

BRIGHT HILL PRESS & LITERARY CENTER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2023 - Celebrating 31 Years

JANUARY 2- MARCH 6, Winter 2023 **SEEING THINGS INTERIM CRITIQUE GROUP** **Monday 7 PM, 10 sessions** **Led by Pam Strother**

January 2- March 6. Intensive poetry workshop led by Pam Strother. 10 week session - Monday evening from 7 to 9:30 - Workshop value: \$700 (scholarships and sliding scale offered to those in financial need). Registration fee: \$150 remainder of fee, and awarded scholarships covered by donors and funders.

Pam Strother, now retired, was a university teacher and practicing psychotherapist for more than thirty years. Writing poetry since first grade, she has organized poetry programs, readings, and seminars and was a reviewer of poetry collections for *Solares Hill*, a Key West, FL newspaper. She has been a featured reader at the Robert Frost Poetry Festival, Key West, FL, at Bright Hill Literary Center, Treadwell, NY, and at Community Arts Network of Oneonta, NY, as well as a judge for Poetry Out Loud. In addition, Pam is also a four decades participant and leader of sacred celebrations and women's circles. Her chapbook, *Here at the End of the Road: Key West Poems*, was published in 2007. In 2017, she was a contributor to *Like Light: 25 Years of Poetry and Prose* and in 2020, she was a contributor to *Seeing Things: An Anthology of Poetry* both by Bright Hill Poets and Writers.

FEBRUARY 20-24, 2023 **PREHISTORIC BEARS AND CATSKILLS CREATURES- TAUGHT BY BERTHA ROGERS** **Youth Literacy Arts Education Workshop**

February 20-24. Workshop Cost to Participants: \$170 - led by master teaching artist Bertha Rogers. - Ages 6 -14: 9 am - 2:30 pm, 5 days – We'll learn about Eurypteris, Coelophysis, American Mastodon, Giant Beaver, Giant Short-faced Bear, and others and how they lived. We'll construct our own versions of them in the form of papier mache and in dioramas; and we'll write poems and riddles and stories about them. On the last day we will read our writings and present an exhibit of our projects for parents and friends. The cost is \$250 for out-of-area students and \$170 for regional students (cost includes morning & afternoon snacks (students bring their own lunch). Registration is limited to 22 students.(Delaware Academy students receive full scholarships; full and partial scholarships are available for Delaware and Otsego County students).

Bertha Rogers's poems appear in journals and anthologies and the collections *Wild, Again* (Salmon, 2019); *Heart Turned Back* (Salmon, 2010); *Even the Hemlock* (Six Swans, 2005); *The Fourth Beast* (Snark, 2004); *A House of Corners* (Three Conditions, 2000); *Sleeper, You Wake* (Mellen, 1991); and *What Want Brings: New & Selected Poems* (forthcoming, Salmon, 2023). Her translation of Beowulf, the Anglo-Saxon epic, was published in 2000 (Birch Brook); her translation of the riddle-poems from the Anglo-Saxon Exeter Book, *Uncommon Creatures*, was published in 2019 (Six Swans). Grants received include several from NYSCA, NYFA, and other foundations. Rogers co-founded with Ernest M. Fishman Bright Hill Press & Literary Center in 1992. She has been awarded residency fellowships to artists' colonies, among them MacDowell, Millay, Saltonstall, and Hawthornden Int'l Writing Retreat. A Master Teaching Artist, she presents programs in schools, libraries, and other venues. Rogers has served as judge for local, regional, and NY state NEA Poetry Out Loud Contests and is a member of the selection committee for the NY Writers Hall of Fame. Her visual works have been shown in hundreds of juried and solo exhibits throughout the US and Europe and are collected in the Harry Ransom Archive at

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the University of Texas.

This workshop runs Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 2:30 PM

Ages 6 - 14

Cost to tri-county area students only: \$ 170

Cost to out of town students: \$250

Full scholarships available to Delaware Academy Students with thanks to the AL Kellogg Foundation

FEBRUARY 23, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MCDONALD DIXON

Mc. Donald Dixon was born on the island of Saint Lucia in the West Indies where he has been active in creative pursuits since 1964. Despite having published several short stories; four novels and written several plays, he is best known for his poetry. In 1994, he received the Saint Lucia Medal of Merit for his contribution to literature and photography. In 2006, he was honored by Saint Lucia's Cultural Development Foundation with a lifetime achievement award.

His work has appeared in the following publications – *BIM, Link Magazine, Caribbean Quarterly (CQ), West Indian Writer, Callaloo, Poetry International, Wasafari, Caribbean New Wave Contemporary Short Stories*, and *The Oxford Book of Caribbean Verse, Agenda*, and *RBL*, with publications in French, Spanish, Danish and Mandarin.

RICHARD GEORGES

Richard Georges is a writer of essays, fiction, and three collections of poetry. His most recent book, *Epiphaneia* (2019), won the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, and his first book, *Make Us All Islands* (2017), was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. His second book, *Giant* (2018), was highly commended by the Forward Prizes and longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize.

Richard is a recipient of a Fellowship from the Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Study and has been listed or nominated for several other prizes, including the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize, the Wasafiri New Writing Prize, and a Pushcart Prize. He is a Founding Editor of *Moko*, an online publication focused on Caribbean art and literature. In 2020, Richard was appointed the first Virgin Islands Poet Laureate. He works in higher education and lives in Tortola with his wife and children.

MARCH 9, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

AYSE GUVENILIR

Ayse Guvenilir was born in Austin into a family with a Turkish father, a Venezuelan mother, and three older brothers. Growing up in Texas, France, and various parts of upstate New York, Ayse has always used reading and writing for connection, reflection, and relaxation as she moved from place to place. She sees poetry in particular as a form of writing that can surpass the bounds of what words are expected to be, in turn connecting her with others. Ayse got her bachelor's degree in biological engineering with a minor in creative writing from MIT and is currently a master's student in the Biomechatronics Group at

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the MIT Media Lab. Through her work, Ayse aims to empathize, educate, and inspire, the way that the works of others have always done for her. *Our Ancestors Did Not Breathe This Air* is her first book, a poetry anthology co-written with five other poets.

AFEFAH KHAZI-SYED

Afeefah Khazi-Syed was born and raised in the DFW metroplex but has always called two places home: the suburbs of Texas and her grandparents' homes in Southern India. After studying biological engineering with a minor in urban studies at MIT, Afeefah finds herself on a new journey as a first-year medical student at UT Southwestern. She attributes her love for writing and storytelling to her grandparents' bedtime stories and the many writing mentors she has found throughout her life, from high school English teachers to other immigrant writers. Afeefah views poetry as a deeply personal exchange of experiences.

MAISHA PROME

Maisha M. Prome was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh and has moved back and forth between Bangladesh and the United States throughout her life. Maisha used to write poetry as a child growing up in New York City, but rediscovered it in college while taking classes for her writing minor. Aside from poetry, Maisha enjoys all things creative, from baking to crocheting to writing fiction. She has won awards for her short stories and hopes to continue writing alongside working in research and education. Maisha graduated from MIT with a bachelor's degree in biological engineering. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in molecular biology at Yale University.

MARWA ABDULHA

Marwa Abdulhai was born in Chennai, India and has called many places home across the US and in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. She completed her bachelors and master's studies in computer science at MIT, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in robotics and artificial intelligence at University of California, Berkeley. She is drawn to poetry for its oral tradition, and grew up hearing her Dada Saab recite the works of Muhammad Iqbal and Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi in their home in South India. Performing, writing, and listening to poetry allows her to connect with God and understand existence. It is her form of dawah to herself and the world.

ALEENA SHABBIR

Aleena Shabbir was born in Queens, New York and has lived in New York ever since. As a Pakistani-US-American, she cherishes connecting with a multitude of cultures, in addition to her own roots. Many years after the minor poetry lessons she had taken in elementary school, Aleena found a community with these fellow poets who have taught her how to express herself creatively and comfortably; she is forever grateful for them and their care. Having studied data science/operations research and different fields of applied mathematics, Aleena hopes to one day work in policy development with a quantitative background. Aleena usually enjoys reading, anything to do with nature, traveling, and pursuing adrenaline inducing experiences.

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Mariam Dogar

Mariam Eman Dogar was born in Singapore and has lived in Dubai and Massachusetts. Moving every few years, Mariam describes the closest thing to “home” as the intangible bridge she and her siblings occupy between the very different countries, cultures, and families of her US-American mother and Pakistani father. Mariam has loved writing since she was in elementary school, creating fictional worlds and characters in the back of her notebooks. However, she started writing poetry during her time as a biology major and urban planning minor at MIT. Poetry is now deeply connected to self-care and spirituality for Mariam while she is training to be a physician at Harvard Medical School.

MARCH 23, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

SAFIA JAMA

Safia Jama was born to a Somali father and an Irish American mother in Queens, New York. A Cave Canem graduate fellow, she has published poetry in *Ploughshares*, *Boston Review*, *World Literature Today*, *Spoken Black Girl*, and *Poem-a-Day*. Her poetry has also been featured on WNYC’s *Morning Edition* and CUNY TV’s *Shades of US* series. Jama is the author of *Notes on Resilience*, included in the New-Generation African Poets chapbook box set (Akashic Books 2020). Her full-length poetry collection, *Crowded House*, is forthcoming from *Beltway Editions* (Fall 2023).

TIM HUNT

A fourth generation Californian, Tim Hunt was born in Calistoga and raised primarily in Sebastopol, small towns north of San Francisco that were, in the 1950s and 1960s, still agricultural, working-class communities. As a boy, he identified strongly with the Lake County region of his father's family, an area where quicksilver mining had once been profitable. Here one of his aunts taught him *I Can Tell You Are a Logger 'Cause You Stir Your Coffee with Your Thumb*, while a rockabilly cousin offered *Be-Bop-A-Lula*. Before heading east to school, he also discovered such San Francisco Summer of Love wonders as *Section 43* by Country Joe & the Fish, and in his teen years dreamed of playing guitar like Carl Perkins and being able to sing like Fred Neil. He has at times claimed he was the lead singer and rhythm guitarist in the band *Derridean Debris*, which to the best of his knowledge never existed, and was for a time in a band that may have been called *Moby-Dick & the See-Men* (among other possible spellings).

Educated at Cornell University, he has taught American literature at several schools, including Washington State University and Deep Springs College. His last gig was at Illinois State University, where he was University Professor of English. He and his wife Susan, a retired respiratory therapist, have two children: John, a visual artist, and Jessica, a composer.

Tim Hunt is the author of five collections: [*Voice to Voice in the Dark*](#) (Broadstone Books), [*Ticket Stubs & Liner Notes*](#) (winner of the 2018 Main Street Rag Poetry Book Award), [*The Tao of Twang*](#) and [*Poem's Poems & Other Poems*](#) (both CW Books), and [*Fault Lines*](#) (The Backwaters Press). His scholarly publications include the five-volume edition *The Collected Poetry of Robinson Jeffers* (Stanford University Press), *The Textuality of Soulwork: Kerouac's Search for Spontaneous Prose* (University of

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Michigan Press), and *Kerouac's Crooked Road: Development of a Fiction* (University of California Press).

March 13- May 15, Spring 2023

SEEING THINGS

Mondays at 7 PM, 10 sessions

Led by Robert Bensen

Intensive poetry workshop led by acclaimed poet and retired English professor Robert Bensen for high school, college, and continuing education students; Times TBD - Registration Fee: \$350 (scholarships and sliding scale offered to those in financial need). Bright Hill charges students \$350; remainder of fee, and awarded scholarships covered by donors and funders.

Robert Bensen has directed the Seeing Things poetry workshop since 2019. His poetry has been published in six collections, including *Before* (Five Oaks Press) and *Orenoque, Wetumka* (Bright Hill Press). *What Lightning Spoke: New and Selected Poems* is forthcoming from Bright Hill. Along with non-fiction and literary essays, his poetry has appeared in *AGNI, Akwe:kon, Antioch Review, Berfrois, Callaloo, The Caribbean Writer, Jamaica Journal, La presa, Native Realities, The Paris Review, Partisan Review, Ploughshares, Poetry Wales, River Styx, Yankee Magazine*, and elsewhere. He has edited anthologies of Native American and Caribbean literature and authored *American Indian and Aboriginal Canadian Childhood Studies* (Oxford University Press). His writing won a poetry fellowship from the NEA, research fellowships from the NEH and the Newberry Library, a shared Eric Hoffer Award, poetry awards from Harvard University, the New York State Council on the Arts, Illinois Arts Council, the Robert Penn Warren Award. His first book was a finalist for the Walt Whitman Award (Academy of American Poets) and the Emily Dickinson Prize (Poetry Foundation). He is Professor Emeritus at Hartwick College, where he directed the writing programs for 39 years. He also taught at the University of Illinois, Parkland College (Champaign, Illinois) and SUNY Oneonta. He is the founding director of Woodland Arts Editions (Oneonta NY).

Bright Hill Tiny Desk Series to be published in 2023 featuring national poets.

APRIL 3-7, 2023

THE CATSKILL FOSSIL FOREST IN CAIRO + THE GILBOA FOREST

Bus trip to Cairo & Gilboa to see fossil forest in quarry and in Gilboa

Youth Literacy Arts Education Workshop

April 3-7. Workshop Cost to Participants: \$170 - led by master teaching artist Bertha Rogers. - Ages 6-14, 9 am - 2:30 pm, 5 days There's a forest in Cairo that dates back 386 million years predating the Gilboa Forest by 2-3 million years. We will learn about these forests, their trees and root systems, then build our own trees and forests and write poems and riddles and stories about them and how they communicate with each other. The cost is \$250 for out-of-area students and \$170 for regional students (cost includes morning & afternoon snacks (students bring their own lunch). Registration is limited to 22 students.(Delaware Academy students receive full scholarships; full and partial scholarships are available for Delaware and Otsego County students).

This workshop runs Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 2:30 PM

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SPRING SESSION: APRIL 3 - 7 (During BOCES Spring Break)

Ages 6 - 14

Cost to tri-county area students only: \$170

Cost to out of town students: \$250

Full scholarships available to Delaware Academy Students with thanks to the AL Kellogg Foundation

APRIL 13, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

CELIA SORHAINDO

Celia A. Sorhaindo was born in The Commonwealth of Dominica. She migrated with her family to England in 1976, when she was 8 years old, returning home in 2005. Her poems have been published in several Caribbean and international journals. She is co-compiler of *Home Again: Stories of Migration and Return*, published by *Papillote Press* and her first poetry chapbook, *Guabancex*, longlisted for the 2021 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, was published in 2020, also by *Papillote Press*. Her first full length poetry collection, *Radical Normalisation*, was published by *Carcenet Press* in 2022.

VIRGINIA ARCHER

Virginia Archer is the pen name of Jean Mederick, who has a BEng.Hons. Degree in Civil Engineering with Architecture from the University of Leeds, England. She was born in the UK, from Saint Lucian and English parentage, but has lived most of her life on the tropical island paradise of Saint Lucia, where she also raised her daughter. A recent empty nester, she spends free time writing and painting. She has self-published four volumes of poetry, her first being *Tangerine Skies* and including *Somewhere In Between*, *Of Dead Romance And Papercuts* and *How To Forget To Breathe*, all available on Amazon or Lulu. Her poem *The Leaving Affair'* was published in BIM magazine Volume 10, 2020. Her poem *There's So Much Smog I Missed It When You Put Your Shoes On* was the winner of the Peepaltree Press Pierrot Canticles Competition in August, 2020. Her Poems *Human Pauses*, *There's So Much Beauty In All The Painful Things'* and *Her Voice Went Quiet And Settled In My Ribs* were published in the online blog *Acalabash Poetry Portfolio-1: Curated By John Robert Lee*.

APRIL 27, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

PHIL MEMMER

Philip Memmer is the author of six books of poems, most recently *Cairns* (Lost Horse Press, 2022). His poems have appeared in such journals as *Poetry*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Poetry London*, and *Mid-American Review*, in many anthologies, in the Library of Congress's "Poetry 180" website, and in Ted Kooser's "American Life in Poetry" column. He lives in upstate New York, where he serves as Executive Director of the YMCA of Central New York's Arts Branch, where he founded the Downtown Writers Center in 2001. He is the recipient of a 2023 Individual Artist Grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, serves as Publisher at Tiger Bark Press, and teaches creative writing at Hamilton College.

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HAZEL SIMMONS-MCDONALD

Hazel Simmons-McDonald is the former Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies Open Campus, a post which she held from August 1, 2007 until July 31, 2014 when she retired. Prior to that, she served as Head of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature, Deputy Dean of Outreach, Deputy Dean – Planning, and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the Cave Hill Campus. She also served as the Co-Chair of the UWI Cultural Studies Initiative. She is a UWI Professor Emerita and her field of specialization is Applied Linguistics.

Her research interests include second language acquisition, the development of literacy by Creole and Creole Influenced Vernacular speakers and vernacular literacy within the formal context. She served for several years as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, as its Vice President for one year, and a two-year stint as President of the Society from August 2008. Her publications include articles and book chapters on second language acquisition, vernacular literacy, language education policy, literacy development, language and culture, and open and distance learning. She has also co-edited books on Creole influenced vernaculars in education. She collaborates on writing French Creole instructional texts for native speakers of Antillean French Creole and has also published several English language texts for use at secondary and tertiary levels. She was a member of the International Council of Distance Education Standing Conference of Presidents (ICDE-SCOP 2008- 2014) for which she led workshops and presented papers on lifelong learning and selected aspects of Distance Education. She was also an honorary advisor of the Commonwealth of Learning from 2009-2014.

She writes fiction and poetry as a hobby and has published poems in several journals, including *The Malahat Review*, *The Literary Review*, *The Atlanta Review*, *Poui*, *Pathways*, *Calabash*, *BIM* and a few selected anthologies. Her short fiction has been published in *BIM*, *Poui* and *Thicker than Water* Peekash Press Anthology (2018). Her first collection of poems, *Silk Cotton and other trees* was published by Ian Randle Press in 2004, and her first collection of short fiction, *Shabine and Other Stories*, was published by the University of the West Indies Press in December 2021.

She currently undertakes assignments occasionally as an education consultant and has worked on projects for the ECERP/CIDA, UWI/DFATD Legal Impact Project, CXC, the OECS Early Literacy Project and the Erdiston Teachers' College Literacy Diagnostic and Early Intervention training programme, and the Universal Management Group Ltd. for the Review of CDB's Education Policy and Strategy.

She was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her contribution to education in 2012; she received an award for outstanding contribution to Education from the World Education Congress in 2014 and was given an award for *Outstanding Contribution to Linguistics & Multidisciplinary Education* by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the UWI in February 2019.

MAY 6 - THE WORD AND IMAGE GALLERY PRESENTS

UNCOMMON CREATURES

ARTIST: BERTHA ROGERS

A word and image installation at The Word and Image Gallery. Times to be announced. Show runs through June 4.

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MAY 11, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

FRANK HABERLE

Frank Haberle is the author of two books: *Shufflers* (Flexible Press, Minneapolis, September 2021), a story of transients moving through minimum-wage jobs in the 1980s; and the upcoming *Downlanders* (Flexible Press, November 2023), following five misfits into a fictional wilderness. Frank's short stories have won awards from *Pen Parentis*, *Beautiful Loser Magazine*, *the Sustainable Arts Foundation*, and (most recently) the 2021 Rose Warner Prize for Fiction. They have appeared in more than 30 journals including *Deep Wild Journal*, *the Adirondack Review*, *the Baltimore Review*, *Wilderness House Literary Journal*, *Necessary Fiction*, *Vagabonds* and the *Nomadic Review*.

Professionally, Frank has worked for more than thirty years as a nonprofit grant writer with New York-based human service agencies including The Children's Aid Society, Community Resource Exchange, Goddard-Riverside Community Center and, most recently, with New Settlement in The Bronx. He was a founding Board member, and is now a volunteer workshop leader for the NY Writers Coalition, leading an Amherst method-driven writing group with the Creative Center for Health and Healing on the Lower East Side. Frank lives in Brooklyn with his wife and three children. More about Frank's writing and work can be learned [here](#).

ALVIN ENG

Alvin Eng is an educator. His plays and performances have been seen Off-Broadway, throughout the U.S., as well as in Paris, Hong Kong and Guangzhou, China. His memoir, *Our Laundry, Our Town: My Chinese American Life from Flushing to the Downtown Stage and Beyond*, was published by *Fordham University Press* in May 2022. The memoir chronicles growing up in a Chinese Hand Laundry in what was then one of the few immigrant Asian families in the Flushing, Queens, neighborhood of that singular universe that was NYC in the 1970s. After finding his personal and artistic voice through Asian American arts, activism, punk rock and theatre, Eng went on to play in punk bands as well as to become a playwright, author and performer. The memoir culminates in Hong Kong and China. There, Eng was invited to perform his solo performance work, *The Last Emperor of Flushing*, in English, in a former People's Hall of the Cultural Revolution in his family's ancestral Guangdong province. That performance was an extension of a Fulbright Specialist Devised Theatre/Oral History Residency that Eng co-conceived and directed with his wife, director/dramaturg Wendy Wasdahl, at City University of Hong Kong. In this devised theatre/oral history project, students wrote and performed English language plays in response to Thornton Wilder's classic Americana play, *Our Town*. As Wilder spent part of his childhood in China, when his father was U.S. Consul General to Hong Kong and Shanghai, *Our Town* has many Chinese influences.

Our Laundry, Our Town was covered by *The New York Times*, NPR/WNYC's All of It with Alison Stewart and The Brian Lehrer Show, NY1 and CUNY-TV, among many others. The book has also been acquired for the collections of The New York Public Library and numerous public and academic libraries. *Our Laundry, Our Town* is also being taught in Asian American and Urban Studies courses at the City University of New York and other colleges and universities. *Three Trees*, the first of Eng's Portrait Plays series, was published by Obie Award-winning playwright Caridad Svich's *No Passport*

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Press in 2021. Eng is the author and editor of the oral history/play anthology, *Tokens? The NYC Asian American Experience on Stage*. His plays, lyrics and memoir excerpts have also been published in numerous anthologies. His storytelling and commentary have been broadcast and streamed on National Public Radio, among others. As a Professor of Playwriting, Theatre, Creative Writing and Public Speaking, Eng has had Full-Time Academic Appointments, Visiting Professorships and Residencies on the Undergraduate and Graduate level. He is also a two-time Fulbright Specialist appointee as a Scholar in Theatre/U.S. Studies. During his first appointment, he was in residence at City University of Hong Kong and invited by the U.S. Consulate, Guangzhou, to conduct theatre workshops and perform his memoir monologue, *The Last Emperor Of Flushing*, in his family's ancestral Guangdong Province. Eng holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program, Tisch School of the Arts of New York University.

MAY 13, 9 - 4 PM - HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR MOTHER - ARTISTIC STORYTELLING WITH NICK KELSH

The day before Mother's Day, Nick Kelsh will take students out into the world and inside our gallery studio to learn how to shoot a portrait (of someone you love). After lunch, Nick will teach editing, captioning, and offer insights into how to write an accompanying piece to the photo. We will print the photos at Bright Hill for students to take home. More details to come.

MAY 25, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

BERTHA ROGERS

Bertha Rogers's poems appear in journals and anthologies and the collections *Wild, Again* (Salmon, 2019); *Heart Turned Back* (Salmon, 2010); *Even the Hemlock* (Six Swans, 2005); *The Fourth Beast* (Snark, 2004); *A House of Corners* (Three Conditions, 2000); *Sleeper, You Wake* (Mellen, 1991); and *What Want Brings: New & Selected Poems* (forthcoming, Salmon, 2023). Her translation of Beowulf, the Anglo-Saxon epic, was published in 2000 (Birch Brook); her translation of the riddle-poems from the Anglo-Saxon Exeter Book, *Uncommon Creatures*, was published in 2019 (Six Swans). Grants received include several from NYSCA, NYFA, and other foundations. Rogers co-founded with Ernest M. Fishman Bright Hill Press & Literary Center in 1992. She has been awarded residency fellowships to artists' colonies, among them MacDowell, Millay, Saltonstall, and Hawthornden Int'l Writing Retreat. A Master Teaching Artist, she presents programs in schools, libraries, and other venues. Rogers has served as judge for local, regional, and NY state NEA Poetry Out Loud Contests and is a member of the selection committee for the NY Writers Hall of Fame. Her visual works have been shown in hundreds of juried and solo exhibits throughout the US and Europe and are collected in the Harry Ransom Archive at the University of Texas.

RICHARD LEVINE

Richard Levine, a retired NYC teacher, is the author of *Selected Poems*, *Contiguous States*, and five chapbooks. *Now in Contest* is forthcoming from Fernwood Press. An Advisory Editor of BigCityLit.com, he is the recipient of the 2021 Connecticut Poetry Society Award, and was co-editor of

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“Invasion of Ukraine 2022: Poems.” His review *The Spoils of War* is forthcoming from *American Book Review*. His website is: richardlevine107.com.

MAY 29- JULY 17 Every Monday

REVISIONIST

POETRY WORKSHOP- ALL AGES

Taught by Georgia Popoff

In a collaborative, hands-on workshop, participants will work together to discuss edits and opportunities in our work in progress. Following *After the Beginning, What's Next?* – the Summer 2022 revision workshop – this session will incorporate the many lenses of examining a poem as members work together in real time to find the way to stronger poems that afford our readers deeper images, inference, and connection. The process will also rely upon an ongoing craft conversation to further our understanding of how a poem comes to be and how it may realize its full potential.

Registration Fee: \$75

MAY- OCTOBER

WORDS TO STAGE- NEW 2023 PROGRAM

Bright Hill Press (Treadwell, NY) will partner with The Visionary (Historic theater in Mt. Vision, NY owned by Baryshnikov Arts Center Operations Manager Pamela Rapp and IATSE stagehand Jamie Leonard) on a series of workshops culminating in a final stage production. The program will be co-produced by educator, writer, choreographer and dancer Diane Rawlinson.

Diane Smagatz-Rawlinson holds a degree in Dance Education from Ohio State, MFA from UW-Madison, and was on dance faculties at Northwestern University, UW- Stevens Point, and University of Akron. Ms Rawlinson was one of the first certified leaders of InterPlay worldwide and is a Dance/Education ambassador for the work. A writer/editor for *Dance Spirit/Dance Teacher* magazines from 1997-2019 she was named NDA Midwest Dance Educator, UW-Madison School of Education Distinguished Alumni, District 214 Friends of the Arts Award, Illinois Teacher of the Year Meritorious Award, and 2014 Chicago's Ruth Page Award Recipient for her work as an advocate, mentor and educator. She has presented InterPlay at state, national, and international conferences and workshops including: International InterPlay Conference Illinois State Theatre Festival, National/Regional HS Dance Festival, DePaul University, Illinois State University, Loyola University, Dance Teacher Magazine Conference, Bill Evans Somatics Conference, CNADM, NDEO Conference, Hubbard Street Professional Development Institute, and Gibney Dance Center. Recently Diane retired after 30 years as the Dance/yoga teacher at Wheeling HS (Illinois) where she directed the dance company, choreographed and assisted musicals, founded *Fusion* (a student created show), a yearly charitable benefit concert and yearly children's community workshop.

JUNE 8, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

GEORGIA POPOFF

Georgia A. Popoff is a writer, editor, arts-in-education specialist, and Workshops Coordinator for the YMCA of Central NY's Downtown Writers Center, where she teaches poetry and creative nonfiction.

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Her poetry includes *Coaxing Nectar from Longing* (Hale Mary Press, 1997), *The Doom Weaver* (Main Street Rag Publishers, 2008), and *Psalter: The Agnostic's Book of Common Curiosities* (Tiger Bark Press, 2015). Her fourth collection of poetry, *Psychometry*, was released in late 2019 by Tiger Bark Press, and was a finalist for Utica College's Eugene Nassar Poetry Prize and the CNY Book Award for Poetry. Georgia was recently named Poet Laureate of Onondaga County for a 2-year term of service. She co-authored, with Quraysh Ali Lansana, *Our Difficult Sunlight: A Guide to Poetry, Literacy, & Social Justice in Classroom & Community* (Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 2011), which was a 2012 NAACP Image Award finalist. In 2017, *The Whiskey of Our Discontent: Gwendolyn Brooks as Conscience & Change Agent* (co-edited with Lansana; Haymarket Books 2017), was a finalist for the Chicago Review of Books Award in Nonfiction.

Georgia received the National League of American Pen Women's 2021 Vinnie Reams Award in Letters for an excerpt from her book-in-progress, *Living with Haints*, and has recently been appointed editor for the University of Michigan Press book series on contemporary poets, *Under Discussion*. For more information and for links to purchase books, visit www.georgiapopoff.com.

You can also follow her Facebook, and on Instagram and Twitter: @gappoet.

ANTOINETTE BRIM

Antoinette Brim-Bell (Antoinette Brim), Connecticut's 8th State Poet Laureate, is the author of three full-length poetry collections: *These Women You Gave Me*, *Icarus in Love*, and *Psalms of the Sunflower*. She is a Cave Canem Foundation Fellow and an alumna of Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA). Her poetry has appeared in various journals, magazines, textbooks, and anthologies, including *Villanelles*, *44 on 44: Forty-Four African American Writers on the 44th President of the United States*, *Not A Muse*, and has appeared in *Poetry Magazine* and *Poem-a-Day*. Additionally, Brim-Bell has published critical work, most notably, essays: *Living Behind the Numbers: A Statistic Muses about her Life* (*National Association of African American Studies Monograph Series*); *The Myopic Eye in Alice Walker's 'Flowers'* (*Critical Insights: Alice Walker*, Salem Press) and *Juxtaposed Dichotomies: the idealized white suburban pastoral, the surrealist tableau of black poverty & the women in between* (*The Whiskey of Our Discontent: Gwendolyn Brooks as Conscience and Change Agent*, Haymarket Books).

A printmaker and collage artist, Brim-Bell exhibited both poetry and monoprints in *Jazz: An exhibition of Poetry, Prints, and Photography* at the Sumner McKnight Crosby Jr. Gallery in New Haven, CT, and *Sheroes*, in partnership with the Alliance of Women Veterans at the Grove in New Haven, CT. She serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Indolent Arts Foundation based in New York City, is a past Board Member of OneWorld Progressive Institute, and a past President of the Board of Directors of the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven, CT.

Additionally, Brim-Bell hosted a series of Black History Month television programs for the OneWorld Progressive Institute. She is also a former guest host of Patrick Oliver's Literary Nation Talk Radio (KABF 88.3, Little Rock), for which she interviewed a variety of entertainers, literary figures, political pundits, and community developers. A sought-after speaker, editor, educator, and consultant, Brim-Bell is a Professor of English at Capital Community College in Hartford, CT.

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JUNE 22, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

SEAN MURPHY

Sean Murphy is the Founding Director of 1455, a non-profit that celebrates storytelling (www.1455litarts.org). He has appeared on *NPR's All Things Considered* and been quoted in *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post*, and *AdAge*. A long-time columnist for *PopMatters*, his work has also appeared in *Salon*, *The Village Voice*, *Washington City Paper*, *The Good Men Project*, *Sequestrum*, *Blue Mountain Review*, and others. His chapbook, *The Blackened Blues*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2021. His second collection of poems, *Rhapsodies in Blue* and *This Kind of Man*, his first collection of short fiction, are forthcoming in 2023. He has been nominated four times for the Pushcart Prize, twice for Best of Net, and his book *Please Talk about Me When I'm Gone* was the winner of *Memoir Magazine's* 2022 Memoir Prize. To learn more, and read his published short fiction, poetry, and criticism, please visit seanmurphy.net/ and [@bullmurph](https://twitter.com/bullmurph).

DAVID BACHNER

David Bachner's poetry and prose center on place, primarily his experiences growing up on the New Jersey Shore and his years living and working in other cultures. He studied in Japan and traveled throughout Asia as an undergraduate before receiving his degree in philosophy from Bates College. After his own Peace Corps service in Korea, David worked at the University of Hawaii's Center for Cross-Cultural Training and Research preparing volunteers for Peace Corps assignments in Asia and the Pacific. He then completed a Ph.D. in organizational behavior at Case Western Reserve University and devoted his career to international education and intergroup relations as vice president of Youth For Understanding (YFU) International Exchange, dean of Global Studies at Hartwick College, and scholar-in-residence and director of the Intercultural Management Institute at American University's School of International Service. David has authored and co-authored three books and a number of articles on study abroad and intergroup relations. His poetry has appeared in several journals, the anthology *Seeing Things*, and the chapbook *Capital Ironies: Washington, DC Poems and Short Prose*. His novel *Kirinski's Life & Times* was published by *Woodland Arts Editions* in 2021. David lives in Washington, DC and Oneonta, NY. His website is davidbachner.com.

JUNE 26-30, 2023

MEXICO/ MAYAN/ AZTEC ART & GAMES- SUMMER 1

Youth Literacy Arts Education Workshop

Led by Bertha Rogers. The artists of Central & S. America created some of the world's most unusual art & games. We'll learn about them and create our own, then write poems in the style of Pablo Neruda & others.

This workshop runs Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 2:30 PM

SUMMER SESSION: June 27 - July 1, Ages 6 - 14

Cost to tri-county area students only: \$170

Cost to out of town students: \$250

Full scholarships available to Delaware Academy Students with thanks to the AL Kellogg Foundation

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JULY 6, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

JESSICA CUELLO

Jessica Cuello's most recent book is *Yours, Creature* (JackLeg Press, 2023). Her book *Liar*, selected by Dorianne Laux for The 2020 Barrow Street Book Prize, was honored with The Eugene Nassar Prize, The CNY Book Award, a finalist nod for The Housatonic Book Award, and a longlist mention for The Julie Suk Award. Cuello is also the author of *Hunt* (The Word Works, 2017) and *Pricking* (Tiger Bark Press, 2016). Cuello has been awarded The 2022 Nina Riggs Poetry Prize, two CNY Book Awards, The 2016 Washington Prize, The New Letters Poetry Prize, a Saltonstall Fellowship, and The New Ohio Review Poetry Prize. She is poetry editor at Tahoma Literary Review and teaches French in CNY.

LINDA MCCAULEY FREEMAN

Linda McCauley Freeman is the author of the full-length poetry collection *The Family Plot* (Backroom Window Press, 2022) and has been widely published in international journals, including in a Chinese translation. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize 2022. She has been the featured U.S. poet in *The Poet Magazine* and won Grand Prize in StoriArts' Maya Angelou poetry contest. Lines from her poem *Made in America* were selected by Kwame Alexander to use in his Civil Community Poem and are on display at the Southern Poverty Law Center/Civil Rights Memorial Museum in Montgomery. She received a grant from Arts MidHudson and was selected for Poets Respond to Art 2020, 2021 and 2022 shows. She was a three-time winner in the Talespinners Short Story contest judged by Michael Korda. She has an MFA from Bennington College and is the former poet-in-residence of the Putnam Arts Council. She lives in the Hudson Valley, NY. Follow her at www.LindaMcCauleyFreeman.com, Facebook@LindaMcCauleyFreeman and Twitter@LindaMcC Freeman

JULY 17-21, 2023

SPIDERS & TICKS & OTHER ARACHNIDS- SUMMER II

Bus trip to NYS Museum, Albany

Youth Literacy Arts Education Workshop

There are lots of spiders & other arachnids in the Catskills. We'll learn about them, make paintings or sculptures of them, then write poems and stories about them.

This workshop runs Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 2:30 PM

SUMMER SESSION: August 15 - 19

Cost to tri-county area students only: \$170

Cost to out of town students: \$250

Full scholarships available to Delaware Academy Students with thanks to the AL Kellogg Foundation

JULY 24- August 28 Monday for 6 weeks

"Look Who's Talking" a Persona Writing Workshop

SUMMER SESSION POETRY WORKSHOP- ALL AGES

Taught by Georgia Popoff

Look Who's Talking

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Persona poetry provides both writer and reader with new and often surprising perspectives, expanding possibilities in both theme and point of view. We will experiment as we look at the world through different lenses, using characters in settings other than our own to create new poems and move beyond our autobiographical voice. We will identify possible voices to develop, discuss the value of research, and ensure the language of the poem best represents the speaker.

JULY 20, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

JACK BEDELL

Jack B. Bedell is Professor of English and Coordinator of Creative Writing at Southeastern Louisiana University where he also edits *Louisiana Literature* and directs the Louisiana Literature Press. His latest collections are *Against the Woods' Dark Trunks* (Mercer University Press, 2022), *Color All Maps New* (Mercer University Press, 2021), *Rock Garden* (Daily Drunk Press, 2021), and *No Brother, This Storm* (Mercer University Press, 2018). His work has appeared in the *Southern Review*, *HAD*, *Radar Poetry*, *The Fourth River*, *Terrain.org*, *Construction*, *Grist*, *Sugar House*, *Shenandoah*, *Pidgeonholes*, *Cotton Xenomorph* and other journals. Bedell is the recipient of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Individual Achievement in the Humanities Award and the Governor's Award for Artistic Achievement. He was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as Louisiana Poet Laureate, 2017-2019.

MEGEEN MULHOLLAND

Megeen R. Mulholland received her Ph.D. from the University at Albany, and is a graduate of the Master of Arts program in English and Creative Writing at Binghamton University. She is an English Professor at Hudson Valley Community College where she teaches literature and writing and serves on the Visiting Writers Committee and the Campus Poetry Project. Her work has been accepted for publication in numerous literary journals and anthologies such as *Modern Language Studies*; *Adanna Literary Journal*; *Plath Profiles: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Sylvia Plath Studies*; *James Joyce Quarterly*; *Journal of Poetry Therapy*; *Roots and Flowers: Poets Write about Their Families*; and *Literary Mama: Reading for the Maternally Inclined*. Her first volume of poetry, titled *Orbit*, has been called an "epiphany of parenthood." Her second volume of poetry, titled *Crossing the Divide*, has been deemed "a fascinating arrangement of text and image." Both volumes are available from Finishing Line Press and all booksellers.

AUGUST 10, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

MONI BASU

Moni Basu is a national and international reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. She has covered the Iraq war and spent five months embedded with a Georgia Army National Guard brigade.

She has also reported from Cuba, Chile, Norway, Jordan, Kuwait and India. She covered the devastating 2001 earthquake in Ahmedabad, India, military suicides at Fort Bragg, SARS in Toronto and West Nile

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virus in Louisiana. In 2005 she was honored as Journalist of the Year by the *Atlanta Press Association* and has also won awards from the *South Asian Journalists Association*, *Associated Press Managing Editors* and the *Society of Newspaper Design*.

JAN WINBURN

Jan Winburn is a fan of artful storytelling, kickass reporting and the powerful melding of the two.

Jan spent more than four decades working in newsrooms as a narrative editor, writing coach, and investigative editor and has led workshops around the world. Her career was recognized with the 2009 Mimi Award given to editors “who encourage journalistic excellence and understand the emotional landscape of assignments on tragedy and trauma.” Selected to be a Pollner Professor by the University of Montana, she taught a course on reporting and writing about trauma. Winburn edited Lisa Pollak’s 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing, and her writers have won many of the other top prizes in journalism, including a Peabody Award, an Edgar R. Murrow Award, the Ernie Pyle Award for Human Interest Storytelling, the Al Neuharth Award for investigative journalism, the Wilbur Award for religion coverage, and the Batten Medal for public service. She is especially proud of two young journalists she worked with whose stories captured the prestigious Livingston Award for journalists under age 35. Jan grew up in a small town in Missouri and graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She is the author of *Shop Talk and War Stories: Journalists Examine Their Profession* and co-editor of two e-books, *Secrets of Prize-Winning Journalism*, 2013 and 2014.

AUGUST 21-25, 2023

WOLVES & COYOTES & DOGS- SUMMER III

Youth Literacy Arts Education Workshop

We’re all familiar with dogs, and we hear coyotes at night and wonder about wolves in America. We’ll learn about them and create art about them, then write them down!

This workshop runs Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 2:30 PM

SUMMER SESSION: August 15 - 19

Cost to tri-county area students only: \$170

Cost to out of town students: \$250

Full scholarships available to Delaware Academy Students with thanks to the AL Kellogg Foundation

AUGUST 24, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

ALEX CARBONE

Alex Carbone began working for the Carbone Auto Group in 1988 as a lot attendant. During his early years, he moved into parts delivery, then on to parts counterman. Alex advanced year over year to sales, advertising, business development and expansion of locations. He was the face of the company for more than a decade, and was appointed General Manager of Carbone Honda. Alex ultimately served as Executive Vice President of Sales for the Carbone Auto Group from 2013 - 2018, until the company was sold. Alex purchased his first gym, The Fitness Mill in 2017. He founded LiveIt Downtown in 2019, a

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Utica business center and destination site, now home to ten businesses including the newly expanded Fitness Mill.

Passionate about serving his community, Alex has served on numerous nonprofit boards including the American Heart Association, Red Cross, American Cancer Society, House of the Good Shepherd, and most recently Kelberman Center. He was honored as businessman of the year by the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce in 2022.

He is a proud father of three daughters, Ava, Angela and Ariana. His first novel, *The Story of Alex Carbone and What it Takes to #LiveIt* (LiveIt Publishing), is edited by executive director of Bright Hill Press, Beatrice Georgalidis.

TIFFANIE DAVIS

Tiffanie Davis is a community advocate, volunteering to empower people and bring lasting change to the hometown she holds so near to her heart. She humbly serves on the following non-profits boards and committees: Board of Directors, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency; Board Member, City of Utica Civilian Public Safety Advisory Board; Committee Member, Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, African American Community Partners Committee.

She is your neighborhood Licensed Real Estate Agent with Empire Homes and Commercial, Property Manager for the amazing *LiveIt Downtown* Complex and Office Manager for the best gym in town, *The Fitness Mill*. She brings her determination and optimism to everything she does and loves doing it.

Her current hobby is embracing, educating and empowering people via her social media platform called *Quoffee and Quream* with her best friend Alberta. She holds near and dear to heart, her loving husband Franklin; her loving children, Takiyah, Walkery, Maurice, Mekkah and Genesis; and her eleven beautiful grandchildren.

FALL NONFICTION WORKSHOP LED BY TOM TROVISANO - DATES TBD

Creative Non-Fiction will include various forms of prose writing including feature essays, op-eds, interviews, reviews, humor, blogging, and more. Think of Life-Writing as writing in prose either about one's own life, or about the lives of others. The course will also include study of profiles, memoirs, biography, and more.

Thomas Travisano has published extensively in nearly all forms of non-fiction writing, including reviews, interviews, humor, critical essays, profiles, personal memoir, and biography. His recent biography *Love Unknown: The Life and Worlds of Elizabeth Bishop* was described by reviewers as "marvelous," "definitive," and "utterly captivating." He is the author or editor of numerous books and essays on Elizabeth Bishop and her poetic peers, and the principal editor of the internationally acclaimed *Words in Air: The Complete Correspondence of Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell*. He is co-editor of the three volume *New Anthology of American Poetry*. His prose writings have appeared in such journals as *Gettysburg Review*, *Georgia Review*, *PN Review*, *Wallace Stevens Review*, *Hemingway Review*, *New Literary History*, *The Elizabeth Bishop Bulletin*, and *War, Literature and the Arts*. He served as Contributing Editor and music reviewer for *Listener Magazine*. He is the Founding President of the

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Elizabeth Bishop Society and the founding editor of *The Elizabeth Bishop Bulletin*. He has won a Guggenheim Fellowship and awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Philosophical Society. For many years, he taught a Creative Non-Fiction Workshop at Hartwick College, and he is Emeritus Professor of English at Hartwick.

SEPTEMBER 14, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

CLIFFORD BROOKS

Clifford Brooks III was born and raised in Athens, Georgia. His first poetry collection, *The Draw of Broken Eyes & Whirling Metaphysics*, was re-issued by the SCE Press in July 2020. His second full-length poetry volume, *Athena Departs: Gospel of a Man Apart*, as well as a limited-edition poetry chapbook, *Exiles of Eden*, were published by the SCE Press, second editions, in August 2020.

Clifford is founder of *The Southern Collective Experience*, a cooperative of writers, musicians and visual artists, which publishes the journal of culture *The Blue Mountain Review* and hosts the NPR show *Dante's Old South*. He is on the faculty of *The Company of Writers*, co-hosts *This Business of Music & Poetry*, and provides tutorials on poetry through the Noetic teaching application.

Clifford also has created some online courses through teachable, entitled *The Working Writer: From Inspiration to Publication* and *Adulting with Autism*. He is currently working on a UCLA extension course that will be open to the public in the near future.

KENDEL HIPPOLYTE

Kendel Hippolyte was born in Castries, St. Lucia, in 1952. In the 1970s he studied and lived in Jamaica, receiving a BA from the University of the West Indies in 1976.

Hippolyte is the author of several books of poetry, including *Fault Lines* (Peepal Tree Press, 2012), *Night Vision* (Triquarterly Books/Northwestern University Press, 2005), and *Birthright* (Peepal Tree Press, 1997). Of his work, Kwame Dawes writes, "One gets the sense of a writer working in a laboratory patiently, waiting for the right image to come, and then placing it there only when it comes."

Hippolyte, who is also a playwright and a director, is known for writing in Standard English, the varieties of Caribbean English, and in Kewyol, his native language. He is the editor of *Confluence: Nine St. Lucian Poets* (The Source, 1988) and the author of several plays, including *The Drum-Maker* in 1976 and *Triptych* in 2000. With his wife, the poet Jane King, he founded the Lighthouse Theatre Company in St. Lucia in 1984.

In 2000, Hippolyte received the St. Lucia Medal of Merit for his service in the arts. He is also the recipient of the Bridget Jones Travel Award and Minvielle & Chastanet Fine Arts Awards in both literature and directing, among other honors and awards.

Hippolyte taught theater arts and literature at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College from 1992 to 2007. He lives in St. Lucia.

SEPTEMBER 28, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

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SUSANA CASE

Susana H. Case has authored eight books of poetry, most recently *The Damage Done* (Broadstone Books, 2022) which won her a third Pinnacle Book Achievement Award. Her books have previously also won an IPPY, a NYC Big Book Award Distinguished Favorite award, and she was a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Award, the International Book Awards, and the American Book Fest awards. The first of her five chapbooks, *The Scottish Café* (Slapering Hol Press) was re-released in a dual-language English-Polish version, *Kawiarnia Szkocka* (Opole University Press). She co-edited, with Margo Taft Stever, the anthology *I Wanna Be Loved by You: Poems on Marilyn Monroe* (Milk and Cake Press, 2022). Case worked several decades as a university professor and program coordinator in New York City and currently is a co-editor of Slapering Hol Press and a co-host of the literary series W-E: Poets of the Pandemic and Beyond. *If This Isn't Love* is forthcoming from Broadstone Books. <http://www.susanahcase.com/>.

MARGO STEVER

Margo Taft Stever's three full-length poetry collections are *The End of Horses* (Broadstone Books, 2022), winner of a 2022 Pinnacle Book Achievement Award in Poetry; *Cracked Piano* (CavanKerry Press, 2019) finalist with honorable mention for the 2021 Eric Hoffer Award Grand Prize; and *Frozen Spring*, winner of the 2002 Mid-List Press First Series Award for Poetry. The latest of her four chapbooks is *Ghost Moose* (Kattywompus Press, 2019). In 2022, Margo Taft Stever and Susana H. Case edited *I Wanna Be Loved by You: Poems on Marilyn Monroe* (Milk & Cake Press) which was the sole winner of the 2022 Pinnacle Book Achievement Award for Anthologies and was a finalist for the International Book and the American Book Fest Awards for Anthologies. Her poems have appeared in magazines and anthologies, including *Plume*, *Verse Daily*, "Poem-A-Day" on poets.org, *Prairie Schooner*, *Connecticut Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *upstreet*, and *Salamander*. She is founder of the Hudson Valley Writers Center and founding and current co-editor of Slapering Hol Press. She also teaches a poetry workshop for at-risk adolescents at Children's Village, a residential school for at-risk children in Dobbs Ferry, New York. (www.margotaftstever.com).

OCTOBER 12, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

JP HOWARD

JP Howard is a poet, educator, literary activist, curator and community builder. JP is the Spring 2023 Brooklyn College Tow Mentor-in-Residence. Her debut poetry collection, *Say/Mirror* (The Operating System), was a Lambda Literary finalist. She is also the author of *bury your love poems here* (Belladonna), *Praise This Complicated Herstory: Legacy, Healing & Revolutionary Poems* (Harlequin Creature) and co-editor of *Sinister Wisdom Journal Black Lesbians--We Are the Revolution!* JP was a featured author in Lambda Literary's LGBTQ Writers in Schools Program and is featured in the *Lesbian Poet Trading Card Series* from *Headmistress Press*. She has received fellowships and/or grants from Cave Canem, VONA, Lambda Literary Foundation, and Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC). She curates Women Writers in Bloom Poetry Salon. JP's poetry is widely anthologized and her poetry and/or essays have been featured in *The Slowdown* podcast, *The Academy of American Poets*, *Apogee Journal*, *The*

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Feminist Wire, *Split this Rock*, and *Muzzle Magazine*. JP is a general Poetry Editor for *Women's Studies Quarterly* and Editor-At-Large of *Mom Egg Review VOX* online. <http://www.jp-howard.com>

PAMELA WAX

Pamela Wax is the author of *Walking the Labyrinth* (Main Street Rag, 2022), a poetry collection deemed “revelatory,” “accomplished,” “spiritual,” and “deeply meditative” by reviewers. Her chapbook *Starter Mothers* (Finishing Line Press, 2023) has been called “electric, charged with joy, sorrow, empathy, and insight.” Her poems have received a Best of the Net nomination and awards from *Crosswinds*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Poets’ Billow*, *Oberon*, and the Robinson Jeffers Tor House. She has been published in journals including *Barrow Street*, *About Place Journal*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Mudfish*, *Connecticut River Review*, *Naugatuck River Review*, *Pedestal*, *Pangyrus*, *Split Rock Review*, *Sixfold*, and *Passengers Journal*, among others. Wax is an ordained rabbi, pastoral counselor, and sought-after teacher, who leads on-line spirituality workshops, including poetry writing, and travels to synagogues around the country as scholar or artist-in-residence to share her passion for poetry. Her essays on Judaism, spirituality, and women’s issues have also been published broadly. She walks labyrinths in the Northern Berkshires of Massachusetts, or wherever she can find them.

OCTOBER 26, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS –

FOX FRAZIER

Fox Henry Frazier is the author of two books of poetry, essay, and visual art: *Weeping in the Tropical Moonlit Night Because Nobody’s Told Her* (Yes Poetry, 2022) and *Raven King* (Yes Poetry, 2021). Her first full-length book of poetry, *The Hydromantic Histories* (Bright Hill Press, 2015), was selected by Vermont Poet Laureate Chard deNiord as the recipient of the Bright Hill Press Poetry Award. Her chapbook *Exodus in X Minor* (2014) won the Sundress Publications Chapbook Prize, and her chapbook *Like Ash in the Air After Something Has Burned* (Hyacinth Girl Press, 2017) was nominated for an Elgin Award. Fox holds an MFA from Columbia University and a PhD from the University of Southern California, where she was also a Provost’s Fellow. She created and co-runs the small press Agape Editions, the arts & literary magazine *Alice Says Go Fuck Yourself*, and the Favorite Poems reading series. Fox lives in upstate New York with her daughter, her dogs, her gardens, and her ghosts.

MARTIN WILLITS JR.

Martin Willits Jr is a retired Librarian living in Syracuse, New York. He was nominated for 17 Pushcart and 13 Best of the Net awards. Winner of the 2012 Big River Poetry Review’s William K. Hathaway Award; 2013 Bill Holm Witness Poetry Contest; 2013 “Trees” Poetry Contest; 2014 Broadsided award; 2014 Dylan Thomas International Poetry Contest; Rattle Ekphrastic Challenge, June 2015, Editor’s Choice; Rattle Ekphrastic Challenge, Artist’s Choice, November 2016, Stephen A. DiBiase Poetry Prize, 2018; Editor’s Choice, Rattle Ekphrastic Challenge, December, 2020; 17th Annual Sejong Writing Competition, 2022.

His 24 chapbooks include National Chapbook Contest winning *William Blake, Not Blessed Angel But Restless Man* (Red Ochre Press, 2014) and Turtle Island Editor’s Choice Award for his chapbook, *The Wire Fence Holding Back the World* (Flowstone Press, 2016).

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His 22 full-length books include National Ecological Award winner for *Searching for What You Cannot See* (Hiraeth Press, 2013); *Irises, the Lightning Conductor For Van Gogh's Illness* (Aldrich Press, 2014); *God Is Not Amused with What You Are Doing in Her Name* (Aldrich Press, 2015); *How to Be Silent* (FutureCycle Press, 2016); *Dylan Thomas and the Writer's Shed* (FutureCycle Press, 2017); *Three Ages of Women* (Deerbrook Editions, 2017); *The Uncertain Lover* (Dos Madres Press, 2018); *Home Coming Celebration* (FutureCycle Press, 2019); 2019 Blue Light Award winner *The Temporary World; Unfolding of Love* (Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2020); *Harvest Time* (Deerbrook Editions, 2021); *All Wars Are the Same War* (FutureCycle Press, 2022); and, *Not Only the Extraordinary are Exiting the Dream World* (Flowstone Press, 2022). Forthcoming books include *Ethereal Flowers* (Still Point Press, 2023), *Rain Followed Me Home* (Glass Lyre Press, 2023), *Leaving Nothing Behind* (Fernwood Press, 2023).

He is an editor for *Comstock Review*, and a judge for the New York State Fair Poetry Contest.

NOVEMBER 9, 7 PM - WORD THURSDAYS

CHRIS CONWAY

Chris Conway is an editor at *New York Times Opinion* and *NYT Sunday Review*. He is a graduate of Fordham University Law School and University of Missouri- Columbia for Journalism. He is married to Jennifer Preston and a father to twins.

STEVE FRIEDMAN

In 1984, Steve moved to St. Louis, where he wrote for and then was editor-in-chief at *St. Louis Magazine* until 1992. He then moved to New York City to take a job as senior editor at *GQ* magazine. In 1997 he transitioned to writing full-time and teaching. He lives in Manhattan.

Steve has written four books and co-authored two others, and was named a National Magazine Award finalist twice, as well as the recipient of the Nora Sayre Residency for a Nonfiction Writer at the Corporation of Yaddo, in 2019. His stories, which have been published and/or cited as “notable” in *The Best American Series* (Sports, Essays and Travel) 30 times, have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Outside*, *New York Magazine*, *Runner's World* and many other publications. One of his favorites is a piece of fiction published in *The Big Book of Ghost Stories*, inspired by a strange and ambitious group of women and men who worked at a newspaper called the *Columbia Daily Tribune* in the early 1980s. It's called *The Lost Boy of the Ozarks*.

JEFF LEEN

Jeff Leen oversees *The Washington Post's* Investigative Unit, which he joined as a reporter in 1997. He led a team whose examination of D.C. police shootings won the 1999 Pulitzer Gold Medal for Public Service, the paper's first since Watergate. He became deputy investigations editor in 1999 and took over the unit in 2003. Previously, he worked as an investigative reporter for a decade at the *Miami Herald*, where he co-authored a 10-part series on the Medellin Cartel that was later turned into a book with Guy Gugliotta, *Kings of Cocaine* (Simon & Schuster, 1989). Jeff joined the *Herald* as a reporter in 1982,

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working in the Naples, Delray Beach and West Palm Beach bureaus before becoming a general assignment reporter covering the Miami drug trade in 1985. As a reporter or an editor, he has contributed to investigations that have been honored with 10 other Pulitzer Prizes, including examinations of Hurricane Andrew's impact on South Florida, abuse in D.C. group homes, child deaths in D.C., the Sept. 11 plot, the Jack Abramoff scandal, Dick Cheney, the Snowden documents, fatal police shootings nationwide, the Roy Moore scandal and the Jan. 6 attack. He is also the author of *The Queen of the Ring: Sex, Muscles, Diamonds and the Making of an American Legend* (*Atlantic Monthly*, 2009). He was a Stanford Fellow in 1988-1989. He has a son, Lee Shank, who is a salmon fisherman out of Kodiak Alaska. He lives with his wife, Lynn Medford, former *Post Style* editor and magazine editor, outside Annapolis. They have two cats, Bob, who was given to them by Carolyn White, and Elbee, who they found in a church parking lot.

WORD AND IMAGE GALLERY EXHIBITS 2023

May 1, 2023

The Word and Image Gallery *Uncommon Creatures* by Bertha Rogers

July 1 & 2, 2023

Stagecoach Run Art Festival

The Stagecoach Spotlight Show at Bright Hill

Featuring art by every contributing festival artist