

SUMMER EVENTS 2024

June

The Big Texas Author Talk featuring Alex Temblador
Wed, June 19, 7-8:30pm CST, via Zoom, Free Info/RSVP at bit.ly/texasauthortalk

Letters to James Baldwin: A Pride Month Reading & Celebration
Thu, June 27, 6:30pm-8pm, in-person at Gemini Ink, Free
This event will celebrate the genius of James Baldwin, a black, queer writer and civil rights activist, and create space for other writers to draw inspiration from and interact with his work.



August



July

The Big Texas Author Talk featuring Ramona Reeves
Wed, July 17, 7-8:30pm CST, via Zoom, Free Info/RSVP at bit.ly/texasauthortalk

Gemini Ink Volunteer Summer Social
Thu, July 11, 6:30-8:30pm, in-person at Gemini Ink, Free
Past, present, and future volunteers are invited to join us for refreshments, literary games, and celebration. We will share a plethora of upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Poets & Coffee
Sat, July 20, 10am-1pm, in-person at Gemini Ink, Free
Join Gemini Ink's Executive Artistic Director, Alexandra van de Kamp, as she hosts an informal craft talk on poetry.

Gemini Ink Teaching Artists Reading & Community Open Mic
Thu, Aug 15, 6:30-8pm, in person at Poetic Republic Coffee & Wine Co., Free, 2330 S Presa St
Info/RSVP at bit.ly/texasauthortalk

The Big Texas Author Talk featuring Sasha West
Wed, Aug 21, 7-8:30pm CST, via Zoom, Free

Free Writing Classes

Unlock Your Writing Potential!



The Veterans' Writing Collective with Sarah Colby Classes meets the third Wed every month (June 19, July 17, Aug 21), 6:30-8:30pm CST, via Zoom. Open to active-duty military, veterans, retirees, and their immediate family members. All levels and genres welcome. Email veteranscollective@geminiink.org to register.

Open Writers' Labs

Classes meet the last Mon of every month (June 24, July 29, Aug 26), 6:30-8:30pm CST, in-person at Gemini Ink or online via Zoom. Led by Kevin Ramos and Robert Allen, classes focus on poetry, flash fiction, and short creative non-fiction. Free and open to all writers. Join our supportive literary community!

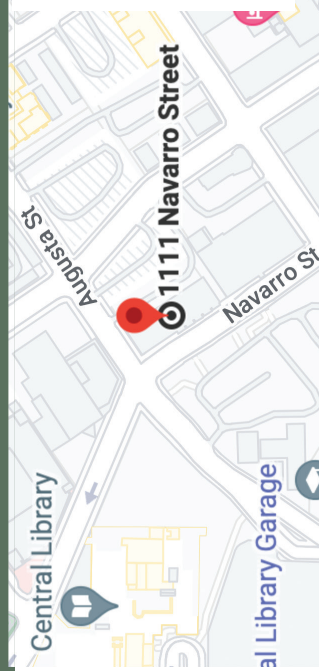
210-734-9673 (WORD), Ext 1000



Gemini Ink programming is funded in part by Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, Bexar County, The Brown Foundation, Cavender Auto Group, City of San Antonio—Dept of Arts & Culture, Frost Bank, The Greehey Foundation, H-E-B, Humanities Texas, Library of America, John R. & Grell N. Less Charitable Fund, Mays Family Foundation, The Najim Charitable Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Poetry Foundation, The Rackspace Foundation, Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts, San Antonio Area Foundation, and Texas Commission on the Arts.



Antonio - Riverwalk



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Summer 2024 Schedule Classes & Events



Make Your YA Novel a Reality
with David Bowles
Starts July 8th!

Summer Classes 2024



Tue, June 4, 11, 18, 25 & July 2, 9

6:30-8:30pm CST, via Zoom

No More Excuses:

Submission Bootcamp with Lyzette Wanzer

Nonmember: \$155; Member: \$135; Student/Educ/Mil: \$75

Does submitting your work keep falling to the bottom of your to-do list? In this workshop, you'll plan a submission strategy, research publishing markets, and identify the publications most aligned with your work. We will also review proper submission etiquette and protocols plus suggestions for avoiding pitfalls that mark you as an amateur before editors even read your submission. Students will be strongly encouraged to submit work for publication while enrolled in

the workshop. This course is for writers of all levels—from those who are ready to learn about the submission process to those who are in the submission trenches.

LYZETTE WANZER is a San Francisco writer, editor, and writing workshop instructor. She received her MFA in Fiction from Mills College. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The Los Angeles Review*, *Pleiades*, *Flashquake*, *Glossalia Flash Fiction*, *Potomac Review*, *Fringe Magazine*, *Essay Daily*, *The Naked Truth*, and others. Lyzette has presented her work at conferences, including the American and Popular Culture Association, Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), College English Association (CEA), San Francisco Writers Conference, and others.

Wed, June 5, 12, 19 & 26

6:30-8:30pm CST, via Zoom

Delving into Latin America: Inspiration from International Poets with Veronica Golos

Nonmember: \$145; Member: \$125; Student/Educ/Mil \$75

In a time of worldwide strife and disconnection, poetry reacquaints us with humanity in a way that transcends borders, time zones, and languages. Join master poetry teacher Veronica Golos on an international poetry tour. First stop: Latin America! In this four-week generative poetry workshop, we will explore four international poets: Conceição Evaristo (Brazil), Coral Bracho (Mexico), Pablo Neruda (Chile), and Juan Gelman (Argentina). Each week we will read deeply, explore each poet's craft tools, and apply these techniques to our own work. A packet with poems will be sent to participants, along with suggestions for developing your work.



VERONICA GOLOS is the author of four poetry books: *GIRL*, awarded the Naji Naaman Honor Prize in 2019; *Rootwork*, winner of the 2016 Southwest Book Design Award in Poetry; *Vocabulary of Silence*, a 2011 New Mexico Book Award winner that was translated into Arabic, Spanish, and Persian; and *A Bell Buried Deep*, a Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize winner. She teaches poetry for Hugo House, Gemini Ink, and SOMOS. She reviews poetry books for Tupelo Press and works as a manuscript editor. She lives in Taos, New Mexico with her husband, David Pérez.

Sat, June 22

10am-1pm CST, via Zoom

The Poet Speaks with Amanda Eke

Nonmember: \$100; Member: \$85; Student/Educ/Mil \$75

Rhythm, dynamic words, dramatic flow—these are some of the core elements of spoken word poems. But what if you infuse this type of poetry with aspects of storytelling and other oral traditions? This cross-genre approach to writing and performance can open us up to a whole new art form. The goal of this one-day workshop is to engage in a unique combination of personal story and poetry. We'll learn about Nigerian and Igbo oral storytelling traditions of rhyme and verse. Then, we'll fuse this storytelling with the contemporary art of spoken word to create our own poems. Theater and choral reading techniques will also be covered to help students prepare poems for stage performance. This course is open to writers of all skill levels, 18+.

AMANDA EKE is an award-winning Nigerian American artist, poet, filmmaker, educator and scholar. A Fulbright and UN Award winner and author, she uses both her love for writing and music to address socio-political issues and contemporary culture prevalent in society today. Amanda has lived and worked with young adults in Malta, Nepal, United States, and Nigeria.



Sign up
for a class!

Workshops are \$75

for Students, Educators & Military!

***K-12 Educators Earn CPEs!**

Register online at geminink.org



Scholarships
available



Mon, July 8, 15, & 22

6:30-8:30pm CST, in person at Gemini Ink

**Make Your YA Novel a Reality
with David Bowles**

Nonmember: \$150; Member: \$130; Student/Educ/Mil \$75

Do you aspire to become the next Jacqueline Woodson, Suzanne Collins, or Benjamin Sáenz? From dystopian adventures to explorations of young romance to coming-of-age stories, the demand for fiction for YA (young adult) readers is as strong as ever. But how do you take a YA novel from concept to reality? In this three-part course, award-winning author David Bowles will guide participants through the process of developing their ideas for a YA novel from a concept to a synopsis and first chapter. We will discuss stylistic elements when writing longform fiction—prose novels, novels-in-verse, and graphic novels—for teens. We will also learn how to prepare to pitch YA projects to agents and/or editors. This class is open to writers of all skill levels who are interested or in the throes of writing YA.

DAVID BOWLES is a Mexican American author and translator from south Texas, where he teaches at UT Rio Grande Valley. He has written over three dozen award-winning titles, most notably *They Call Me Güero*. He has appeared in multiple publications, including *The New York Times*, *Apex Magazine*, and *Rattle*. Additionally, David has worked on TV/film projects, including *Victor and Valentino* (Cartoon Network), *Moctezuma & Cortés* (Amazon/Amblin) and *Monsters and Mysteries in America* (Discovery). David was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters and serves as its vice president. He co-founded the activist movement #DignidadLiteraria, which negotiates Latinx representation in publishing.

Thu, July 11, 18 & 25

6:30-8:30pm CST, via Zoom

Discover New Entry Points into Your Writing: An Open Genre Workshop with National Book Award Finalist Reginald Gibbons

Nonmember: \$140; Member: \$120; Student/Educ/Mil \$75

Are you struggling to begin a creative piece or has the revision process left you lost on how to move forward? Paying attention to our inner and outer worlds and connecting the two using intuition as a guide can help us work through creative blocks. Using techniques based on the work of author and psychoanalyst Christopher Bollas, we will tune into objects in the outside world to help us dig into deeper parts of ourselves to get unstuck and add depth to our writing. We will learn how to use not only writerly craft from a variety of genres, including poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, but also our landscape of feeling and thought, memory, and experience to create a more deliberate artistic practice. Students will draft new work and revise existing pieces, using a process that combines intuition and craft.

REGINALD GIBBONS, Frances Hooper Professor of Arts and Humanities at Northwestern University, is a poet, fiction writer, translator, and literary critic. His books of poems include *Last Lake* (University of Chicago Press), *Creatures of a Day* (LSU Press), and *Slow Trains Overhead: Chicago Poems and Stories* (University of Chicago Press). Three bilingual selections of his poems have been published: "Desde una barca de papel" in Spanish and English (2010), "L'Abitino Blu" in Italian and English (2012), and "Je Pas Je" in French and English (2014).



Follow us!

geminink.org

Sat, Aug 10

10am-2:30pm CST, (including a 30 minute lunch), in-person at Gemini Ink
World on Fire: Writing About Crisis and Hope in the Natural World with Sasha West

Nonmember: \$130; Member: \$110; Student/Educ/Mil: \$75

Burning forests. Drought. Melting ice caps. With mounting natural disasters, our anxiety about the environment is increasing. So how do we process these feelings and use writing to spark conversation about this very pressing topic? In this one-day generative workshop, we will use poetry as a self-reflective tool to explore the multitude of feelings we have about the current state of nature. We can identify and voice how the climate crisis affects us while also exploring the idea that something better is possible. Poems will be written in class and generative exercises will be provided so you can continue to reflect and write about your relationship to nature.

SASHA WEST is the author of *Failure and I Bury the Body*, which was selected for the National Poetry Series and received a Texas Institute of Letters First Book Award. Her second book, *How to Abandon Ship*, was published in 2024 by Four Way Books. She is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at St. Edward's University, where she founded and runs the Environmental Humanities program.



Wed, July 31-Sep 4

6:30-8:30pm CST, Hybrid (in-person at Gemini Ink and online via Zoom)

Get Ready to Write Your Novel This November with Laura Castoro

Nonmember: \$155; Member: \$135; Student/Educ/Mil: \$75

Have you always dreamed of writing a novel, but didn't know how to get started? National Novel Writing Month is this November! The goal of this annual challenge is to write a book of 50,000 words or more in 30 days. In this six-week novel writing prep course we'll use National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) resources and more to do the pre-work to set ourselves up to draft a novel this (or any) November!

LAURA CASTORO, a *USA Today*, Amazon top 100, and Apple Books bestseller, has published 47 novels with major publishing houses including Berkley, Avon, Warner, MIRA, Harlequin, and Harper Collins. Under her name and various pen names, she's written historical and contemporary romance, westerns, sagas, contemporary African American women's fiction, and romantic suspense. Her current release is *Love On The Line* (2021) through William Morrow.

Tue, Aug 6, 13, 20 & 27

6:30-8:30pm CST, Hybrid (in-person at Gemini Ink and online via Zoom)

Raising the Stakes: Fictionalizing Your Stories for the Stage with Amalia Ortiz

Nonmember: \$145; Member: \$125; Student/Educ/Mil: \$75

Everyday we encounter interesting characters, compelling scenarios, and memorable conversations. In this four-week class, we will observe the world around us and collect snippets of real-world dialogue. Students will review dramatic structure and use collected material to develop characters in fictionalized, high-stakes situations through monologues and scenes. The class will culminate in a dramatic reading of works-in-progress.

AMALIA ORTIZ appeared on three seasons of *Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry* on HBO. She was awarded the 2020 American Book Award for Oral Literature *The Canción Cannibal Cabaret* (Aztlán Libre Press). She has won several awards, poetry prizes, and grants including the 2018 NALAC Fund for the Arts Grant to film videos for *The Canción Cannibal Cabaret*. Amalia received a BA in Theatre from UIW and an MFA in Creative Writing from UTRGV. She is the Director of Theatre at SAY SI.

