

## **2023 AWP Conference & Bookfair**

March 8-11, 2023, **Seattle, WA**

Seattle Convention Center

### **Tentative List of Accepted Events for #AWP23**

This list of accepted events for the 2023 AWP Conference & Bookfair is tentative as we wait to receive confirmation from all event organizers and participants. We are also working to ensure that each participant does not participate in more than two events. The final conference schedule will be posted later this year at [awpwriter.org](http://awpwriter.org).

The list is organized by event type: panel discussions (pg. 2), discussion rooms (pg. 66) pedagogy events (pg. 69), and readings (pg. 77). Within these categories, events are separated into in-person and virtual events, then alphabetized by title. Some events marked as “in-person” will be held onsite at the Seattle Convention Center and may include a mix of in-person and virtual presenters. Please note that a select number of in-person events will also be livestreamed on the virtual conference platform, and these events will be released when the full schedule is posted later this year.

Event titles and descriptions have not been edited for grammar or content. AWP believes in freedom of expression and open debate, and the views and opinions expressed in these event titles and descriptions may not necessarily reflect the views of AWP’s staff, board of directors, or members. Visit the page on [How Events Are Selected](#) for details about how the [2023 Conference Subcommittee](#) made their selections.

AWP’s conference subcommittee worked hard to shape a diverse schedule for #AWP23, creating the best possible balance among genres, presenters, and topics. Every year, there are a number of high-quality events that have to be left off the schedule due to space limitations. Although the pool of submissions was highly competitive, we did our best to ensure that the conference belongs to AWP’s numerous and varied constituencies. From 955 proposals, we tentatively accepted 358 events involving more than 1,500 presenters.

For more information about the extent to which various communities participate in the conference, please see [Communities of #AWP23](#).

Please feel free to contact us at [events@awpwriter.org](mailto:events@awpwriter.org) with any questions you may have about this list. For more information about the 2023 Conference & Bookfair, including information about registration, hotels, travel, or the Bookfair, please visit our website.

## Panels

....الو مين عالخط **Hello, Who's On the Line? Writing from the Arabic** (Deema Shehabi, Zeina Hashem Beck, Lubna Safi, Lena Khalaf Tuffaha)

In-person event

Writers in English from the Arabic produce work that is both illuminating and exigent, but what does it mean to be a writer in a language that's not your “mother tongue”? How does the language of exile or distance truncate creativity and expression? What role does audience play? How do you navigate the space between translation and writing original texts? Four Arab heritage women poets and translators explore the nuances, freedoms, and shortcomings of an English language writing life.

**9 Memorable Moments: Constructing Compelling Characters for the Screen** (Leslie Kreiner Wilson, Tom Provost, Andrea Baltazar)

In-person event

In this panel, screenwriters will discuss nine soul-stirring scenes from successful films and screenplays. This session will help writers create memorable moments in their character's arc that will distinguish their scripts from the slush pile.

**A Celebration of the Poetry of Ed Ochester** (Jan Beatty, Denise Duhamel, David Wojahn, Richard Blanco, Robin Becker)

In-person event

Ed Ochester changed the landscape of American poetry as series editor of the Pitt Poetry Series of the University of Pittsburgh Press for over forty years. He published women, queer writers, and writers of color when diversity barely existed in the publishing world. Ochester's own poetry includes *Sugar Run Road*, *Unreconstructed: Poems Selected and New*, and *The Republic of Lies*. He won the George Garrett Award and was twice president of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs.

**A Decade of Professional & Creative Writing at Central Washington University** (Katharine Whitcomb, Maya Zeller, Joshua Welsh, Karla Maravilla, Ali Unal)

In-person event

How can writing programs provide undergraduate and graduate students with cutting-edge, widely-applicable job skills and feed their creative writing aspirations? By what means can programs increase equity, inclusion and access to remote and campus students? Faculty and students from the CWU Professional & Creative Writing BA and MA programs share innovations in program design, course development, faculty support, and multimodal expertise that have enabled them to thrive in challenging times.

**A Universe with No Edges: Swahili Literature in Translation** (Munyao Kilolo, Jay Boss Rubin, Richard Prins, Idza Luhumyo)

In-person event

An African language of connectivity and diversity, Swahili is spoken across east Africa and the Indian Ocean. Borrowing from Arabic, Portuguese, Hindi, German, and English, Swahili literature stretches back centuries, yet like many African languages, little of it has been translated. Three Swahili-English translators discuss their contributions to contemporary translated Swahili literature and efforts to make it more widely available in English with the Safal-Cornell Kiswahili Prize's director.

**Academic Worker Solidarity in Creative Writing** (Natalie Shapero, Grace Talusan, Sumita Chakraborty, Lindsay Turner)

In-person event

For writers who teach, universities can be sites of fundamental conversation and community; they can also be sites of inequity and exploitation. How can we, as creative writers and academic workers, build and sustain worker solidarity in our schools and agitate for improvements for all? How might our writing be affected by and in dialogue with labor conditions? We'll discuss both large-scale and acute issues of money, time, power, and security amid academia's ongoing crisis of casualization.

**Accessibility and Inclusivity in Literary Journals: Successes and Failures** (Michelle Donahue, Matty Layne Glasgow, Crisosto Apache, Maggie Su, Nicole Terez Dutton)

In-person event

Editors often recognize the importance of being accessible and inclusive, but it can be challenging to know the most ethical and effective ways to achieve this. To improve, journals must continue successful practices and focus on what work still needs to be done. Editors of Ecotone, Kenyon Review, The Georgia Review, The Offing, and Quarterly West discuss strategies for being more accessible and inclusive to publish diverse writers, reach a wider audience, and maintain diverse mastheads.

**“Across”: One Poem in a Thousand Voices: Comparative Perspectives in Translation, Sponsored by ALTA** (Vassiliki Rapti, Peter Bottéas, Vladimir Boskovic, Maklena Nika, Nicholas Alexiou)

In-person event

This panel will showcase a collaborative translation effort from members-translators of the collective Citizen TALES Commons ([citizentales.org](http://citizentales.org)) to translate the poem “Across” by poet/sociologist Nikos Alexiou. This poem belongs to his forthcoming poetry collection “Queens,” which aims to highlight the ethically diverse character of Queens and the different iterations of “solidarity.” What does it mean to attempt to translate the same poem in the languages of the largest ethnicities of Queens?

**Activist Movements in Historical Young Adult Novels and Youth Activism Today** (Diana Ma, Amanda McCrina, Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Diana Ma)

In-person event

What lessons and hope can we take away from fictional depictions of historical youth activism? Authors of YA historical fiction, Diana Ma, Amanda McCrina, and Lyn Miller-Lachmann, will

discuss the youth activism of the 1989 Beijing Tiananmen Square Protests, the post-WWII resistance of the Polish and Ukrainian people, and resistance of Czech teens to the Soviet occupation during the cold war. They will discuss how these stories about youth-led resistance can inspire today's political protests.

**Adoptee Representation Is a Human Rights Issue** (Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, Alice Stephens, Ansley Moon, Sarah Audsley, Tiana Nobile)

In-person event

This panel discussion examines the ways adoptees are represented across media in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, film and television. Adoptee stories are often misrepresented as flat tropes which only drive the plot forward. Five adoptee writers identify common tropes across genres, illuminate the complex dynamics of adoption, highlight the human rights implications, advocate for adoptees to own their stories, and share tips for how non-adoptees can more accurately represent adoptees in their work.

**African Diaspora Caucus**

More information is coming soon.

**All Over the Place: Writing About the Familiar and Foreign** (Alice Pettway, Daryl Lim, Tsering Lama, Maija Makinen, Gloria Susana Esquivel)

In-person event

For writers whose work is deeply rooted in a specific environment, there is often a gnawing question: How do I write thoughtfully and with nuance about a people, a place? Whether we are of a place or a stranger in an unfamiliar setting, the words we choose shape the way our readers perceive the spaces our work inhabits. Join our international panel of accomplished writers as they examine how to navigate the tricky ethical territory of place-based writing.

**Ambition of the Short Story: Bringing the Short Form Front and Center** (Leslie Kirk Campbell, Daniel Olivas, Sidik Fofana, Erica Plouffe Lazure)

In-person event

Storytellers go back to the beginning of human history: wandering bards, a grandmother at the kitchen table, sailors watching the stars from the bow of a ship. Yet in contemporary times, agents and publishers seem to prefer the deep dive of a novel over the compact form of the story collection. In contemplating the merits of short fiction as a genre in its own right, this conversation among four dynamic short story writers will explore the ins and outs of writing and publishing the short form.

**Anthology Activism: Creating Space for Marginalized Voices** (Hayley Mitchell Haugen, Kari Gunter-Seymour, Mark Youssef, Barbara Marie Minney, Lynette Ford)

In-person event

Kari Gunter-Seymour's Women Speak anthologies and I Thought I Heard A Cardinal Sing, funded by the Academy of American poets, create spaces for marginalized writers within Appalachia and beyond. As editor, Gunter-Seymour describes the process of intentionally creating books

that support all writers within Appalachia and women, Affrilachian, and LGBTQ+ authors in particular. Authors from the collections discuss how activist anthologies support their individual works and personal activist goals.

**Arab American Caucus** (Jameelah Lang, Glenn Shaheen)

In-person event

This will be a town-hall style meeting, creating a much-needed space for SWANA writers to build and connect within AWP. We invite established and emerging writers, editors, students, scholars, and organizers, and aim for the caucus to facilitate networking and exchange on literary endeavors, craft, publishing, poetics, and praxis. Our caucus seeks to empower and center the voices of underrepresented Americans with roots in SWANA cultures and communities.

**Architecture of Things: A Tribute to Ed Roberson** (Evie Shockely, Philip Williams, Douglas Kearney, Nathaniel Mackey, Ed Roberson)

In-person event

A tribute to Ed Roberson, whose career rose amid the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 70s, which inspired him to challenge language and expectations of what a Black poet “should” be. A self-described nature and visual poet, he inspires us to be in conversation with and see our environment anew. A formally educated poet, Roberson is known for creating structures of layered voices that capture complex internal conversations. Four renowned scholars will speak, followed by Roberson reading.

**Archives of the Body** (Kristen Millares Young, Danielle Geller, Putsata Reang, Anastacia Renée, Michelle Bowdler)

In-person event

The body yields many archives. We grasp for meaning through documentation. Yet as Saidiya Hartman argued, the deliberate absencing of certain voices creates “the violence of the archive.” When women cede evidence of our collective histories, we sunder connections with our forebears and each other. Real artistic gains have been expunged from cultural memory. We’ll investigate the [archival body] — corporeal, the body politic, and our bodies of work — to refuse silence imposed by the patriarchy.

**Asian American Caucus**

More information is coming soon.

**Asian Moms: Tiger Moms, Magical Grandmas, & the Asian American Millennial** (Su Cho, Lisa Low, Anni Liu, Marianne Chan, Danni Quintos)

In-person event

Who are the Asian moms we grew up with, in our homes and our media, and how do they show up in our work? What are these moms rejecting, perpetuating, negating, or working against? This panel will discuss tropes associated with generations of Asian moms including the “Tiger Mom” and the “Magical Grandma.” We will also focus on how our own relationships with

motherhood, as Asian American mothers and daughters, show up in our work— including lyric essay, ars poetica, and received forms.

**ATTENTION! Writing with ADHD** (Lisa Van Orman Hadley, Patricia Caspers, Denise Delgado, Daniel Jenkins)

In-person event

Based on demographic estimates, more than 600 AWP attendees likely have ADHD. While we may struggle to write around brain-based differences affecting attention, memory, mood, sensory processing, and more, neurodivergence also brings singular gifts—like associative thinking and hyperfocus—that enable deep creative immersion into real and imagined worlds. Here, genre-diverse writers with ADHD share strategies around process and the writing life, along with the unexpected ways it shapes their work.

**Babaylans, Griots, and Culture Keepers: Memoir as Collective Storytelling** (Jen Soriano, Sasha LaPointe, Anastacia Renee, D.A. Navoti, Joyce Chen)

In-person event

Memoir is usually thought of as a slice of an individual's life: a coming-of-age story, or an arc of one protagonist's hero's journey—but there are also memoirs that explore collective stories. In this panel discussion, five writers will share approaches to using personal narrative and personal poetics as vehicles for family histories, community truths, generational secrets, and ancestral stories, as well as highlight the rewards and pitfalls of connecting the "me" in memoir to a larger we.

**Beauty Clanging: A Tribute to Kamilah Aisha Moon** (Maya Pindyck, Ama Codjoe, Evie Shockley, Remica Bingham-Risher)

In-person event

This poetry reading honors the life and work of poet Kamilah Aisha Moon (1973 - 2021), author of *Starshine & Clay* and *She Has a Name*, who touched the lives of countless people through her moving words and clear-eyed way of being in the world. A number of poets, including Remica Bingham-Risher, Ama Codjoe, and Evie Shockley, will share poems by Moon that have inspired them. The tribute remembers and celebrates the life of this remarkable poet.

**Becoming a Debut Novelist: The Journey From Agent Queries to Book Launch** (Laura Spence-Ash, Vanessa Chan, Jinwoo Chong, Jamila Minnicks, John Manuel Arias)

In-person event

The path from finishing a book draft to launching a debut novel into the world is thrilling and exciting, but it is also long and full of twists and turns. This panel of debut novelists—with publication dates in 2023 and 2024—will discuss all aspects of this journey, including finding an agent, selling the book, working with an editor, and navigating marketing and publicity. The aim of the panel is to be transparent and to provide helpful advice for all debut novelists to come.

**Before, After, and Beyond the Garden: Queer/Transgender Eco-Literatures of Color** (Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, K. Ka'imilani Leota Sellers, Amy M. Alvarez, D. Keali'i MacKenzie, MK Chavez)

In-person event

Plural like our ancestries, genders, desires are our remappings of the re-territorialized borders between our lands, bodies, and waters. Resisting Euroheteropatriarchal constructions of the cosmos that perversely pastorally prefigure white/straight/cis-male-ness as exclusively normative in nature, womanist/LGBTQ writers, performers, and editors of color share geohistorical perspectives on where and when we re-enter, subverting dialogues around ecology, and decolonizing environmental literatures.

**Beyond BTS & Squid Game: Korean Contemporary Poetry in Translation** (Jeanine Walker, Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello, Stine An, E. Bok Lee, Jaekwan Shim)

In-person event

At a time when many around the world know Korean culture through K-Pop and K-Dramas, Korean poetry in translation is more relevant than ever. Addressing leprosy, grief, and poverty, with images of a mirror's sound and time uprooted like weeds, Korean poets offer poetic vision that resonates beyond borders. Five translators speak on the joys and challenges of translating Korean poems: which nuance to privilege, where to make the poetic leap, and how translation can feed one's own poetry practice.

**Beyond Ekphrasis, Beyond Description: Writing (with) Art as a Political Act** (Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Min Li Chan, Raquel Gutiérrez, Erica Cardwell, Arianne Zwartjes)

In-person event

Bringing art into our writing can serve to break open problem spaces, invite complications into the frame. This panel explores some of the questions we—a group of BIPOC and/or queer writers—are asking of our writing: How do we as writers critically interrogate art-washing, gentrification, and other modes of conscription? In what ways might ekphrasis serve as an ethic, a method of performing criticism and homage with integrity? What does it mean to value art as a different form of intelligence?

**Beyond the "Me" in Memoir: Working with Research, Imagery, and Hybrid Forms** (Kelcey Ervick, Mira Jacob, Eleni Sikelianos, Deborah Miranda, Robert Russell)

In-person event

How can we tell high-stakes personal stories informed by larger social and historical contexts? Family photos, archival letters, and historical documents add visual interest to memoirs, but they also help tell stories that go beyond the self. Panelists will share strategies for integrating such sources into memoirs through collage, erasure, and illustration. By incorporating research and multiple voices, memoirists can create exciting narratives about themselves, their families, and communities.

**Beyond the Page: Navigating the Editor-Author Relationship in Novels and Stories** (Sean Bernard, Allison Wyss, Talia Kolluri, Farah Ali, Jennifer Acker)

In-person event

How can fiction editors best achieve the dual goals of their publication and those of their accepted authors'? How can authors best situate themselves to receive critical feedback? How



do we navigate disagreement when uncertain power dynamics and cultural considerations are at play? Panelists who've held roles as journal and small press editors, and, of course, as writers, share experiences and examine the best and worst practices in navigating this crucial and too rarely discussed relationship.

**Beyond the Trauma Plot: Reframing Trauma Toward a Poetics of Justice** (Eugenia Leigh, Vanessa Angelica Villarreal, Paul Hlava Ceballos, Nathan McClain, Janine Joseph)

In-person event

In recent years, the focus on personal trauma has narrowed the conversation, prioritizing individual experience over collective outcomes. Where trauma narratives romanticize suffering and offer easy redemption arcs, poetic innovation and craft deepen our understanding of the language of injustice. Five poets—whose works span collective and individual traumatic histories—will discuss the ways they innovate form and language toward more three-dimensional work in both poetry and personal narrative.

**Black SWANA Lit: Collective Black Identity in Southwest Asia and North Africa** (Ruba Elmelik, Safia Elhillo, Samah Fadil, Romaissaa Benzizoune)

In-person event

Mizna explores the multivalent realities of the Black Arab/SWANA experience in a special Black Takeover issue. Led by guest editor Safia Elhillo, this is an unprecedented coming together of Black thinkers in the project's visioning, production, and content. This panel will focus on the process: the intentional community building, the challenge of gathering writing about race in a region just coming to terms with its own Blackness, and the Black takeover team that put it all together.

**Black Thought Under Attack** (Sabrina Adams, Fatima Shaik, Walidah Imarisha)

In-person event

Across the country, Black authors and academics are being silenced by book bans. Join us as we examine the impact of these censorious challenges on authors, readers, and communities nationwide. Featuring Black Children's and Young Adult authors, as well as academics and poets, whose own works have been censored, this conversation examines what we as readers and writers can do to end the censorship of the next generation of Black writers, teachers, journalists, and activists.

**Black Trauma, Black Joy: Telling Hard Stories to Young Readers** (Desiree Cooper, Jean Alicia Elster, Nichelle Robinson, Denise Patrick)

In-person event

The children's and YA book market is expanding to include more books about the forgotten or repressed stories of America's racist past. This challenges the author to struggle with how to present traumatic historical events to young readers. As it turns out, history is like sex: Only offer information in age-appropriate, bite-sized pieces. Panelists will discuss their process of deciding how to talk to children and young adults about the legacy of racism in America.



**Bodies in Archives: Researching Personhood, Researching as a Person** (Leora Fridman, Jenn Shapland, Lauren Fournier, Arisa White, Julietta Singh)

In-person event

What does it mean to research the self? What's it like to be a body in an archive? What happens when a living person comes into contact with physical and historical objects which they hope to turn into literature? In this panel, a diverse group of inter-genre writers will discuss their processes and experiences for research-based writing, with a specific focus on embodied research and the ethics of researching communities with whom one holds a visceral or personal connection.

**Book Promotion by the Numbers: A Transparent Discussion of Costs and Benefits** (Rachel King, Emily Prado, EJ Levy, Cassandra Lane)

In-person event

This panel of authors who have published with small and large traditional publishers and one hybrid press discuss their own publicity efforts and costs transparently, including which investments paid off and which were a waste, what kind of support you can realistically expect from small and large press publicity departments, which gaps to prioritize if you can't afford to do it all, and how to leverage book promotion into paid opportunities to earn back at least some of what you spend.

**Borders and Scars: The Poetry of Venezuelan Migrants** (David Brunson, Leonora Simonovis, Ivana Aponte, Sara Vilorio, Maximiliano Sojo)

In-person event

Over six million people have fled Venezuela to build new lives around the world. How do they navigate intersectional identities across national, cultural, and linguistic lines? How can poetry assert the integrity of individuals and cultures in the face of injustice? How do craft, translation, and political engagement intersect as resistance? In this panel, four Venezuelan writers will read from their work and discuss these and other questions in relation to their writing and lived experiences.

**Breaking Up with Shame: Writing Romance for Young Readers** (Brianna Jett, Amy Noelle Parks, Christie Cognevich, Kathryn Amato, Hannah Morgan Teachout)

In-person event

This panel critically examines the toxic connection between romance and shame in YA novels. Join expert panelists, including MFAs, published authors, and educators, as they discuss sex, victim-blaming, heteronormativity, bodies—and why writers of romance must confront shame. Learn how to identify and subvert hidden shame, break the cycle, and overcome shame in the writing process.

**Building Literary Coalitions on the Margins** (Mimi Wong, Alexandra Watson, Jyothi Natarajan, Angie Cruz, Denne Michele Norris)

In-person event

The interactive panel discussion will explore the challenges and rewards of running literary magazines led by and serving historically marginalized writers. Imagining our own systems outside of mainstream publishing, we aim to build mutually supportive coalitions to share resources and skills around publishing itself, as well as structural issues such as ethics around fundraising and financing operations. This event will involve participation among not only panelists, but also audience members.

**Building Virtual Community** (Rebecca Lehmann, James Hall, Kai Coggin, Khalisa Rae, Lindsey Andrews)

In-person event

During the pandemic, podcasts, online journals, virtual classrooms and online arts organizations became vital community hubs. These virtual spaces provide access to the literary community across barriers like geography, income, disability and parenthood, and are uniquely positioned to build inclusive communities. Representatives from Breaking Form Podcast, Think in Ink, Couplet Poetry, Wednesday Night Poetry and Night School Bar consider the work, joy and struggles of building virtual community.

**Challenging, Revisioning and Revising What Counts for Good Craft in KidLit** (Jenny Ferguson, Maya Prasad, Karina Evans, Elisa A. Bonnin, Aaron H. Aceves)

In-person event

We all aim for good craft, but what happens when writers actively challenge, re-see and revise concepts of so-called "good craft" taught in schools and writing programs? What happens when writers don't accept that Western storytelling is the only or best way to tell a story? Five diverse debut YA and MG writers are here to talk about their experiences with thinking about how to best tell a story and what makes really good craft. We'll talk character, setting, conflict, plot, dialogue and more.

**Comics are the Future: Transformative Storytelling through Sequential Art** (Meg Lemke, Megan Kelso, Charles Johnson, José Alaniz, Mari Naomi)

In-person event

What do a National Book Award winner, a scholar of European art, and alt-comics diarists have in common? They're pushing the boundaries of literary storytelling through comics. Graphic narratives have exploded in publishing, with "graphic novels" readership surging, a catch-all trade term including graphic journalism, memoir, literary fiction, comics poetry, Afro-futurism, bande dessinée, and other hybrid forms. Theatrical presentations of comics, some read aloud, followed by panel discussion.

**Communities That Support Us: Fellowships, Workshops, and Residencies** (Randy Winston, A.L. Major, Jared Jackson, Lily Philpott)

In-person event

Fellowships, workshops, and residencies can cultivate community, provide access to practical resources, and support writers in the development of their craft. But what differentiates them? Are they for emerging or established writers? How do you figure out which one is the right one

for you? Four writing program directors and managers share the goals that drive their programs, their benefits and components, and how they seek to create meaningful experiences to propel literary careers.

**Connecting Community Through Poetry** (Angela C Trudell Vasquez, Margaret Rozga, Raul Sanchez, Maiah Merino, Gregory Luce)

In-person event

Poetry is a great connector for creating community locally and globally. Join current and former poets laureate and other writers who create their own fields for poetry in public schools, in youth detention centers, buses, community centers, libraries, universities, publishing, editing and guest editing, and in their own front yards. Poetry walks in tandem with many purposes including social justice advocacy, education, bridging distances and healing. We learn from our literary ancestors and tho

**Containing Multitudes: Asian American Writers Not Writing about Race** (Dominic Lim, Preeti Vangani, A.H. Kim, Rita Chang-Eppig, Vanessa Hua)

In-person event

Author Nicole Chung recently wrote in The Atlantic that Asian writers are expected to educate readers with their writing. Writers of color tend to be asked about racism rather than craft during events. We are Asian American writers who often don't write explicitly about race/racism, choosing instead to focus on other aspects of our experiences/identities. In this panel, we discuss the importance of recognizing and honoring the multitudes inside us even during a time of increased anti-Asian hate.

**Crafting Nuestra América: the Literary Work of Diaspora** (Juan Carlos Reyes, Kristen Millares Young, Grisel Acosta, Urayoan Noel)

In-person event

Latine literature must often weave through race and ethnicity, indigeneity and gender, nation and border, to reflect the who and what of diaspora. This dynamic way of seeing the world, unbound by politics and form, often distinguishes how Latine artists see and embody their work. The writers on this panel invite you to explore how diaspora as a socio aesthetics, rooted in social histories and aesthetic forms, is told and reimagined across geographies, giving way to new forms and identities.

**Crafting Voice in YA Fiction** (Patricia Park, Jennifer De Leon)

In-person event

What is YA literature and how is the voice different from an adult novel? Or from a children's or middle-grade novel? In this session, four diverse YA novelists will discuss how they constructed the voice of their stories. We will discuss characterization, POV, language, and other craft considerations in constructing the voice of the YA novel. We'll talk about pitfalls to avoid. We will also address how a YA audience is different from other genres.

**Creating an Author Platform Based on Tragedy without Sounding Perpetually Tragic** (Lisa Ellilson, Laura Cathcart Robbins, Melanie Brooks, Athena Dixon, Tia Levings)

In-person event

“Author platform” is a cringeworthy phrase for most creative nonfiction writers; yet, building a vibrant one is essential for publication. But what if your book deals with tough topics, including highly traumatic moments or painful experiences? How do you keep from sounding like tragedy is your schtick? During this panel presentation, five memoirists will share the steps they’ve taken to build authentic, sustainable reader connections that neither shy away from dark topics nor dwell on them.

**Creating Life-Changing Writing Groups** (Lilly Nguyen, Tria Wen, Mia Nakaji Monnier, Nadine Monem, Sarah Matsui)

In-person event

A good writing group can sustain your day-to-day writing life, push your work to new heights, and hold you in hard times. We are a group who has met for two years and transformed one another’s practices. In this discussion, we’ll share ways to find kindred writers, tips to keep momentum going, and activities you can add to your own routine, whether you’re looking to start a group or strengthen an existing one. Through interactive exercises, you may even find your next writing group in the room.

**Creativity at the Intersection of Art and Writing:** (Ryan Van Cleave, Lee Griffith, Jeanette Ederhardy, Eric Olson)

In-person event

Annual meeting of writing faculty who teach in art and design environments to discuss pedagogy, programming, administration, and general best practices particular to their writing classes and programs.

**Crippling & Digitizing: (Re)Imagining the Poetry eBook** (C. R. Grimmer, Molly Ubbesen, Katherine Deibel, Dene Grigar)

In-person event

The emergence of eBook formats creates an opportunity to accessibly digitize and archive poetry. However, eBooks use “reflowable” text to adjust to page widths, fonts, colors, and related readability modifications. For dis/abled (or, crip) readers, this increases access and introduces new problems that our panel addresses: how do we accessibly digitize poetry so that is not just “readable” but fully experienced? What forms of pedagogical and social translation does this work make possible?

**Decolonizing Your Organization: BreakBread Literacy Project Model** (Jamie Logan, David Hall, Jamie Lyn Smith, Crystal Salas, Cara Echols)

In-person event

Many youth arts organizations rely on a hierarchical structure that reflects adults’ vision without engaging young creatives in the joyful work of self-determination. BreakBread Literacy Project upends this model: placing youth in organizational leadership at BreakBread Magazine,

fundraising and daily operations. Join panelists as they discuss how organizations can create more inclusive communities led by the people they seek to serve.

**Defying the Data: Literary Impostors** (Alison Kinney, Minda Honey, Natalie Lima, Denne Michele Norris, Jodi M. Savage)

In-person event

Impostor syndrome, the conviction that we're uniquely untalented, underqualified, and undeserving, afflicts us all. In pursuit of success, we keep count of rejections and the bad odds stacked against us; at the same time, real barriers often impede our confidence and achievement. We'll discuss impostor syndrome as a literary, political, and cultural phenomenon, focusing on practical approaches to building more welcoming, sustaining literary communities. Feeling more confident is about community!

**Defying Tradition in Lyric Flash Creative Nonfiction** (Sayantika Mandal, Kathryn Kysar, Denise Lowe, April Gibson, Sun Yung Shin)

In-person event

The brevity, accessibility, and fluidity of flash creative nonfiction engages worldwide readers by defying conformity in language, form, and content, but how does lyric flash nonfiction reinvent storytelling and use poetry to break Western literary boundaries? This panel's BIPOC, Queer, and multinational voices will interrogate the interplay between poetry and flash creative nonfiction with a focus on orality, mixed media, and how the lyric escapes the borders of Euro-patriarchal forms.

**Demystifying the Application: Fellowships, Residencies and Grants** (Julayne Lee, Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Angela Franklin, Janice Sapigao, Amanda Galvan Huynh)

In-person event

Have you ever applied for a fellowship, residency or grant and wondered if your application has what it takes to be a top contender? This is a rare chance to hear from a diverse group of authors who've served on selection committees for state and national grants as well as fellowships and residencies. You will gain a better understanding of what judges are looking for, what goes into the selection process and how you might identify which fellowships, residencies and grants are the best fit.

**Design, Labor, and Equity: Undergraduate Literary Magazines** (Robin Silbergleid, Kurt Milberger, Rebecca Hazelton, Susan McCarty, Hayan Charara)

In-person event

This panel explores various models for publishing undergraduate literary magazines. Panelists consider who and what gets published, class-based or volunteer models, the role of faculty advisors, and a magazine's function within an undergraduate writing major or minor. As faculty advisors, teachers, writers, and publishers, our panelists confront problems of content and design for print or digital publishing; budget and funding; labor, workflow, and equity among students, authors, and faculty.

**Disabled & D/deaf Writers Caucus** (Cade Leebron, Jess Silfa, Molly McCully Brown, Emily Rose Cole)

In-person event

The Disabled & D/deaf Writers Caucus allows for those who are disabled or living with chronic illness, and their allies, to network and discuss common challenges related to identity, writing, and teaching while professionally leading a literary life. By meeting annually at the AWP conference, we aim to archive our interests, challenges, and concerns in order to increase our visibility and emphasize our importance both to this organization and to the communities where we live, teach, and work.

**Disabled, Different, Diverse? Writing the Liminal Space Between Identities** (Dianne Bilyak, Tamara Sellman, Leticia Garcia Bradford, Leticia Escalera, Kathleen Marcath)

In-person event

People with minds/bodies differing from the norm describe their experiences/identities differently given cultural paradigms through which they see themselves. People often identify with a mixture of labels/concepts: disabled, diverse, or simply different. Authors whose work concerns visible/hidden disabilities, D/deafness, chronic physical/mental illness, and physical/neurological/linguistic differences explore the creative potential of stories w/characters identifying in complex, unique ways.

**Dismissing the Boundaries of Latinx Poetry** (Kenning JP García, Daphne Maysonet, Raina J. León, Darrel Alejandro Holnes, Victorio Reyes Asili)

In-person event

The poets in this panel refuse to allow for a singular definition for Latinx poetry. Rather, these artists and antiartists see the domain of Latinx poetry as fluid, constantly open for re-definition. Such broadening of our understanding helps to demand space for the expanding dimensions of Latinx heritage, beyond borders and inclusive of Afro, Trans, queer, and feminist Latinx identities. Such boundary shattering poetry is manifested on the page in a wide range of styles, forms, and techniques.

**Disrupting and Queering Appalachian Narratives** (David Hall, Carter Sickels, Mesha Maren, Neema Avashia, Jamie Lyn Smith)

In-person event

In recent years, writers with rich and varied backgrounds, lived experiences and perspectives have pushed back against narrow media portrayals of Appalachia, giving voice to the diversity of its literary landscape. This panel discussion will explore five Appalachian authors' strategies and experience in boldly queering and disrupting these narratives in their books about the region.

**Divine Writing: Connections between Writing Practice, Craft and Divination** (Michele Battiste, Hoa Nguyen, Megan Kaminski, Hillary Leftwich, Selah Saterstrom)

In-person event

What are divination poetics and how do they manifest in writing practice? Can divination tools such as the Tarot, I Ching, and Throwing the Bones influence modes of creation and assemblage? Does the written word have the same generative agency as a reading? When we read the spread or the signs are we also writing the story? Four writers and divination practitioners share the ways in which divination, intuition, and embodied knowledge influence, guide, and disrupt their writing.

**Do I contain multitudes? Who's asking?** (Sarah Blake, Rachel Mennies, Arisa White, C. Russell Price, Wo Chan)

In-person event

"Identity tends to be used as a thing to pin us down... but I am imagining ways to become unpinnable," Natalie Diaz once said. In this panel, five poets will discuss writing queer identity under the cis-heteropatriarchal gaze—how they use direct address, performance, epistles, the collective I, and other subversive craft choices to pursue the unpinnable in their poetry. They will explore the generative approaches that worked for them as they broke open against perspective and form.

**Don't Call it an Aftermath: Black and Jewish Women Discuss Allyship in Writing** (Stephanie Powell Watts, Ruth Knafo Setton, Jennifer Gilmore, Kristen Gentry)

In-person event

There is No Aftermath Because There is No End: African American and Jewish Women discuss writing fiction during the flowering of the BLM movement, Me Too, this iteration of antisemitism and hate crimes, and the visibility of racialized violence. What does it mean to be a Jewish or Black woman writer in this time of protest? How have our approaches to our writing changed? What heightened awareness do we have in our writing about issues of ally-ship in our current politicized I

**Don't Worry, Be Scrappy: Navigating Instability in Community Writing Programs** (Mallory Hellman, Brianna Johns, Alysha Wise, Suma Karaman Rosen)

In-person event

Community-based writing organizations, especially those that engage marginalized writers, can provide essential consistency in lives shaken by change. How, as leaders of these organizations, do we weather our own maelstroms of insufficient funding and staff turnover without sacrificing program quality? Join a group of educators, advocates, and nonprofit administrators as we discuss the factors that can disturb consistency in a community writing program and how to combat or avoid such challenges.

**Double-Dipping? You Bet! Promote Your Book with Short Articles & Literary Essays** (Melissa Hart, Juanita Mantz Pelaez, George Estrich, Tanya Ward Goodman, Andrea Ross)

In-person event

What if we told you that instead of spending thousands on a publicist, you could promote your books and find your ideal readers while building your writing portfolio and earning a paycheck? In this panel, we'll talk about how we've perfected the art of identifying key themes and topics



in our published books and writing about them for newspapers, magazines, and literary journals. We'll teach you how to do the same with personal essays, book reviews, profiles, how-to pieces, and feature articles.

**Drinking Down the Whole World: Creative Research** (A. Kendra Greene, Catina Bacote, Sara Ann Gilmore, Clinton Crockett Peters, Virginia Lee Wood)

In-person event

Heading off into Japan's wild mountains, searching in Korea's urban sprawl for the paths of ancestors, seeking the mythic in Iceland, examining government and state archives, riding the US rails –writers drink down the whole world of possibilities. Panelists will address the way we engage with research across genres. How do I start my research? Is there funding? How do I plot out a project? -while telling the stories we have pursued, sought language for, and which call us to journey out again.

**Early Career—at Middle Age? Poets Publishing First Books at 40+** (Wendy Barnes, Xavier Cavazos, Shelley Wong, Joel Dias-Porter, Sarah Browning)

In-person event

So, you didn't win the Yale Younger Poets Prize after all. Did 35, then 40, even 50 pass you by—and still you have not published your first full-length book? It is far from impossible to begin a writing career in middle age. Panelists will discuss the paths they took to publication and offer strategies for keeping the faith through the dry spells—and for using experience to one's advantage. They will share their approaches to publishing first books and even winning book prizes in "midlife."

**Eavan Boland: A Critical Legacy** (Christopher Kempf, Amaud Jamaul Johnson, Shara Lessley, Esther Lin, Bruce Snider)

In-person event

Perhaps no teacher has more profoundly shaped the investments of contemporary poetry than Eavan Boland, director, from 1996 until her death in 2020, of the Stegner Program at Stanford and a frequent faculty member at the Bread Loaf and Sewanee writers' conferences. Comprised of former students, colleagues, and critics, this panel assesses Boland's legacy as a teacher and writer, focusing in particular on her enduring vision of what poetry can and should achieve in a contentious world.

**Essays in Diaspora** (May-lee Chai, Melody Moezzi, Carolyn Desalu, Terese Marie Mailhot)

In-person event

Diasporic essayists writing in multiple hybrid forms talk craft and content that subvert and resist the colonialist/ imperialist gaze and genre boundaries of the Western canon. Panelists discuss inspiration for essays from multiple ancestors, from anti-patriarchal writers around the globe, Indigenous and First Nations storytelling traditions, and oral and visual sources. Topics include centering subjectivity, exploring historical trauma and memory, and exploring spirituality and activism.

**Experiments Across Genres: Writers & Artists of Color Celebrate Possibility** (Emgee Dufresne, Stalina Villarreal, Tonya Foster, Aliah Lavonne Tigh, Ching-In Chen)

In-person event

This panel of community-based writers and artists of color expands and troubles the practice of writing by composing across genres to explore issues of race, identity and aesthetics. Through an experimental exploration of sound, text, and visual art including breath chorus and multimodal queries, the panelists will share and discuss work which mines the richness of archive and memory to craft maps of identity and possibility.

**Extended Mournings: Encountering Violence, Memory & Grief in the Asian Diaspora** (Serena Chopra, Jane Wong, Ching-In Chen, Divya Victor, Dao Strom)

In-person event

Poets of the Asian American diaspora discuss how interdisciplinary processes, mixed-media technologies and collaboration intervene into contemporary poetry's approaches to violence, grief and memory. Engaging the fraught relationship between memory and violence in the Asian diaspora, panelists examine how their use of archival materials, instrumental ensembles, visual collage, and more, counteract capital-colonial interferences and empower grief as an act of communal self-defense.

**Family Trees in The Enchanted Forest: How Fairy and Folk Tale Help us Rewrite In** (Gregory Howard, Lily Hoang, Porochista Khakpour, Richard Mirabella, Danielle Pafunda)

In-person event

Fairy and folk tales always belong to the next generation, while preserving the imprint of previous iterations. Told and retold across eras, these stories of kinship and metamorphosis—birth, death, marriage—make ideal sites for revisiting family legends, traumas that predate our arrival, the limitations of memory, false legacy, and the ever-evolving morals of snow child, bear father, sister and brother lost in the wood. Transforming under the writer's spell, curse becomes a gift, we find our way

**Far from the coasts: Multi-genre Asian American writers recrafting place** (Jasmine An, Carlina Duan, Divya Victor, Thirii Myint, Urvi Kumbhat)

In-person event

This panel explores the relationship between place and craft through the work of multi-genre, Asian American writers from the Midwest. Our work foregrounds our embodied, Asian American experiences that disrupt public imagination about the Midwest. Experiments with literary form across genres allow us to interrogate the link between social mythologies such as "Midwestern nice" and "the model minority," and mark the longstanding presence of Asian American writers rooted in Midwestern America.

**Feature, Not Flaw: Gatekeepers Discuss Support for Unconventional Stories** (tammy lynne stoner, Sarah Cypher, Jeremy Schraffenberger, Chelcee Johns)

In-person event

The road to bringing a manuscript to its audience can be a gauntlet of good and bad advice from workshop groups, lit mag staff, and industry pros. But “good” writing is culturally subjective. This panel joins a Ballantine editor, MFA teacher, publisher of Gertrude lit journal, and indie editor with 20 years’ experience to discuss ways to help writers without shutting them down. This panel is for writers, teachers, editors, critics, and all who want to enable a more vibrant literary culture.

**#FeelsBad: Writing Discomfort and Pessimism in Genre** (Ginger Ko, Katie Jean Shinkle, Kenning JP Garcia, Alexandrine Ogundimu, Vidhu Aggarwal)

In-person event

This panel’s participants will discuss the role of pessimism, negative feelings, and readerly discomfort in genre writing, including dystopic, horror, speculative, and hybrid writing. Genre writing is distinct from literary fiction not just because of stylistic and content conventions, but because it provides an approach and vision that explores marginalized gender, sexuality, and identity in both subversive and affirming ways. Panelists will read from their own work and along with accompanying

**Filling in the Gaps: Folklore as Antidote to Forgetting** (Temim Fruchter, K-Ming Chang, Isabel Yap, Zeyn Joukhadar, Jami Nakamura Lin)

In-person event

Folklore serves as a powerful proxy for lost memory, especially for marginalized communities with fractured or inaccessible histories. Even in individual families, the line between memory and folklore often blurs. In our writing, can folklore repair what connective tissue has eroded? Can it be used as a craft tool to fill in our own blanks? What forms emerge when imagination and memory occupy the same space? Writers in multiple genres discuss how folklore helps recover what we cannot remember.

**Finding Your Voice in Graphic Narratives and Poetry Comics** (Tom Hart, Mita Mahato, Sharon Lee De La Cruz, Nick Potter, Mira Jacob)

In-person event

In creative writing, voice often refers to the sound and feeling of words created by some combination of diction, syntax, punctuation, and pacing. But what does it mean to find your voice when the language includes both words and images? What might it mean to develop a visual language? How do choices of materials, colors, imagery, and letter-style communicate voice and tone? The panelists have honed their visual voices and will share inspiring examples and practical techniques.

**First Impressions** (Donica Bettanin, Yuka Igarashi, Crystal Hana Kim, Deesha Philyaw, Paul Reyes)

In-person event

Seeing your fiction in print for the first time is a thrill. It could also be a stepping stone to future publications and wider recognition. The PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers recognizes 12 emerging writers each year for their debut short story, and the winners

are published by Catapult in an annual anthology. Hear from previous winners, judges, and editors about how a debut story can make an indelible impression.

**Flash Lights – Writers of Color Shine on Flash** (Jen Soong, María Alejandra Barrios Vélez , K-Ming Chang , Jasmine Sawers, Tara Isabel Zambrano)

In-person event

Flash captures the eye in one sitting. It has the uncanny power to ignite our imagination in a furious blink, or the time it takes to soft boil an egg. Whether mosaic or breathless, hermit crabs or fables, flash is a sudden portal to other dimensions. For writers of color, it can unbolt doorways to unseen worlds. These panelists reveal the magic and urgency and challenges of writing short.

**For Whom Do You Write?: Four Immigrant Writers on Their Audiences** (Khem K. Aryal, Soniah Kamal, Aruni Kashyap, Chaitali Sen)

In-person event

“For whom do you write?” is a common question asked of immigrant writers, especially in their early career, including in writing workshops. In this event four writers of South Asian roots—Indian, Pakistani, and Nepali—representing different linguistic backgrounds, share their experiences of writing in English and reflect on their audiences and on what it means to them to write from the intersection of languages and cultures.

**Formal Resistance: Mixed-Genre/Transgenre/Multimedia of Color In(ter)ventions** (Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Erin D. Sharkey, Chino Lee Chung, Casey Gabriella Almodovar Ramos, Micaela Kaibni Raen)

In-person event

Artistic traditions of color precede and exceed—inform, reform, transform—European forms, but are Eurocentrically excluded from discussions of the avant-garde. Honoring long traditions and vast volumes of work that buck against, exist outside of, and decolonize conventions of poetry, prose, and performance, womanist, queer, and transgender mixed-genre, transgenre, and multimedia writers of color produce work that is both highly crafted and highly traditional. Vibrant decolonial in(ter)ventions.

**From From: Graywolf Press Writers on Origin and Dislocation** (Anni Liu, Monica Youn, Manuel Muñoz, Bojan Louis, Lars Horn)

In-person event

This panel borrows its title from Monica Youn’s new poetry collection, which in turn alludes to the question “But where are you from from?” often posed to those assumed to be from elsewhere. Here, writers of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction published by Graywolf consider their complex and variable answers. They discuss how they engage with race, heritage, transience, and migration in their work, and the ways they destabilize the notion of singular origins for our language and our bodies.

**From Hopepunk to Afrofuturism: A Panel on Utopias and Literary Futures** (JD Scott, Tenea D. Johnson, Casey Clague, Celeste Chan)

In-person event

After spending years in a pandemic, many have contemplated futures more hopeful than our present. Utopias continue to captivate readers through genres like hopepunk and solarpunk. Writers imagine through philosophies like Afrofuturism, queer futurity, utopian socialism, and beyond—and these futures we've imagined simultaneously impact our actions in the present. Through different critical lenses, panelists will discuss literary futures in order to envision possibilities outside of the present.

**From Novel to Screen** (shawn wong, tammy lynne stoner, Carter Sickels, Lidia Yuknavitch, Johanna Stoberock)

In-person event

It's the dream of most writers to see their work on the screen—be it silver or plasma. Luckily, as streaming expands, there's a growing need for content, especially when connected to Intellectual Property like, you got it, a book! This panel includes novelists at all stages of bringing their book to the screen—from filming a “proof of concept” to optioning a novel to seeing it become a film. Join us to chat about agents vs. managers, approaches to adaptation, options, production, and premieres.

**From Poe and Plath to Meds and Co-Pays: Poetry and Mental Illness** (Emily Perez, Eugenia Leigh, Kate Hanson, Diannely Antigua, Kayleb Rae Candrilli)

In-person event

The troubled poet, their writing fueled by mental illness, is a stock figure in the public imagination. This romanticized view glosses over the difficulties of living with a mental health condition, whether it is one's own or a family member's. Poets who write about mental illness will discuss both craft and practical issues: Why write about this subject? How does it influence form? What are the ethics involved? What does it mean to write publicly about a topic that is taboo in your community?

**From Poetry Hotlines to Kate Bush: Sarabande Writers on Creative Book Promotion** (Joanna Englert, Adam O. Davis, Karyna McGlynn, Joy Priest, Karisma Price)

In-person event

Sarabande has a storied history of creative book campaigns. From collaborative art installations to lip sync battles and everything in between, these four Sarabande writers have changed the game of book publicity, finding new and exciting ways to engage with audiences within local and national communities, both virtually and in person. Listen to them discuss their campaign experiences and how they pushed their books to rise above the noise of a bustling literary landscape.

**From Slush to Sale: Literary Agents Explain it All** (Danya Kukafka, Iwalani Kim, Erin Harris, Annie Hwang, Stephanie Delman)

In-person event

Literary agents are often called "gatekeepers" of the publishing industry, but we prefer to think of ourselves as "gate-openers." This panel aims to demystify the most opaque parts of traditional book publishing, beginning with the "slush pile" (unsolicited manuscripts) and ending far past "on-sale" (when a book is published). Literary agents wear many hats, but one of our most important jobs is to translate the industry for writers at every stage of their career, starting here.

**FUSE Caucus: The Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors and Writers** (Catherine Dent, Michael Cocchiarale, Rachel Hall, Reed Wilson, Emily Hizny)

In-person event

The annual FUSE Caucus is where undergraduate student writers and editors, accompanied by faculty advisors and mentors, meet to network and discuss issues related to the world of undergraduate literary publishing, editing, and writing. Organizational updates are followed by an open discussion, elections, and event planning for the upcoming year. This year's focus will be "How to Do This, That, and the Other Thing: Editing and Publishing in Transition."

**Get Lit on Campus: Developing Lit Mags in the Community College Classroom** (Susan Rich, Elissa E. Minor, Megan Savage, Tobin F. Terry, James B. De Monte)

In-person event

This panel explores different approaches to producing a community college literary magazine inside the classroom. Topics of discussion include issues related to staff recruitment, pedagogy, editing, layout, funding and costs, advertising, submissions, course credit, online versus print publishing, and technological tools. The panelists reflect on obstacles--some common, some unique, some related specifically to the pandemic--as well as creative solutions.

**Girl, Writer, Crone: The Creative & Professional Value of Community** (Kristen Millares Young, Patricia Henley, Melissa Febos, Puloma Ghosh, Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum)

In-person event

The romanticized masculine myth of the isolated writer has long defined the popular conception of writing life, but in this panel writers at different stages of their careers explore the essential, creatively generative, and personally sustaining nature of cultivating intergenerational artistic relationships among women. How has the influence of other writers shaped our work? In a culture that prizes individualism, this panel explores the richness of connection in the writer's life.

**Giving Helpful Feedback** (Sara Sligar, Hilary Leichter, Steph Cha, Megan Giddings)

In-person event

As writers, we often discuss how to incorporate feedback into our work. But how do we GIVE helpful feedback, to one another and (if teaching) to our students? We will discuss how to give feedback that encourages forward momentum, prioritizes author's intentions over reader's preference, and breaks the story open without breaking it apart. We will present our best

practices for different feedback contexts (writing group, classroom, editorial) and reflect together on new strategies.

**God Talk: Poetics of Wonder, Awe, & Ecstasy** (Philip Metres, Kaveh Akbar, Victoria Chang, Ajanae Dawkins, Chase Berggrun)

In-person event

How do poets--contemporary and ancient, living and ancestral--engage with the divine, and what happens when our poems turn toward the Unsayable? Drawing upon inherited or chosen traditions as they face our living moment, poets Kaveh Akbar, Chase Berggrun, Victoria Chang, Ajanae Dawkins, and Philip Metres wrestle with language and the architectures of wonder, awe, and ecstasy offer a new way to consider poetic practice alongside spiritual practice--or poetic practice as a spiritual practice.

**Grieving in the Asian Diaspora** (Chris Santiago, Matthew Salesses, Sequoia Nagamatsu, Victoria Chang)

In-person event

This panel shines a light on the difficult—and sometimes hidden—work of grieving. Can writing help us process grief? Is grief specific to families, to cultures, to languages? A distinguished panel of writers whose work includes award-winning novels, memoirs, poetry collections, short stories, essays, and books on craft discuss the process of grieving as adoptees, as the children of immigrants, as citizens of a troubled country, and as inhabitants of a planet in the midst of irreversible change.

**Growing the Garden: Paying Tribute to Joanne Gabbin and Furious Flower** (Remica Bingham-Risher, Shauna Morgan, Tyehimba Jess, Jericho Brown, Opal Moore)

In-person event

Envisioned by Dr. Joanne Gabbin, the historic Furious Flower Poetry Conference was organized at JMU in 1994 and led to the development of the nation's first academic center for Black poetry. Furious Flower has become a singular institution, supporting the growth of new poets and archiving the work of torchbearers in the Black literary tradition. Gabbin, a veteran educator who pioneered courses in Black Studies, is also an editor, author, poet advocate, culture-worker and community builder.

**Hacking the Job Market: Getting (and Surviving) an Academic Job** (Susan Meyers, Holly Wendt, Joseph Salvatore, Jon Udelson, Ben Ristow)

In-person event

Post-MFA/PhD, how can you land an academic job in today's hyper competitive market—and flourish once you're there? As daunting as this process may seem, there are many useful "hacks" can help you highlight your full range of skills—and use them, later, to navigate time demands on the tenure track. This multi-genre panel of poets and prose writers includes tenured, tenure-track, and program director faculty who will offer nuanced yet practical advice for success in the job search—and beyond.



**Hacking the Machine: New Writing, from Instagram to A.I.** (David A Leach, Nicola Harwood, Michael V. Smith, Emma de Blois)

In-person event

How can creative writers resist the corporate metaverse? Four interdisciplinary creators share digital writing projects that bridge campus and community, art and computer science, and the hierarchy between traditional writing genres and interactive media. Panelists will discuss how to collaborate with programmers and other artists, how to create (and teach) with low-barrier social-media platforms and more complex tools, and how to hack digital writing into hybrid forms to reach new audiences.

**Health & Illness Narratives: Harnessing Medical Memoir to Impact a Broken System** (Mary Pan, Emily Maloney, Rana Awdish, Emily Silverman, Suzanne Koven)

In-person event

Illness narratives and medical memoirs have the potential to impact our broken system in a meaningful way. As this genre expands, with literary works from both patient and healthcare worker perspectives, hear how five writers hope to inform and impact healthcare training and delivery systems by reducing stigma and elevating marginalized voices. We will discuss how literary works might impact healthcare culture, costs, training, and the system overall.

**Hide & Seek: Writing the Informed Memoir** (Emma Eisenberg, Chet'la Sebree, Chloé Cooper Jones, Sabrina Imbler, Annie Liontas)

In-person event

This panel, in the words of bell hooks, explores how interdisciplinary creative nonfiction “evokes the personal as a prelude” to reach beyond the self. How can we weave memoir with history/science/philosophy to define not only ourselves, but our current cultural moment? How does research empower us to emerge, or to hide in plain sight? What are our blind spots/how do we turn them into revelations? What biases exist against the form—external and internal—and how do we resist on and off the page?

**Hollywood From the Author's Perspective** (Adrienne Brodeur, Rebecca Makkai, Joanna Rakoff, Mira Jacobs)

In-person event

While it is undeniably thrilling to have your book optioned for film, the path to the big (and small) screen is often far from glamorous. On this panel are writers who've experienced various stages of the development – from adaptation and casting to shooting on location to already streaming on Netflix. They will discuss their experiences openly -- the good, the bad, and the ugly

**How Do You Do, Fellow Kids? A Student-led Crash Course on Social Media Strategy** (Ellie Pasquale, Emily Hizny, Amber Watkin, Hannah MacKey, Haley Dittbrenner)

In-person event

Are you a small press or writer looking to bolster your online presence, but don't know where to begin? These undergraduate students want to help. Drawing from their personal experience

growing up in online book communities, they'll break down the ins and outs of popular social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok to help strategize content creation and investigate ideas of digital responsibility, global networking, and how social media is rewiring the publishing industry.

**How to craft enthralling science stories** (Emily Benson, Jane C. Hu, Michelle Nijhuis, Roberta Kwok, Ferris Jabr)

In-person event

The best essays and magazine stories about science feature unforgettable characters, sensory-rich scenes, carefully plotted arcs and other narrative elements crafted to bring the writing to life. This panel gathers four writers and editors to discuss the artful deployment of storytelling techniques to create enthralling writing about science and the natural world, with examples drawn from the participants' writing or editing on the Pacific and Inland Northwest and beyond.

**How to Keep it Censorship-Free \*and\* Safe for Today's Youth** (Rebecca Wallace-Segall, Janelle Williams, Bianca Turetsky, Shanille Martin, Lena Roy)

In-person event

What does it mean to run both censorship-free and safe space writing workshops for children & teens? Writopia lead instructors/published authors dig into the potential power of "third spaces" where youth can take risks, and integrate various pieces of themselves openly, from silly content to Black/queer themes. Come join a conversation about kids' writing and rights to share their fantasies and fears through narratives and how we, as adults, can help them do it both joyfully and responsibly.

**How to Make a Ghost Walk: The Craft of Haunted Memoir** (Jami Nakamura Lin, Elissa Washuta, Steffan Triplett, J. Nicole Jones, Bruce Owens Grimm)

In-person event

Mood is a distinguishing feature for ghost stories. What mood-setting techniques can haunted memoirists borrow from fictional ghost stories and horror movies to set the right haunted atmosphere for the nonfiction ghost story? This panel will explore that question and other craft issues specific to haunted memoir (using examples from our own work and the work of others) as well as investigate the ethical considerations of making our real-life ghosts walk across the page.

**How Writers of Color Use Humor To Tell Their Stories** (Mark Galarrita, Gene Kwak, Maurice Carlos Ruffin, Kendra Allen, Edgar Gomez)

In-person event

Sometimes the truth is funny, even when it hurts. There is a long tradition of Black, Indigenous, and other Writers of Color combining humor and wit to wrestle with heavy themes to make their audiences laugh and reflect on the page. In this panel, five creators in various prose genres discuss carrying on this lineage through the art of comedic storytelling. This craft discussion will delve into set-up to delivery, considering one's audience, gaze, and being vulnerable but always honest.

**I Did the Damn Thing: Facing the Second Book and Overcoming the Sophomore Slump**

(Nafissa Thompson-Spires, R.O. Kwon, J Wortham, Vanessa Angelica Villareal, Deesha Philyaw)

In-person event

After riding the highs and lows of publishing your first book, eventually the dreaded question rolls around: what next? A panel of best-selling and award-winning writers with successful first books will discuss strategies for building a sustainable writing career after the debut. We will also share tools and resources to help overcome roadblocks and self-sabotage, and hope to redefine “success” as a process toward a vision and an internal accomplishment rather than one of external recognition.

**I Wish I’d Known: Advice for Navigating the Publishing World** (Jean Kwok , Angie Kim, Julia Phillips, Rebecca Makkai, Mitchell S. Jackson)

In-person event

From getting an agent to working with an editor to doing publicity, the life of a writer is filled with potential pitfalls. What are things you should do before you ever sign with an agent? What are definite no-no’s while trying to get an agent? How many of your editor’s changes do you accept? What are tips for a great reading? How can you best do publicity? These seasoned writers talk about their own experiences with different agencies and publishing houses and share their hard-earned advice.

**In-Na-Poets & En-treaties: Writing Indigenous—What Does it Mean Now?** (Kimberly Blaeser, Elise Paschen, Crisosto Apache, Kenzie Allen, Jake Skeets)

In-person event

245 years after the Delaware Nation signed the first Native American/U.S. treaty, what does it mean for Indigenous poets to write “from” tribal nations or as colonized or diasporic peoples? Recent publications such as Navigating CHamoru Poetry and The Diné Reader highlight important poetic qualities and distinctions. This panel explores how Indigenous history, culture, politics, and aesthetics and the very treaty language itself still marks contemporary poetry from the more than 570 tribes.

**Incant, Invent, Illuminate: Formal Innovation Under Colonial Patriarchy** (Raena Shirali, Irène Mathieu, Marwa Helal, Desiree Bailey, Vanessa Angélica Villarreal)

In-person event

In poetry as in prose, language can function both to illuminate our experiences and as a form of spell-casting against forces that seek to control it. How might a poem or essay be an antidote to respectability, ancestral incantation, or psychic shield? Through invented forms, lyrical experimentation, and negotiation of archival material, four poetry and prose writers trouble and hex colonial and patriarchal paradigms in a discussion about writing within, through, and against Western empire.

**Indigenous-Aboriginal American Writers Caucus** (shauna osborn, Rena Priest, Kimberly Blaeser)

In-person event

Indigenous writers and scholars participate fluidly in AWP, teaching, directing affiliated programs, working as independent writers or scholars, and/or within community language revitalization efforts. Annually imparting field-related craft, pedagogy, celebrations, and concerns as programming understood by Indigenous-Native writers from the Americas and surrounding island nations is necessary. AWP Conferences began our caucus discussions in 2010. Essential program development continues in 2023.

**“Insiders and Outsiders”: Following, Bending, and Breaking Literary Traditions** (Lauren Alwan, Thais Miller, Karen Tei Yamashita, Toni Jensen, Sandy Marchetti)

In-person event

Writers often draw from multiple literary heritages, navigating diverse literary customs. Working within a set cultural tradition can offer connectedness and coherence, however, literary canons have also been consistently used to exclude many bodies. How do writers of intersectional identity work within, bend, and break set traditions? Writers of multiple genres who directly engage with diverse cultural traditions discuss their influences and strategies for wrestling with literary legacies.

**Intergenerational Echoes: Stories That Defy Expectations & Empower Young Lives** (Tracey T. Flores, Guadalupe Garcia McCall, Alessandra Narváez Varela, Angela Velez)

In-person event

Gender expectations, mental health issues and diverse Latinidades and linguistic backgrounds are just a few of the conflicts that echo across generations of Latinx and immigrant communities. In this panel, three Latinx professors and authors of YA novels explore how these challenges manifest themselves in the stories of young people today. Led in conversation by a Latinx professor, scholar and community activist, they will discuss writing as an act of healing, survival and empowerment.

**Is an Independent Editor Right for You?** (Will Allison, Jaimee Garbacik, Liz Van Hoose, Alexis Washam)

In-person event

Writers seeking feedback face a lot of options: Join a writers group? Enroll in a workshop? Attend a conference? Apply to MFA programs? This panel is for writers at any career stage who are curious about another option: working one-on-one with an independent editor. You'll meet four veteran editors with diverse backgrounds in writing, lit mags, and book publishing. They'll discuss the services editors provide, finding the right editor for your work, making the most of the relationship, and more.

**Is There a Doctor In the Room: How to Apply, Survive and Thrive in a PhD Program** (Jessica Q. Stark, Alicia Wright, Sebastián H. Páramo, Jay Gao, Kelly Rose Hoffer)

In-person event

In the competitive job market, should you apply for a PhD? Should you choose creative writing or literary studies? How do you navigate the admissions process? Our panellists will reflect on their diverse experiences of graduate education in order to demystify the PhD, especially for

underrepresented and minority students. We will also discuss creative-critical practices, research skills, how to build an artistic community, and how to balance studies with other work like editing and publishing.

**It Came from the Closet: Queer Writing on Horror Film** (Nadine Santoro, Carmen Maria Machado, Spencer Williams, Joe Vallese, Samuel Autman)

In-person event

In the new anthology *It Came from the Closet*, queer writers consider the horror films that deepened, amplified, and illuminated their own experiences. They blend memoir and film analysis to dive deep into queer, feminist, and subversive readings of a historically homophobic genre. On this panel, writers from different literary genres discuss hybridizing cultural criticism and personal storytelling, writing about visual mediums, and how their work celebrates queer monstrosity in all its forms.

**It's Just The Radio: Queer Storytelling and Audio Dramas** (Molly Olguín, Jacquelin Hedeman)

In-person event

Have you ever listened to a fiction podcast like *Welcome to Night Vale*, *The Bright Sessions*, or *The Magnus Archives*? This panel will explore the thriving world of indie audio dramas, the creative freedoms that emerge from the form, the surprising intimacy between audience, actors, and authors, and the many possibilities that open up while writing for the radio. Spoilers: it's super queer! Two friends and collaborators talk you through their journey from their shared MFA to their first show.

**It's Possible: Advocating for Two-Year College Creative Writing Students** (Courtney Smith, Marlys Cervantes, Maria Brandt, James Ducat, Tori Moore)

In-person event

As members of underserved populations, community college students are often overlooked as potential writers by the writing community and themselves. Students may underestimate the value of pursuing a CW class, program, or career. Panelists from institutions across the country who teach diverse, high-risk, low-income students will discuss the challenges of recruiting students into creative writing programs and how they overcome various obstacles while fostering literary citizenship.

**Jewish Diasporist Poetics** (Shelby Handler, Sara Brickman, sam sax, Tom Haviv, Mónica Gomery)

In-person event

In the face of rising white supremacist violence, nationalism, and xenophobia, this reading features Jewish poets who are reckoning with US and Israeli state violence. Panelists will read from their work and discuss the role of poetry in challenging Zionism and confronting white supremacy, Islamophobia, and anti-semitism. These poets envision a Judaism that includes many races, genders, sexualities, nationalities, and stands on the side of all oppressed peoples. This panel asks: How do we practice a poetics that imagines and invokes a Jewish future rooted in diaspora and solidarity?

**Journey to the Prize: Five Women, Five Prizewinning Debut Story Collections** (Kerry Dolan, Kate McIntyre, AJ Bermudez, Leslie Kirk Campbell, Erica Plouffe Lazure)

In-person event

In this illuminating panel, five women who have recently published a prizewinning debut short story collection will discuss their individual pathways to the prize. Featuring winners of national book prizes including the Flannery O'Connor Award, the Iowa Short Fiction Award, the Juniper Prize, the Mary McCarthy Prize, and the New American Fiction Prize, panelists will detail their writing backgrounds, the development of their collections, and submission strategies, offering wisdom and advice.

**K-12 Teachers of Creative Writing** (Molly Sutton Kiefer, Allison Campbell, Jeremy Wilson)

In-person event

The caucus creates a space where teachers in K–12 schools, as well as those who work part time with young writers, can share their classroom experiences with the hopes of helping one another understand the complex and diverse needs of young writers in the 21st century. The meeting will feature presentations by caucus members to help generate discussion around issues of pedagogy, and how to build a creative writing curriculum that is accessible to students no matter their identity or background.

**Kind of a Big Deal: Emerging Agents on the Path to Publishing** (Lauren Scovel, Serene Hakim, Mariah Stovall, Amy Bishop, Maggie Cooper)

In-person event

Do I need a TikTok? How important is my query letter? What if my project isn't "trendy"? As a marginalized writer, how do I protect myself against bias and tokenization? In this panel, early-career agents will share their perspectives on what really matters—and what doesn't—on the path to publishing a first book. In the process, we'll pull back the curtain on what agents actually do all day and how writers can assess which agents will be the best partners and advocates for their work.

**Languages of Belonging: Transcending Borders in Life and on the Page** (Sehba Sarwar, Torsa Ghosal, Sorayya Khan, Emmy Pérez, Cassandra Lane)

In-person event

Five women writers of color incorporate personal and global histories—of India, Pakistan, and the Netherlands, and within the U.S., California, Louisiana, and the Texas-Mexico border—into their prose, poetry, and hybrid texts. Each writer will discuss her process of transcending literal and figurative borders separating nations, generations, and identities. How do we resolve the conflicts that arise from having histories in multiple places? Where are we traveling from and to in our writing?

**Latine/x Writers Writing Queerness, Queer Families, & Queer Communities** (Jaquira Díaz, Angie Cruz, Carolina De Robertis, Raquel Gutiérrez, Julián Delgado Lopera)

In-person event

In a celebratory gathering of Latine/x writers across various genres, sexualities, and gender identities, we discuss writing queerness, queer families (both lost and found), and queer communities. We examine what it means to be both Latine/x and LGBTQIA in the contemporary US and Latin America. How do the tensions and friction of this positioning manifest within literary work? In what ways do they block or generate innovative writing? How do we resist the dominant institutional models?

**Latinx Poetics: Craft and Criticism** (Ruben Quesada, Laurie Ann Guerrero, Millicent Borges Accardi, Brenda Cárdenas, Tomás Q. Morín)

In-person event

The Latinx population is the largest racial-ethnic group in the United States. Drawing from their intersectional racial and linguistic identities and nationalities from the Latin American diaspora, these panelists will attempt to define Latinx Poetics. Panelists are mothers, scholars, organizers, and freelancers, at various stages of their careers from around the US. Each will offer divergent views on the reading & writing of poetry with focus on the larger question of Latinx poetry and poetics.

**Latinx Writers Caucus** (Amy M. Alvarez, Karina Muniz-Pagan, Lydia Cheshewalla, Amairani Perez, Chino Lee Chung)

In-person event

Latinx writers are becoming increasingly visible in literary spaces. However, there is still work to be done to address inequalities in access and visibility. The Latinx Writers Caucus creates space for new, emerging, and established writers of varied Latinx identities to network, discuss obstacles to publication (e.g. active oppression and the cultural marginalization of Latinx writers), and discuss panel and event planning that will increase Latinx participation at future AWP conferences.

**Laughter in the Time of Suffering: Writing Humor From the Margins** (Claire Stanford, Elaine Hsieh Chou, Isle McElroy, Chantal V. Johnson, Edgar Gomez)

In-person event

How can humor create transformative and generative spaces to explore otherwise painful and traumatic experiences? How can laughter act as a way to self-protect, to productively channel rage and to confront exterior forces such as homophobia, transphobia, familial violence, racism and sexism? We'll discuss how we use humor, satire and absurdity with intentionality and inclusivity to face the page, focusing on humor's transgressive potential as a political mode of subversion, healing and justice.

**Laughter Isn't Funny: humor in craft** (Madeline ffitch, E.M Tran, Fernando Flores)

In-person event

Humor, wit, or playfulness is key to most storytelling traditions, but in literature it's often relegated to the lightweight. Yet writers such as Zadie Smith, Jericho Brown, and Rachel Cusk, none of whom are considered "humor" writers, talk about the vital place of wit in writing. Much fiction that makes us cry also makes us laugh. Some writers craft humor into their work, others



don't know they've written anything funny until readers laugh. This panel explores the role of wit in lit.

**Leading, Styling, & Other Navigations: Writers & Editors as Designers** (Lydia Pejovic, Anna Leahy, Keith S. Wilson, Amanda Niehaus, Allison Blevins)

In-person event

Reading experiences depend not only on language but also on the design of the material iteration of a given text. What happens when we think about the printed page or screen as a space for text? What should or could a journal or a poem look like? What if someone reads with their ears instead of their eyes? With accessibility and budget in mind, panelists explore constraints and innovations of physical and digital spaces, share practical design tips, and suggest options for visually driven work.

**Let Me Introduce You: Women & Gender Queer Editors** (Leslie Jill Patterson, Stephanie G'Schwind, Hattie Fletcher, Han VanderHart, Natalie Young)

In-person event

Many women and gender queer editors are serving as Editors-in-Chief, Managing and Genre Editors--some of us for over twenty years! It's a labor of love we enter into in hopes of advocating for women, LGBTQIA, and BIPOC writers. Come learn what we're looking for, which manuscripts fair best in our competitions (and which don't!), how to help us promote your work, and how different the editorial process may be at journals when they're led by women and gender queer editors--all our insider tips!

**LGBTQ Writers Caucus** (Derek Scheips, Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Belinda Kremer, K. Ka'imilani Leota Sellers)

In-person event

The LGBTQ Writers Caucus provides a space for writers who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer to network and discuss common issues and challenges, such as representation and visibility on and off the literary page; and how to incorporate one's personal identity into their professional and academic lives. The Caucus also strives to discuss, develop, and increase queer representation for future AWP conferences, and serve as a supportive community and resource for its members.

**Literary Fame: Should We Strive for It? Should We Care about It?** (Zack Rogow, Dion O'Reilly, Richard Blanco, Cornelius Eady)

In-person event

Literary fame is not something most writers confess to seeking, but it often lurks in the background of our work. Is fame even worth pursuing? Does seeking fame warp us as writers, as human beings, or as members of a literary community? Or is the quest for recognition a motivator that keep us active and sharp? How much renown is enough? Four writers reflect on how they handle the desire for fame, and whether they find it most useful to cultivate it or to remain aloof from it.

**Meant to Last: Maintaining Longevity as an Independent Lit Journal** (Mellinda Hensley, CD Eskilson, Anya Johnson, Viva Padilla)

In-person event

For independent literary journals, establishing a journal in the larger writing community can be a major hurdle, but maintaining the journal once it's established can prove to be even more of a challenge. From funding to retaining readers to building a brand, members of independent journals will come together in this panel to discuss the hurdles they experience and the strategies they've implemented to survive in an ever-changing literary landscape.

**"Memory that Pricks the Skin": Five Asian Women Poets Writing About History** (Marianne Chan, Monica Sok, Jessica Stark, Emily Yoon, Mai Der Vang)

In-person event

Poetry is a vital genre for engaging with archive and reckoning with historical events that have been forgotten or ignored. In this panel, five Asian women poets explore how their work grapples with public and personal histories. Writing on a range of subjects—from war to colonization to ecological violence—these poets will read their work and discuss poetry as a space to challenge dominant narratives and find healing within reflection and documentation.

**Mentoring across race: practices to support BIPOC students and writers** (Rajpreet Heir, Alysia Sawchyn, Robbie Maakestad, Greg Schwiipps, Joe Heithaus)

In-person event

How can mentors look past their white privilege and practice inclusive pedagogy? Academia positions BIPOC students in a space of precarious reliance on a mentor for access, and often, these students don't have mentors who look like them. Plenty of white faculty can articulate why supporting BIPOC writers is important, but are hesitant to actually take action. In this panel we will address how to mentor across race and we will provide success stories.

**Minding the Gaps and Mining Landscape in Linked Short Story Collections** (Ramona Reeves, Leslie Pietrzyk, Camille Acker, Rion Amilcar Scott, Toni Ann Johnson)

In-person event

Linked short story collections have become more popular, perhaps in part because of their hybrid nature. They can employ recurring themes, characters, and settings to situate readers in worlds that move beyond the borders of many short stories while stopping short of the breadth and propulsion of a novel. Minding the gaps, or the spaces, is key in writing linked story collections. How does space function between and within linked collections, and what stories does one choose to tell and why?

**Misbehaving Memoirs** (Maya Jewell Zeller, Sayantani Dasgupta, Melissa Febos, Laura Read, Elissa Washuta)

In-person event

There are multiple ways to structure a story, whether NY knows it or not. In personal essays navigating feminism and faith in India vs. the US; braided essays on multi-ethnicity, slut-shaming, sex work, and consent; lyrics of growing up in the 1970s-80s in a rapist-haunted town;

essays that intertwine research and memory to empower oneself in a colonized land; and poetics claiming the magic of what's wild, we disrupt the shape and content of memoir, imagining new ways it might (mis)behave.

**Mixtures and Margins: Composing and Publishing Multimodal Texts** (Ben Gunsberg, Jennifer Colville, Lisa Bickmore, Scott Poole)

In-person event

The rise of digital technology has made it easier for writers to combine alphabetic texts with sounds, images, and interactive elements. It's also made it easier for publishers to share this multimodal work with the public. Drawing on a diverse range of experiences and affiliations, panelists will discuss their efforts to create and curate work that spans artistic fields and blurs disciplinary boundaries, highlighting the rewards and challenges of producing and publishing multimodal writing.

**More Than a Stepping Stone: The Unique Freedom, Risk, and Beauty of Chapbooks** (Aliah Lavonne Tigh, Stalina Villarreal, Nandi Comer, Priscilla Wathington, Summer Farah)

In-person event

Chapbooks are often seen as a stepping stone to a first book, but previously this has been a form for historically marginalized communities, non-traditional poetics, and other kinds of cultural outliers. From the Black Arts Movement to the '90s slam scene, the chapbook has been a form in its own right. These five writers of color discuss how the chapbook offers the freedom to create physical artifacts that are not beholden to the dominant publishing industry's math, genre borders or censorship.

**Motherlode: The Tripwire of Writing Real Family** (Kelly McMasters, Joanna Rakoff, Sonora Jha, Rebecca Woolf, Putsata Reang)

In-person event

Family is often seen as the domain of mothers, but writing the domestic as a woman is fraught with a multitude of landmines--emotional, legal, psychological, and more. When writing as mothers or about mothers, are there ways to shield ourselves and our children, without sacrificing truth? Is it possible for a family to negotiate the way their shared story is told? What happens when our job of exposure clashes with our familial duty to protect? Where are the boundaries and where do they blur?

**Moving Borders, Shifting Identities** (Nicole Walker, Daisy Hernandez, Paisley Rekdal, Marco Wilkinson, Jake Skeets)

In-person event

Borders of nations. Layers of skin. Fixed identity and permanent homes. As we learn more about human, animal, and plant migration, fixed definitions have begun to slip. Boundaries are not impermeable. From writings about bugs, trains, gardens, borders, and border towns, these panelists will discuss their work about how shifting place shapes identity. In the face of major change, people migrate, viruses penetrate, insects move—these writers show how identities shift with them.

**Mutant, Monster, Misfit, Myself : Writing the Disabled/Chronically Ill Body** (Sandra Beasley, Paul Guest, Rosebud Ben-Oni, Jenn Givhan, Jeannine Hall Gailey)

In-person event

5 disabled and/or chronically ill writers of poetry and memoir talk about how their body influences the way they write, their subject matter, even how they impact their genres and efforts towards publicity. How do we claim/activate our disability or illness? What do we disclose? We'll discuss how our work has changed over time, how our relationships with disability have changed, how we accommodate or resist the gaze of abled readers, and how disability/illness manifests in genre, line, metaphor.

**Neither The Madonna nor Mommy Dearest: Why and How to Write Real Mothers** (Ronit Plank, Jeannine Ouellette, Michelle Yang, Hyeseung Song, Tria Wen)

In-person event

Writing well about mothers means balancing the drive for truth with the influence of misogyny. Mothers are uniquely attacked in psychology and pop culture, but also falsely venerated, a binary that papers over complexity. These writers share how they've resisted demonizing imperfect mothers, depicting them instead with context and curiosity. They offer techniques for writing truthfully and vividly about the mother wound without leaning on the escalating "mother blame" in American society.

**Neurodiversity and Mental Health Difference Across Genres** (Stephanie Heit, Nazifa Islam, Tate N. Oquendo, Maya Beck)

In-person event

Join us for an exploration of how lived experience of neurodiversity and mental health difference can translate into writing. What are the possibilities and constraints different genres and forms offer? Why do writers decide to use specific genres? How do multiple identities and practices inform and shape work? We will share our responses and writing that encompasses speculative fiction, found poems, choice-based game narratives, noir hybrid memoir, and retellings of horror novels.

**Neuronasty: A Poetics** (Raye Hendrix, Alyssandra Tobin, Bethan Tyler)

In-person event

To be "Neuronasty" is to be shamelessly neurodivergent: to not hide our tics, to publicly stim, to take our meds (or not) and never apologize for the ways society deems us strange. But what does that look like for the poem, for poets? Contemporary American Poetics claims to favor raw, experimental work, but work by neurodivergent poets often seems to push these boundaries too far. A Neuronasty Poetics seeks to hold a mirror and middle finger to these conventions and push for true representation.

**New Queer Weird** (Amber Dawn, Megan Milks, Vi Khi Nao, Tania De Rozario, Larissa Lai)

In-person event

Five queer authors consider the emergence of a highly nimble and defiant genre. New Queer Weird—a retrospectively-applied label—muddies boundaries, mixing multiple speculative

genres and non-normative realism. Often, it presents the more abject, unsettling and nonlinear elements of speculative fiction, including body horror, dystopia, surrealism, dark fantasy and multiverses. Panelists will discuss the defining features of this genre and its value to queer identities and cultural production.

**No Agent? No Problem! : Publishing with with a University or Small Press** (Cate Hodorowicz, Meg Reid, Marisa Siegel, Anitra Budd, Kristen Miller)

In-person event

When writers without agents submit to small and university presses, they're often working without the benefit of an advocate who understands the publishing world and can speak to their best interests. This panel aims to give writers without agents the resources they need to help them have a positive publishing experience. Topics include cover pitches and early communication; contracts and finances; peer review and/or the role of a press board; and best practices for working with editors.

**No, Nope, Forget It!: Writers on Preferring Not To** (Leslie Harrison, Jung Yun, Nathan McClain, Matthew Thorburn, Joseph J. Capista)

In-person event

Saying "no" to unwanted distractions is hard for writers. So when we're mid-poem or revising a chapter, how do we protect time and energy for our work without estranging others or feeling guilty? How do we frame our "preferring not to" as artistic self-advocacy? Set boundaries and resist burnout? EB White declined "for secret reasons," but this mixed-genre panel will divulge how we quash the boss, nix parcheesi night, gently refuse those pushy students, and know when to say "yes."

**Not for myself alone: Creating & Sustaining Jewish Literary Communities** (Jessica Jacobs, Becca Kantor, Madeleine Cohen, Tom Haviv, Alicia Ostriker)

In-person event

In a time when "Jewish" can carry so many meanings, what do we need in the way of community? What can we share to encourage and inspire each other? Despite a strong literary presence, forums for support among American Jewish writers are limited. Representatives of the Jewish Book Council, Yiddish Book Center, Ayin Press, Lilith Magazine, and Yetzirah, a new organization for Jewish poets, will explore responses to the opportunities and challenges of this moment, with a chance for audience input.

**Not Lazy and Stupid: Atypical Minds Fighting for Space on the Page** (Leigh Camacho Rourks, Dustin Hyman, Rebecca Hazelwood, Saul Lemerond)

In-person event

It's no secret that creative writing spaces are narrowly neurotypical. Attitudes surrounding disorders like dyslexia and ADHD range from insulting to utterly exclusionary. Neurodivergent writers are either romanticized, erased, or both as the writing world has little interest in accommodating what they see as laziness. Our panel of exceptional authors will discuss the

hazards and struggles in fighting for accommodation and authentic representation, while carving out a space for our own success.

**Oceanic Metaphors: Tidalectics from Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa to the Kalapani** (No'u Revilla, Rajiv Mohabir, Essa May Ranapiri, Desiree C. Bailey, Rushi Vyas)

In-person event

Waters mingle when award-winning poets with indigenous roots in Aotearoa New Zealand and Hawai'i join in conversation with poets who write through histories of slavery and indenture in Caribbean waters. Following the late Kamau Brathwaite's tidalectics, these poets turn to the sea in their poetry to re-member the past, re-interpret cultural stories, and herald queer and liberatory futures. This trans-oceanic conversation asks how poetry can challenge ongoing colonial and imperial violence.

**On Errors: Reconsidering Accuracy & Authenticity in Translation, Sponsored by ALTA**

(Gabrielle Civil, Sawako Nakayasu, Madhu H. Kaza, JD Pluecker)

In-person event

This panel focuses on errors in translation to raise urgent questions about race, class, power, and literary values. It will engage the fraught situation of heritage speakers who often feel shame when making translation mistakes. It will confront and redress dominant ideas of accuracy, authority, and authenticity. Diverse panelists will discuss navigating their own translation errors and/or their experiences teaching, editing, or mentoring emerging translators.

**Out of the Boneyard: Keeping Dead Manuscripts Alive** (Zoe Zolbrod, Alia Alia Volz, Anne Liu Kellor, Rebecca Skloot, Nayomi Munaweera)

In-person event

It can feel like a death when the book you've labored over has been widely rejected, orphaned, or stalled in publishing. This panel explores the choices writers face when the universe seems to have said a resounding no. Should you retool based on feedback, or trust your vision? Should you wait for the zeitgeist to turn, or consider alternative routes to publication? Or is it time to start something new? The writers gathered here have found various ways to bring moribund projects back to life.

**Panel Discussion: The Word, The Body, The Page** (Shin Yu Pai, Serena Chopra, Amaranth Borsuk)

In-person event

What is an artist's book in the hands of a poet? This panel brings together writers whose practice extends from bookwork through performance and installation. In their work, each brings the body of both reader and writer into view by dispersing their writing across multiple mediums. The artist-authors will present their interdisciplinary writing and book art practices, which range from films, to works of interactive public art, to artists' books.

**Partnering for Progress: Building Language Equity at Artist Residencies** (Jane Hodges, Claudia Castro Luna, José Luis Montero, Teresa Luengo Cid, Maria de Lourdes Victoria)

In-person event

In 2022, Seattle Escribe and Mineral School piloted a partnership for the first all-Spanish language residency in the U.S. to take place at Mineral School in Washington during September, Hispanic Heritage Month. The residency provided an all-Spanish space for four writers to create and build community. We'll explore the demand for spaces centered on the needs of non-English creative writers and offer insight into ways English-led organizations can collaborate with non-English led organizations.

**Patchwork Identities: Hybrid Memoirs by Writers of Color** (Grace Prasad, Ella De Castro Baron, Jen Soong, Jackson Bliss)

In-person event

Most memoirs take readers on a journey through a steady, singular voice. But writers with complicated life stories and layered identities (BIPOC, mixed race, marginalized) aren't always served by conventional story structure. Much like the hit film *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once*, hybrid memoirs stitch together multiple realities, voices and aesthetic approaches, stretching the boundaries of autobiographical storytelling to convey the polyphonic brilliance of their experiences.

**Peculiar Histories** (Katharine Beutner, Katrina Carrasco, Alexander Chee, Jordy Rosenberg, Hugh Ryan)

In-person event

This panel brings together a queer historian with queer writers of historical fiction to discuss the genre and how they approach the depiction of often-marginalized histories. What are a writer's responsibilities when navigating the acts of approximation required by historical fiction and narrating history? How do they tackle archival research (or absence), primary texts, material culture? What can historical fiction and history make happen in the world? What's queer about historical fiction?

**Playing in the Dirt: The Memory Librarian and New Literary Collaboration** (Kyle Dargan, Alaya Johnson, Yohanca Delgado, Sheree Thomas, Danny Lore)

In-person event

THE MEMORY LIBRARIAN & OTHER STORIES OF DIRTY COMPUTER, a 2022 NYT bestselling collection of short fiction, sought to crosspollinate audiences for music, sci-fi, and short form fiction. It represented a model of open collaboration not often seen in publishing. How did Janelle Monae collaborate with five writers to produce a cohesive text and what might others learn from the ups and downs of that process? Join four of the collaborators along with the book's editor for an in-depth retrospective.

**Playing the Long Game: Novels and Memoirs Ten Years (or More) in the Making** (Katie Cortese, Deborah Taffa, V.V. Ganeshananthan, Melissa Duclos, Jai Chakrabarti)

In-person event



In a world that celebrates writers who publish early and often, it can be easy for slower or older writers to feel the deck is stacked against them. Experience shows, though, that patience and persistence often pay off. Authors who spent ten years or more on their manuscripts will discuss their experiences with writing and revising their books, as well as the process of finding agents and being published, and will offer advice to those deep in their long-term, long-form writing projects.

**Playwriting 101: Accessing Emotional Honesty in Storytelling** (Jordan Stovall, Candrice Jones, E. M. Lewis, Naveen Choudhury, Jewelle Gomez)

In-person event

Have you ever been curious about writing for the stage? Learn how to write from a place of emotional honesty and authenticity in this workshop, geared towards students who are looking to access their inner storyteller and write their very first stage play. This class is meant for first-time playwrights; it is great for theatre lovers who want to try playwriting, writers from other genres who would like to learn the rules of writing for the stage, or actors who would like to try writing their own

**Poetic Cartographies: Bilingualism, Craft and Identity (Native, Heritage, L2)** (Carlos Aguasaco, Violeta Orozco, Ignacio Carvajal, Jennifer Rathbun, Mauricio Espinoza)

In-person event

Poetry, bilingualism, and identity converge as they resist hegemonic notions and reveal cultural cartographies and collective memories. The bilingual writers on this panel discuss how they navigate their translingual/transcultural work and how language constructs identity and a sense of belonging. They will talk about challenges and opportunities posed by bilingualism and reflect upon their experiences in the ever-evolving creative writing world which is becoming diverse and inclusive.

**Poetic Experiments: Incorporating Play into Writing and Teaching** (Kimberly Grey, Felicia Zamora, Phillip B. Williams, Julie Carr)

In-person event

These innovative poets from various backgrounds and aesthetic schools will discuss the role that play takes in their creative work and pedagogy, focusing on approach and process and the various ways that linguistic, sonic, and visual play are part of their poetic and teaching lives. How can play make writing pleasurable? How can it provoke discovery for students? Some of the various roles of play that will be discussed are play as innovation, play as protest, and play as improvisation.

**PR in a (Nearly) Post-COVID Age** (Courtney LeBlanc, Jeannine Gailey Hall, Jennifer Martelli, Susan Rich)

In-person event

This panel will show you easy hacks for promoting your book in a world in flux. What can make a profound difference in just 5 minutes a day? Or fifteen? Or thirty? How can you measure success? Each author has published several books and has successfully gotten their books

included in festivals, author events, and into bookstores. How can you make this fun instead of gruesome? We will show you!

**Publishing Choices for Inclusive YA/MG Fiction** (Craig Leener, Desiree Calderon de Fawaz, Jay Hartlove, Scott Cleaver, Jiordan Castle)

In-person event

Five authors of books for the YA/MG audience who seek inclusivity in their work discuss their various paths towards publication: self-publishing, small, and larger presses. They'll contrast pros and cons of different choices, what worked for them and what they'd do differently. They will address unique issues writers face when presenting nuanced portrayals of neurodiverse, LGBT, POC, or other characters from marginalized communities and the ethics and dynamics of a writer's serving as an ally.

**Publishing the Short Story Collection** (Brenda Peynado, Gwen Kirby, Nana Nkweti, Talia Kolluri, Lydia Conklin)

In-person event

Word on the street is that short story collections don't sell and nobody reads them. While it's true that the publishing landscape is difficult for short stories, four writers of debut short story collections from Penguin, Tin House, and Catapult counter with collections that do sell. They will talk about their (sometimes rocky) path to publishing their debuts and beyond, give perspective on the collection publishing landscape, as well as advice on the 2-book problem of novel partials.

**Queer Chimera: The Fervor and Fantasy of Genre Transgression** (Jenny Bitner, Celeste Chan, Miah Jeffra, Kathleen J Woods, Danny Thanh Nguyen)

In-person event

This panel brings together writers who defy and merge genres and forms to discuss queer expression in messy, multi-faceted hybrid work. Drawing from a range of cultural and literary backgrounds, and examining both their own work and the work of others, these writers will discuss the craft of writing the grief, anger, desire, and joy that insists upon formal contradiction and possibility—refusing to be singularly contained.

**Queer Eye for the Natural World: Writing Our Bodies, Desire, and Nature** (Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Callum Angus, Marco Wilkinson, Amie Whittemore, Melissa Matthewson)

In-person event

This multi-genre panel will feature four authors employing queer ecology as a framework for their creative approaches. Through lively discussion, we'll look at queer ecology's role in contemporary literature as a site of interrogation: how do identity, desire, and social and environmental justice intersect to form a queer perspective on nature? We will explore connection and relational experience with a queer ecological sensibility shaping the expansiveness of a new kind of nature writing.

**Race to Machine: Asian-Americans Write Tech, Colonialism, and Dystopia** (Shankar Narayan, Franny Choi, Betsy Aoki, Neil Aitken, Margaret Rhee)

In-person event

The tech tsunami transforming our world isn't new—but change is accelerating. Tech may feed into intersectional crises in race, environment, disinformation, and intolerance, amplifying inequity and colonialist tropes. Five Asian-American voices tackle all of the above, drawing on roots in the tech space and in their race, gender, immigrant, and sexual identities. We'll explore the challenges of writing about tech with courage and authenticity, while exploring humanity's love affair with tech.

**Radical Empathy: Writing and Community Engagement as a Form of Resistance** (Chiwan Choi, Melanie Faranello, Roya Marsh, Felice Belle)

In-person event

The intersection of creative writing and community engagement through the arts is a potent combination for social change with the capability to affect how we interact with one another and imagine the world around us. Through public art projects, community activism, and our own writing, how can the written word be used as a vehicle for empathy and social change? What is the power of bringing people's words into public spaces as well as creating new worlds through our own fiction and poetry?

**Rage Against the Academic Machine: Writers Surviving Academia** (Lina Ferreira, Inara Verzemnieks, Sarah Viren, Angela Pelster-Wiebe, Kisha Llewelyn Schlegel)

In-person event

When we tell people about our academic support group, they ask if they can join. We know there's a need, and we want to help you start your own. In this panel, five members of Rage Against the Academic Machine will share why we formed a writers' academic support group, the personal and professional impact it has had the last five years, how it helps writers even outside the academy, and practical steps to create your own collective. Come alone or bring colleagues ready to build something.

**Re-visioning History in Creative Nonfiction** (Kathleen Alcala, Teow Lim Goh, Nick Neely, Ana Maria Spagna)

In-person event

When creative nonfiction writers revisit history through a deliberately subjective lens—with a distinct personal stake—we can amplify underrepresented voices, interrogate stock narratives, and emphasize crucial intersections. But we also face challenges including overwhelming scale, incomplete records, and the danger of appropriation. Panelists will discuss practical and innovative approaches to seeing the past anew including speculation, investigation, immersion, and the use of hybrid forms.

**Reading at 24 Frames Per Second: Exploring Cinematic Influence On Literature** (Kenning JP García, Jonathan Penton, Rosalyn Spencer, Rone Shavers, Tara Stillions Whitehead)

In-person event

While the influence of literature on film is ubiquitous and clear, film's influence on literature is often under-discussed. Given that film and cinematic effects have had a significant effect on literary fiction, genre fiction, and even creative non-fiction, we will discuss the whys and hows of this trend. We'll break down several classic films from the 20th century and highlight how they have come to influence 20th and 21st century writing styles, citing examples of specific literary works.

**Reclaiming the Asian Femme Body in Speculative Fiction** (Elaine Hsieh Chou, K-Ming Chang, Isabel Yap, Silvia Park, Ploi Pirapokin)

In-person event

For centuries, the Asian femme body has been a fraught site of violence, colonization and objectification. How does speculative fiction allow us to reclaim and rewrite harmful and false narratives we never consented to? How can bodily transformation (into monsters, robots, mythological creatures and more) desexualize, reimagine and liberate the Asian femme body? The panelists will explore how writing speculative elements in their work creates space for subversive and transformative narratives.

**Redefining Power: Indigenizing the Hybrid Poem** (Mary Leana Christensen, Halee Kirkwood, Tacey Atsitty, Annie Wenstrup, Casandra Lopez)

In-person event

Five Indigenous poets will read their creative work, define hybrid poetry, and discuss the agency Indigenous writers create within the hybrid form. Here, the hybrid poem is a means to dissect a complex history and hold it accountable. Panelists will consider the role of hybridity in their cultures and languages, and how the inclusion of such elements redistributes power. Panelists will also examine the stigma surrounding hybrid forms, and the intersection between archival and creative work.

**Removing the Camouflage: Queer and Trans Military Voices Speak Out** (Bronson Lemer, Katherine Schifani, Anthony Moll, Mael Embser-Herbert, Richard Brookshire)

In-person event

Recent creative nonfiction storytellers speak out about being queer and/or trans in the military and how sharing their stories has helped shape public perspectives of LGBTQ+ people in the armed forces. Panelists discuss the challenges with sharing queer and trans stories, contributions of queer and trans voices to military literature, film, and storytelling, and strategies in creating social change through advocating for more diverse voices in the writing and documenting of military experiences.

**Resisting the Narrative, Lyric Essaying the Future** (Zoë Bossiere, Erica Trabold, Jennifer S. Cheng, Jenny Bouilly, Krys Malcolm Belc)

In-person event

Although its forms have existed for centuries and gone by many names, the lyric essay is often described as an experimental "new" genre. Until recently, many of the most widely-anthologized, read, and taught lyric essays have represented a narrow range of perspectives.

Editors and contributors to The Lyric Essay as Resistance anthology discuss their commitment to evolving the lyric essay conversation and engaging a range of voices that more accurately represent the expansive nature of the genre.

**Rhizomatic Literary Communities: From the Local to the National** (Hannah Hutton, Victoria Bañales, Catherine Segurson, Farnaz Fatemi, Roxi Power)

In-person event

Writers, editors, publishers, and podcasters from Santa Cruz, CA (The Hive Poetry Collective, Catamaran Literary Reader, Viz, Inter-Arts, Xinachtli Journal, Santa Cruz Writes) will discuss strategies to create a thriving trans-cultural and trans-genre community of local and national journals, readings, interviews, conferences, radio shows, and other outreach. We offer our experiences as a way to stimulate others eager to seed local projects that connect across stylistic and cultural differences.

**Right on Time: Four Fiction Writers Discuss Debuts Over 50** (Darlene Taylor, Marcia Bradley, Jimin Han, Caroline Kim, Ramona Reeves)

In-person event

Supporting younger authors' success is important, but it's equally critical to support those who publish their first books after 50, 60 and beyond. This women-identified panel dispels notions of late bloomers and ageism in favor of publishing "right on time." Having stayed the course, these panelists celebrate lived experience in crafting their debuts, despite challenges of finding space, time, income and community. They also discuss succeeding in a world that often values youth over age.

**Serving the Underserved: Bringing Poetry to Visually Impaired and At-Risk Groups** (Ed Rayher, Susan Glass, Margo Stever, Jennifer Franklin, Lynn Shorter)

In-person event

Traditional print publication unintentionally ignores several underserved communities: the visually impaired and the at-risk. Publishers and editors with a history of work with blind and at-risk groups discuss the technological and outreach issues of addressing these problems through audio renditions, Braille print versions and incorporations of Braille into traditional print publication, along with outreach to at-risk communities through materials and workshops targeted to their experiences.

**Sharp Tongues: Multilingual Writing in Emerging Asian Diasporic Poetics** (Rushi Vyas, Phuong Vuong, Nilufar Karimi, Vyxz Vasquez)

In-person event

Poets who live in, with, and through multiple languages share different approaches to writing multilingual poetry in an Anglophone-dominant landscape. What politics and poetics inform a decision to translate or not to translate? How do the processes of poesis and translation alter and carve language in unexpected ways? Can poetry resist the colonial 'melting pot'? Four emerging poets from Vietnamese, Iranian, South Asian, and Filipino diasporas share work and stories behind their process.

**Show Me the Money; New and Creative Ways to Fund Your Writing Life** (Sara Connell, Aatif Rashid, Kurt Baumeister, Dionne Irving, Billy Lombardo)

In-person event

The fantasy for many writers is working for long stretches of hours in a room of one's own, totally immersed in the craft. But few writers actually write full time. (Maya Angelou worked as a fry cook and Wallace Stevens sold insurance.) This panel will discuss the challenges (particularly to women and writers of color), new solutions and some surprising benefits of the necessity to earn income while preserving mental energy and stamina to bring forth the work.

**So You Want to Edit an Anthology? Editors on Pitch, Process, and Publication** (Ruben Quesada, Stephanie G'Schwind, Sun Yung Shin, Richard Santos, Emily Perez)

In-person event

Congratulations, you have a great idea for an anthology! What's next? Will you solicit work or post a call? Do you need a co-editor or an agent? When should you pitch to a press? How do you acquire permissions? These anthology editors and publishers have experience with eight anthologies, including poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. At every stage of the process they took different approaches from one another, and they are ready to share strategies with you. Come with questions!

**So You Want to Publish a Poetry Collection** (Gabrielle Bates, Luther Hughes, Shelley Wong, Paul Hlava Ceballos)

In-person event

Recent debut authors will briefly share their own first-book journeys, offering practical counsel and sharing resources when it comes to organizing, editing, and soliciting feedback on your manuscript; navigating first-book contest submissions; publishing outside of the contest model; and common emotional, psychological, and financial realities of sending your first book out into the world.

**Speak, memory: the power and politics of retrospection narration** (Alix Ohlin, Natalie Bakopoulos, Beth Nguyen, V.V. Ganeshanathan, Nina McConigley)

In-person event

The act of telling a story is one of asserting agency and authority—all the more so when a narrator comes from a position where that agency and authority have been questioned or denied. Retrospective narrators set their own terms, offer testimony, reshape memories, and process trauma. This panel will discuss retrospective narration as an act of reclaiming control for and by characters who are outsiders, have been disenfranchised, or whose stories have been written over by a more powerful voice.

**Stand (or sit) and deliver: Inviting Audiences into Poetry through Performance** (Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, NourbeSe Phillips, Beth Ann Fennelly, Ilya Kaminsky, Alicia Jo Rabins)

In-person event

Creative writers use bodies and voices--pitch, volume, pacing—to shape tone. Writers may not all be actors, but if we can diversify and expand audiences through performance, why not call

for more rehearsals? Panelists raise the curtain on backstage preparations to show how bodies' gestures, sounds, sizes and movements can deepen the audience's connection to an imaginative world. Working within constraints, panelists model the small and larger techniques to gift an embodied lyric experience.

**Stealing Time: On Purpose, Permission, and Putting Writing First** (Miciah Bay Gault, Robin Beth Schaer, Ukamaka Olisakwe, Crystal Wilkinson, Connie May Fowler)

In-person event

Writers say they “steal time” for writing on days overstuffed with work and family commitments. But who exactly does our time belong to? Can we prioritize writing in a culture that calls our most precious work theft, something we sneak like sweets or cigarettes? Is there, as Rilke suggests “ancient enmity between our daily life and the great work”? This panel offers a new framework for understanding writing time and proposes a more generous relationship between daily life and the great work.

**Stronger Together: Literary Coalitions for the Win** (Cati Porter, Phil Taggart, Jenn Dees, Jennifer Corley, Hiram Sims)

In-person event

The pandemic dissolved barriers and forged coalitions between unlikely allies. Now that the fog is dissipating, how can we continue to foster unity within the literary community? What unique knowledge and perspective do we each have that we can use for the greater good? Hear how coalitions of disparate, previously silo-like SoCal literary organizations in Southern California and across the country came together to model how others can also benefit from mutual support and resource-sharing.

**Studying Creative Writing in the UK** (Lucy Durneen, Alycia Pirmohamed, Joseph Mungo Reed, Patrick Errington)

In-person event

Over 40 UK universities offer postgraduate courses in Creative Writing, though many prospective students from North America are unaware of these opportunities. This panel of writers, trained in both the UK and the USA, will discuss the degrees available at UK universities and the difference between American and British writing programs, drawing upon experience gained at institutions including St Andrews, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Manchester.

**Sustaining Seattle: Literary Leaders in a Time of Reckoning** (Susan Meyers , Juan Reyes , Joyce Chen, Kimberly Wilson)

In-person event

How will Seattle’s literary scene remain vibrant and organic, given the pressures—and opportunities—of the city’s increasing role as the nation’s second publishing hub? Poised between increased international ties and deep histories of red-lining of land rights conflicts, our city is reckoning with questions of community sustainability. Drawing together activist leaders



from leading local literary organizations, this panel explores our needs and challenges during the years of growth ahead.

**Teaching, Learning & Programming outside the Academy: A Case for Writers Centers** (Jennifer Jean, Daniel Suarez, Daniel Tam-Claiborne, Rebecca Morgan Frank, Jennifer Franklin)

In-person event

Earning an MFA is a wonderful opportunity but not everyone has the resources and/or time to follow this route to becoming a published writer or reaching one's literary goals. Join program directors and instructors at four of the longest running writers' centers in the country as they discuss experiences within and outside of academia. Hear from these education/ program directors & teachers in several genres as they offer the benefits and challenges of teaching and learning outside the Academy.

**Textploitation: Topical Issues in Fiction** (Soma Mei Sheng Frazier, Tomas Moniz, Miah Jeffra, Joseph Han, Keenan Norris)

In-person event

In an adrenaline-driven culture rife with fearmongering and trauma porn, how do we write conscientious fiction about local, national or global issues and emergencies? Given the damage and desensitization linked to our constant exposure to bleed-and-lead news, many writers grapple with exercising awareness, optimism and empathy while shining a light on injustice, treachery and tragedy. Five award-winning authors/editors discuss illuminating—vs. sensationalizing—real-life topics in fictional work.

**The “Weak” Novel: Radical New Fiction from Graywolf Press** (Yuka Igarashi, Isabel Waidner, Lucy Corin, Mandy-Suzanne Wong, Lucy Ives)

In-person event

In *Weak Planet*, scholar Wai Chi Dimock questions mastery as an ideal in literature and proposes “beginning instead with vulnerability.” This panel convenes novelists who subvert hierarchies of plot and character; “incorrectly” borrow tropes from science fiction or academia; and blur the line between writing and life. What happens when a novel includes a (real) utility bill or a chapter written by a character? How can radically porous novels help us reimagine the future of literature and society?

**The Best of All Worlds: Partnering to Support Presses, Non-Profits, and Writers** (Travis Snyder, Rachel Mennies, Isabelle Pelaud, Elizabeth Dodd, Leslie Jill Patterson)

In-person event

University presses are unique in publishing because they accept works based on merit rather than profitability, but low profiles mean creative writers often overlook them. Texas Tech University Press (TTUP) has sought to bridge that gap by partnering with journals and arts organizations to attract new writers and readers while increasing TTUP's visibility, reach, and author diversity. Representatives from the press and its partners will speak about the mutual benefits of their collaborations.

**The Body Politic: Poetry of Motherhood, Trauma, and Sexuality** (Anna V. Q. Ross, Eugenia Leigh, Julia Dasbach, Keetje Kuipers, Rio Cortez)

In-person event

In a year of intensifying armed conflict and continued pandemic, as the U.S. Supreme Court stands to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and hate crimes reported to the FBI are at a record high, five poet mothers who engage diaspora, sexuality, mental illness, and inherited and received trauma will speak to parenting in troubled times and what Adrienne Rich calls the "long, erotic, unended wrestling of poetry and politics." The panel will end with an audience Q&A, and attendees will receive creative prompts.

**The Counterpoint West: Noir, Gritty, Haunted, and Left** (Dan Smetanka, Natashia Deon, Nawaaz Ahmed, Tod Goldberg, Maria Hummel)

In-person event

The old literary tropes of the American West--the lone, white male nihilist-hero, corrupted cities, the hope of a new country--where are they now? Counterpoint Press, a longtime indie West Coast publisher, has become a leader in recasting Western lit with novels that are diverse, feminist, radical, time-bending, and darkly comic. Meet the new West as four Counterpoint authors discuss their groundbreaking projects and the region's evolving motifs, moderated by Counterpoint's editor-in-chief.

**The First Crypto Poets: What We Learned from NFTs and Where We're Going** (John Poch, Sasha Stiles, Ana Caballero, Kalen Iwamoto)

In-person event

This panel will discuss the world of crypto-poetry and our experiences: where we've been and where we're headed with our literary NFTs on these dynamic new publishing platforms. The participants' backgrounds in artificial intelligence, poetry, visual art, and creating/minting/selling/buying on the blockchain provide a new way of presenting poetry to readers. Attendees will benefit from hearing about our own work in crypto-spaces: the technology, successes, obstacles, failures, triumphs, etc

**The Future is Now—Near Future Speculative Fiction** (Brenda Peynado, Jamie Ford, Jessamine Chan, Sequoia Nagamatsu, Erin Swan)

In-person event

Many near-future fiction writers find themselves writing prescient scenarios, their imagined futures coming true. Four speculative fiction authors of pandemics, climate change, virtual reality, forced motherhood, immigration dystopias, and other cataclysms discuss the power to look forward, how they unearth the seeds of what will come and what is already here, and how to stay ahead of a future fast closing in.

**The Future of Queer Aesthetics: How to Write Authentic LGBTQ+ characters** (Venita Blackburn, Venita Blackburn, Joseph Cassara, Chen Chen)

In-person event

This panel will feature established queer authors and teachers of creative writing discussing the current state of queer aesthetics and how to write about, critique, and revise works about LGBTQ+ characters and experiences in the workshop setting. What does it mean to create an authentic queer character on the page? In an era when queer issues are simultaneously progressing and at risk of reactionary backsliding, how do we confront otherness in our work and the work of our students?

**The Future of Queer Publishing** (Jeanne Thornton, Margot Atwell, Brian Lam, Casey Plett, LD Lewis)

In-person event

Queer art has always been at the forefront of cultural movements, pushing boundaries and expanding our ideas of what art and industry can look like. What does queer literature look like today across the publishing industry, and what are our hopes, dreams, and plans for its future? Join the publishing professionals who are revolutionizing queer literature for an in-depth discussion on the expansive possibilities of queer publishing.

**The Ghazal and its Homes through Time** (Deema Shehabi, Shadab Zeest Hashmi, Adeeba Shahid Talukder, Persis Karim, Zeina Hashem Beck)

In-person event

Originally a popular form of love ode in ancient Arabic, the ghazal was embraced by Persian poetics and later found its way into numerous Persianate cultures, most notably Urdu. For two millennia, the ghazal has remained intact in spirit, form and sensibility, with a few important shifts in formal mechanics as it transitioned from Arabic to Persian. In this panel, five women poets with a background in Arabic, Urdu, and Persian, will discuss the ghazal's history and read some of their own ghazals

**The Indie Experience: Working with an editor from acquisition to finished book** (Kevin Chong, Alyssa Ogi, Dan Lopez, Shirarose Wilensky, Jennifer Croll)

In-person event

What's it like to be an author at an independent press? Are there benefits to working with an indie press, or ways they differ from corporate publishers? This panel, with four editors from independent presses in the US and Canada and moderated by an author, will answer questions about acquisition, the author-editor relationship, and the steps in the production process. This event is ideal for both debut writers and more experienced writers who are interested in the independent press model.

**The Inside Connection: The Possibilities and Pitfalls of Linked Story Collection** (Jonathan Escoffery, Leigh Newman, Lydia Conklin, Jean Chen Ho, Maurice Ruffin)

In-person event

Writing a linked story collection has its particular challenges (and joys!). We'll look at the craft questions associated with the process, such as the range of wildly different techniques used to build such a collection (for example: a single character who appears in all the stories versus

thematic connections versus a single setting or time period); the issue of story order; the search to find a title, and the pressure to turn such a collection into a novel (or not).

**The Intergenerational Narrative: Writing Our Family Stories** (Jung Hae Chae, Meera Vijayann , Frances Badalamenti, Keya Mitra, Joy Lanzendorfer)

In-person event

Writing about family trauma can be painful and difficult, so how do you weave complex real-life experiences into compelling stories? Whether it's fiction or memoir, it's challenging to turn close relatives into developed characters and create nuanced landscapes and points of view from personal memories. Five panelists will offer insight into their approaches to the intergenerational narrative, and how to use different genres, platforms, and techniques to craft your own origin story.

**The Internet and creativity: Fatal Distraction or Turbo charger?** (Gabe Hudson, Julia Fierro, Rebecca Makkai)

In-person event

Ever since Jonathan Franzen warned that the internet was such a murderer of creativity that he claimed he Krazy-glued the ethernet port on his laptop shut, debates have ranged from ascetics abstaining completely to publishers and agents claiming a modern writer's career is not viable without a "platform" of social media engagement. Three published writers and moderator discuss how the internet has helped make or break their careers.

**The Intersection of Art and Revenue: Writing for Literary and Mainstream Outlets** (Sharon Van Epps, Julie Vick, Rachel Mans McKenny, Windy Lynn Harris, Rudri Bhatt Patel)

In-person event

Many writers work with both literary and mainstream publications but these outlets differ in the types of work they look for, submission etiquette, pay, rights, and voice. The panelists will discuss their experiences with and advice for working with both types of publications. By the end of the panel, attendees will have an understanding of how to choose what type of outlet an idea might be right for and how to successfully write for and submit to these different markets.

**The Kids Are All Writing: Literary Centers on Youth Engagement** (Susan Page Deutsch, Jessica Grace Kelley, Travon Godette, Joe Kane)

In-person event

How do we teach craft fundamentals while keeping youth excited & engaged? How can we encourage young writers to create community? How can we not only invite teens into the literary world but encourage them to bring their full selves into those spaces? Panelists from Grubstreet, The Muse Writers Center & The Porch discuss foundational tenets & teaching strategies, ways to cultivate confidence & self-discovery, and the particular challenges of maintaining fluidity in youth programming.

**The Landscape of Literary Publishing in Canada** (Peggy Burns, Alana Wilcox, Hazel Millar, Norm Nehmetallah, Candida Rifkind)

#### In-person event

Get to know some of the leading lights of Canadian literary publishing who just happen to be independent presses too! Book\*hug, Coach House, Drawn & Quarterly, and Invisible titles have been nominated for or won the Booker, Giller, Governor General's, Lambda, and many other awards. We'll answer questions like: What is it like to publish books in the USA while based in Canada? What are Canadians reading and writing? What do US publishers have to learn from Canadians?

#### **The Long-term Book Program as MFA Alternative** (Maria S. Picone, Linsey Krolik, Dawn Tasaka Steffler, Simone Stolzoff, Shella Parcarey)

##### In-person event

You've taken some workshops, you have a book idea, maybe you're thinking about an MFA. But there are alternative ways to go in-depth on a project! This panel brings together participants from writing workshops that offer a long-term book program such as StoryStudio's Novel in a Year, Lighthouse's Book Project, GrubStreet's Novel Generator, and Stanford's Novel Certificate. We will discuss the benefits and challenges of participation and answer any questions you might have about the process.

#### **The More-Than-Human Multiverse: Celebrating the Poetry of Widening Circles** (Marybeth Holleman, Gretchen Primack, Mandy-Suzanne Wong, Megan Kaminski, Donald Vincent)

##### In-person event

As poets and readers embrace the necessity of hearing a multiverse of human voices, it's also necessary that we embrace the multiverse of the nonhuman. Though challenging, finding ways to "hear" the nonhuman can only enrich our writing. We will explore how that ethos, a new perspective on and attention to the nonhuman, has shaped the consciousness and work of contemporary poets, and what strategies we have found successful.

#### **The Narrative of Desire: The Importance of Writing Horny Women** (Rebecca Rukeyser, Carmen Maria Machado, Alyssa Songsiridej, Lilian Fishman)

##### In-person event

Sexual desire is a perfect narrative accelerant. It propels plot, informs character, thwarts plans. But pure sexual desire is often denied female characters, who are allowed to be desirous-but-doomed or desirous-but-it's-self-actualization but rarely messily, humanly horny. In this panel, four writers discuss the strategies, challenges, and value of writing horniness in fiction, the impoverished history of women's desire in fiction, and importance of a robust future of horny women characters.

#### **The New Addiction Memoir: Resisting Salaciousness and Cliche** (Nicole Shawan Junior, Lilly Dancyger, Angeliqe Stevens, Jessica Hoppe, Erin Khar)

##### In-person event

Cultural conversations around addiction are shifting toward humanity and nuance, but there's still a long way to go. On this panel, five authors of memoirs about addiction (their own and loved ones') will discuss how they avoided salaciousness and cliché in their stories, centering

compassion without shying away from ugliness. They'll also cover some of the hurdles of putting these stories into the world, from legal issues to contending with reader bias and industry expectations.

**The Other Deepest Thing: A Tribute to Naomi Shihab Nye** (Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Nathalie Handal, Hayan Charara, Jenny Browne, John Phillip Santos)

In-person event

Persistent political, racial and religious divisions have made Naomi Shihab Nye's long-beloved poem *Kindness* one that repeatedly resurfaces with its gentle yet urgent call for human connection. Like the poem, Nye's vast body of work as a poet, essayist, anthologist, novelist and children's book author transcends genres and bridges worlds. Panelists will use the poem as a spark to discuss Nye's impact on their own work and lives. Nye will then close the event with brief remarks and a new poem.

**The Pocket Epic: Poets Writing at Length** (Melissa Crowe, Meg Day, Paisley Rekdal, Sumita Chakraborty)

In-person event

In a form characterized by compression, what does it mean to write at length? Can such works cleave to standards of precision and concision as they extend beyond the standard one-pager? What kinds of worldbuilding, expansiveness of thought, or complexity of experience might be achieved in multi-page or even book-length poems? Panelists will read briefly from their work, discuss both formal and free-verse approaches to writing long poems, and offer strategies for generating and sustaining them.

**The Sentence Is the Story: Reading, Writing, and Revising for Style and Sound** (Miciah Bay Gault, Matt Bell, Dantiel Moniz, Allegra Hyde, Alexander Chee)

In-person event

Five writers enamored with sentences will discuss the pleasure and power of line-level reading, writing, and revision. We approach sentences in terms of musicality, mouth feel, the “felt quality” of sound, syntactic symbolism, and the physicality of sentences (musculature, torque, momentum.) We’ll talk about first and last sentences, the one-sentence paragraph, the way prose can evoke a story through close-focus description, and the underlying idea that poetic devices are also at work in prose.

**The Small Press Author’s Guide to Cultivating Community and Publicity** (Gloria Muñoz, JD Scott, Sheree Greer, Lindsay Merbaum, Yanyi \_)

In-person event

Small presses make huge contributions to the literary community, but they’re often understaffed and underfunded, leaving debut authors to be their own publicists. In addition to marketing tips, authors will talk about community-building efforts and how satellite events can support creative work. From mixing book-themed cocktails and organizing readings to pitching educational guides and running newsletters, attendees will learn imaginative ways to cultivate community while building up your book.

**The State of Vietnamese-American Poetics** (Joshua Nguyen, Paul Tran, Susan Nguyen, Kien Lam, Kimberly Nguyen)

In-person event

In this panel, Vietnamese-American poets discuss the legacy of Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American poetics and how they see themselves honoring, disrupting, and expanding the landscape of Vietnamese-American literature. Panelists will cite work from notable Vietnamese-American poets, discuss the influence of the Vietnam War, and how certain poetic forms help with carrying on Vietnamese traditions.

**The Twenty-First Century Horror Novel** (Juan Martinez, Erika Wurth, Addie Tsai, Stephanie Feldman)

In-person event

The novel has thrived as a vehicle for scary stories since the time of Ann Radcliffe and Mary Shelley, and after three centuries, horror is returning to the mainstream. What elements of the genre have persisted, and how has horror evolved? How are contemporary writers reimagining horror? What essential work do horror tropes perform in this particular historical moment? Four novelists discuss the aesthetics and politics of fear.

**The Twist: Plot Turns That Make Movie Magic** (Leslie Kreiner Wilson, Tom Provost, Andrea Baltazar)

In-person event

One of the most important elements in any screenplay is the twist. This panel provides examples of compelling plot turns from films and screenplays as well as examines how those moments sharpen the plotline, theme, or character arc. The purpose of this panel is to inspire screenwriters to write pages that surprise and delight both readers and audiences.

**The Writing Lives of Roe v. Wade** (Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Lisa Lewis, Jan Beatty, Lynn Emanuel, Nahal Suzanne Jamir)

In-person event

Roe v. Wade empowered generations to choose their reproductive futures. It also enabled choices important to creating literary selves, communities, and spaces. Now, on the cusp of 50 years, this landmark court decision may be overturned. Five poets and writers will read from their work and reflect on Roe's impact on their imaginations and writing lives. How did Roe change the literary culture in which each panelist came of age? What are strategies for writing in a post-Roe world? Q&A to follow.

**They Rise Like A Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets** (Christine Kitano, Alycia Pirmohamed, Paul Tran, Manahil Bandukwala, Sarah Audsley)

In-person event

Blue Oak Press celebrates the publication of *They Rise Like a Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets*, which explores the depth and diversity of contemporary work by Asian American women and non-binary poets. It provides an artifact of the range of responses to both personal and political forces, including the Trump presidency, the COVID pandemic, and



the recent rise in anti-Asian violence. Panelists will speak to the evolving stakes of what it means to write as an Asian American poet.

**Through a Literary Lens: Craft Techniques to Get You Published in Mainstream Pubs** (William Dameron, Estelle Erasmus, Vanessa Hua, Courtney Maum, Hattie Fletcher)

In-person event

Many CNF writers grapple with making the jump from lit journals to mainstream publications, and underestimate their ability to bring their work to a broader audience. A panel of bestselling authors, journalists, columnists, instructors, memoirists, and editors will discuss using craft techniques such as objective correlative and metaphor to carry emotion, narrative voice and scene-setting. Panelists offer advice; craft, pitching and editing tips that led to publication, book deals, and acclaim.

**Through the Walls: Working Equitably With Incarcerated Writers** (Yukari Kane, Nicole Shawan Junior, Arthur Longworth, Caitis Meissner)

In-person event

A rich yet untapped pool of literary and journalistic expertise exists behind the wall. Incarcerated writers are eager to and capable of producing serious literature across genre but the path to publication for them is fraught. From lack of access to submissions calls to the potential for serious reprisal from prison staff, talent behind the walls goes unexplored, unread. Here, we'll share tips for how you can work with incarcerated writers to bring their narratives to the public.

**Too Small to Fail: The Indie Press Prerogative in Advancing Diverse Voices** (Krishna Narayanamurti, Marcus Clayton, Nikolai Garcia, Viva Padilla, AJ Urquidi)

In-person event

The Western U.S. is one of the world's most diverse regions, but the literary scene remains a "mainly white room." In what ways is it the duty of West Coast indie journals and micro presses to find and publish writing that upends the norms of institutional gatekeeping? L.A.-based editors from 'Dryland' and 'Indicia' discuss their experiments with equity, intersectionality, and digital collaboration to publish crucial work that challenges hidden biases of audiences and the editors themselves.

**Transformative Experiences: In-Community Retreats for Creatives** (Alex Villasante, Daria Peoples, Rob Sanders, Linda Epstein, Debbi Michiko Florence)

In-person event

With representatives from many in-community retreats-- the Jewish Symposium, Writing the Rainbow, Latinx Symposium, AAPI Retreat, the Diversity Fellowship, and more, this panel of diverse voices will celebrate ways to invest in and create programming for storytellers. This collection of writers and illustrators will dig into the challenges, successes, and most importantly the need for marginalized creatives to have safe, in-community spaces to grow their careers and amplify one another's work.

**Translating the Poetry of Urgency, Sponsored by ALTA** (Nancy Naomi Carlson, Boris Dralyuk, Cynthia Hogue, Gabriela Ramirez-Chavez, Joshua Weiner)

In-person event

What are “urgent poems”? Although they arise as responses to critical situations, they know no borders and are essential to our survival, as well as our humanity. This panel of poets and scholars, translating from such languages as French (Canada and Congo-Brazzaville), German, Russian, and Spanish/K'iche' Mayan, will briefly discuss, then read bilingual examples of poems that demand to be heard, then address audience questions.

**Translation 101: How to Become a Translator, Sponsored by ALTA** (Jennifer Acker, Curtis Bauer, Jenna Tang, Aaron Coleman)

In-person event

You're interested in becoming a translator: how do you get started? How does one negotiate the role of translator between publishers, authors, and readers? In navigating both the translation process and publication, are there special considerations for those translating from non-heritage languages, non-European languages, or for people of color? This panel of translators, editors, writers, and scholars will address nuts and bolts as well as larger market forces and philosophical considerations.

**Trauma in Unstructured Memory Vs Crafted Memoir** (Shubha Venugopal, Krystal Sital, Michele Herman, Lara Lillibridge, Heather Bryant)

In-person event

Trauma fragments our memories, destabilizing us. Journaling is employed as a therapeutic tool, but if unstructured, can retraumatize by replicating pain and disempowerment. Creative writers use craft to supply structure plus story to trauma's handling. From memoir's core wounds, beauty emerges, generating pride and pleasure. In memoir, we gain control of trauma, and release it. Craft transforms pain into art that connects. Attention to its composition empowers us; it is vital to our healing.

**Two (or More) Become One: Writing in Collaboration Across Genre** (Katie Jean Shinkle, Steven Dunn, Vi Khi Nao, Natasha Marin, Amber Flame)

In-person event

Do intersectional identities and lived experiences become more accessible to readers when written collaboratively? Could collaboration be the ideal writing model to get us from the present to the future? Do these texts reach audiences dissatisfied with the single, alienated narrator? In this panel, multi-genre PoC and LGBTQIA+ writers will explore collaboration as a means for both the creation and publication of collaborative manuscripts.

**Two Decades of Modern Love** (Miya Lee, Theo Nestor, Nicole Hardy, Putsata Reang, Nicole Comforto)

In-person event

What's the secret to getting published in The New York Times' Modern Love column? Modern Love Special Projects Editor Miya Lee will offer behind-the-scenes insights and answer most-

asked questions alongside four Seattle-based Modern Love essayists. Each writer will read an excerpt from their columns and share advice. Get practical tips for writing a unique story that connects with a wide audience, plus find out what makes an essay rise to the top of the slush pile.

**Two-Year College Creative Writing Caucus** (Michelle Gonzales, Sean Chambers , Marlys Cervantes)

In-person event

Do you teach at a two-year college? Interested in job opportunities at two-year colleges? Join us for our annual networking meeting. With almost half of all students beginning college careers at two-year colleges, and increasing numbers of MFAs landing two-year college teaching jobs, the future of creative writing courses and programs at our campuses looks bright. We will discuss teaching creative writing at the two-year college, hold a short business meeting, and provide tangible resources.

**Ukrainian Poetry in Translation as a Critical Cultural Bridge in Times of War** (Grace Mahoney, Ali Kinsella, Serhiy Zhadan, Iryna Shuvalova, Vitaly Chernetsky)

In-person event

This panel will discuss the role of Ukrainian poetry in translation as a critical cultural bridge in the months since the Russian Federation's invasion and all-out war of aggression in Ukraine. How are poets and translators responding to this unprecedented threat to Ukraine's national sovereignty? How are reading publics seeking out and connecting with poetry as a conduit of response, activism, and diplomacy?

**Undoing Asian Archetypes & Writing Complex Mental Health Narratives in Memoir** (E.J. Koh, Michelle Yang, Grace M. Cho, Elizabeth Miki Brina, Grace Talusan)

In-person event

Asian/AANHPI women are too often portrayed unrealistically as disposable, demeaning archetypes. Though AANHPI own-voices memorists and CNF writers are changing this, we are forced to fight to keep the nuance in our stories about our bodies and minds. When writing about mental health, we battle an intersection of stereotypes, as well as familial and societal stigmas. We will discuss what authenticity means when writing about mental illness and how writing can help end ableism.

**Unknown Strangers: Revisioning South Asian American Masculinity Across Genre** (Vivek Gowda, Sameer Pandya, Hari Alluri, Neel Patel, Shruti Swamy)

In-person event

Poet Divya Victor writes about South Asian American men as being both “seen and unseen”; mistaken for something dangerous yet illegible or caricatured, especially in the American imagination. Through their own complex rethinking of South Asian masculinity, the writers on this panel are investigating issues of race, privilege, and sexuality. Discussing both craft and current literature, panelists will ask whether an interrogation of masculinity can also confront communalism and casteism.

**Uprooted/Unrooted: Adopted and Donor-Conceived Poets Rewriting Family** (Lori Desrosiers, Stacey Balkun, Lee Herrick, Jennifer Givhan, Leah Silvieux)

In-person event

The bonds that make “family” have always extended beyond its traditional definition; blood isn’t always thicker than water. Five poets redefine the notion of family, discussing their experiences with adoption-from-birth, late-discovery cross-cultural adoption, and donor-conception, and sharing how such experience has (or hasn’t) impacted the writing and/or publishing of creative work. To widen the discussion and make room for all families, this event will invite the audience to join in via Q&A.

**Wanting: Women Writing About Desire** (Margot Kahn, Sonora Jha, Rena Priest, Kristen Arnett, Nicole Hardy)

In-person event

In an intimate and daring new anthology of essays—*Wanting: Women Writing About Desire* (Catapult 2023)—33 award-winning and emerging writers from a range of experiences and backgrounds explore the changing face of female desire. In this panel, three contributors and the collection’s co-editors discuss the risks and rewards of exposure in nonfiction, why committing to the page is a feminist act, and the ways in which writing desire helped them tackle the complicated knot of it.

**We’re All Imposters Here: On Writing with Imposter Syndrome** (Katie Manning, Kai Coggin, Jennifer Givhan, Pádraig Ó Tuama)

In-person event

Our panelists look at each other and see successful, brilliant people, so why don’t we see ourselves that way? Why are feelings of not belonging and not being enough so pervasive for writers? Join the hosts of *Poetry Unbound* and *Wednesday Night Poetry*, the editor of *Whale Road Review*, and the award-winning author of *Trinity Sight* for a wide-ranging discussion about the origins of imposter syndrome and our strategies for continuing to write and work.

**Weird fusions: Crafting and publishing hybrid work** (Elizabeth Gonzalez James, Jasmine Sawers, Aaron Angello, Vi Khi Nao, Daisuke Shen)

In-person event

Some writing resists the neat distinction of form, and many writers today are working in hybrids of poetry, prose, CNF, flash, memoir, spoken word, visual arts, and more. Combining forms can result in strange and beautiful fusions that resist definition, and get at the truth of their subjects through their hybridity. In this panel we will discuss craft as it relates to hybrid work, and how to publish work that defies classification.

**What Presses and Journals Need to Know About Publishing Literary Translations, Sponsored by ALTA** (Laura Cesarco Eglin, Sacha Idell, Samuel Rutter, Alison Gore, Jared Daniel Fagen)

In-person event

Literary translation may be “having a moment.” More and more presses and journals in the US are eager to publish translations. But this can be an overwhelming new world for publishers

unfamiliar with translation. This informative panel will answer questions about rights, locating work, evaluating translations, contracts, and more. Our aim is to contribute to a healthy ecosystem of translators and publishers and ultimately create more publishing opportunities for literary translators.

**What We Talk About When We Talk About Food** (Grace Hwang Lynch, Madhushree Ghosh, Lisa Lee Herrick, Grace M. Cho, Pooja Makhijani)

In-person event

Food writing can go beyond memories of grandma's cooking or stinky lunch box scenes. Tastes, smells, and memory can tell stories about fraught families, multilayered cultural identities, and even geopolitics. These five Asian American writers weave meals and recipes into memoirs and creative nonfiction to illuminate personal and global histories. This panel discussion will explore the pitfalls of writing about food and offer advice about how to use culinary themes to tell deeper stories.

**When There Are No Words: Grieving Suicide Through Poetry** (Rushi Vyas, Chloe Honum, CL Young, John James, Jeffrey Pethybridge)

In-person event

Five poets who have lost loved ones to suicide share work and discuss the transformative power of poetry in the ongoing healing process. How do the techniques and practices of poetry facilitate or interrupt grief? What happens when the deeply private becomes public? How do writers negotiate the responsibilities that come with writing about suicide with the necessary work of revealing what is often kept silent? This panel turns to poetry in suicide's aftermath in search of renewed possibilities.

**Winning Words: Best Practices for Submitting to Book Prizes** (Katie Cortese, Jonathan Johnson, Kristen Miller, Beth Snead, Whitney Koo)

In-person event

Contests offered by independent, small, and university presses have become one of the most common ways for authors of story, essay, and poetry collections to publish their books. Five editors of literary prizes will describe the contests offered by their presses, highlight the traits of successful submissions, and offer practical advice for authors. Presses represented include Willow Springs Books, Sarabande Books, University of Georgia Press, Gasher Press, and Texas Tech University Press.

**Without End: Honoring Adam Zagajewski** (Cate Marvin, Jennifer Grotz, Srikanth Reddy, Ilya Kaminsky, Nina McConigley)

In-person event

The unexpected passing of renowned Polish poet Adam Zagajewski in 2021 reverberated painfully throughout the intricate and far-ranging network of American poets and writers. It is difficult to reconcile ourselves to his loss due to the depth of his impact on our understanding of the very nature of poetry itself. Yet, his influence was not limited to poetry: prose writers

were similarly shaped by his steady and eerily perceptive mentorship. This tribute gathers the poet's students, fri

**Women in Editing: Burning Down Hierarchies and Building Ladders** (Natalie Staples, Catherine Esposito Prescott, Hananah Zaheer, Leslie Sainz, Lauren Goodwin Slaughter)

In-person event

What impact have women editors had in publishing? This diverse panel of editors considers this question from many angles: the editorial decision process, leading a team of volunteers, online and print production, and community outreach and partnership. The panel will unpack how we can amplify the value that women bring to editing from building close relationships to creating systems and cultures within journals that are wary of hierarchies and elevate writing that is often deemed "unliterary."

**Women Writing Crime** (Polly Stewart, T Kira Madden, Katie Gutierrez, Danya Kukafka, Kirstin Chen)

In-person event

Five women writing crime fiction discuss how they're pushing boundaries and challenging assumptions, addressing the following questions: How does crime function as an element of narrative? How does gender interact with race, sexuality, gender identity, and disability within this genre? How does our work examine the explosion of interest in true crime? How do we think about women and violence in a society that denies women personhood? Most importantly, what is crime fiction and why do we love it?

**Women's Caucus**

More information is coming soon.

**Wonderfully Weird and Small: How to Build a Thriving Small Press** (Dustin Hoffman, Leland Cheuk, Jesi Bender, David Queen, Adam Robinson)

In-person event

Four founding editors from innovative small presses discuss what makes a literary press successful. From missions to ethics to footprints in the literary tradition, editors explain why and how they pursue this labor of love and why the exceptionally unique books they publish are so important. Editors also explore how to survive in an ever-changing publishing industry, what mistakes they've made, and what secrets skills they've unlocked.

**Writers Centers, Conferences, & Retreats: Write, Teach, & Work After the MFA** (Michael Khandelwal, Rob Arnold, Darriel Suarez, Erika Krouse, Jake Friedman)

In-person event

Independent writers centers create community across the nation. In addition to literary centers, retreats and conferences offer connections for writers while they hone their craft. For MFA graduates, teaching at a center can be an artistically and economically enriching alternative to academia. Panelists from a variety of literary organizations will explore the

unique opportunities writers centers, conferences and retreats provide for all writers and teachers of writing.

**Writing Abortion in the Wake of Roe** (Rebecca Lehmann, Desiree Cooper, Manisha Sharma, Alina Stefanescu, Jane Rosenberg LaForge)

In-person event

Abortion narratives have existed long before laws controlled the procedure. By investigating abortion as already documented through creative writing, this panel proposes to reassess the direction discourse might take in an unfolding legal and linguistic landscape. The panel will emphasize the responsibility to keep telling abortion stories; how genre, language and exigencies of the marketplace shape those stories; and how to maintain the conversation in spite of the chilling effect of stigmas.

**Writing about Culture & Place: Techniques for Vibrant and Ethical Worldbuilding** (Hannah Bae, Jessie Chaffee, Krys Lee, Jung Yun, Julia Phillips)

In-person event

This multi-genre panel of writers, who have set their work across three continents, will discuss techniques for writing about culture and place, with an emphasis on bringing worlds to life on the page in imaginative and ethical ways. Among some of the questions that we will address: how can we authentically set our work in a culture, particularly if it isn't our own? And what liberties can we take when representing real places and people, or creating entirely fictional cultures and landscapes?

**Writing about Kith and Kin: do's & don'ts, rights & wrongs, risks & rewards** (Jennifer Lang, Thea Rademacher, Helena Rho, Jody Keisner, Allison Hong Merrill)

In-person event

In *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott writes: "If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should have behaved better." Easy to say, difficult to execute. When it comes to writing about real people in memoir, some writers opt to tell all (Frank McCourt), while others avoid the intimate (Dinty Moore), change names (Stephanie Land), or create composite characters (Jeannine Ouellette). Authors have a passion for robust creative expression, but should we write whatever we want, even if it's true?

**Writing as an Act of Social Justice** (David Mura, Connie Pertuz-Meza, Nicole Shawn Junior, Hannah Eko)

In-person event

Even in a pandemic, even in grief, I found myself commanded to amplify the voices of the dead that sing to me, from their boat to my boat, on the sea of time. -Jesymn Ward. How do we write amidst chaos? In the last few years—forever, really—writers push themselves to return to the page. In a world that is not always equitable and so rarely grants people justice—particularly writers from marginalized communities—creatives find the courage to make art. How do we find the capacity to make art when



**Writing Between Worlds: Zine Authors in Traditional Publishing** (Joshua James Amberson, Tomas Moniz, Sarah Mirk, Martha Grover)

In-person event

To some, zines are a relic of the 1990s, but the self-published “mini-magazines” still have a community that spreads the world over, with thousands of zines being published each year. Many who got their start in zines continue writing them, even as they freelance for larger publications and release books. This panel looks at the ways the two worlds inform each other, how a zine practice can serve as a needed outlet, and the power that comes with taking publishing into your own hands.

**Writing in Spanish: the case of Seattle Escribe** (Jose Luis Montero, Maria de Lourdes Victoria, Rita Wirkala, Teresa Luengo Cid)

In-person event

The US needs to listen to the plurality of voices inside its borders. Spanish is the second most spoken language in this country, yet the production of literature in Spanish is abysmal. Seattle Escribe is the largest group of writers in the Pacific Northwest offering free classes and literary events entirely in Spanish. This panel will discuss the experiences and lessons learned so other communities may replicate this successful model and help detonate the boom of Spanish literature in the US.

**Writing Social Justice With Grace, Beauty and Power** (Jessica Goudeau, Mai Der Vang, Stephen O'Connor, Helen Benedict, Carolyn Ferrell)

In-person event

In an age of endlessly distressing news, it can be difficult to make readers care about injustice, much less to write in an eloquent way that can move hearts. This panel of poets, novelists, and journalists will discuss how to write about urgent social justice issues such as racism, sexism, xenophobia and the abuse of the powerless by the powerful. It will be a practical discussion about writing that eschews condescension and sensationalism and aims for elegance, beauty, and honesty.

**Writing the Body** (Margo Steines, Melissa Febos, Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Maddie Norris, Aisha Sabatini Sloan)

In-person event

Sex. Hunger. Birth. Death. This panel brings together four of today's most interesting essayists to discuss the importance and craft of embodied writing. In a country where we are so often told our bodies are not our own, these women refuse to surrender autonomy; instead, they write the body's realities, its pain and its joy. In this moderated Q&A, panelists address how they capture the physical, the importance of doing so, and the ethics involved in writing the body's truths.

**Writing the Body as Landscape: How We See and Imagine Ourselves as Wilderness** (Allen Gee, CMarie Fuhrman, Renata Golden, Petra Kuppers, Sean Hill)

In-person event

How do poets and essayists write and connect landscapes to the body, and what other metaphors do we find inspiring for describing the natural world? Our panel will discuss ways to deepen our understandings of landscape through language, writing against a backdrop of climate crisis, issues of land ownership, historical and racial controversies, and overcrowding. Are our metaphors personal, political, or preservationist? Can relating the body and self to landscape evoke a deeper care for the land?

**Writing the Investigative Memoir: Lessons Learned from the Writers Who Dunit** (Steph Liberatore, Kazim Ali, Rose Andersen, Margaret Lee, Claudia Rowe)

In-person event

Memoirs are investigative by their very nature, but what about those informed by an actual investigation—with legal documents, experts, witnesses, and the like? Four investigative memoirists will share their insights on blending the art of creative nonfiction and the craft of journalism. How do we handle conflicting stories? Hostile witnesses? The possibility for libel? Practical tips and advice will be provided.

**Writing the Land: Inspiration and Perspiration to Create Poetry** (Catalina Marie Cantú, Ching-In Chen, Erica Reid, Leona Sevvick, Diana Raptosh)

In-person event

What if you were paired with a conserved land for a year to visit and create three poems inspired by place and preservation? In this panel, five diverse, emerging, and established poets from east, central, and northwest regions will share their writing process and poems. Their protected lands ranged from protected habitats, sanctuaries, farms, and ranches, to ecosystems and wilderness preserves. Their poetry and the methodologies used to create their poems will challenge and inspire you.

**Writing the Monster** (Rebecca Lehmann, Jami Nakamura Lin, Oliver de la Paz, Alex DiFrancesco, Kathryn Nuernberger)

In-person event

Five authors discuss writing monsters across multiple genres, considering ways monsters can be used to explore queerness and transness, disability, domestic abuse, cultural traditions, patriarchy, colonialism, white supremacy and other concerns. Looking at monstrous figures like the yokai, the minotaur, witches, ghouls, internet demons and sea hags, panelists will discuss ways monsters can subvert narrative expectations, reveal socio-historical concerns and moral panics, and ensorcell readers.

**Writing the Real West: Diverse, Urban, and Contemporary** (Jenny Shank, Kirstin Valdez Quade, Jonathan Evison, Leland Cheuk, Erika T. Wurth)

In-person event

For decades, little fiction about the American West featured the urban West—the cities and suburbs where the majority of people in this region live. Instead, Western literary fiction overwhelmingly focused on white, rural, or historical stories. But in recent years as publishers finally began to support more ethnically and culturally diverse writers, they also began to

promote geographic diversity. We will discuss how these writers are changing or fitting into the Western literary tradition.

**Writing the Screen-Worthy Story** (Amy R. Martin, Tara Stillions Whitehead, Khris Baxter)

In-person event

Hollywood has adapted numerous novels and short stories for the big and small screens. These days intellectual property (IP) is more important than ever as risk-averse filmmakers and television producers prioritize projects with pre-established content recognition in the public eye. This panel will explore how novelists, short story writers, flash writers, and memoirists can render their stories cinematically to increase the adaptability of their work for television and film.

**Writing the Sophomore Novel: Was My Debut a Fluke?!?** (Julie Carrick Dalton, Nancy Johnson, Elizabeth Gonzalez James, Eddy Boudel Tan, Rita Woods)

In-person event

There's a particular kind of anxiety that comes with writing a sophomore novel. Will it hold up to the success of the first book? Will it surpass lackluster debut sales? Was the first book a fluke? Join this panel of five authors who have recently published, are about to publish, or are drafting their second novels. Find out how they battle the sophomore slump with slightly thicker skin, a better understanding of publishing, a healthy dose of anxiety, and a lot of gratitude for their peers.

**Writing the Wounded World: Poets Working from and against Eco-Grief** (Elizabeth Bradfield, Geoffrey Davis, Donika Kelly, Anne Haven McDonnell, Todd Davis)

In-person event

To be alive and aware today is to live in a wounded world. Let's discuss how we engage eco-grief, solastalgia, more-than-human beings, and how we write with awareness of our human identities, biases, and limitations. Humankind's complicity in the desecration of other living beings carries lamentation, anxiety and depression. We'll discuss approaches that acknowledge our grief, our attempts toward healing, and the communities we call home: Cape Cod to New Mexico to Washington State.

**Writing Through the Pain: faces of chronic illness in contemporary literature** (Anna Leahy, Emily Hockaday, Allison Blevins, Tina Jenkins Bell, Eshani Surya)

In-person event

Join these writers to explore different approaches to chronic illness across nonfiction, poetry, and fiction. Whether drawing from or challenging an extended metaphor, crafting a crucial detail that creates the larger reality, or mustering the clarity or energy the writing process demands, these writers talk honestly about the challenges and successes in finding form and language for the experience of chronic illness. In the process, the panel re-envision expectations and literary conventions.

**Writing With an Accent: Immigrant Women's Voices in the U.S.** (Parisa Saranj, Isidra Mencos, Allison Hong Merrill, Veena Rao, Rajika Bhandari)

In-person event

Immigrant writers who publish in the United States face a unique set of challenges. As women and ethnic minorities, the writers on this panel discuss the hurdles and unique opportunities they meet in adding their voices to the American literary landscape. Drawing upon immigrant experiences rooted in India, Iran, Taiwan, and Spain, this panel offers a fresh perspective on the commonalities and the differences in contemporary American immigrant narratives.

**Writing with Care: The Intersection of Memoir, Activism & Caregiving** (Minna Dubin, Adiba Nelson, Angela Garbes, Sarah Jaffe, Kate Washington)

In-person event

The panelists are writers whose memoir and activist work centers on caretaking. They'll discuss: Are they memoirists who became accidental activists or activists who use memoir to change the world? How do they stay true to the creative self when activism calls? How does the current trend in publishing, for memoirs to contain social critique, affect the caregiving memoirs the panelists ultimately sold? What are the challenges the panelists face holding these three roles?

**Written Words into Moving Pictures: Adapting Literary Works for Film and TV** (Brian Price, Samuel Gailey, Ayn Carrillo-Gailey, Lilliam Rivera)

In-person event

For authors interested in adapting their own work or having it optioned for the screen, or for screenwriters looking to adapt other writers' material (novels, short stories, magazine & newspaper articles, comic books & graphic novels, etc.), this culturally and racially diverse panel will discuss and dissect the unique and challenging creative requirements of visual storytelling and provide successful strategies for pitching and adapting pre-existing source material for film and television.

**You Need a Podcast? Here's How to Make One.** (Laura Joyce Davis, Jia Wertz, Sarai Waters, Annmarie Kelly-Harbaugh, Melissa Lent)

In-person event

You love listening to podcasts. You've thought to yourself, "I could do that." But where to begin? Five podcast experts with award-winning writing, documentary films, and podcasts break down the process of how they successfully launched story-driven shows that are now in the top 1-5% globally. They'll provide clear steps for getting started, unlock secrets for growing an audience, and share 3 things every podcaster should know.

**Your Best Book Launch: Publicity for Poets (& Other Small-Press Writers)** (Nancy Reddy, Cassie Mannes Murray, Jennifer Huang, Jeannine Hall Gailey, Caelan Nardone)

In-person event

You've had a book accepted for publication—now what? This panel, which includes writers and publicists, offers practical strategies for ensuring your book meets its ideal readers. Panelists will provide tips for creating publicity materials and generating buzz; planning events including

readings, workshops, and interactive discussions; and reaching readers through podcasts, newsletters, and other new media. Panel will suggest both what writers can do themselves and how and when to enlist help.

**Your Book is Signed, Now What?: Tips for Authors from the Publicists** (Kristen Miller, Joanna Englert, Alyson Sinclair, Ryo Yamaguchi, Marisa Vito)

In-person event

The most successful publicity campaigns are structured around coordinated efforts between both the publicist and the author. This panel of literary publicists will share their tips and best practices for how to work together and maximize the reach of a book within a bustling global market. From blurbs to social media to book tours, this panel of publicists from Sarabande Books, Copper Canyon Press, and Nectar Literary aims to demystify the publicity game for authors.

**A Tribute to Irena Klepfisz** (Minnie Bruce Pratt, Chana Kronfeld, Sarah Schulman, Marilyn Hacker, Irena Klepfisz)

Virtual event

Respected poets and scholars celebrate the contributions of Irena Klepfisz who will then read from her work. Klepfisz's poetry is a fierce wave of truth graced with illuminating linguistic innovations, unafraid to engage with difficult themes: the brutal deaths in the Shoah, the unending Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the darkest moment of an immigrant's journey. Klepfisz is a unique link between the Holocaust, the Yiddish revival, Jewish support for Palestinian human rights, and lesbian love.

**Adapting a Piece of Literature for the Stage** (Jessica Lit, Lauren Gunderson, Roger Q. Mason, Matthew Spangler, Caridad Svich)

Virtual event

How do you translate the immersive world of a literature work into a living, breathing piece of theatre? This conversation will explore the difference between the two mediums of storytelling, tips to consider, and how some dramatists have approached this with their own works. In addition to craft perspective, moderator Jessica Lit, Director of Business Affairs for the Dramatists Guild of America, will offer advice on the logistics of licensing and practical things to consider.

**Bury Me in The Motherland; Rituals of Death, Burial & Repatriation in African Lit** (Samuel Kolawole, Omotola Abraham, Funke Ogundimu)

Virtual event

This panel will consist of African writers discussing the concerns, challenges and rewards of writing about death and burial rites. What rituals show up on the page? How do effects colonization/postcolonization of African societies show up in death and burial rites. Particular focus will be given to the practice of repatriation of remains whether within countries or internationally. What is the importance of writing the desire to be buried at 'home'?

**Climate Novels Reimagined: innovative publishing to confront the climate crisis** (Aya de Leon, Emily Wilson, Sim Kern, Lauren James)

Virtual event

For decades, popular climate fiction has primarily been sci-fi/fantasy. These future dystopias presuppose our failure in today's battle against fossil fuels. But what if we can still win? Scientists agree we need massive immediate change, yet traditional publishing has a 2-3 year lead time. These climate writers turned to activism and publishing to innovate a rapid publishing model for an urgent, contemporary climate literature that charts a path to victory, and are seeking new novels.

**Creative Writing beyond the Academy: The Scholarship of Creative Practice** (Sam Meekings, Marshall Moore, Lania Knight)

Virtual event

The panel will discuss the new scholarly volume *Creative Writing Beyond the Academy* (Bloomsbury, 2023) in which creative writing scholars reflect upon the practice of writing. The editors and contributors to this work will explain how academic creative writing scholars examine creative practice in the book through reflection, exegesis, and research. The panellists will also discuss the myths and lore around writing practices and examine ways forward for the scholarship of creative practice.

**Crip Lyric** (heidi andrea restrepo rhodes, Gwendolyn Paradice, Ashna Ali, Tala Khanmalek)

Virtual event

How does crip literary writing convey intense personal emotion and experience while attending to social conditions for historical trauma, networks of care, access, and collective thriving in a way that a lyric "I" might shift toward a lyric "we"? In a reading and discussion, panelists center a poetics of queer-of-color disability and chronic illness by asking how crippling our attention to imagination, memory, dream, the senses, bodily rhythms and environment, disrupts the unified lyric subject.

**Debuting as a "senior" writer: Why are there never "50 over 50" features?** (Wendy Wimmer, Julia Silverman, Lynda Montgomery, Christina Clancy)

Virtual event

Raymond Carver. Anna Sewell. Frank McCourt. Laura Ingalls Wilder. Each had their debut after the age of 50. In an industry obsessed with youth, no one ever talks about the mental overload of being an older writer whose first full length publication occurs long after their 29th year. We'll give tips for writers till trying to get their big break after years of "hobby" writing or entering an MFA program next to writers young enough to be their children (or grandchildren).

**Ghosts, Portals, and Other Worlds: The Surreal in Contemporary Fiction** (Joy Baglio, Matthew Lansburgh, Laura van den Berg, Kevin Brockmeier, Jennifer Pullen)

Virtual event

Writers of literary fiction often find the boundaries between the possible and impossible in their work disintegrating in strange, unexpected ways. What gives rise to this shift, and how do

we navigate the surreal in our lives and work? How can models like Toni Morrison, Gabriel García Márquez and George Saunders guide us? What techniques can help bring the speculative to life in a compelling and convincing manner? Acclaimed authors who've explored these questions will share insights and advice.

**Native Survivance, Defiance, and Culture-Keeping Through Memoir** (Carolann Duro, Deborah Miranda, Greg Sarris, Ursula Pike)

Virtual event

Often written about and not often enough written by, Native Americans are dispelling the mainstream cultural amnesia that surrounds the West's first peoples through the genre of memoir. In this panel, three distinctive Californian Indian memoirists—a rising literary light, an award-winning poet-professor, and a celebrated storyteller and tribal leader—share their journeys navigating Indigenous identity in relation to the land, across continents, and through time, memory, and the archives.

**Poetic License: Negotiating Creative Impulses in the Context of Translation** (Lauren Brazeal Garza, p. Joshua Laskey, Jonathan Stalling, Jamie Proctor-Xu, Cindy Lynn Brown)

Virtual event

This multigenre panel focuses on strategies for writer/translators to negotiate their creative impulses in the context of translation. Focuses include how creative writers can ethically and responsibly utilize their creativity when translating, the potential merits and drawbacks of being a creative writer who translates, and how literary translators might be able to better understand the intentions of the writers they translate because of their background as writers themselves.

**Reclaiming Meter: Strategies for Contemporary Poem-Making** (Sophia Stid, Chad Abushanab, Anna Lena Phillips Bell, Jenna Le, Alexis Sears)

Virtual event

In a poetic context where most work is not overtly metrical, metrical poems surprise. They can make room for new modes of being and saying, a potential realized by poets from Millay to Brooks to Patricia Smith. Each panelist will consider a metrical poem that has shaped their poetic practice—including work in noniambic meters—and will share a prompt inspired by the poem. We'll explore meter, employed directly and as it informs free verse, as a radical, generative force in contemporary poetry.

**Speculating Us from Where We Stand: Writing Culture into Prose and Poetry** (Shalewa Mackall, Shreya Ila Anasuya, André Hoilette, Khadijah Queen, K Ibura)

Virtual event

In "A Few Rules for Speculating the Future," Octavia E. Butler wrote, "where we stand determines what we can see." Join the editors of the speculative anthology *Infinite Constellations* in a conversation with contributors exploring how culture informs their writing.



**Spoken Word, Poetry, and Language as Theatre** (Idris Goodwin, Aleshea Harris, Ayla Xuan Chi Sullivan, Kit Yan, Melissa Li)

Virtual event

Although some poetry may be written for the page to be consumed privately, poetry as an art form is steeped in the history of oral storytelling. Spoken word, slam poetry, and poetry alike can serve as intimate and passionate dialogues between the writer and the audience. Join us for a conversation with playwrights who have translated their passion for these art forms into their works for the stage in powerful, new ways.

**The Path Through the Swamp: Revision Strategies & Processes** (Matthew Lansburgh, Joy Baglio, Taymour Soomro, Sequoia Nagamatsu, Vu Tran)

Virtual event

Many writers believe that revising one's work is the most challenging task writers face. What are the myriad ways we, as writers, approach revision? How do we get through the scariest, most daunting "swamps" of rough drafts? Are there maps, guideposts, and coping mechanisms we can use to get from point A to B and beyond? Five acclaimed writers discuss their revision processes and share tips, strategies, and approaches for revising stories and novels--and making our work as strong as it can be.

**Title: Unveiling the Juxtaposition of Muslims Characters in Modern Literature** (Afshan Malik, Tayyaba Syed, Carla Taylor)

Virtual event

Description: What makes or breaks a literary character who identifies as Muslim? How have Muslim characters evolved in different literary spaces? Does it matter when a faith-based character is written about by an author who identifies as a person of faith; or a person unconforming of a defined spiritual path? Readers, writers, and publishers can now navigate through the stereotypes, tropes, and political undertones of Muslim identity issues within popular novels.

**Writing Academic Misbehavior – why the campus story is compelling and terrifying** (Maureen Medved, Julie Schumacher, Carrie Jenkins, Teddy Wayne)

Virtual event

With the public outcry surrounding MeToo and other human rights crises, some writers have turned to the campus novel as compelling and productive terrain to examine the current zeitgeist. While riddled with complexities and creative challenges, the contemporary campus novel offers potential for transformation and renewal. Writers of campus novels will discuss their intentions behind writing their novels, their experiences throughout the process as well as the impact after publication.

## Discussion Rooms

**Art and Science in Collaboration** (Jeanne Heuving, Rae Armantrout, Madhur Anand, Amy Catanzano, Redell Olsen)

In-person event

Writers today are engaged in groundbreaking interactions between art and science. A diverse range of women writers working across genres and media present innovative projects that take on physics, cosmology, neuroscience and environmental science. They present their work and create compelling questions for discussion: what transpires when writers take on scientific disciplines in all their demanding complexity and precision? How does science change writing? How does writing change science?

**BIPOC Women/Nonbinary Writers: Cultivating Community and Safe Writing Spaces** (Janaka Bowman-Lewis, PhD, Sakae Manning, Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Mahtem Shiferraw, LaCoya Katoe Gessesse)

In-person event

Panelists share modes and methods towards finding a safe space through considering intention as liberatory groundwork for BIPOC women and non-binary writers, creating intersectional spaces beyond physical boundaries, identifying and becoming part of a writing community, and understanding how racial and gender-based trauma impacts amplifying our own work. Join Janaka Bowman-Lewis, PhD, Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, LaCoya Katoe Gessesse, and Mahtem Shiferraw, as we navigate writing communities.

**Creating Effective Collaboration between Poetry and Music** (John Maher, Laila Woozeer, Phil Saint Denis Sanchez, Yusra Amjad)

In-person event

Often poetry-music collaboration can falter due to speaking different artistic languages, perceived lack of applicability, and confusion over shared aims. However, poets and musicians benefit hugely from cross-disciplinary work when it involves an understanding of the specific relationship between both. We want to dismantle the obstacles, create effective shared spaces and foster better cohesion between art forms, countering the "self-first" attitude that typically dominates both.

**Disrupting the Veteran Writer Stereotype: More than Males, More than Wars** (Rebecca Evans, Drew Pham, Abby Murray, Mariette Kalinowski, Jan LaPerle)

In-person event

Veterans have often been compartmentalized into an artistic corner, as white and male and PTSD-stigma-laden, often limiting writing to themes of war or hyper-masculine experience. Veterans are more than their situations, more than one category. They are a broader range and redefining the landscape of war writers. Four exceptional writers combine this panel with un-war-like discussion covering the joys and pitfalls of breaking through limiting conventions and enriching the literary conversation.

**Fat Queer Joy: A Discussion** (Miguel M. Morales, Bruce Owens Grimm, Tiff Joshua TJ Ferentini)

In-person event

Queer joy requires risk and trust. Trans and queer fats find joy standing in celebration with (and as witnesses for) ourselves and those like us. Join this discussion as fat queer and fat trans writers explore how to center fat queer pride, fat queer love, fat queer strength, fat queer vulnerability, fat queer empathy, fat queer kindness, fat queer friendship, fat queer adventure, fat queer laughter, fat queer trust, fat queer joy, and our queer and trans fatness on the page and in our lives.

**Finding a Poetry Publisher: Does Authenticity Matter?** (Ken Letko, Susan Azar Porterfield, Maya Marshall, Abigail Cloud, Beth McDermott)

In-person event

Management systems have revolutionized the submission process so that poets can submit simultaneously to multiple journals and presses. But what takes a manuscript over the threshold from publishable to published? Is it a matter of chance or luck? Or does the authenticity of the poetry play a role in what editors accept for publication? If so, what does "authenticity" mean? This session offers dialogue on authenticity in an effort to improve the submission experience for poets and editors.

**Impossible Balance: Re-examining the narrative about writing and parenting** (John Messick, Keema Waterfield, Sean Prentiss, Ukamaka Olisakwe, Rashaan Alexis Meneses)

In-person event

This panel will explore the extraordinary challenges mothers and fathers face as writers. Authors will discuss lessons learned from parenting small children, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and rethink outdated ideas about what constitutes a successful writing practice. Participants will weigh in on ways we can promote more empathetic and realistic dialogues about how to be engaged parents and still publish, promote, and care about the issues and ideas that inform our writing.

**Letting Go of a Periphery: The Rise of World Literature in the US** (Farukh Niaz, Maha Ahmed, Zarlisht Niaz, Kartika Budhwar, Kaitlin Rizzo)

In-person event

In this panel, women writers, translators, educators discuss how non-Western literary practices inform their work. Their perspectives on literary traditions from around the world address how contemporary literature has long been informed by non-Anglophone traditions, which have largely been erased, ignored or relegated to the "periphery." Their conversation of the present nearness of these traditions raises questions about prolonged global inequities both on and off the page.

**Nevertheless, They Persisted: The Writer and the Long Game** (Sara Lippmann, Robert Lopez, Molly Gaudry, Leland Cheuk, Steve Almond)

In-person event

In this candid panel, authors at various stages of their careers will share some grim industry setbacks--books in the drawer, books that didn't sell, etc.--in an effort to validate the often rejection-paved road, dismantle the misguided mythology of marketplace, and above all, to encourage stamina and perseverance by reframing capitalist definitions of success/failure and positing refreshing, non-patriarchal alternatives to narrow publishing attitudes that preserve the integrity of one's art.

**Supporting One Another as Indie-/Small-Press Authors** (Ryan Rivas, Michelle Ross, Chrissy Kolaya)

In-person event

It can be challenging for small-/indie-press books to find their way to readers. Three indie-press authors who are passionate about supporting the work of other indie/small press authors will share what's worked for them, but the bulk of the event will provide participants with a chance to brainstorm generous, creative ways to support one another as indie-/small-press authors. For the purposes of this event, we're defining "indie/small press" as anything other than Big 5 or self-publishing.

**Uplifting & Centering Indigenous Voices: Decolonizing Publishing & the Academe** (Tiffany Midge, Rick Saez, Jacqueline Keeler, Henry Gordon, Trevino Brings Plenty)

In-person event

Within the United States, Native Nation citizens are under-included in publishing and the academe. This event will discuss the institutional and structural barriers encountered by these citizens. The panel discussion will provide workable solutions to better relationships between sovereign nations.

**Weeping Women: La Llorona's Presence in Modern Latinx and Chicanx Lore** (Norma Cantú, Mark Esperanza, Tamara Mitchell, Elizabeth Jimenez Montelongo, Nic Torres Shump)

In-person event

One of the most pervasive yet least studied tropes in Latin American culture is the figure of La Llorona, the weeping woman. Doomed to wander riverbanks searching for her children, she is both accursed and revered, especially in Mexico and the borderlands of the U.S. A mixed genre anthology from Trinity University Press brings poets, researchers, artists, and storytellers together from diverse backgrounds and geographies to examine her influence in the past, present, and future.

## Pedagogy

### **Abandoning the Prescriptive in the Creative Writing Classroom** (Rachel Hanson, Jessica Alexander, Eric Tran, Vi Khi Nao)

In-person event

In the creative writing classroom, students learn to structure stories and poems around an epiphanic moment, and in creative nonfiction they are taught to give reflection moments. These examples of strict prescriptive craft elements limit our notions of what these genres can do. This panel will share methods for writing and teaching within the genres as well as strategies for empowering students to interrogate established aspects of craft and invent new shapes capable of holding their experiences.

### **Battle of the Textbooks** (Michael Kardos, Hadara Bar-Nadav, Jennifer Pullen, Joe Wilkins)

In-person event

The authors on this multi-genre panel, each of whom has published a creative writing textbook, will not actually be battling one another. They will, however, discuss why they decided to write/edit their textbook, the niche they hoped to fill, and the ways in which their textbook authorship has affected their own teaching and writing. For aspiring textbook authors, the panel will address practical matters of writing a proposal, compiling an anthology, and finding a publisher.

### **Beyond Writing Well: Making Space for Professional Development in the Workshop** (Kathie Bergquist, Ruben Quesada, Sheree L. Greer, Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Sarah Browning)

In-person event

While developing writing skills is justifiably central to workshop practice, students often emerge from the workshop with little practical knowledge of the praxis and processes necessary for establishing a viable writing career. Professional development can and should be an important component of creative writing workshops. This discussion will feature strategies and exercises you can easily integrate into your workshop to better prepare your students for the professional life of a writer.

### **BIPOC Writers/Teachers & The Writing Workshop** (David Mura, Felicia Rose Chavez, Matthew Salasses, Alexis Pate)

In-person event

BIPOC writers are challenging the assumptions of the writing workshop to accommodate their identities, aesthetics and experiences. The panelists have all written significant pedagogical works focusing on race, the canon, the practices and social experience of BIPOC writers and on uncovering racial assumptions in traditional white dominated workshops. They radically re-think the workshop in ways that will prepare all students, regardless of race, for writing in a multiracial society.

### **Conjuring Thisness in Fiction: The Palpable Art of the Particular** (Rachel Marston, Robert Glick, Wandeka Gayle, Maria Dahvana Headley, Sadie Hoagland)

In-person event

In *How Fiction Works*, James Wood defines "thisness" as "any detail that...seems to kill that abstraction with a pull of palpability." But how do we teach thisness when student writers find it challenging to employ basic concrete language and sense-evoking detail? This panel will explore the pedagogy, practice, and toolbox of particular detail - the art of dynamically varying the levels and types of specificity to build a more robust thisness and greater networks of meaning.

**Creating Supportive and Engaged Fully Asynchronous Creative Writing Classrooms** (Shana Youngdahl, Cate Marvin, Bronwen Tate, Molly Sutton Kiefer, Martha Silano)

In-person event

In response to COVID-19, many who had never before taught fully-remote creative writing classes found themselves having to pivot to online classrooms. The default was Zoom, but fully asynchronous creative writing programs have existed for years. On this panel, Creative Writing Educators who teach asynchronous classes discuss best practices for creating compassionate classrooms, as well as how the move to Zoom is impacting the broader scope of remote creative writing pedagogy.

**Creative Coding for Creative Writing: Digital Tools in the Poetry Classroom** (Collier Nogues, Lillian-Yvonne Bertram, Lai-Tse Fan, Doug Luman, Keith S. Wilson)

In-person event

Computational and digital poetry tools are increasingly accessible and easy to use, and offer exciting ways to help students compose new work, revise thoughtfully, and hone their sense of purpose as writers. This panel considers the merits of creative coding and other digital practices in poetry classrooms from MFA workshops to undergraduate surveys to high school enrichment programs. We'll share our experiences using open-source, free, and fun tools to support specific pedagogical goals.

**Despair and Repair: Teaching in Tumult** (Chelsey Johnson, Susan Choi, Matthew Salesses, Leni Zumas, James Hannam)

In-person event

How do we teach when it feels impossible? How did our vocation so swiftly become unrecognizable, and how do we find our way back into it—or out of it? Three years into the pandemic, teaching writing has changed seismically. Five writers who teach at a diverse range of universities explore the old methods we've abandoned and the new ways we're trying to find our way through in this candid conversation about survival, solace, failure, moral injury, burnout, resistance, and solidarity.

**Encouraging Writing and Literacy in Bilingual Communities: Si, se Habla Español** (Minerva Laveaga, Reyna Muñoz, Jonathan Nehls, Ricardo Marrufo, Yasmin Ramirez)

In-person event

A writer, a literary journal editor, a couple of podcasters, and a director for a teen creative writing community program walk into a room to discuss how each encourages writing and

literacy in bilingual communities. With roughly 53 million Spanish speakers in the US, this group of higher ed educators will speak about their experiences in the classroom and in their individual projects. They will share their knowledge on encouraging writing and literacy in often marginalized communities.

**Equity & Racial Justice in the Post-Pandemic Creative Writing Classroom** (Cynthia Guardado, Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo, Meliza Bañales, Reyes Ramirez, David Campos)

In-person event

How can we equitably teach students in the online/in-person creative writing classroom and de-center the heteronormative cisgender white male framework of academia? BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ panelists will address how they design equitable course curriculum and assignments to support students from varying backgrounds in their discovery as writers. They will discuss the challenges they have encountered and strategies they have implemented for promoting student engagement in the classroom.

**Foreseeable Futures: Equitable Access to Professional Trajectories for Students** (David Krausman, Anna Leahy, Terry Ann Thaxton, Ashley Mack-Jackson, David Groff)

In-person event

As we guide students in their writing craft, how do our programs guide decisions and opportunities for students' individual professional trajectories over a lifetime? With equitable access in mind, panelists offer rationales, approaches, and best practices for courses and programming in publishing, jobs and careers, literary citizenship, and/or sustaining a writing life. As part of this conversation, a free online Open Educational Resources textbook called *Aspects of a Writer* will be shared.

**Forging Our Own Path: On Being First-Generation in Academia** (Melissa Faliveno, Natalie Lima, Danielle Geller, María Álvarez, Dantiel Moniz)

In-person event

Four creative writing instructors explore the challenges and rewards of being first-generation college graduates working in and navigating the academy. We'll explore the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability among first-gen teachers and students; how to best reach and serve our fellow first-gen students while advocating for ourselves; invisible labor, especially among contingent faculty; institutional classism; imposter syndrome; and making space for our own creative work.

**Frank Sets Sweet Dee On Fire: Multimodal Practices in Teaching Creative Writing** (Avee Chaudhuri, Gage Saylor, Dave Whelan, Jill McCabe Johnson)

In-person event

Panelists share their experiences with multimodal approaches to teaching creative writing, drawing on specific real-world examples of how they've brought music, film, television, new media, etc. into the creative writing classroom, as a way to supplement poetry, short stories, essays and novels they use to model certain techniques and dispositions of writing. A personal



example of this: I frequently use episodes of *It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia* to teach allegory and social satire.

**From Catullus to CardiB: Transgressive Texts in the Creative Writing Classroom** (Joanna Sit, Darrel Holnes, Donna Hill, Thaddeus Rutkowski)

In-person event

Four teachers from Medgar Evers College's Creative Writing/Literature program will talk about how they use and integrate "transgressive" texts in their classrooms to explore the intersection of sexuality, gender, social justice and human equality. Panelists will discuss concerns and approaches in preparing students of color to develop an aesthetic inclusivity as they evaluate meanings of sexual and moral boundaries in their creative work.

**Getting to Aha! Creative Practice Beyond the Writing Classroom** (Amy Lemmon, Traci Brimhall, Felicia Rose Chavez, Ashley Hajimirsadeghi)

In-person event

Whether it's generating innovative ideas or finding the breakthrough within a block, the strategies used by creative writers have a multiplicity of applications. Writers who teach in programs and institutions ranging from medical humanities to the arts, business, and design—and a graduate of one of these programs—discuss how they utilize creative writing pedagogy and practice in these spaces and beyond. Attendees will leave with specific tools they can apply in their teaching and writing.

**How many?! Proven strategies for teaching large lecture Creative Writing classes** (John Vigna, Elaine Chang, Danielle Geller, Bronwen Tate)

In-person event

What happens when we bring the creative writing workshop to the large lecture hall? Can a class of 250 students possibly grapple with the nuances of writing fiction, memoir, or poetry? How does a teacher even attempt to create a sense of community, so vital in creative writing spaces, for such a large group? Four writer-teachers discuss how to adapt strategies from the workshop to the lecture hall and share new techniques developed especially to engage students in large enrollment courses.

**In Praise of Praise: Do Young Writers Need Encouragement Now More Than Ever?** (Luke Rolfes, Bronson Lemer, Bekah Jerabek, Teague Bohlen, John Gallaher)

In-person event

Young writers entering the literary community are doing so during an extraordinary time. A global pandemic. The threat of a world war. Random acts of violence. Deeply entrenched political and social tribalism. The anxieties are too many to list. Is praise a way to keep students engaged in their work? How much encouragement is too much encouragement, and when does it become artificial? This panel will explore the concept of praise and how it can be a valuable tool in a time of great uncertainty.

**Native Tongues: Teaching Creative Writing to Multilingual International Students** (Huan Hsu, Wade Geary, Page Richards, Jane Lewty, Hedgie Choi)

In-person event

Given how fundamental a writer's language is to the experience and portrayal of their world, how does the negotiation between a multilingual writer's "home" language and writing language (English) present both challenges and opportunities? Creative writing teachers from three continents explore how multilingual students can be supported and encouraged, and discuss conditions under which writers not only translate but also integrate plural languages and legacies into new experiences and thought.

**Object Lesson: Activating Material Intelligence** (Cynthia Arrieu-King, Silvina López Medin, Heather Jessup, Sheryda Warrenner)

In-person event

What happens when learning in the creative writing classroom shifts from mental effort (craft talk, workshop) toward a sequence of embodied, sensory-rich experiences? When we situate students within the expansive, interconnected web of art-based approaches, what new modes of making become possible? Our panelists discuss the meaningful discoveries that emerge when, as writers, we are invited to explore materials such as scents, textiles, photographs, and objects to round out a holistic practice.

**Occupational Hazards: Teaching and Writing Risk Across Genres** (Destiny O. Birdsong, Jan Beatty, Asali Solomon, Mihaela Moscaliuc, Lesley Wheeler)

In-person event

Writers conjure literary power by putting something real on the line. Yet risk operates differently across nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and translation, raising craft questions as well as the challenge of inspiring students to bring vulnerability to their writing. Panelists with experience in many teaching contexts—including universities, conferences, and community workshops—will share concrete ideas for empowering and equipping students to take personal and aesthetic chances.

**On Teaching Revision in the Creative Writing Workshop** (Barney Haney, Jameelah Lang, Christopher Coake, Alexandra Kleeman, Shonda Buchanan)

In-person event

This panel will focus on teaching revision in the creative-writing workshop by examining practices that empower students and enhance pedagogy. Panelists will discuss different workshop modes and levels, from graduate to introductory, drawing upon a range of techniques, from traditional to innovative. We'll share perspectives from liberal-arts colleges to HBCUs to large universities in order to present revision as an angle of vision useful not only in academics but also life beyond the classroom.

**Opening the Gates: Teaching Literary Magazine Editing** (Brenna Womer, Jennifer Acker, Anna Lena Phillips Bell, Lynne Nugent, Beth Staples)

In-person event

What editors do—and how they do it—can feel exclusive or even mystifying to writers and would-be editors alike. The lack of widely accepted standards for the practice and teaching of literary editing and publishing is partly to blame. Editors from the Common, Ecotone, Iowa Review, and Shenandoah, magazines with pedagogical components, will discuss strategies and exercises they find especially effective for sharing the craft with new editors, covering querying, correspondence, paratext, and more.

**Pedagogies of Play and Pleasure in the Creative Writing Classroom** (Rachel Haley Himmelheber, Bronwen Tate, Catina Bacote, Diana Khoi Nguyen)

In-person event

This event explores pedagogies of play, with a focus on specific activities and assignments that can be adapted for the classroom. Four educators who use the ludic mode in their teaching discuss playful approaches to workshop, collaborative and group work, and revision, as well as how a focus on pleasure might interrupt writing anxiety and encourage a wider aesthetic. The panel also investigates how play and pleasure intersect with asset- and strength-based approaches to student learning.

**Pedagogy Goes Pop: Creating Equitable Poetry Workshops through Popular Culture** (Mike Chin, Teri Ellen Cross Davis, Suzi F. Garcia, Caitlin Cowan)

In-person event

The pop-culture image of the poet is still stuck in the Beatnik 1950s, and those new to poetry still perceive the art form as pretentious. In response, four diverse, practicing poet-educators discuss fresh approaches to the use of popular culture in teaching poetry to high school and undergraduate students. These practices democratize and reinvent writing classrooms as loci of possibility and permission through the engagement of timely works of television, film, music, and even internet memes.

**Poetry Alive! Why teaching living poets to children and youth matters** (Melissa Smith, Donna Vorreyer, Joshua Gottlieb-Miller, Outspoken Bean, Becca Rose Hall)

In-person event

Contemporary poetry is vibrant, exciting, inclusive, and relevant. But how do you go about including it in K-12 settings? How do you use it to prompt student writing? How do you deal with its often complex and mature themes? And why does teaching living poets matter?

Writers teaching youth in diverse regions and contexts (including the founders of #teachlivingpoets and Seattle's own Frog Hollow School) speak about how they break past the expected canon and share contemporary poetry with youth.

**Story Mode 1.0: Teaching Narrative Video Games and How to Write Them** (Julialicia Case, Eric Freeze, Salvatore Pane, Margot Douaihy)

In-person event

Video games have gained increasing importance in college creative writing classrooms, not only as examples of compelling interactive storytelling, but also as potential professional avenues for graduating students. In this panel, we will explore a variety of ways of integrating video games

into the classroom, covering topics such as craft techniques and exercises, interactivity, collaboration, diversity and inclusion, technical tools, creative writing with AI and machine learning, and more.

**“Surprised by Joy”: the Generative Writing Workshop** (Sara Henning, Rosebud Ben-Oni, Jose Hernandez Diaz, Jason B. Crawford, Erin Elizabeth Smith)

In-person event

Teaching students to develop a creative writing practice often means teaching them ways to overcome writer’s block. Natalie Goldberg, author of *Writing Down the Bones*, says “like running, the more you do it, the better you get at it” (11). Panelists, composed of university professors and community instructors, believe that generative writing workshops offer a practical, productive answer to students seeking to grow their craft, build artistic community, and rediscover writing as an act of joy.

**The Art of the Handout** (Joseph Scapellato, Matt Bell, Thirri Myo Kyaw Myint, Sarah Ghazal Ali, Jennifer Pullen)

In-person event

Are you looking for lively new ways to present creative-writing-related concepts to your students? In this panel, five writer-teachers from across the genres critically reexamine a classic pedagogical tool: the handout. We'll share practical and specific strategies for creating original, helpful, and inclusive handouts tailored to your students’ needs. Our goal is for you to walk out of this panel with fresh ideas (and a few of our favorite handouts).

**The Invisible Art: Making Literary Editing Visible, Equitable, and Transparent** (Bryan Furuness, Dionne Irving, Matthew Pitt, Sarah Layden)

In-person event

Learning the craft of literary editing is challenging without apprenticeship or mentorship, and even seasoned editors may find themselves in search of new skills as technologies evolve and times change. How do editors develop, learn, and grow their practice? Drawing from exercises and case studies in the forthcoming editing textbook *The Invisible Art* and other resources, this panel seeks to make the invisible visible, to demystify the process, and to discuss equity and transparency in editing.

**The Nuts and Bolts of Podcasting: Practical Advice for Teaching Out Loud** (Saul Lemerond, Liegh Camacho Rourks, Rebecca Hazelwood, Billie Tadros, Kase Johnstun)

In-person event

Podcasts have recently become a dominant medium within our culture, and as such, there is a strong case to be made for the inclusion of podcasts into the creative writing classroom. In fact, the number of classrooms including podcasts increases every year. Our panelists will discuss the ins and outs of both teaching podcasts and incorporating podcasts as teaching tools by outlining prompts, demos, and assignments. We will also provide general guidance and address best practices.

**The Week-Long Fiction Course: Best Practices for Conference Workshops** (Charlotte Wyatt, Angela Pneuman, Lan Samantha Chang, Andrea Bewick, Peter Ho Davies)

In-person event

While many craft guides and articles address fiction workshop pedagogy, few address the difference between successful semester-long workshops and successful week-long programs or conferences. In this panel discussion, accomplished instructors who work in both MFA classrooms and conferences will discuss how they successfully foster effective, inclusive workshops in the intense environment of short-term programs.

**TMI in the Classroom: Navigating vulnerability in creative nonfiction pedagogy** (Tariq Hussain, Erika Thorkelson, Lindsay Wong, Tara Mcguire, Mandy Catron)

In-person event

Writing creative nonfiction demands intimacy and trust from writers and readers, students and faculty. But institutions are rarely designed to support this kind of vulnerability. Three instructors and one recent MFA graduate will discuss how to balance pedagogical requirements (maintaining safe boundaries, emphasizing craft, grading) with the vulnerability required for learning and teaching CNF. Panelists will offer concrete strategies for classroom dynamics and student-instructor relationships.

**Teaching Toni Morrison: the Image and the Ancestor as Foundation** (Cocoa Williams, Maxine Montgomery, Natalie King-Pedroso)

Virtual event

This presentation will be a hybrid of current published criticism by cutting edge scholars on Toni Morrison's oeuvre. We will discuss contemporary critical approaches to Morrison's novels and offer engaging, concrete, and critical thought provoking activities and assignments that can be duplicated in both secondary and post-secondary academic classrooms.

## Readings

**Autumn House Press 25th Anniversary Celebration Reading** (Michael X. Wang, Sam Ligon, Cameron Barnett, Beth Alvarado, Ruth L. Schwartz)

In-person event

Over the past 25 years, Autumn House Press has been dedicated to publishing and promoting the best works of literature from emerging and established authors whose writing breaks boundaries and expands the modern literary landscape. For the press's anniversary reading, five Autumn House authors, including two poets, two fiction writers, and an essayist, will read selections from their books to illustrate the press's achievements and comment briefly on what Autumn House means to them.

**"Books Against Missiles and Shrapnel": Poetry from Ukraine** (Oksana Maksymchuk, Max Rosochinsky, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Olga Livshin, Olena Jennings)

In-person event

Since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war, poets in Ukraine have been producing remarkable poetry about the Russian aggression and its effects. They craft powerful imagery and sharp storytelling while facing the dangers of missile strikes, bombings, and occupation. This reading showcases poets from Ukraine in English translation, with a variety of voices across the boundaries of gender and class, featuring poetry from both the beginning of the war in 2014 and the full-scale invasion of 2022.

**(B)order(less): Fomenting Li(v)es and Literatures** (Kanika Agrawal, Poupeh Missaghi, Yanara Friedland, Lida Nosrati, Kari Wang)

In-person event

The border is both permeable and rigid, as the pandemic has underscored. Its terror remains relentless. Five transnational writers question the border and respond to its shifting, dislocating provocations. What does the border mark and what does it claim? Which words and bodies are (b)ordered, through exclusion, dispossession, classification, appropriation, assimilation and pacification? We explore whether and how we can confound the ideologies and practices of (b)ordering in/with writing.

**Cambodian Poetry, Prose, and Translation Today** (Sharon May, Sokunthary Svay, Putsata Reang, Trent Walker, Greg Santos)

In-person event

The destruction of much of Cambodia's classical and contemporary literature occurred during the Khmer Rouge regime of the 1970s. Tens of thousands of writers, artists, teachers, and intellectuals were systematically murdered. This reading will present the literature that has been recovered as well as the writing of the Cambodian diaspora: songs, poetry, and folktales in brand-new translations; and nonfiction and poetry by young and emerging authors.

**Celebrating 30 Years of Flash Anthologies: A Reading from Flash Fiction America** (Chauna Craig, Sherrie Flick, Rion Amilcar Scott, Venita Blackburn, Terese Svoboda)

In-person event

Norton's newest flash anthology, *Flash Fiction America*, features 73 stories, all under 1000 words, that build around the concept of the United States in contemporary times. In a country composed of an incredibly diverse range of people, places, beliefs, and experiences, how do we understand a distinctly American quality in today's flash fiction? Editors and contributors will read from selections and discuss themes and directions in American flash fiction.

**Celebrating 30 Years of the Radius of Arab American Writers!** (Glenn Shaheen, Jameelah Lang, Hayan Charara, Carolina Ebeid, George Abraham)

In-person event

The Radius of Arab American Writers has supported and promoted the work of Arab and Southwest Asian/North African writers since 1993. Join us for a tribute by five RAWI members reading their own work and work of other Arab and Southwest Asian/North African writers they love and admire!

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS: MILLAY ARTS** (MONIKA BURCZYK, Annie Liontas, Stacy Nathaniel Jackson, Joan Naviyuk Kane)

In-person event

As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, Millay Arts would like to present a panel of alumni writers (fiction/nonfiction/poetry) to showcase this momentous achievement as well as promote our alumni and programming. We will also seek out writers who were supported by one of our longstanding partnerships (Margins Fellows-AAWW, etc.) as well as new ones (Restless Books Immigrant Writing Prize and DVAN-Writers identifying as belonging to the Vietnamese Diaspora).

**Centering Fat Black Femme Poetics in the Fight for Liberation** (saida agostini, Diamond Forde, Tara Betts, Aurielle Marie)

In-person event

What does it mean to demand space in a world that doesn't want you? Join fat Black femme poets for a reading about the ways they explore what it means to be big as an act of freedom. Panelists will discuss how the body, Blackness, love, fatness, desire, pleasure, and liberation emerge in their poetics. This reading will explore how fat Black femme poetics build new visions of bold Blackness that center pleasure and reject the white gaze.

**Contemporary Chantuelles: A Reading by Caribbean Poets** (Lauren K. Alleyne, Shara McCallum, Vladimir Lucien, Safiya Sinclair, Malika Booker)

In-person event

Acclaimed poets from the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Grenada, will share their award-winning work, and discuss how their Caribbean roots inform their poetics, pedagogies and practices.

**Elder Songs: Indigenous Wisdom in Poetry** (Lucille Lang Day, Robert Davis Hoffman, Denise Low, Georgiana Valoyce-Sanchez, Ron Welburn)



#### In-person event

In the traditional Indigenous cultures of North America, Elders are considered Wisdom Keepers and living libraries. They are held in the highest esteem. Their cultural and philosophical knowledge encompasses ceremonies, history, spiritual matters, and our relationship to Earth and its creatures. How is this wisdom translated into poetry? Four poets over age 65 will read poems that share the wisdom of their Tlingit, Lenape, Cherokee, Gingaskin, Assateague, Chumash, and Tohono O'odham heritages.

#### **Excerpt Readings by Seattle Theatre Writers** (Kate Danley, Nabra Nelson, Gloria Majule, Maggie Lee, Miriam BC Tobin)

##### In-person event

From the Historic Theater District, which has been officially recognized since 2011, to Seattle Repertory Theatre and Book-it, Seattle has fortified its own right as a leading cultural hub in the United States for new writing and American Theatre. In an endeavor to amplify the voices who call Seattle home, we're excited to offer readings of several excerpts from dramatic works crafted by several wonderful theatre writers living in working locally in the city.

#### **Exploring the Terrain of Fiction—Writing as a Means of Survival** (Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Christine Sneed, Michael Wang, Matthew Lansburgh, Karin Lin-Greenberg)

##### In-person event

From short stories to novels, from social realism to speculative fiction, from American tales to immigrant lit, from heterosexual narratives to LGBTQ stories, five award-winning authors—Christine Sneed, Karin Lin-Greenberg, Michael X. Wang, Matthew Lansburgh, and Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry—will read from their most recent work on themes of love, loss, war, cultural identity, and displacement.

#### **Feminist Press Presents: Readings by Louise Meriwether First Book Prize Winners** (Cassandra Lane, YZ Chin, Claudia D. Hernandez, Jisu Kim)

##### In-person event

The Louise Meriwether First Book Prize seeks to honor the groundbreaking legacy of Meriwether's "Daddy Was A Number Runner" by creating debut publication opportunities for women and nonbinary authors of color. The 2022 winner of the prize will be joined by past winners YZ Chin, Claudia D Hernández, Melissa Valentine, and Cassandra Lane to read from their work, including a reading from the 2022 Prize winner's manuscript in progress.

#### **Future Forward: Celebrating New Debuts during Copper Canyon's 50th Anniversary** (Shangyang Fang, Amanda Gunn, Nicholas Goodly, Julian Gewirtz, Ryo Yamaguchi)

##### In-person event

A lively and provocative literary present shapes our possible futures. For its 50th anniversary, Copper Canyon Press looks to its newest debut authors, who represent the many edges of poetry's future. Ancient Chinese idioms transcends time in an immigrant's poems of desire and grief. A librarian-artist perfects play in diverse self-expressions. A former medical editor

explores the body in illness and pleasure. And a policy advisor aches with forbidden love while living in a surveillance state.

**Hand to Stone: Fujitarō Kubota and James W. Washington Jr. in Poetry and Prose** (Carletta Carrington Wilson, Elizabeth Austen, Kentaro Kojima, Shankar Narayan, Adriana Campoy)

In-person event

Northwest writers honor master landscaper Fujitarō Kubota and noted sculptor James W. Washington Jr. by reading from *Spirited Stone: Lessons from Kubota Garden* and *Poem of Stone and Bone: The Iconography of James W. Washington Jr. in Fourteen Stanzas and Thirty-One Days*. Both men infused their work with their spiritual beliefs in relationship to nature. Through poetry and essay, writers respond to Kubota and Washington, whose legacies continue to inspire generations today.

**Incandescent with Feminine Rage: A Reading** (Sonia Greenfield, Abby E. Murray, Kendra DeColo, Diamond Forde, Rachel McKibbens)

In-person event

From the erosion of *Roe v. Wade* to the gunning down of children to the cultural indictment of Black Lives Matter, there is no end of fuel for the fire of feminine anger, which still rages on. Whether we're grieving mothers or activists seeking to decenter the cis/het white hegemony, we find ourselves overcome with a fury so profound, it threatens to consume us. What do we do with its sheer power? We channel it into poems that want to burn it all down in order to rebuild a society fit for us all.

**International Poetry with New Directions Publishing** (Jeffrey Yang, Pamela Mordecai, Phoebe Giannisi, Coral Bracho, Xi Chuan (none; pen name))

In-person event

A proposed poetry reading with four renowned international poets: Pamela Mordecai (Jamaica/Canada), Xi Chuan (China), Coral Bracho (Mexico), and Phoebe Giannisi (Greece). Poets will read their original poetry with their translator, or with the moderator. As the United States has become increasingly xenophobic and insular in the past decade, it is crucial for readers and students, poets and writers, to hear voices from the wider world. These four poets have been writing at the forefront of their

**Invisible Kith: Poets on Loss to Suicide** (Joan Glass, K Iver, MT Vallerta, Diana Nguyen, KB Brooks)

In-person event

Losing someone to suicide is a unique and terrible trauma, and one that has created a sort of "invisible kith" of mourners. There is a growing body of poetry by survivors of suicide loss and a need to gain visibility & share this work with each other & with the world. In this panel, poets from a variety of backgrounds, poets from a variety of backgrounds, and with a significant body of published poems and/or books on suicide loss & survivorship, will read from their work & engage in dialogue.

**Migrations and Mutations: Writing and Translating From Our Bodies** (Cecelia Martinez-Gil, Wendy Call, Marco Antonio Huerta, Samina Najmi, Alison Mandaville)

In-person event

How do situated bodily experiences shape the writing of belonging? Five writers and translators working in and between the Azerbaijani, English, Spanish, Urdu, and Zapotec languages, read poetry and creative non-fiction that attends to how immigrant and BIPOC writers create belonging through words shaped and transformed by their specific bodies, locations, and mobilities. These works emerge through the struggles of displaced people to connect body and place via storytelling – and so survive.

**My Body, My Choice, My Words: Writing for Reproductive Justice** (Susan Kiyo Ito, Mike Fine, Abby Minor, Krys Malcolm Belc)

In-person event

Reproductive rights are at risk more than ever. Memoirists, poets and novelists can play a pivotal role in highlighting the importance of reproductive rights through their work. Panelists will discuss how to create powerful literary narratives that are not polemic, yet can inspire change in thinking and action. Through brief readings and discussion between writers, we aim to foster an important conversation for writers across genres who want to center these critical issues in their work.

**New Poetry from Graywolf Press** (Claire Schwartz, Tom Sleigh, Jeffrey Yang, Courtney Faye Taylor, Stephanie Burt)

In-person event

Five extraordinary poets read from their collections recently published by Graywolf Press, a leading independent publisher based in Minneapolis, MN. Wide-ranging in their form, subject matter, and career stage, these writers' recent works interrogate the responsibility and complicity of the poet as witness, explore myths both new and ancient, and discover new ways of approaching documentary, elegy, and enduring political questions of our time.

**New Poetry: A Wesleyan Reading** (Rae Armantrout, Evie Shockley, Sarah Blake, Ranjit Hoskote, Trevor Ketner)

In-person event

New work from five poets showing the breadth of Wesleyan's poetry series. Diverse work includes anagrams of Shakespeare's sonnets exploring queer desire and pagan tradition; prose poems pondering what makes us human if removed from the human world; poetic word play that nudges us to rethink our modern predicaments; the repurposing of literary modes from across centuries of African diasporic traditions; and lyric poems that replace the sovereign 'I' with an ensemble of urgent, questioning voices

**Poetry, Law, and the U.S. "Justice" System** (Laura Read, Jenny Molberg, Joshua Aiken, Kanika Agrawal, Wayne Miller)

In-person event

Poets will read and discuss intersections between poetry and law. Can a poem be evidence, testimony (or a refusal to “document”)? What stories are silenced; what do we learn from historical court cases? Redefining “poetic justice,” this panel explores actionability in terms of prison reform, racial injustice, gun violence, abuse, sexual assault, and immigration law. Panelists will confront a deference to the U.S. legal system, considering law-specific docupoetry as a venue for systemic change.

**Poets of Chinese Heritage: A Reading** (Jay Gao, Wendy Xu, Will Harris, Nina Mingya Powles, Mary Jean Chan)

In-person event

A reading by international poets of Chinese heritage, some of multiple ethnicities, who have lived in the UK, USA, Hong Kong, and New Zealand. Poems address the complicated relationship between China and the West, being in conversation with Chinese poetry/texts/literary lineages, writing in English as a second language, facing stereotypes and racialization, and internalized racism, among other topics. Diverse writing styles are included—from formal styles to more abstract work.

**Queer Cascades: LGBTQ2S+ Voices from the Pacific Northwest** (Sara Graefe, Michael V Smith, Jessica Rae Bergamino, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Denise Chanterelle DuBois)

In-person event

How does sense of place influence queer writing? The Pacific Northwest, a.k.a. the queer-friendly “left coast,” is home to a growing community of LGBTQ2S+ writers, including transplants from farther east. Join diverse, multi-genre queer writers from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia as they read and discuss what draws them to Cascadia, how locale informs their work, and what it means to write in the Northwest, outside major LGBTQ2S+ hubs of New York City, San Francisco and Toronto.

**Queer Identity in Poetry** (Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Nickole Brown, Dustin Pearson, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo)

In-person event

The letters LGBTQIA+ are a stand-in for the immense diversity in our community. What is poetry if not an expression either of or from our deepest sense of self? What does it mean to identify on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum? What does Queerness bring to and reveal about the journey of poets who so identify? How are we shaped? To what do we respond through the lens of our queerness? Join this panel of BOA Edition poets for a reading from and about their individual queerness.

**Queer Writing Between Certain Death and a Possible Future** (Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, EJ Colen, Sassafras Lowrey, Patrick Milian, Eddie Walker)

In-person event

Readings and conversation based on the acclaimed anthology *Between Certain Death and a Possible Future: Queer Writing on Growing Up with the AIDS Crisis*, edited by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, which was named one of the best queer books of all time by Book Riot.

The book centers the experience of queer writers who came of age in the midst of the AIDS epidemic with the belief that desire intrinsically led to death, and who internalized this trauma as part of becoming queer.

**Redefining “Southern”: A Poetry Reading with The Southern Collective Experience** (Nicole Tallman, Ashley M. Jones, Jack B. Bedell, Clifford Brooks III, J.D. Isip)

In-person event

Join Poets Ashley M. Jones (Alabama), Jack Bedell (Louisiana), Clifford Brooks III (Georgia), J.D. Isip (Texas), and Nicole Tallman (Florida) for a discussion and reading from their recently published collections, demonstrating the vast range of topics and experiences explored in contemporary Southern poetry. Combining the experience of Southern natives and transplants alike, these five poets speak their truths in distinct and diverse voices, while celebrating community and redefining Southern.

**(Re)Imagining the "Asian-American" Experience in Twenty-First Century U.S.** (Al Abonado, Minyoung Lee, Tayyba Kanwal, Keith Lesmeister)

In-person event

This panel of writers, with their varied backgrounds and connections to south, east, and southeast Asia, will explore and discuss the myriad ways their specific ethnicities have shaped their writing as current denizens of the United States whose specific locations range from the Bay Area to south Texas to upstate New York to the rural Midwest. The panel will focus on common themes, hardships, and obsessions linked to their various Asian backgrounds and multicultural experiences.

**So, What Are You? Mixed-Race, Asian American Writers on Identity & Visibility** (Joan Kwon Glass, Matthew Olzmann, Jessica Stark, Michael Schmeltzer, Patty Paine)

In-person event

What does it mean to be a mixed-race, Asian American writer in a time of increased violence toward Asian Americans? In what ways do we experience division and integration? How have our experiences as mixed-race, Asian Americans shaped us? Where do we find our authentic community? On this panel, five writers of mixed-race, Asian American descent will read from their work & engage in dialogue around these questions, focusing on the urgent need for building solidarity and understanding.

**Terrain.org 25th Anniversary Reading** (Simmons Buntin, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Victoria Chang, J. Drew Lanham, Brian Turner)

In-person event

Celebrate the world’s longest-publishing online literary journal of place with a multigenre, multimedia reading by Victoria Chang, Alison Hawthorne Deming, J. Drew Lanham, and Brian Turner, moderated by Terrain.org founder and editor Simmons Buntin. Founded in 1997, Terrain.org publishes a rich mix of literature, editorials, artwork, and community case studies with a particular focus on environmental, social, and climate justice in a beautiful, interactive, and highly-accessible online magazine.

**The ART of Infertility: Writing About Reproductive Choice, Loss, and Family** (Jennifer Berney, Robin Silbergeld, Carla Sameth, Cheryl Klein, Krys Malcolm Belc)

In-person event

How do infertility memoirs rewrite the dominant family narrative? How do they grapple with issues of gender, sexuality, race, and the body? Reading from published memoirs about infertility, miscarriage, reproductive choice, and queer family building, panelists explore the emotional, practical, and legal complexities of infertility and family building outside cisgender and heteronuclear families, such as in vitro fertilization, third party reproduction, blended families, and adoption.

**The Digital Sala: Radical Diasporic Filipinx Poetics** (Jason Magabo Perez, Rachelle Cruz, Hari Alluri, Luya Poetry Christian Aldana & Czaerra Ucol, Keana Aguila Labra)

In-person event

In an effort to build community solidarity, this poetry reading and community dialogue convenes Filipinx writers with varied experiences in performance, community organizing, education, and academia from San Diego, Anaheim, Vancouver, San Jose, and Chicago. Participants will share new works and collaborative manifestos as feminist, queer, anti-imperialist, anti-colonial, and/or anti-capitalist Filipinx writers in the diaspora.

**The Lyric Essay as Resistance: A Reading & Celebration** (Chloe Garcia Roberts, Chelsea Biondolillo, Molly McCully Brown, Hea-Ream Lee, Michael Torres)

In-person event

Lyric essays are powerful tools for creative resistance. The essays selected for this reading and new anthology embody resistance through content, style, design, and form, representing of a broad spectrum of experiences that illustrate how writers and their identities can intersect, conflict, and even resist one another. Together, they provide a dynamic example of the lyric essay's range of expression while showcasing some of the most visionary contemporary essayists writing in the form today.

**The Northern Imagination: A Reading** (Daryl Farmer, Nancy Lord, Annie Wenstrup, Laureli Ivanoff, Tom Kizzia)

In-person event

Alaska's contemporary literature reflects richness of experience, ancestral ties to the land, and appreciations for history and heritage, culture, and the complexities of our modern world. It also relies on creativity and imaginative leaps to make life in the north "real." Five Alaskan writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry will briefly put their recent work into context before reading from it.

**The Other World in This: An Image Journal Reading** (Scott Cairns, Joyelle McSweeney, Sarah Stone, Fady Joudah, Shane A. McCrae)

In-person event

Poets, novelists, and essayists from Image journal upend our assumptions about religion. Rather than escaping the world or evading humanity, writing that grapples with spiritual

struggle is deeply attuned to the hopes and heartbreak of this world. Precisely because it doesn't shy away from enduring themes of religious devotion, such writing probes the depths of human complexity and the visceral experience of being embodied. We will highlight such work across multiple genres.

**This Writer's Work: Trans Poetics & Labor** (Aditi Natasha Kini, Sarah Madges, Neon Mashurov)

In-person event

A hybrid reading and discussion, "This Writer's Work" showcases writing and thought from four trans writers making work across genres. Three are confirmed. How do trans writers relate to labor when identity becomes a call to praxis, creating even more work? In a world that exploits and disappears us, how do we advocate for our bodies, genders and disabilities? This event will explore the intersection of identity, asking how we engage with work in our creative work—and how to revolutionize it.

**Tin House Poets Reading** (Gabrielle Bates, E.J. Koh, Megan Fernandes, Jayme Ringleb)

In-person event

This poetry reading features five Tin House authors who are celebrating new books, exhibiting a vibrant range of poetry aesthetics from one of the most original and long-established publishers in the Pacific Northwest.

**Totalitarian Traumas: A Reading by Writers from the Former USSR** (Sasha Vasilyuk, Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry, Anna Halberstadt, Anna Fridlis, Simon Shuster)

In-person event

Russia's attack on Ukraine and the silencing of its own society has redefined the history and identities of people in both countries. Five writers born in the USSR stage a response to the conflict, which has reawakened past traumas of Soviet upbringing. We reflect on how the politics of our shared totalitarian motherland has infiltrated the individual experience presented across our genres.

**Turning 30! A Four Way Books Anniversary Reading** (Rigoberto González, Allison Benis White, Victoria Redel, Yesenia Montilla, Nathan McClain)

In-person event

To celebrate 30 years of independent publishing, Four Way Books gathers five writers who represent not just its own legacy of broad-ranging aesthetics but the depth and diversity of contemporary American literature itself. Featuring panelists from all around the country, readings will traverse genres, forms, subjects, and styles, showcasing the unique voices and literary dialogue that define the collective strength, lasting impact, and longevity of a small press from Tribeca founded in 1993.

**Urban and Rural: Writing About Poverty** (Luanne Smith, Michael Gills, Troy Wilderson, Stephanie Powell Watts, Francine Rodriguez)

In-person event



While class is often the backdrop to a story rather than the main point, writing about poverty is often compartmentalized. Grit Lit, Street Lit, Kmart fiction, even Noir, there seems to be a place to put this work rather than actually looking at it as writing about the human condition. This panel brings together prose writers from rural and urban settings to discuss commonalities, differences and the bigger picture when class is a major factor in the work.

**We Find Countries in Each Other: Black Poets Speak from Across the Diaspora** (saida agostini, teri ellen cross davis, Enzo Silon Surin, Tashi Ko)

In-person event

In a country where Black life is rooted in precarity, Black poetics becomes more than a practice of witness, but rather an act of nation-building. Black poetics offers a space where our freedoms are no longer dependent upon the great dragon that is america (to quote Audre Lorde), but rather only limited by the expansiveness of Black imagination. Join four Black poets from across the African Diaspora read poems offering their visions of a free Black nation that is limitless in ijoy and pleasure

**Writing through Apocalypse: Poets at the End of the World** (Franny Choi, Saeed Jones, Brenda Shaughnessy)

In-person event

How do we write about the dystopian present while making room for possible worlds beyond this one? How might a poetics of apocalypse open space for grief, rage, and resiliency? Three queer poets of color read from their new collections and discuss their approaches to writing through the apocalypses of the past, present, and future.

**50 Years of Fire: A Reading to Celebrate AGNI** (Cyrus Cassells, Jamie Quatro, Dzvinia Orlowsky, Lia Purpura, Jennifer Alise Drew)

Virtual event

For fifty years, AGNI has published international literature that transforms, combusts, and burns bright. Join us for a virtual reading that celebrates AGNI's legacy and envisions its future with some of our dynamic contributors. These poets, writers, and translators from across the globe will come together to give a reading and discuss their experiences with the magazine's intimate, rigorous editorial process.

**Fearless: Indian poets celebrate diversity in the face of Hindu nationalism** (Zilka Joseph, Pramila Venkateswaran, Ralph Nazareth, Sophia Naz)

Virtual event

Indian American poets celebrate the diversity of their belief systems, their different backgrounds, religions and cultures, and discuss the effects of right-wing nationalism in their country of origin, India, where moves to suppress minorities and free speech are on the rise. The poets, from Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities, will express their concerns about intolerance and the rise of nationalism both in India and the US--which is their home now, and how it affects on their work.

**The Chronic: Medicine and the Body in Writing** (Rajiv Mohabir, Anjoli Roy, Soma Mei Sheng Frazier, Heidi Andrea Restrepo Rhodes, A. H. Reaume)

Virtual event

Writing into chronic illness is an act of liberation. Through multiple genres—poetry, essays, and fiction—five award-winning writers with chronic illnesses explore their first-hand experiences of navigating disabilities, both visible and invisible, to reclaim their narratives, re-storying their lives against the multiple erasures enacted against them. The reading speaks back against ableist recovery and cripispiration stories.

**We Are All Armenian Launch** (Aram Mrjoian, Anna Gazmarian, Raffi Wartanian, Hrag Vartanian, Nancy Kricorian)

Virtual event

Readings from "We Are All Armenian: Voices from the Diaspora" an anthology of creative nonfiction by diasporic Armenian writers to be published by University of Texas Press in March 2023.

**When Home Is Not Safe** (Judith Skillman, Linera Lucas, Lillo Way, Carolyn Wright, Susan April)

Virtual event

I propose a reading by poets from the anthology *When Home Is Not Safe, Writings on Verbal, Emotional and Physical Abuse* (McFarland, 2021). The reading will run approximately forty-five minutes. A Q&A session will follow for the remaining fifteen minutes. This topic is of the utmost importance, as approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking.

**"With Anger and Tenderness": A Reading by Mother Poets** (Hannah Baker Saltmarsh, Katherine DeBlassie Page, Meghan Vesper, Isadora Grevan, Sarah Antine)

Virtual event

Mother-poets read from their work that touches on contradictory affects, including the maternal anger & tenderness that Adrienne Rich described. One poet addresses unspoken challenges and fears of motherhood along with what it means to be a parent with mental health issues. Another poet shares visual quilt poems with a nod to the history of women's work. One of our poets explores issues of exile, immigration, and trauma as a mother and daughter. One poet confronts climate change as a mother.