



LIT FEST

2025

PRESENTED BY LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP

FICTION
NONFICTION
POETRY
HYBRID

Eight Days of Seminars, Parties,
Workshops, Agent Consultations,
Readings, Salons, and More

JUNE 6 - 13



2025 VISITING AUTHORS



STEVE ALMOND



PAUL HARDING



MAT JOHNSON



KATIE KITAMURA



ELIZABETH MCCRACKEN



HELEN PHILLIPS



TONY TULATHIMUTTE



INGRID ROJAS CONTRERAS



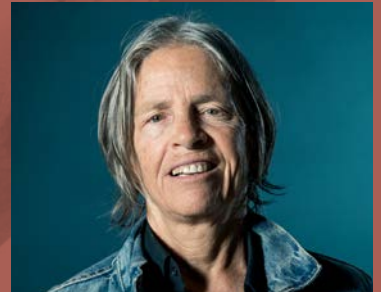
NICOLE CHUNG



CLAIRE DEDERER



ALEX MARZANO-LESNEVICH



EILEEN MYLES



EDUARDO CORRAL



SOLMAZ SHARIF



MATTHEW ZAPRUDER

WELCOME TO LIT FEST

EIGHT DAYS OF LITERARY AND CREATIVE INDULGENCE

Lighthouse is nestled in the historic Cole neighborhood of central Denver, replete with brick bungalows, cozy coffee shops, parks, and the sprawling York Street Yards commercial complex. Just next door are the Curtis Park and River North neighborhoods, buzzy with galleries, breweries, and music venues, and just beyond, downtown Denver and the Rocky Mountains. All of which is to say: the perfect setting in which to find your muse.

Join us for a complete literary immersion, June 6–13. We've gathered a world-class roster of visiting authors, including Steve Almond, Nicole Chung, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Eduardo Corral, Claire Dederer, Paul Harding, Mat Johnson, Katie Kitamura, Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, Elizabeth McCracken, Eileen Myles, Helen Phillips, Solmaz Sharif, Tony Tulathimutte, and Matthew Zapruder. Choose from over a hundred craft seminars, attend nightly community events and conversations with your favorite authors, happy hour gatherings, daily business panels featuring agents and editors, and a pop-up bookstore with our official bookstore partner, The Bookies.

Whether you're new to the Lighthouse community or you're returning for the 20th time, look for your muse no further. It's here, at Lit Fest 2025.

TICKETS AND
PASSES ON SALE
APRIL 3



“

THE WHOLE OF
LIT FEST IS IN THE
SERVICE OF ART,
CREATIVITY, PLAY
AND DISCOVERY.”

—Mark Doty, *Lit Fest 2024 Visiting Author*



JOIN US FOR OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Lit Fest presents a mix of advanced workshops, craft seminars, lunchtime business panels, evening events, readings, community gatherings, and more. With this guide, you'll get a sense of what to expect at this year's Lit Fest and set yourself up for the best experience. Most importantly, we'll let you in on a secret everyone in Colorado already knows: we have the best faculty and warmest community of writers anywhere.



TO SEE A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
LIGHTHOUSEWRITERS.ORG/LITFEST

LIT FEST SUCCESS STORIES

Join these Lit Fest regulars who have taken workshops, craft classes, and attended all the fun over the years. They're returning to share their books, all hot off the presses, and the stories of how they wrote and published them.



GLORIA J. BROWNE-MARSHALL

"Amitava Kumar's nonfiction advanced class at Lit Fest taught me how to find the heartbeat of my book and to keep writing despite the vagaries of this profession."



KRISTIN KOVAL

"The advanced workshops, taught by nationally known writers who excel at both their craft and teaching, helped propel my writing to new levels and the accompanying business panels are invaluable and a part of the literary world every writer needs to be well-versed in."



CHRISTINA RIVERA

"I first applied for Lit Fest advanced workshops in 2016, and I wrote the first paragraph of *My Oceans* in the back row of the grotto (in Lighthouse's previous building)."



SARAH LANDENWICH

"When I was ready to try to publish, the business panels and seminars at Lit Fest helped prepare me to write a query, what to look for in an agent, and how to weather the difficulties of rejection. I don't have an MFA, and I didn't have any connections in the publishing world. I'm proud to say that my query was picked out of the slush pile. I attribute so much of that success to what I learned at Lighthouse."



EVANTHIA BROMILEY

"Lit Fest is unique in that it's a one-of-a-kind opportunity to work with some of the best writers out there. And it's such a wonderful atmosphere. You meet people of all ages, from all walks of life, this wonderful community of writers who want to talk about the things that matter the most to you. It's so refreshing. It feels exciting and joyful and also unpretentious."



HOW TO LIT FEST: PRICING

The best way to experience Lit Fest is by registering for a Festival Pass, which allows you to truly immerse yourself in what the week has to offer, learning from some of the best writers around, and making great leaps in your career.

Gold Passes are the only passes that include an advanced workshop (the deadline for applying to advanced workshops was March 8). Read carefully as passes may have changed from previous years.

PRICE FOR À LA CARTE OFFERINGS:

- Parties: \$30/\$40
- Craft Seminars: \$75/\$85
- Two-Day Intensives: \$210/\$270
- Lunchtime Business Panels: \$25/\$35

Pricing is shown in a Member Rate/Non-Member Rate format. Memberships are a smart investment for Lit Fest and beyond.



LITFEST WAS SO
WELCOMING
AND ENJOYABLE
AND WELL ORGANIZED!”

—Sam Field, Lit Fest 2024 participant

GOLD PASS: \$1,745/\$1,980

Includes a weeklong advanced workshop, a craft seminar five-pack, a meeting with an agent, all business panels, access to a two-hour breakdown of visiting agents + Q&A with publishing expert Shana Kelly prior to Lit Fest, all four visiting authors readings, the kickoff and closing parties, and 10% off additional workshops.

WEEKEND GOLD PASS: \$1,350/\$1,580

Includes a weekend advanced workshop, a craft seminar five-pack, a meeting with an agent, all business panels, access to a two-hour breakdown of visiting agents + Q&A with publishing expert Shana Kelly prior to Lit Fest, all four visiting authors readings, the kickoff and closing parties, and 10% off additional workshops.

SILVER PASS: \$930/\$1,165

Includes a two-day intensive (non-advanced), a craft seminar five-pack, a meeting with an agent, all business panels, access to a two-hour breakdown of visiting agents + Q&A with publishing expert Shana Kelly prior to Lit Fest, all four visiting authors readings, the kickoff and closing parties, and 10% off additional workshops.

BRONZE PASS: \$740/\$920

Includes a craft seminar five-pack, all business panels, a meeting with an agent, access to a two-hour breakdown of visiting agents + Q&A with publishing expert Shana Kelly prior to Lit Fest, all four visiting authors readings, the kickoff and closing parties, and 10% off additional workshops.

FULL-ACCESS BUSINESS PASS WITH AGENT MEETING: \$350/\$450

Includes all business panels plus a one-on-one consultation with an agent or editor, access to a two-hour breakdown of visiting agents + Q&A with publishing expert Shana Kelly prior to Lit Fest.

CRAFT SEMINAR FIVE-PACK: \$330/\$375

Includes a spot in five craft seminars of your choice.

ADDITIONAL ONE-ON-ONE AGENT CONSULTATIONS: \$110/\$130

Additional agent consultations are open to participants holding Gold, Weekend Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Full-Access Business Passes only. Though we cannot guarantee it, we make every effort to accommodate agent preferences.

WEEKLONG ADVANCED WORKSHOPS: \$1,350/\$1,520

Tuition includes an orientation before class starts, five workshop sessions, a one-on-one meeting with the instructor, breakfast and coffee on workshop days, all lunchtime business panels, tickets to the opening and closing parties, all four visiting authors readings, and discounted rates at local hotels.

WEEKEND ADVANCED WORKSHOP: \$910/\$1,080

Tuition includes two workshop sessions, breakfast, and coffee on workshop days, all lunchtime business panels, tickets to the opening and closing parties, all four visiting authors readings, and discounted rates at local hotels.



FRIDAY, JUNE 6

9:00 to 11:00 AM

- In Retrospect | Austin Segrest
- Writing Beyond Walls: Resilience and Difficult Subject Matter | Hillary Leftwich
- Create Your Novel's Bible | Jan Thomas
- Three Paths to Publishing Your Poetry Book | Radha Marcum
- Tuning In: Using Music and Playlists to Develop Character in Prose | Anthony D'Aries
- The Art of the Crónica (V) | Javier Sinay
- Words that Woo: Literary Activism (V) | Ellen Blum Barish

12:00 to 1:00 PM

Lunchtime Business Panel: Beyond Big Book Publishing—Hybrid, Indie, Self

1:30 to 3:30 PM

- Welcome to the Sh*t Show: Your Inciting Incident | Erika Krouse
- The Art of Condensary | Alyse Knorr
- Site/Visit: Writing, the Land | Cass Eddington
- Queer(ing) Images for Our Futures | Kanika Agrawal
- Erasures, Lacunae, and Voids: Writing What's Not There | Sasha Geffen
- I'll Follow You Into the Dark: Letting the Unknown Drive Your Personal Narrative | Gina DeMillo Wagner
- Creating Our Personal Language (V) | Oso Guardiola
- Structure and the Art of Not-Knowing in the Creative Nonfiction Book | Claire Dederer

**MORE INFORMATION AT
LIGHHOUSEWRITERS.ORG**

4:00 to 6:00 PM

- Dynamic Scenes | Erika Krouse
- Developing Writing Habits | Poupeh Missaghi
- Write a Happy Story | Nick Arvin
- Tell Me What You Really Think: Writing Dialogue | Alexander Lumans
- Vocational Poetics: Working, Writing, Calling Out | Cass Eddington
- Asking Questions (V) | Elizabeth Robinson
- A Talk Against Goodness | Solmaz Sharif
- The Importance of Gaps (V) | Karen Auvinen

5:00 to 6:00 PM

Writing in Color/Queer Creatives Welcome Hour

6:15 to 6:45 PM

Advanced Weekend Workshop Orientation



Turn the Page with Colorado Matters and Kristin Koval

Join novelist Kristin Koval, a Lit Fest advanced workshop regular, in conversation with Colorado Public Radio's Ryan Warner for a live taping of Turn the Page, a series that digs into works by Colorado writers. Koval's debut novel, *Penitence*, named an Indie First pick for February, has gotten national attention. The Washington Post raves, "Gripping and propulsive, Kristin Koval's *Penitence* is an exploration of the struggles and impossible choices of two families linked by tragedy, guilt, blame and love."



SATURDAY, JUNE 7

8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

- Advanced Weekend Nonfiction Intensive: In Pursuit of the Story | Nicole Chung
- Advanced Weekend Poetry Intensive | Solmaz Sharif

9:00 to 11:00 AM

- Oracle Poetry: Pushing the Veil Between the Spirit Realm and Our Writing (V) | Hillary Leftwich
- When Everything Changed: Writing Your Marker Story (V) | Ellen Blum Barish
- Art of Creative Research (V) | Ladane Nasser
- Managing the Middle: How to Not Lose Readers Along the Way | Kristin Koval

9:00 to 12:00 PM

- Two-Day Intensive: Breaking the Surface—Revision | William Haywood Henderson
- Two-Day Intensive: Strange Story Structures | Erika Krouse
- Two-Day Intensive: Experiments in Form—Audre Lorde | Suzi Q. Smith
- Two-Day Intensive: Finish It! Perspective and Persistence (V) | Khadijah Queen

10:00 to 11:30 AM

Queer Creatives Brunch

12:00 to 1:00 PM

Lunchtime Business Panel: Your Agent Itinerary—Tips for Representation

1:00 to 4:00 PM

- Two-Day Intensive: “I Read it in One Sitting”—On Pacing | Anna Qu
- Two-Day Intensive: The Big Voice—How to Amplify Your Narratives | Sarah Elizabeth Schantz
- Two-Day Intensive: Learn Description from Samantha Harvey’s “Orbital” | Alexander Lumans

1:30 to 3:30 PM

- ChatGPT Is My Secretary | Erika Krouse
- Scansion Blast | David J. Rothman
- Facing Fears: Flash Fiction, Prose Poetry, and Hybrid Forms | Juan J. Morales

1:30 to 5:00 PM

- Advanced Weekend Nonfiction Intensive: Fighting Overwhelm | Claire Dederer
- Advanced Weekend Fiction Intensive: Writers and Readers | Katie Kitamura

4:00 to 6:00 PM

- Rhyme: Crime or Sublime | David J. Rothman
- Cultivate Your Metaphors | Teow Lim Got
- Learning Craft Techniques from Literature in Translation | Poupeh Missaghi
- Everyday Objects, Luminous Things | Peter Markus
- How to Build Your Niche as a Poet | Yuyutsu Sharma

5:30 to 6:30 PM

Faculty Showcase

7:00 to 8:15 PM

Visiting Authors Reading: Nicole Chung, Claire Dederer, Katie Kitamura, and Solmaz Sharif



SATURDAY, 6/7 AND SUNDAY, 6/8

Two-Day Intensive: Finish It! Perspective and Persistence (V) | Khadijah Queen

Working on a long poem, story, essay, play, or book? What will it take to finish? Can we do it—or at least create an actionable plan to finish—in a weekend? Solutions and strategies in the form of planning sessions, readings, discussions, writing exercises, charts, and other resources provided. We’ll cover the role of editors and feedback; myths and benefits of breaks; how to bypass blocks, fears and resistances; and where planning meets plain old knuckling down. Any genre welcome. This may be most useful for work between midway and “almost there.” Let’s find our way to the finish line together.



SUNDAY, JUNE 8

8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

- Advanced Weekend Nonfiction Intensive: In Pursuit of the Story | Nicole Chung
- Advanced Weekend Poetry Intensive | Solmaz Sharif

12:00 to 1:00 PM

Lunchtime Business Panel: Truth of Writing About Our Families, Friends, and Other Real People—Permission and Consequences

9:00 to 11:00 AM

- Writing Food | Poupeh Missaghi
- Art Writing, Writing Art | Katie Kitamura
- Equanimity and the Long-Lined Poem (V) | Sawnie Morris
- Intimate Strangers: Writing the Family (V) | Ladane Nasser

1:00 to 4:00 PM

- Two-Day Intensive: “I Read it in One Sitting”—On Pacing | Anna Qu
- Two-Day Intensive: The Big Voic —How to Amplify Your Narratives | Sarah Elizabeth Schantz
- Two-Day Intensive: Learn Description from Samantha Harvey’s “Orbital” | Alexander Lumans



Art Writing, Writing Art | Katie Kitamura

What does it mean to write critically about art in fiction or creative nonfiction? How can writing about art allow us to write more deeply about character and world? How can it allow us to explore ideas in ways we might not otherwise have access to? We’ll look at a number of examples in both fiction and nonfiction, from authors including John Berger and Sheena Patel. Please bring something to write with, as this talk will be centered on generative exercises.

1:30 to 3:30 PM

- Drama-rama: Conflict and Dramatic Questions | Erika Krouse
- Perchance to Dream: Crafting Our Dreams Into Poems (V) | Sawnie Morris

1:30 to 5:00 PM

- Advanced Weekend Nonfiction Intensive: Fighting Overwhelm | Claire Dederer
- Advanced Weekend Fiction Intensive: Writers and Readers | Katie Kitamura

5:00 to 6:00 PM

Advanced Weeklong Workshop Orientation

9:00 to 12:00 PM

- Two-Day Intensive: Breaking the Surface—Revision | William Haywood Henderson
- Two-Day Intensive: Strange Story Structures | Erika Krouse
- Two-Day Intensive: Experiments in Form—Audre Lorde | Suzi Q. Smith
- Two-Day Intensive: Finish It! Perspective and Persistence (V) | Khadijah Queen

6:00 to 8:30 PM

Lit Fest Kickoff Party

“LIT FEST IS AN UNDISCOVERED GEM IN THE SUMMER LITERARY CONFERENCE WORLD—DON’T MISS IT!”

—Kristin Koval, Lit Fest participant since 2018, debut novel *Penitence*




MONDAY, JUNE 9

<p>9:00 to 11:30 AM</p> <p>Advanced Weeklong Workshops</p>	<p>4:00 to 6:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Big Voice: How to Amplify Your Narratives Sarah Elizabeth Schantz • The Art of Iteration: How to Revise Your Poetry Manuscript Radha Marcum • Building the Writer’s Notebook Jenny Shank • So You Want to Go Indie Cynthia Swanson • Channeling Palimpsest in Your Writing Malinda Miller • Writing Thrillers Carter Wilson • Lament (V) Elizabeth Robinson • Writing the Self: Considerations of Character, Perspective and Scene (V) Karen Auvinen
<p>9:00 to 11:00 AM</p> <p>Literary Lightning: Finding the Poetry in Your Prose (V) Ellen Blum Barish</p>	<p>4:30 to 6:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Draft Live: The Debut Journey • Writing in Color Presents: Finding the Ghost Ingrid Rojas Contreras
<p>12:00 to 1:00 PM</p> <p>Lunchtime Business Panel: Pitching Editors</p>	<p>7:00 to 8:15 PM</p> <p>Visiting Authors Reading: Mat Johnson, Alex Marzano-Lesnevitch, and Elizabeth McCracken</p>
<p>1:30 to 3:30 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Own Alphabet Sarah Elizabeth Schantz • Practical Publishing: Journals as Models for Your Work Hillary Leftwich • How to Create Unforgettable Characters Steve Almond • Just Two Poems Lynn Wagner • Borderless: Writing Against Containment Kanika Agrawal • Tragedy Plus Time/Writing Traumedy Elissa Bassist • Symbolism & Metaphor: They Aren’t Just For Fiction (V) Angelique Stevens • The Laundry Line (V) Natalie Hodges 	

4:00 to 6:00 PM

**Writing in Color Presents:
Finding the Ghost | Ingrid Rojas Contreras**

This all-genre craft seminar will include a literature survey, highlighting moments when strangeness enters the room, and what it can offer a narrative, as well as in-class generative prompts based on readings. We will take a look at nonfiction from Daisy Lafarge and Anna Lindsey, the poetry of Anna Swir, the prose-meets-poetry of Anne Carson, and the fiction of Victor Heringer. One of the most valuable modes a writer can be in is a blissful state of porosity. In this class, no matter our genre, we’ll open ourselves to the possibilities and tools of other genres to see what we can take away and bring back to our own. This seminar will encourage you toward strangeness, to investigate and play with structure and form.









TUESDAY, JUNE 10

<p>9:00 to 11:30 AM</p> <p>Advanced Weeklong Workshops</p>	<p>4:00 to 7:00 PM</p> <p>Two-Day Intensive: Word, Sound, and Power (V) André O. Toilette</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>9:00 to 11:00 AM</p> <p>The Radical Four-Act Eastern Storytelling Structure (V) Henry Lien</p>	<p>4:30 to 6:00 PM</p> <p>Lit Fest Fellows Showcase</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

<p>12:00 to 1:00 PM</p> <p>Lunchtime Business Panel: Perfect Pairing</p>	<p>7:00 to 8:15 PM</p> <p>Visiting Authors Reading: Steve Almond, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Eduardo Corral, Douglas Stuart</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>1:30 to 3:30 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving Into the Wreck—Finding Your Obsessions William Haywood Henderson • The Power of Description Paul Harding • Letter to a Stranger Alexander Lumans • The Art of Literary Submission Jenny Shank • Say Less: Reading and Writing Minimal Poems Kanika Agrawal • How to Be Less Afraid of Omniscient Point of View Andrea Bobotis • The Murder Book: A Roadmap to Writing Killer Fiction Barbara Nickless 	<div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p>8:30 to 9:30 PM</p>  <p>Reading Den at Lit Fest</p> <p>Stick around after the Visiting Authors Reading for a lively edition of Denver’s latest reading series, Reading Den, featuring Lit Fest authors from Colorado and beyond.</p> </div>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>4:00 to 6:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rhetorical Hallway Matthew Zapruder • How to Write Riveting Scenes Steve Almond • Beyond First and Third: Playing, Perspectives Jenny Shank • To Outline or Blast Ahead? That is the Question Cynthia Swanson • Find Your Unique Style William Haywood Henderson • Short Stories Explained Mary Robinette Kowal • Place-Based Writing (V) Karen Auvinen 	
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

EARLY-BIRD TICKETS TO LIGHTHOUSE’S 2025 ILLUMINATION GALA FEATURING GEORGE SAUNDERS GO ON SALE JUNE 6



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

9:00 to 11:30 AM

Advanced Weeklong Workshops

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Non-Linear Structures from Non-Western Storytelling (V) | Henry Lien

12:00 to 1:00 PM

Lunchtime Business Panel: Book Launch—Behind the Scenes

1:30 to 3:30 PM

- Craft Seminar | Eileen Myles
- Novel Whispering: How to Finish a Novel | Mat Johnson
- A Premise is Not a Promise: Thriving After the First Sentence | Alexander Lumans
- Close, Close (Close) Third Person | Erika Krouse
- Story as Scrapbook: Structuring Prose with Documents, Letters, Journal Entries, and Articles | Jenny Shank
- Poems for Garden and Forest | Lynn Wagner
- The Situation and the Story (V) | Natalie Hodges
- Why Rhyme (V) | Jodie Hollander
- Write Livelihood: Making a Living as a Writer (V) | Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg
- How to Hook a Reader in Your First Ten Pages | Rachel Weaver

4:00 to 6:00 PM

- Create a Moment, Create a World | Helen Phillips
- Freelance Writing: Getting Started and Building Your Career | Jenny Shank
- Up Front: Exploring and Making Poem Titles | Lynn Wagner
- Endings: How to Wrap Things Up | Mary Robinette Kowal
- Fiction Stuckshop | Amanda Rea
- The Animal Kingdom (V) | Daniel Levine

4:00 to 7:00 PM

- Two-Day Intensive: Comedic Memoir | Elissa Bassist
- Two-Day Intensive: Word, Sound, and Power (V) | André O. Toilette

4:30 to 6:00 PM

The Book Project Showcase



Writing in Color Trivia with Black People Know Things

Love trivia? Looking for new writer friends? Join us for a night of BIPOC-centered trivia hosted by Black People Know Things! This event is open to all with the aim of providing writers of color an opportunity to connect.





THURSDAY, JUNE 12

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Live in the Layers: Mindfulness and Writing (V) | Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg

9:00 to 11:30 AM

Advanced Weeklong Workshops

12:00 to 1:00 PM

Lunchtime Business Panel: Late Breaking-Publishing World

1:30 to 3:30 PM

- How to Write Sex Scenes without Shame | Steve Almond
- Elizabeth McCracken Seminar | Elizabeth McCracken
- Using the Epistolary to Jumpstart the Poem | Emily Perez
- Writing the Law | Gloria J. Browne-Marshall
- Imagination Station | Erika Krouse
- Psychedelic Writing | Hillary Brenhouse
- Sell Essays That Boost Your Book's Potential | Amanda McCracken

4:00 to 6:00 PM

- What Carver Teaches us About Storytelling | Tony Tulathimutte
- A Circle Is God Saying Yes: Strategies for Rethinking Revision | Eduardo Corral
- Story Structure and Shape | Dino Enrique Piacentini
- Story Machine | Amanda Rea
- Protecting Your Story: Fact-Checking and Corroboration | Abe Streep
- Writing Cinematically: Using Moving Pictures to Tell Your Story (V) | Karen Auvinen
- Writing Fight Scenes (V) | Daniel Levine

4:00 to 7:00 PM

- Two-Day Intensive: Comedic Memoir | Elissa Bassist
- Two-Day Intensive: The Problem with Evil (V) | John Cotter

4:30 to 6:00 PM

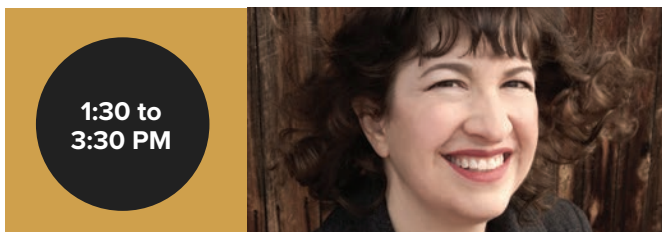
Poetry Collective Celebration and Graduation

7:00 to 8:15 PM

Visiting Authors Reading: Helen Phillips, Eileen Myles, Tony Tulathimutte, and Matthew Zapruder

8:30 to 9:30 PM

Reading Den at Lit Fest



Imagination Station with Erika Krouse

Come with an open mind, leave with pages and pages (and pages) of fresh writing! In this generative class, our magical box of props, prompts, and writing activities will infuse your writing with new energy, sending you in exciting new directions. Exercises will be in 3-5 minute sprints, each inspired by a different source of inspiration to explore. Open to writers of all genres who are looking for inspiration and fun.

THE LIT FEST FIVE-PACK IS A GREAT WAY TO SAVE MONEY AND IMMERSE YOURSELF IN LIT FEST SEMINARS! THIS PASS COVERS FIVE CRAFT SEMINARS OF YOUR CHOICE. ON SALE APRIL 3.






FRIDAY, JUNE 13

<p>9:00 to 11:30 AM</p> <p>Advanced Weeklong Workshops</p>	<p>4:00 to 7:00 PM</p> <p>Two-Day Intensive: The Problem with Evil (V) John Cotter</p>
<p>12:00 to 1:00 PM</p> <p>Lunchtime Business Panel: Lit-Mag Landscape</p>	<p>4:30 to 6:00 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Bookfair and Reading • Taking it Off the Nose: Using Dialogue to Show Conflict and Develop Character (V) Karen Auvinen
<p>1:30 to 3:30 PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details That Matter William Haywood Henderson • Finding the Agency in Your Memoir Anna Qu • Writing Family Members as Characters Alex Marzano-Lesnevich • Writing about Power Structures Abe Streep • How to Publish A Book While Staying (Reasonably) Sane Jenny Shank • In the Trenches with Historical Fiction Terri Lewis • Making the Personal Universal: Five Ways to Connect Your Story to a Wider Audience Gina DeMillo Wagner 	<p>6:00 to 8:30 PM</p> <p>Lit Fest Closing Party</p> <div style="background-color: #4a7c8c; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>“ LIT FEST WAS SO JOYFUL. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SPACE LIGHTHOUSE HAS CREATED. SO MANY HAVE LEFT THE WEEK CHANGED AND ENERGIZED. —T Kira Māhealani Madden</p> </div>

1:30 to 3:30 PM



Finding the Agency in Your Memoir | Anna Qu

One of memoir’s biggest challenges is managing the relationship between our voices now and who we were in the past. We spend years playing with the ideas in our memoirs, writing, rewriting, but when we get to the end we realize that the memoir we’ve written isn’t the book we wanted to write. This craft seminar will explore strategies for staying engaged in our own journeys, and doing that hard thing that the best memoirists have mastered: aligning who “you” are now with the “you” of the past on the page.



TWO-DAY INTENSIVES

PROSE (FICTION/NONFICTION)

Saturday–Sunday, June 7–8, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Breaking the Surface—Revision | William Haywood Henderson

You finish a draft—then what? The text can seem impenetrable, but you know you need to open it to new possibilities. You can change a word, add a comma, reorder the clauses, but you know (deep down) that you're not yet getting at what you know needs to occur in order to dramatize your idea. Noodling around on the surface won't suffice. In this intensive, we'll break the surface of our drafts and discover the potential for meaningful change. Writers will come away with an expanded understanding of their texts.

Strange Story Structures | Erika Krouse

Freytag, get lost! In this weekend workshop, we'll read, explore, and try a variety of short story structures that range from the alternative to the bizarre: the montage, the list, the instructional, the backward story, metafiction, the "Rashomon," the floater, and much more! Emphasis will be on mass generation, rather than perfected and read-aloud-able work. Prose writers of any genre can expect example readings, brief discussions, and lots of exercises focusing on techniques you've never tried before. Come to class with one idea or fifteen; leave with exciting new writing and your mind on fire.

Saturday–Sunday, June 7–8, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

The Big Voice: How to Amplify Your Narratives | Sarah Elizabeth Schantz

We will experiment with the stations of "The Midwife" and "The Medium" to catch/channel the writing and reVISION to come. Through hermeneutic listening and asking the Oracle for guidance, we will traverse the looping spectrum of creativity and craft by employing divination techniques to practice accessing the Muse; we will use tried and true divinatory methods like communion with Ancestor; the Tarot; bibliomancy; dream-work; automatic writing; and more, to then develop our own entry points and intersections with Inspiration and Idea based on our individual needs as writers and the unique requirements each particular project demands.

FICTION

Saturday–Sunday, June 7–8, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Learn Description from Samantha Harvey's "Orbital" | Alexander Lumans

Samantha Harvey was awarded the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel *Orbital*, which follows six astronauts aboard a space station circling our planet for twenty-four hours. *Orbital* is an eloquent meditation about the complex relationships between humanity, Earth, and their joined legacy. It's Harvey's richly layered and undeniably sublime prose that rockets her novel into the stratosphere of masterful description writing. In this intensive, we'll read, discuss, and model various strategies Harvey employs to great reward. Together, we'll elevate our own prose stylings and learn how to depict the most ineffable parts of the world around us.

Thursday–Friday, June 12–13, 4:00 to 7:00 PM

The Problem with Evil (V) | John Cotter

The art of making satisfying villains, and the art of saying something new about bad, banal acts—all this can be trickier than it appears. How do we capture the reality of sinister characters without caricature? How do we dramatize bad behavior without glamorizing it or sermonizing, charting a course between theology and pathology? When is it worth separating bad people from bad acts? How do we steer clear of stereotypes? With so much real-life villainy afoot, with readers turning to books both for solace

and for answers, these questions feel urgent as ever. Let's have a look at what successful stories have done, and how they've done it, and let's try a bunch of exercises together to make an old problem new.

NONFICTION

Saturday–Sunday, June 7–8, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

"I Read It In One Sitting": On Pacing | Anna Qu

Neither readers nor writers want a story whose pacing is off: a story that stalls, sputters, or sprints ahead at breakneck speed. Every part of a story must have an intended and balanced pace—but how do we find that pace? The art of pacing is about the decisions we're making as writers, from sentence structure to showing and telling. This generative craft lesson will look at concrete examples and writing prompts. Intermediate and advance writers thinking about the pacing in their nonfiction work are welcome.

Wednesday–Thursday, June 11–12, 4:00 to 7:00 PM

Comedic Memoir | Elissa Bassist

You don't have to be a celebrity comedian to write a funny memoir. You don't have to be born with a sense of humor or have had anything funny happen to you. A memoirist must make a meal out of her experience, however minor, however unfunny—that's the job we'll learn to do. There are many types of comedy and many comedic tools, and we'll talk about how to use them all to write 200+ pages. We'll refer to a few perfect comedic memoirs as examples. In this lecture-style class, students will brainstorm and receive informative handouts and inspirational assignments.

POETRY

Saturday–Sunday, June 7–8, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Experiments In Form: Audre Lorde | Suzi Q. Smith

Participants in this two-day intensive will enjoy close reading and discussion of excerpts from Audre Lorde's poems and essays, accompanied by generative exercises designed for writers to begin drafting poems and lyric essays.

Tuesday–Wednesday, June 9–10, 4:00 to 7:00 PM

Word, Sound, and Power (V) | André O. Toilette

In this generative hybrid intensive we'll examine the power held by both written poetics/prose and the spoken word. Rather than interpreting these two viewpoints as adversarial, we'll examine them as extensions of each other. How do sound poets and storytellers strengthen their writing? Writers, what can you learn about your work through the performance of sound poets and storytellers? We'll look at ways others have successfully brought sound to writing.

ALL GENRES

Saturday–Sunday, June 7–8, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Finish It! Perspective and Persistence (V) | Khadijah Queen

Working on a long poem, story, essay, play, or book? What will it take to finish? Can we do it—or at least create an actionable plan to finish—in a weekend? This intensive will provide solutions and strategies in the form of planning sessions, readings, discussions, writing exercises, charts, and other resources. We'll cover the role of editors and feedback; myths and benefits of breaks; how to bypass blocks, fears and resistances; and where planning meets plain old knuckling down. Any genre welcome. This may be most useful for work between midway and "almost there." Let's find our way to the finish line together.

BUSINESS PANELS

Anyone who's submitted their work to the publishing world knows about the long waits, the polite declines, and the form rejections. This is your chance to actually sit down and chat with a literary agent or editor to find out what they thought when reading your manuscript.

For writers interested in taking their work to market one day, Lit Fest offers an opportunity to educate yourself about and connect with publishing professionals. Given the busy schedules of agents and editors, it's a rare chance to receive their direct feedback and advice. We also offer a limited number of meetings with editors of literary magazines for feedback on your submission, where your work may or may not fit in the literary world, and suggestions for publication.

To request a meeting with an agent, you must purchase an Advanced Workshop Plus Agent Meeting or a Gold, Weekend Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Full-Access Business Pass.

Visiting Agents/Editors

- Haley Casey, Creative Media Agency, Inc.
- Jennifer Chen Tran, Glass Literary
- Brenna English-Loeb, Transatlantic Literary
- Paul M. French, Denverse Magazine
- Paloma Hernando, Ayesha Pande Literary Agency
- Alexander Lumans, American Short Fiction
- Jennifer Lyons, Jennifer Lyons Agency
- Nate Muscato, Aevitas Creative Management
- Elizabeth Pratt, Trellis Literary Management
- Samantha Shea, Georges Borchardt, Inc.
- Julie Stevenson, Massie & McQuilken
- Paige Terlip, Andrea Brown Literary Agency
- Lena Valencia, One Story
- Renee Zuckerbrot, Masse & McQuilken

LUNCHTIME BUSINESS PANELS

Friday, June 6

Beyond Big Book Publishing: Hybrid, Indie, Self

You believe 100% in your book. You've polished your manuscript, had beta readers, attended workshops, hired an editor, and queried agents to no avail. You want your book in print, but you've given up on "big" book publishing. Come explore other options as former literary agent Shana Kelly interviews authors who found success with small presses, self-publishing, and the hybrid model. How did they find publishers? What were the pros and cons? What was the cost? How about sales? Join these authors as they reveal the highs and the lows of publishing outside the Big Five.

Saturday, June 7

Your Agent Itinerary: Tips for Representation

Are you feeling overwhelmed at how to narrow down which agents might be a good fit for you? Are you querying to no avail? Just wondering how it all works? Join four agents as they tell the candid story of what they do. They'll share tips and strategies for successfully targeting and querying agents, and give you insights into turnoffs and what not to do. Each agent will share one thing you absolutely must know; you'll leave with an understanding of the inner workings of publishing and how you can best begin your publishing journey.

Sunday, June 8

Truth of Writing About Our Families, Friends, and Other Real People: Permission and Consequences

What are the repercussions of writing about family and friends? What are our responsibilities to the truth as writers and how may that affect our family dynamic? Join a group of writers who have wrangled with these questions, and more, as they address the wide range of responses from loved ones and the balance that may be right for you as you work on your nonfiction or memoir.

Monday, June 9

Pitching Editors

The publishing world has always been difficult to break into, but in recent years magazines and journals have become increasingly clenched. In this seminar, we'll discuss how to create essay and article pitches that are compelling and nimble without being overly reductive. We'll also discuss building and maintaining editorial relationships while protecting yourself and the people who appear in your writing. Participants are invited to bring a story proposal, and we'll study article pitches that have succeeded and failed.

Tuesday, June 10

Perfect Pairing

The publishing industry is complicated, constantly changing, and seemingly mysterious, so the relationship between an author and her agent is an integral component of a successful career. Join author Christina Rivera and her agent, Julie Stevenson, as they talk about how they're navigating the choppy waters of publishing together.

Wednesday, June 11

Book Launch: Behind the Scenes

A book launch is thrilling, terrifying, heartwarming, stress-inducing, satisfying, exhausting—literally everything, everywhere, all at once. In this panel, authors with books scheduled to release near June 2025 break down how they prepared (or are preparing) for their launch, what they hoped/hope happens, what they know of how publishers evaluate launches, and more. Come prepared to take notes and ask questions.

Thursday, June 12

Late-Breaking Publishing World

Publishing was a fast-changing industry even before consolidation, a global pandemic, and the advent of AI, so what does the publishing landscape look like now? Join four industry experts as they discuss how publishing has changed, what remains standard practice, what today's landscape means for writers, and more.

Friday, June 13

Lit-Mag Landscape

Countless writers have gotten their start by publishing in literary magazines, from university-run journals to flagship publications. How do you join their ranks? Our panel of editors will survey the state of lit mags and how you can navigate the landscape confidently, and with hope. You'll learn about the submission process, how to choose the right publications and deal with rejections, and ways to improve your chance of getting noticed. You'll leave better informed and ready to submit.



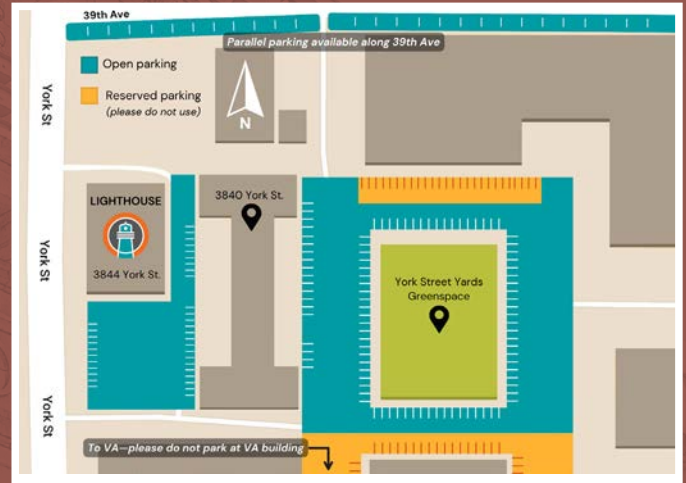
LIT FEST DENVER

LIGHTHOUSE IS LOCATED IN DENVER AT 3844 YORK STREET, 80205

- The nearest bus stop, at 38th and York, serves the 24. The 44 also stops at Josephine/York and 40th. The nearest train station is 38th and Blake on the A line, which is a fifteen-minute walk from Lighthouse along the 39th Avenue Greenway.
- We encourage arriving via public transit, bike/scooter, or rideshare.

ACCESSIBILITY

View our building's full accessibility guide, request an accommodation, or learn more about our commitment to accessibility [here](#).



WHERE TO STAY

In RiNo (River North):

- Best Western Vib
- Catbird
- Cambria Hotel
- The Source Hotel
- The Rambler Hotel

Downtown

- Hampton Inn Downtown
- The Magnolia Downtown
- The Oxford Inn
- The Crawford Hotel
- The Warwick Hotel

For more information, including links to discounted rates, check out our full Recommended Lodging guide [here](#).

WHERE TO EAT/DRINK

In Order of Proximity:

- Cohesion Brewing
- Elemental Coffee
- Hot Shot Coffee
- Corvus Coffee
- River and Roads Coffee and Bakery
- Nola Voodoo Tavern
- Tacos El Ranchito
- Randall's
- Brasserie Brixton

For our full neighborhood guide, please visit [this page](#).

Andrea Bobotis is the author of the debut novel *The Last List of Miss Judith Kratt*. Her fiction has received support from the James Jones First Novel Fellowship, and her essays on Irish writers have appeared in academic journals such as *Victorian Studies* and the *Irish University Review*.

Anthony D'Aries is an award winning writer whose fiction and nonfiction has appeared in *Boston Magazine*, *The Literary Review*, *The Laurel Review*, and other publications. He focuses a majority of his time into leading writing workshops in prisons, shelters, hospitals, and residential care, working towards making writing more accessible.

Alyse Knorr is the author of several poetry books and collections, her most recent of which, *Mega-City Redux*, won the 2016 Green Mountains Review Poetry Prize. Her work has appeared in the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, and other publications.

Alexander Lumans has been awarded fellowships and writing grants and has done residencies at Bucknell University and more. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *American Short Fiction*, *Sycamore Review*, *Forty Stories* from Harper Perennial, *Blackbird*, *Cincinnati Review*, and *The Normal School*, among others.

Amanda McCracken is a freelance writer whose works have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Glamour*, *Elle*, *ESPN*, *AARP*, *Huffington Post*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *Runner's World*, *Triathlete*, and *Women's Running*. Her passion for athletics and travel have connected her to the outdoor industry and research writing world, and have resulted in her being interviewed with *Katie Couric*, *Huffington Post* radio, and *BBC World News*.

Anna Qu is a Chinese American writer. Her critically acclaimed debut memoir, *Made In China: A Memoir of Love and Labor*, was named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice pick. Her work has appeared in *Threepenny Review*, *Lumina*, *Kartika*, *Kweli*, and *Vol.1 Brooklyn*, among others.

Amanda Rea is a writer whose stories and essays have appeared in *Harper's*, *Best American Mystery Stories*, *One Story*, *American Short Fiction*, *Freeman's*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Sun*, *Electric Literature's* Recommended Reading, *Indiana Review*, *Iowa Review*, *New South*, *Lit Hub*, and elsewhere. She has been awarded a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award in Fiction, a Pushcart Prize, the William Peden Prize, and was shortlisted for *Best American Short Stories*.

Austin Segrest is a Vassar Miller Poetry Prize winner with a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Missouri. His first poetry collection can be found in *The Yale Review*, *VQR*, *The Common*, and more publications, with his second collection coming out April 2025.

Angelique Stevens lives in Upstate New York where she teaches creative writing, literature of genocide, and race literatures. Her nonfiction has been published or is forthcoming in *Granta*, *LitHub*, *The New England Review*, and a number of anthologies. Her essay "Ghost Bread," which won the *Prism* International Creative Nonfiction Contest, was chosen for *Best American Essays 2022*.



Abbe Streep is the author of *Brothers on Three: A True Story of Family, Resistance, and Hope on a Reservation in Montana*, a *New York Times* Editors' Choice pick and winner of the Montana Book Award and the New Mexico-Arizona General Nonfiction Book Award. His work has appeared in publications including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's Magazine*, *High Country News* and *Outside*, where he is a contributing editor.

Barbara Nickless is a bestselling and award winning author of several books, including the Parnell Crime Series, which begins with *Blood on the Tracks*. When she is not writing, she can be found travelling the world and gathering inspiration.

Cass Eddington is the author of several chapbooks including *Vernal Hurt*, *TRANSIT*, and *La Vague*. They are a poet, teacher, and editor with experience with teaching and facilitating creative writing workshops.

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg is the 2009-13 Kansas Poet Laureate, and is the author of 24 books, including *How Time Moves: New & Selected Poems*; *Miriam's Well*, a novel; *Needle in the Bone*, a nonfiction book on the Holocaust; *The Sky Begins At Your Feet: A Memoir on Cancer, Community, and Coming Home to the Body*. Founder of Transformative Language Arts, she leads writing workshops widely, coaches people on writing and right livelihood, and consults on creativity.

Cynthia Swanson writes literary suspense, often using historical settings. Cynthia's debut novel, *The Bookseller*, was a *New York Times* best seller, an Indie Next selection, the winner of the 2016 WILLA Literary Award for Historical Fiction, and is translated into 18 languages. Her second novel, *The Glass Forest*, has been translated into 7 languages and was a *USA Today* bestseller.

Carter Wilson is the *Publishers Weekly* and *USA Today* bestselling author of ten award-winning psychological thrillers. His works have earned starred reviews from all major trade publications, have been optioned for television and film, and his 2025 release *Tell Me What You Did* was selected by Barnes & Noble as a national monthly pick.

Daniel Levine is the author of the novel *Hyde*, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice and one of *Washington Post's* 5 Best Thrillers of 2014. He studied English Literature and Creative Writing at Brown University and received his MFA in Fiction from the University of Florida.

David J. Rothman has taught at Lighthouse since 1998, winning the Beacon Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2012. He has published six volumes of poetry, including *My Brother's Keeper* and *The Elephant's Chiropractor*, both of which were Finalists for the Colorado Book Award. His poems and essays have appeared in *Appalachia*, *The Atlantic*, *The Formalist*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Journal*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Light*, *Measure*, *The New Criterion*, *Poetry*, *The Threepenny Review* and scores of other newspapers, magazines, and journals.

Dino Enrique Piacentino's writing has been published in *Gulf Coast*, *Confrontation*, *Pembroke*, *The Globe & Mail*, *The Atticus Review*, and *The Massachusetts Review*, other places, and his debut novel, *Invasion of the Daffodils*, about a Mexican-American family living on an island off the coast of California during the Korean War, was published in 2024.

Ellen Blum Barish is the author of the spiritual memoir *Seven Springs: A Memoir*, and the essay collection *Views from the Home Office Window: On Motherhood, Family, and Life*. Her essays and poems can be found in *Brevity*, *Tablet*, *Lilith*, and more publications.

Elissa Bassist is the editor of the "Funny Women" column on The Rumpus and author of the tragicomic memoir *Hysterical*, a semifinalist for The Thurber Prize for American Humor. As a founding contributor to The Rumpus, she's written cultural and personal criticism since the website launched in 2009. Her next book, a humor writing craft book, is forthcoming from Grand Central Publishing in 2026.

Emily Pérez is the author of *What Flies Want*, winner of the Iowa Prize; *House of Sugar*, *House of Stone*; and two chapbooks. She is co-editor of the anthology *The Long Devotion: Poets Writing Motherhood*. Her poetry has appeared in *Poetry Northwest*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Copper Nickel*, *Poetry*, and *Fairy Tale Review*, and her reviews can be found in *RHINO*, *LA Review of Books*, *The Guardian*, and *The Georgia Review*.

Elizabeth Robinson is the author of over a dozen volumes of poetry. Her most recent books are *Three Novels* (Omnidawn), *Counterpart* (Ahsahta), and *Blue Heron* (Center for Literary Publishing). She has been a winner of the National Poetry Series, the Fence Modern Poets Prize, and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists Award.

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall is an Emmy Award-winning writer, a professor of Constitutional Law and Africa Studies at John Jay College (CUNY), civil rights attorney, and playwright. She is the author of *She Took Justice: The Black Woman, Law, and Power*; *Race, Law, and American Society*; *The Voting Rights War*; *SHOT: Caught a Soul*, and *The Black Woman: 400 Years of Perseverance*, among others. Her poetry has appeared in *Penumbra*; short story in *Love Bites* Anthology; and essays in the *Milwaukee Courier*, *TIME.com*, *CNN.com*, *Bloomberg.com*, *NBCOnline.com*, *We Refuse to be Silent: Women's Voices on Justice for Black Men* (Broadleaf), and academic journals.

Gina Demillo Wagner is the author of *Forces of Nature: A Memoir of Family, Loss, and Finding Home*. Her writing has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Memoir Magazine*, *Modern Loss*, *Self*, *Outside*, *CRAFT Literary*, and other publications. She is a Yaddo fellow, a winner of the CRAFT Creative Nonfiction Award, and her memoir was longlisted for the 2022 SFWP Literary prize.

HR Hegnauer is the author of *When the Bird is Not a Human* and *Sir*, as well as two chapbooks. After working at Palgrave Macmillan, she left to start her own business as a book designer specializing in working with independent publishers as well as individual writers, translators, and artists.

Hillary Leftwich is a neurodivergent, multimedia writer and the author of *Ghosts Are Just Strangers Who Know How to Knock*, *Aura*, and *Saint Dymphna's Playbook* (forthcoming from Limit Zero, 2025). She teaches writing at several universities, writing workshop organizations, and nonprofits for adults, youth, and unhoused populations.

Henry Lien is a 2012 graduate of Clarion West Writers Workshop, Seattle. He is the author of the critically-acclaimed and award-winning *Peasprout Chen* middle grade fantasy series, which he began writing under the guidance of George R.R. Martin, Kelly Link, and Chuck Palahniuk at Clarion West. His short fiction has appeared in publications like Asimov's, Analog, and F&SF, and he is a four-time Nebula/Norton Award finalist.

John Cotter is the author of a memoir, *Losing Music*, winner of the Colorado Book Award for creative nonfiction, and of *Under the Small Lights*, winner of the Miami University Press novella competition. His essays and stories have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *New England Review*, *Raritan*, *Epoch*, *Guernica*, *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *LitHub*, and *Commonweal*.

Juan J. Morales is the son of an Ecuadorian mother and Puerto Rican father. He is the author of three poetry collections, including *The Handyman's Guide to End Times*, winner of the 2019 International Latino Book Award.

Jenny Shank is a book reviewer, editor, essayist, and general fiction writer whose stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Guardian*, and more. She has won writing awards from the Center of the American West, the Montana Committee for the Humanities, the Society of Professional Journalists, SouthWest Writers, and the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund.

Javier Sinay is a writer and journalist whose books include *The Murders of Moises Ville*, and *Camino al Este*, both of which have been nominated and awarded various prizes. His work can be found in *Rolling Stone* and other publications globally.

Jan Thomas is an award-winning writer with bachelor degrees in Mass Communications and Political Science, and a master's degree in Public Communications. She's the author of *Control Freaks* and *The AI Incident*.

Kanika Agrawal is a queer Indian writer, editor, and educator, whose writing can be found in *Black Warrior Review*, *FOLDER*, *Best American Experimental Writing 2020*, and other publications. She has been awarded various residencies and fellowships by the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Hedgebrook, MacDowell, and Vermont Studio Center.

Karen Auvinen is a poet, mountain woman, life-long westerner, writer, and the author of the memoir *Rough Beauty: Forty Seasons of Mountain Living*, a finalist for the 2019 Colorado Book Award. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Real Simple*, *Westword*, *LitHub* and *The Rumpus*, among other publications.

Kristin Koval is a writer whose debut novel, *Penitence*, was published by Celadon and was a Goodreads Hottest Debut of 2025, a Goodreads Readers' Most Anticipated January Book, the Barnes & Noble Discovery Pick for February, an Indie Next Pick for February, a Book of the Month pick for February, a People Magazine Pick of the Week, and an Apple Books Staff Pick for February (both hardcover and audio).

Khadijah Queen is the author of five books and four chapbooks of innovative poetry. Her full length collections are *Conduit* (Black Goat/ Akashic Books 2008), featured in Poets & Writers magazine's Debut Poets issue; *Black Peculiar*, winner of the 2010 Noemi Press book award and published in 2011; *Fearful Beloved* (Argos Books 2015); and *Non-Sequitur*, a verse play published by Litmus Press in 2015, and her Individual poems and prose appear or are forthcoming in *Fence*, *Tin House*, *American Poetry*

Review, Memoir, Best American Nonrequired Reading and in other journals and anthologies widely elsewhere.

Ladane Nasser is a journalist and writer. A former Middle East correspondent for Bloomberg News where she led Iran's news coverage, Ladane has reported for a decade and a half from Tehran, Dubai, and Beirut. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *McSweeney's*, *Businessweek*, *Newsweek*, *The Nation*, *The U.K.'s Telegraph*, and France's *Liberation*.

Lynn Wagner is the author of *No Blues This Raucous Song*, which won the Slapering Hol Chapbook competition. She received an MFA from the University of Pittsburgh, where she won the Academy of American Poets prize. She has earned fellowships to the Virginia Center of the Creative Arts and Center for Book Arts and been a featured reader in the Joaquin Miller Cabin Poetry Series in DC, the Hudson Valley Writers Center, and outlets in CO, NYC, and PA.

Malinda Miller is a director of news and media relations at the University of Colorado Boulder, an instructor for the Lighthouse Young Writers Programs, and a visiting artist for Poetry Out Loud. Previously an associate editor at *Many Mountains Moving*, her poetry and nonfiction has appeared in *A Poetic Inventory of Rocky Mountain National Park*, *Colorado Life Magazine*, *the Mountain Gazette*, *the Coloradan*, and others.

Mary Robinette Kowal is the author of the *Lady Astronaut* duology and historical fantasy novels: *The Glamourist Histories* series and *Ghost Talkers*. She's a member of the award winning podcast *Writing Excuses* and has received the Astounding Award for Best New Writer, four Hugo awards, the RT Reviews award for Best Fantasy Novel, the Nebula, and Locus awards. Stories have appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Asimov's*, several *Year's Best* anthologies and her collections *Word Puppets* and *Scenting the Dark and Other Stories*.

Nick Arvin is the author of *In the Electric Eden*, *Articles of War*, *The Reconstructionist*, and *Mad Boy*. His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *New York Times*, and *Wall Street Journal* and has been honored with awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the American Library Association, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Natalie Hodges is a classical violinist and accomplished writer. Her first book, *Uncommon Measure: A Journey Through Music, Performance, and the Science of Time*, was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice selection and was longlisted for the 2022 National Book Award. She graduated from Harvard University, where she studied English and music, and lives in Boulder, Colorado.

Oso Guardiola is an award winning fiction writer whose short stories have been awarded the 2023 Gulf Coast Prize for Fiction and the 2022 runner-up for the J.F. Powers Prize in Fiction, and the 2021 Honorable Mention for the San Miguel Writers' Contest in Fiction. His fiction has appeared in *Latino Book Review Magazine*, *La Piccioletta Barca*, and *Dappled Things Literary Magazine*, and is forthcoming in *Gulf Coast Magazine*.

Peter Markus is the author of the novel *Bob, or Man on Boat*, as well as the books of stories, *We Make Mud* and *The Fish and the Not Fish*, as well as *When Our Fathers Return to Us as Birds*. His work has appeared in journals including *Denver Quarterly*, *Quarterly West*, *Northwest Review*, *Willow Springs*, *Iowa Review*, *Chicago Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, among others.



Poupeh Missaghi is a writer, translator, and editor. Her debut book *trans(re)lating house one* was published in 2020 and her second book *Sound Museum* is forthcoming in 2024 (Coffee House Press). Her most recent translation *In the Streets of Tehran*, a book of witness narratives, was published by Ithaka Press, UK, in October 2023.

Rachel Weaver is the author of the novel *Point of Direction*, *Oprah Magazine* named a "Top Ten Book to Pick Up Now". In addition to teaching at Lighthouse, she is on faculty at Regis University's low-residency MFA program. Her work has appeared in *The Sun*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Alaska Women Speak*, and *Fly Fishing New England*.

Radha Marcum is an award winning poet with a keen interest in the landscapes of the physical world and of the mind. Her poems are featured in *The Bellingham Review*, *FIELD*, *Poetry Northwest*, and other journals.

Sasha Geffen is the author of *Glitter Up the Dark: How Pop Music Broke the Binary*, an analysis of queerness and gender nonconformity in the past century of popular music. Their writing attends to the intersections of gender, pop culture, the body, and technology, and has been published in *Artforum*, *The Nation*, *Rolling Stone*, *Pitchfork*, *Paris Review*, and elsewhere.

Sawnie Morris is an award-winning poet, prose writer, and long-time professional environmental activist—as well as a dreamworker—with over twenty years of teaching experience. Her poems have been highly acclaimed, receiving recognition like the New Issues Poetry Award and the New Mexico Book Award.

Suzi Q. Smith is an award-winning artist, organizer, and educator who lives in Denver, Colorado. She has created, curated, coached, and taught in Denver for over 20 years, managing the largest poetry festivals that Denver has seen to date. A TEDx speaker multiple times, Suzi has performed throughout the United States for over a decade, and is also the author of multiple poetry collections, a singer-songwriter, playwright, and multi-disciplinary creative.

Teow Lim Goh is the author of three poetry collections, *Islanders*, *Faraway Places*, and *Bittercreek*, and an essay collection *Western Journeys*. Her essays, poetry, and criticism have been featured in *The Georgia Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *PBS NewsHour*, and *The New Yorker*.

Terri Lewis is a former dancer whose long love of writing and medieval history brought her to write *Behold the Bird in Flight*. Her novel has been reviewed by *Readers Favorite*, and many award-winning authors.

William Haywood Henderson is the author of three novels: *Native*, *The Rest of the Earth*, and *Augusta Locke*. He has taught creative writing at Brown, Harvard, the University of Denver, the University of Colorado at Denver, and Ashland University.



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP

LIT FEST

2025

PRESENTED BY LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP



LIT FEST IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

