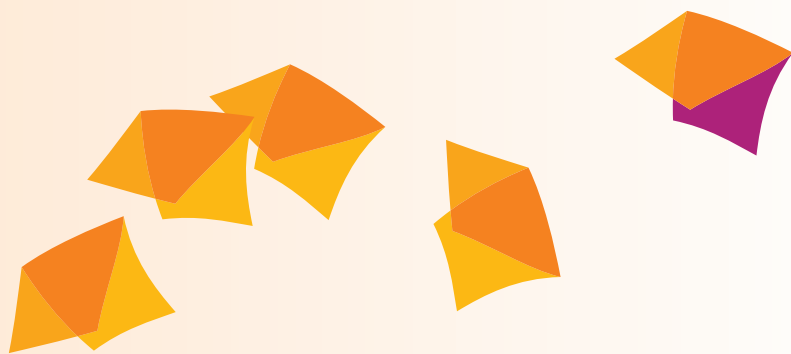


Get Your Lit On!



CHARLOTTE **LIT**

CHARLOTTE CENTER FOR LITERARY ARTS, INC.

CLASSES **&** EVENTS

WHO'S INSIDE:

Reginald Dwayne Betts

Erin Belieu

Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Chen Chen

Aimee Nezhukumatathil

Paul Tran

and Many More!

2022

2023

Get Your Lit On!

Welcome, Lit fans, to our 2022-23 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 visits from Reginald Dwayne Betts, Erin Belieu, Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Chen Chen, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, and Paul Tran.

Classes come in multiple formats—in-person, live via Zoom, and asynchronous (self-paced)—so be sure to check the location before you register.

Get your lit on—and commit to your craft—by registering for your year of learning now! It's the smart thing to do for you and the right thing to do for the Charlotte Lit community. Each class has a required minimum to run, so your early registration helps ensure the classes you want will happen.

Thank you to each and every one of you for supporting us through the pandemic. 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: 4 EASY STEPS

1. BROWSE THIS CATALOG to find the classes you want.

Classes are listed in chronological order, with special events and offerings described on separate pages.

2. NOT ALREADY A MEMBER? Join now to support and save.

Charlotte Lit is a member-supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Membership dues provide foundational support—rent, internet, website, staff—that keeps us running. When you're a member, you'll feel good *and* you'll enjoy member benefits such as Open Studio (see page 8) and savings of at least 20% over non-member class fees. Memberships start at \$75/year, or just \$7/month with a monthly draft plan: charlottelit.org/join.

3. REGISTER FOR YOUR CLASSES at charlottelit.org/classes.

Members, please log in to get members-only pricing in your cart. 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.

4. 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?

Contact staff@charlottelit.org. See you soon!

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



4X4CLT with Reginald Dwayne Betts



Acclaimed poet, author, lawyer, and reform advocate **Reginald Dwayne Betts** visits Charlotte for the final edition of our 4X4CLT Poetry+Art poster series, with an evening reading and book signing at Queens University of Charlotte in celebration of the poster release.

Betts is a poet, lawyer, 2021 MacArthur and 2018 Guggenheim Fellow, and founder of Freedom Reads, a nonprofit radically transforming the access to literature in prisons across this country. For more than 20 years, he has used his poetry

and essays to explore the world of prison and the effects of violence and incarceration on American society. He is the author of a memoir and three collections of poetry, including the American Book Award-winning *Felon*. Betts holds a J.D. from Yale Law School.

• **September 9: Reception, Reading, Conversation & 4X4CLT Poster Release**, doors open at 5:30 pm, Sarah Belk Gambrell Center, 2319 Wellesley Avenue, Queens University of Charlotte

• **September 10: Master Class: The Multitudes of “I”** at Charlotte Lit, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm (note: sold out since first announced, pre-pandemic; waitlist spaces available)

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/4X4](https://charlottelit.org/4x4)

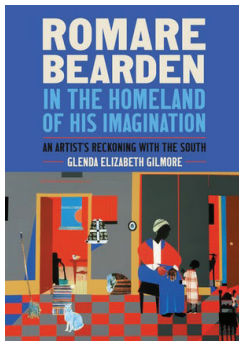
PRESENTING PARTNER:

QUEENS UNIVERSITY
of
CHARLOTTE

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM:



Artists Reckoning with Home



In October, we'll celebrate the art and legacy of acclaimed artist **Romare Bearden**, who was born and spent his early years in **Charlotte**.

Though Bearden's working years were spent primarily in New York, he understood himself as a Southerner and gradually reconstructed his memory of life in Charlotte's historical Brooklyn neighborhood, eventually claiming, "I never left Charlotte, except physically." In iconic collages created in the last 15 years of his life, Bearden reckons with his homeland in a fusion of memory and mythic imagination that depicts the rich and complex daily lives of African Americans in an early 1900s Charlotte.

We invite creators and community members of all backgrounds to engage in a similar reckoning through a series of events that provide opportunities to learn about Charlotte's past and re-imagine its future.

• **October 12: Jazz Night at the Brooklyn Collective**: artists perform and converse about generative intersections between visual art, music, and poetry, at Studio 229 on Brevard. Doors open 6:30 pm.

• **October 19: Reading and talk by Dr. Glenda Gilmore** on her book *Romare Bearden in the Homeland of His Imagination*, in partnership with Mint Museum Uptown, 6:00 pm.

• **October 16: Writing with Bearden: An Ekphrastic Workshop** at Mint Museum Uptown, 2:00 pm.

• **Brooklyn Neighborhood Walking Tour**, dates TBA.

INFO & REGISTRATION: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/BEARDEN](https://charlottelit.org/bearden)

SUPPORT FROM:



FREE! Lit Arts Events

Write in Community

Pen to Paper

- Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 am via Zoom

For more than three 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. Led by authors Kathie Collins, Megan Rich, and Paul Reali. Sign up for the weekly link at charlottelit.org/pen-to-paper.

Community Open Studio

- Wednesdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Studio Two

Come hang out in our writing studio for quiet writing time. Bring a lunch if you like and plan to get some work done. Open to the public. (Need more open studio time? See our member benefits on page 8.)

Conversations, Socials, and Readings

Reading & Open Mic: End of Summer Celebration with Jay Ward

- Friday, August 19, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Rosie's Coffee & Wine Garden

Community Conversation: Changing Forms with Patrice Gopo & Sarah Archer

- Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Studio Two

Community Conversation: Memoir As Witness with Stephanie Elizondo Griest

- Friday, September 23, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Studio Two

Avant Goodyear: Paul Tran Poetry Reading

- Friday, October 21, 7:00 pm, Goodyear Arts, Camp North End

Lit Social: Halloween Lit Crawl

- Friday, October 28, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Lit Social: Holiday Party

- Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Studio Two

Community Conversation & Poetry Reading: Eco-Lit with Former NC Poet Laureate Joseph Bathanti

- Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Studio Two

Author Reading: Abigail DeWitt

- Friday, February 17, 2023, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Studio Two

Lit Social: Write-In, Read & Refresh

- Friday, April 7, 2023, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Studio Two



WARD



GOPO



ARCHER



GRIEST



TRAN



BATHANTI



DEWITT

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. LATEST INFO & REGISTRATION: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/EVENTS](https://charlottelit.org/events)

NEW! Poetry Nightclub

We're Bringing Four Fantastic Poets and a Fun New Format

Charlotte Lit's Poetry Nightclub is new way to engage with the world's oldest form of storytelling. Each quarter, Charlotte Lit will host a critically acclaimed poet for an evening performance that goes beyond traditional reading and book signing events.

Imagine soft lighting, café tables, live music, adult beverages. In addition to reading from their work, our poets—old stars and new!—will take us beyond the words on the page to share poems by poets who have shaped their work, show us how life has shaped their vocations and how being a poet has shaped their lives, and engage the audience in conversations about the ways poetry intersects with other aspects of culture.

Poetry Nightclub will be held at a great new venue, Starlight on 22nd in NoDa. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$25, and your first drink is on us.

2022-23 Poetry Nightclub Lineup



Chen Chen

Wednesday, November 9, 2022



Erin Belieu

Wednesday, February 8, 2023



Aimee Nezhukumatathil

Thursday, March 30, 2023

*Aimee Nezhukumatathil
presented in partnership
with Lake Norman
Charter, and with
generous funding from:*

**S O U
A R T S
H**



Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

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

Authors Lab

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.

When you join Authors Lab, you join a community of writers, teachers, and mentors dedicated to helping one another reach their writing and publishing goals. 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, which will include writers at different stages of the drafting process, 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 Mentors. You'll be matched with a faculty mentor who provides encouragement, teaching, and regular feedback on your work.

Cohort Community. Your cohort of up to 24 people takes the book journey together, with guidance from faculty mentors. Each writer faces the solitary task of putting words onto the page, but that job is easier (and more fun!) with a supportive community.

IS AUTHORS LAB RIGHT FOR YOU?

LEARN MORE & ATTEND AN INFO SESSION: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/AUTHORSLAB](https://charlottelit.org/authorslab)



Win! Publish! Lit/South Awards 2023

\$1,500 First Place Prizes Plus Publication in *Litmosphere*

In 2022 we launched *Litmosphere: Journal of Charlotte Lit*, and the inaugural Lit/South Awards. You are invited to submit your work to the 2023 competition and journal.

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

What: Awards are presented in three categories: poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. In each: first place \$1,500, second place \$500, third place \$250, honorable mentions \$50 — plus publication in *Litmosphere*, May 1, 2023.

When: The contest is open September 1 – November 1, via Submittable. Entries are \$15, which includes a copy of the print journal. (Purchase a copy of the inaugural edition at charlottelit.org/litmosphere.)

**MORE INFO & ENTRY PORTAL:
[CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/LITSOUTH](https://charlottelit.org/litsouth)**



Poetry & Nature Retreat

Come Outside, Go Inside

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7, 2023, East Bend, North Carolina

Join us for either or both days of this two-day, nature-based writing retreat at Charlotte Lit co-founder Kathie Collins' farm in North Carolina's beautiful Yadkin Valley (an easy 90-minute drive from Charlotte).

Participants attending both days are welcome to pitch a tent onsite or book a hotel room in nearby Winston-Salem. After a day of writing and communing with nature, you can visit local hiking trails, the Yadkin River, and nearby wineries—including the truly divine Divine Llama Vineyards.

Each day is 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Retreat fee for Charlotte Lit members is \$150 for either day, \$275 for both days. Non-members: \$200 for either day, \$350 for both days.

Day One: Eco-literature & Spiritual Explorations

Poets Nickole Brown and Jessica Jacobs will teach craft lessons focused on the intersections of eco-literature and 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.



NICKOLE BROWN

JESSICA JACOBS

Day Two: Landscape as Self

CJ Lawing, landscape designer and spiritual director, and Kathie Collins, poet and Charlotte Lit co-founder and creative director, will lead us 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)

Membership & 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
- Access to Open Studio and our lending library
- 20% off Scrivener writing software
- 40% off Freedom distraction blocker
- Access to our members-only online community and resource group
- Access to exclusive members-only events

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

- Studio rental at special member rates
- 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 featuring U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo
- 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

JOIN OR RENEW NOW: [CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/JOIN](http://charlottelit.org/join)

DUSTIN M.
HOFFMAN

Winner of the 2022
Lit/South Award
for Short Fiction

JEFFREY
THOMSONSTEPHANIE
ELIZONDO
GRIEST

REGISTER AT
CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES

September Classes

WRITING THE SHORT STORY

Fiction

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

What forces propel a story and how do we harness them? Jerome Stern said, "Tension is the mother of fiction." John Gardner claimed, "Vivid detail is the lifeblood of fiction." We'll focus on these two core narrative elements and twine them together using a third, less visible element of craft—interiority. Once you understand your characters and their unique perspectives, you can paint a vivid, high-stakes fictive dream. Through craft talks and story examples, we'll break down these three craft elements to better understand how they function and how to use them in our stories. Generative exercises will help writers practice these techniques.

- 2 Tuesdays, September 6 & 13 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

READING *THE ILIAD* IN WARTIME

Multi-Genre

Members \$195 | Non-members \$250

The Iliad is foundational to Western literature, but it is also a complicated, violent story with no clear hero and no clear villain. In our current moment, with war dominating the headlines, it is worth revisiting this classic with an eye to both the present political moment and the way contemporary authors have revised and rethought this ancient story. Over six sessions, we will read and discuss Homer's original classic and think about the way it speaks to our time and the way other writers have used this story to illuminate theirs.

- 6 Tuesdays, Sep. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom

WRITING THE BODY

Non-Fiction

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

In this class, we will narrate a wide range of experiences a body can undergo in a lifetime. We'll start with an exploration of notions of pleasure derived from food, nature, sexuality, and other earthly substances and manifestations. From there, we'll investigate notions of pain by dipping into body dysmorphia, critical illness, cancer, and other aches. The class will conclude with writerly ways of transcending the physical realm, such as meditation, prayer, and the arts, as well as with an examination of the life cycles of birth and death. Along the way, we'll incorporate interviewing techniques, archival research, ekphrasis, and other ways of bearing witness into our own writing practice. Together as a community, we'll write as both an act of empathy for all bodies and as a personal pipeline of wellness.

- Saturday, September 24 | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

SEX (HOW TO WRITE ABOUT IT WELL)

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Want to write great sex scenes that don't just titillate the reader but also reveal character and complicate the plot? Each year the Bad Sex in Fiction Award is given to a writer who published the worst written sex scenes in a novel. In this course we will study the best strategies to create good tension in a sex scene and learn to avoid the techniques that might get you nominated for that infamous award. We will read short examples of bad and good sex scenes and practice writing our own.

- Thursday, September 29 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



SARAH
CREECH

October Classes

PATHS TO PUBLISHING

Self-Publishing Start to Finish

Business of Writing

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

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.

- Thursday, October 6 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



KATHY IZARD

HOLLYWOOD SCREENWRITING: A GLIMPSE

Business of Writing

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

This class will offer a glimpse behind Hollywood scenes into how scripts become films and TV shows. We'll cover key insights into the mindset of entertainment industry decision makers and why they gravitate towards certain types of material; the defining traits of screenwriting as a creative form and how to discern whether it's right for you; the collaborative nature of filmmaking and how to write as a team player; and how any fiction or screenwriter can harness marketing skills to pitch not only their work but also themselves as a creative asset. We'll also review the viability of various pathways for getting your work out there from outside of LA, including contests, screenwriting websites, cold queries, and newer approaches to independent film financing.

- Thursday, October 13 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



SARAH
ARCHER

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



PAUL TRAN

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Poetry

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

While what we have heard is true—that we should “show, not tell”—sometimes we have to tell it like it is. In this generative writing workshop, we will read “Autobiography of Eve” by Ansel Elkins and define the “it” as the discovery the poet makes about the emotional or psychological landscape of their lived experience. We will look at how the act of discovery rather than the act of announcement must always be a priority in poetry, and we will see how fundamental elements of poetry—such as syntax, received form, and the image—can be used to show AND tell the discovery “like it is.” Finally, we will write new poems that demonstrate what we will have learned together and hold a Q&A that invites any questions poets might have about their poems, poetry, and poetry writing.

- Saturday, October 22 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



MEGAN RICH

THE ART OF DETAIL

Multi-Genre

Members \$300 | Non-members \$375

For most writers, bringing the rich world inside your head onto the page is a challenge. Yet fully fleshing out details is what enables readers to connect with our work. Though we don't often acknowledge it, it's also what connects us as writers to our creativity. In this course, we'll explore the importance of sensory details and the clever, diverse, and artful ways they can be employed in prose. Along with weekly readings to inspire and instruct, there will be exercises and prompts to help us generate rich, memorable passages. Meg Rich will provide feedback on weekly assignments. This course is perfect for anyone struggling with rendering details, whether in a first or fiftieth draft.

- 4 Weeks: Sunday, October 23 - Sunday, November 20
- Asynchronous via Wet Ink
- Two optional Zoom sessions, Oct. 24 & Nov. 21, 6:00 pm



RACQUEL
HENRY

DEEP ROMANCE

Strengthen Romantic Relationships in Fiction

Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Romance isn't just for romance novels! Romantic relationships can be part of any category or genre, but writing a believable one can be a struggle. Matters of the heart are complex, but that doesn't mean you can't write a meaningful relationship. A deeper romantic relationship starts with understanding your characters and their attraction. Author and editor Racquel Henry teaches how to get to know your characters better and use specific techniques to build a genuine connection between them, no matter the category or genre.

- Thursday, October 27 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom

November Classes

WRITING NATURE

Trees as Muse

Poetry

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

Reflecting on trees in her life, poet Mary Oliver writes, “I could almost say they saved me.” The tree as nurturer, witness, listener—a source of terror, even—has drawn poets through the ages to reflect on its Mystery. In the first of our two meetings, we’ll explore a variety of “tree” writings and discuss how these pieces reflect our humanness. Then, through a visualization writing prompt that takes us deeper into our relationship with them, we’ll invoke trees as muses to inspire our intuitive writing processes. During our second meeting, participants will be encouraged (not pressured) to share short writings inspired by the prompt.

- 2 Tuesdays, November 1 & 8 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

WRITING OBSERVATION AND DELIGHT

Non-Fiction

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

In difficult times, writing about ordinary things that delight us can be a radical act of care. Inspired by poet Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*, this class will focus on creative nonfiction writing, grounded in careful observation of the world and its little pleasures. We will explore several examples of the form with special attention to the balance between darkness and light, showing and telling. Participants will be guided through prompts to support the development of their own original work.

- 2 Thursdays, November 3 & 10 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in StudioTwo

CRAFTING BETTER SENTENCES

Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

You have a story. You’ve moved through different levels of revision—your structure provides tension and surprise, your characters have dimension, and you’ve chosen the right point(s) of view. But *something* is still missing—your writing doesn’t yet sing. In this class, participants will learn how to craft sentences and paragraphs more deliberately. The session will demonstrate how grammar and word choices can not only improve sentence-level writing, but also deepen characters and ratchet up tension. In addition, the use of sound, rhythm, and other literary devices can add emphasis to themes, story beats, and transitions.

- Tuesday, November 15 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in StudioTwo

INSTRUCTORS



IRENE BLAIR
HONEYCUTT



MEGHAN
MODAFFERI



KRISTIN
DONNALLEY
SHERMAN

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



**ERIN ROSE
COFFIN**



LANDIS WADE



**SHELIA
BUMGARNER**

Robinson-Spangler
Carolina Room

A POETIC INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

Poetry

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Audre Lorde said it best: "Poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence." When the world seems darker by the day, it's more important than ever to find places—and voices—to turn to for clarity, inspiration, and guidance. Whether you're a life-long lover of the form or simply "poetry-curious," join us for a casual salon-style evening in which we'll discuss works, ask questions, find community, and fill our literal and figurative cups. We'll read a few favorite poems together over wine, then do some prompt-based writing of our own. This class is open to all skill levels.

- Thursday, November 17 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

BOTH SIDES OF THE MIC

Nailing the Author Interview

Business of Writing

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Want to know what makes a great author interview? Get tips and tricks and explore best practices with podcaster Landis Wade, from how to search for good interview opportunities to what to do after the interview is complete. Topics include interview pitches, thinking beyond the book, preparing for the interview, how to hone messaging about your book, and staying focused on the content that's most interesting to the interviewer's particular audience. For those interested in the other side of the mic, Landis will share strategies for preparing to conduct an author interview and will offer examples from his own experience about what works and what doesn't. Time permitting, participants will have the opportunity to role-play and critique their participation in the interview process.

- Tuesday, November 29 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

December Classes

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The Riches of the Library's Carolina Room

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Research is essential to the creation of setting, historical accuracy, and atmosphere in many different types of writing, especially historical fiction. It's also crucial for locating documentation for publishing and for avoiding copyright problems. In this presentation, writers will learn how to incorporate library research, including newspapers and photographs, into their writing projects. Come ready to hear tips and tricks, and about the many resources available for writers from one of the Carolina Room's Senior Librarians.

- Thursday, December 1 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

WRITE HEARTWARMING HOLIDAY ROMANCE

Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

The holiday romance category has been growing in popularity, thanks in large part to the Hallmark Channel. But what makes a good holiday romance story? Like a good Christmas cookie recipe, holiday romances need the right ingredients to deliver that same warm feeling of comfort and delight. In this class, author and editor Racquel Henry will discuss where to find inspiration, how to structure a romance, and how to use the elements of craft to create the perfect recipe for a holiday romance that will tug at the heartstrings of readers.

- Tuesday, December 6 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom



RACQUEL
HENRY

THE VOICE OF THE POEM

Poetry

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Where does a poem's sense of urgency come from? A poem so necessary, it simply must be voiced? While there's overlap, a poem's voice isn't quite the same as the poet's style. The voice of a poem begins with structural and rhetorical choices and rings out through its tone, diction, sentences, and more. In a written text, that sense of someone speaking to you is a created illusion. A poem can seem flat on the page if this spell gets broken. The word "I" alone isn't enough to carry a sense of voice. We'll do some reading together to explore these ideas, and you will write something new or try out new experiments on an existing draft, to enhance the dimension of voice.

- Tuesday, December 6 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



JULIE
FUNDERBURK

A CRASH COURSE IN THE LYRIC ESSAY

Non-Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Join essayist Randon Billings Noble for this short but deep course in the lyric essay. What makes an essay "lyric"? What are the benefits of using imagery and intuition to explore a line of thought instead of narrative and exposition? In this class we will discuss both the pleasures and challenges of the lyric essay. We'll look at some of the myriad forms a lyric essay can take (flash, segmented, braided, and hermit crab), read some short examples, consider the ways form can intensify content, and do some generative writing towards a few lyric essays of our own. This course is open to all levels; just come ready to read, write—and play.

- Thursday, December 8 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom



RANDON
BILLINGS
NOBLE

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



JODI
HELMER



CATHY
PICKENS



C.T. SALAZAR

January 2023 Classes

MAKE A GOOD LIVING AS A WRITER

Business of Writing

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Calling all non-fiction writers! Think it's not possible to make a good living with words? This class will change your mind. Whether you want to turn a side hustle into a full-time writing career or need help building a sustainable, successful writing business, mastering some freelance business basics can help you leave the "write-for-exposure" gigs behind and start earning more. In this two-hour class, we'll cover: the #1 reason you're not meeting your freelance income goals, strategies for maximizing your research to make more money, oft-overlooked markets that freelancers aren't pitching, and the money-making strategy that always fails. The hands-on exercises will help you create a plan and prepare to execute it in your freelance business.

- Tuesday, January 10 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

CREATIVITY SPARK FOR THE NEW YEAR

Multi-Genre

Members \$55 | Non-members \$70

What better time to start that new project? Or return to something you put on a shelf? Or explore a new creative outlet? Wondering how to start? Or if you're headed in the right direction? Creativity is not a mysterious muse-bestowed gift but a discipline that can be developed. This workshop offers time-tested techniques to predictably tap into your own creativity and recharge your creative work. Participants will receive a copy of Cathy's book, *CREATE: Develop Your Own Creative Process*. Class discussions will focus on how to develop your own projects.

- Thursday, January 12 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

14-LINE LITTLE SONG A Sonnet Workshop

Poetry

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

Eavan Boland says the sonnet suits our world and is capable of the essential lyric qualities of being musical, brief, and memorable. Terrance Hayes says the sonnet is part music box, part meat grinder. As both a means to participate in a communal tradition and a way to define one's own individual voice, the little song (as it means) is a form of wonder and tangible music. In this class, we'll see how poets today are tending to the expectations that make a sonnet what it is, and the ways they depart from the expected into the miraculous. We'll also write toward our own sonnet approaches, drawing inspiration from classic and contemporary poets.

- 2 Tuesdays, January 17 & 24 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom

NEW STORIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Ready to get unblocked? To find a writing schedule that really works and finally finish that draft? In this class, we'll look at how published writers meet deadlines and keep producing work no matter what their mood, their self-doubts, or the distractions life throws at them. (Hint: Willpower has NOTHING to do with it.) We'll explore the myth of motivation, how to establish a protocol that works specifically for you, and even tackle the thorny issue of a work in progress that just isn't progressing. Do you double down and force yourself to finish, or is January the perfect time to explore new ideas and make a fresh start? This class is lively and interactive, so be prepared to ask plenty of questions and freewrite on a variety of prompts designed to make writing fun again.

- Thursday, January 19 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

THE WORLD IN A FLASH

Intro to Flash Fiction

Fiction

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

How do you fit the world into 1,000 words or less? In this two-week class you'll explore the genre of flash fiction and create your own compact masterpieces. We'll analyze strategies for storytelling within the constraints of flash by examining published pieces, discuss how authors utilize dynamic word choices, and capitalize on the power of imagery to achieve compression. We'll also explore alternate forms of storytelling, using received forms such as letters, lists, and recipes to create your own off-kilter creations (e.g., "hermit crab flash"). Each week will include writing time, giving you opportunities to create our own stories with prompts. You'll come away with multiple drafts and ideas for where to read more flash—and perhaps start submitting some of your own!

- 2 Tuesdays, January 24 & 31 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom

ECO-POETRY

Poetry

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

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.

- Wednesday, January 25 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



KIM WRIGHT



TARA
CAMPBELL



JOSEPH
BATHANTI

North Carolina
Poet Laureate
2012-14



PAUL REALI



RICK PRYLL



SARAH ARCHER

SAY WHAT? WRITING DYNAMIC DIALOGUE

Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

The quickest way to improve your manuscript is to improve your dialogue—but easier said than done, right? In this session, we'll use examples from literature to show what effective dialogue does (advance plot and reveal character), what it's especially good at doing (revealing relationships between characters), and what it shouldn't do (information dumps). Then, we'll work on strengthening your own written dialogue with a series of exercises.

- Thursday, January 26 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

February Classes

MARKETING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Business of Writing

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

In this course, we will discuss the latest techniques and tools for measuring the real results of your online marketing efforts. We'll explore today's online marketplace, including tools such as BookBub, Goodreads, and BookBaby; list builders such as ProlificWorks and BookFunnel; email advertising services such as Freebooksy, Bargain Booksy, and BookBongo; and other tools such as Linktree and URL shorteners. We'll also discuss pragmatic, real-world skills for building your email newsletter list and tracking the engagement of your social feeds, figuring out what works for you and how to break into the best sellers on Amazon in your sub-category.

- Thursday, February 2 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP Going Deeper Into Script Writing

Fiction

Members \$135 | Non-members \$180

This class is a crash course in the basics of screenwriting: the differences between writing for film and television, using software to help with script formatting, the power and pitfalls of visual storytelling and how to harness it to your advantage, the importance of structure and how to build momentum within and between scenes, and the impact of practical considerations like budget and audience on the creative process. We'll also review the legitimacy of avenues for getting your script out there, including contests, screenwriting websites, and querying managers, and suggest approaches for pitching your work. The course will serve writers who are interested in learning how to put stories on screen, regardless of their experience with other forms of writing.

- 3 Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

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

WRITING ABOUT OURSELVES

Crafting a Memoir Others Will Care to Read

Non-Fiction

Members \$135 | Non-members \$180

We all love talking about ourselves, but it's easy for writers to get lost in the forest of the self! How do we craft a memoir that others will care to read? What strategies lift the details of our ordinary lives into something extraordinary? In this class, we'll discuss how to effectively balance scene and summary, best uses of description, importance of characterization, the art of personal reflection, how to take imaginative leaps without losing your reader, introducing contradiction, creating tension, deciding on structure—things you need to know when you write memoir or any creative nonfiction. This class will include instruction, exercises to help you discover your most potent material, and sharing your responses to the exercises with the class. For beginners and experienced writers alike.

- 3 Thursdays, February 9, 16, 23 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

THE USES OF SENSORY DETAIL

A Generative Prose Workshop

Multi-Genre

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

Small, seemingly minor details—the smell of a cookie, the taste of a plum, a glimpse of children near a creek—have inspired masterpieces. Join us as we explore how sensory awareness can transform your writing. We'll do lots of in-class exercises and we'll consider how focusing on sensory detail can deepen and strengthen every aspect of a writing project, from the first glimmer of an idea to the final revision. We'll find the most powerful ways to describe what we see, taste, smell, hear, and touch, and we'll consider how our senses keep us honest even when we're making things up. Finally, we'll see how a single sensory detail can answer a multitude of questions about character development, plot, and meaning. For beginners and published authors alike.

- Saturday, February 18 | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

LITTLE NOTEBOOKS, BIG IDEAS

Tools for Creative Exploration

Multi-Genre

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

The road to a story winds through myriad notes and drafts. Making notebooks by hand lets writers immerse themselves in the critical early creative process and helps them commit to a project. We'll make fun, easy, affordable, and portable pocket notebooks in the spirit of zines, closer to Anne Lamott's index cards than to store-bought bound journals. Using targeted prompts, we'll start to fill the pages with ideas for characters, settings, and scenes. Then we'll play with simple printmaking and collage to make them our own.

- Saturday, February 25 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



JUDY
GOLDMAN



ABIGAIL
DEWITT



BYRN
CHANCELLOR



TIMOTHY
WINKLER

KATHIE
COLLINSINSTRUCTOR
TBAPAULA
MARTINACREGISTER AT
[CHARLOTTELIT.ORG/CLASSES](http://charlottelit.org/classes)

March Classes

SWIMMING WITH THE MERFOLK

Discover Archetypal Treasure for the Writing Journey

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Do you ever wonder why biblical and fairy tale characters and motifs—mermaids and Magdalens, Goliaths and golden balls—endure? While settings, details, and clothing fashions change, these stories follow archetypal patterns that have been around since human beings gathered around that first fire. The older the story, the more power it has, yet our writer's impulse is to make something new. How do we reconcile that paradox? Poet and mythologist Kathie Collins will take you on a deep dive into the murky waters of C.G. Jung's collective unconscious, where you'll learn to identify some primordial patterns and bring them up to the surface to breathe new life. Bring your favorite fairy tale—and your fins!

- Thursday, March 2 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom

POETRY WORKSHOP — MFA STYLE

Poetry

Members \$270 | Non-members \$330

Though a poem might appear to have been poured in a single gentle stream from poet's mind onto page, good poems usually require multiple revisions, and good poets appreciate the quality feedback they receive from dedicated workshop members who can point out what works inside a given poem—and what doesn't. If you enjoy giving and receiving helpful critique and have poems you'd like help with to revise and polish, please join us. For poets of all levels, published or emerging, with at least a handful of finished poems. *Each participant will share at least one completed poem each week.*

- 6 Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11 | 10:00 am - 12 pm
- Location TBA

WRITING HISTORICAL FICTION

Fiction

Members \$135 | Non-members \$180

Historical fiction has the power to engage readers deeply by bringing people and places from the past to life. If you're drawn to this genre (or one of its sub-genres, like historical mystery or romance), this course helps you move forward. We'll explore research strategies, discuss the balance between fact and fiction, and learn to incorporate historical details seamlessly. We'll read excerpts from historical fiction and engage in brief writing exercises. By course end—depending on your starting point—you could have a fleshed-out synopsis, a set of character biographies, a completed scene, or a research plan that gives you a solid path forward for your work in progress.

- 3 Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS

Transforming Personal Essays Into a Book

Non-Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Personal essays are a popular genre, and sometimes essayists consider the possibility of turning their work into a collection. The thought of taking essays and forming a book can feel daunting and perhaps intimidating. What order? What structure? Often, the biggest challenge is figuring out which essays fit in the book. In this session, you will learn tools and ideas to help you find ways to think about how a group of essays might become a book. Using these ideas and tools, you will learn something more about your writing and the larger story of your work.

- Thursday, March 9 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

THE ART OF SUBMISSION

How to Stay Out of the Slush Pile

Business of Writing

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Technology makes submitting for publication easier than ever. At the same time, as more and more writers offer their work, competition for space has never been fiercer. But take heart. In this class, we'll cover the art behind successful submissions and how to move from the "slush" pile to the pile editors rush to accept. We'll discuss how to find the best fit for your writing, tips on putting your best foot forward, and ways to boost the number of marketable pieces in your portfolio. We'll also discuss the nuts and bolts of submission: cover letters, biographies, tracking and more, such as how to stay motivated as you cast those precious pearls out into the world.

- Thursday, March 16 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom

READ LIKE A WRITER

Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Explore fiction by learning to read like a writer—alert to the craft on the page. Kathryn Schwillie leads the next entry in her signature "Read Like a Writer" series that takes a close look at work from two master storytellers—always different—which you'll read in advance. We'll pay particular attention to their decisions about point of view, dialogue and getting characters on the page. Once your craft eyes are open, you can learn from every good writer you read!

Thursday, March 23 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
In-Person in Studio Two



PATRICE
GOPO



ASHLEY
MEMORY



KATHRYN
SCHWILLE

Lit Up!

CHARLOTTE LIT'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 26, 2023

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**IRENE BLAIR
HONEYCUTT**



**SARAH
CREECH**



**LUKE
WHISNANT**

SPRING WRITING MARATHON

Multi-Genre

Members \$75 | Non-members \$100

Spring forward! Irene's Writing Marathon will push you into new territory. Through carefully selected prompts and timed writing laps, we'll pave the way for new images and 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.

- Saturday, March 25 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

WORLDBUILDING

Fiction

Members \$135 | Non-members \$180

In this three-part course, we will explore the skill sets required to create vivid, immersive, and wholly original atmospheres and settings in genre and literary fiction. We will study the worlds built by a wide-ranging group of writers and genres, and together create a knowledge base for how to incorporate these techniques into our own existing or future projects. Through guided study and writing exercises, you will develop a strong understanding of how to develop a fictive dimension unlike any other. The series will conclude with one-on-one feedback conferences between writer and instructor.

- 3 Tuesdays, March 28, April 4, 18 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

April Classes

ARTFUL AND EFFECTIVE REVISION

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-Members \$60

Poet May Sarton said, "Revision is not going back and fussing around, but going forward into the process of creation." In this class for writers of all genres, we'll learn the difference between revision and editing; examine some of the key features of literary style; work on creating an individual voice; and explore a range of options when revising artistically. We'll consider elegant variation, lexical repetition, rhythm, sound effects, concision, and position, showing examples of each in a variety of different writers' styles. We'll also take a look at five influential contemporary styles: minimalist, fancy, middle, oral, and amalgams. This class will up your game by demonstrating that revision is both an exquisite pleasure and an essential part of the creative process.

- Saturday, April 1 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Live via Zoom

INTRODUCTION TO SPECULATIVE FICTION

Fiction

Members \$135 | Non-members \$180

Have you noticed a splash of magic or a hint of the surreal worming its way into your work? Join us for a three-week introduction to science fiction, fantasy, supernatural, horror, and other ways of working with fantastical elements in fiction. You don't need to know how warp drives or magic work; all you need is a sense of adventure and an openness to embracing the unknown. Each session will begin with a discussion of a published story (to be read ahead of time) that demonstrates how contemporary authors are examining human lives and relationships through alternate realities. We'll identify literary techniques and glean genre techniques from the stories we analyze, and each session will include writing time with prompts, so participants can put these lessons into action creating their own new stories.

- 3 Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom



TARA
CAMPBELL

QUERY YOUR NOVEL OR MEMOIR

Business of Writing

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

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, and those that were so awful they got posted online. 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.

- Tuesday, April 11 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Live via Zoom



BETSY
THORPE

RUNES

Discover the Hidden Power in Words

Multi-Genre

Members \$100 | Non-members \$130

As writers, we know our words have power, but have you ever thought about how that power might accrue from the force of each individual letter? In this class, we'll look at the connections between our modern alphabet and ancient runes—from which our letters emerged. Then, we'll explore the symbolic properties of each letter, learning how to incorporate their magic into our everyday lives—and, for storytellers, into our writing lives as well. Everyone will make their own set of wooden runes. By the end of the day, you'll be able to easily use this tool to gain a new perspective on any word and situation in life or in your writing.

- Saturday, April 15 | 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



JENNIFER
HALLS

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



MEGAN RICH



EMILY SAGE



JUDY
GOLDMAN

NOVEL JUMPSTART

Fiction

Members \$300 | Non-members \$375

Writing a novel is hard work but work worth doing, and the hardest part for a first-timer is not knowing what you're doing. This four-week, mostly asynchronous studio will help you decide if you want to write a novel, and, if so, will help make the journey much less fraught. Through recorded lectures, readings, online discussions, and short assignments, we will examine the structures of stories, protagonists and their journeys, story worlds, story time, genre, point of view—and the habit, discipline, and support needed to get it done. *This is a great choice if you're considering applying for Authors Lab.*

- Sunday, April 16 - Sunday, May 14
- Asynchronous via Wet Ink
- Two optional Zoom sessions, April 17 & May 15, 6:00 pm

SONGWRITING WORKSHOP

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

This class offers an introduction to the fundamentals of songwriting—from getting started to writing a memorable chorus. We'll discover creative exercises and concepts designed to keep the artistry flowing when the creativity feels like it's not there. These exercises are great for wordsmiths, but also for anyone desiring to work new creative muscles. Whether you're a closet songwriter, a regularly performing artist, or just a music lover curious about what goes into writing a song, this class is for you. You'll walk away with a start to your original song, a guide on how to continue writing on your own, and an assortment of exercises to help keep the creativity flowing.

- Thursday, April 20 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

May Classes

EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT MEMOIR With Judy Goldman

Non-Fiction

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

In this workshop 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.

- Tuesday, May 2 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

SURREALIST GAMES

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Come prepared to ignite your imagination at our very first Surrealist Salon! Through discussion and play, we'll access the unconscious parts of us that, among other things, build the dream landscapes we visit in our sleep so that we can bring those images into the light of our writing—and our lives. We'll explore games of collaboration, chance, and automatic writing developed by members of the Surrealist Movement. Discussion will include the history of Renga and other classical poetry games, as well as the development of poems like Yeats's "The Second Coming." We'll explore games like Exquisite Corpse, Tennis, Question & Answer, and Poems by Numbers and witness how automatic writing and accessing your dreams can generate new ideas and poems.

- Thursday, May 4 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

CURATING AN EXPERIENCE

How to Give a Poetry Reading

Poetry

Members \$90 | Non-members \$120

Each poem we write is a carefully crafted, immersive experience for readers. But, after all that dedication to the written form, at some point someone will invite us to read our work out loud for 15-20 minutes! How can we make our poetry an engaging experience for a live audience? In our first session, we'll interrogate each component of a poetry reading—how to select poems, arrange their order, and best practices for reading them out loud. In our second session, we'll discuss what happens between the poems—how to curate the experience and create connections with an audience so they feel part of something deeper. Both sessions will include time for practice and individual feedback.

- 2 Tuesdays, May 9 & 16 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two

SO YOU WANT TO START WRITING?

Multi-Genre

Members \$45 | Non-members \$60

Do you have a story that is begging to be told? Have you imagined seeing your name in print in a magazine or on the cover of a book? In this class for new creative writers, we'll talk about taking the first steps toward getting down the compelling stories that keep us up at night. We'll discover strategies for showing up at the page each day and for following through on our writing projects. And we'll explore a variety of forms—fiction, personal narrative and poetry—discussing resources that will help motivate us to begin and to keep going along the writer's journey. If you've always dreamed about becoming a writer but don't know where to start, this class is for you.

- Thursday, May 11 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- In-Person in Studio Two



JUSTIN EVANS



JUNIOUS
"JAY"
WARD

Charlotte's
Inaugural
Poet Laureate



BROOKE
LEHMANN

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About Our Faculty

Accomplished Writers, Excellent Teachers—Here at Charlotte Lit

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. She is a Black List Screenwriting Lab fellow who has had material produced for Comedy Central, developed scripts with several companies, placed in competitions including the Motion Picture Academy's Nicholl Fellowship and the Tracking Board's Launch Pad, and published short stories and poetry in numerous literary magazines. After working in TV and film development in Los Angeles, she moved between six cities in three countries in the course of a few years. She currently lives in North Carolina. Online: saraharcherwrites.com.

Joseph Bathanti, former poet laureate of North Carolina (2012-14) and recipient of the North Carolina Award in Literature, is author of 19 books, most recently a volume of poems, *Light at the Seam* (LSU Press, 2022). Bathanti 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, is forthcoming from EastOver Press in fall of 2022.

Erin Belieu is the author of five poetry collections, all from Copper Canyon Press, including 2021's *Come-Hither Honeycomb*. A Rona Jaffe Fellow and recent winner of the AWP George Garrett prize, her poems have appeared in places such as *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Slate*, *Atlantic Monthly* and the Academy of American Poets' Poem-A-Day, and have been selected for multiple appearances in the Best American Poetry anthology series. Born and raised in Omaha, NE, Belieu now lives in Houston, where she teaches in the University of Houston's MFA/Ph.D. creative writing program.

Reginald Dwayne Betts is a poet, lawyer, 2021 MacArthur and 2018 Guggenheim Fellow, and founder of Freedom Reads, a not-for-profit radically transforming the access to literature in prisons across this country. For more than 20 years, he has used his poetry and essays to explore the world of prison and the effects of violence and incarceration on American society. The author of a memoir and three collections of poetry, he has transformed his latest collection of poetry, the American Book Award-winning *Felon*, into a solo theater show that explores the post-incarceration experience and lingering consequences of a criminal record. Betts holds a J.D. from Yale Law School.

Nickole Brown is the author of *Sister* and *Fanny Says*. She lives with her wife, poet Jessica Jacobs, in Asheville, NC, where she periodically volunteers at three different animal sanctuaries. She writes about these animals, resisting the kind of pastorals that made her (and many of the working-class folks from the Kentucky that raised her) feel shut out of nature. Her work speaks in a queer, Southern-trash-talking way about nature beautiful, damaged, and in desperate need of saving. *To Those Who Were Our First Gods* won the 2018 Rattle Chapbook Prize, and her essay-in-poems, *The Donkey Elegies*, was published in 2020.

Shelia A. Bumgarner is a senior librarian in the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library. She has been with the department since 1988 when she moved to the Queen City. A native of Burlington, NC, Shelia graduated from Elon University with a major in history. A Pi Gamma Mu Scholarship winner, she received a Master's in American History from UNC Greensboro and later a Master's in Library Science from the same school. She has years of experience in conducting research that can be used by historians, genealogists, journalists, and authors. Over the years, many authors have credited her in their books to extend their appreciation for Shelia's research assistance.

Gabrielle Calvocoressi is the author of *The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart*, *Apocalyptic Swing* (a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize), and *Rocket Fantastic*, winner of the Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry. Calvocoressi is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships including a Stegner Fellowship and Jones Lectureship from Stanford University; a Rona Jaffe Woman Writer's Award; a Lannan Foundation residency in Marfa, Texas; the Bernard F. Connors Prize from The Paris Review; and a residency from the Civitella di Ranieri Foundation, among others. Calvocoressi's poems have been published or are forthcoming in numerous magazines and journals including *The Baffler*, *The New York Times*, *POETRY*, *Boston Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Tin House*, and *The New Yorker*. Calvocoressi is an Editor at Large at *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and Poetry Editor at *Southern Cultures*. Calvocoressi teaches at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and lives in Old East Durham, where joy, compassion, and social justice are at the center of their personal and poetic practice.

Tara Campbell is a writer, teacher, Kimbilio Fellow, and fiction co-editor at Barrelhouse, and earned an MFA in Creative Writing from American University. She's the recipient of the following awards from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities: the 2016 Larry Neal Writers' Award in Adult Fiction, the 2016 Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding New Artist, and Arts and Humanities Fellowships for 2018-2022. Her publication credits include *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Masters Review*, *Wigleaf*, and *CRAFT Literary*. She's the author of a novel and four multi-genre collections including her newest, *Cabinet of Wrath: A Doll Collection*. She teaches fiction at American University, Johns Hopkins University's Advanced Academic Programs, the Writer's Center, Politics and Prose, Catapult, and the National Gallery of Art's Virtual Studio.

Bryn Chancellor is author of the novel *Sycamore*, which was a Southwest Book of the Year, an Indie Next pick, an Amazon Editors' Best Book of 2017, and among Bustle's Best Debuts of 2017. Her story collection *When Are You Coming Home?* won the Raz-Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize, and her short fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Southern Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Brevity*, *Crazyhorse*, and elsewhere. Her honors include fellowships from the North Carolina, Alabama, and Arizona arts councils, the Poets and Writers Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award, and scholarships from the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers Conferences. A graduate of Vanderbilt University's MFA program, she is an associate professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Chen Chen's second book, *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency*, is forthcoming in September 2022. His debut, *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities* (BOA Editions, 2017), was longlisted for the National Book Award and won the Thom Gunn Award, among other honors. His work appears in many publications, including *Poetry* and three editions of *The Best American Poetry*. He has received two Pushcart Prizes and fellowships from Kundiman, National Endowment for the Arts, and United States Artists. He was the 2018-2022 Jacob Ziskind Poet-in-Residence at Brandeis University and currently teaches for the low-residency MFA programs at New England College and Stonecoast.

Erin Rose Coffin holds an MFA in Poetry from North Carolina State University. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Maine Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Raleigh Review*, *Gulf Stream*, *Arcturus*, *Angel City Review*, and *Punch Drunk Press*. In 2021, she won the Ruth Stone Poetry Prize, judged by Tomas Q. Morin. She is a member of the Goodyear Arts Collective, where she also previously served as a writer-in-residence. In 2016, she was a finalist in the North Carolina State Poetry Contest, judged by Yusef Komunyakaa, and in 2018, she judged the Carol Bessent Hayman Poetry of Love Award. She lives in Charlotte with her partner and her cat.

Kathie Collins, co-founder and creative director of Charlotte Lit, is a poet, mythologist, and lifelong student of Jungian psychology—which, consciously and unconsciously, makes its way into her work. She earned her graduate degrees in mythological studies at Pacifica Graduate Institute, where she also served as adjunct faculty. Kathie is author of *Jubilee* (Main Street Rag). Her poems have appeared in *Immanence*, *Kakalak*, *Pedestal Magazine*, *Flying South*, and elsewhere.

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's Digest*, *com*, *StorySouth*, and *Literary Mama*. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and children and teaches at Queens University of Charlotte.

Abigail DeWitt is the author of three novels: *Lili*, *Dogs*, and *News of Our Loved Ones*. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *Narrative*, *LitHub*, *Five Points*, *Witness*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere. She has been cited in *Best American Short Stories* and has received grants and fellowships from the North Carolina Arts Council, the Tyrone Guthrie Center, the McColl Center for the Arts, and the Michener Society. She received a BA from Harvard University and an MFA from the Iowa Writers Workshop. She has taught creative writing, composition, and French at various colleges and universities, including Boston University, Lenoir-Rhyne College, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Harvard University Summer School, and Appalachian State University.

Justin Evans is a poet and electrician and a few other adjacent things. He's served as co-editor of *Vanilla Sex Magazine* and poetry editor of *QU*. His poetry has appeared in *Gutslut Press*, *Blood Orange Review*, *Defunct*, and elsewhere. His writing credits for the stage include *A Tonguey Kiss for Samuel Davidson*, *Satan v. Laundry*, and *Ubu Roi: A Reading with Rage Games and Weepery*. He holds an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte.

Julie Funderburk is the author of *The Door That Always Opens* (LSU Press), which received a Brockman-Campbell Book Award Honorable Mention, and the chapbook *Thoughts to Fold into Birds* (Unicorn Press). She has been awarded fellowships from the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the North Carolina Arts Council, and her latest poetry is forthcoming or appears in *The Southern Review*, *Ecotone*, *Pleiades*, and the anthologies *Gracious: Poems from the 21st Century South* and *You Are the River*. She teaches at Queens University of Charlotte.

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.

Patrice Gopo's essays have appeared in a variety of publications, including *Catapult*, *Charlotte Magazine*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and *AFAR Magazine*. Her essay "That Autumn" received a notable mention in the *Best American Essays 2020* and earned a National CRMA award for best essay. She is a Sustainable Arts Foundation awardee and a North Carolina Arts Council Artist Fellowship recipient. Her essay collection, *All the Colors We Will See*, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. Her debut picture book *All the Places We Call Home* was inspired by an essay in her collection. Online: patricegopo.com.

Stephanie Elizondo Griest is a globetrotting author from the Texas/Mexico borderlands. Her five award-winning books include the memoirs *All the Agents and Saints* and *Mexican Enough*; and the best-selling guidebook *100 Places Every Woman Should Go*. She has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *BBC*, *Travel + Leisure*, and *Oxford American*. Distinctions include a Henry Luce Scholarship to China, a Margolis Award for Social Justice Reporting, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton, and a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Prize. Currently associate professor of creative nonfiction at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she has performed on five continents in capacities ranging from a Moth storyteller to a literary ambassador for the U.S. State Department. Online: StephanieElizondoGriest.com.

Jennifer Halls is an intuition consultant who for 30+ years has helped thousands of people physically experience and understand how to access their deep intuitive knowing. The runes are one of the tools Jennifer uses to help people shift to an intuitive perspective and dive into fresh creative understandings. She is the author of *The Runes Workshop: A You Know.® Intuition Workbook*. Her upcoming book titled *You know.* will be available soon. Online: Youknow.net.

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.

Racquel Henry is a Trinidadian writer, editor, and writing coach with an MFA from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She owns the writing studio *Writer's Atelier* in Maitland, FL, and serves as editor of *Black Fox Literary Magazine* and *Voyage YA*. Racquel has been a featured author, presenter, and moderator at writing conferences and MFA residencies across the US. She is the author of *Holiday on Park*, *Letter to Santa*, and *The Writer's Atelier Little Book of Writing Affirmations*. Her fiction, nonfiction, and poetry can be found in various anthologies, literary magazines, and online outlets. When she's not working, you can find her watching Hallmark Christmas movies.

Dustin M. Hoffman is the author of the story collection *One-Hundred-Knuckled Fist*, winner of the 2015 Prairie Schooner Book Prize. His second collection *No Good for Digging* and chapbook *Secrets of the Wild* were published by Word West Press. He spent 10 years painting houses in Michigan before getting his MFA from Bowling Green State University and his Ph.D. from Western Michigan University. More than 80 of his stories have appeared in magazines, including *Black Warrior Review*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *One Story*. He is an associate professor of English at Winthrop University in South Carolina.

Irene Blair Honeycutt is an award-winning teacher and poet. Her fourth poetry book, *Beneath the Bamboo Sky* (Main Street Rag, 2017), is sub-titled *Poems and Pieces on Loss and Consolation*. Irene's kinship with trees began in her childhood in Florida where she built and retreated to her palm hut. She still meets with the woods and enjoys writing time in her mountain cabin. Her work has been published by journals, including *Nimrod*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *The Southern Poetry Anthology: VII*, *Black Moon Magazine*, *Kakalak* and *Virginia Quarterly*. She founded Central Piedmont Community College's Sensoria, mentors writers, and is completing her fifth poetry manuscript.

Kathy Izard is the author of two adult nonfiction books, *The Hundred Story Home* and *The Last Ordinary Hour*, as well as an illustrated children's title *A Good Night for Mr. Coleman*. She is a certified book coach who loves helping writers get their words in the world. Online: kathyizard.com (books), and womenfaithstory.com (book coaching, workshops and retreats).

Jessica Jacobs is the author of *Take Me with You, Wherever You're Going* (Four Way Books), winner of the Devil's Kitchen and Goldie Awards, and *Pelvis with Distance* (White Pine Press), winner of the New Mexico Book Award. Chapbook Editor for *Beloit Poetry Journal*, she co-authored *Write It! 100 Poetry Prompts to Inspire* (Spruce Books/PenguinRandomHouse) with her wife, the poet Nickole Brown. Her collection in conversation with the Book of Genesis will be out from Four Way Books in 2024.

CJ Lawing has been a landscape designer/installer for 20 years, 15 years of which she spent growing her own business, Living Art Design, in Charlotte. She is a recent graduate of Fairfield University's Spiritual Direction program, where she became joyfully clear that nature has been the one true constant and guide in her life. Her passionate relationship with the natural world and its creatures nurtures and extends into all aspects of her life. If she had to choose one title to describe how she approaches her work, it would be artist-gardener.

Brooke Dwojak Lehmann is a poet who rekindled her interest in creative writing at Charlotte Lit. The Indiana native recently spent a short time in the Pacific Northwest before returning to Charlotte in 2021. She is a graduate of the Arts & Science Council Cultural Leadership Training Program, a year-long immersion to identify and develop future arts leaders. Her poetry has been featured or is forthcoming in *Tar River Poetry*, *Tipton Journal*, *805 Lit* and others. She is currently program director at Charlotte Lit.

Paula Martinac is the author of seven novels—four in historical fiction and one award-winning, history-infused ghost story. A lifelong student of history, she was once a museum and historic site curator and is now a writing instructor and coach, and a book reviewer for *Historical Novels Review* and *Foreword Reviews*. She has received fellowships from the Arts & Science Council and the North Carolina Arts Council and teaches fiction writing at University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Ashley Memory's poetry, short stories, and essays have appeared in nearly 100 magazines, journals, and websites, including *Poets & Writers*, *Pen Dust Radio*, *NBC THINK*, *The Independent*, and the *North Carolina Literary Review*. She serves as a critique editor and judge for the quarterly writing contests held by the award-winning global community, Women On Writing. Online: ashley-memory.com.

Meghan Modafferi is a writer and multimedia storyteller whose work has been published by *National Geographic*, *Slate*, and the NPR affiliate WUNC. She has taught writing and podcasting courses at Georgetown University.

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the author of a book of nature essays, *World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, & Other Astonishments*, which was named a finalist for the Kirkus Prize in non-fiction, and four award-winning poetry collections, most recently, *Oceanic* (2018). Awards for her writing include fellowships from the Mississippi Arts Council, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for poetry, National Endowment of the Arts, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *ESPN*, and *Best American Poetry*. She is professor of English and creative writing in the University of Mississippi's MFA program.

Randon Billings Noble is an essayist. Her collection *Be with Me Always* was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2019, and her anthology of lyric essays *A Harp in the Stars* was published by the same press in 2021. Other work has appeared in the Modern Love column of *The New York Times*, *The Rumpus*, *Brevity*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. She is the founding editor of the online literary magazine *After the Art* and teaches in West Virginia Wesleyan's low-residency MFA program and Goucher College's MFA in Nonfiction program. Online: randonbillingsnoble.com.

Cathy Pickens' first mystery, *Southern Fried*, won the coveted St. Martin's Press Malice Domestic Award for Best Traditional Mystery. She's written five books in the series, as well as *Charlotte True Crime Stories* and four other books in a regional series for History Press, as well as *CREATE!*, on developing the creative process. She writes a regular true crime column for *Mystery Readers Journal* and articles on writing craft and on business, published in writing craft collections. She served as national president of Sisters in Crime and on the national board for Mystery Writers of America. As a long-time professor in the McColl School of Business at Queens University of Charlotte, she won numerous teaching awards. She's coached writers working on mystery, suspense, and middle-grade fiction; and memoir and other nonfiction.

Rick Pryll is an award-winning author and poet. His latest novel, *La Chimère of Prague* (2020), made it as high as #1 on Amazon in the psychological literary category. His previous book, *The Chimera of Prague*, was selected as the winner of the 2018 New York Book Festival award for romance. A graduate of MIT, Rick wrote a novella as the thesis for his mechanical engineering degree. Rick has taught classes and led talks at Charlotte Lit since 2018. His stories and poems have been featured in *Think*, *Optimism*, *Ekleksographia*, *Prometheus Dreaming*, and *The Esthetic Apostle*. He lives with his wife, 2018 ArtPop Charlotte artist Holly Spruck, their two kids, two cats and a dog.

Paul Reali is co-founder of Charlotte Lit and is a lead for its Authors Lab book-writing program. His fiction has been awarded first place in the Elizabeth Simpson Smith Short Story and Ruth Moose Flash Fiction competitions, and his play *Fresh Paint* was selected for the Playmakers 10-Minute Play Festival in 2022. Paul was awarded a Wildacres residency in 2022 and received a Regional Artist Project Grant from Charlotte's Arts & Science Council in 2018. He has an MS in Creativity from SUNY Buffalo State.

Megan Rich has written two books, a YA novel and a travel memoir, and is seeking representation for her third, a literary thriller inspired by *The Great Gatsby*. She took part in the highly selective sub-concentration in creative writing at the University of Michigan, for which she completed a thesis of original poetry. She's also a graduate of the selective Lighthouse Writers Workshop Book Project, and she is a 2022 recipient of the Arts & Science Council Charlotte's Creative Renewal Fellowship. With 14 years' experience as a creative writing teacher and mentor of students from ages 12 to 85, she is passionate about helping all writers find and refine their voices on the page.

Emily Sage is a Charlotte-based, independent singer/songwriter and producer with strong leanings in jazz and soul. Her romantic and lullaby-like songwriting style is largely influenced by her time spent growing up in Portugal. Emily moved to Nashville to study songwriting and music business at Belmont University, then to Charlotte when looking for a space to build her career and develop her vision. She has spoken and taught workshops on songwriting and overcoming writer's block in Europe and Africa as well as in Denver,

Nashville, and Charlotte. Emily's music has been featured on NPR, WFAE's Amplifier, DEF | CLT, Charlotte Agenda, and *Queen City Nerve*, which also named her as Critic's Pick for Best Singer/Songwriter of 2019.

C.T. Salazar is a Latinx poet and librarian from Mississippi. He's the author of *Headless John the Baptist Hitchhiking* (Acre Books) and three previous chapbooks, most recently *American Cavewall Sonnets* (Bull City Press, 2021). He's the 2020 recipient of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award in poetry. His poems have most recently appeared in *West Branch*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Southeast Review*, *The Hopkins Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Pleiades*, and elsewhere.

Kathryn Schuille 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.

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.

Jeffrey Thomson is a poet, memoirist, translator, and editor, and the author of 10 books including *Half/Life: New and Selected Poems* from Alice James Books, the memoir *fragile*, *The Belfast Notebooks*, *The Complete Poems of Catullus*, and the edited collection *From the Fishhouse*. His newest book is *Museum of Objects Burned by the Souls in Purgatory*. He has been a National Endowment for the Arts 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.

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 is releasing three novels under the pseudonym of Hope Carolle with Dragonblade Publishing in 2023.

Paul Tran is the author of the debut poetry collection *All the Flowers Kneeling* from Penguin in the US and the UK. They are a visiting faculty in poetry in the Pacific University MFA in Writing program, and a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University. A recipient of the Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation and a Discovery/Boston Review Poetry Prize, their work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere.

Landis Wade is a recovering trial lawyer turned author turned host of the popular Charlotte Readers Podcast (where he has conducted more than 300 author interviews), whose third book—*The Christmas Redemption*—won the Holiday category of the 12th Annual National Indie Excellence Awards, and whose recent novel, *Deadly Declarations*, received praise by *Kirkus Reviews*, *BookLife Reviews* and *Midwest Book Reviews*. He also has been interviewed on more than 25 podcasts and media outlets, gaining interview experience from both sides of the mic. He's taught courses on podcasting, audiobooks, book marketing, and writing, and has been active in the Charlotte and North Carolina writing communities.

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* (forthcoming from Button Poetry in 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.

Luke Whisnant is a three-time winner of the East Carolina University English Department's Excellence in Teaching Award. He is the author of six books and chapbooks, including *In the Debris Field*, which won the 2018 Bath Flash Fiction International Novella-in-Flash Award, and *Watching TV with the Red Chinese*, made into an independent film in 2012. His most recent book is *The Connor Project*, a novel (2022). He lives in Greenville, NC, where he edits the journal *Tar River Poetry*.

Timothy Winkler is an illustrator and book artist whose Modern Fauna Art & Ephemera Studio is based in Charlotte. A native of Nashville, he has long studied and worked in all of the various media of printmaking. He earned his MFA in Book Arts at the University of Alabama and has taught letterpress printing at Penland School of Crafts and a course on outsider art at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Timothy was a 2020 recipient of an Arts & Science Council Artist Support Grant.

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.

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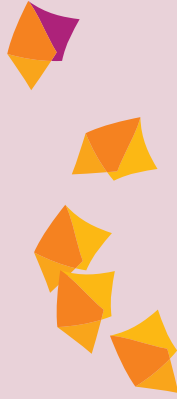
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