



Northwest Writers' Weekend's DAY OF WILD ABUNDANCE!

Saturday, 7 November 2020
9:00 AM to 9:30 PM!

WRITERS!

Here is the class schedule! We are super excited that we can still get together and write...even in these weirder-than-ever times. Let's do it!

These five extraordinary teachers will meet you in Zoom-land for their five extraordinary classes. Take one class (like a focused, disciplined writer) or take all five (like me)! We have always encouraged writers to test the waters of other genres...this just might be the perfect year to give it a go. As always, it's up to you!

Registration information follows all the class descriptions. Read on...

CLASSES!

☐ 9:00-10:45

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER

Devan Wardrop-Saxton

*Dramatic action is the pulse of a play: it's the unstoppable engine underneath every story that gives characters their voices, settings their purpose, and plots their momentum. Using examples from stage and screen, we'll examine some of playwriting's most effective tools for creating compelling dramatic action, and then experiment with using those tools in our own work. This is a beginning playwriting class **open to writers of all genres & levels of experience**; no prep required.*

☐ 11:00-12:45

SETTING WORDS TO MUSIC—GENERATING IDEAS VIA TRIED-AND-TRUE COMPOSITIONAL TECHNIQUES

John Miller

*If you're interested in putting music to your words, don't allow yourself to be trapped, waiting for "inspiration". We'll focus on compositional techniques and strategies you can use to get started and move the music along with clarity. We will learn and experiment with the use of such techniques as sequence, motivic development, repetition and appoggiaturas. **Don't let the names of the techniques scare you off; they all translate into sounds you can hear and recognize.** We'll go as far as we can in the time allotted.*

□ 1:00-2:45

CREATIVE NON-FICTION: BRAIDED MEMOIR

Marie Eaton

The braided memoir is a great form to use when you have two opposing views to compare and contrast, two themes you suspect are related or when you have two characters with equally compelling stories. Braids also are a natural way to create suspense. Any time you are dealing with a complicated story with many elements, thinking of it as a braid may help you sort it out.

The braided memoir allows us to move from a thought, idea or motif in one setting/time/place to another that resonates with it in another setting/time/place. The interplay between the narratives deepens and colors these ideas or motifs, allows us to move from deep history to imagined future or past event to present day. These inter-twining narratives capture something of how our human emotions, reactions, and behaviors are tied together across time and space.

*As Brenda Miller & Suzanne Paola say in *Tell It Slant: Creating, Refining and Publishing Creative Nonfiction*: “In this form, you fragment your essay into separate strands that repeat and continue.*

There’s more of a sense of weaving about it, of interruption and continuation, like the braiding of [challah] bread, or of hair. You must keep your eye on the single strands that come in and out of focus...”

In this workshop we will spend some time together exploring possible strands in your own life or experience that might become the basis for a braided memoir, begin writing to discover how they twine and inter-twine and then share our first steps.

□ 3:00-4:45

THE ART OF LOSING: BEARING WITNESS TO LOSS, TRANSFORMING GRIEF

Holly Hughes

*In 2020, we’re experiencing loss on an unprecedented scale, ranging from losing loved ones to the loss of favorite coffee shops and familiar routines. Add to this the global losses we’ve experienced over the past decades, such as loss of species, wild lands, or other places we loved, and it’s easy to feel overwhelmed. How can we, as writers, process and bear witness to these losses? The elegy helps us examine our lives and make sense of loss. Elegies aren’t written just about people, they can be about whatever we care deeply about: animals, a sacred place, a cherished relationship, a way of life. **Elegies are a way of honoring and celebrating whatever we’ve lost or are losing and begin the process of healing.** We’ll explore how the natural world can be both balm and metaphor, look at a variety of elegies written by contemporary poets, all as a warm-up to writing you’ll do on a loss of your choosing, large or small, all significant.*

□ 5:00-6:45

EXTREME FREEDOM

Kate Gray

Maybe the election has frazzled your last nerve. Maybe anxiety is crowding out your creativity. What would it be like to write untethered? In this workshop, you’ll use a strategy to bypass anxiety by accessing long-term pleasant memory. You’ll start with a guided meditation and move into writing generated from a proposed prompt. After possibly sharing, you’ll look at the Critic (that not-always-helpful voice in your head) and the Editor, and the resources you have to let your writing rip. You’ll read some Sharon Olds and Danez Smith, write some more, laugh, and give the most positive feedback to each other. Wait until you see what you can do!

□ 7:15-9:30

ALL CAMP GATHERING

Janet and Karee will host a Reading/Concert Gathering for everyone who attended classes.

*This is a great time to share your writing with others. If you decide not to share your writing, you are welcome to show up to listen, appreciate, and offer your kind attention to other writers. **Free to participants.***

- *Each writer has the opportunity to share their writing, for a total of **no more than five minutes.***
- *Let us know that you’d like to be a part of the gathering by responding to this email. If you decide to join at the last minute, great! Just show up! Janet and Karee will call on people to share.*

REGISTRATION!

Here is how to register:

- First, choose your classes (or class)!
- **Send us an e-mail** (nwwritersweekend@gmail.com)
In the e-mail, include:
 - classes you will be taking
 - your name
 - address
 - phone number
 - e-mail address
 - It would be helpful for us to have this information by Hallowe'en.
- Each class costs \$20-\$30 (your decision).
- **Write a check for the total cost of all your classes**, made out to *Puget Sound Guitar Workshop*, (our parent non-profit organization). Send it to: NWW % PSGW PO Box 896, Bellingham, WA 98227. It would be helpful for us to receive your check by November 2nd. **100% of registration fees is paid to the teachers.**
- We will send you the Zoom link for your classes. (If you do not have Zoom on your computer, it is fairly straightforward and free to download at zoom.us.)
- Please let us know if you'd like to come to the Gathering! We hope you will!
- If you would like to make a donation to Northwest Writers Weekend in addition to your registration, please simply include that payment (made out to *Puget Sound Guitar Workshop*) with your registration check, or send another separate check. Puget Sound Guitar Workshop is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible. **We thank you!**

Please contact us with any questions!

We hope to see you on November 7th for the Northwest Writers' Weekend's
DAY OF WILD ABUNDANCE!

Karee and Janet
nwwritersweekend@gmail.com

