



Welcome to

# Nonfiction Fest

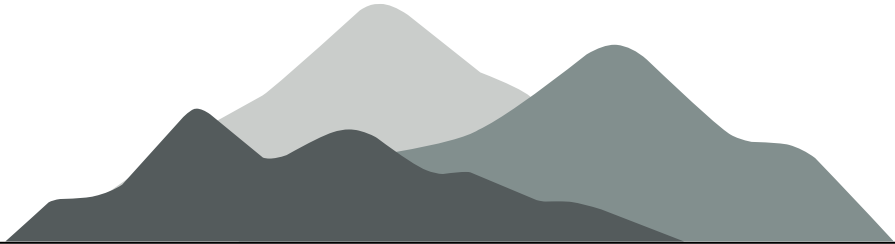
at Lighthouse Writers Workshop

November 9-10, 2024

Venture into the dynamic world of nonfiction with Erika Krouse, Harrison Candelaria Fletcher, Elissa Bassist, Anna Qu, and more at Lighthouse’s Nonfiction Fest!

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# Schedule

## SATURDAY November 9

## SUNDAY November 10

9:00 to  
11:00 AM

**Craft Seminars**  
see p. 2

**Craft Seminars**  
see p. 4

### LUNCH BREAK

12:00 to  
1:00 PM

**Lunchtime Panel**  
Shifting Sands—The Nonfiction  
Publishing Landscape

**Lunchtime Panel**  
Spec, Lyric, Auto—  
New Forms of Nonfiction

1:30 to  
3:30 PM

**Afternoon Workshop**  
Get Real  
with Erika Krouse

**Afternoon Workshop**  
Research and Soul-Search  
with Elissa Bassist

### HAPPY HOUR

4:00 to  
5:30 PM

**Making a Life/  
Writing a Life**  
with John Cotter  
and Elisa Gabbert

**Editor Shop Talk:  
Speed Round**



**Nonfiction Fest**

Lighthouse Writers Workshop

Saturday,  
November 9

# Morning Craft Seminars

9:00 to 11:00 AM MST

Member \$75 / Nonmember \$85

## The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but Speculation

with Harrison Candelaria Fletcher

Essayists, memoirists, and writers of hybrid nonfiction have long navigated the line between emotional truth and factual truth in search of meaning. In this hands-on, discussion-driven craft seminar, we'll clarify the distinction between invention, lying, and the use of imagination and speculation as instruments of discovery and insight. We'll explore practical strategies for making our work deeper and more complex through "perhapsing" and other techniques. PLEASE bring something to write with and prepare to discuss the short readings provided before our session.

## Beyond Personal Experience: Investigation and Reporting in Narrative Writing

with Natalie Lampert

How do you expand and enrich the narrative in first-person writing when your personal experience doesn't illustrate all you need it to? You don't have to be a capital R reporter or capital J journalist to get people to talk to you! Reportorial skills are not innate, or "trade secrets" – anyone can report, ask questions, and gather important material to bring their narrative alive. In this craft seminar, we'll discuss basic field research, interviewing for scenes and creating a sense of place, and how to identify themes to both focus and broaden your narrative.

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Lighthouse Writers Workshop

Saturday,  
November 9

# Morning Craft Seminars

9:00 to 11:00 AM MST

Member \$75 / Nonmember \$85

## Writing the Memoir You Want to Write

with Anna Qu

One of the biggest challenges of memoir 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 and rewriting, but when we get to the end, we realize that the memoir we've written isn't the book we wanted to write. The 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.



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# Morning Craft Seminars

9:00 to 11:00 AM MST

Member \$75 / Nonmember \$85

## Approaching Your Work Like True Crime

with Chris Walker

Whether it's podcasts, television series, or airport paperbacks, the media sphere is awash in true crime. Maybe you have an unsolved crime that you've been itching to solve. Or maybe you roll your eyes at our culture's fascination with all things morbid and macabre. In either case, come learn the useful techniques practiced by true crime writers that make all nonfiction better. We'll talk about weighing public interest when deciding whether to ask real people about sensitive issues, looking through records and police reports, and how to wade through contradictory facts when the stakes of a story are high.

## Capture the Vibe: Mood and Memory in Nonfiction

with John Cotter

A few song lyrics, a mention of fashion: we've all read lazy writers gesture at the feeling of the past, relying on the reader's own nostalgia—real or imagined—to summon a mood. This class will explore sharper and more eloquent ways to evoke past feelings, vibes, ecstatic moments, the way a song made you feel, or a hopelessness you hadn't yet overcome. This is the unspecific stuff of memory—not just the patterns on the curtains, but what they made you sure of, and sure you'd always be sure. We'll look at key passages from brilliant writers, try our hand at generative work, and leave better able to talk about how it felt, or they felt, or we feel.

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# Morning Craft Seminars

9:00 to 11:00 AM MST

Member \$75 / Nonmember \$85

## Time Travel: Structure in Memoir

with Sarah Perry

In memoir, the writer takes the reader on a journey through the past, illuminated by the present. But how do we move in time without being confusing? And how do we figure out how to arrange things when life is messy and unstructured? In this class, writers will examine excerpts that travel between past and present and then try out their techniques in several exercises. We'll look at the overall structure of several books, considering the narrative and emotional consequences of each, and talk about using nonlinear chronology to ethically negotiate gaps in memory, and how the structure of a story might trace the shape of memory itself.

## Fast, Accurate, Deep: A Journalist's Guide to Time Management

with Kyle Harris

Finding the time to work on a nonfiction project can be challenging; journalists have a solution. We make a living gathering information quickly, writing with accuracy, and going deep on a deadline. This workshop will explore the tools journalists use to stay organized, juggle multiple projects, and write compelling nonfiction efficiently, accurately, and with time to spare.



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# Lunchtime Panels

12:00 to 1:00  
PM MST

Member \$25 / Nonmember \$35

## Shifting Sands— The Nonfiction Publishing Landscape

Saturday, November 9

Featuring Michiko Clark (publicist), Shana Kelly, Natalie Lampert, Kayla Lightner (agent), and Anna Qu

The nonfiction market is distinct and ever-evolving. The answers to evergreen questions like how to get published, what's getting published, and what's selling are constantly changing, so join this panel of writers, agents, and publicists as they unpack what they're noticing in this shifting environment.

Featuring Harrison Candelaria Fletcher, Elisa Gabbert, Lisa Kennedy, Jeremy M. Davies (Coffee House Press), and Yuka Igarashi (Graywolf Press)

Carmen Maria Machado, Maggie Nelson, Mira Jacob. Some of the biggest names in nonfiction right now are writing books that don't fit neatly into categories like narrative nonfiction, true stories, or memoir. Join this panel of writers and literary professionals as they chat about what kinds of new nonfiction they're seeing, why this might be happening at this particular moment, and why this is an exciting time to be writing nonfiction.

## Spec, Lyric, Auto—New Forms of Nonfiction

Sunday,  
November 10

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1:30 to 3:30  
PM MST

# Afternoon Workshops

Member \$75 / Nonmember \$85

## Get Real: Writing Ambitious Nonfiction

Saturday, September 9

with Erika Krouse

Some subjects feel impossible, but we're compelled to write about them anyway. Family, politics, religion, trauma, addiction, physical/mental illness, climate change, racism—any ambitious topic can slam a writer headfirst into writer's block or self-doubt. How do we write our most difficult stories without triggering a migraine, or writing drunk (not recommended), or constantly fistfighting our inner critic? In this generative, process-oriented class, we'll use tangible techniques to write about those big, difficult subjects without losing our peace of mind in the process. Writers can expect examples, discussion, and writing exercises.

Sunday,  
September 10

## Research and Soul-Search: Writing Researched Nonfiction That Isn't Boring

with Elissa Bassist

Research is boring. Or is it? As award-winning as our stories may seem to us, in many nonfiction book projects and essays, personal testimony is not all that personal or sufficient. Research can help us (and readers) better understand and explain our experience, and in this seminar, we'll discuss how to balance writing about yourself with research so you can write with confidence and without sounding boring or like a navel-gazer.



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Lighthouse Writers Workshop



# Evening Events

**Saturday,  
November 9**

## **Making a Life/Writing a Life**

An Onstage Conversation with John Cotter and Elisa Gabbert

**4:15 to 5:30  
PM MST**

Member \$20 /  
Nonmember \$30

Have you ever wished to be a fly on the wall, listening to a conversation between two of your favorite writers? Well, here's your chance. Join John Cotter and Elisa Gabbert, who've both recently released award-winning books of nonfiction (and who just so happen to be married), for a short reading and wide-ranging conversation about the writing life, writing "real" life, and hopefully some hot literary gossip too.

## **Editor Shop Talk: Speed Round**

Join editors from renowned local and national lit mags and small presses for a round of low-stakes, "speed dating"-style shop talks. Take a few minutes to get to know a nonfiction editor in the company of your peers, ask your burning questions about querying, pitching, and submitting, and gauge whether your work could be a good match—then find a different editor and start all over again! This is a unique opportunity to get the inside scoop on publishing your nonfiction directly from the people on the other side of the "Submit" button. Don't worry—it's way more fun than real dating (and drinks will be available!).

Editors from the following publications will be present: Copper Nickel, Colorado Review, Denverse, and Twenty Bellows. (Please note that this list is subject to change.)

**Sunday,  
November 10**

**4:00 to 5:00  
PM MST**

This event is  
only available  
to passholders.

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# A La Carte Pricing

	MEMBERS	NONMEMBERS
Morning Craft Seminars	\$75	\$85
Lunchtime Panels	\$25	\$35
Afternoon Workshops	\$75	\$85
Evening Event Making a Life/ Writing a Life	\$20	\$30

NOTE: **Editor Shop Talk: Speed Round** is only available to passholders.



## Nonfiction Fest

Lighthouse Writers Workshop

# Weekend Passes

Want the full Nonfiction Fest experience? Save on seminars, panels, and events with our weekend passes.



Includes your choice of craft seminars on Saturday and Sunday morning, both panels, both afternoon workshops, an onstage reading and conversation with John Cotter and Elisa Gabbert, and editor shop talk.

**\$380 Member / \$450 Nonmember**



For folks who aren't morning people, this pass includes both panels and afternoon workshops, an onstage reading and conversation with John Cotter and Elisa Gabbert, and editor shop talk.

**\$245 Member / \$300 Nonmember**

Can't spare a whole weekend? Bronze passes include just one day of the fest.



## **SATURDAY**

\$180 Member /  
\$215 Nonmember

Includes choice of morning seminar, panel, an afternoon workshop, and onstage reading and conversation with John Cotter and Elisa Gabbert.

## **SUNDAY**

\$205 Member /  
\$240 Nonmember

Includes choice of a morning seminar, panel, an afternoon workshop, and editor shop talk.

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# Contact Info



## FOR INQUIRIES RELATED TO NONFICTION FEST

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[juliam@lighthousewriters.org](mailto:juliam@lighthousewriters.org)



**303-297-1185**



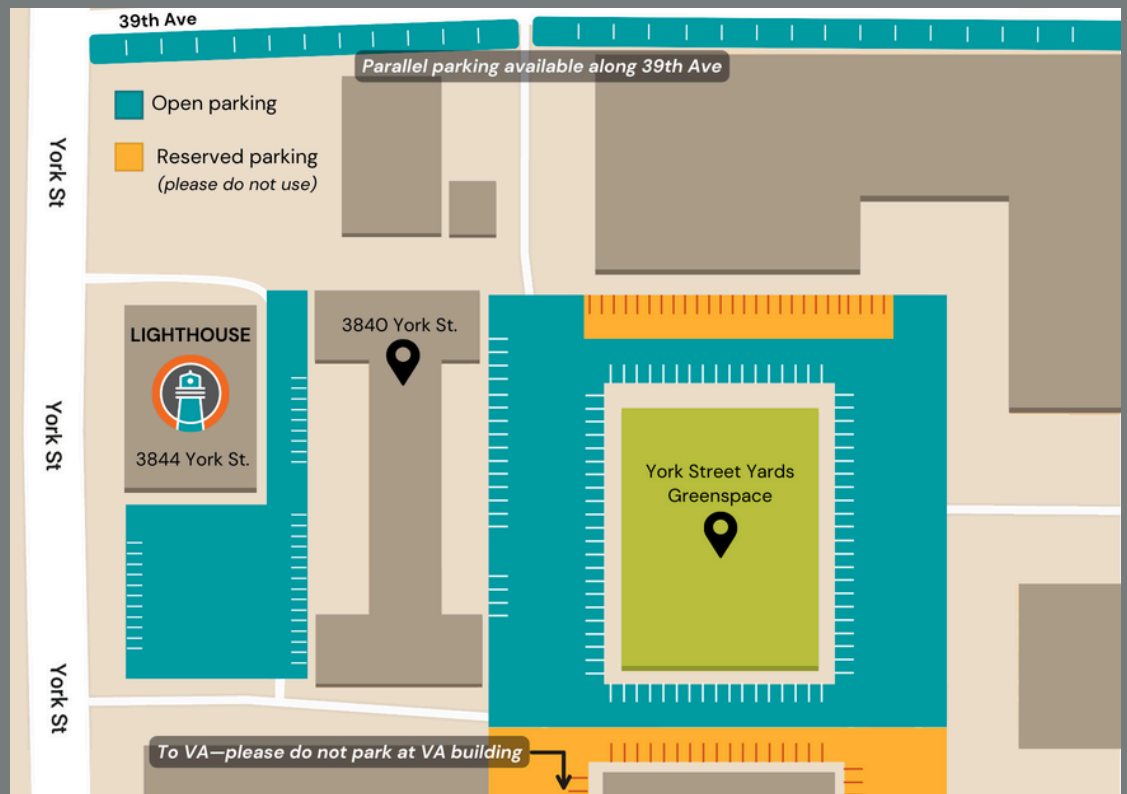
**3844 York St.**

## FOR GENERAL LIGHTHOUSE INQUIRIES

[info@lighthousewriters.org](mailto:info@lighthousewriters.org)



# PARKING MAP



## Nonfiction Fest

Lighthouse Writers Workshop