*. She was chosen by Pearl S. Buck International as the 2017 “Woman of Influence” for her writing and advocacy on behalf of women around the world, including two fact-finding missions to Afghanistan. She has also been recognized by the Pennsylvania Women’s Press Association with an “Excellence in Journalism” award, and is a much-requested speaker. Born and raised in rural Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Pamela splits her time between the Lehigh Valley and her home outside Tampa, Florida, where she writes for 83 Degree Media. She is working on a women’s leadership book, *Ten Rules for Ladies*, which she hopes to publish in late 2018.

www.PamelaVarkony.com