

Okoboji Writers' Retreat III
Monday, September 18, 2023

7:15 a.m.	REGISTRATION AND SOME SIGN-UPS		Dining Hall
8-9:00 a.m.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	All	Main Tent
9:15-10:30 a.m.	PANELS		
	MEMOIR	Debra Engle, Facilitator, Beth Hoffman, Mary Sharp	Mahan Hall
	REPORTING: A MASTER CLASS	Doug Burns, Facilitator, Phoebe Wall Howard, Ty Rushing, Rachel Jones, Arnold Garson, Seth Boyes	Dining Hall East
	STORYTELLING BASICS	Chuck Offenburger, Facilitator, Courtney Crowder, Kim Norvell, Kyle Munson	Shimek Lab
	FICTION	Scott Garson, Facilitator, Grant Faulkner, Carol Roh Spaulding, Nicole Baart, Scott Garson, Facilitator,	Waitt Lab
	ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO TELL A STORY (Video, Podcasting, Poetry)	Allison Engel, Facilitator, Robert Leonard, Nik Heftman, Kelsey Bigelow, Caleb Rainey	Waitt Lab
	PUBLISHING	Polly Letofsky, Facilitator, Steve Semken, Andy Ross	Library
	OPINION WRITING	Rekha Basu, Facilitator, Todd Dorman, Kathie Obradovich, Art Cullen, Maura Casey	Main Cottage
	ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING	Chris Jones, facilitator, David Thoreson, and Larry Stone.	Faculty Porch
9:15-10:30 a.m.			

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	RESEARCH: FINDING THE GOLD NUGGETS	Lee Rood, facilitator, Cheryl Tevis, Laura Belin, Rachelle Chase	Main Tent
	COACHING SESSION I		
10:45 – Noon	THINGS TO DO BEFORE QUERYING AN AGENT OR PUBLISHER	Nicole Baart	Waitt Lab
	COLUMN WRITING FOR CHANGE	Rekha Basu	Main Cottage
	ACCESSING PUBLIC INFORMATION	Laura Belin	Pammel Lab
	EXTRA EYE: DROP-IN REVISIONS AND FEEDBACK (BRING YOUR WORK)	Kelsey Bigelow	Calvin Lab
	ORAL STORYTELLING (Demonstration of how we coach Des Moines Register Storytellers). To be a coachee, sign-up at registration. Observers welcome	Courtney Crowder Kim Norvell Sign-up at registration	Waitt Lab
	SHAPING YOUR MEMOIR	Deb Engle	Dining Hall East
	WRITING WITH ABANDON: A Crash Course in Novel Writing	Grant Faulkner	Mahan Hall
	FAMILY HISTORY: DIGGING DEEP	Arnold Garson	Main Tent
	MEMOIR: How to make other people (including agents) care about your story	Beth Hoffman	Waitt Porch
	WRITE LIKE IT MIGHT GET YOU FIRED!	Chris Jones	Faculty Porch
	HONORING YOUR VOICE	Rachel Jones	Dining Hall
	PROBLEMS IN MEMOIR WRITING	Maura Casey	Macbride Lab
	GETTING PUBLISHED IN THE <i>NEW YORK TIMES</i>	Robert Leonard	Bodine Lab

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10:45 – Noon	THE TOP 20 WAYS TO MARKET YOUR BOOK - AND 5 WAYS <u>NOT</u> TO!	Polly Letofsky	Pammel Lab
	WRITING FROM YOUR ROOTS: How to Create Fiction from Family Lore	Carol Roh Spaulding	Calvin Lab
	WRITING WITH EMOTIONAL INTENSITY.	Phoebe Wall Howard	Shimek Lab
	TURNING REAL LIFE EVENTS INTO PLAYS	Allison Engel	Library
	Four 15-Minute Pitch Sessions With A Literary Agent	Andy Ross SIGN-UP at registration table	Library
	HOW TO WRITE DESCRIPTION AND LIKE IT	Mary Swander	Tamisiea House
12:15 – 1:00 pm	LUNCH		Dining Hall
1:15 – 2:30 pm	COACHING SESSION II		
	HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR STORY AND BECOME A BETTER SELF EDITOR.	Kyle Munson	Main Tent
	HOW TO WRITE STORIES PEOPLE WANT TO READ.	Courtney Crowder	Mahan Hall
	WHAT DO OPINION EDITORS WANT?	Kathie Obradovich and Todd Dorman	Main Cottage
	WRITING HOT: IT'S NOT ABOUT SEX, IT'S ABOUT SENSUALITY	Rachelle Chase	Shimek Lab
	HOOK LINE AND SINKER: Using Spoken Word Techniques to Capture & Hold an Audience	Caleb Rainey	Primitive Classroom
	DO YOUR RESEARCH; Why It Matters In Nonfiction, Fiction, Journalism, And Memoir	Lee Rood	Bodine Lab

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1:15 – 2:30 pm	HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO BUILD YOUR BRAND	Ty Rushing	Waitt Lab
	FROM IDEA TO GETTING PUBLISHED TO HAVING YOUR FIRST READING	Steve Semken	Macbride Lab
	HOW TO WRITE GREAT DESCRIPTION AND ENJOY IT.	Mary Swander	Tamisiea House
	GETTING YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR PUBLISHED	Todd Dorman	Faculty Porch
	SECRETS OF WRITING THE <i>VERY</i> SHORT STORY	Scott Garson	Pammell Lab
	VIDEO STORYTELLING WITH A PURPOSE	Nik Heftman	Waitt Lab
	HOW TO WRITE A STERLING OBIT, AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT	Mary Sharp	Waitt Porch
	FOOD AND FARMING: WRITING ABOUT IDENTITY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY	Beth Hoffman	Calvin Lab
	DOUG INTERVIEWS MICHELLE COWAN SCHROEDER ON BECOMING A NEW AUTHOR	Doug Burns, and Michelle Cowan Schroeder	Dining Hall East
	EVEN IF YOU WIN A PULITZER, YOU STILL HAVE TO PUT OUT A PAPER (and other stories about writing commentary)	Art Cullen	Library
	15-MINUTE BOOK PITCH SESSIONS. (Five) Sign up at registration table.	Andy Ross SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Library

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COACHING SESSION III AND PANELS			
2:45 – 4:00 pm	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: FRIEND OR FOE?	Kyle Munson, Facilitator, Carol Roh Spaulding, Tej Dhawan	Dining Hall, main
	SHAPING YOUR MEMOIR	Deb Engle	Shimek Lab
	MEMOIR: WHAT TO LEAVE OUT	Maura Casey	Waitt Porch
	STORYTELLING COACHING 15-Minute Sessions. Watch or to be a storyteller (sign up to be storyteller)	Kim Norvell SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Library
	EXTRA EYE: DROP-IN REVISIONS AND FEEDBACK (Bring your work)	Kelsey Bigelow	Bodine Lab
	PODCASTING: HOW AND WHY	Robert Leonard Mary Swander	Tamisiea House
	PUBLISHING: TRADITIONAL VS SELF	Polly Letofsky	Macbride Lab
	WHY USE SUBSTACK?	Doug Burns, Facilitator, Cheryl Tevis, Chris Jones, Laura Belin, Art Cullen	Waitt Lab
	GETTING YOUR COMMENTARY PUBLISHED	Kathie Obradovich	Faculty Cottage
	YOUR LIFE IN MINIATURE: FLASH NONFICTION	Scott Garson	Calvin Lab
	PLOT FAILS AND PITFALLS	Nicole Baart	Waitt Lab
	SPEECH WRITING ISN'T ONLY FOR POLITICIANS	Allison Engel	Main Cottage
	WRITING HOT, IT'S NOT ABOUT SEX, IT'S ABOUT SENSUALITY. Come prepared to learn and write and get feedback from others.	Rachelle Chase	Mahan Hall
OPINION WRITING	Todd Dorman	Main Cottage	

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	Four 15-Minute Pitch Sessions With A Literary Agent	Andy Ross SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Library
4:15-5:00 pm	ALL GROUP WRAP-UP		Main Tent
6:15-7:30 pm	DINNER (optional) \$45 Per Person. ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED		Lakes Art Center 2201 Highway 71
7:45 pm	<i>SHIFT: THE RAGBRAI DOCUMENTARY, ADMISSION FREE</i>	Courtney Crowder Kim Norvell	Lakes Art Center

Iowa Writers' Retreat III
 Tuesday, September 19, 2023

7:45 am	GATHER	All	Main Tent
8:00-9:00 am	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	All	Main Tent
9:15-10:30 am	PANELS		
	MEMOIR: DO IT, NOW. WHY, AND HOW	Debra Engle, Beth Hoffman, Mary Sharp	Dining Hall East
	RESPECTING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND WHY IT MATTERS	Rachel Jones, Rekha Basu, (Facilitator) Ty Rushing, Rachelle Chase, Claudia Schabel	Shimek Lab
	FICTION <i>SLUSH PILE</i> (manuscript submission reviews - bring yours)	Nicole Baart, (Facilitator), Grant Faulkner, Scott Garson	Waitt Lab
	ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO TELL A STORY (Video, Podcast, Poetry)	Nik Heftman, Kelsey Bigelow, Pat Tyrer, Caleb Rainey (Facilitator)	Waitt Lab
	YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT PUBLISHING	Polly Letofsky, Steve Semken, Andy Ross	Library
	OPINION WRITING	Todd Dorman, Art Cullen	Main Cottage
	MAKING MONEY AS A WRITER	Maura Casey, (Facilitator), Allison Engel, Arnold Garson, Alan Mores	Mahan Hall
	STORYTELLING	Kyle Munson, Chuck Offenburger, Phoebe Wall Howard, Lee Rood	Main Tent
10:45 – 12:00 pm	COACHING SESSION I		
	THINGS TO DO BEFORE QUERYING AN AGENT	Nicole Baart	Waitt Lab
	COLUMN WRITING FOR CHANGE	Rekha Basu	Main Cottage

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10:45 – 12:00 pm	ACCESSING PUBLIC INFORMATION	Laura Belin	Pammel Lab
	EXTRA EYE: REVISIONS AND FEEDBACK (BRING YOUR WORK)	Kelsey Bigelow	Calvin Lab
	ORAL STORYTELLING: HOW WE COACH DSM REGISTER STORYTELLERS. Observers welcome. Storytellers, sign up in	Courtney Crowder Kim Norvell SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Waitt Lab
	SHAPING YOUR MEMOIR	Debra Engle	Dining Hall Porch
	THE ART OF BREVITY	Grant Faulkner	Mahan Hall
	FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH: DIGGING DEEP	Arnold Garson	Main Cottage
	FOOD AND FARMING; Writing about Identity, Culture, and Society	Beth Hoffman	Waitt Porch
	WRITE LIKE IT MIGHT GET YOU FIRED!	Chris Jones	Faculty Porch
	HONORING YOUR VOICE	Rachel Jones	Dining Hall
	PROBLEMS IN MEMOIR AND HOW TO FIX THEM	Maura Casey	Macbride Lab
	GETTING PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES AND	Robert Leonard	Bodine Lab
	THE TOP 20 WAYS TO MARKET YOUR BOOK - AND 5 WAYS <u>NOT</u> TO!	Polly Letofsky	Primitive Classroom
	WRITING WITH EMOTIONAL INTENSITY	Phoebe Wall Howard	Library
	Four 15-Minute Pitch Sessions with a Literary Agent	Andy Ross SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Library
12:15 – 1:00 pm	LUNCH		Dining Hall
COACHING SESSION II			

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1:15 – 2:30

WRITING STRUCTURE WORKSHOP	Kyle Munson	Main Tent
WHAT DO OPINION EDITORS WANT?	Kathie Obradovich	Main Cottage
DOUG BURNS INTERVIEWS MICHELLE COWAN SCHROEDER ABOUT HER NEW BOOK	Doug Burns with Michelle Cowan Shroeder	Main Cottage
HOOK, LINE AND SINKER	Caleb Rainey	Shimek Lab
DO YOUR RESEARCH: Why it Matters in Nonfiction, Fiction, Journalism, and Memoir	Lee Rood	Bodine Lab
TURNING STORIES INTO A DOCUMENTARY	Ty Rushing Courtney Crowder	Waitt Lab
FROM IDEA TO GETTING PUBLISHED TO HAVING YOUR FIRST READING	Steve Semken	Macbride Lab
HOW TO WRITE GREAT DESCRIPTION AND ENJOY IT!	Mary Swander	Tamisiea porch
YES, YOU <u>CAN</u> WRITE POETRY!	Kelsey Bigelow	Faculty Porch
WORKSHOP: FLASH FICTION AND FLASH NONFICTION	Scott Garson	Pammel Lab
VIDEO STORYTELLING WITH A PURPOSE	Nik Heftman	Waitt Lab
TURNING REAL LIFE EVENTS INTO PLAYS	Allison Engel	Library
HOW TO WRITE A STERLING OBIT, AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT	Mary Sharp	Primitive Classroom

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1:15 – 2:30	SCIENTIFIC WRITING FOR A GENERAL AUDIENCE	Chris Jones	Dining Hall
	USING RESEARCH TO BRING YOUR WORK TO LIFE-NOT KILL	Rachelle Chase	Mahan Hall
	15-MINUTE PITCH SESSIONS WITH A LITERARY AGENT. SIGN UP AT REGISTRATION TABLE	Andy Ross SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Library
2:45 – 4:00 pm	PANELS AND WORKSHOPS III		
	COLUMN WRITING ON SUBSTACK	Chuck Offenburger	Macbride Lab
	DO YOUR RESEARCH: Why It Matters in Nonfiction, Fiction, Journalism, or Memoir	Lee Rood	Waitt Porch
	EXTRA EYE: REVISIONS AND FEEDBACK (BRING YOUR WORK)	Kelsey Bigelow	Bodine Lab
	POWER OF THE INTERVIEW	Robert Leonard	Library
	<u>PANEL</u> AUTHORS: BRING YOUR MANUSCRIPT FOR THE SLUSH PILE CHALLENGE. Observers welcome, too.	Nicole Baart, (Facilitator), Andy Ross, Polly Letofsky, Allison Engel, Debra Engle, Maura Casey	Waitt Lab
	GETTING YOUR COMMENTARY PUBLISHED	Kathie Obradovich Todd Dorman	Main Cottage
	WRITING WITH EMOTIONAL INTENSITY	Phoebe Wall Howard	Dining Hall Porch
	YOUR LIFE IN MINIATURE: FLASH NONFICTION	Scott Garson	Calvin Lab
	LISTEN TO THE LAKE: An Experiential Learning Paddle for those Interested in Writing About the Environment. "Listening" can involve all your senses to connect with the habitat and inhabitants of the aquatic ecosystem.	Larry Stone, Mary Skopec, David Thoreson, Chris Jones, and Steve Semken SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Meet by the water outside of the Dining Hall

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2:45 – 4:00 pm	WRITING HOT, IT'S NOT ABOUT SEX, IT'S ABOUT SENSUALITY. Come prepared to learn and write and get feedback from others.	Rachelle Chase	Mahan
	ONE-ON-ONE COACHING: USING DES MOINES STORYTELLERS PROJECT METHODS	Kim Norvell SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Primitive Classroom
	<u>PANEL</u> : WRITING WITH SENSITIVITY TO OTHER CULTURES, AND WHY IT MATTERS	Claudia Schabel, (Facilitator), Ty Rushing, Rachel Jones, Rekha Basu	Waitt Lab
	MEMOIR: How to Make Others (Including Agents) Care about Your Story	Beth Hoffman	Faculty Porch
	THE ART OF BREVITY	Grant Faulkner	Shimek Lab
4:15 – 5:00 pm	ALL GROUP WRAP-UP		Main Tent
6:15 – 7:30 pm	SUNSET CRUISE (no charge) 144 Lake Shore Drive Arnolds Park		Emporium Dock

7:00 am	LISTEN TO THE LAKE: Guided canoe or kayak paddle for those interested in writing about the environment.	Steve Semken, Larry Stone, Chris Jones, Mary Skopec, David Thoreson SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Meet by the lake in front of the Dining Hall
7:45 am	PLAN FOR THE MORNING	All	Main Tent
PANELS			
8:15 – 9:15 am	RESEARCH: MINING THE GOLD	Laura Belin, Arnold Garson, Lee Rood, Rachelle Chase	Dining Hall East
	MARKETING, PROMOTION, BRANDING: Reaching Your Reader	Ty Rushing, Phoebe Wall Howard, Robert Leonard, Chuck Offenburger	Waitt Lab
	HOW TO MAKE YOUR WRITING POWERFUL	Rekha Basu, Kyle Munson, Courtney Crowder, Kathie Obradovich, (Facilitator)	Shimek Lab
	MEMOIR: WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, MORE MATERIAL?	Mary Sharp, Debra Engle, Maura Casey	MacBride
	THE BOOK IN YOU: FROM IDEA TO REALITY	Nicole Baart, Andy Ross, Polly Letofsky	Waitt Lab
	STORYTELLING FUNDAMENTALS	Kim Norvell, Art Cullen, Beth Hoffman, Scott Garson, Rachel Jones, Doug Burns	Mahan Hall
	POETRY IN MOTION	Caleb Rainey, Kelsey Bigelow, Pat Tyrer	Main Tent (if too hot or cold, relocate to the main Dining Hall)
	COACHING SESSIONS		

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

9:30 – 10:45 am	VIDEO STORYTELLING	Nik Heftman	Waitt Lab
	HOW TO WRITE GREAT DESCRIPTION AND ENJOY IT!	Mary Swander	Tamisiea porch
	PITCH YOUR PROJECT TO A PUBLISHER	Steve Semken SIGN-UP REQUIRED	Dining Hall East
	MEMOIR; HOW TO MAKE OTHERS (INCLUDING AGENTS) CARE ABOUT YOUR STORY	Beth Hoffman	Main Cottage
	WHAT DO OPINION EDITORS WANT?	Kathie Obradovich	Main Cottage
	COVERING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES/POLITICIANS AND CITY HALL	Ty Rushing	Main Tent
	FINDING AN ANGLE THAT PEOPLE WANT TO READ	Phoebe Wall Howard	Shimek Lab
	WRITE YOUR OWN OBITUARY AND WHY YOU SHOULD	Mary Sharp	Library
	REPORTING FUNDAMENTALS	Arnold Garson	Waitt Porch
	WRITING WITH A PASSION THAT CAN GET YOU FIRED	Chris Jones	Faculty Porch
	GET YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR IN PRINT	Todd Dorman	Calvin Lab
	OPINION WRITING AND ETHICS	Maura Casey, Rekha Basu	Waitt Lab
	THE BUSINESS OF PLAYWRITING	Allison Engel	Mahan Hall
	QUERY LETTER BASICS	Andy Ross	Library
	INVESTIGATIVE STORYTELLING	Art Cullen	Primitive Classroom
11:30 – 11:45 am	ALL GROUP WRAP-UP & WHAT'S NEXT	All Speakers	Main Tent
12:00 pm	ADJOURN		