

FESTIVAL DAY program

SATURDAY, JULY 17 MORNING

- 8:30 **Welcome/Overview**
Lisa Alvarez, co-director of the Writers Workshops at the Community of Writers
- 8:35 **Writing with the Senses**
A craft talk by Janet Fitch
- 9:25 *Intermission*
- 9:30 **Short Takes Staff Readings**
Karen Joy Fowler
Gail Tsukiyama
Martin J. Smith
- 10:15 *Intermission: Virtual Nature Walk Part I, with Will Richardson, Naturalist and co-director of Tahoe Institute for Natural Science.*
- 10:30 **Literary Nonprofits Lean on Each Other**
David Haynes (Kimbilio/Fiction)
Tom Lutz (LARB)
Amanda Uhle (McSweeney's)
Jared Jackson (PEN America)
David Kipen (Libros Schimbros)
David Ulin (Air/Light)
Oscar Villalon (ZYZZYVA)
Moderated by Alex Espinoza
- 11:25 *Intermission: Forever [Al Young](#)*
- 11:30 **On Gill Dennis**
On Gill Dennis' legendary "Finding the Story" Workshop by Leslie Daniels
- 12:15 *15-minute midday break*

(cont.)



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SATURDAY, JULY 17 AFTERNOON

12:30

How Screenwriting Techniques Build a Scaffold for Story and Character Arc

A craft discussion by [Patricia K. Meyer](#) and [Megan Fay Raveneau](#)

1:10

*Intermission: Interview with with staff poets [Kazim Ali](#) and [Blas Falconer](#). The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gregory Pardlo reads his poem "Metaphor" from *Why To These Rocks: 50 Years of Poems from the Community of Writers* (Heyday). He will also read a poem by Cleopatra Mathis from the same collection.*

1:15

The Tyranny of Realism

A craft talk by [Michelle Latiolais](#)

2:00

What the Fiction Writer Can Learn from the Nonfiction Book

A conversation with [Martin J. Smith](#) and [Julia Flynn Siler](#)
Hosted by [Sands Hall](#)

2:50

Intermission

3:00

Deep Dive into a Short Story: Writers Consider Elements of a Short Story by Way of Craft, Technique, and Style

With [Dana Johnson](#), [Peter Orner](#), and [Krys Lee](#). Moderated by [Tom Barbash](#)
Audience members are encouraged to read Weike Wang's story "Omakase" in advance. It is available online at The New Yorker, in the print edition of the magazine, June 2018, as well as on The New Yorker's *The Writer's Voice*, where Weike Wang reads the story.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/06/18/omakase>

4:35

Intermission: Virtual Nature Walk Part II with [Will Richardson](#), Naturalist and co-director of Tahoe Institute for Natural Science.

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SATURDAY, JULY 17 EVENING

4:45 **Short Takes Staff Readings**

[Peter Orner](#)

[Kirstin Valdez Quade](#)

[Tom Lutz](#)

[Andrew Tonkovich](#)

5:35

Intermission: Poet/Musician [Cornelius Eady](#) and the [CE Trio](#) perform a [Lucille Clifton](#) poem "Let There Be New Flowering" they set to music, followed by [Shangyang Fang](#) reading his poem "Rider's Song" from [Why To These Rocks: 50 Years of Poems from the Community of Writers](#) (Heyday).

5:45

Approaching Character

[Amy Tan](#) and [Anna Deavere Smith](#)

A special conversation between two internationally acclaimed alums, novelist [Amy Tan](#), and dramatist-actress [Anna Deavere Smith](#). Decades after attending the workshop as participants, the two are reunited in a fascinating conversation in support of our fifty years of summer writing workshops.

6:45

Closing Comments

[Dana Johnson](#) author and Community of Writers Board Member

7:00

Reading of "The Seventh Night"

The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet [Robert Hass](#) reads his poem from [Why To These Rocks: 50 Years of Poems from the Community of Writers](#) (Heyday).

Music by [CE Trio](#), [Louis B. Jones](#),
[Sands Hall](#), [Caridwen Irvine-Spatz](#) and [Greg Spatz](#)

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Acknowledgments:

For Festival Day, we'd like to thank all the good people who made it possible. Special thanks to Irene Yoon and Boris Dralyuk at the [Los Angeles Review of Books](#). Many thanks to Jared and Julia Drake of [WildBound PR](#) for producing and providing video for the event. To Ellen Moore who smoothed the way so generously for the "Approaching Character" Conversation, and to Andy Lawless who documented and edited the recording. To [Beth Ford \(Glib Communications\)](#) for graphic design. [Lisa Alvarez](#), [Sands Hall](#), [Laura Howard](#), [Eva Melas](#) for their advice, wisdom and attention to myriad details. To [Kazim Ali](#) and [Blas Falconer](#) for their thoughtful interview. To [Sands Hall](#), [Louis B. Jones](#), [Caridwen Irvine-Spatz](#) and [Gregory Spatz](#) for spending the time to produce a lovely remote music video. To Naturalist [Will Richardson](#) for taking us into the Sierras, virtually. And especially to [Andrew Tonkovich](#) for his enthusiasm, management and support of so many elements. To our [Board of Directors](#) for their deep care for this organization. We would also like to express our gratitude to all the others who are generously taking part in this day-long event.

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More from the Summer Workshops:

Interested in more videos of events from our Summer Workshops in the Virtual Valley? Please visit: <https://communityofwriters.org/2021-summer-video> We will post videos as they become available.

