

# 2020 Wilmington Writers Conference: UNTOLD STORIES

## **SCHEDULE—Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

ALL SESSIONS OCCUR ON ZOOM. A unique Zoom link with directions and other pertinent information about the conference will be sent to your email upon registration. Questions can be sent to [ejarvis@delart.org](mailto:ejarvis@delart.org).

9:15 a.m. | Welcome and Committee Address

**\*\*Each Attendee will attend only TWO sessions, pick the time slots that fit with your schedule\*\***

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Morning Sessions

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Mid-Day Sessions

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Afternoon Sessions

5:00 p.m. All Conference Share-back

Register for the Share-back and you will be randomly placed into a Zoom breakout group after some remarks to the whole conference. In these breakout groups you will be able to share stories from the day, read pieces you created in your sessions, and network. Bring a drink and some snacks and make it a virtual Happy Hour!

## **MORNING SESSIONS**

**10:00 –11:30 a.m.**

### **Write! Publish! Sell!**

By Lois Hoffman, The Happy Self Publisher

Whether you want to write a book as a marketing tool for your business, for your career as a writer, or as a creative hobby, find out how you can self-publish a book and sell it online on sites such as Amazon and Barnes and Noble. This course will take you on a tour of writing, editing, pricing, publishing, and marketing your book. You will leave with a solid understanding of the self-publishing industry and how you and your book fit in.

## **Fighting Fear Through Voice SESSION FULL**

By Cass Lewis

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you, wrote Maya Angelou. When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak, advised Audre Lorde. The Fighting Fear Through Voice writing workshop is an opportunity for writers of all levels to break free from the fear of expressing themselves and explore their own voices. Inspired by the New York Writers Coalition method, which is designed to reduce competition among writers and is based on the belief that everyone, regardless of educational training or background, is a writer with a unique voice, the aim of this workshop is to generate new writing in a safe and positive environment. Led by award-winning writer Cass Lewis.

## **Jumpstart your Creativity Using Flash Fiction**

By Gary Zenker

Flash fiction, stories of 1000 words or less, offers a unique creative opportunity for writers. In the space where novel writers are simply setting up story elements, these stories are complete tales with a plot, a problem and a resolution (of sorts), memorable characters, and the language needed to communicate it all. Getting good at crafting flash fiction sets writers up to be better at nearly every other type of story telling they take on. This session includes an introduction to flash fiction. We will cover in short form - what it has in common and how it differs from other types of writing, the elements needed for a flash fiction story, and writing strategies to make these stories impactful. Please bring paper and a pen.

## **MID-DAY SESSIONS**

**12:30 –2:00 p.m.**

### **Using a Labyrinth as a Creative Tool**

By Carol Maurer

The labyrinth is an archetypal tool that can be used to help facilitate creativity. This session will focus on experiential exercises to help boost creativity as we play with flow writing exercises, reimagine your sentence structures and engage the body to access the right side of your brain. We will be utilizing paper, pen/pencils, and other digital ways to experience the labyrinth. Please bring a short passage of prose or poetry to be personally experimented with during the workshop.

## **Exercising the Mind's Eye**

By Caroline N. Simpson

This class is designed for writers and artists who are interested in exploring how writing and drawing can inform and inspire one another. Both art forms are side effects of entering a certain state of mind-- a kind of openness, attention, and surrender. In this workshop, participants will write and draw alongside artwork in the Delaware Art Museum's permanent collection-- penning original metaphors and poems, as well as sketching, cartooning, and drawing rudimentary portraits. No skill level required for this creative play!

## **Copyright Law: The Artist's Best Friend**

By J. Bryan Tuk, Esq.

The US Copyright Act is a powerful tool that artists of all kinds can use to propel their careers and create a livelihood for themselves and their families. Learn how the Copyright Act protects creators and how to use it to your advantage.

## **Turning Lemons into (Fictional) Lemonade SESSION FULL**

By Dennis Lawson

We all have stories that are untold because we don't want to share them. Maybe the story is embarrassing, or maybe the experience is too uncomfortable to dredge up. One way to process these life events is to transform them into fiction. In this workshop, we will discuss how to draw inspiration from our own lives, especially the events we prefer not to relive. As part of this discussion, we will explore how to avoid being accused of libel when writing about unpleasant people. Flannery O'Connor once said, If you've survived adolescence, you have enough to write about for the rest of your life. If you've made it this far, you have some untold stories that can make for good fiction.

## **AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

**2:30 –4:00 p.m.**

## **Mary Magdalene: Sinner and/or Saint—Let's Get it Right!**

By Maria J. Keane

Mary Magdalene's identity is still a subject of debate. She remains a mythical figure with a legend suppressed by long standing controversy. In general, only minor importance is given to her miracles and neither are they represented in contemporary expositions in liturgy or art.

## **A Perspective on Immigration in the United States: Untold Stories**

By Jacinta S. Fontenelle

Despite the frequency with which news reporting on immigration is done there continue to be many untold and unacknowledged aspects of this documented human movement. It is impossible to tell all the stories in every situation, unfortunately, on the subject of immigration the storyteller often speaks from a scholarly or point of view. Rarely is the personal perspective explored in any depth. There are many stories that make the immigration story much more than a political debate but rather an integral part of the health and development or progress of humanity. Issues such as brain-drain, underutilization of trained personnel, global instability, family and community support are rarely mentioned. The decision to emigrate is never an easy one, and dedicated, hard-working, determined and reliable people in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones are not given a voice.

## **The Charms of Travel Writing**

By Margaret Montet

Whether you are thinking of preparing a travel narrative for publication or you just want to preserve your travel memories creatively, this workshop is for you! Travel experiences don't happen linearly, so why try to record them that way? (This happened, and then this, and then this, Blah!) Compelling travel narratives contain anecdotes, personal remembrances, encounters with culture, and conversations: these are the charms! In this workshop, we will consider some examples of fine literary travel writing and then try our hands at creating our own narratives. Bring a favorite travel photo along (on your phone is easiest) for one of our prompts, and a good pen or pencil.

## WRITER BIOS

### CASS LEWIS

Cass Lewis is an award-winning writer. She has contributed to 10 books and several other publications, including Broad Street Review, The Belladonna Comedy, Head Stuff, Boston Literary Magazine, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Fractured West, Weave Magazine, On the Premises, Apparatus, and The Village Voice. Her plays have been produced in London, Dublin, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and have been included in numerous Best Of anthologies. She is a nominator for the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre. Lewis completed The University of Iowa's Irish Writing Program in Dublin and earned an MFA in Writing from New College of California. She has experience teaching writers of various backgrounds, from teens to formerly incarcerated people working towards their GEDs to college and graduate students. She believes that with encouragement, everyone has the potential to reach their goals. More information can be found at [CassLewis.com](http://CassLewis.com).

### GARY ZENKER

By day, Gary Zenker is a marketing professional who has written business communications for nearly every media (and maybe a few that have yet to be invented). In his off hours, Gary is the founder and leader of the Main Line Writers Group and the Wilmington-Chadds Ford Writers Group, now in their 11th and 9th years respectively and the longest running writers groups managed by a single person in eastern Pennsylvania. His flash fiction has been published in a variety of print and online publications, and he has published more than two dozen books including two co-authored with his young son, and a volume on using Meetup and leadership skills to achieve better results in meeting groups. Gary is the creator of Writers Bloxx, a party game and writers tool for everyone who enjoys story telling.

### DENNIS LAWSON

Dennis Lawson is an English Instructor at Delaware Technical Community College in Wilmington. His fiction has appeared in Philadelphia Stories, the Fox Chase Review, the crime anthology Insidious Assassins, and the Rehoboth Beach Reads anthology series. Dennis holds an MFA in Creative Writing

from Rutgers-Camden, and he received an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Delaware Division of the Arts as the Emerging Artist in Fiction in 2014. He lives in Newark, Delaware, with his wife and daughter. For more information, visit [www.dennislawson.net](http://www.dennislawson.net)

#### CAROLINE N. SIMPSON

Caroline N. Simpson is the 2020 DDOA Established Artist Fellow in Poetry. Her chapbook, *Choose Your Own Adventures and Other Poems*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2018. She has thrice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, both in poetry and nonfiction, and in 2013, a collection of her poetry won Honorable Mention in Hot Street's Emerging Writers Contest. She teaches high school English at the Tatnall School in Wilmington, DE, and has taught English literature at international high schools in Turkey and Spain. You can follow her at [carolinensimpson.com](http://carolinensimpson.com).

#### J. BRYAN TUK, ESQ.

Attorney of 20 + years in private practice representing creators. Independent professional musician and recording artist.

#### MARGARET MONTET

I write creative nonfiction that combines place with memoir, music, or culture. I hold a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Nonfiction from the Pan European MFA Program at Cedar Crest College, where, for my thesis, I wrote a collection of essays of place called *Nerd Traveler*, to be published in 2021. In order to provide myself with food, shelter, and travel money, I work as a librarian at Bucks County Community College sharing my love of books and research. I teach Effective Speaking to college students, and Music History to older adults. I spent the 1980s in Philadelphia pursuing Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Theory at Temple University. That musical background informs my writing. My pieces have appeared in such periodicals as *Dragon Poet Review*, *Flying South*, *Clever Magazine*, *Pink Pangea*, *Edible Jersey*, *Library Journal*, *America in WWII*, and *The Bangalore Review*.

#### MARIA J. KEANE

Maria Keane is a published author and visual artist. She received a Professional Grant for Works on Paper in 1997 awarded by the Delaware Arts Council and the NEA. She is an arts and letters member of the National League of American Pen Women, an artist member of the Studio Group and a signature member of the Pennsylvania Water Color Society. Her poems and art work have received honors and

distinction. Maria's book of poetry and illustrations: *Being There*, published in 2018, received a national award for creative verse from the National Press Women Association.

#### JACINTA S. FONTENELLE

Jacinta was born in the beautiful Caribbean island of St Lucia. A professional nurse for over forty years, she is now pursuing a career in writing and speaking while working as an adjunct clinical nurse instructor with the University of Delaware. She has been published in a Nursing magazine and *The Upper Room Devotional*, and coauthored in a few titles such as, *Short and Sweet Takes the Fifth*. Her first book entitled, *Contemporary Psalms; 365 Daily Reflections*, was published in book and kindle form in 2019. Throughout the years writing remained a second love often expressed in poetry and short stories. Some of her interests include reading, needlework and gardening. One of 13 children, she places great value on family as one of God's greatest gift in her life and strives to cherish that special gift. A mother of three, she presently resides in the state of Delaware with her husband and two of her three children.

#### CAROL MAURER

Carol Maurer, M.Ed lives in Hockessin, Delaware and is an experiential educator, artist and labyrinth facilitator. She has been fortunate enough to facilitate programs at The Delaware Art Museum, Street Road Artist Space, The Delaware Contemporary, The Labyrinth Society Gathering, The Golden Door, Rancho La Puerta, Outward Bound, Cunard Cruise Lines, Swarthmore College and other fabulous organizations!

#### LOIS HOFFMAN

Lois Hoffman is the owner of The Happy Self-Publisher and award-winning author of *Write a Book, Grow Your Business* and *The Self-Publishing Roadmap*. Her online course, *Adventures in Writing Nonfiction*, challenges aspiring authors to imagine what is possible and helps them realize their vision.

She is a book and author coach, speaker, workshop facilitator, and brings the joy of authorship to determined writers through personalized writing, publishing, and author services. She also elicits countless smiles as a professional juggler (really) along with her husband, Michael, who perform as The Juggling Hoffmans.

Lois lives with her family in Newark, DE where she juggles her creative pursuits with enthusiasm and joy. You can find her playing with words online at [happyselfpublisher.com](http://happyselfpublisher.com).