INDIANA WRITERS CENTER PRESENTS
Gathering of Writers
Annual Writing Conference

Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the Indiana State Library

Keynote & Writing Intensive:
"Listening to the Voices"
by Angela Jackson-Brown

POETRY
Eugene Gloria
Alessandra Lynch

FICTION
Dionne Irving
Barbara Shoup

SCREENWRITING
Saundra Mitchell

EDITING
Bryan Furuness
Sarah Layden

PLAYWRITING
Andrew Black

NONFICTION
Kelcey Parker Ervick
Melissa Fraterrigo

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Poetry: Eugene Gloria  
Family Affair: A Generative Writing Workshop  
*This class is presented by The Poetry Foundation*

How we see ourselves begins with the microcosm we call family. Family in this case can mean a community of close friends, or a house made up of pets, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, and a grandmother. The poems we'll write in this workshop can be both exhilarating and potentially troublesome as we negotiate through difficult territories on the subject of home and family. As a poet, family narratives often lead me to interesting discoveries about myself and how I imagine others might see me in the world. Through prompts and poetic models, this workshop will explore how to begin and how to nurture a rough draft into a finished poem. Possible poet models we'll read include Natalie Diaz, Li-Young Lee, and Louise Glück. This workshop is open to all levels of writing experience.

Creative Nonfiction: Kelcey Parker Ervick  
How to Write a Flash Memoir of a Single Moment

Some memories are so loaded with emotion that it can be hard to convey the experience in words. But the most powerful memoirs are those that create an emotional experience for the reader. In this workshop, we'll read examples of flash memoirs that focus on or culminate in a particular moment. We'll study the ways these micro-memoirs use the tools of language—figurative language, punctuation, rhythm, repetition, syntax, expansion, contraction—to translate individual moments into moving experiences for the reader. Then we'll practice those techniques as we draft our own flash memoirs of a single moment. Your flash memoirs can serve as standalone pieces or be incorporated into a larger story.

Fiction: Barbara Shoup  
So You Want to Write a Novel

E.L Doctorow said, "A book begins as a private excitement of the mind."

But how do you get from that private excitement of the mind to words on the page? Do you make an outline or just jump in? How do you get your characters to show you who they are? What's the right balance of scene and narrative? Do you choose point of view or does point of view choose you? What the heck is plot, anyway—and how do you sustain it? How do you research for a novel; how do you know when to stop? Do you really have to revise?

There are countless ways to approach writing a novel. This session will address your questions about the process of writing an novel from assessing your novel idea to how to approach revision when you finish your first draft, offering practical strategies to help you along the way.
BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 1:15 - 2:30 pm
Room Assignments TBA

Playwriting: Andy Black
The Play's the Thing

This interactive session is designed for "playwrights" at all levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced, as well as writers from other genres who are just saying "What would it be like to write a play?"

Andrew will present some basic frameworks for thinking about playwriting, and then use those frameworks to analyze a real play (as shown in class). In pairs, participants will brainstorm questions about playwriting, and then leverage their own wisdom by answering those questions in a facilitated discussion, moderated (and supplemented) by the workshop leader.

Fiction: Dionne Irving
Inspired by a True Story

In this generative workshop, we will examine and engage in the craft complexities demanded of the writer who turns history into fiction. We will consider how both the distant and the recent pasts can inspire stories and the creative process more generally. When, where, why, and how do facts assist and/or intrude upon the creation of plot, character, place, framing, rhythm, and other details of style in novels and stories? How do social histories, art, politics, and literatures influence our understanding of how to create fiction from life?

Creative Nonfiction: Melissa Fraterrigo
As I Live: Writing the Every Day

There is so much we take in every day—ordinary moments that when looked at closely, offer glimpses of brilliance and sometimes even revelation. In this workshop, we'll find what matters to us and explore how best to say it. Through readings, discussion, and exercises, we will look at how raw material from our daily lives can be shaped into a compelling story. There is much for writers of creative nonfiction to learn by noticing what grabs our attention. Together we will explore new ways of thinking and seeing our world.
BREAKOUT SESSION 3: 2:45 - 4:00 pm
Room Assignments TBA

**Literary Editing: Bryan Furuness & Sarah Layden**
*The Invisible Art of Editing*

In this hands-on introduction to editing, you'll practice the invisible art of editing another writer's creative work (which should teach you a lot about revising your own work). Exercises will be drawn from the forthcoming book, Invisible Art: A Field Guide to Literary Editing, written by the instructors, Bryan Furuness and Sarah Layden.

**Poetry: Alessandra Lynch**
*Gathering & Holding the Pieces, Letting them Speak*
*This class is presented by The Poetry Foundation*

In this poetry writing workshop, I will offer a variety of prompts (including art and music) to help you process difficult, urgent concerns in your life, concerns that might have felt shattering or silencing to you.

Part of the workshop will involve loose sketching. (You do not need to be a visual artist or to have any art experience to participate!)

Most of the workshop will invite you to write freely and safely, play with words, and create a handful of burgeoning poems, and perhaps one rough draft of a poem.

Between each prompt I will read a poem or two to invite you into a poetic mindscape.

You don’t have to share anything you write, but I’d like to provide you the space and support of these hours to write what you need to write.

**Screenwriting: Saundra Mitchell**
*Screenwriting Exposed*

(Middle Grade, Teens, Adults)

All the tricks, tips, and step-by-step instructions you need to write a screenplay today. In this class, students will learn the basics of screenwriting structure and conventions. They'll also learn about different screenwriting software available at low or no cost to them. And, they will write at least one page of a brand new screenplay by the end of class. Students are STRONGLY advised to bring a laptop.
Writing Intensive: Angela Jackson-Brown 
Listening to the Voices 
1:15 - 4:15 pm

**NOTE:** This 3-hour class takes place during the regular Gathering of Writers programming. This class requires pre-registration and extra fees. You will be available to take the morning breakout session, but the Writing Intensive will take place during the afternoon breakout sessions in a separate classroom. **

This class is open to all fiction and creative nonfiction writers:

As writers, we are always listening to and honoring the voices of our characters, or at least we should be. This workshop is designed to help you elevate your dialogue to master level as well as move your plot to all new levels of greatness. No matter how phenomenal your characters, it means nothing if the words coming out of their mouths falls flat or lacks depth. In just a few hours, you will walk away with the tools necessary to write powerful, evocative dialogue that will make your characters memorable to your readers.
Presenters

**Keynote Angela Jackson-Brown** is an award-winning writer, poet and playwright who teaches Creative Writing, English and African American Studies at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. She is also a member of the graduate faculty of the School of Creative and Professional Writing at Spalding University in Louisville, KY.

She is a graduate of Troy University, Auburn University and the Spalding low-residency MFA program in Creative Writing. She has published her short fiction, Creative Nonfiction, and poetry in journals like The Louisville Journal and the Appalachian Review. She is the author of *Drinking From a Bitter Cup*, *House Repairs*, and her recently published novel, *When Stars Rain Down*. *When Stars Rain Down* is a highly acclaimed novel that received a starred review from the Library Journal and glowing reviews from Alabama Public Library, Buzzfeed, Parade Magazine, and Women’s Weekly, just to name a few.

**Andrew Black** is a playwright and a teacher of playwrights. He currently lives in Columbia, Missouri, where he is working on a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies. His area of research is best practices for teaching playwriting (and many of his research discoveries find their way into his classes for the IWC). He teaches beginning playwriting and screenwriting for Mizzou. Andrew has an MFA from Ohio University’s School of Theatre. His first full-length play *Porn Yesterday* (co-written with Patricia Milton in 2001) has been produced across the country. Since that first play reached the stage, it has been a non-stop, full-on adventure! Many productions of short plays and full-length plays have followed. Andrew has been on the faculty of the Indiana Writers Center since 2012. He is the founder of the Indiana Playwrights Circle. He is currently working on a one-person show called *What Same-Sex Marriage Means to Me* which tracks his adventures as a man who loves other men through the changing legal, cultural and political trends of the last 60 years. Check out his website at [www.andrewblackplaywright.com](http://www.andrewblackplaywright.com)
**Kelcey Parker Ervick** is the author of *The Keeper*, an illustrated memoir about growing up in girls’ sports in the early days of Title IX, forthcoming from Avery/Penguin in September 2022. Her three previous award-winning books include the biographical memoir *The Bitter Life of Božena Němcová* and the novella *Liliane’s Balcony*, set at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater. She teaches creative writing at Indiana University South Bend and is co-editor, with Tom Hart, of the Field Guide to Graphic Literature, forthcoming from Rose Metal Press. [www.kelceyervick.com](http://www.kelceyervick.com)

**Melissa Fraterrigo** is the author of the novel *Glory Days* (University of Nebraska Press, 2017), which was named one of “The Best Fiction Books of 2017” by the Chicago Review of Books as well as the short story collection *The Longest Pregnancy* (Livingston Press, 2006). Her fiction and nonfiction has appeared in more than forty literary journals and anthologies from *storySouth* and *Shenandoah* to *Notre Dame Review*, *Indiana Review* and *The Millions*. She is the founder and executive director of the Lafayette Writers’ Studio, [lafayettewritersstudio.com](http://lafayettewritersstudio.com) in Lafayette, Indiana, where she offers classes on the art and craft of writing. [Melissafraterrigo.com](http://melissafraterrigo.com)

Eugene Gloria is the author of four books of poems--Sightseer in This Killing City (Penguin Random House, 2019), winner of the Indiana Authors Award, My Favorite Warlord (Penguin, 2012), winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, Hoodlum Birds (Penguin, 2006), and Drivers at the Short-Time Motel (Penguin, 2000), a National Poetry Series selection and recipient of the Asian American Literary Award. Gloria has taught creative writing workshop at all levels for over 25 years. He is the John Rabb Emison Professor of Creative and Performing Arts and English Professor at DePauw University.

Dionne Irving is originally from Toronto, Ontario. Her work has appeared in Story, Boulevard, LitHub, Missouri Review, and New Delta Review, among other journals and magazines. She earned her Ph.D. in English and Creative Writing from Georgia State University. Her novel QUINT was published by 7.13 Books and her short story collection THE ISLANDS is forthcoming from Catapult Books in November 2022. Irving Bremyer has been awarded two Tennessee Williams scholarships from the Sewanee Writers’ Conference and a scholarship and residency from the Voices of Our Nation Writers Conference. She is a professor teaching in the University of Notre Dame in their MFA program.

Sarah Layden is the author of Trip Through Your Wires, a novel, and The Story I Tell Myself About Myself, a chapbook of flash fiction. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in The Washington Post, Salon, Newsweek, Poets & Writers, Boston Review, Blackbird, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, and elsewhere. She teaches creative writing at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
Alessandra Lynch’s fourth book of poetry, Pretty Tripwire, was published in January 2021. She is also the author of three other poetry collections: Sails the Wind Left Behind, It was a terrible cloud at twilight, and Daylily Called It a Dangerous Moment (winner of the Balcones Prize, finalist for the LA Times Book Award and the UNT Rilke Prize, listed as a NY Times top ten poetry books of 2017). Her work has appeared in the American Poetry Review, The New England Review, The Kenyon Review, Ploughshares, and other journals. Alessandra has received residencies from MacDowell, Yaddo, and the Vermont Studio Center. Recently she was a featured blogger for the Poetry Foundation’s Harriet Books. Currently, Alessandra serves as Butler University’s poet in residence where she teaches in the undergraduate and MFA programs. Alessandra also paints from time to time. www.alessandralynch.com

Saundra Mitchell has been a phone psychic, a car salesperson, a denture-deliverer and a layout waxer. She’s dodged trains, endured basic training, and hitchhiked from Montana to California. The author of nearly twenty books for tweens and teens, Mitchell’s work includes Edgar Award nominee SHADOWED SUMMER, THE VESPERTINE series, Indiana Author Award Winner and Lambda Nominee ALL THE THINGS WE DO IN THE DARK, as well as the CAMP MURDERFACE series with Josh Berk. She is the editor of four anthologies for teens, DEFY THE DARK, ALL OUT, OUT NOW and the forthcoming OUT THERE. She always picks truth; dares are too easy.
Barbara Shoup is the author of eight novels for adults and young adults, a memoir, and two books about the creative process. Her YA novels have been named to the American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults, the Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books Blue Ribbon Book; Voya Best Young Adult Book and Perfect 10, and the International Reading Association’s Young Adults Choice List. The recipient of the PEN Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Working Writer Fellowship, Lilly Endowment Creative Renewal Fellowships, Indiana Arts Commission Fellowships, and fellowships from the Ragdale Foundation, she is the Writer-in-Residence at the Indiana Writers Center and a faculty member at Art Workshop International.