

New Trier High School Literary Festival 2016

Barbara Mahany

Getting to the Heart of the Story: A Short Course in the Art of Human Interest Writing

We'll explore a few key elements of what makes for great human interest writing — how do you make the words leap off the page, and into the heart of the reader? How do you get the subject of your story to open their heart, and spill the truest, sometimes most vulnerable, tender truths? We'll take a look at a few brilliant passages and discern precisely what makes them work. We'll brainstorm ways to ask questions that invite truly honest heartfelt response. And we'll talk about looking for stories that beg to be told heartfully.

Barbara Mahany is an author and freelance journalist in Chicago, who writes these days about stumbling on the sacred amid the cacophony of the modern-day domestic melee. She was a reporter and feature writer at the Chicago Tribune for nearly 30 years, and before that a pediatric oncology nurse at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Her first book, *Slowing Time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door*, has been called "a field guide into the depths of your holiest hours," and was picked by *Publishers Weekly* as one of the Top 10 religion books for Fall 2014. She is married to the Tribune's Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic, Blair Kamin, and the mother of two boys — New Trier alum, Will Kamin '11, and current New Trier freshman, Teddy Kamin. Her new book, *Motherprayer: Lessons in Loving*, will be published in April 2017

Cin Salach

Singing the Spoken Word

Where do our poems live before we write them down? Where do we want them to go once we've written them? Whether you want to publish it, perform it, slam it or sing it, it all starts with a great written poem. That's what this workshop is about. How to create truer, braver, funnier, riskier, greater poems. Our 60 minutes together will be a great beginning....

Poet of page and stage, **cin salach** has collaborated with musicians, video artists, dancers, photographers, and most recently, healers and chefs, for over 30 years. A member of the first National Slam team, cin has been widely published in journals and anthologies, including *Poetry Speaks: Spoken Word Revolution*. Her poem "Dear Donald Trump" was recently featured in the Chicago Tribune. Her first book, *Looking for a Soft Place to Land*, was published by Tia Chucha Press. Her second, *When I am Yes*, was released in May 2014 by JackLeg Press. Illinois Arts Council recipient, four-time Ragdale fellow, and Emmy nominee for voice-over and on-screen narration of the PBS documentary "From Schoolboy to Showgirl", cin's belief that poetry can change lives, has led her to create her business, **poemgrown**, helping people mark the most important occasions in their lives with poetry.

Douglas Post

Writing for the Theatre

Writing for the Theatre - This workshop will focus on some of the tools writers can use when writing for the stage. We will talk about plot, structure, language, theme and character. We will then conduct a few writing exercises in which we explore character, conflict, wants and needs, setting, action and dialogue. Please bring writing implements to this workshop. And please be willing to share your work with the other participants.

Douglas Post's plays, which include *Bloodshot*, *Cynical Weathers*, *Drowning Sorrows*, *Earth and Sky* and *Murder in Green Meadows*, and musicals, which include *God and Country*, *The Real Life Story of Johnny de Facto* and *The Wind in the Willows*, have been produced in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Canada, England, Wales, Germany, Austria, Russia and China. He has also been commissioned to write screenplays for Warner Bros. and NBC, teleplays for WMAQ-TV, and several radio adaptations of his scripts. He has received the L. Arnold Weissberger Playwriting Award, the Midwestern Playwrights Festival Award, the Cunningham Commission Award, the Blue Ink Playwriting Award and three Playwriting Fellowship Awards from the Illinois Arts Council, and has been nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award and an Emmy Award.

Jim DeRogatis

On Reviewing the Arts

In an era where "everyone's a critic," what is the difference between criticism and mere opinion?

Jim DeRogatis is the co-host of "Sound Opinions," the world's only rock 'n' roll talk show, which originates at Chicago Public Radio and is heard on 120 other stations across the U.S. He has written 11 books about music, served as the Sun-Times' pop music critic for 15 years, continues to blog at WBEZ.org, and teaches Reviewing the Arts at Columbia College Chicago.

Christopher Steiner

Investigative Journalism: Going in Boldly

How do you get the scoop from people who might not want to give it? This workshop will cover the nuances of journalistic fact and story-finding, as well as knowing when, where, and how to dig for interesting information when crafting a story.

Christopher Steiner is a reporter, writer, entrepreneur, and intrepid skier. His first book, *\$20 Per Gallon*, was a *New York Times* bestseller; his most recent book, *Automate This: How Algorithms Came to Rule our World*, was recently published by Penguin. A former staff writer for *Forbes Magazine* and a reporter for *The Chicago Tribune*, Steiner's work has been featured in a wide variety of publications including *Rolling Stone*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times*; he has appeared on *The Colbert Report*, *The Today Show*, *NPR's Talk of*

the Nation, On Point, and Marketplace. He lives in Evanston, IL, with his wife and three children.

Bob Boone

A Good, Fast Start

This writing workshop will have students shape a short, short story from a situation of their creating. Participants will be asked ten questions about that situation from which they will shape their story. They will then share their story with the class. If there's time, we will discuss ways for further develop what they have started.

Bob Boone started teaching in 1964. He has taught in New York City, Germany, Highland Park, and Chicago. In 1991 he founded Young Chicago Authors to provide opportunities for young writers from the city. He has written a spots biography, a memoir, a creative writing text, and a book of short stories.

Michele Morano

Lights, Character, Action

In this fiction workshop, students will practice developing interesting, believable characters and putting them to work in scenes. We'll cover some basics of good creative writing, including the use of specific details and descriptions, realistic dialogue, and memorable traits and mannerisms.

Michele Morano directs the graduate program in Writing and Publishing at DePaul University. She is the author of the travel memoir, *Grammar Lessons: Translating a Life in Spain*, and her fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in many publications, including *Best American Essays*, *Ninth Letter*, *Fourth Genre*, and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Erik Fassnacht

The Path to Publication

We will discuss the journey from finding your writing voice all the way to publishing your book. And participate in exercises that allow the participant to find and begin developing that writing voice.

Erik Fassnacht was born and raised in Chicago. Spurred by a lifelong desire to write, he left his job as a high school English and Creative Writing teacher to get his MFA at Columbia College, where he wrote his debut novel, *A Good Family*.

Jennifer Karmin and Kenyatta Rogers

Co-Lab-Oration

In the spirit of collaboration, we will write and perform together in groups and as individuals. How do we express our ideas to each other and keep our personal freedom? Sometimes poets work with writers and artists to create amazing poems. Sometimes one poet writes and then a community of people transform the poems into an amazing performance. Hands-on activities will give you new perspectives on collaborative poetry and performance.

Jennifer Karmin's multidisciplinary work has transpired across the U.S., Cuba, Japan, Kenya, and Europe. The author of the text-sound epic *Aaaaaaaaaalice*, her poetry is featured in the anthologies *I'll Drown My Book: Conceptual Writing by Women*, *The &NOW Awards: The Best Innovative Writing*, *Come Together: Imagine Peace*, and *A Sing Economy*. At home in Chicago, she curates the Red Rover Series and teaches creative writing to immigrants at Truman College.

Kenyatta Rogers earned his MFA in Creative Writing Poetry from Columbia College Chicago. He is a Cave Canem Fellow and BreadLoaf Work-Study Scholar. His work has appeared in or forthcoming from *Jubilat*, *Vinyl*, *Bat City Review*, *The Volta* among others. He is an Associate Editor with *RHINO Poetry* and currently serves on the Creative Writing Faculty at The Chicago High School for the Arts.

Gina Fattore

Anatomy of a Scene

This workshop will take a closer look at the highly collaborative process of TV writing by following a one-page scene from the show *Parenthood* as it progresses from "room notes" to script pages. Along the way, students will have the opportunity to write their own version of the scene and see how it compares to the one that actually aired.

Gina Fattore is a television writer-producer whose credits include *Parenthood*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Red Band Society*, *King of the Hill*, and *Dawson's Creek*. She was born and raised in Valparaiso, Indiana, and graduated magna cum laude from Columbia University with a degree in English. Before moving to LA to pursue a career in TV writing, she was an assistant editor at the *Chicago Reader*.

Jeffrey Brown

MAKING COMICS WITH JEFFREY BROWN

Join cartoonist Jeffrey Brown as he talks about making comics, working on Star Wars projects, and carving out a career in the creative arts built on a lifetime of drawing and writing. Jeffrey will answer students' questions and walk them through the process of writing a short comic.

Jeffrey Brown is a Chicago cartoonist best known for his bestselling Star Wars book *Darth Vader and Son* and the *Jedi Academy* middle grade series. He has also written and drawn a dozen graphic memoirs and co-wrote the film *Save The Date*. His new book series is *Lucy & Andy Neanderthal*.

Mascara

Slam it Off: A Poetry Workshop

Self expression through spoken word. Students will learn to add force to their writing and performing voice by embracing the excitement and power of the spoken word.

Alison O'Conner and **Sheila M. Gagne** make up the slam poetry duo Mascara. Both hail as Creative Writing (with a focus in poetry) majors from Columbia College Chicago and met at VERBATIM, the college's formerly only poetry performance organization. Mascara has performed at venues like the iO Chicago Halloween Show, the Shithole, and The Green Mill, to name a few. When not performing, Alison and Sheila spend their time obsessing over different fandoms and favorite fictional characters.

Blair Kamin

INSULTS FROM TRUMP AND OTHER WAR STORIES FROM THE ARCHITECTURE FRONT

There's always controversy about architecture in Chicago, whether it's the "yuuuge" sign Donald Trump put on his riverfront tower or George Lucas' plan to put a museum on the lakefront. Blair Kamin, the Chicago Tribune's architecture critic, will talk about architecture's role as the "inescapable art" and how he makes judgments about design. At the end, he'll ask students to write down their thoughts about what they like (or don't) in New Trier's new building.

Blair Kamin lives in Wilmette with his wife, Barbara Mahany, an author and former Chicago Tribune writer, and their son, Teddy, a New Trier sophomore. Teddy's older brother, Will, graduated from NT in 2011. Blair has been the Chicago Tribune's architecture critic since 1992.

Nate Marshall

Slam poetry: Hearing the word on the page

Join poet/performer Nate Marshall for a reading of his work and a lesson in composing slam poetry. You will gain a better understanding of how poetry sounds

Nate Marshall is from the South Side of Chicago. He is the author of *Wild Hundreds* and an editor of *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*. *Wild Hundreds* has been honored with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's award for Poetry Book of the Year and nominated for an NAACP Image Award. His last rap album, *Grown* came out in 2015 with his group Daily Lyrical Product. Nate is a member of The Dark Noise Collective. He completed a B.A. in English and African American Diaspora Studies at Vanderbilt University and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing at The University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program. Nate has received fellowships from Cave Canem, The Poetry Foundation, and The University of Michigan. He is the National Program Director of Louder Than A Bomb Youth Poetry Festival and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Wabash College.

Josh Siegel

How to Transform Your Skill with Words into Hit Songs Just In Case the Author Thing Doesn't Pan Out

This 60-minute workshop will include live performance by the host, a full-room collaboration to write a hit song within 36 minutes or die tryin', and a Q & A on all things creativity.

Josh Siegel is the lead singer/guitarist/songwriter for the Chicago band Bailiff. A two-semester stint at the Berklee College of Music solidified the idea that writing and performing live was the way to go for Josh. Since that decision, Siegel's 10 year expedition as a working musician have included writing and recording two full length albums, national tours, session work, in addition to experimenting with ways to teach guitar and songwriting. Josh graduated from New Trier in 1999.

Willy Porter

Digging for Truth in your writing

This session will explore the art of song and lyric writing. Porter will talk not just about constructing songs but will explore styles, approaches and methods to empower your inner voice.

Willy Porter offers a rich blend of salt and sugar with tracks that move easily from rough-hewn electric edges into soulful irony with equal aplomb. Having toured with artists as diverse as Jeff Beck and Tori Amos, Porter capitalizes on his experience as a seasoned live performer on *How To Rob A Bank*. World-renowned guitarist Greg Koch had this to say about Porter's new disc: "you get the same feeling listening to it as you do from one of his solo gig's...that you are in the presence of greatness..." Each song is a fresh cross-pollination of styles, genres and musical forms.

Rosellen Brown

What Color Was the Velvet? : Caressing the Details

Vladimir Nabokov exhorted writers to "caress the details." You will write a brief scene. Then I plan to read a bit from my novel *Tender Mercies* (otherwise known as *Tender Mercies Not the Movie*) and discuss the way in which I elicited its details. Finally we'll go back to your scenes and talk about the ways in which you can enrich them, in many cases using the body as a central starting-point.

Rosellen Brown, who teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has published five novels, most recently *Half a Heart* and New York Times bestseller *Before and After*, and three books of poetry. Her stories have appeared in half a dozen O. Henry Prize Stories, Best American Stories and Pushcart Prize collections.