



# CAPE COD **writers** CENTER

A CAPE COD LITERARY TRADITION SINCE 1963

## **61st Annual Conference**

### **August 1-4, 2024**

### **The Emerald Resort / The Irish Village and Conference Center**

**Hyannis, Massachusetts**

**One of the oldest writers conferences in America**

# Welcome

## Welcome to the 2024 Cape Cod Writers Center Conference

**August 1-4, 2024 • The Emerald Resort /Irish Village at Hyannis**

Welcome to the 61st Cape Cod Writers Center Conference. Decades ago, when a small group of writers founded the first summer conference, the idea that a set of electronic circuits known as the computer would threaten literary talent then seemed laughable. But today the threat of AI has become all too real. The recent SAG strike in Hollywood and protests by the Authors Guild prompted new Congressional bills which are now insisting upon guidelines to control it. You, too, may have similar fears but may already be using AI to assist your writing.

Artificial Intelligence has unquestionable benefits but there is one thing that a machine, regardless of its ability to learn and imitate, cannot replicate. Passion: that very human emotion which drives you to express your unique perceptions in print. That's the same passion which will bring you to Hyannis from August 1- 4 to study with our talented author-instructors, refine your literary skills, and learn how to promote your work.

As you browse through this brochure, we hope you will find courses that help support your passion for the written word. Our 27 offerings include literary genres from fiction, nonfiction, memoir, screenwriting and poetry to publicity and promotion. Among them are classes on socially conscious fiction, the art of dialogue, playing with words in poetry, creative nonfiction, humor writing and an agent panel. Some are consecutive three-time or two-time sessions. Other courses are offered only once, but all are taught by acclaimed author-teachers, social media experts, and literary agents.

In keeping with the relaxed ambiance of the Cape, the conference supports a warm, friendly atmosphere for participants regardless of their status as beginners, second career writers, or published authors. Our well-attended classes are small enough to provide you with individual attention from our instructors. If you want a still closer look at your work, we suggest that you sign up for a manuscript mentoring session with an agent or faculty member. Please find an explanation on page 15 about how to do that along with a list of mentors. We also want to remind you that scholarships are available for aspiring and second career writers. See the details on page 4.

We hope that you will join us at the conference where you will have a unique opportunity to either discover your passion or rekindle it.

Remember: Registration officially ends on July 25th, so sign up soon.



Nancy Rubin Stuart  
*Executive Director*  
Cape Cod Writers Center



Barbara Eppich Struna  
*President*  
CCWC Board of Directors

# Keynote Speaker



## William Martin

Across a career now in its fifth decade, William Martin has written twelve novels, an award-winning PBS documentary, book reviews, magazine articles, and a cult-classic horror movie, too.

His first novel, *Back Bay*, spent fourteen weeks on the *New York Times* Best Seller List and established him as “a master storyteller”. He’s been following the lives of the great and anonymous in American history ever since, taking readers from the *Mayflower* in *Cape Cod* to the White House Christmas celebration in *December ‘41* to the South Tower on 9/11 in *City of Dreams*. He has told big stories on broad canvases, so big that *Publisher’s Weekly* once called him “a writer whose smoothness matches his ambition,” and the *Providence Journal* dubbed him “king of the historical thriller.”

His work has garnered many awards, including the 2005 New England Book Award, given to an author “whose body of work stands as a significant contribution to the culture of the region”; the 2015 Samuel Eliot Morison Award; and the 2018 Robert B. Parker Award from the New England Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America. He lectures widely, has taught writing from Harvard to Hawaii, and serves on the boards of many of Boston’s historical and cultural institutions. He lives near Boston with his wife, has three grown children, and keeps a boat on Cape Cod Bay.

## Where Do You Get Your Ideas?

That’s the most commonly asked question for any writer, perhaps because it goes straight to the heart of creativity ...

You know that idea is out there, floating in the ether. It may be a neat plot hook, or a childhood memory, or something you recently read, or an obscure historical event that’s always fascinated you.

But how do you recognize it? And where do you find the motivation to write it? And how do you turn the perspiration of writing into further inspiration to keep you writing until you’ve written all the way to the end?

William Martin will take you on an eclectic tour of some of the places where he’s found inspiration and motivation. He’ll help you to identify your own sources of creativity. He’ll talk about the hard questions that you need to ask yourself, so that when inspiration fades, motivation will remain high and fresh ideas will flow with the perspiration of writing. And he’ll give you the tools to finish that book.

[www.williammartinbooks.com](http://www.williammartinbooks.com)

# Conference Information

## Registration

### Thursday Afternoon, August 1

Those already registered for the 2024 Cape Cod Writers Center Conference may obtain their conference packets at the Emerald Resort at 35 Scudder Avenue, Hyannis, MA from 2:00 to 4:30 pm on Thursday. Participants unable to attend that day should visit the registration desk from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm before their first class at the conference.



## Opening Reception

### Thursday Afternoon, August 1

Registrants are invited to attend a welcoming cocktail reception Thursday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at the Emerald Resort in Hyannis.

## Welcome & Introductions

### Thursday, 5:45 - 6:30 pm

Immediately after our Opening Reception, you are invited to attend the Cape Cod Writers Center formal welcome and introduction of the faculty.



## Conference Bookstore



The Conference Bookstore is located in the lobby near the classrooms and features books by faculty and Cape Cod Writers Center members. This is a wonderful opportunity to support local authors and find the perfect summer read.

### **Cape Cod Writers Center Board of Directors**

Barbara Eppich Struna, *President* • Kathy Aspden, *Vice President*  
Hugh Blair-Smith, *Treasurer* • Harris Thompson, *Secretary-Clerk*

### **Directors**

Terri Arthur, Christine Golding, Madeline M. Holt, Perry Karfunkel,  
Alyssa Metcalfe, Judith Partelow, Michael Solomowitz

### **Executive Director**

Nancy Rubin Stuart



# Accommodations

## The Emerald Resort/ Irish Village in Hyannis

Rooms are available at The Emerald Resort in Hyannis, 35 Scudder Ave., Hyannis, MA 02601 at the conference rate. Those staying at the hotel may check in after 3 pm. Check-out time is 11 am. Registrants are not required to stay at the hotel and may seek accommodations elsewhere.



### To reserve a room at the hotel:

Go to: [www.theemeraldresort.com](http://www.theemeraldresort.com)

Top Left side of the page Click: Book Online

Complete information, then Enter Group Reservation Code: CCWC24

Reservations Office is open Mon. – Fri. 9am - 6pm.

Toll Free 866-828-9111 or 508-775-7775

Ask for Cape Cod Writers Call In Room Block.

Group Reservation Cutoff Date: July 1, 2024.



Directions to the hotel and other info:

**[www.theemeraldresort.com](http://www.theemeraldresort.com)**

**[info@theemeraldresort.com](mailto:info@theemeraldresort.com) • 508-394-9300**

The Emerald Resort in Hyannis is within walking distance to the town with its many shops and restaurants. If you are a guest at the hotel, you may use shuttles to nearby Craigville Beach and to the ferry terminals.

### Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Additional hotel options:

**[www.capecodchamber.org](http://www.capecodchamber.org)**

#### Airports

Logan Airport (Boston, MA); TF Green Airport (Providence, RI); Barnstable Municipal Airport (Hyannis, MA)

#### Buses Serving Hyannis Area

Plymouth & Brockton - 508-746-0378; Peter Pan Bonanza - 800-343-9999; Greyhound - 800-231-2222

#### Taxis /Limos

Barnstable Taxi - 508-524-8818; Town Taxi - 508-775-5555;

Cape Destinations Private Car Service - 866-760-2555

#### Car Rentals

Thrifty 508-771-0450; Enterprise 508-778-8293; Budget 508-771-1430



# Schedule • Cape Cod Writers Center Conference

	8:00 -10:00 am	10:15 am -12:15 pm
FRIDAY	<p><b>Memoir</b> Dorian Fox</p> <p><b>Mystery Writing</b> Susan Breen</p> <p><b>Magic Marketing</b> Jennifer Wilkov</p> <p><b>Editing</b> David Abrams</p> <p><b>Voice in Nonfiction</b> Sara Rauch</p> <p><b>Socially Conscious Fiction</b> Nancy Abagian</p>	<p><b>Writing Humor without Trying</b> Jerry Zezima</p> <p><b>Audio Books</b> Nancy Bober</p> <p><b>Say What? The Art of Dialogue</b> Nicole Blades</p> <p><b>Playing with Words in Poetry</b> Ben Berman</p> <p><b>Telling Stories on Screen</b> Kuros Charney</p> <p><b>Young Adult Fiction</b> David Yoo</p>
SATURDAY	<p><b>Memoir</b> Dorian Fox</p> <p><b>Mystery Writing</b> Susan Breen</p> <p><b>Magic Marketing</b> Jennifer Wilkov</p> <p><b>Editing</b> David Abrams</p> <p><b>Voice in Nonfiction</b> Sara Rauch</p> <p><b>Socially Conscious Fict.</b> Nancy Abagian</p>	<p><b>Writing Humor without Trying</b> Jerry Zezima</p> <p><b>Audio Books</b> Nancy Bober</p> <p><b>Say What? The Art of Dialogue</b> Nicole Blades</p> <p><b>Playing with Words in Poetry</b> Ben Berman</p> <p><b>Telling Stories on Screen</b> Kuros Charney</p> <p><b>Young Adult Fiction</b> David Yoo</p>
SUNDAY	<p><b>Memoir</b> Dorian Fox</p> <p><b>Mystery Writing</b> Susan Breen</p> <p><b>Magic Marketing</b> Jennifer Wilkov</p> <p><b>Editing</b> David Abrams</p> <p><b>Voice in Nonfiction</b> S. Rauch</p> <p><b>Socially Conscious Fict.</b> Nancy Abagian</p>	<p><b>Writing Humor without Trying</b> Jerry Zezima</p> <p><b>Audio Books</b> Nancy Bober</p> <p><b>Say What? The Art of Dialogue</b> Nicole Blades</p> <p><b>Playing with Words in Poetry</b> Ben Berman</p> <p><b>Telling Stories on Screen</b> Kuros Charney</p> <p><b>Young Adult Fiction</b> David Yoo</p>

Three Session Courses    Two Session Courses    One Session Courses

Please note that the schedule may be subject to change between the printing date for this brochure and the conference due to unforeseen circumstances.

# Schedule



	12:45-2:45 pm	3:00-5:00 pm	Evenings
FRIDAY	<p><b>Agent Panel</b> Borchardt, Miller, Panettierrri</p> <p><b>First Sentences</b> David Abrams</p> <p><b>Memorable Scenes</b> Susan Breen</p> <p><b>Objectivity in Nonfiction</b> Sara Rauch</p> <p><b>Crafting Personal Essays</b> Dorian Fox</p> <p><b>Writing the Synopsis</b> Jennifer Wilkov</p> <p><b>Publish: Newspapers, Magazines</b> Jerry Zezima</p>	<p><b>Backstory</b> Nicole Blades</p> <p><b>Revision Workshop</b> Nancy Abagian</p> <p><b>Writing Real Characters</b> David Yoo</p> <p><b>Writing Queries</b> Gina Panettierrri</p> <p><b>Dialogue in Screenwriting</b> Kuros Charney</p> <p><b>Stage to Page</b> Marcella Pixley</p> <p><b>How a Poem Moves</b> Ben Berman</p>	<p><b>Free Panel on A I</b> 5:15-6:15 pm</p> <p><b>Faculty Readings:</b> 7:30-9:30 pm</p>
SATURDAY	<p><b>KEYNOTE LUNCHEON &amp; BOOK SIGNING</b> with <b>William Martin</b> 12:30-2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Backstory</b> Nicole Blades</p> <p><b>Revision Workshop</b> Nancy Agabian</p> <p><b>Writing Real Characters</b> David Yoo</p> <p><b>Nonfiction Proposals</b> Gina Panettierrri</p> <p><b>Dialogue in Screenwriting</b> Kuros Charney</p> <p><b>Stage to Page</b> Marcella Pixley</p>	<p><b>Student Readings:</b> 7:30-9:30 pm</p>

## Conference Scholarships Available

Several scholarships are offered, including the Marion R. Vuilleumier Scholarship and the Kevin V. Symmons Scholarship for Second Career Writers. Please email a letter to [writers@capecodwriterscenter.org](mailto:writers@capecodwriterscenter.org) by June 14 stating financial need along with an 800 to 1200 word, double-spaced sample in Word format. Include your home address and phone numbers. Notifications will be emailed by July 15. Scholarships are applied to course fees and include volunteer service during the conference.

# Course Descriptions

## THREE SESSION COURSES

### **Memoir** Dorian Fox

**Aug. 2-4 8-10 am**

Writing memoir is more than retelling events; it's an opportunity to find meaning from experience, to discover the moments and forces that shaped us. In this workshop, we'll do just that, using prompts to explore key memories, with an eye to the larger story those pieces tell. We'll also dive into craft, learning how to deepen scenes, approach book structure, and identify a memoir's thematic heart. You'll leave with fresh pages and a wealth of tips to carry your project forward.

### **Mystery Writing** Susan Breen

**Aug. 2-4 8-10 am**

Mystery novels veer from gentle cozies to Icelandic noir. But always they are about matters of life and death. This is why readers continue to love them. So how do you write the best mystery possible? Through a mixture of writing exercises and lectures, this class will examine the essential elements of mystery writing: character development, plotting, and that all important question: should you use poison or a gun?

### **Shifting Perspective in Socially Conscious Fiction** Nancy Abagian

**Aug. 2-4 8-10 am**

This workshop will explore how shifts in craft elements can facilitate stories addressing social justice and change. Generative writing exercises will experiment with shifts in point of view (grammatical and political), character (individual and collective) and others TBD. Short readings by bell hooks, Ismet Prcic, Ruth Ozeki and others will provide inspiration. Supportive on-the-spot feedback will offer a path forward.

### **Magic Marketing** Jennifer Wilkov

**Aug. 2-4 8-10 am**

Authors know that marketing their books is 100% their responsibility but most don't have the skill set or knowledge to create a winning marketing plan for their project. It's time to build a plan to successfully market your book that can save you time, energy and money and can ensure you get results during the most pivotal times.

### **Editing** David Abrams

**Aug. 2-4 8-10 am**

In this hands-on, three-part workshop, we will explore and practice ways to begin, pitch, research, fact check and complete your nonfiction book. Designed for those interested in writing nonfiction narratives, particularly on historical topics, the workshop will combine lectures and in-class exercises to explore techniques for research, interviewing and writing, as well as pitfalls and paths to publication.

### **Voice in Nonfiction** Sara Rauch

**Aug. 2-4 8-10 am**

Looking to make your nonfiction stand out? Finding a distinctive voice is one of the most important steps you can take. Whether you're writing personal narrative or researched nonfiction (or something in between!), a strong voice establishes authority and style. In this class, we'll discuss strategies for developing and implementing an engaging voice to carry a compelling story.

### **"What's So Funny? How to Write Humor Without Really Trying."** Jerry Zezima

**Aug. 2-4 10:15 am -12:15pm**

You don't have to be a great wit to be a funny writer. Jerry Zezima, a noted half-wit, will show you how. He writes a nationally syndicated humor column because he is spectacularly unqualified to do anything else. Be prepared to laugh and learn in this instructive and entertaining class.



# Course Descriptions



## THREE SESSION COURSES (cont'd)

### **Audio Books** Nancy Bober

**Aug. 2-4 10:15 am-12:15 pm**

In this workshop we will learn the steps that a narrator takes to produce an audiobook for an author. We will touch on communication and relationships, platforms that are available and the concerns involved with the use of each. If time allows, Nancy will discuss pitfalls to be aware of in the audio production and rights holders world, as well as finishing up with an overview of how production choices may influence sales.

### **Say What? The Art of Dialogue** Nicole Blades

**Aug. 2-4 10:15 am-12:15 pm**

What distinguishes powerful dialogue in fiction from real life speech? Writing great dialogue for your stories is about developing or refining your creative skills to build compelling, action-driving, thought-provoking, familiar yet unique and memorable dialogue. This workshop will help students understand the key elements of writing provocative speech and how to shape their tools to build dialogue rooted in the real world that leaps off the page, keeping readers wanting more.

### **Playing with Words in Poetry** Ben Berman

**Aug. 2-4 10:15 am-12:15 pm**

Writing, of course, is serious work; but it can also be serious play! In this workshop, we are going to think about the role of word play in poetry and how it has the potential to add wit, create layers of meaning, and complicate the tone of our writing. We will read and discuss poems that play with language in interesting ways and will experiment with various techniques of our own.

### **Telling Stories on Screen** Kuros Charney

**Aug. 2-4 10:15 am-12:15 pm**

A great screenplay shows us the movie in our heads as we read. In this course, we'll learn techniques for telling stories fit for the screen. We'll cover topics from script format to three-act plot structure to character arc to the anatomy of a scene. We'll also touch on the elements and practical concerns of different genres.

### **Young Adult Fiction** David Yoo

**Aug. 2-4 10:15 am-12:15 pm**

A good beginning woos the reader into a YA novel, but it also very quickly establishes the protagonist, the setting, and the POV, thoroughly rooting the reader in the world of that particular story. We will examine/discuss beginnings from increasingly macro lenses, starting with the opening sentence, then the opening paragraph, then the entire beginning itself.

## TWO SESSION COURSES

### **Let's Take It Back: Using Character Backstory to Guide You Forward**

**Nicole Blades**

**Aug. 2 & 3 3-5 pm**

In this workshop, we'll explore developing and shaping your plot based on your protagonist's motives. We will review the essentials of character and explore techniques to help develop your story's structure. Whether you are a meticulous outliner or an intuitive writer, we'll work through the specific steps of designing the plot, timeline, and pacing for your work so you can unlock the flow of ideas into a strong, compelling story.

### **Revision Workshop** Nancy Abagian

**Aug. 2 & 3 3-5 pm**

Through a systemized set of exercises, you'll receive guidance on how to revise your essay or short story work-in-progress between 1000-3000 words. We will spend the first session starting the revision process, you'll continue for homework, then return to report back on your experience and/or receive feedback. A collaborative supportive learning space, especially for those who are revision-averse.

# Course Descriptions

## TWO SESSION COURSES (cont'd)

### **Writing Real Characters** David Yoo

**Aug. 2 & 3 3-5 pm**

To write characters well you have to make them real. In this workshop we will explore all the facets of a real character. We will discuss the differences between round and flat characters; adding specificity to your portrayal; identifying characters' desires and the changes they make in the course of the story. However, creating fully fleshed-out characters in your mind is only the first step; the real challenge is then figuring out how to get them down on the page. We will discuss in depth just how we go about revealing characters on the page.

### **Dialogue in Screenwriting** Kuros Charney

**Aug. 2 & 3 3-5 pm**

Effective dialogue can make your screenplay shine, whether you're writing an intense drama or a hilarious comedy. Learn techniques for writing dialogue that's both thrilling and realistic. We'll cover dialogue's connection to character, action, pacing, subtext, and more. By exploring the fundamentals of compelling dialogue, as well as the differences between cinematic dialogue and real speech, you'll learn tips to bolster your dialogue not only in film and TV but in all storytelling forms.

### **Stage to Page** Marcella Pixley

**Aug. 2 & 3 3-5 pm**

In this intensive writing workshop, we will use Hagen and Stanislavsky's acting method, to create psychologically complex characters with compelling motivations and conflicts. We will experiment with different techniques to interview our characters and reveal what they want most of all. By the end of the workshop, you will have an intimate understanding of who your character is, what they want, and what they are willing to risk in order to achieve their dreams.

## ONE SESSION COURSES

### **Agent Panel: Valerie Borchardt, Tom Miller & Gina Panettierri** Fri., Aug. 2 12:45-2:45 pm

In this workshop three agents will explain how they work, what attracts them to certain projects, leads to them pass on others, how to win their attention and what to avoid. After their presentations a Q & A follows so please bring your questions to this important presentation.

### **First Sentences that Make Us Keep Reading** David Abrams

**Fri., Aug. 2 12:45-2:45 pm**

In fiction, every word serves a purpose, every sentence propels the reader to the next, and the next, and the next. And it all begins with the first words on the first page. Opening sentences set the stage as they bring us inside. If novels are split-level, five-bedroom homes are ones in which we lose ourselves down hallways and up staircases.

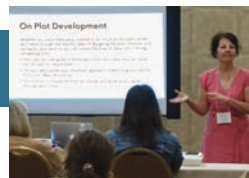
### **Memorable Scenes** Susan Breen

**Fri., Aug. 2 12:45-2:45 pm**

The more great scenes your novel has the better it will be. It's as simple as that. So how do you write a great scene? Through reading great scenes and doing writing exercises, participants will learn how to make every scene as powerful as it can be.

# Course Descriptions

## ONE SESSION COURSES (cont'd)



### **Objectivity in Narrative Nonfiction** Sara Rauch

**Fri., Aug. 2 12:45-2:45 pm**

In a world of fake news and AI-generated content, objectivity in narrative nonfiction is more important than ever. In this session, we'll cover how to conduct impartial research, establish credible sources, interrogate our own biases, and develop an objective language to produce articles, essays, and true stories that make rigorous, conscientious use of factual information.

### **Crafting Personal Essays** Dorian Fox

**Fri., Aug. 2 12:45-2:45 pm**

The best personal essays bridge self and world, using intimate experience to throw light on society, culture and human nature. In a current climate where "truth" often seems up for grabs, telling honest, thoughtful personal stories is needed even more than ever. In this course, we'll read several exemplary short essays and examine what makes them so effective, incisive, and moving. Then you'll write the beginnings of your own essay, and receive on-the-spot feedback to help spur you on.

### **Writing the Synopsis** Jennifer Wilkov

**Fri., Aug. 2 12:45-2:45 pm**

If you have a manuscript or screenplay and are preparing to submit your book or pitch deck, you need an impactful, thoughtfully crafted synopsis to convey your story clearly. Learn how to make your synopsis stand out with writing that packs a powerful punch that will impress any agent, publisher or producer.

### **How to Get Published in Newspapers, Magazines, and Maybe Even Books**

**Jerry Zezima Fri., Aug. 2 12:45-2:45 pm**

You've written something you think other people would want to read. How do you convince an editor to publish it? Jerry Zezima, who has housebroken several pets with his writings, will give you tips on the best ways to break into print without getting all smudged with ink. And you might even get paid!

### **How a Poem Moves** Ben Berman

**Fri., Aug. 2 3-5 pm**

We all want to write moving poems, but in this workshop we will focus on how a poem moves. Thinking about a poem's form helps shape its meaning. We will be reading and discussing poems written in various organic forms – examining their invisible threads and associative leaps – and will be emulating these approaches in poems of our own.

### **Query Workshop** Gina Panettierri

**Fri., Aug. 2 3-5 pm**

The editorial process is nothing to fear! In fact, successful writers love their editors and understand that the editorial process is a creative collaboration dedicated to achieving the author's goals. In this one-session course, we'll discuss what editors do, how to work with an editor, and how to find the right editor for any kind of writing project.

### **Writing the Nonfiction Proposal** Gina Panettierri

**Sat., Aug. 3 3-5 pm**

What goes through the mind of an editor when reading your manuscript? How important is the marketplace, current trends, your platform, and past successful titles at their publishing house? Do editors acquire what they love or what they think will sell? What can you do to make your work stick in an editor's head – and stay there. Attend this workshop to learn more. Includes a Q & A.

# Faculty • Cape Cod Writers Center Conference

**David Abrams** is the author of two novels, *Brave Deeds* and *Fobbit*, a comedy about the Iraq War which *Publishers Weekly* called “an instant classic.” Abrams’ short stories have appeared in the anthologies *Montana Noir*, *Watchlist*, and *Fire and Forget*. He is also a manuscript consultant for Grub Street, where he regularly edits full-length manuscripts for both emerging and established writers. [www.facebook.com/DavidAbramsAuthor/](https://www.facebook.com/DavidAbramsAuthor/)  
[Instagram@imdavidabrams](https://www.instagram.com/imdavidabrams/) [www.instagram.com/imdavidabrams/](https://www.instagram.com/imdavidabrams/)



**Nancy Agabian** is the author of *The Fear of Large and Small Nations* (Nauset Press 2023), a finalist for the PEN/Bellwether Prize for *Socially Engaged Fiction*; *Princess Freak*, a poetry collection; and *Me as her again*, a memoir honored as a Lambda Literary Award finalist. In 2021 she was awarded Lambda’s Jeanne Cordova Prize for Lesbian/Queer Nonfiction. She is a longtime teacher of creative writing at literary centers and universities, most recently at Grub Street and NYU.

@Nancy Agabian on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

**Ben Berman** is the author of three books of poems and the new collection of essays, *Writing While Parenting*. He has won the Peace Corps Award for the Best Book of Poetry, has twice been shortlisted for the Massachusetts Book Awards and has received awards from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, New England Poetry Club and Somerville Arts Council. He lives in the Boston area with his wife and two daughters.  
[www.ben-berman.com](http://www.ben-berman.com) [www.facebook.com/ben.berman.7927](https://www.facebook.com/ben.berman.7927)



**Nicole Blades** is a novelist, speaker, journalist, and friendly word snob. Her novels *Have You Met Nora?*, *The Thunder Beneath Us*, and *Earth’s Waters* are available wherever books are sold. Nicole’s work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Runner’s World*, *Women’s Health*, *MarieClaire.com*, and more.

Follow her: Instagram and <https://www.nicoleblades.com/>

**Nancy Gaines Bober**, known as NGB Voice and based on Cape Cod, has a mature, mellow, melodic, well-modulated voice suited to multiple genres for audio books. Her life experience in diverse fields such as professional cooking, animal care, sales, and broadcasting reflects her passion for learning new things. Her years of volunteer work reading live broadcasts for the print impaired have helped her establish a strong skill base for narration and an instinctive feel for difficult subjects. [www.audiobooks.com/browse/narrator/212815/nancy-bober](https://www.audiobooks.com/browse/narrator/212815/nancy-bober)



**Susan Breen’s** best-selling *Maggie Dove* mystery series was first published by a digital imprint of Penguin Random House and will soon appear in Under the Oak Press. Two of her *Maggie Dove* stories have appeared in Alfred Hitchcock’s *Mystery Magazine*. A new story will appear in Malice Domestic’s upcoming anthology: *Murder Most Diabolical*. She was also longlisted for the 2021 Margery Allingham Short Story competition. Susan’s first novel, *The Fiction Class*, won a Washington Irving Award from the Westchester Library Assoc. <https://www.susanjbreen.com/>

[www.missdemeanors.com](http://www.missdemeanors.com) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/susanjbreen>

# Faculty



**Kuros Charney** is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, and fiction writer. His feature film *Another City* was released by BayView Entertainment, and his plays have been staged at the William Inge Center, Dayton Playhouse, and many other venues. His fiction won the Editor's Prize in FOLIO, and he teaches scriptwriting at Gotham Writers Workshop, St. John's University, and William Paterson University.  
<https://kuroscharney.com/>



**Dorian Fox** is a writer and freelance editor in Boston. His essays and articles have appeared in *Brevity*, *The Rumpus*, *The Pinch*, *Booth*, *Short Reads*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Los Angeles Review of Books* and elsewhere, receiving honors in many literary contests. He teaches writing through GrubStreet and Pioneer Valley Writers' Workshop. Find more about his work at <https://dorianfox.com>



**Marcella Pixley** is the author of four award-winning novels for young people. Her recent novel, *Trowbridge Road*, was longlisted for the National Book Awards and was a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award and the Golden Dome Book Award. It was a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection and was named a best book of 2020 and 2021 by Shelf Awareness, Reading Group Choices, and Mighty Girl. Marcella teaches 8th Grade English in Carlisle, Massachusetts.  
<https://marcellapixley.com/><http://www.gbagency.com/>



**Sara Rauch** is the author of *What Shines from It: Stories* and the book-length essay *XO*. Her profiles, interviews, and reviews have appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Newcity Lit*, *The Lives of Writers*, *Lambda Literary*, *WBUR*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. She lives in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and teaches writing workshops for several local organizations. [www.sararauch.com](http://www.sararauch.com)



**Jennifer S. Wilkov** is a multi #1 international best-selling award-winning author/producer, an award-winning freelance writer, and a respected book business and entertainment development consultant who supports first-time writers and seasoned authors and screenwriters with the essentials to become a best-seller: a great project, a strong platform, and a well-polished pitch, presentation and hook for their book or project. [www.YourBooksYourHook.com](http://www.YourBooksYourHook.com)



**David Yoo** is the author of the essay collection *The Choke Artist*, two young adult novels, *Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before* and *Girls for Breakfast*, and the middle grade novel *The Detention Club*. He teaches in the Solstice MFA program at Lasell University, as well as with the Gotham Writers Workshop. [www.daveyoo.com](http://www.daveyoo.com)



**Jerry Zezima** writes a humor column for *Tribune News Service*, which distributes to 600 papers nationwide and abroad. If you have ever wondered why the newspaper industry is in trouble, it would be because of him. He also is the author of seven books, all of which are crimes against literature. Mr. Zezima has one wife, two daughters, five grandchildren and many creditors. He has no interesting hobbies. <http://www.jerryzezima.blogspot.com>





# Agents



**Valerie Borchardt** is the president of Georges Borchardt, Inc. She represents adult literary fiction and non-fiction with the occasional memoir or food related book thrown in. Valerie received an MA in Slavic language and literature from Columbia University and began her career at the Wallace & Sheil Agency and at Clarkson Potter before taking time off from publishing to teach Head Start. She has been at Georges Borchardt since 1999, running both the foreign rights and audio rights divisions, as well as representing her own list. <http://www.gbagency.com/>

**Tom Miller** joined Liza Dawson Associates as a senior literary agent in 2018 after several years as an agent with the Carol Mann Agency. Prior to becoming an agent, Tom held executive and senior editorial positions with Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins, Disney, Wiley, and McGraw-Hill. As an editor, Tom acquired and edited numerous New York Times bestselling and prize-winning books by authors including Deepak Chopra, Jared Diamond, Gabor Maté, Judy Collins, Steve Forbes, Erica Jong, Shirley Temple Black, Oliver North, Annette Funicello and Peter Straub. He graduated from Harvard College with a degree in English and comparative literature. <https://www.lizadawsonassociates.com/tom-miller>



**Gina Panettieri** is the Founder of Talcott Notch Literary Services. She has worked in the publishing industry for more than 30 years as an author, freelance editor and literary agent, and has brought hundreds of projects to publication. Gina is most interested in crime fiction, women's, historical, horror, SFF, and literary fiction, and career/business non-fiction, history, true crime, self-help and medical. [www.talcottnotch.net](http://www.talcottnotch.net)



# Manuscript Evaluation/Mentoring

Have you polished the first pages of your completed manuscript or picture book and are ready to show agents and editors? Register for the manuscript evaluation and receive feedback from an agent or conference faculty member. Web presence and social media mentoring are also available.



**NOTE:** You must be registered for at least one course at the conference in order to schedule a mentoring session.

## Mentoring includes:

**Evaluation of the first 10 pages of your manuscript and 60 minutes of mentoring. Cost: \$180.**

A valuable opportunity for an expert to analyze your writing and provide feedback to further your writing skills.

Please send your pages by email as an attachment to the CCWC office no later than July 15 ([writers@capecodwriterscenter.org](mailto:writers@capecodwriterscenter.org)). Pages must be in Word and follow standard manuscript layout: 12-point type, double-spaced, with 1" margins. Email only; no hard copies. **Late and incorrectly formatted manuscripts will not be accepted.**

Indicate on the page 18 registration form your top three choices for mentors from the list below. Mentors will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up early. All appointments are made through the staff at the CCWC after you've listed your top choices on the online registration form. The faculty member will then email you to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet at the conference.

**Agents:** Valeria Borchardt, Tom Miller, Gina Panettieri

**Faculty Member Mentors:** David Abrams, Ben Berman, Nicole Blades, Nancy Gaines Bober, Susan Breen, Kuros Charney, Dorian Fox, Sara Rauch, Jennifer Wilkov, David Yoo, Jerry Zezima



# Our Programs Include

**Writers Critique Groups** Genre specific groups that meet either monthly or biweekly in person or on Zoom which offer feed back and constructive criticism on the works-in-progress of our members.



**Writers Night Out** These lively, informal monthly meetings are open to members in person and/or on Zoom for networking, mini-workshops, readings, and craft sessions led by literary and social media experts.

**Pathways to Publication** Prominent authors, editors, and social media experts conduct these weekend seminars to help members improve their literary, research, and promotional skills.



**Books and the World** This popular televised event broadcasts local and national authors and their works in half-hour interviews. They air on a community television network and can be seen on YouTube.

**Young Writers Program** Taught by professional authors these free morning sessions are held during the conference weekend. This program offers talented students, grades 8-12 the opportunity to receive individualized instruction in prose and poetry. Parents and students can download an application for this program on our website [www.capecodwriterscenter.org](http://www.capecodwriterscenter.org) or obtain information about it through their student's school English department.



This year's instructor Marcella Pixley is the author of four award winning novels for young people. Her recent novel, *Trowbridge Road*, was longlisted for the National Book Awards and was a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award and the Golden Dome Book Award. It was a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, and was named a best book of 2020 and 2021 by Shelf Awareness, Reading Group Choices, and Mighty Girl. Marcella teaches 8th Grade English in Carlisle, Massachusetts.

# Registration

or register online at  
[www.capecodwriterscenter.org](http://www.capecodwriterscenter.org)

## THREE SESSION COURSES (2 hours per day, 6 hours total) Cost is \$180 per course.

<b>Memoir</b> - <b>Dorian Fox</b> , Fri.-Sun. 8:00-10:00	\$ _____
<b>Mystery Writing</b> - <b>Susan Breen</b> , Fri.-Sun. 8:00-10:00	\$ _____
<b>Magic Marketing</b> - <b>Jennifer Wilkov</b> , Fri.-Sun. 8:00-10:00	\$ _____
<b>Editing</b> - <b>Sara Rauch</b> , Fri.-Sun. 8:00-10:00	\$ _____
<b>Voice in Nonfiction</b> - <b>Jeanette Bradley</b> , Fri.-Sun. 8:00-10:00	\$ _____
<b>Socially Conscious Fiction</b> - <b>Nancy Abagian</b> , Fri.-Sun. 8:00-10:00	\$ _____
<b>Writing Humor without Trying</b> - <b>Jerry Zezima</b> , Fri.-Sun. 10:15-12:15	\$ _____
<b>Audio Books</b> - <b>Nancy Bober</b> , Fri.-Sun. 10:15-12:15	\$ _____
<b>Say What? The Art of Dialogue</b> - <b>Nicole Blades</b> , Fri.-Sun. 10:15-12:15	\$ _____
<b>Playing with Words in Poetry</b> - <b>Ben Berman</b> , Fri.-Sun. 10:15-12:15	\$ _____
<b>Telling Stories on Screen</b> - <b>Kuros Charney</b> , Fri.-Sun. 10:15-12:15	\$ _____
<b>Young Adult Fiction</b> - <b>David Yoo</b> , Fri.-Sun. 10:15-12:15	\$ _____

## TWO SESSION COURSES (2 hours per day, 4 hours total) Cost is \$140 per course.

<b>Backstory</b> , <b>Nicole Blades</b> Fri. & Sat. 3:00-5:00	\$ _____
<b>Revision Workshop</b> , <b>Nancy Abagian</b> , Fri. & Sat. 3:00-5:00	\$ _____
<b>Writing Real Characters</b> , <b>David Yoo</b> , Fri. & Sat. 3:00-5:00	\$ _____
<b>Dialogue in Screenwriting</b> , <b>Kuros Charney</b> , Fri. & Sat. 3:00-5:00	\$ _____
<b>Stage to Page</b> , <b>Marcella Pixley</b> , Fri. & Sat. 3:00-5:00	\$ _____

## ONE SESSION COURSES (2 hours) Cost is \$80 per course.

<b>Agent Panel</b> , <b>Borchardt, Miller, Panettierri</b> , Friday. 12:45-2:45	\$ _____
<b>First Sentences</b> , <b>David Abrams</b> , Friday, 12:45-2:45	\$ _____
<b>Memorable Scenes</b> , <b>Susan Breen</b> , Friday, 12:45-2:45	\$ _____
<b>Objectivity in Nonfiction</b> , <b>Sara Rauch</b> , Friday, 12:45-2:45	\$ _____
<b>Crafting Personal Essays</b> , <b>Dorian Fox</b> , Friday, 12:45-2:45	\$ _____
<b>Writing the Synopsis</b> , <b>Jennifer Wilkov</b> , Friday, 12:45-2:45	\$ _____
<b>Publish: Newspapers, Magazines</b> , <b>Jerry Zezima</b> , Friday, 12:45-2:45	\$ _____
<b>Writing Queries</b> , <b>Gina Panettierri</b> , Friday, 3:00-5:00	\$ _____
<b>How a Poem Moves</b> , <b>Ben Berman</b> , Friday, 3:00-5:00	\$ _____
<b>Nonfiction Proposals</b> , <b>Gina Panettierri</b> , <u>Saturday</u> , 3:00-5:00	\$ _____

**SUBTOTAL: Please bring subtotal to the top of next page**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL from previous page \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**You must be registered for a course to participate in the Manuscript Evaluation.**

**Manuscript Evaluation/Mentoring** Select three possible mentors from the list provided on pg. 15.

For one hour of manuscript evaluation \$180 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST CHOICE SECOND CHOICE

Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
THIRD CHOICE

- CCWC members who paid dues after January 1, 2024. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Nonmembers registration (\$80) includes membership until May 1, 2025 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I will be attending the Saturday Keynote Luncheon (\$32/person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Contribution to support CCWC programs \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Contribution to Marion R. Vuilleumier Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
DUE BY JULY 25

**NOTE:** Registration closes on July 25. NO REFUNDS will be issued for cancellations after July 25. If you have missed the date, you can appear on August 1 from 2:00-3:45 pm at the Emerald Resort/Irish Village at the Conference Center entrance to the hotel and register then.

— REGISTER online at [www.capecodwriterscenter.org](http://www.capecodwriterscenter.org) —

OR complete information below

**YOUR INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P. O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I will be at least 18 in August 2024. You must be at least 18 years old to attend the conference.

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Returned checks: \$30 penalty.

or register via credit card at [www.capecodwriterscenter.org](http://www.capecodwriterscenter.org)

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

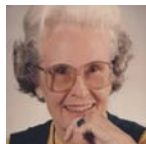
Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# The Cape Cod Writers Center

## History of the Cape Cod Writers Center

In retrospect it was sheer genius that in late 1962 a group of writers called the Twelve O'Clock Scholars realized that the Cape's inviting beaches, quaint towns, and literary traditions were the perfect setting for a conference. Led by author Marion Vuilleumier, the Twelve O'Clock Scholars promptly invited literary-minded residents to the first conference in August 1963. Among the earlier teachers and admirers were Isaac Asimov, Art Buchwald, Kurt Vonnegut, and Jacques Barzun.



That first conference was so popular that the founders soon expanded the Writers Center into a year-round program which hosted literary workshops, panel discussions, evening lectures, manuscript evaluations and even a literary anthology. By the 1980s the Writers Center programs added an author-interview cable television program called Books and the World, a Young Writers set of classes, a Meet the Author Breakfast, and even a literary workshop aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2.

Over the last few decades the computer replaced the typewriter, the electronic bookstore replaced many brick-and mortar shops, audio versions of an author's work became a new sales device and authors found they are speaking to their fans on Zoom as well as in person. Despite warp speed of these changes the Cape Cod Writers Center has not only survived but thrived. Today we are a nationally recognized literary organization which offers monthly meetings, small writing groups, seminars, a Young Writers program, and a vibrant summer conference.

We hope that you will not only enjoy the 2024 conference, but participate in our other programs during the year.

Past presenters pictured above: Hank Phillippi Ryan, Malachy McCourt, Lisa Genova, Andre Dubus III, Meg Wolitzer, Colum McCann, and Jaimy Gordon. Others included Alicia Anstead, William Martin, Joseph Finder, and Rishi Reddi.



### CAPE COD WRITERS CENTER

P.O. Box 408, Osterville, MA 02655 • 508-420-0200  
[www.capecodwriterscenter.org](http://www.capecodwriterscenter.org) • [writers@capecodwriterscenter.org](mailto:writers@capecodwriterscenter.org)



# CAPE COD **writers** CENTER

P.O. Box 408 • Osterville, MA 02655

[www.capecodwriterscenter.org](http://www.capecodwriterscenter.org)

- Fiction and Nonfiction
- Poetry and Memoir
- Screenwriting
- Children's Books
- Authors and Agents
- Editors and Publishers
- Guest Speakers
- Social Media/Promotion
- Participant Readings
- Mentoring Sessions
- Manuscript Evaluations
- Faculty Reception
- Keynote Luncheon
- Scholarships Available

