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Online classes are now incorporated into each workshop category. Look for this symbol: Online class!
About Writers & Books

Writers & Books promotes reading and writing as lifelong activities for people of all ages, through educational programs, publications, community events, and author appearances. For over thirty-five years our programs, held at our Rochester and Finger Lakes facilities, have reached a growing audience of thousands, making us one of the oldest and largest literary organizations in the country. Our programs have received national recognition, while inspiring generations of Rochesterians to make literature a part of their everyday lives.

Our programs reach people of all levels of interest in reading and writing, and are designed to help people discover the important part that literature plays in our individual lives and the life of our community. We offer:

- Over 200 writing classes and workshops for youth and adults held at our two facilities
- SummerWrite creative summer camps for young people ages 5-18 from June through August
- Scholarships for both youth and adults
- Outreach programs held throughout the community, including in schools, hospitals, libraries, senior citizen centers, recreation centers, and social service agencies
- Readings and talks by visiting and regional writers
- Residency programs at our rural retreat center, Gell: A Finger Lakes Creative Retreat
- Community-wide reading programs, “Rochester Reads” and “Debut Novel Series”
- An annual Regional Playwriting Competition held in collaboration with the Geva Theatre Center, as well as 2 Pages/2 Voices
- Internships and apprenticeships for high school and college students

Gell: A Finger Lakes Creative Retreat

Gell is Writers & Books' retreat located in the picturesque Finger Lakes wine region thirty miles south of Rochester. Nestled in the hills by a stream, Gell has a range of accommodations that provide a quiet and peaceful setting for writers and artists looking for creative solitude as well as groups and businesses seeking the ideal venue for social interaction. Gell has hosted individual writers, writing classes, artists, yoga groups and book groups, business meetings, and weddings.

How to Find Us

Writers & Books is located at 740 University Avenue, near Atlantic Avenue in Rochester.

Gell: A Finger Lakes Creative Retreat is located in the Bristol Hills near Naples, NY.

www.wab.org/gell

Visit us on the web at: www.wab.org

Call us at (585) 473-2590

Map & Directions: Writers & Books is located at 740 University Avenue between Merriman Street and Atlantic Avenue in Rochester.

Where to Park: There is limited parking in our lot. There is ample parking available on the streets surrounding Writers & Books. Please be aware of signs for parking restrictions. If you wish to park close to the entrance, we suggest arriving early to ensure that a space is available in our lot. Please do not park directly in front of our door as this blocks our accessible ramp.

What to Bring: Unless otherwise noted in the course description, all you need is a pen and paper.

Making Copies: If you need to make copies for your workshop, our copy machine by the front desk is available for use at ten cents a copy, with payment being made to the front desk representative.

Weather Cancellations: Cancellations are extremely rare. If concerned, call (585) 473-2590 or check our website or Facebook page. Students will be notified via phone and email.

Accessibility: Writers & Books welcomes and encourages people with disabilities to participate in our programs! Our facility at 740 University Avenue is equipped with a lift and elevators to provide full wheelchair accessibility. Accessible parking is available in our lot at the rear of the building near our main entrance off Atlantic Avenue.

If you would like to make a request for any accommodation, please email us at accommodation@wab.org at least 10 days prior to the event or workshop.

Cover photo of Rachel Hall by Pamela Frame
Become a Writers & Books Member!

**Turning Pages Readers Circle**

Turning Pages Readers Circle is a unique level of membership. In addition to membership benefits such as discounted classes/workshops, access to our retreat center in the Finger Lakes, and more, members of Turning Pages receive a surprise book in the mail four times a year. Within each surprise book package, carefully wrapped with clues as to what's inside, you will find a personal note from the person who curated that selection explaining their choice (previous curators have included award-winning authors such as Ann Patchett, Eowyn Ivey, and Sonja Livingston). Each book is matched with a members-only book discussion with a special speaker to illuminate the selections.

“I just have to thank everyone who had anything to do with the mailing of the books for the Turning Pages members. I was so impressed and delighted with the thoughtfulness and care that went into the packaging...I feel richly rewarded already.”
—Turning Pages member

To become a Turning Pages Readers Circle member, register using the form on page 28, or call our front desk at 473-2590 x107.

### What Benefits Come with Your Writers & Books Membership?

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<th>Membership coverage for entire family</th>
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A Letter from the Executive Director

In his memoir *Born to Run*, Bruce Springsteen recalls a trip to Mexico with his father. On the way they visit Long Beach, CA to tour the ocean liner his father had set to sea on during World War II. “My dad's journey on this ship was probably one of the most meaningful of his life,” he writes, “and I couldn’t respect it. I'd pay anything now to be able to walk that ship with my father again. I would treasure every step, want to know every detail, hear every word and memory he'd share, but back then I was still too young to put the past away, too young to recognize my dad as a man and to honor his story.”

*To honor his story.* These words echo in my head when I think of my grandmother. Now 93 and suffering from dementia, she no longer recognizes me, in spite of the *Livingston County News* article about me someone has taped to the wall beside her bed. When I was a kid, we would visit her frequently at her home in Avon. I peppered her with questions about her childhood in Corning, about her father—my great-grandfather—who was gassed during World War I and died a painful, wheezing death when she was young. This story fascinated me, and still does. But, soft-spoken and reserved, she downplayed her own story, laughing at my questions as if she was hardly worth the trouble. And yet she had a fierce independent streak that continues to inspire me. Here was a woman capable of climbing up onto her roof at age 75 and cleaning her own gutters. And like Bruce Springsteen, I would pay anything to hear her answers to my questions now.

This is the power of one’s personal story: our lives are inextricably bound to those who came before us. This is true whether you choose to tell your story through poetry, fiction, memoir, stand-up comedy, or any other form. It’s also true whether your goal is to find a traditional publisher for your story or not. In this issue of the workshop catalog, you’ll see myriad opportunities to honor your story and to craft it into shape. On page 11 you’ll find a new, year-long memoir workshop, Book Year: Memoir, designed to help you bring your story to life. Storytelling is a kind of journey—on the way you learn, you grow, you become—and like all good journeys, we owe it to ourselves to take the trip.

Kyle Semmel
Executive Director
Registration Information

Registration deadline for all programs:
Please register a minimum of seven days before your workshop begins. If you register fewer than seven days before your workshop begins: Call (585) 473-2590 ext 107 to check availability. All workshops require pre-registration.

Cancellations, refunds, and fees:
- A full refund is given in the event that W&B must cancel a class. You will be notified about a cancellation at least 72 hours in advance.
- If you withdraw up to three business days before the first day of a class, W&B will give you a full refund minus a 10% administration fee.
- Within three business days before the start of a class, W&B will refund you 50% or give you a full credit toward another class.
- After the first class and up to the day of the second class, W&B will refund you 25% or give you a prorated credit toward another class.
- After the second class, there will be no refunds or credits.
- Refunds will be processed within 15 days of cancellation notice. Participants will be notified if unforeseen delays occur.
- A $30 fee will be charged for bad checks.

Payment must accompany registration:
Without exception, no registrations will be taken without payment.

Youth workshops:
We require a signed permission form to register children. We do not currently take online registration for youth workshops.

To register by mail:
- Submit registration form (in this catalog). You may pay by check, cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover.
- You will be sent a confirmation of your registration via email.
- You will be contacted if the class of your choice is not available.
- Please write the workshop course code on the registration form.

To register in person:
Office hours:
Monday–Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To register by phone with credit card:
We will register you with Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Please have information ready when calling (585) 473-2590 ext. 107.

To register by fax:
Complete the registration form with your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express information and fax it to (585) 442-9333.

To register online (for adult workshops):
Complete the registration form at www.wab.org and use your credit card.

Definitions of levels
All levels: An all-level class would be beneficial for anyone interested in learning more about the craft.

Beginner: A beginner student has not taken any, or very few, writing courses, or hasn’t taken one in more than five years. Alternatively, a beginner is someone who has taken several writing courses but is not yet comfortable with the basics of writing or revising. A beginner could also be an advanced writer in one genre/style, but new to the particular course material.

Intermediate: An intermediate student has some experience with writing courses, is comfortable with writing and revising basics, and would like to have their writing critiqued along with others who are beyond the beginning stage.

Advanced: An advanced student has extensive experience with writing courses. Additionally, an advanced student may have already published some pieces in literary journals and is looking to pursue further publication. An advanced student has experience and comfort with having their work critiqued.

Any questions regarding which courses might be most appropriate for you should be directed to Albert Abonado, albert@wab.org, (585) 473-2590 x101.

Online classes:
If you are interested in improving your writing but are unable to commit to our in-house classes, consider taking one of our online classes. Our online classes offer students with busy schedules an opportunity to continue to grow as writers. Online classes use Moodle, a versatile, user-friendly platform which provides instructors with the resources and options to create a meaningful learning experience for students. Chat with other writers from around the country, learn from our accomplished staff of teachers while developing your own writing!

Look for this symbol: Online class!
Getting Started

All Levels

INTERSECTIONS: A CLOSE LOOK AT HOW HISTORY & CULTURE SHAPE OUR IDENTITY

Code: S17-C06
When: 2 Saturdays, April 29 – May 6
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Price: $105 Members / $121 General Public
Instructor: M.J. Iuppa

This is a generative writing workshop. Participants will use free-writing exercises, revision, and in-depth feedback as tools to create creative nonfiction and poetry. Using professional models, the workshop will explore how a diverse group of selected authors have chosen to tell their stories, how imaginative storytelling captures life’s hidden truth, and how the power of question leads us to write about our daily intersections—race, gender, sexuality, and other aspects of our identities—in real and powerful ways.

WRITING WOMEN: A TIME TO CREATE

Code: S17-C01
When: 6 Tuesdays, April 4 – May 16 (No class April 25)
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Price: $174 Members / $200 General Public
Instructor: Sharon Knapp
(Women Only)

What if you could overcome self-doubt and give yourself permission to write? What if others celebrated your creativity or even encouraged you to plow ahead? Whether you journal, write poetry, fiction or non-fiction, there’s a place for you here. We’ll help you start and continue a writing practice in just 10 minutes a day! Join us in a safe and supportive environment where women writers are able to connect and grow.

“The chance to write with women, only, is one I don’t have often. It’s a safe environment where you feel no filter is needed. Really, really enjoyed the time and so appreciated it.”

–Valerie Vidmar

SHAPING YOUR STORY

Code: S17-C07
When: 1 Saturday, May 13
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Price: $60 Members / $69 General Public
Instructor: Martin Naparstek

Most writers who have thought about how to write have focused on style or subject, but they also need to think about shape. This workshop will discuss the classic beginning/middle/end shape, and a half dozen or more possibilities.

THE MYTH OF WRITER’S BLOCK

Code: S17-C04
When: 3 Mondays, April 3 – April 17
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Price: $90 Members / $104 General Public
Instructor: Tobie Hewitt

Writer’s block is a myth! No one needs to suffer from an inability to write on demand! This class will provide techniques to free you from procrastination and unproductive angst. Learn to work with your muse and not against him or her; to accept that perfection is impossible, especially in a first draft; and to enjoy writing for its own sake.

INTUITIVE WRITING: USING WRITING AS A TOOL FOR SELF-DISCOVERY, EXPRESSION, AND ACTUALIZATION

Code: S17-C05
When: 3 Wednesdays, April 5 – April 19
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Price: $90 Members / $104 General Public
Instructor: Tobie Hewitt

Who are you? Why are you here? What is your path? How do you fulfill your destiny? When will you finally start actualizing your life? This three-week course will help you use writing to creatively and intuitively access knowledge about yourself, discern your life story, and live the life you are meant to live. Learn to free yourself from expectations, communicate with your own unique spirit, and receive the inspiration that the universe has available for you.

“Great for exploration, self-discovery, and intuitive thought.”

–Former student

A METAPHOR AND MOVEMENT MONTAGE FOR LIFE!

Code: S17-C02
When: 3 Saturdays, May 13 – May 27
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Price: $120 Members / $138 General Public
Instructor: Almeta Whitlis

Join us in a dynamic search to uncover living myths and rituals found in diverse art forms, culture, and the environment. Blending writing, visual art, music, movement, ceremony, and field trips, we will create an original community healing ritual with elements garnered from Memorial Art Gallery exhibits, all designed to move us closer to the center on the wheel of life.

A FEAST FOR THE PAGES: CELEBRATING THE FOOD IN NOVELS

Code: S17-C17
When: 1 Saturday, May 20
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Price: $40 Members / $46 General Public
Instructor: Adam Wilcox and Ann Ducket

Food writer Adam Wilcox and Little Bleu Catering & Events owner Ann Ducket join forces, as Adam explores the role that food has played in novels over time—as sustenance, social fulcrum, and as art—while Ann adds her expertise to showcase cheeses from around the world, allowing participants to taste as well as learn about each variety.

THE MYTH OF WRITER’S BLOCK

Code: S17-C04
When: 3 Mondays, April 3 – April 17
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Price: $90 Members / $104 General Public
Instructor: Tobie Hewitt

Writer’s block is a myth! No one needs to suffer from an inability to write on demand! This class will provide techniques to free you from procrastination and unproductive angst. Learn to work with your muse and not against him or her; to accept that perfection is impossible, especially in a first draft; and to enjoy writing for its own sake.
**Writing Aerobics**  
**When:** Saturdays, May 6 – June 17  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
**Individual Classes**  
**Code:** (see code beside each instructor below)  
**Price:** $12 Members / $15 General Public  
**Whole Session:**  
**Code:** S17-WA1  
**Price:** $75 Members / $90 General Public  

It's back! "Writings Aerobics is the best workout in town – it may even burn a few calories! But it's not like running on the treadmill or sweating it out on the stationary bike. Instead, the emphasis is on impromptu writing exercises and heart-pounding spontaneity. Each week, enjoy a different Writers & Books teaching artist, learn to tap into your creative subconscious, and write with the ease that comes only with practice at pumping the brain muscles. Sign up for individual sessions, or save by signing up for all seven now.

- **May 6:** Tony Falzano (S17-WA2)  
- **May 13:** Meags Downing (S17-WA3)  
- **May 20:** Deb Sperling (S17-WA4)  
- **May 27:** Christine Green (S17-WA5)  
- **June 3:** Albert Abonado (S17-WA6)  
- **June 10:** Ryan Shepard (S17-WA7)  
- **June 17:** Leslie Youngblood (S17-WA8)

**Mother Wolf Writing Retreat: Manifest the Magic of Your True Writing Self**  
**Code:** S17-C16  
**When:** 1 Saturday, May 13  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $200 Members / $230 General Public  
**Instructor:** Nina Alvarez, Tracy Creteille, Christine Green, Jennifer Years, and Mary Monroe  
**Location:** Gell: A Finger Lakes Creative Retreat  

Do you long to call forth a wilder, bolder, more natural creative self? This Mother's Day weekend, join like-minded women in the hills of Bristol, NY for a life-changing day-long retreat led by professional writers, healers, and spiritual guides. No need to actually be a mother, this workshop is about giving birth to your truer voice using transformative and integrative techniques. Explore the Gleason Lodge grounds, woods, and babbling brook during a freewrite; experience the transcendence of live harp music to accompany your writing and meditation; and finally, cap off the day with a light dinner and wine reception. Registration also includes a nicely bound journal, pen, healthy snacks and drinks, and shuttle service from Writers & Books to Gell and back.  

**Workshops:**  
1. “Bringing Your Whole Self to the Page” with Nina Alvarez (You'll identify where you are holding back as a writer).  
2. “Inner-Child Meditation” with Christine Green (Relaxing inhibitions and engaging play).  
3. Freewriting and contemplation hour with harp music by Mary Monroe  
4. “Self-Hypnosis for Overcoming Creative Blocks” with Jennifer Years (Intensive workshop to remove fear and limitations).  
5. “Manifest the Magic of Your True Writing Self” with Tracy Creteille (Create personal mantras and even an amulet to take with you.)

We encourage you to bring your own lunch. There are large refrigerators at the Gleason Lodge. We will provide tea, coffee, and bottled water, as well as light snacks throughout the day.

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**Fictionalize This!**  
**Code:** S17-F07  
**When:** 4 Wednesdays, May 3 – May 24  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $116 Members / $133 General Public  
**Instructor:** Christopher Dehon  

Make the step from journaling or story-telling to writing fiction. In this four-week class, students will learn how to transform material from their own lives into publishable short/flash fiction. There will be opportunities to both workshop the stories in class and to get individualized feedback from the instructor. “Absolutely fantastic and exactly what I needed to get me moving on my fiction writing.” – Rubiena Duarte

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**You’re Gonna Go Far: A Primer for the YA Author**  
**Code:** S17-F04  
**When:** 1 Saturday, June 10  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $60 Members / $69 General Public  
**Instructor:** Meags Downing  

The Girl on Fire, The Runner, and The Shadowhunter. All three are at the forefront of the Young Adult genre. What made them popular? Simply put, their authors constructed them in such a way that modern teens relate to the characters and their struggles. In this class you will be given a “YA Creation Lite” lesson. This introductory workshop offers you the essentials of world building, frankensteining (piecing together), a Dude Interest (Romantic Interest), navigating the fandom beast, and where to find pertinent bits of research to make the details of your novel pop.

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**Flash Fiction**  
**Code:** S17-F08  
**When:** 4 Wednesdays, June 7 – July 5 (No class June 21)  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $116 Members / $133 General Public  
**Instructor:** Christopher Dehon  

Flash fiction generally means a very brief story, told in only a few hundred words. How does a person tell a complete story in such a compressed form? How can an arc be developed? What about character? This class will show you the different possibilities the unique form offers writers.

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If you would like to make a request for any accommodation, please email us at accommodation@wab.org at least 10 days prior to the event or workshop.
Beginning

**Beginning Storywriting**

**Code:** S17-F02  
**When:** 6 Tuesdays, May 23 – June 27  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**Price:** $174 Members / $200 General Public  
**Instructor:** Matt Kotula

You've always wanted to write fiction but have not known where to begin. This class will examine the basic principles and techniques of fiction that everyone new to fiction writing needs to know: point-of-view, dialogue, plotting, and character development. Learn to dig into your own cache of memories and experiences for story material, train your ear for authentic dialogue, and learn the mechanics of creating a scene.

“The best instructor I have ever had here at W&B. Really good teacher—listens, has constructive comments.” –Liz Bell

**Getting Started With Children’s Books, Part One**

**Code:** S17-F05  
**When:** 1 Saturday, April 15  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $60 Members / $69 General Public  
**Instructor:** Will Hubbell

Interested in writing for children? This seminar will get you started. Children's author and illustrator Will Hubbell provides three hours of inspiration and information. Emphasis will be on the unique challenges and opportunities of the field. The history and aesthetics of writing for children will also be covered. Handouts provided.

“Outstanding class, comprehensive and informative.” –William Daniels

**Getting Started With Children’s Books, Part Two**

**Code:** S17-F06  
**When:** 1 Saturday, May 6  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $60 Members / $69 General Public  
**Instructor:** Will Hubbell

Have you written a children's book? Are you considering writing one? Children's author and illustrator Will Hubbell provides three hours of essential information on getting published for aspiring children's authors. Topics include the nuts-and-bolts of submission, the publishing process, agents, contracts, and even taxes. Handouts provided.

**Fiction Tool Kit**

**Code:** S17-F09  
**When:** 7 Wednesdays, April 26 – June 14 (No class May 17)  
**Time:** 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
**Price:** $150 Members / $172 General Public  
**Instructor:** Wendy Low

Whatever kind of stories you aspire to tell—whether from life experience or imagination, whether short or novel length, realistic or fantastical, for children or adults—you'll want to discover the tools and develop the skills that fiction writers use to bring their stories to life. We'll start with various ways that writers organize their work. We will then study our choices about point of view, narrative style, and story structure. We will look at what hooks readers, what keeps them in their seats, and what leaves them satisfied, in terms of character, plot, and thematic elements. Finally, we will practice getting and giving constructive feedback. Do the writing assignments each week and you will leave the session with a narrative well-started, with plans for how to finish it, and a bundle of tools and insights for success as a writer!

**Advanced**

**Advanced Fiction Workshop**

**Code:** S17-F03  
**When:** 6 Saturdays, May 20 – June 24  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $174 Members / $200 General Public  
**Instructor:** Kelsey Peterson

Designed for those with fiction writing experience, this class will help you develop your skills as a storyteller. With a focus on the short story, we will discuss key elements of fiction, such as character, stakes, and structure. You will have the opportunity to have your story workshopped as well as respond to the work of others, all in a supportive environment that fosters the growth of all.

**Online Advanced Fiction Workshop**

**Code:** S17-L03  
**When:** 4 Weeks, April 9 – May 7  
**Price:** $199 Members / $229 General Public  
**Instructor:** Caedra Scott-Flaherty

If you have fiction-writing experience and want to sharpen your skills to create publishable short stories or novels, this course is for you. Each week we will review and practice craft elements through readings, writing exercises, and discussions. You will get a chance to share drafts of your short stories or novel excerpts and receive constructive feedback. The end of the course will focus on revision techniques as well as tips on getting your words into print.
30/30 National Poetry Month Challenge

Code: S17-L05
When: 30 Days, April 1 – April 30
Price: $40 Members / $45 General Public
Instructor: Albert Abonado

April is National Poetry Month. For the month of April, sign up and receive a daily writing prompt via email. Post your results in the forum and read the works of others. Individuals who successfully complete all 30 days get bragging rights, and receive a certificate from Writers & Books.

Shakespeare Never Did This: The Life & Work of Charles Bukowski

Code: S17-P04
When: 4 weeks, June 5 – June 19
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Price: $110 Members / $127 General Public
Instructor: David Yockel, Jr.

Charles Bukowski once said that “Writers are desperate people, and when they stop being desperate they stop being writers.” Bukowski translated his desperation into over twenty poetry collections, six novels, and countless short stories in his lifetime while his influence on and contributions to popular culture can still be seen (and heard) today. This course offers a glimpse into the life and work of one of America’s most influential, imitated, and critically-undervalued writers. We will read and discuss a number of his poems, watch some short films, and engage in several writing prompts inspired by Bukowski’s chief thematic concerns and poetic style.

Poems Speak: Sound Out!

Code: S17-P05
When: 5 Thursdays, April 27 – May 25
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Price: $113 Members / $130 General Public
Instructor: Marna Rossi

Do you enjoy performance poetry? Enliven your audience with a dazzling, audacious, or lyrical performance! You will have a chance to read your own poems and those of others as scripts. We will explore intonation and look into how a speaker conveys feeling and meaning. You will be able to author your own choral and skit poems, and stage your poems as a performance on the final day.

Master Class: Sonnet as Argument with Myself

Code: S17-P01
When: 1 Saturday, April 15
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Price: $60 Members / $77 General Public
Instructor: Craig Morgan Teicher

The sonnet is really the only “popular” poetic form in the English language, the only form that’s been used widely for centuries. Why? Because its format demands are workable in English, a language full of irregular words and relatively few rhymes, and because it mirrors and expresses the way we think and talk, the ways we convince ourselves and others of ideas and truths, the ways we talk ourselves into and out of things. In this workshop, students will read exemplary sonnets to get a crash course in its formal capabilities and then write some of their own.

Beginner

Beginning Poetry Intensive

Code: S17-P02
When: 4 Wednesdays, May 24 – June 14
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Price: $116 Members / $133 General Public
Instructor: Albert Abonado

Do you have a way with words? Would you like to develop it into something more? In this four week course, we will read contemporary poets, discuss craft, and dive into writing exercises. We will do all of this in a challenging but supportive classroom. There will be an online component, which we will use to develop our craft outside of the classroom.

“AI is always equipped and thought-provoking, smart and insightful—a great mix!” –Mark Valente

Online Beginning Poetry

Code: S17-L02
When: 6 weeks, April 17 – May 29
Price: $220 Members / $253 General Public
Instructor: Tom Fugalli

If you have ever been curious about poetry but have been afraid to try, this is the class for you. It will be a comprehensive class for beginner or intermediate writers looking to develop their creative writing in a supportive environment. We will workshop student poems, read the work of contemporary poets, review traditional forms and prosody, and explore different styles/schools of poetry.

Advanced

Advanced Poetry

Code: S17-P03
When: 5 Thursdays, April 27 – May 25 (No class May 29)
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Price: $174 Members / $200 General Public
Instructor: Charlie Coté

Here is the class that will pick up where earlier workshops left off, where you will hone and focus your skills. Students will share their poems in a workshop-structured class where the emphasis will be on helpful and constructive reading and analysis, guided by an experienced mentor.

“Charlie is a terrific teacher, thoughtful, generous, and dedicated. He was savvy about balancing the needs of students who came in at different levels, and with different styles and attitudes.”  –David R. Forman
Creative Nonfiction

All Levels

**Caregivers Journaling Group (In collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association)**

**Code:** S17-C11  
**When:** 6 Wednesdays, May 10 – June 14  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**Price:** $120 Members / $138 General Public / Free to Caregivers  
**Instructor:** Carol D’Agostino

Leave your dementia caregiving responsibilities at the door! Join us for a change of pace as we explore pop-culture memories. Is there a catchy jingle from a childhood commercial you can still recite? A favorite board game you spent hours playing? Special treats from the corner drug store you still crave? Through the use of in-class creative writing prompts, bringing “show and tells” to class, and weekly journaling homework assignments, we’ll help lift your spirits while we travel down memory lane. Guaranteed laughs! No writing experience needed.

**Thinking About the Next Phase of Life**

**Code:** S17-C03  
**When:** 3 Mondays, May 1 – May 15  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $110 Members / $127 General Public  
**Instructor:** Kathleen Fraser

A three-part workshop for widows, widowers, divorced individuals, and others who have lost a long-term life partner. This interactive group will use short writing exercises, at-home writing assignments, readings, and group discussion to explore questions focused on thinking about forming new relationships after losing a spouse or life partner. Participants will explore how experience may have led to growth and changed what feels right for the future.

**Secrets of Successful Aging 101**

**Code:** S17-C14  
**When:** 1 Thursday, May 25  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $40 Members / $46 General Public  
**Instructor:** William Hall

Most of us devote more time to planning summer vacations than our retirement years. Additionally, the abundant articles and advertisements are confusing. How does one separate fact from fiction? This two-hour interactive session will explore how to plan for extended retirement years from a medical and social perspective. We will introduce ideas about aging from a rich treasure trove of information about aging from—fiction, memoir, poetry, and theatre.

**Personal Legacy Writing**

**Code:** S17-C09  
**When:** 3 Mondays, May 15 – June 5 (No class May 29)  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $110 Members / $127 General Public  
**Instructor:** Sue Barocas

Fond memories, family history, and personal wisdom are often lost to future generations because we do not routinely create a written legacy. In this class, we will explore a variety of short forms—anecdotes, epiphanies, paragraphs and poems, lists, letters, essays, and more—to help you collect your thoughts and celebrate your life. Assemble these autobiographical fragments into a legacy booklet to share with family and friends.

**Creative Journaling**

**Code:** S17-C10  
**When:** 6 Thursdays, May 18 – June 22  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $174 Members / $200 General Public  
**Instructor:** Maria Gillard

A wide-open creative writing experience for self-exploration and personal growth, this workshop is designed to help you get in touch with your essential core. Journaling is a useful tool for self-discovery. Timed writing exercises, wordplay, collage, music, and design will be used as prompts to allow thoughts and feelings to emerge in a fun and safe environment. Come with an adventurous spirit. Open to all levels of writers and no experience with journaling is necessary.

“[I] was very happy with the class; it was something I looked forward to each week. Maria was an amazing instructor and listened to everything we said—including feedback on exercises. She practiced what she preached and it was much appreciated. Thank you!” —Sydney Bell

**Printing Press Workshop at Gell: A Finger Lakes Creative Retreat**

**Code:** S17-C13  
**When:** 1 Saturday, June 3  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $165 Members / $181 General Public  
**Instructor:** Mitch Cohen  
**Location:** Gell: A Finger Lakes Creative Retreat

Immerse yourself and experience the “black art” that is letterpress printing in this one-day workshop. You will learn to navigate the California Job Case printing press and create a broadside before we break for lunch. Bring your favorite quote. After lunch we will create a collective 8-page, unstitched, unglued book. This workshop is intended to give participants an introduction to the process and an appreciation of its historical significance. Weather permitting, we will also make paper. The print shop is equipped with an excellent collection of type that would make Gutenberg envious. The shop is also home to a #4 Vandercook press proof press. This is a fun, no pressure art experience located in a wonderful facility with inspiring views of the Bristol Hills. Please join us. Limit of 6 participants. Get your feet wet and your hands inky.

If you would like to make a request for any accommodation, please email us at accommodation@wab.org at least 10 days prior to the event or workshop.
Introduction to Memoir

**Code:** 517-C15  
**When:** 8 Tuesdays, April 4 – May 23  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $199 Members / $229 General Public  
**Instructor:** Renée Schuls-Jacobson

The personal essay is the single best way to understand one of the basic rules of memoir: tell one story at a time. In this course, you will first create a blueprint of the larger story you’d like to tell, then you will focus on creating several short essays. You’ll learn to separate fact from truth, create a solid “understory,” and weave insights into the narrative that you would not have been able to articulate at the time the event(s) took place. Each nonfiction essay will serve as an individual chapter in what could become a larger body of work.

“I hadn’t stretched my writer’s muscle in some time ... Renée was excellent.” – Liz Williams

Intermediate

Intermediate Memoir

**Code:** 517-C18  
**When:** 6 Wednesdays, April 26 – May 31  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $174 Members / $199 General Public  
**Instructor:** Renée Schuls-Jacobson

This class is for those who have already started exploring their personal essays. Students will engage in an ongoing discussion of craft and technique, and work on the polishing and editing of their writing. If you are a more experienced writer, this class will allow you to receive critical feedback on your writing while further developing your technique to tell your story.

Advanced

Book Year: Memoir (Application only)

**Code:** 517-M01  
**When:** 27 Tuesdays (bi-weekly), May 2, 2017 – May 1, 2018  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $1120 Members / $1280 General Public. Quarterly payments are available. Some partial, needs-based scholarships may be available. Fill out the form at wab.org.  
**Instructor:** Gail Hosking

You have an important story about your life that you need to tell and this class will help you tell it. Spend the year completing a draft of your memoir in a supportive environment. Learn about organizing and developing your manuscript, and receive meaningful feedback on your writing in the process. The class has three stages.

**Stage 1:** Generating Material: You may have already started that memoir, but maybe there is more you need to add. This is a time for you to think about the arc of that memoir. Where is that story going? What story are you trying to tell?

**Stage 2:** Feedback: You have the material, and now you will have a chance to share your work with others and receive feedback from your classmates to push your memoir even further.

**Stage 3:** Editing and Organization: Now is the time to consider the organization of the collection. You have produced the material. You have processed the feedback. The final step is for you to decide how you want the final manuscript to be. If you have been wrestling with your memoir or believe the structure of a class can help, be sure to apply today. To apply, submit 5-10 pages of your work and a cover letter describing the goals you have for this class. Submit your application to submissions@wab.org with the title “Book Year: Memoir Submission” by April 15.

Beginner

Comedy Improvisation

**Code:** 517-S02  
**When:** 8 Mondays, May 1 – June 26 (No class May 29)  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $199 Members / $229 General Public  
**Instructor:** Megan Mack

If you enjoy the television show Whose Line Is It Anyway? this class is for you! You'll learn the fundamentals of improvisation, including “yes, and,” teamwork, and developing a sense of play. You'll play theatre games and perform scenes—making everything up on the spot! Improv is an art form and a tool for life: it can help you become a better listener, public speaker, and creative thinker.

“Megan Mack offers the best blend of structure and free flow. I completely enjoyed her class and I find that what I've learned is spilling deliciously into my life.” – Sharon Humiston
Business of Writing

Beginner

**Introduction to Grant Writing**
*Code: S17-B01*
*When: 1 Saturday, April 1*
*Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*
*Price: $60 Members / $69 General Public*
*Instructor: Margit Brazda Poirier*

This introductory workshop is for those new to grant writing. The focus is on writing grants to support programs, capital projects, and operations at nonprofit organizations and businesses (not college grant applications). Workshop participants will learn the basic skills needed to find and write compelling foundation, state, and federal grants. Topics will include: 1) How to find grant opportunities; 2) Preparing information commonly asked for in grant applications; and 3) Tips for preparing grant applications. Feel free to come with a project idea that is in need of funding.

**Self-Publishing Your Family Memoir**
*Code: S17-B08*
*When: 1 Thursday, May 18*
*Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*
*Price: $50 Members / $55 General Public*
*Instructor: Jane Sutter*

Do you have compelling photos and stories about your family from yesteryear? Do you want to make sure your family history is saved for future generations, rather than deteriorating in old scrapbooks and shoeboxes? Veteran journalist and editor Jane Sutter, author of *Sutter’s Sodas Satisfy: A Memoir of 90 Years of Sutter Drug Co.*, will explain the phases of self-publishing your family’s story: researching and organizing your material, writing the memoir, and publishing it in print and/or as an e-book. Each student will get a copy of Jane’s book, which will be used in class as part of the curriculum.

**Getting Started as a Freelance Writer**
*Code: S17-B03*
*When: 1 Tuesday, April 18*
*Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*
*Price: $40 Members / $46 General Public*
*Instructor: Ruth E. Thaler-Carter*

Getting paid to write sounds like an exciting and fairly easy thing to do—but it takes more than good writing skills and imagination. Find out how to get started as a freelance writer from someone with more than 30 years of experience. Thaler-Carter has been published locally, regionally, nationally, and even internationally; in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, and websites; for publications, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, and individuals. Learn about important characteristics for success, finding work, setting rates, getting paid, avoiding problems, and more.

“It was fantastic! The instructor was thorough and very knowledgeable.” – Sarah M. Collins

**Basics of Editing and Proofreading**
*Code: S17-B02*
*When: 1 Wednesday, April 12*
*Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*
*Price: $40 Members / $46 General Public*
*Instructor: Ruth E. Thaler-Carter*

If you have a sharp eye for errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling (without spellcheck!), and usage and wondered if you could put that talent to work for you, here’s your chance to find out what is involved in being an editor or proofreader. The class will cover essential characteristics and skills, processes, tools, and resources, pitfalls, and more, including examples and the role of important style manuals.

“Thorough and friendly introduction to the editing world. Thank you for a good class!” – Brittany Mendez

**Websites for Writers**
*Code: S17-B04*
*When: 1 Tuesday, April 4*
*Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*
*Price: $40 Members / $46 General Public*
*Instructor: Ruth E. Thaler-Carter*

Finding an agent, publisher, and readership can be the greatest challenge for most writers, especially those just starting out. Nowadays, the key to meeting those challenges is to have a website, and it’s easier than ever to create one, whether you do it yourself or work with an expert. Find out about current options and techniques, overcoming fear of technology, important content and design elements, contact choices, costs, and other aspects of developing a compelling web presence that will help you promote and sell your writing work.

“What a content-rich class! I’m ready to set up my own website now.” – Diana Louise Carter

**Blogging 101**
*Code: S17-B05*
*When: 1 Monday, April 17*
*Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.*
*Price: $40 Members / $46 General Public*
*Instructor: Jane Sutter*

Do you have a lot to say on a topic and want to go beyond just posting comments on Facebook? Or perhaps you want to promote your expertise as a way to gain new business or new clients? Blogging is a great way to do these things. The course will cover a variety of topics including writing a mission statement for your blog; tips on writing an effective blog and headline; how to use social media and Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to attract followers to your blog; ethics of blogging; and how to get started using a free blogging service such as Wordpress. Class size is limited to 10 participants.

“Jane was a wonderful instructor. Her materials and comments were well organized and thorough. Her personal experience was very relevant and helped reinforce her points.” – Laura Swett
**Reading Seminars**

**All Levels**

**1491, NEW REVELATIONS OF THE AMERICAS BEFORE COLUMBUS**

**Instructor:** Mark Block

*In his groundbreaking book* *1491,* author Charles Mann uses contemporary research to provide readers with a startling view of the large and vibrant civilizations that flourished in the Americas before the voyages of Columbus opened the Americas to European settlers. In this timely class, we will examine Mann’s book and discuss the ways in which preconceived ideas about native populations continue to shape the way we view native communities today.

**When:** 6 Tuesdays, April 11 – May 16
**Time:** 6:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
**Price:** $174 Members / $200 General Public

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**Blogging 201**

**Instructor:** Jane Sutter

Are you a blogger and want to build traffic and reap more rewards from your blog? Jane Sutter, owner of Sutter Communications and an experienced blogger, book author and former *Democrat and Chronicle* editor, will share strategies on how to optimize your blog to achieve more web traffic, how to get your blog to bring in new clients or business, and how to make money off of your blog. The class will be focused on actions that achieve results. Attendees should have an established blog or have taken Jane’s class *Blogging 101* at Writers & Books. Class size is limited to 10 participants.

*When I took Blogging 101, I loved it. I learned so much and didn’t disappoint. I feel ready to get my blog going and take on new challenges.* —Olivia A. Viterna

**When:** 1 Wednesday, April 26
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
**Price:** $40 Members / $46 General Public
Individual Tutorials

$125 PER HOUR FOR WRITERS & BOOKS MEMBERS
$140 PER HOUR FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

Mentorship rates reflect standard industry rates.

Revising and Editing
Code: S17-I02
Instructor: Sejal Shah
Sejal Shah will work closely with writers on creative nonfiction projects with a special focus on personal, memoiristic essays. Sejal can also critique, edit, and help revise cover letters, personal statements, and resumes for job hunters and career changers as well as review and offer feedback on college application essays.

Revising and Editing
Code: S17-I03
Instructor: Lois Taubman
Do you have a book inside you? If you answered “Yes,” you can count on Lois to help you bring that book to life. Lois is a published author, editor, writing contest winner, and an experienced writing coach. She also has a background in law and counseling, so she knows how to communicate with and motivate others. She can help you with all stages of writing your nonfiction book, memoir, or novel from conception to editing the manuscript. She has tips and techniques to help you deal with writer’s block, deadlines, organization of content and materials, and other challenges. She will give you feedback and encouragement to help you on your way to becoming the best writer you can be.

Revising and Editing
Code: S17-I04
Instructor: Lynge
Lynge offers coaching, help with a specific project, and/or writing and revising of a manuscript.

How it works: Don’t see what you’re looking for? Try our individual tutorials for personal, one-on-one feedback. A tutorial offers individualized guidance on your personal project tailored to your needs. If you are interested in studying with an individual, you must register in person or by phone; the teacher will then contact you and set up a regular weekly meeting time at Writers & Books.

Youth and Young Adult Tutoring
Code: S17-I05
Instructor: Emma Lynge
For youth or young adults who feel they have not yet mastered what their in-school English class has to offer, you can count on Emma to help you grow your skills. Emma offers one-on-one tutoring services to students who find themselves struggling with grammar, creative writing revision, essay planning, reading comprehension, and other elements of the craft. Need help with a specific assignment? Need feedback on a short story or longer-length piece? Or are you just interested in improving those critical lifelong reading and writing skills? Come meet with Emma!

Youth and Young Adult Tutoring
Code: S17-I06
Instructor: Rylie Day
Whether it be practice with grammar, evaluation of sentence structure, reading analysis, revision of creative writing, or organization and execution of academic essays, Rylie can help you. Her services include individual coaching on any element of English and/or writing, catering to each student’s specific needs. Students (ages eight through high school) are welcome, and encouraged, but not required, to bring in specific assignments with which we can work.

Call (585) 473-2590 x107 to get started!

SAVE THE DATE!

Writers & Books Night at Frontier Field

Monday, August 21, 2017
• 5:45 pm to walk the field
• 6:30 pm to attend game only J17-E01
Meet at Main Gate at Morrie Silver statue

Walk the field, then enjoy a Rochester Red Wings/Scranton Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders game from the Upper Box, while supporting Writers & Books!

Tickets are only $8.00 if you register online at www.wab.org, call us at 473-2590 x107, or include it on your catalog registration form.
Ages: 7-10

Poetry & Painting

When: 4 Saturdays (May 6, May 13, May 20, & June 3)
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Price: $78 W&B and MAG Members / $155 General Public
Instructors: Donna Marbach & Cynthia Iannaccone
Note: Class held at the Memorial Art Gallery. To register please call the Creative Workshop: (585) 276-8959.

In this new class Writers & Books teaching artists are collaborating with our friends at the Creative Workshop at the Memorial Art Gallery. We'll paint, make poems, explore the work of artists like E. E. Cummings and Zelda Fitzgerald who did both, and learn to trust the artists we are. Painting and poetry share similarities of approach and concept from rhythm to depth to harmony. Fun exercises will drum up lots of new ideas for both your poems and your paintings. Great for kids who love reading and writing!

Ages: 8-15

Write On for Homeschoolers

Code: S17-Y13
When: 10 Wednesdays, April 5 – June 14 (no class April 19)
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Price: $150 Members / $170 General Public
Instructor: Caren Pita

This session of Write On offers a workshop experience for the young writer. Each class will include writing prompts or games; time to work independently, in small groups, or with the instructor; and a little break to play (outdoors, when the weather allows). Content will be student-directed, so expect lots of creativity! All students should be able to write independently (that is, they don’t need an adult to take dictation), but spelling and handwriting skills can be any level as long as the student can read his or her own work. Please send students with writing materials, a water bottle, and appropriate outdoor gear.

Ages: Teen

Teen Writers’ Circle

Code: S17-Y02
When: 6 Saturdays (April 15, April 22, May 6, May 20, June 3, & June 17)
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Price: $135 Members / $155 General Public
Instructor: Sarah Cedeño

Avid and accomplished teen fiction writers meet to explore new approaches to their craft, give each other feedback under the guidance of published writers, and plot world domination, or at least the future domination of the publishing industry! Using examples, prompts, and optional outside assignments, we’ll explore literary genres, techniques, and approaches. We will offer encouraging feedback, as well as strategic suggestions on whatever works-in-progress we each have underway. We’ll set ourselves a writing challenge and plan to publish a collection of our work.

SummerWrite 2017

Open House

at Writers & Books

Saturday, April 8, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Free & Open to the Public
Come join in the fun on this creative and informative day!

- Take a mini-creative writing workshop
- Play word games
- Learn about our scholarship program
- Listen to local poets and storytellers
- Meet our teachers
- Tour our facilities
- Have questions answered about our youth programs
- Learn about our referral program
- Register for summer workshops

Special Discounts on workshops and membership will be available on this day only:

$10 off household membership
& $10 off SummerWrite classes!
Ages: 7-9

MONDAY: Percy Jackson Greek Theatre
Code: W17-YR04
Price: $44 Members / $50 General Public
Instructor: Marna Rossi
Adventure into the world of Greek Demi-god Percy Jackson. Learn about Greek gods, heroes, and present-day Demi-gods. Explore the books through readers-theater skits, games, and a craft.

TUESDAY: How to Write Your Own Book!
Code: W17-YR51
Price: $44 Members / $50 General Public
Instructor: Tracy Cretelle
We'll look at some creative examples of books for 7-9 year-olds and then get started on writing and illustrating a story of our own! Students will go home with some new skills for making their own books plus at least one fully completed page.

WEDNESDAY: Let's PLAY!
Code: W17-YD31
Price: $44 Members / $50 General Public
Instructor: Sara Bickweat Penner
Do you love to dive into imaginary worlds and make up plays with your friends? Learn how to work together and create Mini Plays through improv, storytelling, and movement, and engage in theatre games and exercises that will stretch your bodies, group skills, and imaginations in a whole new way. Let's PLAY!

THURSDAY: Magical Creatures
Code: W17-YM37
Price: $44 Members / $50 General Public
Instructor: Katie Rich
Are you ready to enter the world of magic and magical creatures? Come spend the day learning about legendary beings, including fairies, unicorns, mermaids, trolls, centaurs, giants, and other beasts. We'll do a little research on the magical realm and use what we find to create some inspiring art projects!

FRIDAY: Bienvenidos: Fun With Spanish
Code: W17-YL01
Price: $44 Members / $50 General Public
Instructor: Henry Padron
Welcome to a fun and creative day of Spanish! We will learn the language through songs, games, African Carribean drumming, and multi-media. This is one of our most popular SummerWrite classes, and now students can play with the language for a day during the spring!

Register for all five days and save!

A TASTE OF WRITERS & BOOKS
When: Monday - Friday, April 17th-21st
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Full week: $195 Members / $225 General Public (use code W17-YX04)
Read Local Celebrates National Poetry Month with BOA Editions Author Craig Morgan Teicher

Saturday, April 15
6:00 p.m.
Free
Location: Fuego Coffee Shop, 45 Euclid St, Rochester, NY 14604

What is Read Local?
Like the local food movement, Read Local is a program that seeks to get readers to enjoy books grown right in their own backyard. It is a book club and event series, highlighting books published by publishing houses based right here in Rochester, like BOA Editions and Open Letter Press. Read the book, meet the author, and support local businesses along the way! Sponsors include: Hart’s Grocers, Three Heads Brewing, Fuego Coffee, Greenwood Books, and Nox Cocktail Lounge. Books will be available for purchase via the publishers and these sponsor businesses.

About Craig Morgan Teicher:
Craig Morgan Teicher is the author of four books, most recently The Trembling Answers: Poems, due out from BOA Editions in April. He is the editor of Once and For All: The Best of Delmore Schwartz and a poetry editor for The Literary Review. He works at Publishers Weekly, has taught at NYU, the Iowa Writers Workshop, Princeton, and elsewhere, and lives in New Jersey with his wife and children.

Check out Craig Morgan Teicher’s master workshop on page 9!

April is National Poetry Month

Check out these poetry events hosted by Writers & Books in April!

Breathing Fire: Grand Slam!
Friday, April 7
6:30 p.m.
Free
Location: Savoy Room, Auditorium Theater, 885 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14605
After months of slams at Press Coffee Co., the Breathing Fire teens take to the stage for the Grand Slam, competing to attend Brave New Voices, the national youth slam competition. Come listen and even participate in the judging!

Poetry, Potluck, & Pinot
Saturday, April 29
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Free (but bring a bottle of wine or a dish to pass!)
Location: Writers & Books
Join us for readings by poets and members of the Writers & Books community. Each hour of this poetic celebration will include four poets who will read original poems in addition to work by other poets. Poets include: Maxim Backer, Nicolas Eckerson, Ben Hartman, Amelia Kohl, Victoria Korth, Carol McMahon, Lore McSpadden, Christina Mortellaro, David Ruekberg, Ryan Shepard, Jo Toriseva, Almeta Whitis, and members of We All Write, a writing collective of dynamic black women. The afternoon and evening will celebrate our literary community with a sharing of poetry, food, and drink.

Poem In Your Pocket
Thursday, April 27
11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Free
Location: Writers & Books
On Poem in Your Pocket Day, people throughout the United States select a poem, carry it with them, and share it with others throughout the day. Come to Writers & Books any time from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to pick up a poem, or to share your poem with others.

See our Poetry workshops on page 9. Take one for yourself!
March 29 - April 1, 2017

Rene Denfeld, author of this year’s “Rochester Reads” selection The Enchanted, will be in Rochester for readings, book signings, and appearances at local libraries, colleges, and senior centers March 29–April 1, 2017. Be sure to see her at one of the following events. Visit our website for information on other events planned throughout the next few months! Stop by Writers & Books to purchase your copy of the book.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor:
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Wednesday, March 29
Rochester Central Library
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Wednesday, March 29, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Free. No registration required.

Rochester Institute of Technology
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Wednesday, March 29, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Free. No registration required.

Penfield Library
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Free but registration required beginning March 1. To register or for more information call (585) 340-8720. This event will be ASL interpreted.

Thursday, March 30
Wood Library, Canandaigua
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Thursday, March 30, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Free. No registration required.

Finger Lakes Community College Auditorium, Canandaigua
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Thursday, March 30, 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Free for students/$2 general public. No registration required.

Palmyra Library
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Thursday, March 30, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Free. No registration required.

Friday, March 31
Roberts Wesleyan College
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Friday, March 31, 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Free. No registration required.

Valley Manor
Reading followed by Q&A and book signing
Friday, March 31, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Free but registration required. To register or for more information call (585) 770-1956.

A Novel Evening with Rene Denfeld
Friday, March 31, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Location provided with tickets; space for this intimate event is very limited.
Tickets are $75 each. To purchase tickets call (585) 473-2590 x107 or see our Front Desk Representative.

Saturday, April 1
Master Class with Rene Denfeld
Saturday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Writers & Books
Course Code: W17-F01
$35 Members/ $40 General Public
Here is your chance to learn from acclaimed author Rene Denfeld, through a series of writing exercises and discussions that will help propel your writing forward. Registration required. Visit www.wab.org or call (585) 473-2590 x107.

Pittsford Barnes & Noble
Book signing
Saturday, April 1, 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Free. No registration required.
Reading: Gary Craig
Thursday, May 18
7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
Free
Location: Writers & Books
Author T.J. English writes of Gary Craig’s new book: “A priest, an Irish revolutionary, and an ex-cop walk into a bar—no, it’s not the setup for a joke, it’s the premise of Gary Craig’s thrilling nonfiction heist narrative. Finally, this story has been told in all its glory. Using superlative research, and written in the style of a hard-boiled thriller, Seven Million will keep you up at night. Sheer entertainment. . . Read this book!”
Gary Craig is a reporter on the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle’s Watchdog team, focusing on public safety and criminal justice. He has followed and written about the Brink’s depot heist for over twenty years. He has won numerous state and national journalism awards. This is his first book.

Big Pencil Awards Night
Friday, May 19
6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
$20 W&B members / $25 General Public
Code: S17-E01. For reservations call 473-2590 ext 107
Location: Writers & Books
Writers & Books is pleased to announce the Big Pencil Awards Night. Join us on Friday, May 19 as we honor those individuals who have made significant contributions to the Rochester literary community. The evening will begin with hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, proceed with the presentation of awards, and conclude with fine teas, coffees, and desserts.

(W)r(gh)t(e)2Heal
Wednesdays March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21
7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
Free and open to the public.
Hosted by Matthew Dreitlein
A workshop where we come together to explore the impact of writing poetry on our personal growth, where we discuss trauma and mental health with a focus on personal reflection. We will provide a space to share and be heard, and expose participants to nationally renowned poets who write about these issues.

A Night at Nox
Reading: David Hicks and Robin L. Flanigan
Saturday, June 3
5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Location: Nox Cocktail Lounge
Join us for a cocktail and a reading! The literary themed Nox Cocktail Lounge makes the perfect setting to hear two incredible writers read from their latest work in a comfortable setting.
About the Readers:
David Hicks majored in English at Nazareth College of Rochester and is now a professor at Regis University in Denver, where he co-directs the Mile-High MFA Creative Writing program. David has published many stories in such fine journals as Glimmer Train, Colorado Review, and Saranac Review. White Plains is his first novel.
Robin L. Flanigan launched a writing career in the early ‘90s while living in a graveyard. She worked in newsrooms for eleven years, winning several national awards, and is now a freelance writer and essayist. Her essays have appeared in The Sun, Talking Writing, The Fem, and other literary magazines, as well as two anthologies. Robin was in the 2016 cast of “Listen to Your Mother,” has been interviewed on both coasts for podcasts on writing, and authored a coffee-table book on the city of Rochester, where she lives.

First Friday / Wide Open Mic
Fridays, 6:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Free and open to the public
First Friday is a monthly citywide gallery night that encourages collaboration between art venues in Rochester, NY. This initiative showcases area artists and smaller arts institutions by promoting the First Friday evening of each month from 6 - 9 pm as a community night for experiencing art. First Friday ensures a healthy art scene and a healthy city through regular exchange between venues, artists and patrons. Wide Open Mic, Rochester’s longest running open mic, kicks off at 7:00 in our Performance Space with host Norm Davis. #FirstFridayROC

April 7: Free First Friday Concert in the Writers & Books Atrium with Harpist/Guitarist Mary Monroe at 7:00 p.m. Choose among writing and meditation/visualization prompts written by award-winning writers, healers, and creative coaches.

May 5: Choose Your Own Adventure: Choose your own plot line at Writers & Books. Start in our bookstore and follow your intuition through a series of passages taken from real Choose Your Own Adventure books. Snacks, adventure, Wide Open mic - what more could we cram into a First Friday?

June 2: Mystery Night: Solve riddles, find clues and win prizes! Are you good at solving riddles and puzzles? Do you enjoy a good mystery? Then come put your detective skills to the test at our Mystery Night.

Valley Manor Book Discussions
Free and open to the public.
Join our lively discussions every other month at Valley Manor with facilitators that either work or teach classes at Writers & Books. Valley Manor is located at 1570 East Avenue in Rochester.

April: Author Visit with Greg Gerard
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 1:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
This year our local author was selected by City Newspaper’s 2015 Annual Manual as one of “Five local authors Rochesterians should have on a bookshelf.” He’ll discuss his memoir In Jupiter’s Shadow, which chronicles a religious boy’s struggle with forbidden attraction.

May: In Jupiter’s Shadow by Greg Gerard
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 1:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Facilitator: Wendy Low

For our poetry events, see page 17
Writers, Ink.: Young Professionals’ Writing Group  
**Every Monday, 6:00 p.m.**  
Free and open to the public, 21+  
Are you struggling to fit writing into your young professional life? Did you just graduate from college, or does it sometimes feel like you’re too busy to be creative? Do you like low-stress creative environments where people can offer constructive feedback? Are you looking for other writers your age to befriend? Do you just really need a place to write? Do you like snacks and beverages (of many kinds)? Then this is the writing group for you!  
We welcome work from writers of all styles and genres. We will focus on both having dedicated time to sit down and write, and coming together to discuss our work as a group. It’s all about what works for you! We’re a very supportive, friendly gang of writers. Come to as many or as few meetings as you like. We’ll be meeting all season long!  
For more information, email Sarah Brown at sarahb@wab.org  

Veterans Writing Group  
**Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**April 1, May 6, June 3**  
Hosted by Timothy Hansen and Mary Finucane  
Free and open to any veteran.  
The memory of war has permeated Western Literature since the time of Homer. The focus of the Veterans Writing Group is creative nonfiction, drawn from the wartime and peacetime experiences of veterans and their family members. The workshops will serve as a starting point in transcribing memories and emotions into words and compelling prose. Prompts are used to generate original writing. Works are read aloud and workshoped by other participants. The intent of the class is to help vets write about their experiences in their own words for archival, historical, or literary purposes. The National Endowment for the Arts’ Operation Homecoming: A Guide for Writers is the source document for this ongoing workshop.  

Last Mondays Open Mic Comedy  
**Mondays, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
**March 27, April 24, June 26**  
Hosted by Bob Holzwarth, a four-time finalist in the Funniest Person in Rochester contest.  
Free and open to the public  
Join us for the Last Mondays Stand-up Comedy Open Mic in our wonderful performance space! Anyone interested gets 5-7 minutes of stage time. Come to perform or just watch. Comics are great but we need an audience too!  

Genesee Reading Series  
**Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.**  
Hosted by Wanda Schubmehl  
$3 Members / $6 General Public  
Now in its 34th year, the Genesee Reading Series is a smorgasbord for your literary palate. Come every month on the second Tuesday, and by the end of the year you will have feasted on the work of 24 regional authors (some prominent, some emerging; writers of fiction, poetry, essay, creative nonfiction, memoir). It’s up close and personal in the intimate Performance Space upstairs—stay afterward and talk to the authors while eating cookies.  
**April 11:** Jennifer Grotz and Andrea Weinstein  
**May 9:** Bethany Snyder and Greg Walsh  
**June 13:** Bart White and Paulette Swartzfager  

The Book Thieves: Young Professionals’ Book Club  
**Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.**  
Hosted by Tate DeCaro, Dan Herd, and Chris Fanning  
Free and open to the public, 21+  
The Book Thieves is a group of young “professionals” who enjoy eating, drinking, and most importantly, talking about books. We are about as relaxed a VP group as they come, so don’t be intimidated! Members bring a dish/snacks/drinks to pass. Come for one book, or join us for the whole season!  
**May 4:** The Enchantress of Florence by Salman Rushdie  
**June 1:** Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel  
(July off)  
**August 3:** Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde  
**September 7:** People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks  
**October 5:** Book picking for 2018  
**November 2:** Frankenstein by Mary Shelley  
**December 7:** H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald  

History Reading Salon  
**Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**  
Hosted by Steve Huff  
Free and open to the public  
Join Writers & Books' history buffs as they explore the big issues and personalities of history. We do not choose particular books, only subjects. You can read any book or other material on the subject and join the discussion.  
**March 23:** Salt Mining in New York State  
**April 27:** The History of Money  
**May 25:** China’s Civil War, 1927-1949  
**June 22:** History of the Celtic Race  
**July 27:** Rural Electrification USA  
**August 24:** A Perfect Storm, USA 1916-1920: Tempearance, Suffrage, Spanish Flu  
**September 28:** The Battle of Saratoga, 1777  
**October 26:** Between World Wars, 1920-1939  
**November 30:** Islamic Golden Age Medicine, 8th-15th C.  

Senior Reading Group  
**Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00p.m.**  
**March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13**  
Hosted by Norm Davis  
Free and open to the public  
Share your writing with other seniors in a comfortable atmosphere at Writers & Books.  

The Bertrand Russell Forum  
**Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.**  
Hosted by David White and Tim Madigan  
Free to W&B Members / $3 General Public  
The Bertrand Russell Society was formed shortly after Russell’s death. Russell (1872-1970) worked in fields such as mathematical logic; philosophy; social, religious, and educational reform; anti-war protests; and politics. An accomplished writer, Russell received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950. This ongoing lecture series promises to enlighten and entertain. Monthly meetings are open to everyone, not just to members of the Society.  
**March 9:** Religiosity, Religion, and the Human Spirit  
**April 13:** Phil Ebersole on Neoliberalism and Its Discontents  
**May 11:** John Walsh on The Illusory Nature of Reality  
**June 8:** Planning Meeting.
In these one-day intensive workshops, students will immerse themselves in the study of their chosen genre with some of the area’s top writers and teachers. This intensive includes four hours of workshops with peers, one craft lecture, and one publishing panel to discuss topics ranging from “How do I find an agent?” to “Should I submit to literary contests?” Registration for this advanced-level intensive is by application only; students who wish to participate must submit 8-10 pages of their best work to Writers & Books by June 1. Accepted students will be notified by June 15. Some partial, needs-based scholarships will be available. To apply, fill out the form at wab.org. All meals will be provided.

**Price:**
$280 W&B members; $320 General Public (all nonmembers who pay this rate will receive an individual membership to Writers & Books)

**How to Apply:**
- 8-10 pages of your best work to submissions@wab.org (include “Gell Summer Intensive” in the subject line) by June 1. Students will be notified of acceptance by June 15.
- There is no fee to apply to the workshop. Once accepted, students must pay in full to be registered for the workshop.
- If students wish to apply for a partial scholarship, they must complete the scholarship application form.
- Once students have paid their tuition and registered for the Gell Summer Intensive, they must submit a story/poem/essay of no more than 15 pages to be read by students and faculty before the workshop.

**Schedule:**
*craft talks and workshops vary for each genre*

9:00-10:00: Registration + Meet & Greet + generative exercise
10:00-11:00: Craft talk
11:00-1:00: Workshop 1 (split into groups of 3)
1:00-2:00: Lunch
2:00-4:00: Workshop 2 (split into groups of 3)
4:00-5:00: Publishing Panel of Instructors (moderated by Writers & Books Executive Director Kyle Semmel)
5:00-6:00: Dinner
6:00-7:00: Reception + Reading

For questions about the Gell Summer Intensive, email Kyle Semmel at kyles@wab.org.
Poetry Faculty

Ralph Black has published a collection of poetry: Turning Over the Earth, from Milkweed Editions, and a chapbook, The Apple Psalms. He is the recipient of the Anne Halley Poetry Prize from The Massachusetts Review and the Chelsea Poetry Prize. His poems have appeared in many journals, including The Georgia and Gettysburg Reviews, Orion, and West Branch. He teaches English and creative writing at SUNY, College at Brockport.

Sarah Freligh is the author of Sad Math, winner of the 2014 Moon City Press Poetry Prize and the 2015 Whirling Prize from the University of Indianapolis. Other books include A Brief Natural History of an American Girl, winner of the Editor's Choice award from Accents Publishing, and Sort of Gone, a book of poems that follows the rise and fall of a fictional pitcher named Al Stepansky. Among her awards are a 2009 poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the Constance Saltonstall Foundation in 2006.

Lytton Smith is the author of two poetry collections from Nightboat Books, a chapbook from the Poetry Society of America, and the translator of six novels and memoirs from the Icelandic. He is Assistant Professor of English at State University of New York in Geneseo.

Nonfiction Faculty

JR Fenn's fiction and nonfiction has appeared in places such as Gulf Coast, DIAGRAM, PANK, Cosmopolitan, and The Atlantic, and can be found at www.jrfenn.com. Her writing has received support from the Key West Literary Seminars. She teaches English and Creative Writing at SUNY Geneseo.

Sejal Shah's stories, essays, and interviews have appeared widely in publications including Brevity, The Huffington Post, the Kenyon Review, The Literary Review, Rochester Magazine, and AWP's The Writer's Chronicle. She teaches creative nonfiction and fiction at Writers & Books and the University of Rochester, and works with students privately as a writing mentor.

Stephen J. West's writing has appeared or is forthcoming in The Baltimore Review, Brevity, PANK, and Fugue, among others, and he was a featured artist by Ninth Letter, who published his artist's book DIY View-Master: Intimate Space. Prior to moving to Rochester and becoming Writer-in-Residence at St. John Fisher College, Stephen earned an MFA from the University of Iowa and spent five years teaching at West Virginia University.

Fiction Faculty

Kristen Gentry is from Louisville, Kentucky and received her MFA from Indiana University. She currently lives in Rochester, NY near SUNY Geneseo where she is an associate professor of English and the director of creative writing. Her short stories have appeared in Crab Orchard Review, Jabberwock Review, and other journals. She is at work completing Mama Said, a collection of linked stories that explore mother-daughter relationships strained by the mothers' drug addictions.

Rachel Hall is the author of Heirlooms (BkMk Press), which was selected by Marge Piercy for the G.S. Sharat Chandra Book Prize. She teaches at the State University of New York in Geneseo, where she holds two Chancellor's Awards for Excellence—one in teaching and one for her creative work. (see the interview with Rachel Hall on pg. 23)

Anne Panning's novel, Butter, was published in 2012 by Switchgrass Books. She has published two short story collections: The Price of Eggs and Super America, which won The Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction and was selected as a New York Times Editor's Choice. She has also published short fiction and nonfiction in numerous literary journals including Beloit Fiction Journal, Prairie Schooner, Fourth Genre, New Letters, Alaska Quarterly Review, Quarterly West, and many others. Her forthcoming memoir, Dragonfly Notes, will be published in 2018 by Stillhouse Press. She teaches creative writing at State University of New York in Brockport.

Stephen Schottenfeld has published a novel, Bluff City Pawn, with Bloomsbury USA. He has completed a story collection, Miss Ellen Jameson Is Not Deceased, and he is currently at work on his next novel. His stories have been published in numerous literary magazines and have garnered a Michener/Copernicus Society of America grant, a Halls Fiction Fellowship from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Shane Stevens Fellowship in the Novel from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and special mentions in both the Pushcart Prize and Best American Short Stories anthologies. He is an associate professor of English at the University of Rochester.
Rachel Hall is the author of Heirlooms (BkMk Press), which was selected by Marge Piercy for the G.S. Sharat Chandra Book Prize. She teaches at the State University of New York in Geneseo, where she holds two Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence—one in teaching and one for her creative work.

Sejal Shah’s stories, essays, and interviews have appeared widely in places such as Brevity, The Huffington Post, the Kenyon Review, and AWP’s The Writer’s Chronicle. She teaches at Writers & Books and the University of Rochester, and works as a freelance writer, editor, and writing mentor.

Sejal Shah: What images, ideas, or questions inspired or drove the writing of Heirlooms?

Rachel Hall: I grew up looking at family photo albums and listening to family stories. I’m lucky that my mother is an excellent storyteller, as were her adoptive parents, my grandparents. I loved their stories about the war in France, loved hearing them repeated, and in particular the way a new detail might emerge.

At some point I began wondering what was left out or smoothed over or forgotten altogether. I also had questions that couldn’t be answered. We knew so little about my mother’s biological mother, for instance, because she died at twenty-seven, just as the Germans were invading France. In each photo we have of her, she looks very different. My grandmother didn’t talk about her much and when nudged would only say the same few things: she was an excellent seamstress; she was jealous; she could be very fierce. In Heirlooms, I was interested in exploring memory, erasure, and loss.

SS: These stories are based in part on family stories. How did you decide to write the book as stories and not creative nonfiction essays? And having chosen fiction, what differentiates linked stories from a novel?

RH: Heirlooms is inspired by my family stories and many of the events in the book happened in real life. For instance, the situation in “La Poussette,” in which the neighbor woman refuses to share her bounty, is something that really happened. I don’t know if that woman denounced my family, but someone did and my mother and grandparents had to flee the farm in haste. In my research, I learned that there were two and half million letters of denunciation sent to French préfectures during the Occupation. Many were motivated by jealousy and possessiveness, rather than an affinity with the Vichy racial laws.

Fiction allows me to wed what happened with my research and try to understand why someone might act as they did. I can’t know what the neighbor woman thought or felt, but fiction allows me to step into the shoes of these characters, to invent and imagine and suppose. I think fiction brings the reader closer to the events than creative nonfiction can. I guess, too, I wanted to stay out of the stories in a way I didn’t think CNF would allow. And of course, there are stories in the collection, which are more invented than others, which wouldn’t have been possible with CNF. In “A Handbook of American Idiom,” for instance, I allow the Latours to get rich from the shampoo Jean brews in his basement. The real life situation made for less compelling—and believable!—fiction.

As far as stories versus novel, there are several answers. I love that linked stories allow me to slip into a number of different character’s perspectives and points-of-view. I also appreciate that with stories, I can make leaps in time between events. Remember, too, that I was inspired by family photo albums, and I think the story form is true to that inspiration, providing glimpses into lives from different angles and at different times. But also, honestly, it was less daunting for me to think in terms of stories rather than a novel. As soon as I wrote the second story, I thought of this project as a linked story collection—but my agent called it a novel. It does move chronologically, too, like a novel.

SS: How important was research in the writing of this book and how did you research what you needed to know or learn?

RH: My grandmother was a painter, and the stories she told me were like her art—impressionistic, vivid, colorful. From her, I got a sense of how she felt during the war but I didn’t always get information about how things worked. For instance, she always told us that as soon as she heard that Jews were to register with the City Hall, she took my mother—a toddler at the time—to the City Hall, she took my mother—a toddler at the time—and fled for the Unoccupied Zone. I needed to research to find out what sorts of papers were necessary for her to do this. I had to consult maps a lot, too. I’m fortunate that my mother, who was a child at the time of the war, has since studied France during the Occupation and could recommend books and supply information too. She’s also fluent in French and helped translate letters and papers.

I found journals from the war years to be especially helpful. Two in particular that were critical for this project were The Journal of Hélène Berr and Agnès Humbert’s Résistance: A Woman’s Journal of Struggle and Defiance in Occupied France, in which Humbert writes that she began her Resistance work after Paris fell to the Germans out of a need to speak with like-minded people. This was an explanation for risking one’s life, as she and others did, that I found utterly convincing. I’m not a big risk-taker, but I’d have a hard time not being able to speak my mind. Imagine if we couldn’t commiserate with friends about Trump, for instance.

AN EXTENDED VERSION OF THIS INTERVIEW APPEARED ON THE KENYON REVIEW BLOG
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For inquiries, please contact:
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Rochester Arts & Lectures

PRESENTS

March 23 at 7:30 pm
Reimagining Home: Cuba
Richard Blanco, 2013 Inaugural Poet and author of The Prince of Los Cocuyos, a memoir.
Introduced by Joseph Viera.

April 20 at 7:30 pm
Terry Tempest Williams, author of Refuge, Finding Beauty in a Broken World, and When Women Were Birds, among many others.
Introduced by Tanya Bakhmetyeva

May 4 at 7:30 pm
Lily King, author of the best-selling Euphoria, winner of the Kirkus Prize for Fiction, New England Book Award and finalist for the National book Critics Circle Award.
Introduced by Lisa Jadwin.

Tickets Available for Rochester Arts & Lectures 2016-2017 Spring Season

Student Tickets $15
All programs are held at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church
121 North Fitzhugh St.
Rochester NY
Tickets can be purchased online www.artsandlectures.org/ticket-information or at the door.
For questions contact producers@artsandlectures.org

Underwritten by: Alan Cameros, Barnes & Noble College Town, Five Star Bank, Hart’s Local Grocers, Barbara and John Lowenheim, Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, Dr. Eva Pressman and Dr. Seth Zeidman, Rochester Brain & Spine Neurosurgery & Pain Management, Mark Siwiec, Thomson Reuters, Robin and Michael Weintraub
Albert Abandon is the Director of Adult Programs at Writers & Books. In 2014, he received a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in poetry. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Apogee, Boston Review, Pleiades, The Literary Review, LIT, Zone 3, Waxing, and others. He is also the author of the e-chapbook This is Superbook (H, NGM, N 2014).

Nina Alvarez is a fiction writer, poet, and playwright whose work has appeared in Split Lip Magazine and Prick of the Spindle. Her short play “Type Writer” was a finalist in the 2015 GeVa “2 Pages/2 Voices” festival, and her play “The Life of Leo Wool” was produced in 2013 by the GRRC. She was awarded the 2014 Writers & Books’ Big Pencil Award for her work with teen writers. Nina launched the publishing company Cosmographics Books in 2015. She has a master’s degree in English and over 13 years’ experience as a teacher and editor.

Sue Barocas is a caretaker and retired teacher. She is the author of Elderwriters: Celebrate Your Life! A Guide for Creating Your Own Personal Legacy Document. She was a 2014 USA Best Book Awards Finalist for the Business: Writing and Publishing category. She regularly gives talks at libraries and senior living communities around Rochester.

Mark Block is currently an adjunct instructor in both the English and Transitional Studies Departments at MCC, and formerly taught both high school and college level Spanish courses. He received his BA in Spanish Literature from SUNY Buffalo and his Master’s in Liberal Studies from SUNY College at Brockport. His graduate studies include semesters in both Spain and Mexico.

Angela Cannon-Crothers is an environmental educator, author, and writer, with degrees in science and education. Her writing has appeared in Stone Canoe, LadyBug, A Mile In Her Boots: Women Who Work in the Wild and Transformive Vermont. She is the author of The Wildcraft Intern’s Book of the Wild: DIY Nature Skills and Games for Kids. Her work is featured in the recently published Clockhouse, holds an MFA from Goddard College in Vermont and is at work on a collection of short fiction.

Michele Cohen has a BS degree in Printing Education from RIT and is the director and one of the founders of the Printing & Book Arts Center. He is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of printing and book arts.

Charlie Coté has studied with poets Stephen Dobyns, Thomas Lux, Gregory Orr, Thom Ward, and Kim Addonizio, and brings a wealth of experience to the classroom on poetic craft. Publication credits include: The Cortland Review, Upstreet, Boston Literary Magazine, ByLine, Connecticut River Review, Free Lunch, HazMat Review, and Lake Affect Magazine, as well as a chapbook Flying for the Window (Finishing Line Press, 2008), eulogies about his son’s illness and death. He is a clinical social worker in private practice and lives with his wife and two sons in Brighton, NY.

Tracy Cretele is a teacher, a coach for English Language Learners, a poet, a grant writer, a ghost writer, an editor, and a puppetry teacher. She has a B.S. in English from Brockport and an M.E. from Nazareth in TESOL (teacher of English as a second language) and she has traveled to Russia to teach English. Her writing has been published in The Sodus Sun, Nazareth College Consortium TESOL Journal and she was the ghostwriter for the Eboob Unsung Heroes by Dominick.

Carol D’Agostino is a licensed social worker, trainer, and writer. She received a Master’s degree in Social Work from Syracuse University and a Master’s degree in Transformative Language Arts from Goddard College. She has written professional articles for various national magazines and has several personal pieces in anthologies. She’s currently working with an editor on her memoir, The Angle of Life.

Judy DeCroce is an educator, professional storyteller, and writer who has taught and entertained for over 25 years. As an instructor she has helped students “flash” their writing, creating shorter pieces and adding a hook and a twist, making it flash fiction.

Megs Downing moved from the Catskills to Rochester for an undergraduate degree in Literature then to work towards a Master’s in writing at Brockport. With knowledge about things from dead Nordic languages to punk politics to the latest OPI nail polish line, she has sharpened her writing skills for the Young Adult genre.

Tony Falsamo is an award winning songwriter who has been composing songs for over 40 years. He studied writing for the musical stage under the legendary Lehman Engel. He was the Projects Director for the Songwriters Guild in Nashville. Currently, he is an adjunct professor in the music department at SUNY Brockport where he teaches songwriting, lyric writing, music business, and the History of Rock and Roll. His latest show, “A New Day Starts Tonight,” was performed this past March at GEVA Theatre.

Chris Fanning, Director of Communications at Writers & Books, earned his degree from St. John Fisher College, while also working as a service scholar at Writers & Books. He is also Assistant Producer of the Key Bank Rochester Fringe Festival. He currently lives in the Neighborhood of the Arts and enjoys walking to work with his headphones cranked up as high as they can go.

Kathleen Fraser got in trouble as a child for incessant reading but she was never cured of the habit. In fact, when she could not find the book she needed to read after her husband died, she wrote it. Her book Mourning and Milestones, Honoring Anniversaries, Birthdays and Special Occasions After a Loved One Dies was published in the Fall of 2015. Kathleen is a former professor of Operations Management at RIT and a current facilitator of Writing: A Way Through Grief at Lifetime Care in Rochester.


Maria Gillard is a singer-songwriter teacher-who has taught Creative Journaling for many years. She has taught at Omega Institute, Writers & Books, Linwood Gardens and FLCC. She taught the successful “Create a Radio Show” for Summerwrite for 15 years. She has 4 self-published recordings of her songwriting and is a professor of music at FLCC.

Christine Green is a freelance writer in Brockport, NY and writes a Literary Arts column for Rochester’s Democrat and Chronicle. Green hosts a monthly literary reading, Words on the Verge, at A Different Path Gallery. She grew up in San Jose, CA and holds a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from UC Berkeley and a master’s degree in historical archaeology from the College of William and Mary. She is also a 2016 Pink Door Literary Fellow.

William Hall has been the Director of the Center for Healthy Aging at Highland Hospital and the Paul Fine Professor of Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine since 2002. He founded the Center for Lifetime Wellness, a fitness center dedicated to adults over 50 years of age. He is widely published in the Geriatrics literature and has been awarded grants from the National Institute on Aging and Foundations. Currently his interests are on enhancing the cognitive status of older adults with a special emphasis on the role of creativity in the arts.

Tobie Hewitt is a former English professor, an accomplished wordsmith, a seasoned motivational speaker, and an intuitive Life Coach/Medium. She holds a BS and MA in English from SUNY Brockport and an MFA in Creative Writing from SUNY Geneseo. She is the co-founder of The Clockhouse (Finishing Line Press, 2015) and her book on the art of writing poetry appeared with Poetry Press in 2015.

Bob Holzworth enjoyed standup comedy from the audience for decades before an instructor finally showed him that he could also participate. This opened up a whole new world for him and he has been performing standup comedy in and around Rochester for over ten years. As an instructor himself now he has helped many others get a similar start in standup.

Gail Hosking is the author of the memoir Snake’s Daughter and the poetry chapbook The Jug, Of Snake’s Daughter, Kirkus Reviews writes: “A poignant memoir of loss by the daughter of a career soldier who died in Vietnam...The simple structure of this annotated photo album belies the depth of the work, shaded and shadowed with layers of meaning and sentiment.” Her writing has appeared in Consequence Magazine, Florida Review, Hippocampus, Ellipsis, and others. She holds an MFA from English at Brockport and has taught for many years at RIT. Two of her recent essays were considered “most notable” in Best American Essays of 2014 and 2015.

Will Hubbell worked in public television, academia, and advertising before becoming a full-time author. He has written and illustrated three children’s picture books: Pumpkin Jack, Apples Here!, and Snow Day Dance. He also writes fantasy novels for young adults and adults under the pen name Morgan Howell. His fantasy works include the Queen of the Orcs trilogy and The Shadowed Path trilogy. His ninth novel, A Single Deed, came out in 2013.

Sharon Knapp earned her MFA in Fiction from Bennington College. Her work has appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines, and is included in the creative non-fiction anthology, The Middle Distance. She spends her free time gardening, wrangling critters, and commuting to Erie, Pennsylvania, where she works as the Director of Training and Organizational Development for a technology company. She is passionate about growing young leaders.

Matt Kotula lives in Rochester and writes poetry and fiction. He received his MFA from Rutgers University. He is an adjunct writing instructor at SUNY Brockport, and Geneseo Community College and regularly conducts writing workshops. He is the editor of local print and online publications on topics such as music and craft beer. He co-founded and co-edited n.a.m.e., the official undergraduate lit mag. of SUNY Buffalo. He has worked with writers such as Tracy K. Smith, Lauren Grodstein, and Paul Lisicky. His short story “The lantern” was published in The Adirondack Review. His poetry manuscript won the 2010 Friends of the UB Libraries Poetry Prize.

Megan Mack is an improviser, sketch comedy writer, and television and radio performer. She is a graduate of the Con Ed Program and Writing Program at Second City Training Centre in Toronto, and has studied with Jimmy Carrane, Armando Diaz, Susan Messing, T.J. Jagodowski, and David Pasquesi. Megan performs with the sketch comedy troupe Thank You Kiss and with the long form improv teams Two Fat Ladies and Monstrously. She has coached Left for Dead, an improv team of performers ages 50+, since 2011.

Donna Marbach has served as editor for ByLine and Foothills Publishing. She
cofounded Pencilmation, a bilingual literary magazine by and for middle school students in Guadalajara, Mexico. She is also a co-founder and past president of Just Poets, Inc. (www.justpoets.org). Her work has appeared in BlueLine, Hazmat Review, Homestead Review, Quercus Review, The MacGuffin, The Red Wheelbarrow, The Pearl, The Centrifugal Eye and Rochester’s Poet Walk. Donna co-authored Twisted Pair with Dave Tilley and is currently on the advisory board of the children’s magazine The Magic Dragon. She is also a visual artist.

MARY MONROE is an experienced and passionate musician with the ability to channel healing energy through music. Bringing peace, comfort, and spiritual awakening to people for over twenty years, she performs unique arrangements of ambient music. Her original instrumental and lyrical songs are influenced by Folk, Rock, New Age, Classical, Jazz, Blues, and healing spiritual music. Mary has been featured in the Democrat and Chronicle, Messenger Post, Naples Record, City Newspaper, Rochester Insider Magazine, and has made several television, and radio appearances. She is currently recording her fifth LP at Noteworthy Music Productions, in Victor, New York.

CLAIRE MULVEY believes that fantasy worlds allow us a safe space to reflect on our humanity and to learn how to live more compassionately in our own world. Claire is a writer, musician, and costume designer. Her experience working with children includes tutoring, nannying, and being a step-mom.

MARTIN NARAPSTECK has taught business writing, creative writing, literature, and journalism at colleges in three states. He has published creative non-fiction and fiction in Mississippi Review, North American Review, The Writer, Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine, and dozens of other publications. He has published two books, and most recently, a collection of short stories, Saying Things (Lake Affect). Martin currently teaches at W&O and is a book reviewer for the Salt Lake Tribune. A film based on his short story “The 9:13” was featured at the High Falls Film Festival.

HENRY PADRÓN is a bilingual poet and musician who teaches elementary school. Henry has been a visiting artist in the RCSD, Rundell Library, and Geneseo/Brockport Migrant Education Programs. He serves on board member or volunteer for several arts and cultural organizations. He is a founding member of the Puerto Rican Youth Development and Resource Center, the Spanish Action Coalition, the National Council on Puerto Rican Rights, Salmorejo Poetry/Percussion Ensemble, and Borinquen Dance Company.

SARA BICKWET PENNER spent 12 years working in theatre in New York City, Chicago, and regionally throughout the U.S. She has her MFA from The Actors Studio in New York. In Chicago, Sara co-founded Candidtania Theatre Company. Sara has taught on the Acting faculty at the New York Film Academy, the Music Theatre Company in Chicago, and at public and private schools throughout New York City. Sara teaches voice, diction, and acting at Finger Lakes Community College, and lives happily in Rochester with her husband and two children.

KELSEY PETERSON teaches writing at the Eastman School of Music and at SUNY Geneseo. She holds a BA from the University of Rochester and an MFA in fiction writing from Washington University in St. Louis, where she was an Olin Fellow. She’s currently working on a collection of short stories.

CAREN PITA holds an MFA in creative writing, fiction, from George Mason University. Over the last ten years she has taught literature and writing to college students, babywearing to parents, hula hooping to kids and adults, and a bit of everything to her two formerly homeschooled children. She has been writing since she was nine years old.

MARGIT BRAZA POIRIER, a nationally certified grant professional (GPC) and Owner/Founder of GrantsAndGood LLC, created the company in 2009 to help nonprofits and businesses find and get grants. Margit has written and received numerous grants from federal, state, foundation, and corporate sources – and she has the unique perspective of understanding both grant seeking and grant making. In addition to grant development, Margit’s strengths include technical writing, board facilitation, project management, and specialized training for boards and staff. Margit is a nationally published author and frequent speaker on all aspects of grant development.

KATIE RICH is the K-3 reading teacher at School 5 in the RSCD, where she started a Little Free Library so that students and families can access free books. Katie is also a certified yoga instructor for children. She reads for pleasure every night and she especially enjoys historical fiction, mysteries, and chick lit.

MARRA ROSSI, PhD, is a storyteller and workshop leader who helps young people become more expressive through storytelling, poetry, and drama. In addition to her work at W&O, she has designed and taught programs for the University of Rochester’s Girls’ Science, Math, and Computer Camp; the Urban Lead; Teen Program; the YMCA; and church youth programs. She has performed with the Storytelling Guild of Rochester. Rossi has also taught child and adolescent development at Nazareth College and RIT. She is the recipient of the Writers & Books’ 2011 Big Pencil Award for inspiring the creation and appreciation of literature in young people.

Renate SCHULS-JACOBSON received her MA in English from SUNY Buffalo. An educator for over 30 years, she currently works as a Classroom Teacher and Tutor in the Special Studies Department at MCC. A published poet, she is also a visual artist, a freelance editor, and writing coach. Red hotmomma or red hot mess on any given day, she’s the girl with big ideas.

CAE DRA SCOTT-FH A L E R T is a published author, dance artist, and proud mama living in Brooklyn, NY. Her stories have appeared in literary magazines such as One Story, Slice and New England Review, and her multi-disciplinary performances have been shown throughout New York State. Originally from Rochester, she grew up taking and classing with artists. She studied Creative Writing at Brown University and received her MFA at New York University.

Sejal Shah (www.sejal-shah.com) has published essays and stories in journals including Brevity, Conjunctions, The Kenyon Review, The Literary Review, and AWP’s The Writer’s Chronicle. Her essays have been nominated for Best American Essays and the Pushcart Prize, and featured on The Huffington Post. Sejal earned her BA in English from Wellesley College and her MFA in English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Sejal has taught creative writing at Mount Holyoke College, Luther College, Marymount Manhattan College, and the University of Rochester.

DEB SPERLING graduated from Oberlin College in 2008 with a BA in Politics and no clue what to do with her life. Since then, she has worked as an administrative assistant, a journalist, an editor, a tabloid reporter, a café supervisor, an ESL teacher, a giant dancing box of popcorn, and a transporter of human remains. Deb has lived and traveled extensively in North and South America, and she is currently a registered nurse on two near-death experiences and a life-saving emergency surgery. She is currently working on a memoir linking her encounters with corpses in the funeral industry to the struggles she has faced with her own body.

Poet Ryan Sheppard earned a BS at SUNY Brockport and is currently obtaining his MFA at Goddard College in Vermont. His poems have appeared in The Pitkin Review and Donaut Factory. When not writing, Ryan can be found supporting the local craft beer community. Dog is his pilot.

JANE SUTTER is an award-winning journalist with more than 30 years of experience in writing, editing, blogging and managing at newspapers, magazines and web sites. She has earned master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the University of Missouri Journalism School. She spent 13 years in top leadership roles at the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester, including as managing editor and deputy editorial page editor. Her business, Sutter Communications, provides a variety of services, including writing, editing and public relations. Sutter’s book, Sutter’s Motel: Satisfy: A Memoir of 90 Years of Sutter Drug Co., was published in 2015. She writes a blog at https://suttercommunications.wordpress.com/. Follow her on Twitter: @janesutter.

Lois Taubman is a published writer, writing coach, editor, and educator. She has degrees in Psychology, Education, and Law. Lois’s own writing and her coaching practice cover both fiction and nonfiction work. Her coaching makes it possible for her clients to write the books they always hoped to write someday.

Craig Morgan Teicher is the author of four books, most recently The Trembling Answers: Poems due out from BOA Editions in April. He is the editor of Once and for All: The Best of Delmore Schwartz and a poetry editor for The Literary Review. He works at Publishers Weekly, has taught at NYU, the Iowa Writers Workshop and Princeton, and lives in New Jersey with his wife and children.

Ruth E. Thaler-Carter is an award-winning freelance writer, editor, proofreader, and presenter who has been published widely. She is the author/publisher of “Get Paid to Write! Getting Started as a Freelance Writer”; author of “Freelancing 101: Navigating Your Editing Business” for the Editorial Freelancers Association; contributor to The Business of Editing: Effective and Efficient Ways to Think, Work, and Prosper; blogger on freelancing for the Society for Technical Communication and on writing and editing for the An American Editor blog; owner of Communication Central; and the new owner of a hair salon for Writers! She currently creates and manages websites for several magazines, associations and businesses. She is especially proud of receiving a 2015 Writers & Books Big Pencil Award.

Almeta Whitis is a storyteller, actress, poet, writer and teaching artist with many decades of experience in the classroom and on the stage. As Chair of ALLOFUS Art Workshop’s Dance Department, she expanded a Saturday class of eight children to a year-round program serving over 450 children and adults. In 2000, National Endowment for the Arts and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation awarded her “Most Skilled and Experienced Community Artist”. Artists and Communities: America Creates for the Millennium. In 1993, Governor Mario Cuomo awarded her the “Decade of the Child Award” for “her valuable, sensitive work with the children and families of New York State”.

Jennifer Years is a Certified Consulting Hypnotist, Psychic/Medium, and Reiki Master Teacher. She also works as a Safety Manager for a large corporation. Her educational background includes a B.S. in Health and Wellness and she is working towards her M.S. in Occupational Safety and Health. In her spare time she enjoys painting, drawing, and photography while she is writing her first novel.

David Yocel, Jr. is a poet, educator, and audiophile. His work has been published in a number of print and online journals across the country, including the Kerf, Trajectory, and Common Ground Review. He also serves as an executive board member of Just Poets and runs the group's monthly open mic. David is currently an adjunct writing instructor at the RIT and MCC.

Leslie Youngblood, born in Bogalusa, LA, and raised in Rochester, NY, earned her MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She’s been awarded a 2011 Wuddas Elizabeth Ames Residency, the Lorain Hemingway Short Story Prize, a Hurston Wright Fellowship, and the Room of Her Own Foundation’s 2009 Orlando Short Story Prize. Her work has appeared in the Indiana Review and KweliJournal. In 2010 she won the Go On Girl! Book Club Aspiring Writer Award. Her first Middle Grade novel, LOVE LIKE SKY, will be published in 2018.
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