



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP

GRAND LAKE



THE RETREAT

Join Lighthouse Writers Workshop in the scenic mountain town of Grand Lake, Colorado, to immerse yourself in writing, reading, and creative discovery with a community of like-minded writers.

Each day, we invite you to attend workshops and activities, listen to craft talks, and share your work at fireside readings, all with the goal of inspiring new ideas, new writing, and new ways of seeing.



ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE

The mission of Lighthouse Writers Workshop is to provide the highest caliber of artistic education, support, and community for writers and readers in the Rocky Mountain Region and beyond. We strive to ensure that literature maintains its proper prominence in culture and that individuals achieve their fullest potential as artists and human beings.



OUR RETREAT PHILOSOPHY

In the more than 20 years of our Grand Lake Retreat, we've come to admire what "getting away" has to offer: a chance to focus solely on pursuits that feed our lives as writers and readers, as creative people. We appreciate the ways in which a majestic natural landscape allows the mind freedom to wander and discover, as well as connect to sensation—an integral part of good writing, no matter what genre.



The retreat is structured to allow for extensive engagement with craft. Our dynamic courses invite a great deal of collaboration and dialogue, opportunities for sharing, and guided—or unguided—writing time. We also build in free time to allow for hikes, bike rides, yoga, journaling, and wandering through the town of Grand Lake. We value socializing, too, and hanging out with other writers of various backgrounds and interests away from the constraints and responsibilities of our everyday lives. Because sometimes what a writer needs most is other writers.

We hope you'll join us in this most inspiring place and find a little creative breathing room of your own.



CONTENTS

INSTRUCTORS.....	3
WORKSHOPS.....	6
BOOK TALKS.....	10
LODGING.....	12
COSTS.....	13
SCHEDULE.....	14

INSTRUCTORS



Andrea Dupree (she/her) serves as Program Director for Lighthouse and teaches fiction there and at the University of Denver. Her short stories have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Colorado Review*, *The Normal School*, and elsewhere. She's been honored with two fellowships from MacDowell, several Pushcart nominations, and a distinguished mention in Best American Short Stories.



Michael Henry (he/him) is co-founder and Executive Director at Lighthouse, where he teaches poetry and memoir. His work has appeared in *5280 Magazine*, *Georgetown Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *Mountain Gazette*, and *Rio Grande Review*. He's also the author of two collections of poetry, *No Stranger Than My Own* and *Active Gods*, as well as a chapbook, *Intersection*. In 2017, he was awarded a Livingston Fellowship from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. A book of his nonfiction, *Over the Mountains There Are More Mountains: Bikepacking the Colorado Trail*, was released from Bower House press in 2023.





INSTRUCTORS

Annie Krabbenschmidt (they/them) grew up in the Bay Area and recently returned there after a decade of hawking their wares around the country. They perform improv, stand-up comedy, and live storytelling publicly (and interpretive dance privately) and recently published their first book, a work of autotheory called *Fred: An Unbecoming Woman*. They teach high school English in San Francisco and come home to their loving pit bull, Tobin Heath.



Erika Krouse (she/her)'s memoir, *Tell Me Everything: The Story of a Private Investigation*, was published in March 2022 by Flatiron Books, and has been optioned by Playground Entertainment for TV adaptation. Erika is also the author of *Contenders* (novel), and *Come Up and See Me Sometime* (short stories). Her fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Ploughshares*, and *One Story*. A Beacon Award winner, Erika is also a faculty mentor for the Lighthouse Book Project.



INSTRUCTORS



Juan J. Morales (he/him) is the son of an Ecuadorian mother and Puerto Rican father and the author of three poetry collections, including *The Handyman's Guide to End Times*. His fourth collection is forthcoming from University of New Mexico Press. His poetry has appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *The Laurel Review*, *Acentos Review*, *Copper Nickel*, *Pleiades*, *terrain.org*, *Pank*, *Poetry*, the anthology *Infinite Constellations*, and elsewhere. Juan is a CantoMundo Fellow, a Macondo Fellow, the editor/publisher of Pilgrimage Press, and the Associate Dean of the College of Humanities Arts & Social Sciences at Colorado State University Pueblo.

Karen Palmer (she/her) is the author of the novels *All Saints* and *Border Dogs*. She has been awarded the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell, and Yaddo fellowships, alongside grants from the Colorado Council on the Arts. Her short story, *Virtuoso Mio*, received a Pushcart Prize and is anthologized in *The Bedford/St. Martin's Introduction to Literature*. Other writing has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Denver Post*, *Five Points*, and more. Karen has taught at UCLA Extension and Lighthouse, and is currently working on a memoir.



INSTRUCTORS



Suzi Q. Smith is an award-winning poet, author, interdisciplinary artist, music maker, and dreamer of dreams who lives in Denver, Colorado. The author of poetry collections *Poems for the End of the World*, *A Gospel of Bones* (winner of the 2019 Electric Press Award), and the chapbook collection, *Thirteen Descansos*, Smith is the Lead Editor for Creative Nonfiction for *Revolute!* Literary Magazine. Suzi is also the co-editor of two anthologies, *Tell It Slant: An Anthology of Creative Nonfiction by Writers from Colorado's Prisons* and *All the Lives We Ever Lived, Volume I*, both Finalists for the Colorado Book Award.



WORKSHOPS

Each morning, we invite you to start the day with a choice of two engaging workshops. These classes focus on generating fresh work and rethinking integral elements of craft. They offer a combination of writing exercises and discussions on specific topics. Because of this focus, there are no formal writing critiques.

Monday

Hike and Write

Led by Michael Henry

A yearly tradition! Take a gentle hike up the North Inlet Trail, enter Rocky Mountain National Park, and write something beautiful. Michael will guide you, protect you from marmots, and provide some inspirational writing prompts to help you bring the wildness of life and a sharp focus on detail onto the page.

Poetry and Artivism: A Love Language for the Future

Led by Suzi Q. Smith

In the spirit of Lucille Clifton's "*Won't You Celebrate with Me*," in this generative workshop, we'll read poems that celebrate unexpected moments of joy, life, beauty, and/or celebration in the midst of hardship, highlighting the personal voice and experience. We'll consider the long-held traditions of poetry as a tool for social change and examine our own relationships to that history. Participants will write from prompts and then, depending on time, share some of their writing. Appropriate for all levels of experience.



WORKSHOPS

Each morning, we invite you to start the day with a choice of two engaging workshops. These classes are focused on generating fresh work and rethinking integral elements of craft. They offer a combination of writing exercises and discussion on specific topics. Because of this focus, there are no formal writing critiques.

Tuesday

Imagination Station

Led by Erika Krouse

Come with an open mind, and 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 three—to five-minute sprints, each inspired by a different source of inspiration to explore. This class is open to writers of all genres who are looking for inspiration and fun.

Metaphors of Structure

Led by Michael Henry

Often, the best writing is informed by a structure that not only helps guide the raw inspiration of an early draft but also becomes an energy and mode of discovery in itself. In other words, structure becomes a way to deepen the work and to give it an engaging coherence. There are myriad examples of metaphorical structure, and we'll try our hand at a few in this writing and revision workshop, including *The House*, *The Body*, the *Circling Hawk* (or other bird), and maybe we'll even brainstorm a few as a group.



WORKSHOPS

Each morning, we invite you to start the day with a choice of two engaging workshops. These classes are focused on generating fresh work and rethinking integral elements of craft. They offer a combination of writing exercises and discussion on specific topics. Because of this focus, there are no formal writing critiques.

Wednesday

Telling the Authentic Story

Led by Annie Krabbenschmidt

More imperative than good writing, the most important thing about storytelling is authenticity, which is not to say we always know how to access our honest voice. In this workshop, we'll go over strategies to quiet the inner critic and get back to the thing we all know how to do in our heart of hearts—share stories. With examples from storytelling greats, and prompts that seem almost comically straight forward, we'll remember the ease with which we know how to share ourselves.

Imagery and Memory: Bringing Details to Life in Writing

Led by Suzi Q. Smith

This generative craft session and workshop will focus on exploring imagery, with discussion on tools to create compelling images in our writing. We'll read short examples in poetry and prose and identify the approaches that feel impactful for each of us. We'll discuss approaches to grammar, syntax, contrast, and context, as well as rhetorical functions of imagery, and create a few images of our own.



WORKSHOPS

Each morning, we invite you to start the day with a choice of two engaging workshops. These classes are focused on generating fresh work and rethinking integral elements of craft. They offer a combination of writing exercises and discussion on specific topics. Because of this focus, there are no formal writing critiques.

Thursday

Meet Me In the Woods and Other Forms of Escapism

Led by Juan J. Morales

Grand Lake and similar retreats are opportunities to reconnect with tranquility, convene in nature, and escape from stress and daily routines. So what do you do when you can't shut off the noise in your mind? In this generative workshop, we'll read and be inspired by poets including Gary Jackson, Yusef Komunyakaa, Lucille Clifton, Mary Oliver, Sherwin Bitsui, and others to write into our imagination, wander into metaphor, and escape deeper into the forest of our mind in order to help us discover poems or prose we want and need to write.

Writing with Kindness

Led by Karen Palmer

The creative urge offers intense engagement, exhilaration, and satisfaction but can also lead to frustration and loneliness. We struggle to make art then struggle to find readers. How do we survive the ups and downs of writing over a lifetime? What if kindness can serve as a guiding light? Through in-class exercises and discussion, we'll explore how to develop kindness toward yourself as the creator, kindness toward your characters, whether fictional or real, hero or villain, and kindness toward fellow creatives through community.



BOOK TALKS

After lunch, we'll gather each afternoon to hear from our Grand Lake instructors on a variety of topics. These book talks are meant to engage and inspire, and will consist of a 45-minute lecture followed by a Q&A session. Each talk centers on a book or text, although many will incorporate other readings as well. While we do encourage it, you need not read the recommended book in order to participate.

Monday

Storytelling in Flashes: Leslie Jamison's *Splinters*

Led by Andrea Dupree

Sometimes, a story is best told in fragments rather than a straightforward, linear narrative. Jamison's new memoir takes that task to heart and shows how modular storytelling, time travel, and the use of refrains can create something more true to her subject than a more conventional structure. The first half of this talk will look at specific passages and is open to anyone, and the second half will be more of a book club with spoilers involved. Come for either or both!

Recommended Text: *Splinters: Another Kind of Love Story*, by Leslie Jamison

Tuesday

Jake Adam York's *Abide*, Ten Years Later: Elegiac and the Ethical

Led by Juan J. Morales

In 2014, Jake Adam York's final collection, *Abide*, was published posthumously after his untimely death in December 2012. York was an associate professor of English at the University of Colorado-Denver, a founder of *Copper Nickel*, and an important voice in Colorado's poetry community. In this craft talk, we'll discuss *Abide* ten years after its publication and York's multi-book effort to elegize the martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement. We'll also look into the poems' exploration of memory, ethics, and how they "both mourn and inspire in their quest for justice, ownership, and understanding."

Recommended Text: *Abide* by Jake Adam York

BOOK TALKS

After lunch, we'll gather each afternoon to hear from our Grand Lake instructors on a variety of topics. Meant to engage and inspire, these book talks will consist of a 45-minute lecture followed by a Q&A session. Each talk centers on a book or text, although many will incorporate other readings as well and, while we do encourage it, you need not read the recommended book in order to participate.

Wednesday

Building a Novel in Stories

Led by Karen Palmer

In Jonathan Escoffery's magnificent debut collection, *If I Survive You*, eight linked stories set largely in Miami explore questions of identity. Trelawny is the racially ambiguous protagonist, the son of Jamaican immigrants, and he appears in several stories, trying, always, to figure out where he belongs in the world. All eight pieces are simultaneously standalones and kaleidoscopic chapters that move forward in time while also returning to key moments. How does Escoffery seed those key moments? How does he use them to build a satisfying novel?

Recommended Reading: *If I Survive You*, by Jonathan Escoffery

Thursday

Lucia Berlin's *A Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories*

Led by Erika Krouse

Short story writer Lucia Berlin rose from obscurity to international literary fame eleven years after her death. Berlin was an innovator of auto-fiction long before we called it that, and her gutsy short stories break rules, defy propriety, and constantly surprise. This talk will feature a close examination of "A Manual for Cleaning Women," the titular story of Lucia's posthumous collection, and we'll also discuss her other stories as context for her style and aesthetics. Taught by one of Lucia's former students.

Recommended Text: the short story "A Manual for Cleaning Women" by Lucia Berlin will be provided by email, but participants are welcome to read Berlin's collection of the same name.

LODGING

Shadowcliff Lodge, our retreat site, borders Rocky Mountain National Park and the roaring North Inlet Stream. It's perched on a cliff overlooking Grand Lake Village and the Colorado Great Lakes area. The food at the lodge is homemade and delicious, and the rooms all have spectacular views. Participants share a room with one or two other writers (the rooms can sleep six comfortably). The number at Shadowcliff is 970.627.9220; their website is shadowcliff.org, and the rooms all have spectacular views. Participants share a room with one or two other writers (the rooms can sleep six comfortably). The number at Shadowcliff is 970.627.9220; their website is shadowcliff.org.

PLEASE NOTE: Shadowcliff is a rustic mountain lodge, which is why the room prices are so reasonable. Think shared bathrooms and periodic shared meal setup/cleanup responsibilities. It's all part of the camaraderie and charm that Shadowcliff has to offer. We keep coming back every summer for one reason: we love the place.

Of course, you might prefer other nearby lodging options: We recommend the Rapids Lodge, just down the hill from Shadowcliff. Phone: 970.627.3707. Web: rapidslodge.com.

For more options, check out the Chamber of Commerce website: grandlakechamber.com.





COSTS

Single Rooms

\$1,625 members/\$1,685 non-members

Breakdown:

Workshops: \$600 (after May 31: \$650)

Room and board: \$1025



Double Rooms

\$1,260 members/\$1,320 non-members

Breakdown:

Workshops: \$600 (after May 31: \$650)

Room and board: \$660



Meals and Workshops Only

\$940 member/\$1000 non-members

Breakdown:

Workshops: \$600 (after May 31: \$650)

Daily pass to Shadowcliff: \$75

Meals at Shadowcliff: \$265




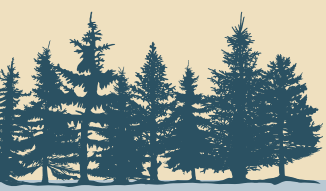
Workshops Only

\$675 member/\$735 non-members

Breakdown:

Workshops: \$600 (after May 31: \$650)

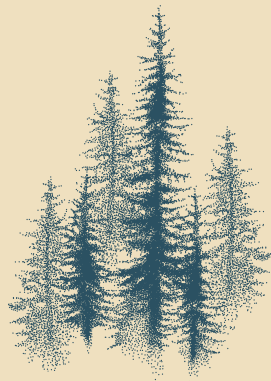
Daily pass to Shadowcliff: \$75



CANCELLATION POLICY

If you need to cancel your reservation for any reason, the following applies:

\$100 cancellation fee for cancellations before May 10. After May 10, we are unable to refund the cost of room and board, and a \$200 cancellation fee applies. After June 10, we are unable to provide any refund or credit. At this point, you are able to donate your space to a writer who wouldn't have otherwise been able to afford it, or seek a replacement.



SCHEDULE

SUNDAY
7/7

MONDAY
7/8

TUESDAY
7/9

WEDNESDAY
7/10

THURSDAY
7/11

FRIDAY
7/12

Morning Workshops | 9:30-11:30AM

Hike and Write
(Henry)

Imagination Station
(Krouse)

The Authentic Story
(Krabbenschmidt)

Meet me in the Woods
(Morales)

Poetry and Activism
(Smith)

Metaphors and Structure
(Henry)

Image and Memory
(Smith)

Writing with Kindness
(Palmer)

Farewell
with
Grand Lake
instructors
and
participants
CHAPEL

Check In

3:00
- to -
6:00 PM

Reception and Reading

7:30
- to -
9:00 PM

Afternoon Craft Talks | 3:00-4:30PM

Storytelling in Flashes
(Dupree)
Chapel

Jake Adam York's Abide
(Morales)
Chapel

Building a Novel in Stories
(Palmer)
Chapel

Lucia Berlin's "A Manual for Cleaning Women"
(Krouse)
Chapel

9:00
- to -
10:00 AM

Hike and Write will meet at Rempel and leave together.

Classes listed first (Imagination Station, The Authentic Story, and Meet Me in the Woods) are held in Chapel.

Classes listed second each day (Poetry and Activism, Metaphors and Structure, Image and Memory, and Writing with Kindness) are held in Cliffside. For the Hike and Write, please meet in Rempel.

UNLESS NOTED ABOVE, READINGS WILL BE HELD NIGHTLY IN THE CHAPEL, 7:30 TO 8:30 PM.
COURSE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

