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Summer  
Writing Workshops Since 1969

WWW.COMMUNITYOFWRITERS.ORG

June 2019

Dear Writers Workshop Participant:

We are delighted that you will be joining us for the 49th Annual Community of Writers Workshops. Roughly 120 other participants will join you here this summer. This letter should contain all the information you will need to plan your trip to Squaw Valley as well as details about registration, housing, directions, and manuscripts. Please take a moment to print this out, and read it thoroughly.

#### Fees

Thank you for paying your deposit. The balance of your tuition and housing fees will be due on or before June 24. Please refer to your invoice for the balance amount. You may pay online or mail a check today to our Olympic Valley address. (A 3.25% service fee applies to credit card payments.)  
<https://communityofwriters.org/make-a-payment/>

**Squaw Valley:** Squaw Valley, known as Olympic Valley, located in the California Sierra Nevada, near the north shore of Lake Tahoe, is a ski resort ([squawalpine.com](http://squawalpine.com)), and was the location of the 1960 Winter Olympics. In summer, the weather is changeable; days are usually warm (75° - 88°F) and nights are cool (40° - 50°F). Brief mountain rainstorms are a possibility, though in general it is very dry. The elevation of the valley floor is 6200 ft. Although participants will spend much of their time reading workshop manuscripts, there will be opportunities to hike to the local waterfalls, take nature walks up the mountain, swim in Lake Tahoe, take tram rides, or visit the Truckee River. When checking the weather online, please note that California has two Squaw Valleys. (The other is close to Fresno, whereas our Squaw Valley (Olympic Valley), is close to Lake Tahoe.) For weather: [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) and enter the zip code 96146.

**Registration:** Registration will be on Monday, July 8th, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Olympic House, our headquarters for the week, 1990 Squaw Valley Road. (Please refer to the directions.) If you cannot avoid arriving late, please call and let us know. Registration consists of payment of fees due, distribution of information packets and schedules, housing assignments, first-day workshop manuscripts, and other business. As you can see, it is very important to plan your trip so as to arrive on time. Once you have visited your condo/house and settled in, you will return to The Olympic House for the 5:00 Opening Meeting and dinner. After dinner there will be an Opening Talk by author Vanessa Hua. Workshops will begin the following morning at 8:30 sharp.

#### Staff Changes:

Richard Ford and Marcia Butler are unable to join us this year.

We are delighted to welcome alum Grace Talusan to our published alumni reading series.

**What to Expect:**

Regular workshops are held each morning from 8:30-11:30 with roughly 12 participants in each section. Each afternoon there will be talks on editing, publishing, agency, and literary craft. The evening schedule will include staff readings and a nonfiction event. Please see the Tentative Schedule of Events. This schedule may change without notice: you will receive a final version on arrival. As you can see, the schedule is very full; you may want to budget your time to allow for reading manuscripts for workshop, which is a priority. You should not plan on producing new writing during the week.

**The Alchemy of Adaptation: From Book to Screen**

You have been notified if you are enrolled in this class. If so, a \$250 fee has been added to your account. You will be receiving more information in the weeks to come. It will meet most days from 4 to 5:30. *A few spaces are still available.* Email me ASAP if you would like to be enrolled.

**Open Workshop:** Open Workshop with Sands Hall will meet most days at 4:00. Plan to bring a very short piece of writing (one poem, or two pages of prose) to read aloud, if you plan to attend these informal sessions. Advance enrollment not required. For those who are enrolled in the Adaptation Class, Sands will offer a special session at 1pm on Thursday for you if she gets enough signups.

**Manuscripts:**

As you know, there are two main ways your work will be read:

- The Individual Conference.
- The Morning Workshop.

*To get the most out of the week, we recommend you use a different manuscript for each.*

**Manuscripts for Individual Conference:**

The Individual Conference (IC) with a staff member, twenty minutes in length, is instituted to provide participants with yet another perspective on their work. Your IC manuscript will be e-mailed in advance to the staff member to whom you have been assigned. We will automatically use the manuscript you submitted for acceptance for your IC, unless you told us you plan to submit a replacement. Once you arrive in Squaw Valley, you will be notified of the staff member with whom you have been paired, and you will be able to set up an appointment for your individual conference. If you plan to submit a replacement manuscript for your Individual Conference use the Submission Form to do so: <https://communityofwriters.org/?p=9945> The deadline is June 24.

**Manuscripts for Workshop:**

We ask that you provide your Workshop Manuscript to us in two ways.

- 1) Please use the Writers Workshops Workshop Manuscript Submission Form to submit an *identical* digital copy of the manuscript you are photocopying and bringing with you to the Valley. Deadline on or before **June 24**. (This is a new necessity by the request of our teaching staff.)
- 2) Please duplicate the manuscript you would like treated in the workshop (15 copies) and bring these photocopies with you to Squaw Valley on **July 8**.

*We recommend that you bring a different manuscript to the week of workshops than the one you are using for Individual Conference.* In order to get the most out of the workshop system, your manuscript should not necessarily be a final, perfected draft, nor a rudimentary first attempt either, but a draft which might now benefit from criticism.

*See guidelines on next page:*

**Manuscripts for Workshops guidelines:**

- Manuscript must be 5,000 words or less, double-spaced, 12 pt. font. Please do not bring more.
- If excerpted from a novel, please include a concise one-page plot summary, recounting the larger plot in its entirety, so that your readers may provide more pertinent criticism of your excerpt.
- If short fiction, only one story can be treated. (It takes just as much time for the workshop to discuss a six-page story as it does a longer one.)
- Photocopy, collate, and staple 15 copies of your manuscript.
- Your name must appear on each copy, and please paginate.
- Use the Workshop Manuscript Submission Form to submit an identical digital copy of the manuscript you are photocopying. Before June 24, submit a digital file of your Workshop Manuscript here: <https://communityofwriters.org/?p=12437>

Please note: You were accepted into the workshop with a particular manuscript. When selecting the work you will bring to the conference for workshop, we hope you won't make too much of a shift in tone and content. For instance, if you applied with serious literary stories, we hope you won't take this opportunity to bring a genre novel for workshop. We make workshop pairings and other decisions based on what you submitted.

**Open Workshop:**

In addition, throughout the week, there will be extra offerings of Open Workshops, so you may want to bring a copy of other very short work to put forward, should the opportunity arise.

**Bookshop:** There will be a bookshop featuring staff books and Community of Writers T-shirts, sweat-shirts, etc. The bookshop accepts major cash, credit cards or personal checks.

**Communications:** We will have several computers with internet service, which we make available to participants who wish to check their email during the week. If you prefer to bring your laptop, Wi-Fi is available in The Village on the valley floor and at the conference center. Wifi usually works in most houses, but can go off on occasion. Our headquarters has wifi, as do the coffee shops. Please don't use the phone in the house to make long distance calls without a calling card. Cell phone reception is mostly fine in the Valley. Cell phone reception is mostly fine in the valley. You may give this office phone number for messages: 530-583-5200.

**Accommodations:** If you asked us to arrange your accommodations, you will be assigned a room in a condominium or house with other participants. Each unit will have a full kitchen in which you can prepare breakfasts and lunches. Each house comes equipped with a washer and dryer. You will receive your housing assignment at registration. Keep in mind that the bedrooms do not have locks; the keys you will be given open only the front door of the house or condo where you stay. We will provide linens, TP, soap, and trash bags; however, you will need to bring your own shampoo and toiletries. In order to keep costs down, the Village Condos and Houses will not have daily housekeeping.

**Meals:** Your tuition includes six evening meals. Thursday afternoon and evening are free time; you are on your own for dinner that night. We accommodate most vegetarian diets; however, we can't guarantee that each meal will be vegan. If you have a particular food allergy or aversion, we cannot prepare special meals for you. (In a few weeks, we will send out a menu of the dinners so you can plan your meals with care.) Again, you are on your own for breakfast and lunch, which you can prepare in your house or buy at the cafes on the valley floor. If you want to keep your food expenses low, we highly recommend planning to make bag lunches. If you are driving, we suggest you stop at the Trader Joe's in Roseville or the SaveMart supermarket in Truckee on your way, for breakfast and lunch provisions. The SaveMart is on Highway 89, just after you get off I-80. Our neighborhood, here in the valley, also has a small outlet for natural foods, which we will be happy to point you toward;

however, prices are high in the valley.

**Travel:** Squaw Valley (also known as Olympic Valley) is located near the North Shore of Lake Tahoe, a four-hour drive from the Bay Area, and a one-hour drive from the Reno Airport. If you requested carpooling information we will send you a Carpool Network list for your use. We provide this list for your convenience: we have no knowledge of drivers' safety or insurance, nor can we take responsibility for the safety of the journey or the quality of discourse in the carpools.

**Air Travel & Shuttle:** If you will be flying into the Reno Airport and you haven't yet made your airport shuttle reservations, I hope you will do it now and send the information to me soon. Please refer to your Acceptance Package for more information. When you reach the valley, there will be a volunteer greeting each van who will help you store your luggage and show you to registration. I will be in touch the first few days of July with more details about the shuttles.

**Directions:**

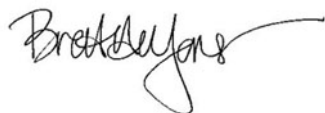
Be careful when you use internet mapping services such as Siri, Google Maps, or MapQuest or you might end up in Fresno, a house in Alpine Meadows, or taking the long way around Lake Tahoe! We recommend you use our directions, below.

- Take I-80 to Truckee. Exit Highway 89 South (Tahoe City).
- Follow Highway 89 ten miles to Squaw Valley, turn right at the stoplight.
- Follow the Squaw Valley Road all the way into the valley to where the road takes a sharp left (2.3 miles).
- Follow the road to the left, and park adjacent to the Village at Squaw Valley.
- Our headquarters, the Olympic House, is located nearby, but you must walk.
- Leave your luggage in the car, but bring your manuscripts with you.
- You will walk in front of and past the large concrete AERIAL TRAM building, and pass the PARALLEL sports shop, and turn right.
- THE OLYMPIC HOUSE is the large building straight ahead of you at the end of the walkway. There is a giant "O House" sign on the building.
- You will see signs for the Community of Writers.

Registration will be held in Olympic House between 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Try to avoid arriving late. If you cannot avoid arriving late, please call and let us know.

Please feel free to email or call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Lisa Alvarez, Louis B. Jones and I, along with the rest of the staff, look forward to meeting you.



Brett Hall Jones  
Executive Director

**What to Bring:**

1. 15 copies of your workshop manuscript, collated and stapled.
2. An additional, short manuscript for Open Workshop, if desired, (one poem, or two pages of prose)
3. An alarm clock, if needed.
4. Bring a warm jacket and casual clothes that can be layered in the evenings for warmth.
5. Hiking or walking shoes.
6. You may also want to bring a sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm and mosquito repellent.
7. A small flashlight is also useful.
8. You may want to bring a swimsuit for swimming in Lake Tahoe or the Shirley Canyon Waterfalls.
9. A water bottle, as we discourage the use of disposable plastic bottles. (Make sure your name is on it.)
10. A travel mug to cut down on the use of disposable coffee cups. (Make sure your name is on it.)
11. A computer is not necessary. (See Communications, above.)
12. A cell phone and charger.
13. If bringing a bike is easy, you would enjoy having one.
14. If it promises to be hot and you are driving, consider a personal fan for evenings at your lodgings.
15. Our directions.

# Community of Writers

## Writers Workshops - Tentative Schedule 2019

Not shown: 8:30 AM Regular Morning Workshops, daily Tuesday – Sunday NOTE: Schedule may change without notice.

### Monday July 8

5:30	General Meeting	Brett, Kaitlin, Louis, Lisa
7:30	Opening Talk	Vanessa Hua

### Tuesday July 9

7:30am	Making Workshops Work	Sands Hall
1:00	Craft Talk: "Eight Drafts in Search of a Story"	Ramona Ausubel
2:00	Panel: "And the Queen Died of Grief": About Character	Rhoda Huffey, Patricia Meyer, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, Hector Tobar: Moderated by Jane Vandenburg
3:00	Panel: Stories vs. the Novel:	Leland Cheuk, Dagoberto Gilb, Krys Lee, Gregory Spatz Moderated by Andrew Tonkovich
4:00	Special Workshops/ Classes	
	Open Workshop	Sands Hall
	Adaptation (closed enrollment)	Patricia K. Meyer
5:30	Short Takes Staff Readings	Leland Cheuk, Michelle Latiolais, Krys Lee, Patty Meyer
7:30	Evening Reading	Tyler Dilts, Alex Espinoza, Rachel Howard, Victoria Patterson

### Wednesday July 10

1:00	Craft Talk	Sands Hall
2:00	Panel: Fabulous, Uncanny, and Strange	Ramona Ausubel, Wayétu Moore, Howard Norman, Amy Tan, Moderated by Louis B. Jones
3:00	How Independent Presses and Journals Will Save the World:	Leland Cheuk, Dagoberto Gilb, Andrew Tonkovich, Oscar Villalon
4:00	Special Workshops/ Classes	
	4:00 - Open Workshop	Sands Hall
	4:00 - Adaptation (closed enrollment)	Patricia K. Meyer
5:30	Short Takes Staff Readings	Short Takes: Katherine Dion, Rhoda Huffey, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, Jane Vandenburg
7:30	Evening Reading	Janet Fitch, Vanessa Hua, Howard Norman, Greg Spatz

### Thursday July 11

1:00	Agents Panel	Miriam Altshuler, Susan Golomb, Peter Steinberg, Jonah Straus Moderated by Oscar Villalon
2:00	Agent and Author	Susan Golomb & Wayétu Moore
3:00	Editor Panel	Ben George, Dan Halpern, Christine Pride, Jack Shoemaker Moderated by Michael Carlisle
3:30-4	Editor and Author	Editor & Author: Ben George and Katherine Dion
4:00	Special Workshops/ Classes	
	Open Workshop	Sands Hall
	Adaptation (closed enrollment)	Patricia K. Meyer
5:30	Published alumni read and talk.	Kate Hope Day, Devi Laskar, Wayétu Moore, Grace Talusan Introduced by Krys Lee
7:30	You Must Read This: <i>The Narrative Technique that Stopped You In Your Tracks.</i> "	TBD

### Friday July 12 - Afternoon Off (no dinner served)

1:30 – 2:30	Sands Hall's Open Workshop for those who are participating in the Adaptation Class.	By sign-up. Class will meet with participation of at least 10.
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**Saturday July 13**

1:00	Interview	Joyce Carol Oates by Capital Public Radio's Beth Ruyak			
2:00	Editor & Author	Dan Halpern and Amy Tan			
3:00	A Magnificent Obsession – Fulfilling the Obligations and Demands of Your Subject	Frances Dinkelspiel, Alex Espinoza, Tom Lutz, Hector Tobar			
4:00	Special Workshops/Classes				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Open Workshop</td> <td>Sands Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adaptation (closed enrollment)</td> <td>Patricia K. Meyer</td> </tr> </table>	Open Workshop	Sands Hall	Adaptation (closed enrollment)	Patricia K. Meyer
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5:30	Short Takes Staff Readings	Frances Dinkelspiel, Tom Lutz, Hector Tobar, Andrew Tonkovich			
7:30	Evening Reading	Readings: Dan Halpern, Joyce Carol Oates, Amy Tan			

**Sunday July 14**

1:00	"The King Died": About Plot	Rachel Howard, Vanessa Hua, Howard Norman, Victoria Patterson moderated by Tyler Dilts	
2:00	Dialogue: "You Talkin' To Me? "	Janet Fitch, Louis B. Jones, Michelle Latiolais Moderated by Andrew Tonkovich	
3:00	Beyond The Conference: Sustaining the Momentum.	Vanessa Hua, Tyler Dilts, Ramona Ausubel Moderated by Lisa Alvarez	
4:00	Special Workshops/ Classes		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>4:00 - Adaptation (closed enrollment)</td> <td>Patricia K. Meyer</td> </tr> </table>	4:00 - Adaptation (closed enrollment)	Patricia K. Meyer
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7:30	Invitational Follies	Emceed by Sands Hall	

**Monday July 15**

9:30	Continental Breakfast for All followed by The Closing Talk:	Tom Lutz
10:30	Goodbyes and departures	