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UPCOMING EVENTS
AT GEMINI INK

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2nd
Wed

LitMinds Book Club
2nd Wednesday • 6:30–8pm CT • Free • In person at Gemini Ink
Join fellow book lovers for lively, facilitator-led discussions of diverse books.
FALL READING LIST
Sep 9 – *Art Above Everything* by Stephanie Elizondo Griest
Oct 14 – *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
Nov 11 – *The Death of Ivan Ilych* by Leo Tolstoy and *The Spare Room* by Helen Garner

OCT
3

**From Witnessing to Resisting:
A Poetry Reading With Demetria Martínez
and Dr. Norma E. Cantú**
Sat, Oct 3 • 6–8pm CT • Free • In person at Gemini Ink
Join us for this Hispanic Heritage Month event featuring Demetria Martínez and Dr. Norma E. Cantú who will discuss poetry as resistance. A reading and community open mic will follow.

OCT
8

25th Annual Inkstravaganza
Thu, Oct 8 • 6:30–9:30pm CT • The Veranda
Single tickets: \$225
Join Gemini Ink as we honor Jim LaVilla-Havelin, recipient of the 2026 Gemini Ink Award for Literary Excellence. Celebrate Jim's extraordinary contributions as a poet, educator, editor, and community arts advocate during an unforgettable evening of literary community, conversation, and celebration.

OCT
24

**Poets & Coffee at BiblioTejas
Writers Conference**
Sat, Oct 24 • 10am–12pm CT • Free • In person at Palo Alto College • Ozuna Library
Join Gemini Ink's Executive Director, Alexandra van de Kamp, as she kicks off the BiblioTejas Writers Conference with an informal craft talk and discussion about current trends in poetry.

DEC
10

Gemini Ink Winter Open House
Thu, Dec 10 • 6:30–8:30pm CT • In person at Gemini Ink
Join us as we eat, drink, celebrate our collective creative accomplishments, and merrily toast the closing of 2026 with our literary community of writers and friends.

DEC
16

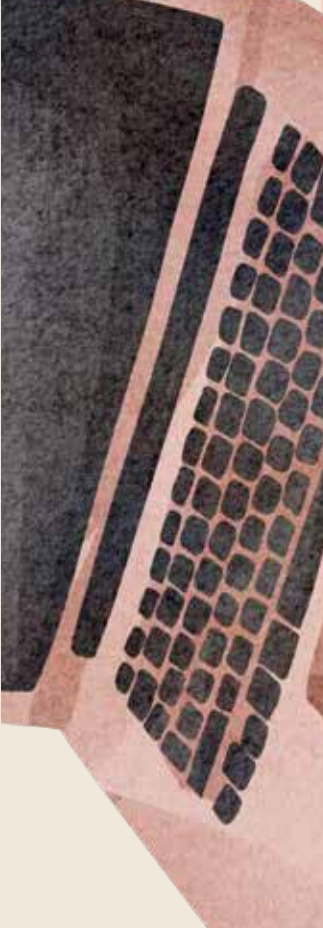
**The Big Texas Author Talk
featuring Natalia Treviño**
Wed, Dec 16 • 7–8:30pm CT • Online via Zoom • Free to attend
Featured title: *When You Were Human*



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FREE WRITING CLASSES

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THE VETERAN'S WRITING COLLECTIVE
WITH SARAH COLBY
3rd Wed of every month • Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 16
6:50–8:50pm CT • Online via Zoom
Open to all active-duty veterans, retirees, and their immediate family members, all levels & genres welcome.

OPEN WRITERS' LAB
Last Mon of every month • Sep 28, Oct 26, Nov 30, Dec 28
6:50–8:50pm CT • In person at Gemini Ink or online via Zoom
Led by Kevin Ramos and Robert Allen, these two peer-driven workshops focus on poetry, flash fiction, and short creative nonfiction. Open to writers of all levels.

TEEN WRITING CIRCLE WITH DANIEL RAMIREZ
Last Sat of every month • Sep 26, Oct 31, Nov 28, Dec 26
12–1:50pm CT • Online via Zoom
Teens 13–19 in Bexar County; join our monthly online, judgment-free writing community!

☎

210-734-9673 (WORD) *Discover Your Writing Potential!*

Gemini Ink programming is funded in part by Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation; City of San Antonio – Dept of Arts & Culture; Cowden Charitable Foundation; Frost Bank; Elizabeth Huth Coates Foundation; The Greehey Foundation; H-E-B; H.E. Butt Foundation; Impact S.A.; John R. & Grel N. Less Charitable Fund; Literary Arts Fund; McCombs Foundation; The Najim Charitable Foundation; The National Endowment for the Arts; San Antonio Area Foundation; Texas Commission on the Arts; The Texas Partnership for Out-of-School Time (TXPOST); Spurs, Sports and Entertainment; and Valero Energy Foundation.

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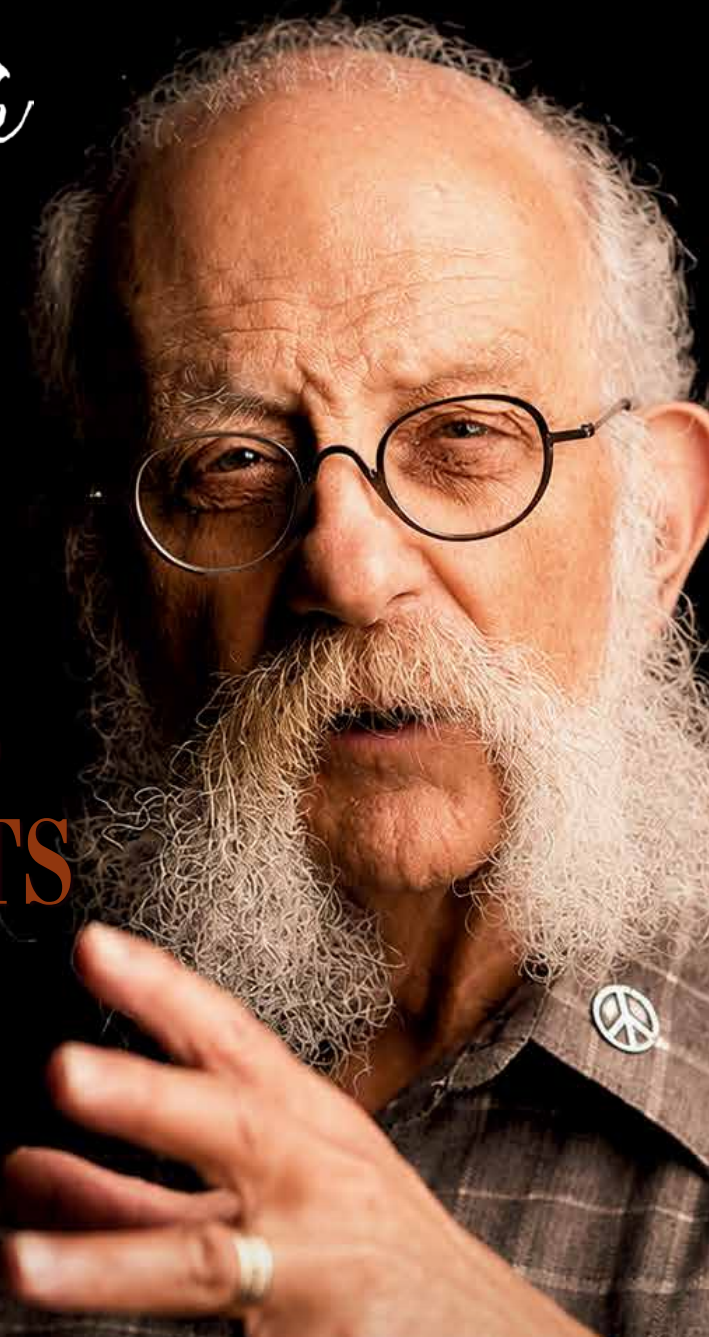
FALL 2026

CLASSES
& EVENTS

CLASSES, LECTURES &
EVENTS FOR WRITERS OF
ALL LEVELS

Join us for
INKSTRAVAGANZA
A LITERARY GALA
honoring
JIM LAVILLA-HAVELIN
OCTOBER 8, 2026
GEMINIINK.ORG

Discounts available for
students, educators,
and military. K–12
educators earn CPEs.
Register at
geminiink.org.



FALL CLASSES

At Gemini Ink



Read Like a Writer with Bestselling Author Laura Castoro

Thu, Sep 10, 17, 24 & Oct 1 • 6:30–8:30pm CT • Online via Zoom
Tuition: Nonmember \$200 • Member \$170 • Student/Educ/Mil \$140

Train your eye for literary craft with bestselling author Laura Castoro and learn to read the way writers do! In this four-week workshop, we will explore how to read more deeply so we can deconstruct how the author sets the mood, adheres to or manipulates conventions, and plays with boundaries. In each session, we will use excerpts from popular fiction books and short writing prompts to stimulate our imagination and inspire new written work.

LAURA CASTORO, a USA Today, Amazon Top 100, and Apple Books bestselling author, has published 47 novels with major publishers including Dell, Berkley, Avon, MIRA, Harlequin, HarperCollins, and William Morrow. She has won multiple national writing awards and was inducted into the Arkansas Writers' Hall of Fame in 2005.



Diving into the Kiddie Pool: Writing for Picture Books with Diane Bertrand

Sat, Sep 12 • 10am–3pm CT • In person at Gemini Ink
Tuition: Nonmember \$125 • Member \$108 • Student/Educ/Mil \$88

Turn a family story, childhood memory, or narrative poem into a picture book! In this one-day workshop, adult writers will look at storybooks and discuss what works and what doesn't work. We'll explore how successful children's authors build characters, develop story arcs, create page turners, and play with language. We will discuss the balance between engaging children and impressing an editor. Then, we will revise drafts of our own work, rethinking character, structure, and vocabulary.

DIANE GONZALES BERTRAND is the author of twelve bilingual picture books, including the award-winning *My Pal Victor*, *The Party for Papá Luis*, *Cecilia and Miguel Are Best Friends*, and *The Story Circle*. She retired as Writer-in-Residence for the English Department at St. Mary's University in 2021. *Music Rides the Bus* is forthcoming in 2027.



Poetry in Dangerous Times: From Witness to Resistance

with Demetria Martínez & Norma E. Cantú

Fri, Oct 2 • 10am–3pm CT • In person at Gemini Ink
Tuition: Nonmember \$125 • Member \$108 • Student/Educ/Mil \$88

During this one-day retreat, we will explore poets who have not only borne witness to injustice, but who have done so from a place of hope

and resistance. We will then build a "portfolio" of our own work to sustain and nourish our vision and activism in these times. Students are invited to participate in a reading and open mic featuring Demetria Martínez and Dr. Norma E. Cantú the following day.

DEMETRIA MARTÍNEZ is a poet, writer, and immigrant rights activist from Albuquerque. Her books include the widely translated novel *Mother Tongue* and *Poetry in Dangerous Times: Two Women, Two Worlds*, coauthored with Susan Sherman. She is the recipient of a Luis Leal Award, an American Book Award, and an International Latino Book Award.

NORMA ELIA CANTÚ, former AFS President and award-winning poet and author, is the Norine R. and T. Frank Murchison Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Trinity University. Her creative writing focuses on the U.S.-Mexico border and includes the novels *Canícula*, *Cabañuelas*, and the poetry collection *Meditación Fronteriza*.



Creative Writing for Newbies

with Christen Barrón

Tue, Oct 6, 13, 20, & 27 • 6:30–8:30pm CT • Hybrid (online via Zoom and in person at Gemini Ink)
Tuition: Nonmember \$200 • Member \$170 • Student/Educ/Mil \$140

Do you want to explore creative writing but you don't know where to begin? Take this creative writing sampler for newbies and reconnect with your self expression! In this hands-on writing workshop, participants will receive a gentle and fun introduction into creative writing and the opportunity to dabble in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to see which one resonates most. This course is perfect for beginners or anyone looking to rediscover their creativity.

CHRISTEN BARRÓN is a creative nonfiction writer, editor, and writing instructor. She holds an MFA in Writing and a BFA in Dramatic Writing from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Christen currently teaches first-year writing and creative writing at Texas A&M-University San Antonio. For nearly a decade, she taught community creative writing classes for The Deep Center's nationally recognized Young Author Project.



From Observation to Discovery: Writing Personal Essays on Art

with Jehanne Dubrow

Sat, Oct 10 • 10am–2:30pm CT • Online via Zoom
Tuition: Nonmember \$120 • Member \$100 • Student/Educ/Mil \$84

Sharpen your powers of observation through ekphrasis! In this one-day course, participants will read examples of ekphrastic writing from across genres and learn how to research the history of an art piece. Through guided writing exercises, we'll write about our art discoveries while engaging the five senses and using concrete, specific details. Participants will then weave their description, research, and a personal experience together to generate an ekphrastic personal essay.

JEHANNE DUBROW is the author of three books of nonfiction, ten poetry collections, and a craft book. Her book-length essay, *Frivolity: A Defense*, is forthcoming from Columbia University Press in fall 2026. Her writing has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *New England Review*, *Southern Review*, and *Ploughshares*. She is a Distinguished Research Professor and a Professor of Creative Writing at the University of North Texas.



Finding Your Audience: A Guide to Book Launch Success

with Violeta Garza

Tue, Nov 3 & 10 • 6:30–8:30pm CT • Online via Zoom
Tuition: Nonmember \$100 • Member \$85 • Student/Educ/Mil \$70

In this two-session workshop, we will develop your brand, craft an elevator pitch, draft promotional materials, and build a marketing plan. We will use Canva, LinkTree, Instagram, and more. If you don't have access to these platforms, you can still follow along and learn. Students will create their own content and receive instructor and peer feedback. Open to writers of all skill levels and genres with a new, imagined, or forthcoming collection of work.

A multilingual poet, educator, and performance doula, **VIOLETA GARZA** has performed her original poetry for Texas Public Radio and elsewhere. She is a Macondo Writers Workshop fellow, a Top Ten Debut Latine Author of 2025 on LatinoStories.com. Her bilingual collection of poetry, *BRAVA*, was published by First Matter Press, and was featured on New York University's Latinx Project list La Treintena: 30 Books of Latinx Poetry for 2026.



Fun with Forms: An Intermediate Poetry Workshop

with Jonathan Fletcher

Mon, Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, & 21 • 6:30–8:30 pm CT • In person at Gemini Ink
Tuition: Nonmember \$200 • Member \$170 • Student/Educ/Mil \$140

Join us for this intermediate workshop and have fun with form poetry! In this four-week class, we will review the history of poetry, study contemporary poets and their craft, and explore advanced poetic forms, including ghazal, pantoum, golden shovel, sonnet, and more. Using these new texts and forms for inspiration, we will write and give poetic shape to our own experiences and dreams. Participants will receive light feedback and resources to keep them writing.

JONATHAN FLETCHER holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia University. A Pushcart Prize, Best of the Net, and Best Microfiction nominee, he won Northwestern University Press's 2023 Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. His debut chapbook, *This is My Body*, was published in 2025. He serves as a Zoeglossia Fellow.

Literary Masters

with
Kathy Fagan
and
Brian Turner

This fall's Literary Masters series features two workshops designed to deepen your craft. Learn from award-winning poet Kathy Fagan and memoirist Brian Turner, each sharing techniques and insights you can apply to your own writing.



Lecture 1

Tue, Sep 15 & 22
6:30–8pm CT
Online via Zoom

Tuition:
Nonmember \$90
Member \$75
Student/Educ/Mil \$63

Writing the Difficult From a Reservoir of Love with Brian Turner

Join us for the first Literary Masters Lecture of the fall! In this two-part intensive, award-winning poet and memoirist Brian Turner will share techniques for transforming painful experiences into meaningful, resonant writing. Through craft-focused lessons, you'll learn how to approach challenging subjects with a broader, more grounded perspective that honors the humanity of the story. Participants will receive additional writing exercises to continue developing their work after the lecture series ends.

BRIAN TURNER is the author of five collections of poetry (from *Here, Bullet* to *The Wild Delight of Wild Things*) and a memoir (*My Life as a Foreign Country*). He's the editor of *The Kiss* and co-editor of *The Strangest of Theatres*. His poems and essays have been published in *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*, among other fine journals. He has been awarded several prestigious fellowships, including a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Lecture 2

Mon, Oct 26
6:30–8pm CT
In person at Gemini Ink

Tuition:
Nonmember \$70
Member \$60
Student/Educ/Mil \$49

Truth as A Poet's Raw Material with Kathy Fagan

In this special Literary Masters Lecture, learn strategies for bringing truth to your work! This event will feature an engaging craft talk, actionable writing strategies, and a live Q&A. Award-winning poet Kathy Fagan will lead a discussion on how weaving the narrative and the lyrical, the personal and the political, the autobiographical and the historical can crystallize truth. Participants will leave with craft tools they can practice on their own after the lecture.

KATHY FAGAN's newest collection, *The Unbecoming* (W.W. Norton, September 2026), is available for preorder now. Her sixth book, winner of Poetry Society of America's William Carlos Williams Poetry Prize, is *Bad Hobby* (Milkweed Editions, 2022), available in print and audio. *Sycamore* (Milkweed, 2017) was a finalist for the 2018 Kingsley Tufts Award. Fagan is a 2023 Guggenheim Fellow, former NEA recipient, and longtime educator. Fagan is Professor Emerita of The Ohio State University.

*Workshops are discounted for
Students, Educators & Military!
*K-12 Educators Earn CPEs!
Register online at geminink.org*

*Sign up
for a class!*



*Scholarships
available*

