

WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS: Call for Proposals, Spring 2020

Genres: Poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir, and hybrid

Deadline to submit: January 27, 2020 to be included in the spring newsletter (April through June)

Mini Workshop

Format: Single session

Duration: 1.5 hours; Saturday mornings

Participant Cost: Members \$22 | General Public \$25 (Scholarships available)

Teaching Fee: \$75

Enrollment: Minimum 4 | Maximum 12

Level: Early Stage Writer

The Mini Workshop is a gentle on-ramp for those who have never taken a writing class before, as well as reinvigoration for more experienced writers. We look for fun, engaging writing prompts and generative exercises that encourage participants to draw on their personal reservoirs of ideas and experiences as inspiration for committing words to page.

6-Week Workshop

Format: 6 sessions in 6 weeks (5 classes, 1 participant reading)

Duration: 2.5 hour sessions (Wednesdays or Thursday, 6:30-9 pm)

Participant Cost: \$225 Member | \$265 General Public (Scholarships available)

Teaching Fee: \$800

Enrollment: Minimum 5 | Maximum 12

Level: Middle-to-Advanced Stage

The Evening Workshop encourages participants to move beyond their comfort zones to experiment with new strategies, embrace critique, and engage with the work of published writers. We are especially interested in topics that investigate/intersect with issues of social justice and identity, national conversations, and history; and/or focus on particular aspects of craft. We welcome your additional ideas for unique, generative, thought-provoking classes. The sixth session is a celebratory reading by participants, open to the public, organized and emceed by the instructor.

Special Topic Workshop

Format: Single session

Duration: 2.5 hours (Saturdays)

Participant Cost: \$65 Member | \$75 General Public (Scholarships available)

Teaching Fee: \$185

Level: Middle-to-Advanced Stage

Enrollment: Minimum 5 | Maximum 12

Focused on a specific strategy, concept, element of craft, or practice, the **Special Topic Workshop** offers participants a new or unexpected path into creating or revising work.

Gell One-Day Intensive

Format: Single session

Duration: 7 hours (Saturdays)

Participant Cost: \$145 Member | \$165 General Public (Lunch included; scholarships available)

Teaching Fee: \$465, plus travel

Level: Intermediate-to-Advanced Stage

Enrollment: Minimum 6 | Maximum 15

Offered: April - November

The Gell Intensive, held in Gleason Lodge at Writers & Books' 24-acre retreat in Naples, is a daylong site-responsive workshop incorporating the property's natural setting, history of the land, or other elements to inspire new writing. Feel free to propose an interdisciplinary format, such as yoga and writing, meditation and writing, nature walk and writing, etc.

Sample Workshop Descriptions

Mini Workshop

- Writing from Family Photographs
- Story Structure
- Improv for Writers

Evening Workshop

- **The Self: Autobiography &/In Poetic Forms**

What does it mean to be a cartographer of the self? To write about its multitudes when the body is a frequency of flesh and heart? We show different sides of ourselves to different people and we play different roles in our lifetimes—sister, brother, wife, lover, worker, etc. This class will explore different ways to document these roles and challenge poets to move beyond them through memory, sense, and voice. Participants will look at the work of Lucille Clifton, Ross Gay, Terrence Hayes, Brenda Shaughnessy, Vieve Francis, Ocean Vuong, and others who interrogate identity in various

ways. We will use different forms, including confessional, profile, praise, and direct address to explore the way the “self” can emerge on the page and create a suite of portraits.

- **Active Storytelling**

What does a writer need to tell a compelling story? Imagination, empathy, and the courage to leap into the unknown. These same qualities are essential to the art of improvisation, and developing these active storytelling skills will strengthen your writing.

In a positive environment that fosters teamwork and trust, you’ll participate in on-your-feet improvisational exercises, creative brainstorming, and literary craft talk. Together, we’ll build emotionally grounded characters, clear points of view, dynamic relationships, and vivid descriptions of places, objects, and more. We’ll create authentic dialogue based on active listening, explore the role of subtext, and practice raising the stakes to heighten a narrative arc. Optional homework assignments will reinforce the techniques we explore in class.

Encouraging writers to explore storytelling in a fresh, spontaneous way, this workshop will benefit each participant’s current and future writing projects.

Special Topic Workshop

Write Poetry in the Style of Frank O’Hara

Frank O’Hara ignored the poetic rules of his time and wrote with uninhibited play of the imagination, generous emotions, and ordinary events. He saw poetry as something living, not academic. His style opened up poetry for generations to come. Like us, he juggled the contradictory components of modern life. Come study his work, attempt his style, and expand your own poetry. In this workshop, you will read some of his work, discuss it, and be inspired to write your own poems.

Gell Intensive

Writing the Self and Nature through the Work of Emily Dickinson

Emily Dickinson was a poet of extraordinary depth, mystical reach, and literary innovation. Her iconic observations of both the natural world and human nature take the reader into an exploration of what death means, what love is, and how one’s own back garden contains the universe. Because she has been so profoundly misunderstood by literary scholars and historians alike, we will discuss her true biography; for example, she was not a recluse, nor a rejected spinster. Through a day-long journey into Dickinson’s work and world as we enjoy the natural beauty of the Gell Center, we will read deeply, write in multiple forms, discover personal truths, and share our stories.

Your Proposal will include three documents:

- Completed fillable PDF form
- Copy of your résumé or CV, 3 page limit (new and returning instructors)
- Brief bio

Please direct all three attachments to Dan Herd, Director of Adult Programs, danh@wab.org with the subject line, **“Workshop Proposal.”**

Workshop Description Tips:

- The hook (one sentence)
- Specific activities, including handouts and/or other resources
- Workshop objectives
- Participant’s take-away(s)
- 140 words maximum