

Community of Writers Open for 51th Season of Writer’s Workshops

2021-01-20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renowned writers workshop opens admissions for 2021 applicants.

Marking its 51st anniversary, **The Community of Writers**, one of the oldest and most prestigious writers workshops in the country, has opened enrollment for summer 2021 online in the Virtual Valley. These week-long online conferences are for serious poets and writers (fiction, nonfiction, and memoir), and include workshops, panel discussions, craft talks, special interest seminars and individual conferences with an array of generous and talented staff writers. Special guests this year include Stephen Graham Jones, Michelle Latiolais, Anna Deavere Smith and Amy Tan.

The Community of Writers was founded over five decades ago by California writers Blair Fuller and Oakley Hall, who wished to foster a literary culture in the West that would be conversant with the publishing establishment of the East Coast. It’s a testament to the success of their vision that now the West is a home to many of the most eminent American writers, many of them friends and alumni.

**The Poetry Workshop** will take place June 19 – 26, 2021. Participating poets meet daily in online workshops to share poems written during the previous 24 hours. Poets attend a daily craft talk and meet in one-on-one sessions with staff poets. Directed by Brenda Hillman (Griffin Prize), 2021 staff poets will include Pulitzer Prize-winners Forrest Gander and Sharon Olds, as well as Kazim Ali, Blas Falconer, and Evie Shockley. Special Guest: Former Director, and long-time staff poet, Robert Hass who served as US Poet Laureate for eight years and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

**The Writers Workshops** will take place July 11 – 17, 2021 and accepts a limited number of serious writers of fiction. Writers meet in small workshop groups online to discuss their submitted manuscript with a member of the teaching staff. In addition to staff writers, literary agents and book / magazine editors will join the teaching staff. Lectures, panel discussions on craft of writing and publishing are offered daily, in addition to brief individual conferences.

Featured writing staff this year include Lisa Alvarez, Alex Espinoza, Janet Fitch, Karen Joy Fowler, Sands Hall, Vanessa Hua, Michael Jaime-Becerra, Dana Johnson, Louis B. Jones, Peter Orner, Kirstin Valdez Quade, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, Martin J. Smith, Héctor Tobar, Gail Tsukiyama, Josh Weil, and Tiphanie Yanique.

A third summer workshop has been added to this year’s line-up in **Narrative Nonfiction and Memoir**, taking place August 1 – 6, 2021. These workshops assist serious writers by exploring the art and craft as well as the business of writing. The week offers daily morning workshops, craft lectures, panel discussions on editing and publishing, staff readings, and brief individual conferences**.**

Teaching staff includes Frances Dinkelspiel, Michael Carlisle, Alex Espinoza, Glen David Gold, Debra Gwartney, Sands Hall, Lauren Markham, Gregory Pardlo, Julia Flynn Siler, and Grace Talusan.

All interested writers and poets are encouraged to apply, though admission is competitive and the writing level is high. No prior publications or academic credits are required; the only criterion for admission is that the applicant submit a sample of his or her original writing, which is evaluated by a panel of judges on the basis of literary merit. Admissions are competitive, as the ratio of applicants to acceptances is an average of 4-to-1. The deadline to apply for summer 2021 workshops is March 28, 2021.

Financial aid applications are also accepted for consideration, and Scholarships are offered to writers from underserved communities.

**Alumni of the Community of Writers** include Pulitzer Prize-winners Michael Chabon and Richard Ford, bestselling novelists such as Anne Rice, Janet Fitch, Joshua Ferris, Jamie Ford, Alice Sebold, and Amy Tan; successful alumni poets include Kazim Ali, Bruce Bond, Anthony Cody, Molly Fisk, Evie Shockley, and National Book Critics Circle Award Winner Claudia Rankine.

For more information, please visit www.communityofwriters.org or contact Laura Howard, Laura@communityofwriters.org.