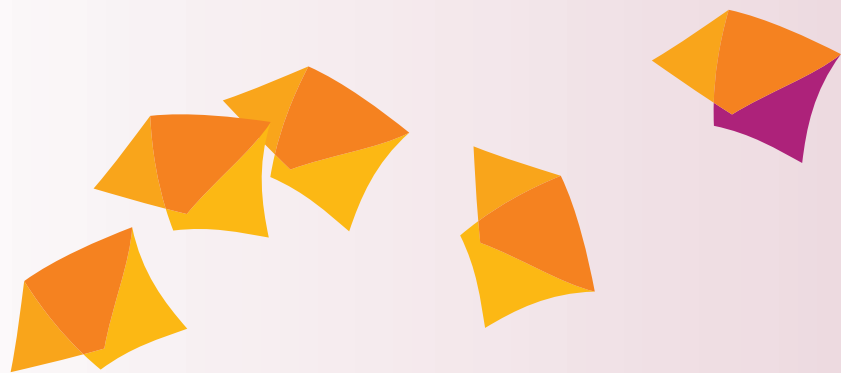


Commit to Your Lit



CHARLOTTE **LIT**

CHARLOTTE CENTER FOR LITERARY ARTS, INC.

CLASSES & **EVENTS**

WHO'S INSIDE:

Joseph Bathanti
Sandra Beasley
Jericho Brown
Chen Chen
Beth Ann Fennelly
Jaki Shelton Green
Robin Hemley
Mary Szybist
and Many More!

2023

2024

COMMIT TO YOUR LIT

Welcome, Lit fans, to our 2023–24 catalog. Inside: an incredible lineup of more than 50 classes and a dozen events, led by some of the best writers and teachers anywhere, including your Charlotte-area favorites and a visit from Pulitzer Prize winner Jericho Brown.

Classes come in two formats—in-person and live via Zoom—so be sure to check the location before you register.

Can we ask a favor? Please register now for the classes you're interested in attending. Each class has a required minimum to run, so your early registration helps ensure the classes you want will happen.

Thanks to each and every one of you for supporting Charlotte Lit and the lit arts. We exist for this community, and we're stronger because of you.

See you soon!

Kathie Collins & Paul Reali, Co-Founders

HOW TO SELECT AND SIGN UP: 3 EASY STEPS

1. **BROWSE THIS CATALOG** to find the classes and events you want.

Classes are listed in chronological order, with special events and offerings described on separate pages at the front of the catalog.

2. **REGISTER** at charlottelit.org.

- Members, please log in to get members-only pricing in your cart.
- Not already a member? Go to charlottelit.org/join to support and save (see page 12).
- If you prefer not to buy online, leave us a message at 704-315-2131 and we'll call to take your order and payment by phone.

3. **NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?**

As we are committed to making our classes accessible to all writers, scholarships are available for Charlotte Lit classes and labs. Visit charlottelit.org/scholarships to apply.

That's it! Questions? Issues? Email admin@charlottelit.org.

Please note: classes and events listed in this catalog are subject to change, and additional ones may be added. Check charlottelit.org, and subscribe to our newsletter, for the most up-to-date information.



LIT WELCOMES JERICHO BROWN!

2020 Pulitzer Prize Winner to Judge Lit/South, Headline Lit Up!, & Teach



Jericho Brown is author of the *The Tradition* (Copper Canyon Press, 2019), which won the Pulitzer Prize, the Paterson Poetry Prize, and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

He is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Brown's first book, *Please* (New Issues, 2008), won the American Book Award. His second book, *The New Testament* (Copper Canyon Press, 2014), won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award.

His poems have appeared in *The Bennington Review*, *Buzzfeed*, *Fence*, *jubilat*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *TIME* magazine, and several volumes of *The Best American Poetry*. He is the director of the Creative Writing Program and a professor at Emory University.

MAY 1, 2024 LITUP! CELEBRATION

Our 2024 member celebration and fundraiser features a reading and conversation with acclaimed poet and teacher Jericho Brown. Event details and ticket information to be announced in early 2024.

MAY 2, 2024 POETRY MASTERCLASS

Jericho Brown leads a limited-seat poetry masterclass on Thursday, May 2. Registration opens in early 2024; Charlotte Lit members get first opportunity to register (watch your email for details)!

JERICHO BROWN'S VISIT MADE POSSIBLE BY

S O U
A R T S
H

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

Eileen
Friars

MORE INFO & LIT UP! REGISTRATION: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/LITUP](https://charlottelit.org/litup)

READINGS & CONVERSATIONS

Gather with the Lit community — free and open to all!

Poetry Reading & Open Mic: Fall Kick-off

• Friday, August 25, 2023 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. @ Rosie's Wine Garden

Charlotte Poet Laureate Jay Ward hosts our annual fall celebration with a reading and community open mic. We'll be joined by our friends from the **North Carolina Writers' Network** as they open registration for their 2023 Fall Conference, held this year in Charlotte!

NC Writers'
Network

rosie's
COFFEE & WINE

Poetry Reading: Charlotte Lit Press Chapbook Authors

• Friday, September 8, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Featured readers: John Clark, Patricia Joslin, and Gary Phillips

Poetry Reading & Book Launch: Lola Haskins, Chapbook Lab Faculty

• Saturday, September 9, 2023 | 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Award-winning poet Lola Haskins reads from her new book of poetry, *Homelight*, the first full collection from Charlotte Lit Press.

Reading: Joseph Bathanti

• Wednesday, September 20, 2023 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Former North Carolina Poet Laureate will read from his new book of stories called *The Act of Contrition* which won the 2021 Eastover Fiction Prize.

Community Conversation: The Search for Meaning As We Tell True Stories, with Patrice Gopo & Brooke Shaffner

• Wednesday, October 4, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Join these award-winning Charlotte Lit community members as they talk about writing as a path to personal and spiritual growth.

Community Conversation & Reading: Jaki Shelton Green

• Friday, October 6, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Our current NC Poet Laureate and local Black poets will discuss literary citizenship and will read from their work, as we celebrate National Black Poetry Day.



Community Conversation & Reading: Give Us This Day Our Daily Dread: Finding Humor in Pathos, with Ross White & Jay Ward

• Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Join Ross White, publisher of Bull City Press, and Charlotte Poet Laureate Jay Ward for a conversation about writing with a sense of humor about difficult topics.

Community Conversation: Where Does Research End and Inspiration Begin? with Kathryn Schwillie & Marjorie Hudson

• Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Two novelists who wrote stories based on true events discuss how to move from historic facts into the storytelling imagination.

Poetry Reading: Nickole Brown, Chapbook Lab Faculty

• Saturday, December 9, 2023 | 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Longtime Charlotte Lit friend and faculty member Nickole Brown reads from her diverse body of work.

Reading: Robin Hemley

• Friday, February 23, 2024 | 6:00– 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

New York-based author and Wildacres favorite will talk writing and read from his varied works. (Part of our in-town retreat on auto-fiction; see page 27.)

Community Conversation & Reading: Balancing Your Work and Writing Lives, with Steve Cushman & Michael Gaspeny

• Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

If you think your day job robs you of your best writing time, join us for a reading and conversation focused on using the workplace environment to your artistic advantage.

Poetry Reading: Stuart Dischell, Chapbook Lab Faculty

• Saturday, March 16, 2024 | 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Guggenheim and NEA Fellow, and UNC Greensboro MFA faculty member Stuart Dischell reads from his recent work,.



Poetry Reading: Jessica Jacobs

• Thursday, May 16, 2024 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Longtime Friend of Lit and Yetzirah Poets founder reads from her forthcoming collection *Unalone*.

Poetry Reading: AE Hines, Chapbook Lab Faculty

• Saturday, June 8, 2024 | 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. @ Charlotte Lit

Lit welcomes Charlotte newcomer and award-winning poet AE Hines to read from *Any Dumb Animal* and recent work.

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. LATEST INFO & REGISTRATION:
CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/EVENTS

PEN TO PAPER

Write in Community: Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 am via Zoom

For more than four years, writers have gathered for **Pen to Paper**, a weekly session for anyone who writes or wishes to start. Supportive and generative, each session includes a short craft lesson, a writing prompt, 30-40 minutes of writing time, and an opportunity to share your work. Sign up for the weekly link at charlottelit.org/pen-to-paper.



Pen to Paper is led by authors
Kathie Collins, Megan Rich & Paul Reali

AUTHORS LAB

Writing a Novel or Memoir? Authors Lab Helps You Get It Done, and Better

Writing a novel or memoir? Charlotte Lit's Authors Lab is an intensive program—one, two, or three years, based on your goals—that guides you through the writing of a full-length novel or memoir.

Along with fellow cohort members, you'll participate in programming structured to provide the skills necessary to write, revise, and prepare a full-length manuscript for publication, and support one another in the writing process. In addition to significantly enhancing your craft skills, you'll develop the habits and confidence essential for a lifelong writing practice.

The Lab includes:

- **Weekend Intensives.** Your full cohort of up to 24 writers will meet at Charlotte Lit every other month for a two-day weekend filled with craft lessons, writing time, coaching, and the power of community.
- **Faculty Coaches.** You'll be matched with a coach who provides encouragement, teaching, and regular feedback on your work.
- **Cohort Community.** In addition to the full cohort, you'll also be part of a 6-person sub-cohort that takes the book journey together, with guidance from your shared coach. Each writer faces the solitary task of putting words onto the page, but that job is easier (and more fun!) with a supportive community.



AUTHORS LAB'S PROGRAM YEAR RUNS FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER.

Applications for the 2024 cohort are open September 15 to November 15.

VISIT [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/AUTHORSLAB](http://charlottelit.org/authorslab) FOR DETAILS.

POETRY NIGHTCLUB

Sandra Beasley & Mary Szybist Headline as Popular Poetry Series Returns

Charlotte Lit's Poetry Nightclub is fun way to engage with the world's oldest form of storytelling. Featuring acclaimed poets from across the nation, each event is a unique and compelling experience that goes beyond traditional reading and book signing events.

Hosted by our friends at Starlight on 22nd in NoDa. Tickets are \$25 and your first drink is on us!



2023-24 Poetry Nightclub Lineup



December 1, 2023

Sandra Beasley

Sandra Beasley — who first visited Charlotte Lit as the second 4X4CLT poet in 2016 — is the author of *Made to Explode*, winner of the Housatonic Book Award; *Count the Waves*; *I Was the Jukebox*, winner of the Barnard Women Poets Prize; *Theories of Falling*, winner of the New Issues Poetry Prize; and *Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life*. She also edited *Vinegar and Char: Verse from the Southern Foodways Alliance*. In spring 2023, she was Davidson College's McGee Visiting Professor of Creative Writing. She lives in Washington, D.C.

AND: See Sandra's Masterclass on Page 21!



March 22, 2024

Mary Szybist

Mary Szybist is the author of *Incarnadine*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Poetry, and *Granted*, a finalist for the 20003 National Book Critics Circle Award. The recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, she has taught at the Michener Center for Writers, the Iowa Writers' Workshop, the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, and the University of California at Berkeley. She lives in Portland, Oregon where she is the Morgan S. Odell Professor of Humanities at Lewis & Clark College.

AND: See Mary's Masterclass on Page 31!

Poetry Nightclub is made possible by:



**Eileen
Friars**



MORE INFO & TICKETS: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/POETRYNIGHTCLUB](https://charlottelit.org/poetrynightclub)

A BRAND NEW BRAND “YOU”

Craft a Bio & Artist Statement PLUS Get a New Professional Headshot

Saturday, November 18, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members Only: \$150

Created in Partnership with

Amy Hart Studios

In this new, three-in-one workshop, Charlotte Lit staff will first help you create an author bio and a compelling artist statement. Then, you'll have a photo session with award-winning photographer Amy Hart of Amy Hart Studios for a new headshot. By the end of the session, you'll have what you need for a fresh update of your author's website, contest entries, and future book jackets.

Amy Hart is a photographer/filmmaker/creative director who has lived and worked across the country, and a few places around the world, and is now based in Charlotte. She was the official photographer for the New Year's Eve celebrations in Times Square NYC, and is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. She also loves creative writing, yoga, and playful water sports. Check out her work at amyhartstudios.com.



NEW! CRITIKI BAR!

First-page Manuscript Critiques—in Front of a Live Audience!

Katharine Sands & David L. Robbins

Thursday, February 1, 2024 | 7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Wonder if the first page of your manuscript will make the editor's cut? Or just want to know how editors and agents look at first pages and make decisions? Gather 'round to watch and listen to a rare two-sided assessment from both the business and the craft side of writing — served with wit, insight, experience, and punch. Witness how a highly-regarded literary agent and a New York Times bestselling author discuss — and debate — aspects of creating a skillfully told story and navigating the professional side of publishing by dissecting that oh-so-important first page. Twelve spots available to the brave who want to have their pages critiqued — and unlimited spots to those who want to come and watch the action!

Two Ways to Attend:

- Get Your First Page Critiqued, Live! Members \$50 | Non-members \$65 (12 spots total!)
- Watch the Live Critiques: Members \$15 | Non-members \$25 (unlimited spots)

Katharine Sands is a literary agent representing fiction, non-fiction and memoir; and “agent provocateur” of *Making the Perfect Pitch: How to Catch a Literary Agent's Eye*, a collection of pitching wisdom from leading literary agents. Online: Sarah Jane Freymann Literary Agency: sarahjanefreymann.com. **David L. Robbins** is a New York Times bestselling author, creative writing professor, founder of James River Writers, The Mighty Pen Project, and co-founder of the Podium Foundation. Online: davidlrobbinsauthor.com.

WIN! PUBLISH! LIT/SOUTH AWARDS

\$1,000 First Place Prizes Plus Publication in *Litmosphere*

You are invited to submit your work to the 2024 Lit/South Awards, now in its 3rd year!

Who Can Enter: Current and former residents of NC and its four border states — South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Virginia — are eligible to enter.

\$6,000 in Prizes: Awards are presented in three categories:

- poetry (submit up to three poems)
- fiction (up to 4,000 words)
- creative nonfiction (up to 4,000 words)

First place in each category wins \$1,000. Finalists in each category win \$100.

Publication: All winners, finalists, and selected semi-finalists will be published in the Spring 2024 issue of *Litmosphere: Journal of Charlotte Lit*.

When & Where to Enter: Enter October 1 – November 1 via Charlotte Lit's Submittable page. Entries are \$10.

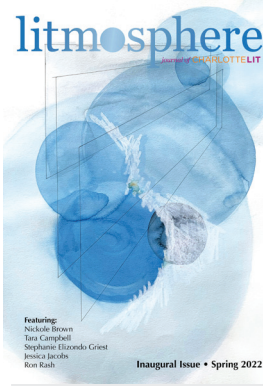
Full Guidelines: charlottelit.org/litsouth.

litmosphere
Journal of CHARLOTTE LIT



Featuring:
Bryn Chancellor
Melissa Febos
A. Van Jordan

Issue Two • Spring 2023



Featuring:
Nickole Brown
Tara Campbell
Stephanie Elizondo Griest
Jessica Jordan
Ron Ruhl

Inaugural Issue • Spring 2022

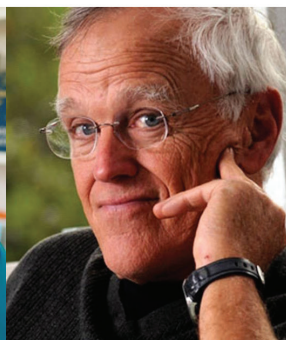
Lit/South Awards — 2024 Judges



Jericho Brown
Poetry



Maggie Smith
Creative Nonfiction



Clyde Edgerton
Fiction

FULL GUIDELINES & ENTRY PORTAL: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/LITSOUTH](http://charlottelit.org/litsouth)

POETRY & NATURE RETREAT

Come Outside, Go Inside

Saturday, May 18 and 19, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for either or both days of this two-day nature-based writing retreat at Innisfree Retreat Center in North Carolina's beautiful Yadkin Valley (an easy 90-minute drive from Charlotte). In addition to structured writing and gardening activities, you'll be able to enjoy walks on Innisfree's two-mile trail through woods and pastureland, take a swim, or visit nearby wineries. (Check Charlotte Lit website in February 2024 for lodging information.)

Location: Innisfree Retreat Center, East Bend, NC

Either Day: Members: \$150 | Non-members: \$200

Both Days: Members \$275 | Non-members: \$350

Day One (May 18): Spiritual Explorations

Poet Jessica Jacobs will teach craft lessons focused on the spiritual explorations in poetry and allow plenty of personal writing and relaxation time. We'll gather around to read poems and lyric essays that have their own solutions to this difficult era of climate change and cultural upheaval, but we'll also turn to the trees, blossoming flowers and other living things in spring to try to listen to what the earth might have to say.

Throughout, we'll try our hands at writing and sharing drafts in hopes that working through this together might bring awareness, control, and yes, even hope. Open to writers of all levels.



Jessica Jacobs

Day Two (May 19): Landscape as Self

Landscape designer and spiritual director CJ Lawing, and poet and Charlotte Lit co-founder/creative director Kathie Collins will lead participants in awakening our creative imaginations through deep reflection on the landscapes that stir and speak to our hearts.

Through guided meditation, conversation, writing prompts, and the making of miniature meadows to take home, we'll discover how our inner and outer worlds mirror one another and practice drawing creative inspiration from the relationship between the two.



CJ Lawing Kathie Collins

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/RETREAT](https://charlottelit.org/retreat)

AND COMING SOON...

Watch our newsletter and website for details on these new things, coming to you very soon!

NEW! Lit's Online Social Community

Charlotte Lit Members and Faculty Have a New Place to Gather: Online!

Charlotte Lit is very excited to announce the long-anticipated launch of our online community — an exclusive benefit for Charlotte Lit members. Want to talk poetry? Latest reads? Submission strategies? Looking for a critique group? Seeking an editor... or clients for your editorial services business? We have all that and more. Whatever you want to chat about, we'll be chatting about it here!

Launch date is September 1! Login will be the same as your charlottelit.org account. Here's the link:

community.charlottelit.org

(Beta testers wanted!
Email paul@charlottelit.org to help.)

NEW! Lit with Friends Literary Salons

Sit, Sip, Discuss — and Support Your Local Lit Arts Org

Take a little break from writing, revising, and submitting without breaking up with your Lit friends—and help support Charlotte Lit at the same time!

Each quarter, a GFOL (Good Friend of Lit) will host a themed literary salon for twelve guests. Hosts provide food and drink and set the stage for delightful lit-based sharing and conversation. Best of all, your \$100 tax-deductible registration goes to provide more of the Lit you love. Watch website and upcoming newsletters for an announcement about this year's lineup.



SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/NEWSLETTER](https://charlottelit.org/newsletter)

MEMBERSHIPS & BENEFITS

Charlotte Lit is a member-supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to educating and engaging writers and readers. When you become an annual or monthly member, you join the 250+ current members who help keep the literary arts strong in the Charlotte area. Join now: charlottelit.org/join.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP (\$75/YEAR)

- Member pricing for classes and events
- Access to our new members-only online community and resource group
- Invitations to exclusive members-only events
- 20% off Scrivener writing software and 40% off Freedom distraction blocker

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$100/YEAR)

All General Member benefits, plus

- Benefits extended to all members of your household

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP (\$250/YEAR)

All Family Member benefits, plus

- An invitation to our annual donor recognition event
- A subscription to *Litmosphere: Journal of Charlotte Lit*

PATRON MEMBERSHIP (\$500/YEAR)

All Supporting Member benefits, plus

- A 1-hour editorial consultation with a Charlotte Lit faculty member

MCCULLERS LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$1000+/YEAR)

The McCullers Leadership Circle is a group of loyal supporters investing in Charlotte Lit's future and helping achieve our vision of becoming the Southeast's premier creative writing and literary arts center.

Benefits include all Patron Member benefits, plus

- A set of 4X4CLT posters from our library
- A first look at our course catalog and the opportunity for early registration
- Invitations to attend arts and culture receptions and networking events as our guest
- Opportunities to host visiting artists
- Special recognition on Charlotte Lit's website
- A selection from our signed-by-the-author book collection

JOIN, RENEW, OR UPGRADE NOW: CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/JOIN

SEPTEMBER CLASSES

BUILDING A COMMUNITY: NETWORKING FOR WRITERS

Sarah Archer

Business of Writing

1 Session: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Are you trying to build community and network as a writer? From finding writing cohorts to meeting potential clients, networking is valuable to writers for many reasons. In this immersive talk, Sarah Archer will help you navigate the steps to establishing professional relationships, growing personal connections, and finding mutual support in community. She'll discuss tips for attending conferences, and ways to be proactive on social media to further engage with other writers. If you would like to build a robust network of writing colleagues, this class is for you.

Sarah Archer's debut novel, *The Plus One*, was published by Putnam in the US and received a starred review from Booklist. It has also been published in the UK, Germany, and Japan, and is currently in development for television. As a screenwriter, she has developed material for MTV Entertainment, Snapchat, and Comedy Central. Her short stories and poetry have been published in numerous literary magazines, and she has spoken and taught writing to groups in several states and countries. She is also a co-host of the award-winning Charlotte Readers Podcast. Online: saraharcherwrites.com.



FRAMING OUR EXPERIENCE: A LIFE IN PIECES

Zeba Mehdi & Jaime Pollard-Smith

Nonfiction

1 Session: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Anne Lamott said, "Very few writers really know what they are doing until they've done it." This class is a fun way to get you inspired and excited about writing personal narratives, and is for both non-writers who just want to get their feet wet and anyone who wants a fresh perspective. We'll focus on the art of framing a writing project—thinking, feeling, and writing through the power of memory, while developing a keen "writer's eye." Inspired by advice from noted authors, including Lamott and William Zinsser, we'll jumpstart our writing projects through several visual and writing exercises and leave class with the beginnings of a larger project.



Zeba Mehdi is department chair of English at Central Piedmont Community College. She has degrees in English and Teaching, and attended Winthrop University, University of South Carolina, and Queens University of Charlotte. She has presented at several national conferences, and is a credited reviewer for multiple academic texts on the subject of writing. **Jaime Pollard-Smith** is a full-time writing instructor at Central Piedmont Community College with an M.A. from New York University. Her fiction has been published in Literary Mama. She is a contributor for Scary Mommy and Project We Forgot. Online: unbecoming.co.



JOURNALING FOR WELL-BEING

Ashley R. Wright

Multi-Genre

1 Session: Thursday, September 14, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$15 | Non-members \$25

Journaling is one of the best methods to explore your thoughts or expand your creativity to support well-being. During this class, you'll be given the opportunity to participate in guided journaling to gain clarity and awareness, and to connect with portions of your personal narrative. You'll leave this class being in tune with your thoughts and an understanding of what your thoughts are creating in your life.

Ashley R. Wright is an advocate for self-discovery and a guide to true unimpeded human healing. As a Certified Life Coach, Grief Recovery Specialist and former Social Worker, she has dedicated her human experience to helping others improve or attain healthy soul expression. As the creator and founder of Strokes of Freedom, she joins in with clients as a guardian on the quest to self. Offering both topic focused & free writing one on one or group sessions, she facilitates a safe haven for journal writing as the method of healing and discovery.



Nonfiction Masterclass

BUILD ME A HUMMINGBIRD OF WORDS: HOW TO DISTILL YOUR LIFE INTO A FLASH

Beth Ann Fennelly, Mississippi Poet Laureate 2016-21

1 Session: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$100 | Non-members \$130

What should we do when we have the urge to write our stories, but we can't figure out how or where to start? This interactive masterclass will provide strategies for those seeking to answer this question. Our spirit animal for this class will be the hummingbird. The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly forward, backward, sideways, and, for short distances, upside down. Precisely because they are so small, hummingbirds can do things other birds can't do. In this class, we'll look at tiny texts and study the things that they can do because they are small. How can attention to the tiniest literary creations challenge and inspire us? Beth Ann will introduce you to word-hummingbirds such as the monostich, the six-word memoir, the aphorism, the ten-second essay, and the American Sentence.

Beth Ann Fennelly, Poet Laureate of Mississippi from 2016-2021, teaches in the M.F.A. Program at the University of Mississippi. Her work has won a Pushcart Prize and three times been included in *The Best American Poetry* series. Fennelly has published three poetry books: *Open House*, *Tender Hooks*, and *Unmentionables*, and a book of nonfiction, *Great with Child*, all published with W. W. Norton. A novel she co-authored with her husband, Tom Franklin, called *The Tilted World*, was published by HarperCollins. Her sixth book, *Heating & Cooling: 52 Micro-Memoirs* (W. W. Norton), was named an Atlanta Journal Constitution Best Book, a Goodreads Favorite for 2017, and the winner of the Housatonic Book Prize.



ECO-POETRY

Joseph Bathanti, NC Poet Laureate 2012-14

Poetry

1 Session: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members \$50 | Non-members \$65

Though the natural world tends to figure prominently in eco-poetry, it isn't strictly "nature poetry." With roots in social and restorative (environmental) justice, it's a charged call to environmental awareness, stewardship, and action—"a poetry of witness." A preoccupation of eco-poetry is how the natural world has been habitually and historically subverted by technology and the encroachment of human greed and avarice. We'll review some poems that exemplify eco-poetry and that showcase craft elements that heavily influence the composition of the poem. There will be time for generative writing with an option to share.

Joseph Bathanti is a former poet laureate of North Carolina (2012-14) and recipient of the North Carolina Award in Literature. He is the McFarlane Family Distinguished Professor in Interdisciplinary Education at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. He served as the 2016 Charles George VA Medical Center Writer-in-Residence in Asheville, NC, and is the co-founder of the Medical Center's Creative Writing Program. *The Act of Contrition & Other Stories*, winner of the EastOver Prize for Fiction, was published in 2022.



Please also join us Wednesday evening, September 20, at Charlotte Lit for a free reading and community conversation with Joseph Bathanti, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

WRITING THE SHORT STORY

Craig Buchner

Fiction

3 Tuesdays: September 26, October 3 & 10, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$145 | Non-members \$190

"Cut the piano in half with a chainsaw." How can this advice influence us to write the best short stories? In this three-week course, we'll learn how to write a captivating scene for a short story, and explore what a successful scene should accomplish. We will also break down the essential elements of a short story, including character, setting, and dialogue. In lieu of workshoping, writing exercises will give students opportunities to apply these lessons to their own work. And what about that "piano"? We'll hear that story in the first class!

Craig Buchner holds an M.F.A. from the University of Idaho and a M.A. in English from Western Carolina University. He's taught writing at Brevard College, Washington State University, and Portland Community College. His debut collection of short stories, *Brutal Beasts* (NFB Publishing), was chosen as an "Indie Book of the Year" in 2022 by Kirkus Reviews. He is also the author of the novel *Fish Cough* (Buckman Press), which was named an "Indie Books We Love" by LoveReading in 2023. Craig lives with his family in Charlotte.



MANIPULATING TIME IN FICTION

Paula Martinac

Fiction

1 Session: Thursday, September 28, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

“Fiction writers are clockmakers,” Alix Ohlen writes, “structuring time and showing the reader how to measure and mark its progression.” In this class, we’ll explore such time manipulation craft techniques as flashbacks and flash forwards, slow motion, long time, compressed time, and time confusion. We’ll read examples from published writers and practice techniques with exercises designed to generate new work or enrich our works-in-progress. For writers of all levels.

Paula Martinac is the author of the historical novel *Dear Miss Cushman* and six others, including *Testimony*; *Clio Rising*, Gold Medalist, Northeast Region, 2020 Independent Publisher Book Awards; *The Ada Decades*, a finalist for the 2018 Ferro-Grumley Award; and *Out of Time*, a Lambda Literary Award winner. Her work-in-progress and first mystery, *A Death on the Mezzanine*, received the 2023 William F. Deeck–Malice Domestic Grant for Unpublished Mystery Writers. In addition to teaching fiction writing at UNC Charlotte, she reviews books and does developmental editing.



2023 CLASS PHOTOS



Photos by Amy Hart Studios

OCTOBER CLASSES

WHAT WE KEEP KEEPS US: EXPLORING OUR HUMAN MUSEUMS

Jaki Shelton Green, NC Poet Laureate

Multi-Genre

1 Session: Saturday, October 7, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

This creativity salon will focus on the excavation of our human museums. In our ever-increasing technological trance how do we conflate or extrapolate public and private spheres of creativity, intimacy, spirituality, masks, dreams, veils, and spells? What is body-centered knowing and how can we write those somatic truths? How do creatives and activists escape from conventional walls and play in mysterious forests? What internalized perspectives are you choosing to excavate around levels of the self and assumptions? We'll explore what it means to decolonize the tongue that feeds your creativity and community engagement.

Jaki Shelton Green, ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina is a 2019 Academy of American Poet Laureate Fellow, 2014 NC Literary Hall of Fame Inductee, 2009 NC Piedmont Laureate appointment, and 2003 recipient of the NC Award for Literature. She teaches Documentary Poetry at Duke University Center for Documentary Studies and was appointed the 2021 Frank B. Hanes Writer in Residence at UNC Chapel Hill. She is the author of eight poetry collections, a poetry LP and CDs. She is the poetry editor for *WALTER Magazine* and serves as the Poet Laureate in Residence at the NC Museum of Art.



WRITING & PITCHING THE REPORTED ESSAY

Amy Paturel

Non-fiction

2 Sundays: October 8 & 15, 2023 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$250 | Non-members \$295

During this intimate two-Sunday workshop, Los Angeles-based writer Amy Paturel will break down the reported essay and you'll have the opportunity to analyze effective reported essays and share your own work. The first Sunday will focus on three things: 1. dissecting three reported essays, 2. how to craft a reported essay pitch, and 3. brainstorming your essay ideas in a low-stakes environment. The second Sunday you'll workshop your pitches live. Attendees are limited to 8.

Amy Paturel a journalist in Southern California who writes about health, fitness, food, wine and travel. For nearly two decades, she has covered everything from food to sex—and what results from both: obesity and parenting. But her expertise lies in health and nutrition, and she has a knack for translating complex medical information into easy-to-digest language. You'll find her byline in niche publications, anthologies and popular newsstand magazines, including AARP, Good Housekeeping, Real Simple, Parents, Reader's Digest and O, The Oprah Magazine. She also regularly write for websites including WebMD.com and BabyCenter.com.



ALL ABOUT ME: LESSONS ON WRITING MEMOIR

Judy Goldman

Nonfiction

3 Thursdays: October 12, 19 & 26, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$145 | Non-members \$190

In this course, geared to both beginners and experienced writers, Judy Goldman will discuss each stage of the memoir process: finding the story only you can tell, beginnings, creating attitude on every page, scene vs. summary, the crucial role of reflection, deciding on structure, the pitfalls of writing about ourselves and the people close to us, keeping going despite that inner voice saying, “You can’t write!” This course will include in-class exercises and sharing. (We will not be workshopping previously written pieces.)

Judy Goldman is the award-winning author of seven books—three memoirs, two novels, and two collections of poetry. Her new memoir, *Child*, was named a Katie Couric Media Must-Read Book for 2022. Her recent memoir, *Together: A Memoir of a Marriage and a Medical Mishap*, was named one of the best books of 2019 by *Real Simple* magazine and received a starred review from *Library Journal*. Her work has appeared in *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The Charlotte Observer*, *Real Simple*, *LitHub*, and many literary journals and anthologies.



PATHS TO SELF-PUBLISHING

Kathy Izard

Business of Writing

1 Session: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

So, you’ve finished a manuscript and have made the decision to self-publish. Where do you start? Or, maybe you worry that self-publishing means “settling” for an unprofessional product. No matter on which side of that fence you sit, the volume of information and opinions is overwhelming. It can be difficult to know which services to trust and whether self-publishing is right for you. Kathy Izard has published four books three ways, including self-published and “Big Five.” Kathy will walk you through 10 steps to putting your words in the world. From purchasing your own ISBN number to ordering author copies, Kathy can answer all your questions about becoming a published author of adult or children’s books.

Kathy Izard is an award-winning author and speaker who writes inspirational nonfiction, including *The Hundred Story Home*, *The Last Ordinary Hour* and her upcoming release *Trust the Whisper* (Summer 2024). Kathy also publishes children’s books including *A Good Night for Mr. Coleman* and *Grace Heard a Whisper* (Fall 2023). Kathy has written essays for Katie Couric Media and her work has been featured on the Today Show, inspiring people to be changemakers in their community. Online: kathyizard.com.



REGISTER AT CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES

THE EXPRESSIVE POWER OF REPETITION: THE PANTOUM AND THE VILLANELLE

Morri Creech, Pulitzer Prize Finalist

Poetry

1 Session: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members \$50 | Non-members \$65

Several of the most inventive forms in poetry depend on repetition—not just of rhyme sounds, but of entire lines, which create new and unusual contexts as they move down the page, echoing and extending their meanings. In this class, we will focus on two forms: the villanelle and the pantoum. Through examination of examples, collaborative in-class writing, and individual composition, we will investigate the creative potential of these two powerful forms and unlock the writer's expressive possibilities.

Morri Creech is the author of four collections of poetry, the most recent of which are *The Sleep of Reason* (Waywiser, 2013), a finalist for Pulitzer Prize, and *Blue Rooms* (Waywiser, 2018). His fifth book, *The Sentence*, is forthcoming from LSU Press. A recipient of NEA and Ruth Lilly Fellowships, as well as grants from the North Carolina and Louisiana Arts councils, he is the Writer in Residence at Queens University of Charlotte.



NOVEMBER CLASSES

PUBLISHING SHORT PIECES: CONTESTS AND OPEN CALLS

Ashley Memory
Business of Writing

1 Session: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Sifting through the endless sea of writing markets while making time for writing can daunt any writer. Let us help! In our time together, we'll turn our lens on markets and open calls currently seeking short pieces, whether poetry, fiction, nonfiction or hybrid. We'll also cover tips and tricks to help your work stand out and catch any editor's eye.

Ashley Memory is a self-described "submissions whisperer" — nothing gives her more joy than helping her students find their way to publication. She has written for more than one hundred outlets, whether magazine, journal or website, most recently for the *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Healthline*, and *GreenPrints* magazine. She is the author of the novel *Naked and Hungry* and the poetry collection *Waiting for the Wood Thrush*.



REGISTER AT [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES](https://charlottelit.org/classes)

THE POETRY OF PRESENCE: READING AS A PATH TO MINDFULNESS

Brooke Lehmann

Multi-Genre

1 Session: Thursday, November 9, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

In this class we'll explore a few poems and short pieces around the theme of mindfulness. Class will open with a guided body scan meditation followed by a series of readings that follow the style of lectio divina or dharma contemplations. We'll respond to how the essence of the poems take shape in an embodied way as we hear them recited, informing our emotional and inner landscapes. As a group we'll discuss images or phrases that catch our attention, and the way metaphor creates meaning and resonance in our lives. We will also have time for a mindful writing exercise and optional sharing.

Brooke Lehmann, program director of Charlotte Lit, is a poet and creative who draws inspiration from nature, fashion, and her love of the piano. Her poems have been featured in *Tar River Poetry*, *Pedestal Magazine* and others. She was longlisted for the 2022 Palette Poetry Sappho Prize for Women Poets, and her chapbook manuscript, *Pillar of Exquisite Sorrows*, was named a finalist in Tusculum Review's 2023 Chapbook Prize. Brooke holds a B.S. from Purdue University and is a graduate of the Arts and Science Council Cultural Leadership Training program. She serves as an advisory group member of Charlotte Center for Mindfulness.



READ LIKE A WRITER: TONI MORRISON'S *SULA*

Kathryn Schville

Fiction

1 Session: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Kathryn Schville offers the next installment of her long-running series that explores the craft of fiction-writing through close reading. This time our focus is Toni Morrison's acclaimed short novel, *Sula*, which you'll read in advance. It's under 200 pages, but what a wallop! Morrison is a master at creating a world and setting story in motion. Kathryn will lead a discussion of how Morrison does it, examining the decisions she made about opening scenes, exposition and the strategic release of information. Along the way, we'll pause over Morrison's exquisite language to see what we can learn.

Kathryn Schville is the author of the novel *What Luck, This Life*, selected by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as one of the best southern books of 2018. Her short stories have appeared in *New Letters*, *Memorious*, *Crazyhorse*, *Literary Hub* and other journals, and have twice been cited for Special Mention in the Pushcart Prize. A recipient of an Artist Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council, she's led fiction workshops for 20 years and was the 2021 Visiting Writer at Gardner-Webb University.



REGISTER AT [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES](https://charlottelit.org/classes)

DECEMBER CLASSES

Poetry Masterclass

SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES: PLAYING WITH PERSONA

Sandra Beasley

1 Session: Saturday, December 2, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members \$75 | Non-members \$100

Drawing from the well of the writer's life can be a wonderful practice—but at times, it can be a tiring one. What about writing what you don't know? We'll give a close reading to poems with unconventional points of view, ranging from classical myths to historical figures to inanimate objects. We'll talk about preparatory brainstorming and research that makes a voice convincing, and consider the ethics of writing outside your own identity. An open conversation period will give folks who have already experimented with persona a chance to discuss their experiences. We'll close with a generative prompt that gets you ready to write your own persona poems.

Sandra Beasley is the author of *Made to Explode*, winner of the Housatonic Book Award; *Count the Waves*; *I Was the Jukebox*, winner of the Barnard Women Poets Prize; *Theories of Falling*, winner of the New Issues Poetry Prize; and *Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life*. She also edited *Vinegar and Char: Verse from the Southern Foodways Alliance*. In spring 2023, she was Davidson College's McGee Visiting Professor of Creative Writing. She lives in Washington, D.C.



Sandra Beasley
teaches at
Charlotte Lit
in 2016

And please also join us Friday evening, December 1
at Starlight on 22nd for Poetry Nightclub, featuring Sandra Beasley.
Charlotte poet Cedric Tillman opens. (See page 7.)

SEGMENTED ESSAYS: WHEN THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

Randon Billings Noble

Nonfiction

1 Session: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Segmented essays are divided into sections. Each section may contain something new, but all still belong cogently to the whole. In this class, we'll look at examples of segmented essays that use this form creatively. We'll also do a series of writing exercises that will lead to a segmented essay of your own. Participants will leave with a new understanding of the segmented essay as well as new work.

Randon Billings Noble is an essayist. Her collection *Be with Me Always* was published in 2019, and her anthology of lyric essays, *A Harp in the Stars*, was published in 2021, both from University of Nebraska Press. Other work has appeared in the Modern Love column of *The New York Times*, *The Rumpus*, *Brevity*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. Currently she is the founding editor of the online literary magazine *After the Art* and teaches in West Virginia Wesleyan's Low-Residency M.F.A. Program and Goucher's M.F.A. in Nonfiction Program. Online: randonbillingsnoble.com.



GOING DEEPER INTO SENTENCES: GRANULAR REVISION

Kristin Donnalley Sherman

Fiction

2 Thursdays, December 7 & 14, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$95 | Non-members \$125

Do you finally have a completed draft of a short story, essay, or book-length manuscript? Congratulations! Now you face the challenging yet rewarding task of revision. Through thoughtful revision you will not only discover the true bones of your story but begin to flesh it out with more muscular prose. Words and sentences are the building blocks of the worlds we create in our stories and essays. In this class, we will analyze paragraphs and sentences that sing as well as examples of our own writing to understand what works. We'll review how syntactical choices including sentence length, clause types, and rhetorical devices can transform our writing from competent to elegant. In addition, we'll play with diction, harnessing acoustical elements such as sound and rhythm.

Kristin Donnalley Sherman lives in Charlotte, where she works as a writer, editor, and writing coach. She's published both fiction and nonfiction and is currently at work on two novels. Her work has appeared in *Brevity*, *Barrelhouse*, *Silk Road*, *Main Street Rag*, *Flashquake*, and others. She completed the Book Development Program at Queens University of Charlotte.



REGISTER AT [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES](http://charlottelit.org/classes)

Poetry Masterclass

HAPPY POEMS!

Chen Chen

1 Session: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members \$75 | Non-members \$100

Do happy poems exist? If they do, can they be as good as the poems that wreck us? Can a happy poem wreck us? And how can we avoid sentimentality or, is that a risk we just need to take? In this generative session, we'll look at Ross Gay's essay, "Joy Is Such a Human Madness" (from his collection *The Book of Delights*) as a compass for our discussion and a starting point for writing about/from/through happiness, joy, and pleasure. Within the genre of happy poems, we'll think about poems that celebrate love, sex, community, and connection of various kinds. We'll examine some model poems by Gay and others, including Czesław Miłosz, Jane Hirshfield, and Derrick Austin. Come prepared to engage in jubilant experimentation.

Chen Chen is the author of two books of poetry, *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency* (BOA Editions, 2022) and *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities* (BOA Editions, 2017), which was longlisted for the National Book Award and won the Thom Gunn Award. His work appears in many publications, including *Poetry* and three editions of *The Best American Poetry*. He was the 2018-22 Jacob Ziskind Poet-in-Residence at Brandeis University and currently teaches for the low-residency M.F.A. programs at New England College and Stonecoast.



JANUARY CLASSES

BUILDING A CREATIVE PRACTICE IN THE NEW YEAR

Misha Lazzara

Multi-Genre

3 Tuesdays: January 9, 16 & 23 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$145 | Non-members \$190

In this course we will examine our current creative practices and work to build up, and then shore up, the areas where we tend to feel self-doubt or hesitancy creep in. We'll take a hard look at how, why and when we avoid writing and our own creative motivations, how that evasion affects us, and how we can achieve a regular rhythm that feels generative, free and fun. Over the three weeks we'll shine a light on our blocks, learn to stand up to the inner-censor and lastly find ways to set small and big creative goals in the new year!

Misha Lazzara is the author of the novels *Manmade Constellations* (Blackstone, 2022) and *Desperate, NC* (forthcoming). Her work has appeared on Poets.org, *October Hill Magazine*, *Amethyst Review* and more. She holds an M.F.A. in Fiction Writing from North Carolina State University and an M.A. in Literature with a focus in Creative Writing from UNC Charlotte.



2024: IT'S TIME TO FINALLY WRITE THAT BOOK!

Kim Wright

Multi-Genre

2 Thursdays: January 11 & 18, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$95 | Non-members \$125

You love to read and write, you've got the idea, and the vision of holding your own book in your hands has been a dream since childhood—so why is it so hard? In this class Kim Wright will show you how to structure your day like a writer and why rituals matter more than willpower. We will discuss ways to break the mammoth task of completing a manuscript into manageable pieces. In week one we'll discuss strategy, and then you'll have a week to try out those strategies. In week two we'll troubleshoot issues that arose and help you map out a plan to finally make true headway on that lifelong ambition. As Kafka said, "A non-writing writer is a monster courting insanity." So don't go mad, join us in January!

Kim Wright is the author of five novels—*Love in Mid Air*, *The Unexpected Waltz*, *The Canterbury Sisters*, *Last Ride to Graceland*, and *The Longest Day of the Year*. She is also an experienced nonfiction writer who has won awards in the field of food and travel writing. She teaches in Charlotte Lit's Authors Lab, as well as at other regional programs including the Flatiron Writers Room in Asheville. As the Story Doctor she specializes in the developmental editing of novels.



1+1=3: AN EKPHRASTIC WRITING WORKSHOP

Christine Arvidson

Poetry | Multi-Genre

1 Session: Saturday, January 20, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Charlotte Art League

Members: \$60 | Non-members \$75

Using the art-filled galleries at Charlotte Art League, writers will respond to what they see before them and learn to use visual art as a tool to prompt rich reflective writing. Participants may choose to respond in poetry or prose or any combination of genres. The aim will be to create rough drafts to expand and/or revise. The session is suitable for all levels of writers, from those cracking open their first blank notebook, to experienced writers who wish to spark their way into new work. Participants will be encouraged to participate in the May ekphrastic juried show at CAL (1+1=3) with work they begin in this workshop.

Chris Arvidson grew up in Michigan. She holds a B.A. from Olivet College, an M.A. from UNC Charlotte, and an M.F.A. from Goucher College. Chris has been an adjunct instructor at Robert Morris University and at UNC Charlotte. She has co-edited three anthologies in which her own work appears: *Mountain Memoirs: An Ashe County Anthology* (Main Street Rag), *Reflections on the New River: New Essays, Poems and Personal Stories* (McFarland), and *The Love of Baseball: Essays by Lifelong Fans* (McFarland). Her poetry chapbook, *The House Inside My Head* (Finishing Line Press), was published in 2022. Chris recently curated an ekphrastic show at the Charlotte Art League called "Evolution of Words and Art" and mounted her own ekphrastic show, "Painting Words," in the League's galleries.



THE ART OF THE TOPICAL ESSAY

Jodi Helmer

Nonfiction

1 Session: Thursday, January 25, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Learn what it takes to hone an idea, write descriptive scenes and share a message with universal appeal that editors can't wait to publish, whether you want to craft essays about personal experiences or a current event. We'll review the elements of successful essays, discuss what makes an irresistible essay topic, and how to get your words in front of editors.

Jodi Helmer has been a full-time freelance writer since 2002. She's written for small magazines and big brands and managed to support her family (and fund her 401k) in the process. You'll find her work in *National Geographic Traveler*, *Scientific American*, and *Our State*, and corporate sites for GE Healthcare, Pfizer, Mastercard and AARP.



GET YOUR HANDS ON THIS—THE INTERACTIVE POEM

Lisa Zerkle

Poetry

1 Session: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Just as poets might use craft devices like humor, rhyme, or lineation to encourage heightened attention from readers, interactivity is another tool, and one that's becoming increasingly prevalent. Here, interactivity is defined as "poetry whose design requires the reader not to merely receive the poem, but to collaborate or participate in its final form." Learning why some poets choose this device can expand your notion of what's possible on the page. To that end, we'll explore poems that specifically invite the reader's participation beyond merely reading—poems that fold, unfold, and sprawl across dimensions—in work by poets like Anne Carson, Leila Chatti, Jody Gladding, Tyehimba Jess, and others. Then we'll try our hand at some of our own.

Lisa Zerkle's poems have appeared in *The Collagist*, *Southern Poetry Anthology*, *Nimrod*, *storySouth*, and others. She was the creator and curator of 4X4CLT, Charlotte Lit's public art and poetry series. In January 2023, she was awarded an M.F.A. in Poetry from Warren Wilson College.



REGISTER AT [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES](https://charlottelit.org/classes)

FEBRUARY CLASSES

WRITING THE LOVE ESSAY

Ashley Memory

Nonfiction

Two Tuesdays: February 6 & 13, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$95 | Non-members \$125

Writing about love in a concise and engaging manner can be challenging, but it can also be a rewarding personal experience. In our time together, we'll review the elements of successful love essays and discuss what makes them unforgettable. A series of stimulating prompts will help you generate your own stories either long buried or forgotten. To help you shape your essay, we'll also discuss how to create a plausible and suspenseful story arc. Finally, we'll discuss format, revision, and the world of possible markets just waiting to publish your essay.

Ashley Memory has written about love all her life, most recently in the form of essays for PenDust Radio, *Cheat River Review*, and *GreenPrints* magazine. When she's not writing, she's either reading Jane Austen, making raspberry jam, or hollering for the dogs. She is the author of the novel *Naked and Hungry* and the poetry collection, *Waiting for the Wood Thrush*.



THE SOUND OF WRITING

Meghan Modafferri

Nonfiction

Three Thursdays: February 8, 15 & 22, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Charlotte Art League

Members: \$175 | Non-members \$210

Writers are accustomed to writing for the page, but what about for the ear? How does your writing change when the result will be spoken aloud, and how can you learn to perform it effectively? In this three-session course, you'll learn what makes a great three-minute spoken essay; you'll draft, get feedback, and edit an essay; you'll learn the basics of being recorded; and you'll record your three-minute essay in a professional sound studio. This class is being offered in partnership with Charlotte Art League.

Meghan Modafferri is the editorial director of Crash Course, an award-winning YouTube channel reaching more than 70 million people per year. She has taught writing and podcasting at Georgetown University, and her written and multimedia work has been published by *National Geographic*, *Slate*, and NPR.



REGISTER AT [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES](https://charlottelit.org/classes)

FINDING READERS—BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Kathy Izard

Business of Writing

1 Session: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

You have finally finished your manuscript but now you need to find your readers. How do you market your book without feeling like a used car salesman? Award-winning author Kathy Izard self-published her first book in 2016 when she had no social media accounts and not a single follower. She had to learn the hard way what works and what doesn't to connect with readers. Kathy believes she finally found the secret by focusing on serving readers not selling them. In the past six years (including launching a book in the pandemic), Kathy has successfully built relationships (not Facebook ads) to sell more than 25,000 books. And she has two new books coming out in 2024!

Kathy Izard is an award-winning author and speaker who writes inspirational nonfiction, including *The Hundred Story Home*, *The Last Ordinary Hour* and her upcoming release *Trust the Whisper* (Summer 2024). Kathy also publishes children's books including *A Good Night for Mr. Coleman* and *Grace Heard a Whisper* (Fall 2023). Kathy has written essays for Katie Couric Media and her work has been featured on the Today Show, inspiring people to be changemakers in their community. Online: kathyizard.com.



WRITING AUTOFICTION: A TWO-DAY IN-TOWN RETREAT

Robin Hemley

2 Sessions: Friday, February 23 (3-5 pm) & Saturday, February 24, 2024 (9:30 am-noon)

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$95 | Non-members \$125

In 1977, French novelist Serge Doubrovsky came up with the term “autofiction” to describe his novel, *Fils*. Autofiction is not simply another name for autobiographical fiction. It might come close to what some writers term memoir, or it might come closer to the ironic metafictional treatments of *Self* popularized by such writers in the 1960s and 70s as Kurt Vonnegut and John Barth. In this course, we will sample it all, reading and writing “fiction of strictly real events or facts” as well as fantastical and allegorical representations of ourselves, using much of our real biographical information, but not much else. If you like the idea of exploring writing that takes you spot between real and imagined versions of yourself, then this is the course for you.

Robin Hemley has published fifteen books of fiction and nonfiction. His most recent books are the autofiction, *Oblivion: An After-Autobiography* (Gold Wake, 2022), *The Art and Craft of Asian Stories: A Writer's Guide and Anthology*, co-authored with Xu Xi (Bloomsbury, 2021) and *Borderline Citizen: Dispatches from the Outskirts of Nationhood* (Nebraska, 2020; Penguin SE Asia, 2021). He has previously published four collections of short stories, and his stories have been widely anthologized. His writing text, *Turning Life into Fiction*, has sold over a hundred thousand copies and has been in print for 25 years.



And please also join us Friday evening, February 23
at Charlotte Lit for a reading by Robin Hemley, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Poetry Masterclass

POEM ENDINGS

Laure-Anne Bosselaar

1 Session: Thursday, February 29, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$75 | Non-members \$100

There are countless ways to end poems, and yet the great majority of endings do one of two things: greatly contract the focus of the poem, or expand it wider than any first-time reader could anticipate. By taking a close look at some poems we'll discover how the use of imagery, line-breaks, quotes, leaps, surprises and other "tricks" lead to their satisfactory conclusions.

Laure-Anne Bosselaar is the author of *The Hour Between Dog and Wolf*, *Small Gods of Grief*, which won the Isabella Gardner Prize for Poetry, and *A New Hunger*, selected as a Notable Book by the American Library Association. Her fourth book, *These Many Rooms*, came out from Four Way Books in 2019. With her late husband, the poet Kurt Brown, she translated a book by Flemish poet Herman de Coninck, *The Plural of Happiness*. The recipient of a Pushcart Prize and the editor of five anthologies, she taught at Emerson College, Sarah Lawrence College, University of California, Santa Barbara, and at the Solstice low residency M.F.A. in Creative Writing Program. She served as Santa Barbara's poet laureate from 2019 to 2021.



MARCH CLASSES

SPRING WRITING MARATHON

Irene Blair Honeycutt

Multi-Genre

1 Session: Saturday, March 2, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$95 | Non-members \$125

Spring forward into new writing depths! Through carefully selected prompts and timed writing laps, we'll pave the way for new ideas to surface. This writing marathon is designed to force the "censor" to the sidelines, even off the page. At the core of this method is the truth that so many great writers have asserted: We have within us the power to bring our sleeping images to the light! You'll be writing in a safe, relaxed environment, and encouraged, though not pressured, to read some of what you produce. You'll leave the Marathon with fresh material, new connections, and some revelations for your writing practice.

Irene Blair Honeycutt, award-winning teacher and poet, was recently acknowledged as one of six women who've shaped the history of Charlotte's community of readers and writers. Among her honors are the Charlotte Writers Club's Adelia Kimball Founder's Award for her advocacy of writers, Central Piedmont Community College's Irene Blair Honeycutt Distinguished Lectureship, a Creative Fellowship from the Charlotte Arts and Science Council and an NC Arts Council Scholarship. Her most recent of four poetry books is *Beneath the Bamboo Sky* (Main Street Rag, 2017).



LEAP, SHIFT, TURN: THE PRACTICE OF WILDNESS IN POEMS

Junious “Jay” Ward

Poetry

1 Session: Thursday, March 7, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

If you're following your GPS through an unfamiliar area, the last thing you want to hear is “rerouting...” followed by silence. In poems those unexpected detours and strange moments of unpredictability often challenge our imagination and deliver us to delightful (or haunting) destinations. Are these moments truly as anarchic or serendipitous as they feel—or are there ways we can adopt wildness into part of our poetic practice? In this class we'll explore poems that utilize tools of disruption and how we can incorporate those tools into our own writing. Embracing the spirit of Robert Frost, we'll set out on a quest to startle the reader and ourselves.

Junious “Jay” Ward is a poet, teaching artist, and Charlotte's inaugural poet laureate. He is the author of *Sing Me a Lesser Wound* (Bull City Press, 2020) and *Composition* (Button Poetry, 2023), and is also a National Poetry Slam champion (2018) and an Individual World Poetry Slam champion (2019). Jay currently serves as a program director for BreatheINK and vice chair on the board of The Watering Hole. He has attended Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, Callaloo, The Watering Hole, and Tin House Winter Workshop. His work can be found in *Columbia Journal*, *Four Way Review*, *Diode Poetry Journal*, *DIAGRAM*, and elsewhere.



INTERIORITY

Sarah Creech

Fiction

3 Tuesdays: March 12, 19 & 26, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$145 | Non-members \$195

In this three-part course, we're going to explore the inner world of our characters. We will review the essentials of character interiority and explore techniques to reveal your characters' perspective and motivation. We'll investigate elements of interiority such as thoughts and emotions, worldview, backstory, and desires. Through guided study and writing exercises, you will develop a strong understanding of how interiority supports the integrity of a compelling story. The series will conclude with one-on-one feedback conferences between writer and instructor.

Sarah Creech is the author of two novels, *Season of the Dragonflies* and *The Whole Way Home*. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in various publications, including *The Cortland Review*, *Writer'sDigest.com*, *Story South*, and *Literary Mama*. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and children and teaches at Queens University of Charlotte.



REGISTER AT [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES](https://charlottelit.org/classes)

AWAKEN YOUR CREATIVE ESSENCE: ART & WRITING

Umayal Annamalai & Surabhi Kaushik

Multi-Genre

1 Session: Thursday, March 14, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Join us for a workshop where we will explore looking inward through art and writing. We will respond to writing prompts and the emotions that stem from our writing through simple art. Art and writing will be used as tools to help us explore and speak up about parts of ourselves that make us unique. The goal is to access our inner essences and express them freely without judgement. Unleashing our creative sides in this way can open our minds to new and compelling ideas and make way for new discoveries about ourselves. Watercolor art supplies will be provided.

Umayal Annamalai is a self-taught mixed media expressionist and a creative coach. She uses her creativity to explore her journey towards self-discovery and to connect with her inner self and the world around her. Her art is a reflection of her emotions, which she transforms into beauty and grace to heal herself and others. She employs bright and bold colors to help people heal their suppressed negative emotions and find their voice. **Surabhi Kaushik** finds comfort and joy in playing the role of a copywriter, storyteller, poet, or essayist, not necessarily in that order. She is also a literary artist, which means she bridges talent and resources. She creates and facilitates writing programs to help build a strong, and supportive writing community.



EKPHRASIS, LYRICISM, AND RACE: A STUDY OF NATASHA TRETHEWEY'S *THRALL*

Malin Pereira

Poetry

1 Session: Thursday, March 21, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Thrall, Natasha Trethewey's 2007 Pulitzer Prize winning poetry collection, presents highly crafted lyric poems probing ideas about mixed race—historical and biographical as well as global and local. In this class, we'll discuss the collection's themes and look closely at the way the poet incorporates ekphrasis as a poetic technique. Trethewey, a master formalist, is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including from the NEA and Guggenheim Foundation, and served two terms as the 19th Poet Laureate of the United States (2012-2014). To get the most out of our discussion, please read the book in advance and bring your copy for a lively, interactive conversation.

Malin Pereira, Professor of English and Dean of the Honors College at UNC Charlotte, earned her Ph.D. in English at University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a minor in Afro-American Studies. Following early work on Toni Morrison, her scholarship and teaching have focused on contemporary Black poetry. Her books include *Rita Dove's Cosmopolitanism* and *Into a Light Both Brilliant and Unseen: Conversations with Contemporary Black Poets*. Her most recent publications are on Thylas Moss and Natasha Trethewey. Work in progress includes "A Black Cosmopolitan Poetics" for Cambridge University Press.



UNSETTLING OUR SYNTAX

Mary Szybist

1 Session: Saturday, March 23, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members \$75 | Non-members \$100

This class will draw inspiration from the counsel of Ralph Waldo Emerson: “People wish to be settled: only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them.” In this spirit, we will experiment with different generative exercises and read poems to guide us, to challenge us, and to spur us on. Possible writers whose work we will discuss include Layli Long Soldier, Renee Gladman, D. A. Powell, Charles Wright, Carl Philips. We’ll take inspiration from their examples and develop strategies for revising and re-making our poems by “unsettling our syntax.”



Mary Szybist is the author of *Incarnadine*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Poetry, and *Granted*, a finalist for the 20003 National Book Critics Circle Award. The recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center, she has taught at the Michener Center for Writers, the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, and the University of California at Berkeley. She lives in Portland, Oregon where she is the Morgan S. Odell Professor of Humanities at Lewis & Clark College.

And please also join us Friday evening, January 22
at Starlight on 22nd for Poetry Nightclub, featuring Mary Szybist.
(See page 7.)

2023 LIT UP! PHOTOS



Photos by Amy Hart Studios

APRIL CLASSES

READING *THE ODYSSEY*: COMING HOME FROM WAR

Jeffrey Thomson

Multi-Genre

Five Tuesdays: April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$195 | Non-members \$255

In this five-week course, participants will explore *The Odyssey* as a story of a man trying to come home physically from Troy but emotionally and spiritually as well. His is a magical, fantastical journey that may be almost entirely fiction, but it is also a journey for his wife and son as they navigate his absence and return. During the first week, we'll cover the intro and background around Homer, the Trojan Cycle and the Nostos stories. The following weeks we'll read 6 books ahead, and then discuss the rich discoveries of the text as a group.

Jeffrey Thomson is a poet, memoirist, translator, and editor, and the author of ten books including *Museum of Objects Burned by the Souls in Purgatory* and *Half/Life: New and Selected Poems* from Alice James Books, *The Belfast Notebooks*, *The Complete Poems of Catullus*, and *From the Fishhouse*. He has been an NEA Fellow, the Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Poetry Centre at Queen's University Belfast, and the Hodson Trust-John Carter Brown Fellow at Brown University. He is currently professor of creative writing at the University of Maine Farmington.



HOW TO QUERY YOUR NOVEL OR MEMOIR

Betsy Thorpe

Business of Writing

1 Session: Tuesday, April 4, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

So often, writers focus their energy on creating compelling finished books, then throw up their hands in frustration when it comes to producing query letters and finding agents. But a good query letter can make the difference between your letter getting deleted and your pages actually getting read. In this class, we'll discuss who these mysterious literary agents are, and the essential five paragraphs that make up a query letter, including the elevator pitch, author bio, and the dreaded comparison books. We'll take a look at some query letters that won the notice of agents. We'll review your elevator pitches and author bios, and discuss whether a good title makes a difference, why rhetorical questions are a no-no, and how you can do a little test marketing.

Betsy Thorpe started in book publishing as an assistant at Atheneum, eventually becoming an acquiring and developmental editor while working at HarperCollins, Broadway Books (Random House), Macmillan, and John Wiley & Sons. She then started Betsy Thorpe Literary Services, which helps authors deliver their best work to the public, either through publishers or self-publishing. She is the co-author of numerous nonfiction books, including three featured in *The New York Times*, and has published three novels under the pen name of Hope Carolle with Dragonblade Publishing in 2023.



GODMOTHERS, WOLVES, AND JUNIPER TREES: WHAT IS A FAIRYTALE?

Tracey Perez

Multi-Genre

2 Thursdays: April 11 & 18, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom

Members: \$95 | Non-members \$125

Once upon a time—we all remember those magical words from our childhoods that swept us away to a world of sleeping princesses, magic wands, and transformed beasts—often filtered through the lens of a Disney movie. Be warned: these are not those tales! How did fairytales transform from stories for adults to staples of childhood (and back again)? Why and how do other genres utilize fairytale motifs and archetypes? Do they all end happily ever after? Considering some of the earliest versions of familiar stories, recent retellings with strange twists, and lesser-known works, we will address these and other questions.

Tracey Perez is a fairytale and folklore scholar who teaches in the English Department at Queens University of Charlotte. She also facilitates therapeutic and legacy writing classes for cancer survivors. A native North Carolinian, Tracey holds a B.A. from Wake Forest University and received a graduate degree in Medieval Studies from University North Carolina Greensboro. When not teaching and researching, Tracey enjoys reading speculative fiction, binge watching historical fantasy series, and playing mah-jongg.



MAY CLASSES

EVERYTHING—REALLY, EVERYTHING—JUDY GOLDMAN KNOWS ABOUT MEMOIR

Judy Goldman

Nonfiction

1 Session: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

In this immersive talk Judy will cram every tip she wishes she had known before she started writing personal essays and memoir. She'll discuss beginnings, voice, structure, descriptive details, reflection, scene vs. summary, and tension. She'll even talk about a writer's self-doubt and how she keeps going despite those little voices that say, "You can't do it. You're not a writer." For beginners and experienced writers alike.

Judy Goldman is the award-winning author of seven books—three memoirs, two novels, and two collections of poetry. Her new memoir, *Child*, was named a Katie Couric Media Must-Read Book for 2022. Her recent memoir, *Together: A Memoir of a Marriage and a Medical Mishap*, was named one of the best books of 2019 by *Real Simple* magazine and received a starred review from *Library Journal*. Her work has appeared in *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The Charlotte Observer*, *Real Simple*, *LitHub*, and many literary journals and anthologies.



NUDDING THE TRANSFORMATION: USING PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY IN OUR POEMS

AE Hines

Poetry

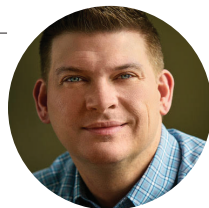
1 Session: Thursday, May 9, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

The poet Ellen Bryant Voigt has been quoted as saying that “poetry is not the transcription but the transformation of experience.” In this class, we’ll explore how poets incorporate details from their personal histories into the narrative of a poem, and then lyrically transform those moments into memorable discovery. This will be a generative session, with a prompt and time to write and share, so bring your preferred writing tools.

AE Hines is the author of *Any Dumb Animal*, his debut collection which received honorable mention in the North Carolina Poetry Society’s 2022 Brockman-Campbell book contest, and was a da Vinci Eye finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Award. His poems have won numerous prizes, and are widely published in anthologies and literary journals, including more recently: *The Sun*, *Rattle*, *The Southern Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Rhino*, *Ninth Letter*, *Poet Lore*, *I-70 Review* and *The Greensboro Review*. He resides in Charlotte and Medellín, Colombia. Online: aehines.net.



HOW TO PITCH FREELANCE WORK

Jodi Helmer

Business of Writing

1 Session: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: In-person at Charlotte Lit

Members: \$50 | Non-members \$65

Whether you’re looking to land your first freelance client or have some experience and want to land more (and higher paying) clients, crafting a successful pitch is essential for landing freelance work. But different types of clients require different approaches. In this class, we’ll review the basics of pitching freelance work, from finding opportunities and writing compelling pitches to negotiating contracts and managing workflow. The class will focus on journalism/articles and branded content for corporate clients, and there will be hands-on exercises to help you write a compelling pitch.

Jodi Helmer has been a full-time freelance writer since 2002. She’s written for small magazines and big brands and managed to support her family (and fund her 401k) in the process. You’ll find her work in *National Geographic Traveler*, *Scientific American*, and *Our State*, and corporate sites for GE Healthcare, Pfizer, Mastercard and AARP.



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We've moved! Our original home was sold and we have relocated to a terrific new spot inside hygge coworking's Belmont neighborhood location, a mile from our old home.



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