

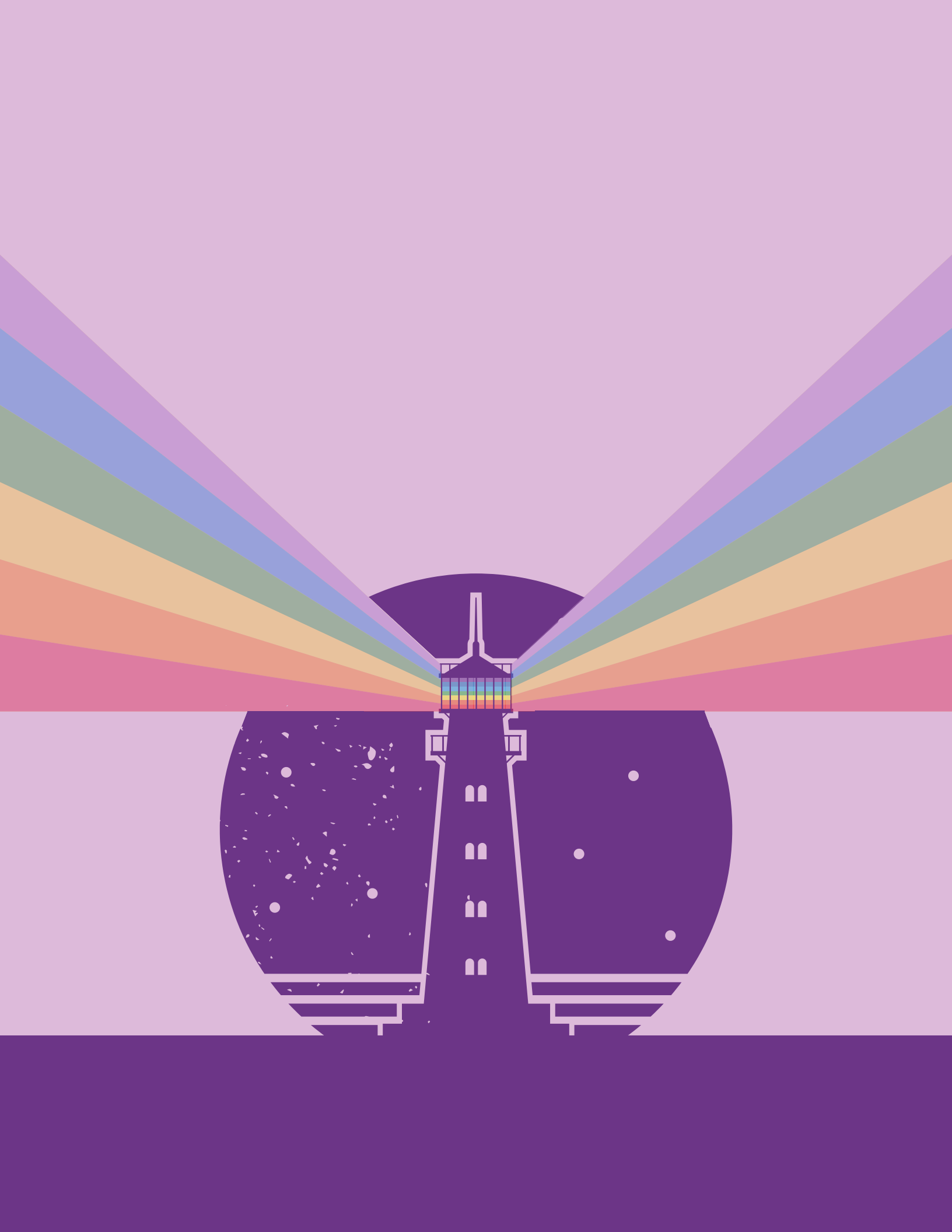
Queer Creatives

RETREAT



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP

October 27-29, 2023



Queer Creatives Retreat

From its inception, Queer Creatives has been a space where people who identify as and those in solidarity with members of LGBTQIA+ communities are encouraged to freely and joyfully express their authentic selves. Over the years, our Colorado-based program has grown to include creatives across the United States and internationally.

The Queer Creatives retreat is a weekend-long celebration by and for our community. Over the course of three days, the retreat brings together LGBTQIA+ writers and artists who want to grow their skills in a supportive and caring environment. From genre-focused intensives and craft seminars to free community events, attendees can connect with people who share their passions.

A participant at the inaugural 2022 Queer Creatives Retreat shared, “The activities were creative and communal. In fact, I feel like we bonded in some major arcane (but not inane) way in this session. Like we are all linked for life via tarot and word-skeleton-bone-raising play. We played with swords, bondage, overflowing cups, and there was no judgment. Who gets to do this stuff? Joyful people. Poets and movers and snappers and shakers. Playful people who think queerness is a gift. No, we know it. We own it. We stay to converse over dinner about it, and then we stay even longer to hear one another and SEE one another.”

We structured the 2023 retreat based on the belief that joyful acts of creative expression bring communities together. These events—community dinners and open mics, brunches, and workshops that look at literature and creativity through a queer lens—remind us that, as another participant put it, “we can push away the dreary and find sunshine in our togetherness.” Come celebrate with us!

The Queer Creatives Retreat is open to writers of all genres and creatives of all types who identify as members of LGBTQIA+ communities. We also welcome folks who are questioning their gender or sexual orientation and are in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ communities. Our intention is to center LGBTQIA+ people at the retreat.

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The 2023 Retreat will feature virtual and in person, three and two-day intensives focused on fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. These intensives will be taught by William Haywood Henderson, Jesaka Long, Dino Enrique Piacentini, and Addie Tsai. Retreat intensives are a great place to find community, hone your craft, and dive deeper into your favorite genre or writing style.

Craft Seminars..... 6

Craft seminar classes are one-time workshops for developing and learning about a specific skill or particular element of a genre or writing technique. This year's craft classes will be taught by Ashley Cornelius, Arik Francis, Chip Livingston, Sarah Elizabeth Schantz, and Grace Wagner. Virtual and in person class options will be available.

Events..... 8

Join us for a fantastic lineup of free and sliding scale events including a community dinner, all-ages dance party, faculty readings, open-mic, brunch, and more! Some events will be accessible in person and online.

Virtual vs. In-Person Workshops

Workshops with (V) next to their title are virtual courses held over Zoom, where all participants and the instructor will be participating virtually.

Please be sure to check our website for the most up-to-date information, as some classes and events may change.

Writership Tuition Assistance and Payment Plans

Simply put, we want you here. If you need assistance covering the cost of tuition, or a payment plan to make the cost more manageable, we encourage you to apply here:

<https://www.lighthousewriters.org/content/writership-tuition-assistance>

WRITING INTENSIVES

Intensives are limited to 12 participants per workshop.

THREE-DAY INTENSIVES COST: \$265 MEMBERS; \$325 NON-MEMBERS

TWO-DAY INTENSIVES COST: \$195 MEMBERS; \$255 NON-MEMBERS

THREE-DAY INTENSIVES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

Different from the Others

DINO ENRIQUE PIACENTINI

One of our superpowers as queer creatives is that, on the whole, we grow up with the distinct feeling that we are, somehow, “different from the others.” In this three-day storytelling intensive, we’re going to strap on our capes and zoom right into that difference. Each day, we’ll investigate and find inspiration in a specific topic, considering our own, and other, queer experiences with “Family,” “The Body,” and “Looking.” In doing so, we’ll re-examine ideas around character, POV, milieu, and structure, emerging with new material that works to expand upon—and maybe even explode—received notions about perception, about storytelling, about our own queer selves. Come prepared to read, write, research, and discuss.



Queering the Canon—LGBTQIA+ Retellings (V)

ADDIE TSAI

Over the past few years especially, LGBTQIA+ retellings have experienced an electrical energy and popularity at a time in which living as queer and trans has become increasingly unsafe. We have always known that we wouldn’t find our place in the canon—that we would have to make it for ourselves. Beyond the potentiality of including ourselves in classics or well-known stories, retellings enable a subversive resistance against old reinforcement of ideologies to speak to a new world. We will look at queer retellings in multiple genres: long-form fiction, short stories, poetry, and hybrid, as inspiration to create our own. This will be a mostly generative-based workshop for writers of all levels, with opportunities to share on a voluntary basis.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

Inviting the Fab(ulist) into Nonfiction (V)

JESAKA LONG

This generative intensive will explore speculative nonfiction and memoir, which queer writer Michelle Tea describes as “an extravagant mash-up of personal identity, lived experience, and imaginative impulse.” We’ll use a variety of readings and writing prompts to explore hauntings, fascinations, monsters, metaphors brought to life, and dig deep into your nonfiction stories. We’ll play in the sandbox of “what if” to unearth and describe even more profound truths. Writers will leave the intensive with at least the start of three new pieces. There will be time during the workshop to share works written during this session and receive first-blush feedback.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MDT

Landscape, Emotion, and Meaning

WILLIAM HAYWOOD HENDERSON

The landscape you employ in your writing can be much more than just a backdrop; landscape can embody the emotion of your characters, the mood of your story, and the themes running through your art. In this workshop, we’ll study the works of writers who use landscape expertly, then learn techniques to put the landscape to its deepest, richest use in your own writing. While this workshop deals with lens, with a focus on landscape, the lessons learned are applicable to any setting.



CRAFT SEMINARS

Craft Seminars can accommodate up to 20 participants.

CRAFT SEMINAR COST: \$65 MEMBERS; \$75 NON-MEMBERS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

2:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

From Confusion to Fusion—Writing Hybrid Pieces (V)

CHIP LIVINGSTON

In this craft seminar we will focus on blending Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Poetry. We will explore how mixed-form narratives can add dimension, voice, surprise, and delight to both writer and readers. We'll blend, twist, protest, protect, and queer traditional genres into interpretive hybrid forms such as lyric essay, flash fiction, hermit crab forms, haibun, prose poetry, and more.

Writing Queer Joy in Poetry

ASHLEY CORNELIUS

This workshop will celebrate queer joy through a combination of writing prompts, community discussion, and opportunities to share! Each participant will be encouraged to tap into joyous experiences and memories to use as we learn to build stories within our poetry and prose writing. Participants will leave the craft seminar with at least 2 original poems which they can perform at the community open mic later in the evening hosted by the instructor Ashley Cornelius.

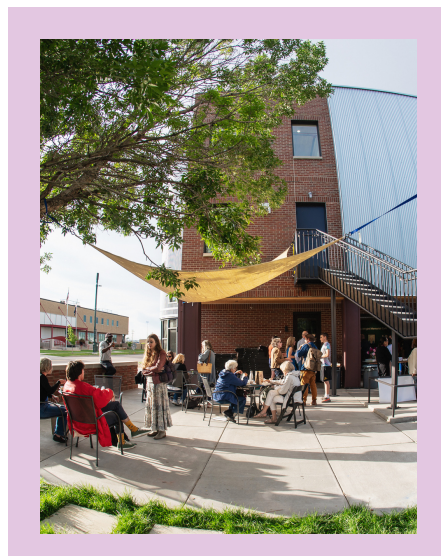
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

2:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

Human//Body—On Body Politics & Body Poetics

AERIK FRANCIS

This generative writing workshop is an invitation to check in with our bodies and consider our bodies alongside our writing. The workshop will begin with an invitation to free write, stretch, and engage in a breathwork session to get us physically and mentally in touch with our bodies. We will then spend the workshop discussing poetry related to themes on body poetics. Loosely defined, "body poetics" is poetry explicitly concerned with bodily existence, features or the whole of the body. These poems ask questions of the body and its relationship to the self, to other beings with bodies, to places and situations. Often, the central question is simply where is the body? Where is the body right now? This workshop space recognizes, welcomes, and embraces the diversity of people's bodies in terms of ability, age, race, gender, class, size, shape. Participants will generate new work and share it within our collective space. We'll draw inspiration from work by authors like Audre Lorde, Lucille Clifton, Morgan Parker, torrin a. greathouse, Aracelis Girmay, Natalie Diaz, and Yesenia Montilla.



Asking Questions of Ourselves and Others (V)

LISA KENNEDY

The terrain of nonfiction should be informed by curiosity as much if not more than certainty. Questioning others is always a dance of self-knowledge. How we formulate and ask questions of our subject (and our writing selves) — be it for essays, long-form features or memoir pieces — is knotted and essential work. We'll discuss best practices and challenges and complete exercises intended to build agility and pleasure into our writing process. Writers looking to begin a piece will leave with a list of questions that can launch the process. Intermediate and advanced students will revise and add to the questions they need to answer in order to further an existing nonfiction work.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

2:00 to 4:00 PM MDT

Queer Nature—Queering the Poetic Pastoral

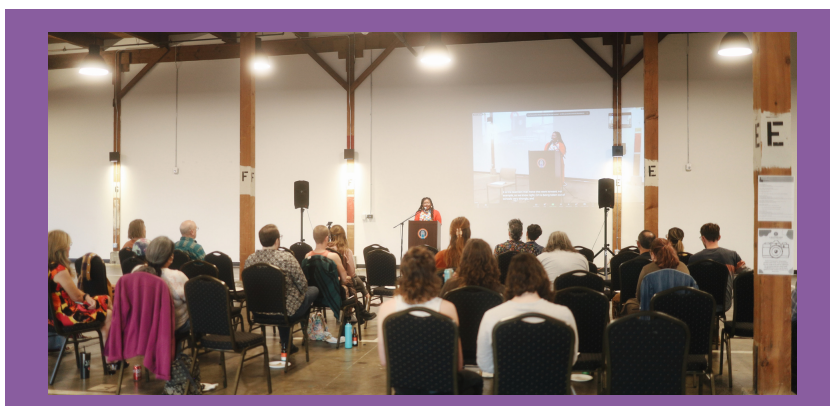
GRACE WAGNER

What is the nature of Queerness? Where is queerness in nature? This craft seminar will explore queer identity through nature from foundational queer poets like Whitman and Dickinson, to contemporary queer nature poets. We'll discover ways queerness and nature intertwine and are inextricable, and how queer nature defines American Pastoralism. We'll explore Wild Nights with Dickinson, queer longing with Whitman, and the expansive galaxy of our modern queer identities through poetic exercises, short-form lecture, and an opportunity to share. While designed for poets, this craft seminar will also be open to hybrid and flash writers of both fiction and nonfiction.

Writing the Periphery of the Wound

SARAH ELIZABETH SCHANTZ

This class will explore two techniques for writing trauma from the periphery of the wound instead of straight from the source. This workshop is for prose writers interested in showcasing subtext and therefore privileging the reader's experience (such subtext allows the reader to choose how much they do engage in the storytelling that can be imagined in the space of the "unsaid"). We will learn how to reveal "the worst thing ever" or the "darkest night of the soul" by providing only the edges of such harrowing experiences the reader can then excavate (or leave be). Writing and reading trauma can be cathartic, but it can also reopen the very wounds we seek to heal from; because participating writers will learn new skills for expressing trauma, the hope is for them to feel more liberated as a result. Writers should be able to walk away with the ability to make more choices about how they will reflect the harder parts of being human.



READINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

All community events are free or sliding scale to retreat participants and community members. Please register to help us provide adequate food and space.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

All Day

Art Room, Writing Space, and Board Games!

Throughout the day on Friday and Saturday, drop into our in-person community art space, write in our lounges, or build community over conversation and board games. We will provide supplies, games, music, and informal visual art prompts, to get you creating and conversing. No need to register for these free spaces; just come and enjoy!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

4:30 to 6:30 PM MDT

Kickoff and Community Open Mic with Ashley Cornelius (in-person and virtual)

Kick off our Retreat with a community open mic, emceed by our inaugural QC Retreat keynote speaker, Ashley Cornelius. Support our community as a member of the audience, or share your work! All readings and performances should be under five minutes, and all genres are welcome. You can sign up in advance to perform by emailing sydney@lighthousewriters.org or sign up in person.

Ashley Cornelius is the 6th Poet Laureate of the Pikes Peak Region, a nationally recognized spoken word poet, and the co-director of Poetry719. Poetry719, based in Colorado Springs, fosters and supports the freedom of expression through the written and spoken word. They focus on uplifting and celebrating voices of marginalized communities and people of color. Ashley is also teaching a craft seminar about writing queer joy before the open mic from 2:00–4:00 PM MDT.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 — (CHOSEN) FAMILY NIGHT

Saturday is (Chosen) Family Night! These events are suitable for all ages, and we encourage you to bring your community. Please be sure to register so we have adequate food and space.

All-Ages Community Dinner

4:30 to 5:30 PM MDT

After a full day of classes and community, join us for a sliding-scale dinner! A suggested \$20 donation per person can be paid on site (cash or card) we encourage folks to pay what they can. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. After dinner, Jesaka Long, will lead us in a creative activity from YAC-Rainbow, an inclusive, welcoming space for LGBTQIAP+ teens and their allies.

All-Ages Glitter Forever: Book Talk and Dance Party

6:00 to 8:00 PM MDT

SASHA GEFFEN

Music has deep queer roots. From the very first blues recordings through glam rock and synthpop into the present day, artists and fans alike have used music as a playground for acting out bold new visions of gender and sexuality. In this combination lecture and DJ set, author Sasha Geffen will give a talk based on their book *Glitter Up the Dark: How Pop Music Broke the Binary*. We'll open the floor from 7-8 pm to an in-person dance party celebrating the glimmering deviants that spangle pop's history.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Drag Brunch and Story Hour

12:00 to 1:30 PM MDT

It's brunch! Come celebrate the Queer Creatives Retreat with food, non-alcoholic beverages, and community building. After we eat, Miss Zarah, a fun loving, high energy drag queen, will grace us with a story and performance.

Panel of LGBTQIA+ Authors (virtual option)

4:15 to 5:15 PM MDT

This panel is hosted in collaboration with [The Word](#). Join us for a panel of published LGBTQIA+ fiction, poetry, and nonfiction authors as they share what their writing journeys have looked like. We'll also hear from The Word about the programs and opportunities they offer, like the [2024 \[margins.\] conference](#), part of their effort to build a publishing community that fights for inclusivity.

Faculty Reading and Retreat Closing (livestream)

5:15 to 6:00 PM MDT

Help us close the second annual Queer Creatives Retreat with our fabulous instructors reading their work! Featuring: Aerik Francis, Dino Enrique Piacentini, Sarah Elizabeth Schantz, and Grace Wagner.

PRICING AND PASSES

GOLD PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$415; NON-MEMBERS \$495

Includes one Three-Day Intensive and three Craft Seminars.

SILVER PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$295; NON-MEMBERS \$365

Includes one Two-Day Intensive and two Craft Seminars.

BRONZE PASS

COST: MEMBERS \$180; NON-MEMBERS \$205

Includes three Craft Seminars.

À LA CARTE

(MEMBER RATE/NON-MEMBER RATE)

Three-Day Intensive – \$265/\$325

Two-Day Intensive – \$195/\$255

Craft Seminars – \$65/\$75

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you need to withdraw from an intensive or craft seminar for any reason, the following refund schedule applies:

Before or on October 5th: A cancellation fee of 10% of the total workshop cost applies.

October 6th-24th : 25% cancellation fee applies.

On or after October 25th: No refund is available. Registrations for craft seminars and intensives are nontransferable, and purchases of retreat passes, are non-refundable and non-transferable.



NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Simply put, we want you here. If you need financial assistance, including payment plan options, please apply at www.lighthousewriters.org/content/writership-tuition-assistance.

BECOME A MEMBER

Memberships start at \$60/year and include discounts on workshops, access to Member Writing Hours and special events, and more! Visit www.lighthousewriters.org/membership to learn more.

ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE WRITERS WORKSHOP

Lighthouse is a literary community for writers and readers. We believe in the transformative power of writing and recognize language as the most powerful means of connection. Our workshops and events are designed to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where individuals can find their voices and share their stories. Visit lighthousewriters.org to learn more about our classes and support fellow writers in our community.



LIGHTHOUSE
WRITERS WORKSHOP

For more information, visit lighthousewriters.org.

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