**Memoir Refresh: New Memoir Writers to Read & Learn From**

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023, | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET**

Instructor: Minda Honey

In the last several years, there’s been a memoir explosion but where to start? Who should you be reading? How has the genre evolved as these new writers have emerged on the scene? Reading new writers gives us the opportunity to imagine new possibilities for our own writing by expanding on what we thought we knew about the genre. In this seminar, Minda Honey will share excerpts from memoirs and personal essays by writers like Kiese Laymon, Carmen Marie Machado, Terese Mailhot, and Alexander Chee, discuss the craft element at play, and make reading recommendations based on skills you’re interested in strengthening. There will also be a writing exercise so you can try your hand at growing your craft. **$79 members/$99 nonmembers**

**Fashioning Words, Fashioning Style**

**Sunday, December 3, 2023, | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM ET**

Instructor: Kate Copeland

Is it the content or rather the wrapping of a message that counts? Linguistic theories speak of different levels and aspects of communication; one cannot look at a subject matter, without considering the appearance of it. In this workshop we will take a linguistic look at some elements in written communication, to then complete this look with a poetical exploration of clothing and fashion. We will look at ... **Fashioning Words, Fashioning Style full description here! $39 members/$49 non-members.**

**How to Tell the Truth: Finding the Right Emotional Distance for your Work**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023, | 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM ET**

Instructor: Minda Honey

Memoir writers regularly struggle with what part of our stories are ours to tell. In this class, we’ll take a close look at how memoir writers use varying degrees of emotional distance when creating intimacy with the reader. **$79 members/$99 nonmembers**

**Writing Grief through Culture**

**Saturday, December 9, 2023, | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET**

Instructor: Sarah Chaves

How do writers talk about grief through a cultural lens? How does one’s socio-economic class affect one’s grief? What about immigration status? Sexuality? Birth order? In this talk, participants will analyze the craft of writing about grief through these various lenses with authors such as... **Writing Grief through Culture full description and registration link here $59 members/$79 nonmembers**
**Where Writing and Design Meet**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2023, | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET**  
**Instructor:** Camille Gomera-Tavarez  
Some of the greatest lessons in writing often come from other mediums, such as visual arts. Camille Gomera-Tavarez, Pura Belpré Honor winning author and graphic designer discusses the ways visual arts and design have impacted her writing practice. Join her as she shares craft tips and don’t forget to bring a pencil! **$25 suggested donation**

**The Wonder of the Short Poem**  
**Wednesday, December 13, 2023, | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM ET**  
**Instructor:** Angie Siew  
If you tend to write long, narrative poems or find that you write to trim away, I invite you to explore the wonder and challenge of the short lyric with me. We will discuss short poetic forms such as the haiku and tanka, poems by Lucille Clifton, Carl Phillips, Salvatore Quasimodo, Bill Knott, and others, as well as complete generative exercises. All levels of experience are welcome. Our aim will be to leave with a short new poem draft. **$39 members/$49 nonmembers**

**Opening Pages: Hook & Heft**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 2023, | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET**  
**Instructor:** Lori Goldstein  
Readers don’t only judge books by their covers, they judge them on their first pages. Whether you’re looking to appeal to an agent, editor, or reader, novel openings are key. Readers won’t keep reading "to get to the good stuff." Those first critical pages must be your good stuff—or maybe your great stuff! In this workshop, we will focus on your novel’s first pages... **Opening Pages full description and registration link here! $99 members/$149 nonmembers**

**Friday Free Write: Making Ourselves Up as We Go Along: The Art of Saying "I"**  
**Friday, December 15, 2023, | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET**  
**Instructor:** Joy Ladin  
In this workshop, we will explore the writerly nuts and bolts of creating first-person speakers, discussing and practicing techniques we find in brief but complex literary examples of some of the many ways to use our most intimately embraced and widely shared pronoun, "I."  
**Join Zoom Meeting**
**Based on a Truish Story**
Sunday, December 17, 2023, | 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET  
Instructor: Kira Rockwell  
Based on a True-ish Story is a trauma-informed workshop for writers who want to learn how to craft a healthy distance from real life experiences, so that the source doesn’t become a sinkhole. With in-class writing exercises rooted in character, setting, and plot, you will come away with a toolbox of skills that allows you to blend truth with fiction. [Based on a Truish Story full description and registration link here!](#)  
$69 members/$89 nonmembers

**Brevity, Density, Power: Reading Short Stories by Women Writers**
Monday, December 18, 2023, | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM ET  
Instructor: Anndee Hochman  
In this workshop, writers will explore "The Home-coming," by Milly Jafta. We’ll examine and respond to the story’s language, rhythm, themes, structure, point of view, references to real events and other texts. We’ll ask: What do we expect from a short story? And what happens when writers flout those expectations? Participants will receive an audio file of the story, read by the instructor before the class. During class, we'll revisit key portions aloud—tuning our ears to dialogue, cadence, silences, and echoes—as we engage in discussion. Our conversations will welcome participants’ thoughts, questions, wild ideas, thoughtful challenges, and respectful dissents as we learn from and with each other. $39 members/$49 nonmembers  
Anndee’s introductory workshop on December 18th is open to all to register - a more in-depth series will follow in 2024 in which writers will poke into the “cabinets” of six exuberantly different writers from a range of cultures, vantage points, and storytelling traditions including:  
• “The Story of an Hour,” by Kate Chopin  
• “Everyday Use,” by Alice Walker  
• “In the Cemetery Where Al Jolson Is Buried,” by Amy Hempel  
• “The Shawl,” by Louise Erdrich  
• “Chin,” by Gish Jen  
• “The Thing Around Your Neck,” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Many of our instructors will be teaching multi-week series or leading workshops in 2024. [Pre-register for 2024 at a discounted rate for a limited time here!](#)