

2025 WRITING WORKSHOPS

THE EUGENE &
MARILYN GLICK

**Indiana
Authors
Awards**



Workshop Leader: John F. Allen

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Phone: 317-698-8687

Genre: Speculative Fiction, Fiction

Length: 1 ½ hours

Format: In-person or virtual

The Basics of Writing Speculative Fiction

The Basics of Writing Speculative Fiction is a basic guide on what speculative fiction consists of and how to create a Speculative Fiction Short Story from beginning to end. In this 1.5 hour course, you will learn the basic mechanics of writing a Speculative Fiction Short Story including: plot, setting, characters and world building.

The workshop will explore what speculative fiction is. You may get a different answer depending on who you ask. In this workshop, we are going to explore the basics of what is needed to compose a speculative fiction piece.

Like any story, you will need to create the basic elements:

- Theme – Central story idea.
- Plot – What happens within the story?
- Setting – Where and when the story takes place?
- Character – Who is in the story/who the story is about?
- Conflict – Why is there a story to tell? What stands between the characters and their desires/needs/goals?
- World building – This is a culmination of the above elements, woven together to create a relatable environment for the reader.

Foundations of Fiction

The Foundations of Fiction is a basic guide designed to break down and identify the elements of fiction so that they can be used to strengthen your writing of a story. The Foundations of Fiction may be applied to **ALL** genres of fiction as well as screenwriting, and comic book writing.

This workshop will also cover why an understanding of the Foundations of Fiction is instrumental to good writing at any stage of the writer's journey.

These are the Foundations of Fiction we will be discussing: Theme/Plot, Setting, Structure, Character Development, World building, Exposition, Dialogue, Emotions, Viewpoint, Voice

John F. Allen is an American author/writer and visual artist born in Indianapolis, IN. He is a founding and active member of the Speculative Fiction Guild. He is also an active member of the Indiana Writers Center, where he serves as a faculty member and teaches classes on various writing subjects. John studied Liberal Arts at IUPUI with a focus in Creative Writing and Art, received an honorable discharge from the United States Air Force and is a current member of the American Legion. John's debut novel, *The God Killers*, was published in 2013, followed by a spin-off novella series titled, *Codename: Knight Ranger*. Many of his short stories have been featured in his collection, *The Best is Yet to Come*, which is currently published by Hydra Publications, along with *The God Killers*, *Codename: Knight Ranger* and *Codename: Knight Ranger – The God Particle Conspiracy*. He also penned the novelization of respected screenwriter, Demetrius Witherspoon's short film, *Submerge: Echo 51*. John currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, and is married to an amazing woman named Mia. He has two adult children from a previous marriage, she has five adult children, and together they have eleven grandchildren.



Workshop Leader: Curtis Crisler

Email: crislerc33@gmail.com

Phone: (260) 403-7126

Genre: Poetry

Length: 1 ½ hours

Format: In-person or virtual

Finding Your Voice Through the Epistolary (letter/prose) Poem

We will create epistolary (letter/prose) poems that make a reader unable to evade them because you have established your voice through tone and atmosphere, propelling what's written (using the 5 sensory attributes, word choices, syntax, and style) to your advantage.

These epistolary (letter-prose) poems, you are writing to another person (living, dead, or made up). With that, they are great for developing voice, and I believe are useful to establish how to incorporate research through imagination.

All participants will be prompted to write and share (depending on class circumstances) their writing with the workshop. Attendees will leave with an understanding of what an epistolary (letter/prose) poem is, how to write an epistolary (letter/prose) poem, and they will have a working draft of an epistolary (letter/prose) poem that emphasizes their voice.

I will supply sample poems for the group to view and discuss as we deal with the elements in the poems that address the prior-mentioned reasons for the master class.

Curtis Crisler was born and raised in Gary, Indiana. Crisler, an award-winning poet/author, has a new book, *Doing Drive-bys on How to Love in the Midwest*, which won the C&R Press Award for poetry. He has six poetry books, two YA books, and five poetry chapbooks. He's been published in a variety of magazines, journals, and anthologies. Crisler's awarded fellowships and residencies are from the City of Asylum/Pittsburgh (COA/P), Cave Canem (Fellow), the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Soul Mountain, guest resident at Hamline University, guest resident at Words on the Go, and Writer-in-Residence (Writers @ The Carr Program) sponsored by Poets & Writers, INC. Crisler was awarded a Library Scholars Grant Award, a RHINO Founder's Award, Indiana Arts Commission Grants, Eric Hoffer Awards, the Sterling Plump First Voices Poetry Award, and he was nominated for the Eliot Rosewater Award and a Jessie Redmon Fauset Book Award. Crisler's poetry has been adapted to theatrical productions in New York and Chicago. He is the co-poetry editor for *the museum of americana*. Crisler created the Indiana Chitlin Circuit and a new poetry form called the *sonastic*. He's the Indiana Poet Laureate and Professor of English at Purdue University Fort Wayne.



Workshop Leader: Rosaleen Crowley

Email: rcrowley2136@att.net

Genre: Poetry

Length: 1 ½ hours

Format: In-person or virtual

Connection to Place and New Roots

This program invites participants to record their experiences of place through art journaling. The participants will get a taste of Irish heritage through art/images of original art and poetry. They can interpret their own thoughts and feelings and think about their own relationship to place. Rosaleen Crowley will explore words that express love, loss, survival, resilience, balance, belonging. Using words and art, Rosaleen's goal is to enlighten, renew and inspire participants.

Rosaleen Crowley reflects on present and past to understand Irish culture and heritage. With the backdrop of the experience of Irish-American Diaspora, Rosaleen will create a dialogue about cultural sensitivity and understanding of diversity of place and thought. She sets the scene/ scenery transporting the audience through poetry of place to understand Ireland's rich culture and heritage and in turn reflect on the participant's own journey.

Rosaleen Crowley is a poet, Artist, Educator and International Speaker. She was born in Cork, Ireland and graduated from University College Cork. Rosaleen qualified as a Teacher and went on to teach in both south and north of England before relocating to Indiana, USA. Rosaleen is a student in the Masters in Fine Arts - Creative Writing - Poetry at Butler University, Indianapolis.

Volunteer positions include: International Women Indiana (President, 2018-2019), Carmel Creative Writers, Inc. President/ Co-Founder and Board Member, Brick Street Poetry Inc. (Board Member, 2020-2023). Publications include: *Point of Connection* 2016, *Point of Reflection* (2018) and *Point of Perception* (2020). Three compilation of poetry books are available on Amazon. *For the Sake of Rhyme, Of Land and Poetry: Ireland*, and *Be Prepared to be Luminous*. Images of water, nature and open spaces, themes of home, love, cultural identity, conflict, loss and isolation are looked at throughout her poetry and paintings.



Workshop Leader: Bryan Furuness

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Phone: 317-850-2799

Genre: Fiction

Length: 75 minutes – 2 ½ hours

Format: In-person or virtual

Remix: Writing Edition

Writers and other artists often feel pressure to be "original." However, most of our favorite stories and other works of art aren't actually all that original. They tend to have a "core of familiarity and a fringe of novelty." One way to achieve that balance is to take something old and make it new in some way. To remix it, in other words. During this workshop, participants will cycle through several stations to try different ways of remixing the "source material." Participants will cut and paste, add and erase to make new stories from old material.

Bryan Furuness is the author of a couple of novels, *The Lost Episodes of Revie Bryson* and *Do Not Go On*, and the co-author (with Sarah Layden) of *The Invisible Art of Literary Editing*. He is the editor of several anthologies, including *My Name was Never Frankenstein: And Other Classic Adventure Tales Remixed*. He lives in Indianapolis, where he is a Writer in Residence at Butler University.



Workshop Leader: Dave Griffith

Email: dgriff8@gmail.com

Phone: (434) 316-3683

Genre: Nonfiction; all

Length: Adaptable

Format: In-person or virtual

Writer as Physician: The Healing Power of Storytelling

To tell stories is to be human. We tell stories to celebrate the beautiful, humorous, and unbelievable moments in our lives. We tell stories to celebrate and honor friends and family, and people we admire. We also tell stories to commiserate and tell people how we're feeling.

This workshop will focus on how we use storytelling to heal. Drawing upon a fast-growing field of medical and literary study called Narrative Medicine, author Dave Griffith will lead you in a series of guided writing prompts whose goal is to unlock the potential that creative writing has to heal ourselves and better care for those who are in need of healing.

Dave Griffith is the author of *A Good War is Hard to Find: The Art of Violence in America*, a collection of essays reflecting on how images of violence in film, literature, and news media shape our collective understanding of violence as a means of solving problems. For the past two decades, Dave has been leading creative writing workshops for writers of all ages and levels of experience. Formerly director of creative writing at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, he now serves as a professor in the Center for University Advising at the University of Notre Dame. He lives in South Bend, where he directs Write Differently, a program offering workshops for young writers on the autism spectrum.



Workshop Leader: Lydia Johnson

Email: lmjohnso89@gmail.com

Phone: 219.614.9724

Genre: Poetry

Length: 1 hour

Format: In-person or virtual

Your Life as a Poem

In this online workshop, I will teach participants how to mine their life experiences for poetic expression. Poets will read relevant contemporary poetry that will help them to imagine new ways to express, commemorate, and process significant events in their lives. A guided writing exercise will help new and experienced poets gain inspiration and create new work.

Ordering a Chapbook

In this online class, poets who have written a variety of individual poems will learn actionable steps to build a small collection, or chapbook. This short demonstrative class will give poets a framework for building from themes in individual poems to a larger theme across the chapbook, creating interest, as well as an emotional and stylistic journey to engage readers.

Lydia Johnson is a poet and writer from Gary, Indiana. Her writing has been published in *BLACKBERRY: a magazine*, *Glamour Magazine*, *Kiwanis Magazine* and the books *Women in Clothes*, *Writers Resist: Hoosier Writers Unite*, and Belt Publishing's *The Gary Anthology*. She received her M.F.A in Creative Writing from Butler University and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has taught poetry workshops and led book discussions for the Indiana Writers Center, Indiana Humanities and other local nonprofits. She volunteers as an Editorial Assistant for *The Indianapolis Review* and serves as a judge for various writing contests geared toward young writers.



Workshop Leader: Samuel Love

Email: samuelalove219@gmail.com

Genre: Creative Nonfiction

Length: Adaptable

Format: In-person or virtual

Oral History for Beginners

In this workshop, Sam will share best practices (and occasional failed approaches) from more than three decades of experience as an oral historian. Producing a good oral history involves more than just pressing record and asking a few questions. Sam will cover the entire process of conducting an oral history project, from selecting the right topic to preserving your work for posterity. At the end of the workshop participants will learn how to build enthusiasm for the project, how to make their potential respondents comfortable, how to develop open-ended questions that yield detailed, thoughtful answers, and tips for preserving and promoting the finished project. Far more than just an academic practice, oral histories are useful in producing family histories, community history projects, and for preserving institutional memory and wisdom of community organizations and businesses.

Samuel Love is a social and civic practice artist from Gary, Indiana, who organizes public projects that connect communities to their cultural histories through publishing, multi-media installations, and performance. He is the editor of *The Gary Anthology* (Belt Publishing, 2020) and has produced two short documentaries for Indiana Humanities, *Calumet: The Region's River* (2022) and *Grown In Gary* (2024).



Workshop Leader: Chantel Massey

Email: contact@chantelmassey.com

Phone: 317.362.4477

Genre: Poetry

Length: 1-3 hours

Format: In-person or virtual

Tender and Titanic: Community, Immortality and Care Through Poetry

This is a multimedia poetry workshop looking at the works of poet and warrior Audre Lorde. Specifically, we will discuss her essay "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action." Through poetry by looking at the work of poets like Jericho Brown, Danez Smith, Lucille Clifton, Franny Choi, and more, prompts, and discussion we will focus on our responsibility to care for ourselves and our community, immortality, and the power in using our own voices through poetry.

The Power of Questions, Imagination and Storytelling in Poetry

Lucille Clifton says "We can create what we cannot imagine." In this workshop, for kids, teens or adults, we will use poetry by Ross Gay, Lucille Clifton, Mari Evans and more, prompts, and engaging activities to explore what they would like to see for their future, ask them what kind of people they hope to be, and learn about how to build a better community themselves and the ones they love.

Chantel Massey is a storyteller, poet, author, teaching artist, editor, organizer, educator, practicing Afrofuturist, and avid anime lover from Indiana. Massey is a fellow of The Watering Hole and received support from VONA poetry, Brooklyn Poets, Hurston/Wright Foundation, and Tin House. She is a 2023 Best of Net Award winner and 2020 Indiana Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards Emerging Author finalist for her first collection of poetry, [*Bursting At The Seams*](#) (VK Press, 2018), a Midwest Black girl coming of age story. Massey founded the literary arts organization, [UnLearn Arts](#), radically dedicated to amplifying and cultivating the craft and wellness of BIPOC writers in the Midwest and elsewhere. Alongside performing poetry, Massey serves as board member and Community Outreach Committee member for youth poetry organization, [Word As Bond](#) and reader at [Revolute Magazine](#). Massey is also a teaching artist for the [Asante Art Institute](#) Zora's Daughters writing program, and a [Caliban Art Board Member](#).



Workshop Leader: Kaitlynn McShea

Email: kaitlynn.mcshea@gmail.com

Genre: Fiction

Length: 1 ½ hours

Format: In-person or virtual

Exploring Plot Structure Through Jamaica Kincaid's Writing

In this workshop, we will use Jamaica Kincaid's flash fiction to explore plot structure. By analyzing the plot structure of other writers, we gain insight into our own writing. Using her work as a guide, we will generate different pieces that can jumpstart future writing projects. This workshop lends itself to prose writers, but poets would also benefit.

Kaitlynn McShea is a teacher and writer from Indianapolis. She is a co-founder and the managing editor of the Heartland Society of Women Writers, an Indy-based literary magazine and community of writers. In 2019, she graduated with her MA in Creative Writing from the University of Limerick with first class honors. She is currently a third-year PhD student in English Literature at Ball State University. Her current research focuses on a postcolonial and feminist focus of Irish women playwrights of the 20th Century. In June 2024, her play, *The Silent Supper*, was produced by Div(x) Fest with Indy Fringe. She has work published in *Mulberry Literary*, *The Ghastling*, *Remington Review*, *Silver Apples*, and more.



Workshop Leader: Alicia Rasley

Email: rasley@gmail.com

Phone: 317-694-6732

Genre: Fiction

Length: Adaptable; 2-4 hours

Format: In-person or virtual

Story-Builders! Let's Get Started Plotting!

Do you have a story in you? Is there an idea or character you want to explore? Here's your chance to get started with the guidance of a veteran writer and affirmative editor, Alicia Rasley. We'll start with your idea, and build out from there—explore the characters, organize the plot, outline dramatic events. Here's what we'll be doing in this fun and practical workshop:

1. Developing your story through the Three Plotlines (External, Internal, Interactional)
2. Channeling your characters and discovering their journey, goal, and strengths/weaknesses
3. Changing the characters through events of the plot
4. Intensifying the conflict and character change
5. Ending the story with drama and resolution

It sounds like a lot, but we can do it all in one workshop! By the time we're done, you'll have an outline of the three acts of the story plot, AND a summary of the character's internal journey. You'll be excited and ready to get started writing or revising your story! There's a bigger market for stories than ever before, so here's your chance to plunge right into that story you've wanted to write.

While geared toward adult writers, this workshop is adaptable for younger audiences.

Alicia Rasley is an award-winning novelist whose mystery, science fiction, family saga, and romance novels have been released by major publishers. She has edited dozens of stories and teaches fiction writing in workshops and online. She teaches writing and American literature at Everglades University. An Indiana native, she currently lives on the White River, and is developing a podcast about the challenges that come up when you're plotting a story. She loves to help brainstorm other people's stories and research solutions to writing and grammar problems! Her writing articles can be found at www.aliciarasley.com.



Workshop Leader: Larry D. Sweazy

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Phone: 317-797-6369

Genre: Fiction

Length: 3 hours

Format: In-person or virtual

The Big Secret: Starting and Finishing Your Novel

Here's the big secret about writing novels: The hardest part of writing a novel is finishing it. The day by day grind it takes to write a novel can be overwhelming. Great ideas tire out. Real life gets in the way. Doubt over takes the dream. In this interactive workshop, Larry D. Sweazy will share proven tips and help beginning and seasoned writers alike to build the skills that they need to finish that special novel. Topics discussed will be time management, building a toolbox, finding support, writing tips, and most importantly living life as writer—even if they're not published. Students should come prepared to write in class. Exercises include determining how many words can be written in a sitting, character creation, designing titles, writing query letters, and submission techniques. This workshop is designed to jump start a writers dream and turn it into a happy reality.

Larry D. Sweazy was born and raised in Anderson Indiana and is a multiple-award winning, critically acclaimed author of 19 novels, 34 short stories, and over 60 non-fiction articles and book reviews. An early reader, he was raised in a home filled with paperback books brought home from the factory and watched a lot of 1960s westerns and 1970s detective shows on television. Larry was 49 when his first novel, *The Rattlesnake Season* (2009), was published. Since then, he has been awarded eight national writing awards, including the Western Writers of America (WWA) Spur Award (2), Best Books of Indiana Award (1), the Will Rogers Medallion Award (2), the Elmer Kelton Book Award (1), the Willa Award (1), and the WF (Western Fictioneers) Peacemaker Award (1). He has also been short-listed and been a finalist for several awards, and his books have received starred reviews in *Publisher's Weekly* and the *Library Journal*. His books have been translated in Italy and Turkey. He has served on the faculty and board of directors for the Midwest Writers Workshop, the faculty for the Indiana Writers Center, and teaches writing workshops in Indiana and around the country. Larry lives in Noblesville, Indiana with his wife, Rose, and is hard at work on his next writing project. More information can be found at www.larrydsweazy.com.



Workshop Leader: Shari Wagner

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Phone: 317.612.4368

Genre: Poetry

Length: 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours

Format: In-person or virtual

Poetry as Memoir: Exploring the Terrain

Members of this writing workshop will be surprised by the details and insights they discover as they explore memory's terrain with the tools of the poet. This workshop is adaptable to almost any age and experience level and includes an introduction to the memoir focus and writing prompt; discussion of accessible and engaging poetry models; creation of a collaborative list poem related to the prompt; tips on the writing process; writing exercises designed to draw forth memories, sensory details, and associative leaps; time to work on a rough draft; and the opportunity for volunteers to share what they've written. A few examples of Shari Wagner's previous Poetry as Memoir workshops include *Exploring an Inheritance*; *Return to a Childhood Place*; *A Coming of Age Experience*; *What I Learned from a Family Member*; *Looking at a Family Photograph*; *School Recollections*; *My First Job*; *Memories of a Library*; and *Memories Related to Music*. These are just examples. Shari looks forward to designing a poetry workshop with a memoir theme tailored to the background or interests of your specific group.

Shari Wagner, former Indiana Poet Laureate, is the author of three poetry books: *The Farm Wife's Almanac*, *The Harmonist at Nightfall: Poems of Indiana*, and *Evening Chore*. She co-authored *A Hundred Camels: A Doctor's Sojourn and Murder Trial in Somalia* and *Making the Rounds: Memoirs of a Small Town Doctor* and edited the anthologies *Finding the Words: Stories and Poems of Women Veterans* and *Returning: Stories from the Indianapolis Senior Center*. Her poems have appeared in many literary magazines, including *The Writer's Almanac*, *American Life in Poetry*, *Shenandoah*, and *North American Review*, as well as in the anthologies, *Taking Root in the Heart: A Collection of Thirty-Four Poets from "The Christian Century," A Cappella: Mennonite Voices in Poetry*, and *An Indiana Christmas*. Shari has taught poetry writing in grade schools, high schools, universities, libraries, state parks, historical sites, and senior centers. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from Indiana University and lives in Westfield, IN. Learn more at <https://www.shariwagnerpoet.com/>.



Workshop Leader: Kenneth Woods

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Phone: 812.207.5310

Genre: Poetry

Length: 1 hour

Format: In-person or virtual

Poetry: Painting With Words

With the rise of the popularity of poetry and an increased interest of teens in expressing themselves, this workshop will discuss the basics of how to write a poem. Not just how to write but talk about how to dig deep to find the language necessary to "paint" the world as we see it. We'll use a series of prompts to exercise various writing techniques. Students are expected to share their work and ask questions. This workshop is geared toward those teens who are interested in "Poetry Out Loud" or if they are curious about the artform of poetry.

Kenneth Woods, AKA "KennyFresh," is a spoken word artist, writer, poet and author. He has performed in the Midwest as well as various states throughout the country. His work has been shown at an international conference in Athens, Greece and he's performed on live television. Kenneth loves to perform on stage and translates his voice onto the page for readers to enjoy. On April 03, 2020, Kenneth released his debut poetry chapbook 'Equilibrium.' In August of 2021, three of his poems "Meticulous," "How Are You Really?," and "Art Makes Home," were accepted into the Indiana digital poetry archive, INverse, an archive curated by the Indiana Poet Laureate, the Indiana State Library, and the Indiana Arts Commission.



Workshop Leader: Januarie York

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PHONE: 317.603.0743

Genre: Poetry

Length: 1 hour (adaptable)

Format: In-person or virtual

Avenger Poetry – The Superhero I Am Workshop

This workshop is inspired by the Marvel and DC Comics universe and is intended to build language, self-expression, and self-awareness. Ideal for elementary school aged students but perfect for all ages, this workshop plays on the traditional I AM concept, asking participants to identify and affirm who they are through poetry. Beginning with interactive dialogue and conversation, we explore positive traits in ourselves, identify our own superpowers, and imagine the possibilities of what could be done to change the world with them. We will also discuss some of the Marvel/DC characters and how they positively impact their communities and utilize their superpowers for good. Two short pre-poetry writing exercises help participants create the language for their individual poems by exploring descriptions, senses, and ways to look at their own "superpowers/strengths." After exploring and imagining types of superheroes, names, and special powers, participants get to write an "I AM" poem, using their superhero image and describing their powers.

Colors – Socio Emotional Exploration Through Poetry

The main component of every poem, no matter the style it is written, is the feeling. What do you feel? Why do you feel it? What does this feeling mean? This workshop explores our feelings and how we use them in our social world on a regular basis. Using the "blind selection method", one random participant will select 3 different emotions from a box of 16 feelings. The selected three will be our chosen focus for the workshop. We'll explore these emotions more in depth and will talk candidly about how our feelings impact our day-to-day life. We'll also speak about colors, using them to identify feelings and thoughts or things those colors are also associated with. Participants will select one of the emotions discussed and will then write about it as (any color). We'll end the workshop by collecting copies of all written works (with permission of writers) to be compiled in an online, digital magazine format available for download, delivered one week later.

Januarie York is a freelance writer, published author & poet and creative curator. She was recently named the Center for Black Literature and Culture's first Poet Laureate. In addition to performing original works of poetry, she has released two spoken word albums, 3 books of poetry and essays, and runs an online magazine publication called, "LiT Magazine." Januarie has worked with the Asante Children's Theater, Eskenazi Hospital, IU Health, Visit Indy, Indianapolis Central Library, and the Fair Housing Act of Indiana to name a few. Her work is displayed in several areas in downtown Indianapolis, including the Circle Centre Mall and she recently wrote and recorded the opening poem for the nationally recognized Major Taylor exhibit at the Indiana State Museum.