Reproductive Writes:
Writing About Reproductive Choice, Loss, and Justice
(Multiple Literary Genres Readings)

Event Description
At a moment when reproductive rights are under increasing attack in the United States, writing about reproductive choice is important political and personal work. Infertility, miscarriage, and abortion are often treated as discrete subjects, yet putting them into conversation is a critical part of reproductive justice work. This panel opens dialogue by featuring a diverse group of poets and nonfiction writers, both queer and cisgender, who write about lived experience with a range of reproductive topics. Through reading and conversation, we consider such questions as: How do writers use poetry and nonfiction to explore reproductive choice, health, and loss? What are the unique challenges and risks raised in the act of writing about reproductive topics, including infertility, miscarriage, and abortion? How does the stigma of discussing the intimate emotional and bodily aspects of reproduction carry over to the page? And how does writing about reproductive health serve as means of education and advocacy?

Agenda
The moderator will begin by welcoming attendees, introducing panelists, and explaining the significance of putting infertility and pregnancy loss in conversation with other issues related to reproductive justice and choice, including abortion. The four other panelists will read from their own work for ten minutes each. The reading will end with a fifteen-minute moderated Q&A with panelists and audience, centered around issues related to writing infertility and reproductive choice.

Participants
Maria Novotny (moderator) is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She writes about reproductive advocacy, in particular infertility and recurrent reproductive loss. Her co-edited collection *Infertilities, A Curation* portrays experiences of infertility in art and writing.

Erika Meitner is the author of 6 books of poems, including *Useful Junk* (BOA Editions in 2022), and *Holy Moly Carry Me*, which won the 2018 National Jewish Book award, and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award. She is an English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jacqui Morton’s work has appeared in places such as the *Guardian, The Rumpus*, and *Salon*. She has published a chapbook of poems, *Turning Cozy Dark*, and is a graduate of the MFA program at Antioch University, Los Angeles. She teaches in a community education program and is a consultant to nonprofits.

Carla Sameth, MFA in Creative Writing (Lat Am) Queens University, Altadena Poet Laureate, a PEN Teaching Artist, teaches at the LA Writing Project and SNHU. She published the memoir, *One Day on the Gold Line* and writes about pregnancy loss, nontrad parenting, identity, addiction and LGBTQ+ issues.

Robin Silbergleid (event organizer) is a poet and nonfiction writer. Her books include *The Baby Book: Poems* and the memoir *Texas Girl*. Her co-edited anthology *Infertilities, A Curation* was published by Wayne State University Press in 2023. She is Professor of English at Michigan State University.