

Wilmington Writers Conference

Session Descriptions

Morning Sessions

Flash Fiction: Grabbing Hold of a Moment in History and Not Letting Go

Billie Travalini

For many emerging and professional writers, the very nature of flash fiction triggers concerns such as: Where should I begin? Where do I go next? How much history is too much? What role does editing play in getting published? Using critically successful stories—all under 500 words—as our models, we will learn the answers to these questions and more. Our goal is to uncover what it takes to write a flash fiction story that is honest to the past without being cruel and interesting without being self-serving. This workshop will include time travel back to 1968 and from a number of writing prompts free write a flash fiction story about a moment of historical and personal transition. The workshop will conclude with a brief Q&A.

Blood Lines: Poetry as Genealogy

Yolanda Wisher

Are the hunches we have about our pasts, our ancestors real? How do we confirm a sense of our own identity in the face of loss, erasure, and trauma? Do we need facts or truth at all? What if belief and word of mouth are good enough, and imagination and metaphor can fill in the gaps of memory and history? This session will be a writing workshop for those who wish and hunger to write family stories, to find family through the writing of poems.

Inhibitions about Exhibitions

Gemelle John

One of the few universal truths that remain valid is that humans make homes. Our spaces become a manifestation of our lives, and vice versa. In this workshop we will reflect on how to use spaces as a tool for establishing emotional cores in our work and reflect on how this can contribute to a more engaged classroom or learning space for young writers.

Erasure Poetry: From Rupture, What Rises

Jane Miller

Erasure is the process of removing a portion(s) of a poem or writing in order to create a new poem or writing. In this workshop, we will examine how poets use erasure to strike through one poem or writing to elevate, or “extract” another poem buried within. Some poets see erasure as the logical starting place to recognize the voices history sought to erase. With this in mind, our goal is to write poems that use a variety of texts that inspire us to mull the ways in which erasure can be transformative, subversive and redemptive.

Gleaning Story Ideas from Delaware's Literary History

Steven Leech

Delaware's past literary artists have interacted with many of the country's notable figures, addressed major social, cultural, and political issues, and led full and exciting lives. This workshop will survey these factors, explore resources, and suggest subject ideas for current writers.

Afternoon Sessions

Adventures in Self-Publishing

BH Littleman with The Happy Self Publisher, Lois Hoffman

There are many questions that we don't ask ourselves before jumping into the world of self-publishing. Get a glimpse into what it takes from two perspectives: a writer and a publisher. Littleman will begin by relaying his own experiences with self-publishing a novel, the many pitfalls and possibilities for success, and the financial challenges of being a part-time selfpub writer. Following that, Hoffman will present options, tips, and resources for those taking the plunge. Through the lens of these experiences and struggles, this workshop will offer multiple perspectives on self-publishing.

Truth to Power: Connecting to the Language of the Oppressed

Lisa Lutwyche

We will look at poetry/essays about the imbalances of power. Throughout our history Americans have attempted to "speak truth to power" – from colonists standing up to a king, to freeborn 19th century African-American poet Frances Ellen Watkins Harper writing about slavery, from troubled young men like Allen Ginsberg writing in the 1950s, to young men burning their draft cards while women burned their bras. What about the writings of our own unsettled time? We still experience gender inequality in the workplace, we see the difficulties of immigrants, we watch older generations try to interact with Millennials – how do we talk about it all? How can we address it? Class will consist of samples of past and present writers, followed by guided writing & prompts.

The Blogging Basics

Katie Robles

This session will use WordPress to introduce writers to blogging. Blogs are one of the best ways for authors to be discovered and to find readers. Blogging can help refine the author's voice, clarify intended audience, improve writing skills, and connect to readers around the world. The session will cover how to set up a blog on WordPress, blogging vocabulary, tips on effective posts, creating or finding images, blog promotion, and blogging benefits for writers.

Haiku Here & Now: A Mini Workshop

Joanne M. Reinbold

Haiku, written in the traditional style, establish a connection between the writer and the reader and the natural world. While haiku are written "in the moment" (solidly in the present) they also connect the past and the future. These tiny poems preserve the most precious moments of our lives for ourselves

and future generations with an enduring immediacy. This workshop will take place outside and inside—outside for a “gingko” haiku walk around the Museum grounds and inside for instruction and practice.

Writing the Body

Cat Mulrooney

Writing the Body is a class designed to connect writers to their stories, their histories, and their bodies. Throughout the session we will explore our relationship to memory, body image and identity, standards of beauty, self-expression and silence, nurturing, sexuality, gender dynamics, love, personal journeys, and future dreams and aspirations. Writing the Body is for all levels from professional, published writers to "non-writers" with stories to tell and an impulse to re-connect to their creativity and themselves.

Writers Panel: Mining our Personal Histories and Perspectives

Panelists: TBD

Moderator: TBD

Presenter Bios

Gemelle John is a poet and educator currently based in Delaware. While at the University of Delaware she served as vice-president of the University's Resident Student Organization, S.P.I.T (Stimulating, Prose, Ideas, and Theories). Through S.P.I.T. she has had the privilege to work with poets including Andrea Gibson, Clint Smith, and Alixa and Naima of "Climbing Poetree". Her work has since been featured in Cleaver Magazine, Public Pool, and The News Journal (delawareonline.com). She is a 2018 Emerging Artist Fellow with the Delaware Division of the Arts. She currently works as a Spanish teacher in Wilmington and continues to write, publish, and perform poetry in the DMV area.

Lisa Lutwyche received her MFA in creative writing from Goddard College in 2013. Poet, author, artist, produced playwright, and actor, she has been published in literary magazines across the US and in the UK. Her full-length poetry collection, *A Difficult Animal*, came out in the fall of 2016 from Saddle Road Press. Lisa has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, twice, for poetry; she was nominated for inclusion in *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2017* anthology for a short story. She holds a BFA in painting and a BA in art history, as well. Lisa is an adjunct Professor of English at Cecil College in Maryland.

Joanne M. Reinbold, Director of the Written Remains Writers Guild, is a haiku poet, the senior editor of *The Cicada's Cry: A Micro Zine of Haiku Poetry* (Delaware's Smallest Magazine and an internationally known publication), a member of the Haiku Society of America, My Haiku Pond Academy, and the Red Dragonfly Haiku Poets. She leads Haiku WriMo Delaware annually, an event in which poets write a haiku every day in February. Joanne received her first formal training in haiku at the late master Jane Reichhold's Bare Bones School of Haiku. Her haiku have been published in numerous print and on-line journals. She teaches classes on haiku poetry and haiku arts through the JM Reinbold Haiku Arts Studio. Joanne earned an honorable mention as an emerging artist in literature from the Delaware Division of the Arts in 2011, and was twice selected (2008, 2012) by the Delaware Division of the Arts as a fiction fellow for the Cape Henlopen Poets & Writers Retreat.

The Cicada's Cry: A Micro Zine of Haiku Poetry www.thecicadascry.com

The Written Remains Writers Guild www.writtenremains.org

JM Reinbold's DCI Rylan Crowe Mystery Series www.jmreinbold.com

Katie Robles started the blog *Sex, Soup, and Two Fisted Eating* in 2013 and has been posting weekly ever since. She turned material from her blog into the books *Sex, Soup, and Two Fisted Eating: Hilarious Weight Loss for Wives* (House of Bread Books, 2016) and *More Sex, Soup, and Two Fisted Eating: Hilarious Weight Loss for Wives* (House of Bread Books, 2018). Her work has appeared in *The Quiet Hour* devotional (2017, 2015), *Splickety Magazine* (2015), and *Realmscapes: a Science Fiction and Fantasy Anthology* (2016). She is a former high school Spanish teacher with experience teaching adults.

Billie Travalini's work has been published in *The Moth*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Gargoyle*, *Review*, *Lakeview International Journal of Literature and Art*, as well as in numerous anthologies. Her story "Never Again" is short-listed for the Vestal Review Award for Flash Fiction. Her memoir, *Blood Sisters*, was a finalist for the James Jones Fellowship and the Breadloaf Prize. Her edited work includes: *No Place Like Here: An Anthology of Southern Delaware Poetry and Prose*, *The Delaware Poetry Review*,

Teaching Troubled Youth: A Practical Pedagogical Approach, and *On the Mason-Dixon Line: An Anthology of Contemporary Delaware Writers*. The Delaware Press Association named her its 2018 Communicator of Achievement. Earlier, she received the Governor's Award for the Arts, education. A Phi Beta Kappa, Magna cum Laude graduate of the University of Delaware and a fellowship graduate of Temple University, she served 11 years on Delaware's Planning Commission for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and currently serves on the Historic Preservation Committee for the Fort DuPont Redevelopment and Preservation Corporation. She advocates for at-risk youth and the mentally ill; co-founded and coordinates The Lewes Creative Writing Conference, now in its eleventh year; teaches writing at Wilmington University, and is busy at work writing *Rules to Survive Childhood*, a sequel to *Blood Sisters*, and *Rush Limbaugh and the French Apple Pie and Other Stories*.

Cat Mulroney: I am a freelance writer, editor, and teacher. My poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and reviews have appeared in a variety of online and print publications, including *Mothering Magazine*, *The We'Moon Anthology: Love*, *SageWoman Magazine*, *LiteraryMama*, *Mamazine.com*, *MomWriter's Literary Magazine*, *MotherVerse Magazine*, *The Apple Valley Review*, *Flashquake*, and *Natural Family Magazine* and many others. I've been teaching writing at the college level since 2000, and have facilitated creative writing workshops in elementary schools, high schools, prisons, and private organizations. *Writing the Body*, my latest workshop offering, and *Writing the Body Beyond*, *Personal Sessions*, will be offered in a variety of online and in person workshops throughout 2015. *Writing the Tarot* will be offered locally in small-group session in 2015. See *Classes & Offerings* for details. In 2008, I won a state grant as an Emerging Artist in Fiction via the Delaware Division of the Arts and gave public readings and performances of poetry, personal essay, and fiction in many local venues. I earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College where I completed a novel manuscript about a family bound by a hidden past, private temptations, chronic illness, and the fallout from religious cults and abuse titled, *The Secret Life*. In addition, I am currently working the personal writings and innovative prompts from my teaching into a book version of my *Writing the Body* course.

Jane Miller's poetry has appeared in the *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Summerset Review*, *cahoodaloodaling*, *Mojave River Review* and *Pittsburgh Poetry Review* among others. A nominee for Best New Poets and Best of the Net, she received a 2014 grant from the DE Division of the Arts. She was a finalist in the 2016 IHLR chapbook contest and the 2017 Red Wheelbarrow Poetry Contest. Miller lives in Wilmington, DE where she is a member of the Written Remains Writers' Guild and from occasionally leads writing workshops.

B. H. Littleman is the author of *THE UNFINISHED PRINCESS* and a certified crazy person. He can be found rambling on about books, movies, and more on Facebook. B. H. is a lifelong resident of Wilmington, DE, where he lives with his amazing wife, beautiful baby boy, sassy tortoise, and 10-year old child in a very convincing dog suit.