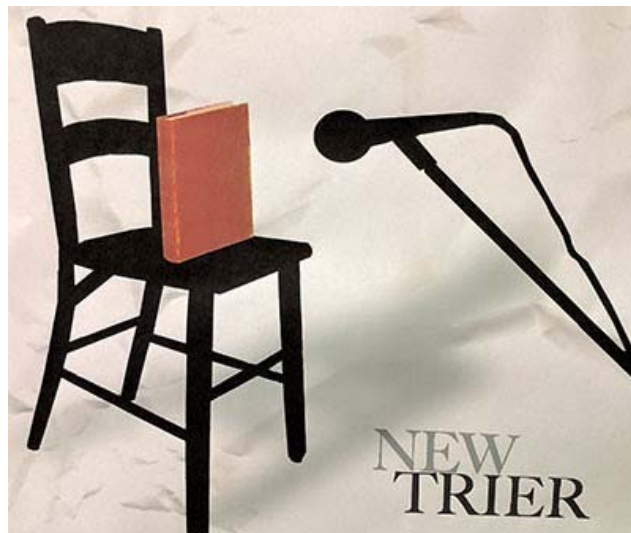


New Trier High School

The 14th Annual Literary Festival 2017  
Friday, November 3, 2017



*Melissa Isaacson*

### **Why Homers are Bad: Sports Journalism**

The fundamentals of sports reporting and writing are broken down as you learn some of the basics of the craft. Participants will work on honing your observational powers while learning how professionals draw in their audience and keep their attention in an ever-competitive climate.

**Melissa Isaacson** is on the faculty Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in writing, reporting and sports reporting. An award-winning sportswriter for more than 30 years, Isaacson worked most recently for ESPN in its international division, covering a variety of beats from the Olympic Games to professional tennis. In 19 years at the Chicago Tribune, she was the principal beat writer covering the Michael-Jordan-led Chicago Bulls in the 90s and later the Chicago Bears for seven seasons. The author of two books—"Transition Game: An Inside Look at Life with the Chicago Bulls" and "Sweet Lou – Lou Piniella: A Life in Baseball"—Isaacson's latest book project, expected to be published in 2018, recounts her experience on her state championship-winning high school basketball team and the transformational journey that occurred shortly after the passage of Title IX.

*Jeff Zwirek*

### **Story Creation Workshop: Using Subtext to Capture Emotion in Comics Making**

Starting with a nugget of inspiration we'll use word exercises to develop comic story concepts that relate to an underlying subtext. Students will start with an emotional concept they'd like to explore and then work through a series of exercises to develop the subtext and narrative. The end result will be a series of notes and guidelines for outlining a scene or larger story that can be developed with further writing or artwork development.

**Jeff Zwirek's** comics work includes Jack Rabbit, Black Star, Pinstriped Bloodbath, and Burning Building Comix. An Ignatz award nominee, his comics have been named "Notable Comics" multiple times by the Best American Comics anthology. His freelance work has been seen on ESPN.com, IFC, NFL.com, and Slate.com among others. He also helped to create and continues to organize CAKE, The Chicago Alternative Comics Expo. He currently works as the operations manager for PrintNinja, a printer that specializes in comics and graphic novels.

*David Bradburn*

### **From Script to Screen: Reading as a Director & Producer**

An interactive look at how both a producer and director approaches reading a script for production. The emphasis will be on breaking down a script into story elements and well as business/cost elements.

**David Bradburn** is a writer, director and producer of independent films based in Chicago. Bradburn's films include "Superhero Me", a finalist in the 2012 Beverly Hills Film Fest Writing Competition, "The Coming of Age" which was written by Northwestern University's Film Department Chair, Dave Tolchinsky, and the recently completed "Before You Woke." Bradburn's successful launch into Chicago's independent film community most recently landed him assignments with Kenmore, IHOP and FOX.

*Stephen M. Deusner*

### **Critical Listening and Critical Writing**

There are as many ways to write about music as there are to make it, and each approach presents its own challenges and opportunities. Students will read and discuss examples of good (and bad!) critical writing that puts songs and albums in personal, cultural, historical, and technical contexts. A short writing assignment will allow students to put these ideas into practice.

**Stephen M. Deusner** is a freelance music journalist based in Bloomington, Indiana. His works regularly appears in *Uncut* magazine, *Pitchfork*, *Stereogum*, *American Songwriter*, *Salon*, and the *Bluegrass Situation*. He has contributed to two books: *The Poetics of American Song Lyrics* and *The Pitchfork 500*. He will talk your ear off about British synthpop from the early 1980s.

Sarah Geis

### **Podcasting Behind-the-Scenes**

Podcast addict? Love the stories you hear on *This American Life*, or *Snap Judgment*? Learn what it takes to produce a narrative audio story from start to finish. We'll cover the basics of interviewing and narrative structure, and students will work in groups to make a mini-podcast of their own. If you have a phone with a voice recorder app, please bring it! If not, no problem at all.

**Sarah Geis** is an independent radio producer, editor, and former artistic director of the [Third Coast International Audio Festival](#). She teaches radio and podcasting at Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, and the Duke Center for Documentary Studies. Recent stories have aired on [WBEZ](#) and the podcast [Love + Radio](#). John O'Connor was her high school English teacher too.

*Michele Morano*

### **When Bad Things Happen to Good Characters...You've Got a Story!**

Nothing kills a short story faster than a great character with an over-protective author. In this workshop, we'll talk about how to create compelling characters and let them get into trouble on the page. What kind of trouble? How much? Come find out!

**Michele Morano** teaches creative writing at DePaul University, where she also chairs the English Department. She's the author of a travel memoir, *Grammar Lessons: Translating a Life in Spain*, and of short stories and essays published in many literary journals and anthologies.

*Peter Ferry*

### **Write and Read Your Short, Short Story in 60 Minutes**

**Peter Ferry** taught English at Lake Forest High School for twenty-seven years. He published his first novel *Travel Writing* in 2008 and his second, *Old Heart*, will be published in June, 2015. His vocation is teaching. His avocation is writing. In this regard he is a late bloomer.

*Mascara*

### **Slam It Off: A Poetry Workshop**

Come watch a show and be a show in the same workshop. Join slam poets Alison O'Connor and Sheila M. Gagne as they take you through their methods of crafting performance poetry. Starting with examples from their personal work, they will guide you in writing and performing your own slam piece. Come stand up, make a statement, and let your voice be heard.

**Alison O'Connor** 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.

*Barbara Mahany*

### **Telling Your Story: The Art of Personal Narrative**

Maybe you're in the thick of writing your college essay. Maybe you don't know where to begin. Consider the art of the personal narrative: The most essential story we might ever tell is the one we tell about ourselves. No matter why we're telling it, we need to ask, what larger truth is it illuminating? Why are we telling our story? Are we simply navel-gazing, or enlightening through the lens of our own true story? Are we discovering, unearthing truths along the way? Are we stumbling into epiphanies, connecting dots through the art of writing? How do we decide which stories to tell, and which threads from our lives to weave into the telling of that story? What do we leave on the cutting room floor? Why? What words can we choose to tell that story most powerfully? How do humility and hubris enter the telling? What cautionary notes are we wise to heed? What's your most powerful story?

**Barbara Mahany** is an author and freelance journalist in Chicago. She was a feature writer at the *Chicago Tribune* for nearly 30 years, and before that a pediatric oncology nurse at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. In her new book, *Motherprayer: Lessons in Loving*, published in April, Mahany turns her attention to the sacred mysteries of mothering. Her first book, *Slowing Time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door*, was named one of the *Publishers Weekly* Top 10 religion books for Fall, 2014. She lives in Wilmette with her husband, the *Tribune's* Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic, Blair Kamin, and she is the mother of Will Kamin, (NT '11) and Teddy Kamin, a junior at New Trier.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*Susan Lieberman*

### **Speed Scene Writing**

What makes a great one-minute, two-character scene? Read some famous ones, learn what makes them work, then write your own and share it with the group. Please come with a notebook, iPad or other device to write dialogue.

**Susan Lieberman** is a Chicago Dramatists Resident Playwright Alumnus. She received a Jeff Award for *Arrangements for Two Violas*; Jeff Award nomination for *Prairie Lights* and two regional Emmy nominations. She is also a script consultant, journalist and creator of Stories in the Spotlight outreach project.

*Peter Slevin*

### **Interviewing: Finding the Black Pearl**

The biggest challenge in interviewing is going beyond the obvious to find the unexpected: the black pearl. We will discuss and practice techniques of questioning as well as listening, with the goal of developing interviewing skills useful in any pursuit or profession. We will finish with a short writing exercise distilling an interview you do during this session.

**Peter Slevin** spent a decade on the national staff of *The Washington Post* before moving to Northwestern University, where he is on the faculty at the Medill School of Journalism, teaching courses in political reporting and foreign policy. He has written extensively about Barack and Michelle Obama, as well as political campaigns and policy debates from one end of the country to the other. His portrait of Michelle Obama, which delves deeply into her Chicago life, was a finalist for the PEN America biography prize in 2016.

*Patricia McNair*

**Enter at Your Own Risk**

This workshop will draw on memories as a way to "enter" into story, and will encourage participants to let go of their self-censors in order to find and write about content that matters to them.

**Patricia Ann McNair** has lived 98 percent of her life in the Midwestern United States. She's managed a gas station, sold pots and pans door to door, tended bar and breaded mushrooms, worked on the trading floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and taught aerobics. Today she is an Associate Professor in the Fiction Writing Department of Columbia College Chicago, where she received a nomination for the Carnegie Foundation's US Professor of the Year. McNair's collection of short stories, *The Temple of Air*, was called "a beautiful book, intense and original," by Audrey Niffenegger, and has received a number of honors, among them the winner of Southern Illinois University's Devil's Kitchen Reading Award and the Society of Midland Authors Finalist Award.

*Faisal Moyhuddin*

**Accessing the Sensory Properties of Poetry**

Poetry is as much about tone, and the senses as it is about metaphor. Join poet Faisal Moyhuddin to explore the sound, taste and touch of poetry.

**Faisal Moyhuddin** is the author of the chapbook *The Riddle of Longing* from Backbone Press. He was the recipient of the 2014 Edward Stanley Award from Prairie Schooner and his work has appeared in *Narrative*, *RHINO*, *Catamaran*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Atlanta Review* among others.